

**OPINION 8**  
ENFORCING EQUALITY  
BARELY GIVES HOPE

**WORLD 12**  
CHINA REFUTES ZEYA'S JOB  
AS US ENVOY FOR TIBET

**AVENUES 13**  
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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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## Decision to raise girl's marriage age upsetting some, says Modi

PTI/ PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Taking a swipe at his rivals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the government is trying to raise the marriage age of women to 21 so that they can have time to study and progress, but this has upset some.

Addressing a rally here in Uttar Pradesh, where assembly elections are due early next year, he also said 25 lakh of the 30 lakh houses given under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are registered in the name of women in the state.

This shows the government's commitment to "sacha (true) empowerment of women", Modi said.

"We are trying to increase the age of marriage of women to 21 years so that they can have time to study and progress. The country is taking this decision for its daughters. Everyone is seeing who is having problems with this," he said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) MPs Shafiqur Rehman Barq and ST Hasan had made adverse comments over the Centre's move to increase the legal age of marriage.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav had, however, distanced himself from the statements of his party's Sambhal and Moradabad MPs, saying the SP is progressive and the views



expressed are personal.

On Tuesday, the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, that seeks to fix 21 years as the uniform age of marriage for women and men was introduced in Lok Sabha. Soon after its introduction, the government urged the Chair to refer it to a standing committee.

The bill seeks to amend seven personal laws — the Indian Christian Marriage Act; the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act; the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act; the Special Marriage Act; the Hindu Marriage Act; and the

Foreign Marriage Act.

In an apparent dig at the SP's rule in the state, Modi said, "Five years ago the mafia ruled the roost on the roads of Uttar Pradesh, and the worst sufferers were our sisters and daughters."

"It was difficult for them to move out on roads and go to schools and colleges. But Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has put these hooligans in their right place," he said.

The SP government in the state from 2012 to 2017 was succeeded by the BJP government.

Hailing the Adityanath

government, Modi said, "Now in Uttar Pradesh there is security, rights and opportunities (for women). I am confident that with the blessings of our mothers and sisters, no one will push the state back into darkness again. Come let us take an oath from this pious land of Prayagraj that the state will progress," he said.

Schemes like the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana are becoming a great medium of trust for the rural poor and girls, Modi said after transferring crores of rupees to accounts of over one lakh girls in the state.

He also interacted with banking correspondent (BC)-sakhis, women self help groups preparing supplementary nutritious food manufacturing units, and beneficiaries of the Kanya Sumangala scheme.

"Now with the help of BC-sakhis, banks have reached villages. Those who have to withdraw money from direct benefit schemes now do not have to leave villages. For those who think that this is not a big task, I want to tell them that the Uttar Pradesh government has given responsibility of transaction of Rs 75,000 crore to BC-sakhis," he said.

**PM's jibe at rivals as Rs 1,000 cr transferred to accounts of 1.60L women SHGs**

"More the transactions in a village, more will be their income. Many of these BC-sakhis are those who did not have bank accounts but now they have the power of digital banking," Modi said.

Criticising previous governments, he said now the pace of the state's development cannot be stopped by anyone.

"Now, women have decided that they will not let previous governments come again. The security and honour given to women in the double engine (BJP) government is unprecedented", the prime minister said. Formation of BJP's government in 2014 has put new "confidence and energy" in women, he said, adding that schemes like 'beti padhao, beti bachao' have succeeded in creating awareness and preventing sex-selective abortions. The government is focused on immunisation of pregnant women, institutional deliveries and nutrition during pregnancy, he said.

Modi said over two crore women were benefited by the Matra Vandana Scheme, in which Rs 50,000 is given in accounts of pregnant women.

To ensure school dropout rate of girls decreases, he said separate toilets were constructed and sanitary pads distributed free of cost.

Continued on Page 12

## Gupkar alliance to protest against delimitation draft

**Will raise voice, hold 'peaceful protest on Jan 1, say J&K leaders**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



Members of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, MY Tarigami and others at a meeting in Jammu. Pioneer photo

Feeling the "political heat" after an interim draft of the Delimitation Commission proposed six additional Assembly seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir, the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday decided to stage a "peaceful" demonstration in Srinagar on January 1, 2022, to register their token protest against the move.

The decision was taken after holding deliberations for over one hour at the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah in Bhatindi area of Jammu.

PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, CPI(M) leader Mohd Yusuf Tarigami, Awami National Conference leader Muzaffar Ahmad Shah and NCM Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi and Dr Mehmood Beig from the PDP attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the PAGD leaders jointly addressed a press conference and described the draft proposal as

"divisive and unacceptable".

Earlier, several Kashmir-based political parties had outrightly rejected the proposal while accusing the commission of allowing the "political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations".

"We want peace and do not want any confrontation with any institution or Government. However, we will raise our voice for the defence of legitimate rights of the people in a peaceful manner and have decided to hold a peaceful demonstration in Srinagar on January 1 against the proposal put forward by the Delimitation Commission as in our view, the draft is unacceptable to the people and all communities," PAGD chief spokesperson and CPI(M) leader Tarigami told reporters.

Continued on Page 12

Derek suspended from RS session for throwing rule book at Chair



New Delhi: Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien was suspended from the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday for the remaining part of the Winter Session after he threw a House rule book at the Chair.

Sasmit Patra, who was in the Chair, said the TMC MP had raised a point of order and the Deputy Chairman duly responded to it.

Derek was suspended after the Upper House passed a motion moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan in this regard.

Patra observed that the TMC leader flung the rule book furiously in the direction of the Chair. "The rule book would have hit the chair, or secretary-general or officials sitting at the table," he said.

Continued on Page 12

## TMC sweeps KMC polls, wins 134 out of 144 wards

BJP wins three seats, Left Front, Cong two each

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Seven months after returning to power with a thumping majority in the Assembly elections, the ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday registered yet another landslide victory winning the much hyped Kolkata Municipal Corporation polls garnering a whopping 72 per cent votes and bagging 134 out of 144 wards of the eastern metropolis.

The BJP, which emerged as the principal Opposition party in the State politics, could manage only three seats while the Left Front and the Congress won two each. Independent candidates who were making a beeline for joining the TMC soon after the election results clinched three seats.

In 2015 elections, the TMC had won 113 seats leaving 16



for the Left and 5 for the Congress. The BJP had won 4 seats. However going by the 2021 Assembly election results, the TMC had taken a lead from 131 wards implying thereby that the KMC polls leave the party richer by the three seats. The BJP had taken a lead in 13 wards, whereas the Left and the Congress led in none.

That BJP's graph was coming down fast was again apparent from the fact that the vote share of the saffron outfit came down to mere 9 per cent with the Left's vote share going up to 12 per cent from just about 5 per cent.

Continued on Page 12

## Omicron sneaking up on you

As cases soar to over 200, Centre writes to States to step up efforts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns that from just two infections three weeks ago, the number of cases of Covid-19 fast-spreading strain Omicron has zoomed past the 200-mark in India, an alarmed Centre on Tuesday wrote to all State Governments regarding preventive measures, including local level containment and stepping up health services in different parts of the country.

Union Health Ministry officials said at least two people in Odisha have tested positive for the Omicron variant of Covid-19, the first case of the latest version of coronavirus in the State. Bhubaneswar-based Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) too confirmed the existence of the variant in the two patients after conducting the genome sequencing on 12 samples.

Out of 200 Omicron cases, 77 patients have recovered or migrated. Maharashtra and Delhi have the highest number of Omicron cases, at 54 each,



Health workers during door to door Covid-19 inoculation drive at Tosamaidan in Budgam district on Monday. PTI

followed by Telangana (20) and Karnataka (19).

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in his letter, shared a few targeted actions that need to be implemented by the States to curb any possible outbreak.

"At the district level, there should be a constant review of emerging data regarding the population affected by Covid-19, geographical spread, hospital infrastructure and its utilisation, manpower, notifying containment zones, enforcement of perimeter of containment, etc," wrote Bhushan. "This evidence should be

the basis for effective decision making at the district level itself. Such a strategy ensures that infection is contained at the local level itself before it spreads to other parts of the State," he added.

Echoing recent WHO warning that the Omicron is spreading faster than Delta, the senior health official said that based on current scientific evidence, the new variant is at least 3 times more transmissible than the Delta virus. Besides, the Delta variant is still present in different parts of the country. Hence, even greater

Continued on Page 12

Our booster can increase neutralising antibodies by 37 times, claims Moderna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US vaccine manufacturer Moderna has said that a booster dose of its Covid-19 vaccine should offer protection against the rapidly spreading Omicron variant. It said that lab tests showed the half-dose booster shot increased by 37 times the level of so-called neutralising antibodies able to fight omicron.

It also said that the current version of the vaccine would continue to be Moderna's "first line of defence against Omicron."

"We'll be able to rely on this vaccine to address the near-term surge of Omicron cases," Stephen Hoge, president of Moderna, said on a conference call on Monday to a news agency.

However, he said tests showed that after only two doses, protection against Omicron was "substantially lower" than against the initial strain of Covid.

Giving a full dose of Moderna's vaccine as a booster shot also provides more antibody protection against Omicron than the currently authorised half-strength injection, according to the announced results.

The lab study measured the levels of Omicron-neutralising antibodies in blood samples from 40 people who had low levels of these antibodies before getting the booster.

The current recommendation is to give 100 micrograms of the Moderna jab as a first and second dose for protection from Covid-19, followed by a 50-microgram booster.

Antibodies were measured 29 days after booster participants got the third jabs, with half getting a 50 microgram dose and another half getting 100 micrograms.

Moderna says preliminary data show antibody response to Omicron at the 50 microgram

Continued on Page 12

## Dubai ruler must pay \$730 mn in divorce settlement: UK court

PTI ■ LONDON

A British court on Tuesday ordered the ruler of Dubai to pay his ex-wife and their children close to 550 million pounds (\$730 million), in one of the most expensive divorce settlements in British history.

The High Court said Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum must pay 251.5 million pounds to his sixth wife, Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, and make ongoing payments for their children Al Jalila, 14, and Zayed, 9, underpinned by a bank guarantee of 290 million pounds.

The total amount the children receive could be more or less than 290 million pounds,



depending on factors, including how long they live and whether they reconcile with their father. The settlement includes 11 million pounds a year to cover security costs for Princess Haya and the children while they are minors.

Judge Philip Moor said the family needed "water-tight security," and that "absolutely uniquely," the main threat to them came from Sheikh Mohammed, rather than out-

side sources.

Haya, 47, fled to the UK in 2019 and sought custody of her two children through the British courts. The princess, who is the daughter of the late King Hussein of Jordan, said she was "terrified" of her husband, who is alleged to have ordered the forced return to the Gulf emirate of two of his daughters.

Sheikh Mohammed, 72, is also the vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and a major horse breeder. The founder of the successful Godolphin horse-racing stable, he is on friendly terms with Queen Elizabeth II.

Continued on Page 12

## Bill to fix 21 yrs as uniform age of marriage introduced in LS, referred to Parl panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday introduced in the Lok Sabha the Bill to fix 21 years as the uniform age of marriage for women and men. Soon after the introduction of the Bill, Smriti Irani, the Women and Child Development Minister, urged the Chair to refer it to a standing committee. In her brief introduction, the Minister termed the Bill a "decisive step" in the country's history.

The introduction of the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, was opposed by some members

who contended that the move infringed upon several personal laws in violation of fundamental rights and demanded that it be referred to a Parliamentary panel for greater scrutiny.

The Bill seeks to amend seven personal laws — the Indian Christian Marriage Act, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, the Hindu Marriage Act, and the Foreign Marriage Act.

Continued on Page 12

**Ruchi**  
Soya Industries Ltd.

**NOTICE**

Dear Customer,  
Ruchi Soya Industries Limited is pleased to announce price reduction in its brands of packed refined edible oils and vanaspati.

**The new rates are as follows:**

Brand Name	Pack Size	Old MRP	New MRP	Net reduction in price
Mahakosh Refined Soyabean Oil	1 Litre Pouch	182/-	152/-	30/- Per Litre
Mahakosh Kachi Ghani Mustard Oil	1 Litre Pouch	207/-	192/-	15/- Per Litre
Sunrich Refined Sunflower Oil	1 Litre Pouch	209/-	179/-	30/- Per Litre
Ruchi Gold Refined Palmolein Oil	1 Litre Pouch	170/-	141/-	29/- Per Litre
Ruchi No.1 Vanaspati	1 Litre Pouch	132/-	118/-	14/- Per Litre
Nutrela Refined Sunflower Oil	1 Litre Pouch	215/-	185/-	30/- Per Litre
Nutrela Refined Soyabean Oil	1 Litre Pouch	190/-	160/-	30/- Per Litre
Nutrela Kachi Ghani Mustard Oil	1 Litre Pouch	230/-	210/-	20/- Per Litre



**CLASSIFIEDS**

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Jatin to Jatin Diwakar for all future purpose, Jatin Diwakar s/o Jay Narayan R/o Nagawan Gautam Post Purwameer Kanpur

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Rajani to Rajni Kumari for all future purpose, in bank account my name has been written Rajani by mistake. Correct name is Rajni Kumari.

**सूचना**

सूचित हो कि मेरी बीटेक का अंकपत्र प्रथम वर्ष (2012-13) (सीरियल नं० 003842) और द्वितीय वर्ष (2013-14) (सीरियल नं०-030839) वास्तव में खो गया है। नाम तन्वी पता दयाल रेजीडेन्सी, लखनऊ

**NOTICE**

I have to changed my name from Mohammad Saud Alam to Masood Alam S/o Mohd Subhan for future purpose. Add-121/104 Manohar Das ki Bagh, Karaili, Allahabad

**NOTICE**

Be it known to all that earlier my name was Mohammad Riaz Aliyas Guddu Ansari which is changed to Ishiyaq Ahmad. In future I shall be known as Ishiyaq Ahmad. Ishiyaq Ahmad, S/o- Mohammad Ahmad, 633/424, Atala, Allahabad.

**NOTICE**

Be it known to all that earlier my name was Yahya Ishyeyaq which is changed to Yahya Ishiyaq Ahmad. In future I shall be known as Yahya Ishiyaq Ahmad. Yahya Ishiyaq Ahmad, S/o- Ishiyaq Ahmad, 633/424, Atala, Allahabad.

**सूचना**

वीरादेवी और वीरावती, दोनों नाम मुझ एक ही महिला के हैं। अबसे मुझे वीरावती नाम से जाना पड़ना पड़ेगा। मेरी वास्तविक जन्म तिथि 01.07.1951 है। वीरावती पत्नी स्व० पूरन सिंह यादव निवासीनी प्लॉट नं० 7 पी ब्लॉक गोपाल नगर पोस्ट ऑफिस किदवई नगर, यशोदा नगर, कानपुर नगर - 208011

**NOTICE**

To be informed that Admission form of my daughter ASHITA GAUR 9D, La Martiniere Girls College Lucknow, my name wrongly written SHARAD NARAIN GAUR, while my correct name is SHARAD NARAYAN GAUR in all future purpose. SHARAD NARAYAN GAUR S/O SHRI NARAYAN GAUR R/O-16/3G HAVELOK ROAD LUCKNOW.

**NOTICE**

It is informed to the general public that in the certificates of my ICSE Board High School Examination year 2019 roll number 7017917, father's name Rajesh Katiyar has been wrongly entered instead of Rajesh Kumar Katiyar. Therefore, my father's name Rajesh Kumar Katiyar should be mentioned in the certificates. Riya Katiyar D/o Rajesh Kumar Katiyar R/o Plot No. 167-Katiyar Guest house Barra-6 Kanpur.

**NOTICE**

In inform that my name is Mohammad Akram and my father name is Ashraf Ahmad but in my pspport No. KS 291098 my name Mohammad Ekram and my father name Lallan is wrong by clerks mistake. now me and my father name is Mohammad Akram S/o Ashraf Ahmed, Vill & post Mangaranwan Raipur. P.S. Gambhirpur Block Mahmadpur, Tehsil-Mehrnagar, Distt. Azamgarh U.P. Pin No. 276205

**NOTICE**

This is informing that original chain deed bearing DOC No. 40172 dated on 13/04/1990 of my Property Bhukhand No. 22 of Kharsa No. 9 sa min of Khargapur, Lko. alongwith last page (Registration details page) bearing doc no. 2128, date 11/02/2019 were lost on 19/12/2021 with me. Name: Anjani Tiwari w/o Amarendra Nath Tiwari R/o House built over Plot No. 22 of Kharsa No. 9 Sa min, Khargapur, Lko. Mob- 9015751008

# 'Yogi 'unupyogi' for Akhilesh'

... as he made his goonda elements unusable for him

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Akhilesh Yadav finds Yogi Adityanath useless for himself because the Uttar Pradesh chief minister has rendered unusable for the SP chief all his navratna criminal elements like Mukhtar Ansari and Atiq Ahmad by sending them to jail, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Tuesday.

Contrary to the Samajwadi Party supremo's perception, Chief Minister Adityanath is very upyogi (useful) for the people of Uttar Pradesh, Pradhan, also the BJP's UP poll in-charge said, in a dig at Yadav, amid the ongoing spat between the two parties over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UP poll formula: 'UP+Yogi=Upyogi'.

Pradhan made the remarks while addressing the party's Jan Vishwas Yatra at Ghosi in Mau district. Akhilesh ji calls UP Yogi Adityanath unupyogi' (useless). Absolutely true! Yogi ji is 'unupyogi' for Akhilesh ji because he has sent all goonda elements like Mukhtar Ansari and Atiq Ahmed to jails, said Pradhan.

He is 'unupyogi', because he has sent Azam Khan to jail, who has grabbed the land of the poor. The intermediaries, criminals and goons are in jails. And, they are the 'navratna' (nine gems) of Akhilesh Yadav. Hence, Yogi ji is



'unupyogi' for Akhilesh ji." Emperors Vikramaditya and Akbar used to describe nine scholarly courtiers of their respective courts as navratna, historians say.

"Our Yogi ji is very much 'upyogi' for the poor, backward classes and Dalit peoples, women, youths and others from the deprived section of the society. He has worked in their interests and to protect their rights," a BJP statement quoted Pradhan as telling people in Ghosi.

"The earlier government was of a handful of people and it liked intermediaries, those spreading terror, goondas and mafia. None of these people is at the centre of our double-engine government, said Pradhan.

This is a government which works with the interest of the poor, backward classes people, Dalits, women, youths and those from the deprived section of the society in its mind, he said.

Talking of various welfare schemes of the Centre and the state government, Pradhan said the people know what would have been the situation in the state, had there been no BJP

government here. "During the Covid pandemic, when the people of the state were in trouble, those living in palaces generation after generation and occupying power in Delhi and Lucknow stayed confined to their homes, he said.

It was only the BJP governments which came out. Modi ji and Yogi Ji thought about the people of the state and the country and ensured that they get food and stay safe with their jobs remaining intact," he said.

Attacking previous SP and BSP governments, Pradhan added, "Those who did politics in the name of poor and backwards, built palaces and nourished themselves and their close aides.

Had there been no BJP government in UP after 2017, the same system would have continued. The ration meant for the poor would have continued to be looted," he said.

Pradhan exuded confidence that owing to the sincere and honest work of CM Adityanath under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the BJP will get more than 300 seats in the state in the 2022 assembly elections.

# Shah to tour UP to scale up BJP's campaign for assembly polls

New Delhi (PTI): To scale up the BJP's campaign for the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Union Minister Amit Shah will tour the state in the coming days and will cover more than 140 constituencies, sources said on Tuesday.

During his trip, which will span over a week starting December 24, Shah, the party's key strategist will travel to at least 21 different locations in the state and in each location, he will hold a programme for seven cluster constituencies, they said.

Keeping caste equations in mind, each programme will be attended by people from three OBC-dominated constituencies, two urban

constituencies, one scheduled caste-dominated constituency and one minority-dominated constituency, they said. Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh are due early next year.

Among the key features of Shah's visit will be his late evening meetings with party workers to deliberate on strategies for the upcoming elections, they said.

It was under the leadership of Shah as BJP chief that the party had won a massive majority in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, and won 67 Lok Sabha seats out of 80 in 2019.

In 2014, when he was Uttar Pradesh in-charge, the BJP had won 73 Lok Sabha seats.

# 82 pc beneficiaries in UP provided free ration for December

Lucknow (PNS): Carrying on with the extended scheme of free ration distribution across the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has so far provided free ration to more than 82 per cent of the beneficiaries for December.

Commissioner, Food and Civil Supply, Saurabh Babu said, "The department has distributed 6,88,690.741 metric tons of ration among ration card holders of Antyodaya and eligible household category till December 9. Along with this, free of cost distribution of 29,276.142 MT of three other commodities -- gram, salt and oil -- has also been undertaken."

The state government is running its next phase of the 'biggest campaign' of free ration distribution, other than PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) under which along with wheat and rice, ration card holders across Uttar Pradesh have been receiving a litre of refined oil and a kilo each of salt and pulses, free of cost.

On November 3, in Ayodhya, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had declared free ration distribution to the beneficiaries until Holi. Later, the Central government also extended the ration distribution under PM-GKAY till

March 2022. Thus, beneficiaries will now receive double benefits. Notably, there are around 1,30,07,969 units of beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and 13,41,77,983 units under eligible household card holders.

While distribution through ePoS devices ensured that the subsidised food grains were provided to the rightful beneficiary through biometric authentication, the integration of ePoS devices with electronic weighing scales has ensured that the beneficiary are given the right quantity of food grains by the fair price shop dealers.

# '33.852 LMT paddy purchased from farmers'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Paddy procurement from farmers is progressing smoothly in the 2020-21 Kharif marketing season (KMS) at minimum support price (MSP) like it was done in previous years across Uttar Pradesh.

Chairing a high-level meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the officials to ensure timely payment to farmers against the purchase of their produce. The chief minister had given instructions to ensure smooth purchase of the crop and directed key officers including ADMS, SDMS, tehsildars to monitor the purchase by making on-site inspection of the purchase centres.

Till date, the government agencies have bought around 33,852 lakh metric tons of paddy, benefitting more than 4.78 lakh

farmers in the state. Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, Saurabh Babu, said, "As on December 21, total paddy worth more than Rs 6,077.91 crore has been purchased from farmers, and the payment is being made within 72 hours of the purchase, directly in their bank accounts."

As per the Food and Civil Supplies department data, the state government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) have procured more than 1.15 LMT of paddy in the last 24 hours. In line with the chief minister's instructions, arrangements have been made to ensure that the farmers are not harassed by middlemen. Strict monitoring is also being done to make the process smooth.

A total of 4,400 procurement centres have been set up across the state to facilitate direct purchase from farmers against last year's 4,319 centres in 73 districts.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be inform that my client Aavas Financiers Limited intends to provide finance to one of its client Sri Dharmesh Tripathi & Smt Kiran Tripathi for purchase of a property House with land, admeasuring 464 square feet i.e. 43,122 square meters only situated at Village- Bahubalpur, Ward- Fatuzallahganj, Tehsil & District- Lucknow from its current owner Smt. Triveni Devi, wife of Sri Harisharan Verma and in chain of title of said property being original sale-deed dated 08.05.2002 (document No. 3683/2002) favoring ex-owner Sri Santosh Yadav son of Late Guru Charan Yadav, is allegedly lost and misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against owners shall be void and ineffective. (Tarun Prakash Srivastava) Advocate (Mob: 9335914262 Office: Room No. 111, CITI Hotel, 24, B.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow.

# Namami Gange project gives new lease of life to Yamuna

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Namami Gange project has finally succeeded in giving a new lease of life to Yamuna as a major work of purification of this river has been carried out in Mathura.

According to the data released by Jal Nigam, 20 drains have been tapped at a cost of Rs 460.45 crore. Also, a new sewage treatment plant (STP) of 30 MLD (million litres per day) has been prepared. Along with rejuvenating the rivers, the problem of sewerage falling in them is being solved with a state-of-the-art method.

On the other hand, the Ramganga sewerage scheme in Moradabad has brought about a big change under the Namami Gange project. In Mathura, sewerage from 13 drains has been stopped from falling into the river Yamuna at a cost of Rs 330.05 crore and an STP of 58 MLD has been set



up. Besides, a faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) of 10 KLD (kilolitres per day) has been set up at Chunar Nagar of Mirzapur at a cost of Rs 2.70 crore. In Firozabad, two big drains have been tapped by the I&D method at a cost of Rs 51.06 crore. In Kasganj, construction of 58 MLD STPs has been completed along with tapping of two drains at a cost of Rs 76.73 crore.

Principal Secretary (Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply) Anurag Srivastava said that the state

government was constructing sewage treatment plants with state-of-the-art methods.

"Solar energy is being used with minimum consumption of electricity. At the same time, the use of new methods of sewage treatment has proved effective. The sewage from these treatment plants is discharged into the rivers after being purified. Due to this, the amount of pollution in the rivers has reduced. The work of cleaning the silt in the rivers with machines and boats is also being done at a fast pace," the senior official said.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Northern Railway has decided to restore the Pre-Covid status of Unreserved second class/disabled friendly second class coaches in 06 trains w.e.f. 01.01.2022 as per details given below:-

Train No.	Train Name	No. of Coaches	No. of coaches operated during pre covid period		Changes in the existing Coaches from 01.01.2022
			Res (2S)	Un-Res.	
14035/36	Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Pathankot - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express (3 Days a week)	1IInd Class-4, 1IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van with Disable Friendly-2	NIL	6	All existing coaches will run as unreserved
12469/70	Kanpur Central - Jammu Tawi - Kanpur Central Express (2 Days a week)	1IInd Class-5, Brake, Luggage Cum Generator Car-2	NIL	5	All existing coaches will run as unreserved
14503/04	Kalka - Sh. Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Kalka Express (2 Days a week)	1IInd Class-5, 1IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van with Disable Friendly-2	NIL	7	All existing coaches will run as unreserved
22417/18	Varanasi Jn. - New Delhi - Varanasi Jn. Mahamana Express (3 Days a week)	Pantry Car-1, 1IInd Class-2, 1IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van with Disable Friendly-2	NIL	4	All existing coaches will run as unreserved
14013/14	Sultanpur - Anand Vihar T. - Sultanpur - Sadbhawana Express (2 Days a week)	AC Hot Buffet Car-1, 1IInd Class-4, Brake, Luggage Cum Generator Car-2	NIL	4	All existing coaches will run as unreserved
14259/60	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Lucknow - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. Ekamata Express (Weekly)	1IInd Class-6, 1IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van-2	NIL	6	All existing coaches will run as unreserved

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139. Visit RailMadad Website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in. Download RailMadad app. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. NORTHERN RAILWAY. visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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# 550 O<sub>2</sub> plants operationalised in UP



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a Covid review meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A total of 550 oxygen producing plants across the state have been operationalised largely due to dedicated efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government towards making the state self-reliant in generation of medical oxygen.

Reviewing the COVID-19 situation across the state at a high-level meeting with senior officials, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that 23 more oxygen plants had become functional in less than two weeks and the process of establishing the remaining under-construction plants should be completed in a time bound manner.

The chief minister further

emphasised the importance of complete vaccination, saying that it has proved to be effective in fighting against the novel coronavirus new variants like Omicron.

"The pace of the ongoing Covid vaccination drive in the state should be expedited. All those who have not taken the second dose of vaccine despite the stipulated time on a priority basis, should be contacted," he said.

Real time monitoring of the installation of oxygen plants has been planned, with district administrations being asked to continuously monitor the progress of installation work of these plants and ensure the availability of raw material so that they are completed on

time. Oxygen plants are to be mandatory in hospitals with more than 50 beds capacity.

The chief minister also directed officials to assess the updated situation in this regard and take necessary action. Along with hospitals and medical colleges, oxygen plants are also being set up at the community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) across the state.

The state government is also conducting special training sessions for paramedical staff and pharmacists to prepare them to fight the pandemic. With this, the government is not only providing skill training to the local youth but is also giving them employment opportunities.

## 2 women test +ve, Delta variant found in 44 samples

Lucknow (PNS): Two women tested positive for coronavirus infection in Lucknow on Tuesday. Yogesh Raghuvanshi from the CMO office said one of the woman came to KGMU from Farrukhabad while the other is a resident of Hazratganj.

The contacts for these positive cases are not being tested. On December 23 and December 24, 'Swasthya Mela' is being organised at DAV College in which both the government and private hospitals will be holding camps for free check-ups and tests. A Covid vaccination camp will also be held there.

Meanwhile, Delta variant was detected in 44 samples which were sent by the Health department for genome sequencing. State Surveillance Officer Vikasendu Agarwal said the samples had been sent to Delhi. "No case of Omicron was detected. We will be sending another batch of 50 samples

from the state for genome sequencing," he added.

Secretary of Organised Medicine Academic Guild (OMAG) Dr Ishwar Gilada said it's being discussed whether Omicron can go the Delta way. "Delta variant or B.1.617 which originated from Amravati in Maharashtra had shown just 1% presence in the Covid cases in India in January earlier this year but the figure turned out to be 99% by June and spread to over 100 countries by August. A Hong Kong study suggests that Omicron is 70 times more infectious in bronchi and 10 times less infectious in lungs than Delta, but 700 times milder than Delta. Patients recover with mild symptoms and unaffected lungs or associated illnesses. None of the Omicron cases had any findings in CT scan of chest in Mumbai. Hence, it is clear that it is not going the Delta way in any parameters whatsoever," he said.

## BJP leader's brother was killed by friend for demanding money back

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mukesh Singh, who was the brother of a BJP leader, was killed by an acquaintance for demanding Rs 4 lakh that the accused owed him. Making this claim, police disclosed the names of the killer and his aide on Tuesday, a day after their arrest.

The accused were identified as Heera Singh and Ankur Pal of Gopal Khera, Mohanlalganj. The police recovered a clutch wire with which Mukesh was strangulated. The car used for Mukesh's abduction was also recovered.

Heera came on police radar, thanks to his call detail records even though he told the police that he had talked to Mukesh to seek monetary help. Due to lack of any corroborating evidence against him, the police let him off and quizzed another suspect who had last talked to Mukesh. However, he turned out to be innocent.

In the meantime, Heera absconded fearing arrest sooner or later. The police got a diary written by Mukesh and Heera's name surfaced in the debtors' list. As he was absconding, the investigation got delayed. However, Heera's

## Grocer found hanging in shop

Lucknow (PNS): A 35-year-old grocer was found hanging inside his shop in Thakurganj police station area on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Dilip Tiwari aka Pappu Tiwari of Ayodhyapuri Colony in the area. He had been living separately from his wife Suman for the last 7-8 years and would sleep inside his shop. His mother Guddi Tiwari said she was informed by some that Dilip did not open the shop on Tuesday. "I reached the shop around 1 pm and found the shutter closed from inside. The shutter was lifted somehow and Dilip was found hanging from the ceiling with a muffler tied around his neck," she said. She said she was clueless about why Dilip ended his life.

Meanwhile, a woman accused her husband, brother-in-law and mother-in-law of thrashing her, attempting to kill her by choking her throat and killing her unborn child. In her complaint, she alleged that her husband Vipul, brother-in-law Shivam and mother-in-law Veena used to harass her for dowry since marriage. "My mother-in-law used to incite Vipul and Shivam to torture me. They also killed my unborn child," she alleged. She further alleged that Vipul and Shivam choked my throat in a bid to kill her at their house in Praygaraj on October 21. "On May 7 last, they forced me to pop pills after which I had to undergo an abortion of the fetus at our house in Jaunpur," she alleged.

mother died and he was nabbed as he came to attend the last rites. Heera confessed to have borrowed Rs 4 lakh from Mukesh. He said Mukesh was demanding his money back but he had other ideas and that was he planned to eliminate Mukesh. He roped in Ankur and both borrowed a car from an acquaintance. On the

fateful day, he called Mukesh and asked him to take the money. He asked him to sit beside him in the car while Ankur was sitting behind. They abducted him and later strangled him to death. They later dumped the body near the under-construction outer Ring Road in Harikansharhi locality in Mohanlalganj.

## Case of fraud against owner of ponzi company, others

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A case of fraud and criminal breach of trust was registered in connection with the incident in which several employees of a ponzi company deprived them of their laptops and also did not pay them salaries. The accused were identified as Ajay Kumar (boss), Neeraj Maurya, Habiba Siddiqui, Pradeep Yadav, Vishal and Nishi. The case was lodged on the complaint of Fairaz Alam Siddiqui of Hasanganj. The incident came to light on Monday when the employees reached the house and found the company office closed. The victims later reached the police station where they lodged a complaint. As per victim, he and others were offered jobs in a company called 'State Electronics Development Department' in the area after they applied for the same, going through advertisements for job opportunities. "The company owners employed a number of youths promising attractive salaries and got money deposited from them. We worked as data entry operators from November 15 to December 20. The owners asked us to deposit the laptops, hard discs and SSD cards on the pretext of data retrieval. We were asked to visit the office on December 20 to collect our salaries and laptops. However, we found the company office closed," the victims alleged, adding that the company was being run in Indiranagar (Sector 18). In another case, a woman was duped of over Rs 93,000 in a cyber fraud in Indiranagar. In her complaint, Komal Singh said she clicked on a link sent to her and the money was deducted from her bank account.

Meanwhile, manager of Vidyant Hindu Inter College in Aminabad alleged that a class IV worker of threatened him. In his complaint, Shivashish Ghosh said he was told by the college principal that class IV employee Rajesh Kumar did not do any college-related work and did not obey any instructions. "I called him for an explanation and he said he had never done any work and he would not anything in future," Ghosh alleged. He further said that he reminded Rajesh of his duties as an employee was but Rajesh threatened him saying, "You will get any work done if you survive," he alleged. Police registered a case in this connection and started further investigation.

## Youths educated about govt schemes for new businesses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Lucknow and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) organised a virtual session on 'Government Schemes to Start New Businesses'.

The key objective of the session was to educate the youth about the benefits they can leverage themselves with the entrepreneurship and the initiatives of SIDBI towards this so as to improve standards of living and create wealth, not only for the entrepreneurs but also for the state. The session also shed light on government schemes and way ahead to start new and rewarding businesses.

Incharge of Incubation Centre, IIIT, Bindu Singh gave an overview of the institute and also shared its mission, vision and goal with all the participants.

Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME, Rakesh Kumar described the process of registering the MSME under MSME Udyam Aadhar Portal. Kumar also briefed the audience about the export scenario of Uttar Pradesh. He also stated some of the useful MSME schemes and also briefed the students about the importance of intellectual property right (IPR).

He also spoke about some of the popular government schemes for funding the MSMEs such as MSME Support and Outreach Programme Portal, CGTME, MUDRA Yojana, Stand-Up Yojana (for SC/ST and women entrepreneurs), Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD), 2% Interest Subvention Scheme and Registration on TReDS Portal, Return of Performance Guarantee to MSEs, SFURTI and ASPIRE Schemes. He also spoke on how students can become successful entrepreneurs. Resident Director, UP Chapter of PHDCCI, Atul Srivastava took questionnaires from the audiences to the elite panel of experts of the session.

नए उत्तर प्रदेश का संकल्प  
एक जिला-एक मेडिकल कॉलेज

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नरिामावी उपस्थिति

<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">सुरेश कुमार खन्ना</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">मंत्री, विज्ञान, संसदीय कार्य एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा उत्तर प्रदेश</p>	<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">डॉ. सतीश चन्द्र द्विवेदी</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), वैदिक शिक्षा उत्तर प्रदेश</p>	<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">संजीव कुमार</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">राज्य मंत्री, समाज कल्याण अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश</p>	<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">पकौड़ी लाल कोल</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">सांसद राबर्ट्सगंज</p>
<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">डॉ. अनिल कुमार मोर्य</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">विधायक, घोराल</p>	<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">भूपेश चोबे</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">विधायक, राबर्ट्सगंज</p>	<p style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: bold;">हरीराम चेरु</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">विधायक, दुहरी</p>	

व अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 22 दिसम्बर, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 1:00 बजे  
स्थान : हाइडिल मेदान, राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र

सोच ईमानदार, काम दमदार

चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To inform that my client Indostar Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. intends to provide a finance to one of its clients Smt. Gauri Singh W/o. Mr. Raj Kumar Singh to purchase a property Plot No. P/01 No. 8, Block-A, Kharsa No. 2067 Min. Situated part of area measuring 92-53 sq.mtr., situated at Village Amausa, Pargana-Bijnor, Tehsil-Sarainagar, District-LKO, U.P. from its present owner Narsheri S/o. Faraz. If any person has any right title or interest over the said property he may approach to the undersigned within seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed the property in questions free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against purchase shall be void and ineffective.

**NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA (Advocate)**  
Ch.No.9, L.G.F. Krishna Tower,  
CNAKBAST Road, Ganesnagar, Lucknow, UP.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / G. North Eastern Railway, Lucknow, for and on behalf of President of India. Invites "OPEN" tender for the following work:  
Tender No- SRDEE-LJN-13-2021, Description of work: Electrical work in connection to Electrification of Manned Level crossing over Lucknow Division and Foot Over Bridge at different stations in Lucknow Division, Approx. Value: ₹ 75,66,149.51, Earnest Money: ₹ 0.00, Cost of Tender form: ₹ 0.00, Completion Period-06 Months, Date & Time of closing of the above E-Tender 10.01.2022 at 15.00 Hrs.

Note: Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such tendered offer received, shall be ignored for full details and submission of bid. Kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Engineer (G) CPRO/Vidyut-76, Lucknow  
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09749695  
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

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**विद्युत 400 क्वी.वी. उपकेंद्र खण्ड, उद्दाम पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ ई-निविदा सूचना** अनुमोदी एवं/अथवा से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदाएं दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में मूल्य/दर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग के खुलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व 1700 बजे तक अपलोड की जानी है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी, नियम व अर्हकारी शर्तें, निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है, जो वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) से डाउनलोड कर अवलोकित/अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम व द्वितीय भाग वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर ही अपलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित कोई भी प्रपत्र, मौखिक रूप से कार्यालय में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी अथवा सभी निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित/निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। विस्तृत जानकारी, अन्य किसी प्रकार के संशोधन एवं तिथि विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में निविदा अपलोड करने के दिनांक/समय तक कृपया वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉग ऑन करें। **निविदा सं 10 के खुलने की तिथि 21.01.2022 निर्धारित की जाती है - (1)** ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/2021-22; विद्युत 220 क्वी.वी. उपकेंद्र सरोजनी नगर में क्षतिग्रस्त पुनरी कन्ट्रोल केबल को हटाने एवं कन्ट्रोल केबल को डालने एवं 33 क्वी.वी. वोल्टेज की कन्ट्रोल वायरिंग को अपग्रेड करने कार्य, निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत 400 क्वी.वी. उपकेंद्र खण्ड उद्दाम पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ पत्रांक 1271 दिनांक 21.12.21 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें

**मध्यम विद्युत विवरण**

**निगम लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना**  
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा अनुमोदी एवं कार्य में दक्ष ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदाओं दो भागों में निम्न विवरण अनुसार उद्दाम सरकार के पोर्टल [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण [www.mvnl.in](http://www.mvnl.in) पर भी अवलोकित किया जा सकता है। बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को निरस्त करने अथवा एक से अधिक निविदादाताओं में विभक्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित है। प्रत्येक निविदा को अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 04.01.2022 समय 17:00 बजे तक तथा प्रथम-भाग खुलने की तिथि 05.01.2022 समय 14:00 बजे।  
**1. अल्यकालीन ई-निविदा सं 90/विकास/ल/0/2021-22:** कार्यशाला-बॉकेंगंज, लखीमपुर में 10 केवीए से 100 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों की मरम्मत का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 3540.00। धरोहर धनराशि रु 47500.00।  
**2. अल्यकालीन ई-निविदा सं 91/विकास/ल/0/2021-22:** कार्यशाला-हरदोई में 160 केवीए से 630 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों की मरम्मत का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 3540.00। धरोहर धनराशि रु 50000.00।  
**3. अल्यकालीन ई-निविदा सं 92/विकास/ल/0/2021-22:** कार्यशाला-रायबरेली में 10 केवीए से 100 केवीए क्षमता के क्षतिग्रस्त परिवर्तकों की मरम्मत का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 3540.00। धरोहर धनराशि रु 95000.00।  
**4. अल्यकालीन ई-निविदा सं 93/विकास/ल/0/2021-22:** विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत एक कार्यशाला/स्टोर/अन्य क्षेत्र से दूसरे कार्यशाला/स्टोर/अन्य क्षेत्र पर सामग्री, क्षतिग्रस्त एवं मरम्मतशुदा परिवर्तकों की दुलाई लदाई एवं उतराई का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 3540.00। धरोहर धनराशि रु 74000.00। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल मविनिफिल, लखनऊ पत्रांक 2838 दिनांक 21.12.21 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें

**IIA prepares proposals for benefit of MSME sector**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Indian Industries Association (IIA) has prepared proposals for the benefit of MSME sector which serves about 50 per cent of the population of Uttar Pradesh. President of IIA, Lucknow Chapter, Mohit Suri said they will be submitting these proposals directly to the presidents of political parties so that it makes it to the manifestos and drafting committees of all political parties. He said it is necessary owing to the fact that MSME suffered a lot during the pandemic.

He said that in the forthcoming UP assembly elections, all political parties have started their campaigns to influence the voters. "Shortly the political parties will announce their elections manifestos in which they will make some commitments to the voters. This is an opportunity for the voters to tell the leaders of political parties their expectations from them," he said.

He added that in terms of population and number of MSMEs, UP is ranked number one in the country.

"14.20% of the total MSMEs in the country are in UP while 89.99 lakh MSMEs are established in UP, employing 165.26 lakh voters. As such, 255.25 lakh families are directly fed by the MSME sector in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from this, a large number of people are associated with the MSME sector indirectly in different supportive activities.

Assuming an average size

of a family of four members, the 1,021 lakh population of the state is dependent directly on the MSME sector. The prosperity of this about 50% population of the state is directly linked to the prosperity of the MSME sector," he said.

He added that IIA has prepared a document wherein few proposals related to the growth, prosperity of MSME sector in the state are explained for inclusion in the manifestos of political parties.

"If these proposals are included in the manifestos by the political parties and after election results are implemented by the government formed by the winning party, 50% of the population of the state will benefit. These benefits will help in bringing the economic and social prosperity to the state," he said.

He added that all the government departments, PSUs, PSEs and autonomous bodies must procure 30% of their requirement for goods and services from MSMEs located in the state.

"There should be no technical terms and conditions for MSMEs to participate in the government tender process. All purchases should be done through the GeM portal in a transparent manner. Leasehold industrial land of MSMEs in UP should be made freehold and property tax for industrial properties be less than residential properties," he said.

Regarding further proposals, he said it included promoting industrialisation in the state, wherein new industrial areas should be developed along with Purvanchal and Ganga Expressways. "Mandi shulk outside mandi premises should be abolished. Representation of MSME entrepreneurs should be there in Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Parishad in line with that of teachers and graduates and there should be a promotion of use of PNG as fuel by industries to reduce air pollution and to exempt VAT on PNG," he added.

**Office of the Executive Engineer Electricity 400 KV Sub-Station Divisions U.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. Hafizpur, Azamgarh 'Notice For Extension of Tender'** Tender No. 02/2021-22 of this office which was due for opening on 17.12.2021 is hereby extended up to 15:00 hrs of 30.12.2021, due to unavoidable circumstances. Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. (R.P. Singh) Executive Engineer 400 KV S/S Division Hafizpur Azamgarh, No. 1335 Dt. 20.12.21 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM**  
DURGAPAL GARDEN NEAR SINTHYA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, PILIKOTHI ROAD, BARI MUKHANI HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)  
**E-Tender Notice**  
पत्रांक 1879/निविदा-अनुबन्ध/उद्यमसिंहनगर/132 दिनांक 21.12.2021  
1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE HALL FOR SAINIK MILAN KENDRA AT KHATIMA, (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR),  
2. Estimated Cost- Rs. 144.87 Lakh  
3. Period of Completion:- 09 Month  
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 21.12.2021 (17.00hrs)  
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 05.01.2022 (17.00 hrs)  
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- 07.01.2022 (11.00hrs)  
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi Niwas, Durgapal Garden, Pilikothi, Haldwani.  
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 27.12.2021 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt., Udham Singh Nagar, 263153.  
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

**CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LUCKNOW ("AIRPORT")**

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGES AT THE AIRPORT**  
The Airport Operator of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow, is inviting interested parties to participate in the competitive e-tendering process for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Passenger Boarding Bridges at the Airport. Interested parties are requested to visit the website, [airports.abcpocure.com](http://airports.abcpocure.com) and access the Request for Qualification (RFQ) document(s) as per details provided therein. RFQ shall be available for access from December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 till December 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, IST 2400 hours.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**O-1437 Bid Identification No. 31 of 2021-22**  
1. Name of the Work: - Laying of pipe lines, construction of R.C.C E.S.R, construction of valve chambers, pumping unit installation and providing 100% FHTC in connection with piped water supply to different villages in the district of Kandhamal. (Refer DTCN available in the website : [tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in))  
2. Total No of work :- 4 Nos.  
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 279.68 to Rs. 298.96 lakhs  
4. Eligible Bidder :- B & A class Contractor  
5. Period of Completion: - 11 (Eleven) months (Refer DTCN available in the website [tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in))  
6. Other Details :-  

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Date and time for opening of Technical Bid
		From	To	
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Phulbani	31 of 2021-22	Dt. 10.01.2022 At 10.00 Hrs	Dt. 24.01.2022 Up to 17.00 Hrs	Dt. 25.01.2022 at 11.00 A.M

  
Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only. Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Phulbani OIPR-25006/11/0017/2122

**Happy that Modi has finally bowed to 'naari shakti': PGV**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's widely publicised participation at a women empowerment programme held in Prayagraj, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra commented that she was happy that the prime minister finally bowed to the women power (naari shakti) of this country.

Speaking about the prime minister's 'naari shakti' push at a rally in Prayagraj on Tuesday, Priyanka said that due to her 'Ladki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon Shakti Samvaad' (I am a girl, I can fight) in Rae Bareilly, Modi had to bow to 'nari shakti' (women power) and focused on women empowerment.

"Women have woken up. The prime minister has bowed before the power of this country. This is the victory of the women of Uttar Pradesh. I am very happy," she said.

He added that all the government departments, PSUs, PSEs and autonomous bodies must procure 30% of their requirement for goods and services from MSMEs located in the state. "There should be no technical terms and conditions for MSMEs to participate in the government tender process. All purchases should be done through the GeM portal in a transparent manner. Leasehold industrial land of MSMEs in UP should be made freehold and property tax for industrial properties be less than residential properties," he said.

**...alleges Insta accounts of her kids hacked**

**Lucknow (PNS):** Close on heels of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav levelling charges that his phone was being tapped by the Bharatiya Janata Party government, now Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra came out with similar allegations on Tuesday. Claiming that her children's Instagram accounts were hacked, Priyanka slammed the BJP government and questioned, "Don't you have any work?"

The controversy over phone tapping started when former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, alleged that the UP government was tapping his phones and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath listened to his phone conversations on a daily basis.

Akhilesh had said, "All our phone calls are being heard. All the phones of the SP office are tapped. The CM himself is listening to some recordings in the evening. If you (journalists) contact us, then understand that you are also being heard. Just come to think how useless this government is."

just before the assembly election when they were claiming to be running a 'double engine' government?

A senior Congress leader said that Priyanka's promise of 40 per cent tickets to women and later Mahila Samvad (women interaction) all across Uttar Pradesh seems to have unnerved the BJP so much that the prime minister had to jump in and participate in a rally for pushing women empowerment in Prayagraj on Tuesday.

**CITYBRIEFS**

**PROJECT OF BBAU STUDENTS SELECTED BY IIT-K**

The project of students of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University has been selected for funding by the Start-up, Incubation and Innovation Center (SIIC) of IIT-Kanpur. "Three students of BBAU — Danish Kalim & Akanksha Bharti from the department of Environmental Science, and Gaurav Kumar from the department of Statistics — had sent their project proposal in response to the applications invited by the Incubation Center of IIT-Kanpur through the Innovation Platform. These students shared their ideas related OF producing eco-friendly thermocol, an alternative to bubble, which would not only be biodegradable but would also eliminate the problem of stubble burning. The project was selected by IIT-Kanpur. The BBAU students will also get financial support of Rs 1.57 lakh so that they can prepare nature-friendly thermocol in human interest and environment protection by completing this project," BBAU spokesperson Rachana Gangwar said. The BBAU students had sent their project proposal under the guidance of Prof Naveen Kumar Arora, incharge of the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship.

**CMS STUDENTS WIN 16 MEDALS IN IMSO-2021**

Students of City Montessori School brought laurels to the city by winning 16 medals in International Mathematics and Science Olympiad (IMSO-2021). The event was organised under the aegis of IMSO Council, Indonesia. CMS students won the maximum number of medals in the competition. The medal winners included Inesh Bajpai, Rishabh Agrawal, Shreyansh Verma, Bhavishya Kero, Tanish Ahuja, Ekakshya Tripathi, Soumy Singh, Kshitij Singh, Aviral Singh, Kushagra Roy, Gagan Agrawal, Rishit Pandey, Suhaas Dwivedi, Prakhar Upadhyay, Shivansh Shukla, and Priyanshi Arya.

**NO. 1 CO-ED SCHOOL**

City Montessori School, Gontinaagar Campus I, has been ranked number 1 co-ed day school in Uttar Pradesh by the Education World magazine in its 'All-India School Rankings 2020-21'. Principal Abha Anant was awarded a certificate for this achievement at a glittering ceremony held in Gurugram, Haryana. Principals Manjit Batra and Sangeeta Banerjee were also present on the occasion.



**CHRISTMAS MILAN**



Uttar Pradesh Masihi Association (UPMA) celebrated its 'Christmas Milan' service at Christ Church Auditorium on Tuesday. It was a combined Christmas programme of all the churches in Lucknow. Pastor Samuel Mathai welcomed the congregation and Dr Herbert Able led the opening prayer. The worship began with the choir singing traditional carols. Five special Christmas carols each were presented by Methodist Church, Epiphany Church, Catholic Church Assembly of God and Assembly of Believers Church. A special prayer for peace and safety was conducted by EF Baksh. The guest speaker was Dr Gerald J Mathais, Bishop of Catholic Church.

**Twitter abuzz with news of women empowerment**

Lucknow (PNS): Social media platform Twitter has been abuzz with news of the glorious display of women empowerment at Prayagraj on Tuesday when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed around 2.5 lakh women beneficiaries in a one of its kind event. The #NariShaktiDeshKiShakti remained the top trending topic in India on Twitter throughout Tuesday and crossed over 1.5 billion impressions reaching over 192 million people. The Twitter trend started after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched various programmes for women in the presence of over 2.5 lakh women in Prayagraj. The programme was held as per the vision to empower women, especially at grassroots level, by providing them with necessary skills, incentives and resources. During the event, Twitter and other social media platforms were abuzz with comments over the initiatives taken towards women empowerment and making them self-reliant with several people hailing the prime minister and the chief minister for their efforts. Various eminent political leaders such as former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union minister Kiren Rijjiu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh among others also took to the social media to describe efforts undertaken by the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments for women empowerment and used the hashtag. The UP government's 'Mission Shakti' and 'Anti Romeo Squads' also grabbed the attention of the twitterati.

**Workshop on prevention of sexual harassment**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the permission from District Legal Service Authority in Lucknow, Dean of Faculty of Law, Lucknow University, CP Singh and chairman of Legal Aid Centre Ashish Srivastava, Lucknow University organised a workshop at St Thomas Mission School. The themes were Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) and cyber awareness.

The purpose of the workshop was to educate students, teachers, and staff about what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual harassment at work, as well as the consequences of both, and how an employer can create a safe working environment for employees, such as by forming an internal complaints committee and the consequences of not doing so.

Bhumika, a member of Legal Aid Centre and a student of LU's Faculty of Law, said the audience about the centre and all of the previous workshops it had successfully conducted, the impact it had, and the internal complain committees it had successfully assisted in forming following the workshops.

Richa Gupta, a member of Legal Aid Centre and student of Faculty of Law, LU, interacted with the students about

fundamental rights and asked them what they knew about them. She described the case of Bhanwari Devi, how she was brutally raped, and how the system, leadership, cops, rule of law, and society as a whole failed her.

Additionally, Vishaka Guidelines were presented, as well as what is sexual assault and what falls under the purview of sexual assault that most people are ignorant of, and were shown to help students comprehend the concept of sexual harassment.

The audience was encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on what sexual harassment means to them, and she went on to describe what a workplace is and what it entails.

Bhumika emphasised on the importance of redressal and how every workplace should have an internal complaints committee and a local complaints committee to deal with the complaints of aggrieved women, and that every employer, district officer should establish one in their workplace and district.

She highlighted the need of forming ICC since it ensures the law's enforceability, as well as the fact that any employer who fails to do so will be subject to a fine of up to Rs 50,000.

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लोणोनिवि, सीतापुर**  
पत्रांक : 5415 / 352सी / ई-टेंडर-सौ0खी0 / 21-22 दिनांक :- 14.12.2021  
**ई-निविदा सूचना ई-प्रोक्वारेमेंट नोटिस**  
महामहिम राज्यपाल, उ०प्र० की ओर से उ०प्र० लोक निर्माण विभाग के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  

क्र० सं०	जनपद/खण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य समस्त कर सहित (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)	ठेकेदार की पंजीकरण श्रेणी
1	सीतापुर / प्रा०खंड	अटल चौक के समीप रेडला आबादी भाग में अवशेष भागों में नाली व इष्टरलाकिंग टाइल्स के पुनर्निर्माण का कार्य।	389.50	0.00	2715.00	6 माह	'ए'

  
बिड डोक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 22.12.2021 से 30.12.2021 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 30.12.2021 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 30.12.2021 को दोपहर बाद 04:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।  
उ०प्र० 172212 दिनांक 20.12.21 (वीरेन्द्र चौधरी) विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता हेल्य लाइन (टोलफ्री) नम्बर 1800-1215-707 सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लोणोनिवि, सीतापुर

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लोणोनिवि, सीतापुर**  
पत्रांक : 5416 / 352सी / ई-टेंडर-सौ0खी0 / 21-22 दिनांक :- 14.12.2021  
**ई-निविदा सूचना ई-प्रोक्वारेमेंट नोटिस (स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में)**  
महामहिम राज्यपाल, उ०प्र० की ओर से उ०प्र० लोक निर्माण विभाग के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  

क्र० सं०	जनपद/खण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)	ठेकेदार की पंजीकरण श्रेणी	
1	सीतापुर / प्रा०खंड	जनपद सीतापुर के विकास खण्ड रेडला में बम्हनावा ग्राम के निकट निरीक्षण मवन (दो सूट) का निर्माण कार्य।	164.94	0.00	2715.00	6 माह	ए. बी

  
बिड डोक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 22.12.2021 से 30.12.2021 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 10.12.2021 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 30.12.2021 को दोपहर बाद 04:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।  
उ०प्र० 172162 दिनांक 20.12.21 (वीरेन्द्र चौधरी) विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता हेल्य लाइन (टोलफ्री) नम्बर 1800-1215-707 सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लोणोनिवि, सीतापुर

**CAN FIN HOMES LTD.**  
63/3, Ground Floor, Potdar Tower, Mall Road, Kanpur (UP) • Mob. : 7625079219, 9634618438  
E-mail : [kanpur@canfinhomes.com](mailto:kanpur@canfinhomes.com)  
CIN : L85110KA1987PLC008699  
**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]**  
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice on the below mentioned dates calling upon the following borrower(s)/co-borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, against each borrower, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on dates mentioned hereinafter.  

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY					
S. No.	Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Description of the property	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1.	Mr. Abhishek Shukla & Rajni Shukla	H.No-3C-233/2, Awasth Vikas, Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar, U.P.-208021	01-04-2021	21,26,747/-	16-12-21
2.	Smt. Shayama Devi & Kashmira Singh	100sq. Yds. Property at Arazi No-1586, Mauja- Barasirohi, Ambedkar Chouraha, Kanpur Nagar, UP-208016	01-04-2021	13,24,065/-	16-12-21
3.	Mr. Raman Dubey & Rishabh Dubey	Pvt Plot No-31, Arazi No-1811, Mahanwan, Kanpur Nagar, UP-209214	01-04-2021	8,51,188/-	16-12-21

  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of C.F.H. for the amount mentioned against each property along with further interest thereon till the date of realisation.  
Sd/-  
Date : 21-12-2021  
Place : Kanpur  
Authorised Officer  
Can Fin Homes Ltd.





Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath honouring Prime Minister by offering him angvastram during a programme held at Parade Ground in Sangam.

Pioneer

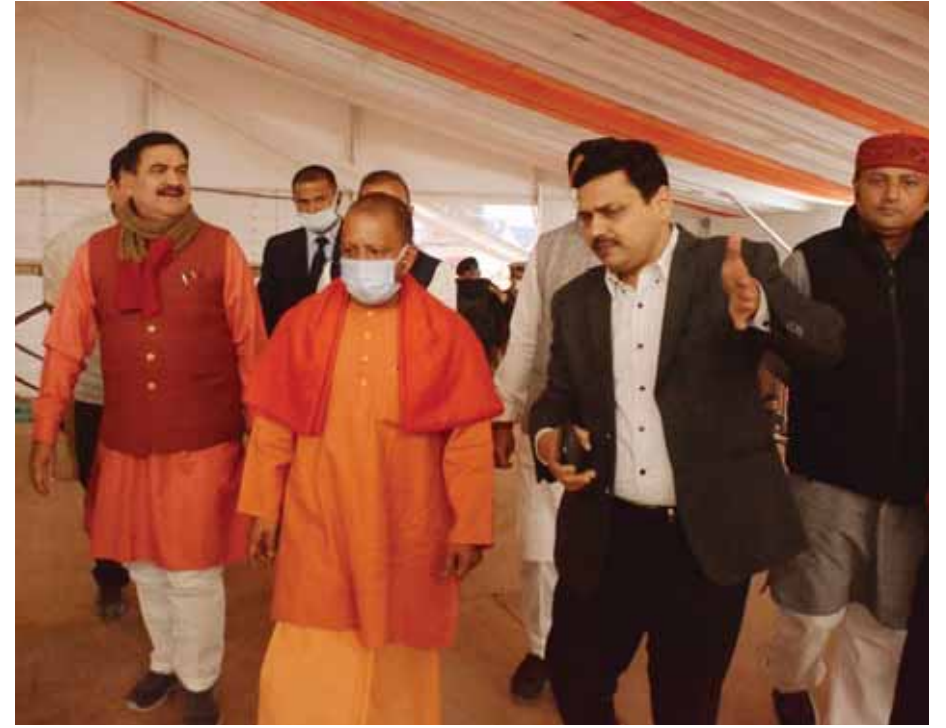
# Preparations in full swing for Modi's visit tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Preparations are going on in full swing to make the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Karkhianav on December 23 a grand success. Both the district administration and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers are leaving no stone unturned to make the visit a historic one. At the programme, Modi will launch projects worth Rs 2095.67 crore including inauguration of several completed projects of the district and laying of foundation stones of many others. As Modi will also address a big meeting there, it will be a challenge for the BJP to ensure an impressive gathering of the people there. Many said that over one lakh people will gather there while others claimed that the number of people expected to reach there from adjoining districts would be around two lakh.

Though the area is not falling in Modi's Varanasi parliamentary seat as it is in Pindra assembly constituency (Machhalishahr parliamentary seat of Jaunpur), it is expected that through the meeting, Modi will easily target the voters of Varanasi and Jaunpur districts apart from others on the eve of upcoming assembly elections. Earlier, after attending a meeting at Jaunpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached the venue site and took stock of the preparations and security arrangements on Monday evening.

According to unconfirmed sources, Modi will stay there



CM Yogi Adityanath inspecting Modi's proposed public meeting site in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

around three hours.

The CM reached there by road from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur and inspected the preparations. He also climbed the under-construction stage to see all preparations from a height.

Thereafter, he held a meeting with the officers on the spot and directed the officers to ensure completion of all preparations on time along with ensuring elaborate security arrangements. He also stressed upon the special attention being paid to public facilities

during the programme. Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma apprised the CM in detail about the preparations. Yogi laid special emphasis on proper and well-planned cleaning and sanitation of the roads from Babatpur to the venue. He directed to make proper parking arrangements for the vehicles of the people coming to the venue.

He also inspected the Amul factory site. Senior BJP leaders including MLAs Dr Awadhesh Singh (Pindra) and Saurab

Srivastava (Varanasi Cantt) were also present there.

Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Rs 475 crore Banas Dairy project of Amul before addressing the public meeting in Karkhianav. During the meeting, the PM will transfer Rs 35.2 crore to 1.7 milk producers apart from issuing land deeds to 20 lakh families including 3.5 lakh of Varanasi district online. Besides, Modi will inaugurate 22 projects worth Rs 870.16 crore apart from laying foundation stones of many projects worth Rs 1225.51 crore.

# Work being done to give new impetus to vaccination campaign: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that work is being done to give new impetus to the vaccination campaign. Respect for women's dignity has been given through toilets. Most of the houses under PM Awas Yojana have been given to women only. Through the PM Swamitva Yojana, the village where the house of the poor was demolished, the hooligans did not allow them to construct their houses.

Today every poor person is being given his right. The possession of the house is being given over the land in the name of women. Security is being given to half the pop-

ulation.

The CM said that the UP government has implemented various programmes during this period. After independence, the work of giving respect to half of the population has been seen after 2014. Village elders are getting a bank facility in the village. There was a complaint about the nutrition available through development and nutrition. The quality of the food we get today is also good. Kanya Sumangal Yojana has also been started in the state.

With education from birth to graduation, an amount of Rs 15,000 is for the girl child. The PM has come to Sangam city today to join the campaign for women's dignity

and women's safety. Mothers from all over the state have also participated in the huge Maha Kumbh in Sangam city, a symbol of women's dignity in Sangam.

Similarly, Keshav Prasad Maurya started his speech with Bharat Mata ki, Ganga Maiya ki Yamuna Maiya ki Saraswati Maiya ki Jai. The PM has opened the treasury for women. Where women are respected, the gods reside there. BJP has respected mother power. The Prime Minister had given respect to the cleaning workers by washing their feet here, the PM had done the work of worshipping the laborers.

MP Rita Joshi said that the sisters are working from mak-

ing roti at home to flying fighter planes to hit the enemy and also winning medals in Olympics.

The state is moving ahead with the Kanya Sumangal Yojana. There is a double engine government which is developing in the country and the state. We have to strengthen women.

MP Keshari Devi Patel said that PM Narendra Modi has come among us to increase the respect and self-respect of half the population of the country. What the PM has done for half the population has fulfilled our dreams. No one took care of sisters (women) in 75 years after independence, Modi ji did it, she added.

# Impenetrable security arrangements made in Prayagraj amid PM visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Impenetrable security arrangements were made in Prayagraj for the programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday. Although preparations for this were already done. The policemen who were ready from the main gate to the helipad in the parade ground of the Sangam area, the venue of the event. Rehearsals at duty points were also done earlier.

The Prime Minister's programme was held on Tuesday at the Parade Ground. For security arrangements, along

with 11 IPS officers, more than nine thousand policemen were deployed. More than three thousand women policemen, PAC and Central Paramilitary Force personnel were pressed into service in this. The SPG had taken the stage under its protection on Monday itself. At the same time, the team of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) and Anti Sabotage also conducted investigation.

The infallible marksman (sniper) also took up his duty. The suspects were being monitored through CCTV from the control room built near

the venue. Only those who were on duty were allowed to go towards the venue. There was barricading at many places on the main road itself. Policemen were posted there. On the day of the programme, there was security from the sky to the ground with binoculars and drones.

In the parade ground, 90 door frame metal detectors were installed at the entrances of the event as well as other places. There were also instructions to conduct pre DF MD checks at the main gates. Women and other people who participated in the

programme were allowed to leave only after investigation.

Along with the new Yamuna and Shastri bridges, police forces have been deployed on the Sobhatabiyabagh overbridge. Policemen were also deployed in the houses near the overbridge from Tuesday morning.

Central and state intelligence agencies were active regarding PM Modi's programme. Along with the venue, monitoring was being carried out in other areas of the city as well. Its report was being given to the officials.

# Sl, six policemen posted under PM security suspended

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A sub inspector and six policemen posted under the security of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been suspended with immediate effect. All of them are accused of negligence in security. ADG Prem Prakash found their negligence during the inspection. Thereafter, an order of immediate suspension was issued.

It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Prayagraj on Tuesday. Full proof security arrangements were made for his safety. It had been told that different Quick Response Teams (QRTs) were formed regarding the Prime Minister's programme, who were given the responsibility of security at different points.

In this, the work of a sub inspector, constable, driver and constable posted at QRT number six was negligent. ADG's PRO confirmed the suspension. However, it is not completely clear at what point the duty of the policemen was and what kind of negligence has been taken.

Meanwhile, better arrangements for the health security of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other VVIPs were also



done. For this, 20 ambulances of 108 numbers were reserved on the instructions of the government. In these, trained doctors were deployed to give quick treatment in case of emergency and the route chart of all the ambulances was fixed.

The pilots (drivers) in the ambulance were also there who had experience in transporting the patient to the hospital in the shortest possible time. These ambulances were directly monitored by the Directorate General of Health, Lucknow. A total of 42 ambulances numbering 108 operating in the city were in the city to serve the patients. Of these, 20 ambu-

lances were reserved during the Prime Minister's programme. Ambulances were stationed at Bamrauli Airport, temporary helipad at Parade, Safe House and VVIP fleet.

Sunil Kumar, Programme Manager, 108 Ambulance Service, said that local pilots were in the ambulance as they knew all the routes in the city from where the hospital could be reached in the shortest possible time. He said that in this, arrangements were made keeping in mind the availability of trained doctors, oxygen.

The Health Department was in alert mode from SRN to Safe House to face any health

related emergency during the Prime Minister's programme. Apart from the arrangement of beds and blood in Swaroopnani Nehru Hospital, nearby government hospitals, only a 10-bed temporary hospital was made on the red road of Parade. Three dozen ambulances were deployed so that in case of anyone falling ill, they could be taken to the hospital immediately. Many medical officers were given different responsibilities. The Chief Medical Officer reviewed the entire preparation on Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nanak Saran informed that 20 ambulances of number 108, seven ALS, seven ambulances of Hans Foundation, 20 vehicles of RBSK were installed. Many Deputy Chief Medical Officers and Additional Medical Officers were made nodal officers in different services. He said that a hospital of 10 beds had been allowed to be built on the red road. It had five beds for women and five for men. More focus was on people suffering from cold, heat, cold and fever. He further said that a large team of doctors has been deployed, all became active from Monday night.

# PM to launch unified logo 'Dairy Mark'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Dairy Mark', a unified logo and certification mark that ensures quality and food safety of dairy products across India on December 23. The unified logo would be launched under the Conformity Assessment Scheme, which was recently notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards on December 8.

The Dairy Mark, an initiative undertaken by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, demonstrates quality and food-safety in the dairy sector by bringing about process improvement. It

will help improve consumer confidence in dairy products manufactured and retailed in India and ensure consistency in implementation of food safety across the dairies. At the same time, introduction of the Dairy Mark will also sharpen the focus on quality in the dairy sector.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the BIS have been involved in the certification of processes and products respectively. While NDDB has been awarding 'Quality Mark' to various dairy plants of cooperatives that adhere to the process standards across the dairy value chain, BIS has been providing product certification for various milk products being under

the mandatory Product certification of BIS for products such as Whole Milk Powder (WMP), Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP), Partly Skimmed Milk Powder (P-SMP), Condensed Milk and infant foods. The units manufacturing above products already have product certificates from BIS.

The unified logo 'Dairy Mark' features the earlier respective logos of the BIS-ISI mark as well as the NDDB-Quality Mark along with a Kamdhenu Cow, for 'Product-Food Safety Management System-Process' certification under one umbrella. Quality and food-safety are two important criteria for providing safe, wholesome and

hygienic milk and milk products to consumers and is also important for a sustainable operation in the dairy sector.

The Conformity Assessment Scheme will simplify the certification process and the easily recognisable logo will reassure consumers about the quality of the dairy product and in turn, increase sales thereby augmenting the income of dairy farmers associated with this sector. On the same day of the launch of the Dairy Mark, a national level webinar along with 10 regional workshops at various locations would also be organised to build awareness among stakeholders from cooperative as well as private sector for its wider coverage.

# Student leaders stage protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Student leaders and their supporters of the Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) on Tuesday staged a strong demonstration on the varsity campus and outside the VC Lounge in protest against the decision taken by the administration of university to postpone the election of student's union till the further order. Heavy police force was deployed in the premises of university to avoid any untoward incident. Meanwhile, the student's leaders staged a dharna at the main entrance gate of the Harishchandra PG College after its administration also postponed the election of student's union till the further order. The election was scheduled to be conducted on December 24 in MGKV and on December 30 in Harishchandra PG College.

Late evening on Monday last, the V-C Prof AK Tyagi and other officers of the MGKV held an emergency meeting at varsity administrative building with the authorities in district administration and police and thereafter, the election officer Prof RP Singh declared the postponement of the election of student's union till further order. The varsity administration gave the reason of the unavailability of police force on the date of election because of the moment of VVIPs in the city. The district administration and police showed their incompetency to provide police force to conduct the election because of the moment of VVIPs and thus, the decision to postpone the election was taken," informed the election officer Prof RP Singh adding, the next date for the election will

be declared later.

When this news reached to the student's leaders who had submitted nomination papers and waiting for the final list of valid candidates after the withdrawal of the nomination papers, they became agitated and staged demonstration protesting the postponement of election. Though, the authority in the university and police officers succeeded in pacifying them but at late night. The nomination process had been completed and the list of valid candidates was to be published after 5 pm on Monday.

Though the varsity administration has already announced to close the university till December 24 but despite this, the student's leaders who had submitted their nomination papers on various posts gathered on varsity campus along with their supporters on Tuesday and staged a strong protest demanding the election as per earlier schedule. A group of agitated students also reached the VC Lounge and put their strong protest against the decision. The police force was already deployed there and the cops controlled the situation. Heavy police force was also deployed on varsity campus to avoid any untoward incident and the police personnel controlled the situation here too.

In the meantime, the student's leaders of Harishchandra PG College staged a dharna at college gate in protest against the decision taken by college administration to postpone student's union's election scheduled to be conducted on December 30. The election officer Dr Ashok Kumar Singh have the same reason of the

postponement which was given by the administration of the MGKV. The agitated student's leaders demanded the election as per schedule.

Meanwhile, the students leaders of MGKV, SSU and other colleges have decided to meet at Bharat Mata Mandir on Wednesday to discuss the further strategy to launch movement against the postponement of election blaming that the varsity and college administration took the decision under the pressure of the district administration which does not want to conduct the election at the behest of the government as the student's wing of the ruling party ABVP is not interested to participate in the student's election because their leaders are busy in the preparation of the upcoming assembly election.

It is noteworthy, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting the district on December 23 to unveil and lay down foundation stone of various projects.

**BHU'S SCHOLAR GETS BHATTACHARYA AWARD:** Dr Mousumi Mutsuddi's PhD student Bhawana Maurya from Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been awarded Jyotsnamayee Raghunath Bhattacharya Award for the best publication by Indian Academy of Neurosciences, 2021, for her research paper published in Nature Publication group journal, "Cell Death & Disease" with an impact factor of 8.469.

Dr Mutsuddi's group has identified and characterized a novel gene Maheshvara, which has been named after the Lord Shiva as her laboratory is located in Varanasi, the abode

of Lord Shiva. The research paper has demonstrated the significant role of this gene in neuronal cell death that is mediated via regulation of JAK/STAT signaling pathway, which has been implicated in a wide variety of human disorders. Earlier, Dr Mousumi Mutsuddi's group along with her collaborator Prof Houden from University College London have reported that mutations/changes in the human homologue of Maheshvara leads to impaired neuronal development, microcephaly and cognitive impairment in patients.

**BHU'S JOINT REGISTRAR (DEV) DEAD:** Dr Shyam Babu Patel, Joint Registrar (Development) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) passed away at 8 am on Tuesday in the Intensive Care Unit of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH). He was 56 years old. He was rushed to the hospital in the early hours while feeling nervous. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

His last rites were performed at Harishchandra Ghat, which came out of his residence at Kailash Bhawan, Lanka, in the afternoon. After holding High School, Intermediate, Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Geology from BHU, he started his services in BHU as assistant registrar in 1996. He worked in SSH, Institute of Agricultural Sciences and other important administrative positions. From February 2, 2017 to August 24, 2019, he also served as the Finance Officer of the university. Many senior officers, teachers, employees of BHU and others were present in his last rites. His eldest son Adama Shyam gave him the fire.



# Scientist for harnessing technology to reduce costs, increase agri yields

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

India has enough food but it needs to rope in more people into farming and needs a different set of solutions for agriculture and for those working in the field. Ironically despite being an agricultural country, India has only 16 per cent of GDP. Today agricultural policies fail to recognise how crop choices, input costs and supply chain are intertwined, perpetuating marginal farming. December 23 is observed as National Farmers Day in India in memory of ex-Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh, who was a farmers' leader and introduced many policies to improve the lives of the Indian farmers.

This was stated by Prof Rameshwar Singh, ex-head of food science department of Pantnagar Agriculture University while addressing a virtual session on Tuesday. He said food scientists studied physical, microbial and chemical makeup of food and applied their findings to develop safe, nutritious, and sustainable foods and innovative packaging that line supermarket shelves in the current times. He said it was high time the country figured out a way to

provide meaningful employment to hundreds of millions of people outside agriculture.

He said agriculture in India, especially in UP, was no longer a desirable profession and it was today considered to be a risky and back-breaking job. He said the current times farmers were not able to undertake long term investments, innovation, or major changes.

Dr Singh said the clearest indicator of the problems of agriculture as a profession was how there were actually shortfalls of labour in some areas, with larger farms relying on imported farm labourers, drawn not just from the neighbouring states but from the far ends of the country. He said the younger generation did not want to follow in their parents' footsteps, which pushed urbanisation, and unfortunately, urban areas, while offering more opportunities, also relegated many to low-end jobs.

He said farming in UP needed to focus on growing the pie and added that employment in farms was unlikely to change yields much, and certainly would not increase revenues sufficiently to compensate for increased labour costs.

He said one possibility was for MNREGA to coordinate

with cropping cycles, to enable a more steady balance of opportunities. He said the simplest means to make more money was to produce more with less input, meaning productivity.

Dr Singh said the agricultural sector had many distortions and dislocations, not just middlemen, but also a very poor supply chain, with lack of cold storages and efficient transport. He said farming revenues would not rise much even as India's income rises. In fact, the ratio of total agriculture income to total population was relatively flat across states regardless of the per capita income.

He said there was no doubt that today's equilibrium share to the farmer was minuscule, but theoretically it was possible to raise farmer revenues proportionally without measurably impacting the final product price much.

Dr Singh said the size of holding mattered and on an average only the bigger farms made modest money. He said farmers on average spent about 30 per cent of revenues on inputs, mostly fertiliser and labour (together almost half of input costs). He said this was despite the fact that fertilisers

were heavily subsidised. He suggested harnessing technology to reduce costs and increase yields. He said another way to improve system level efficiency was to price inputs like water and fertiliser properly.

He said there was a need to make food as cheap as possible but there was no reason for the same input (subsidy) benefits to apply to growers of flowers or cash crops, who also happen to be relatively richer. He said it was high time farmers turned to organic farming as it was necessary for India for several reasons.

He said first a lot was being spent on inputs, especially fertiliser and secondly, organic production relied more on labour as a substitute for other inputs, something relevant for employment. He said finally the health impact for consumers, as produce of farmers who overused conventional pesticides, had high cancer risks, and unabated use of antibiotics in livestock rearing was a major cause for drug-resistant infections. He said organic farming might cost a little more, but there were several more serious challenges that deserved policy attention.

## College of Mgmt Studies organises 'Youth Parliament'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Director of College of Management Studies, Dr Gauri Singh Gaur, while inaugurating the 'National Youth Parliament' contest at the auditorium on Tuesday, said the objective of holding such contests was to strengthen the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the views of others and to enable the student community to know about the working of Parliament.

She said youth parliament was a national discussion platform to encourage young people through active debates to take part in shaping the country and deepening democracy.

She said youth parliament had a special importance in developing an insight in the young students. She said it helped make students understand the parliamentary procedure and develop an insight into the working of Parliament so as to consider public issues and form their opinion on them.

She said such contests trained students in the technique of group discussions and to develop in them respect and tolerance for the views of others, respect for rules and to train them in group behaviour. She said it also focused on making students aware of various problems being faced by our society and the country and to develop in students the qualities of leadership.

She added that by holding such contests the matters raised in the youth parliament may relate to the subject as of welfare activities, defence of the country, social justice, social reforms, economic development, communal harmony, health, student's discipline, information technology etc.

Others who took part in the contest were Dr Govind Kumar, Mohit Srivastava, JP Nigam, Md Saif and Isma Khan.

## Lawyers demand law for protection of advocates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Members of various lawyers' associations have demanded a law for protection of advocates.

At a meeting held on Tuesday, members of Commissionery Bar Association, Sales Tax Bar Association, Income-tax Bar Association, Uppokta Bar Association and Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti resolved to hand over a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the city on December 28.

Speaking on the occasion, convener of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti, Pt Ravindra Sharma, said that in a bid to prevent murderous attacks on lawyers and their families, the Bar Council of India has already submitted a draft of the Advocates Protection Bill to the Union Ministry of Law, which was still to be implemented.

They said a memorandum to this effect, addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, would be handed over to the district magistrate on December 23.

Surmit Singh, Dinesh Verma, BL Gupta, Avinash Bajpai, SK Sachan, Sarvesh Tripathi, Virendra Prajapati, Yogesh Kumar, Navin Gautam, Ankul Goel, Indresh Mishra and Raj Kumar Kashyap were present in the meeting.

**DIXIT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF IIT EMPLOYEES ASSN:** Rakesh Dixit has been elected as president of the IIT Employees Association for the third time. He was elected unopposed. Besides Dixit, Pragati Andauria and Anjali Tewari were also elected general secretary and treasurer respectively unopposed. Nominations were invited for the election from December 13 to 15.

Withdrawal of nomination was fixed for December 17 while symbol was allotted on December 20. The team of Ramanuj Katiyar, Awadhesh Trivedi and Meeta Bagga coordinated for the peaceful and fair elections. As only one candidate submitted nomination for all the three posts, the election committee declared them victorious on Monday.

# Trains to be cancelled, diverted

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

**DARBHANGA - AMRITSAR EXPRESS:** The 15211 Darbhanga-Amritsar Express to run from Darbhanga on December 23 will remain cancelled. The 15212 Amritsar-Darbhang Express to run from Amritsar on December 25 will remain cancelled.

**TRAFFIC-CUM-POWER BLOCK**

For removing RH girder at Raiwala underpass, traffic-cum-power block will be taken on Laksar-Dehradun section of Northern Railway (NR) resulting in the short termination/short origination of following trains, CPRO said.

**KATHGODA - DEHRADUN EXPRESS:** The 12092 Kathgodam-Dehradun Express to depart from Kathgodam on December 22 will short terminate at Haridwar. On the other hand, the 12091 Dehradun-Kathgodam Express to depart from Dehradun on December 22 will be rescheduled from Haridwar and instead of 17.40 hrs will be run at 18.40 hrs.

**UNDER-19 NER CRICKET CUP**

Under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) at Railway cricket grounds the Under-19 North Eastern Railway Cricket Cup match on Monday was played between Siddharthnagar and Royal Udayans Cricket Club. In this match Royal Udayans Cricket Club defeated Siddharthnagar

by eight wickets and entered the next round. Electing to bat after winning the toss, the team of Siddharthnagar scored 156 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. In it Manish Singh scored 52 runs with the help of seven fours, Prabhakar 20 runs, Chandan 18 runs with the help of two fours while Aditya contributed 17 runs with the help of one boundary. On the other hand, Royal Udayans Cricket Club's Prabhakar Rai took two wickets while Furkan, Vivek and Jaideep took one wicket each.

While chasing the target, the team of Royal Udayans Cricket Club achieved it in 27.2 overs at the loss of two wickets. It's Prashant scored an unbeaten 66 with the help of seven fours, Jaiveer 28 runs with the help of three boundaries, Afsar Khan 27 runs with the help of two boundaries and Prashant Yadav contributed 18 runs with the help of two boundaries. Aditya of Siddharthnagar took one wicket. Prashant of Royal Udayans Cricket Club was adjudged Man of the Match for his brilliant performance.

**TICKET CHECKING CAMPAIGN**

Under the leadership of Assistant Commercial Manager/Court, North Eastern Railway (NER), Gorakhpur, SK Sagar, a surprise ticket checking campaign was organised on in train numbers 12511 and 14010 in Gorakhpur-Gonda section recently.

**NI WORK IN AMBALA DIVISION**

Due to non-interlock work in Ambala Division of Northern Railway, the following trains will be cancelled by the railway administration, CPRO PK Singh said.

**Closing ceremony of Mines Safety Week held**

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

In Jayant area of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India the closing and prize distribution ceremony of the Annual Mines Safety Week 2020 and 2021 was held on Sunday. In the company under the aegis of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Varanasi, Annual Mines Safety Week is organised every year. This year the Mines Safety Week was organised from November 15 to 21 in which Singrauli zone's NCL, Sasan and JP's coal mines had participated. Director General, DGMS, Dhanbad, Prabhakar Kumar, who was present as the chief guest, appreciated NCL for ensuring the energy security of the country along with safety and uninterrupted coal supply, especially during Covid-19 times. Kumar called for achieving zero damage efficiency by increasing use of technology in mine safety and also assured all possible support from the DGMS to the NCL management for safe mining. NCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhakar Kumar Sinha, reiterated the commitment of NCL to do coal mining with safety and congratulated all the winners awarded in the closing ceremony of the Annual Mines Safety Week. Sinha said that in the compa-

## Closing ceremony of Mines Safety Week held



ny 100 per cent implementation of the suggestions and guidelines received from the DGMS would be ensured. During the closing ceremony DG, DGMS, Dhanbad, Prabhakar Kumar, CMD of NCL, PK Sinha, Deputy Director General, DGMS, North Zone, Ghaziabad, SD Chiddarwar, NCL Director (Technical/Operations), Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel) RN Dubey Director (Technical/Planning & Project) SS Sinha, Director (Mines Safety), Varanasi Zone, Shyam Sundar Prasad, member of Company JCC, CMOAI general secretary, NCL's all regional General Managers and heads of departments of headquarters, chairperson and vice-chairperson of Kirti Mahila Mandal of NCL and members of NCL Safety Board besides a large number of

NCL personnel were present. An exhibition was organised during the programme in which models of modern technology, advanced machines, new and sustainable mining practices, open cast and underground mines etc related to safety were displayed. In it all the coalfields and units of NCL displayed the best mining practices implemented in the mines through model. A spectacular air show was also organised. Also, through a spectacular laser show, mine operations, safety rules, Covid protocol, efforts of NCL under Swachh Bharat and important schemes of the Government of India were showcased.

At the end of the programme awards were given to the coalfields and personnel who have performed excellently in the field of safety during the year 2020 and 2021.

# Stolen mobile phone recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

GRP Mirzapur arrested one person and recovered a stolen mobile phone on Monday. Reports said that under the drive to control crime at the railway station the GRP during routine patrolling when they intercepted a suspect at one end of the platform. During interrogation the accused confessed that he was

involved in thefts at the railway station. On frisking him the police recovered a mobile phone worth ₹15,000. After completing the necessary legal formalities, the police sent the accused identified as Rahul Pathak to jail.

**CASE REGISTERED:** In connection with the theft of a tractor trolley under Adalhat police station on December 16 the police registered a case on

Monday. **DIES:** A cyclist died under Chunar police station on Sunday night. Sanjay Kumar (30), a resident of Ballipur village, was hit by an unidentified vehicle hit him near Gosaainpur village while going on his bicycle. On the other hand, a motorcyclist died when he fell in to a canal under Ahraura police station on Sunday night.

# Special Covid vaccination drive starts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To give shape to the vision of Prime Minister for world's largest and free vaccination campaign the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) hospital has started door-to-door vaccination campaign in the colonies. In order to prevent possible third wave of Coronavirus, a special Covid-19 vaccination campaign was started in a mission mode in BLW colonies from Monday. Under the guidance of General Manager Anjali Goyal, Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar by constituting a medical team is conducting door-to-door vaccination on the lines of Pulse Polio campaign. By identifying the employees and their families left in BLW colonies under



the supervision of doctors vaccination is being done and it is also being ensured by marking the residence concerned, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar said. At the vaccination centre as many as 76,436 people have been administered

the first dose and 64,573 the second dose so far. The BLW administration is continuing its efforts to ensure 100 per cent vaccination of all its employees and their families which will be achieved soon by going door-to-door.

# SAJS adjudged best school in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Seth Anandram Jaipuria School has been adjudged the best school of Kanpur Nagar and third best school in Uttar Pradesh by Excellence in Technology Integration in Education in the 22nd World Education Summit held on December 17-18, 2021 by Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd.

Principal Shikha Benerjee attended the award ceremony held at Gurugram on December 18, 2021 to receive the coveted recognition.

The principal gave the credit of the achievement to the students, parents and the faculty while showing the citation and the certificate. Also present at the press conference were vice-principal (senior school) Manish Sekaria, vice-principal (junior school), Madhushree Bhaumik and headmaster, Mahesh Kumar Mishra.



Principal, Jaipuria Public School Ms Shikha Bannerjee addressing the press persons on Tuesday.

# IIT-K organises workshop on just energy transition

KANPUR (PNS): The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur organised a two-day workshop on Just Energy Transition (JET) under the leadership of Prof Pradip Swarnakar of humanities and social sciences department of the Institute.

More than 20 representatives from labour unions and journalists of India participated in the event. It was one of the first important steps towards justice in line with India's commitment to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that aims to reduce carbon emission to reduce global warming.

Inaugurating the event, eminent academician Prof Arun Kumar Sharma (emeritus, IIT Kanpur) said that IIT Kanpur started studies in social sciences long back and was different from others in the sense that it studied civil society, corporate and government. He further set the dialogue forum, saying that the transition of energy required one to bear economic, sociological, cultural and tribal issues in mind.

With the start of the event, IIT Kanpur also launched its JET centre as an arm of the existing Centre for Energy Policy and Research Lab founded by Prof Pradip Swarnakar at IIT Kanpur.

Bhavna Joshi, a PhD student in CEPRL lab, said that CEPRL was established in 2019 and about 22 members were associated with the lab, including the current transition centre. She said that the lab worked on analysis of media reports, social networks, environment and climate change issues.



IIT-K organised workshop on Just Energy Transition on Tuesday.

of JET to research and give policy recommendations with respect to the ongoing efforts to reduce carbon emission by reducing fossil fuel (mainly coal) dependence.

Prof Swarnakar set the context for the first session of the event by speaking on climate change, justice and international, national linkages of climate change.

The panellists for the morning discussions were Ashim Roy, founding general secretary, New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI), Prashant Chowdhary, general secretary, Electricity Employees Federation of India, and Amarjeet Kaur, general secretary, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

According to Ashim Roy, for realising just transition, there was a need to understand the concepts of this field and workers' aspirations. He pointed to the knowledge gap existing in terms of the local area of economic transforma-

tion. He explicitly underlined the need to build knowledge about transition in coastal areas and financial restructuring for energy transition.

Amarjeet Kaur added to the discussion by highlighting: "Trade unions have been working hard for workers' safety since long before independence. Business firms will look for opportunities to make profit but it is our responsibility to look out for people working in several sectors like services and industry. Informal community will only understand the importance or even the meaning of just transition when they will know how that is going to benefit them." She underlined the need to look at informal economy workers.

She said: "Informalisation of the formal economy is happening by cutting the jobs of people from the formal sector. To satisfy the appetite of capital-intensive business, environment laws are

weakened, collective bargaining is being challenged; social security norms are being weakened.

She said international investments should respect laws of the land and all transition talks must happen with the worker in the centre.

Chowdhary pointed out that discrimination on the basis of religion, income, caste etc. was very prominent in India. Referring to the practice of the environment, he said that Ravindra Nath Tagore famously said, "Give back the forest and take back your city," a 100 years ago.

He said developed countries had been promising contributions since 1945 when UNO was formed and even at the Paris agreement to meet environmental concerns and energy transition but that never materialised. "Biggest powerful country (USA) did not honour the Kyoto protocol," he added.

He further said that guidelines were there for coal mine wind up but they were not being followed. "Since labourers are economically weak, we need a separate labour law that has evolved over time but in order to keep transition in mind, we need to see how adherence to such laws is ensured along with required improvement in the laws," he said.

There were other participants from media and state level trade union representatives from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal who spoke about the ground level socioeconomic, cultural and political realities of coal mine workers that were in agreement with the points discussed by the panellists.



Kerala HC rejects plea challenging PM's picture

Slaps hefty fine on petitioner

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition moved by a person who claimed to be a RTI activist and motivational speaker seeking the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph from Covid-19 vaccination certificate. The petitioner had

sought a declaration from the court that the photograph of the Prime Minister on his COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate was a violation of his fundamental rights. Justice P V Kunhikrishnan, who dismissed the plea also slapped a fine of Rs 1,00,000/- on the petitioner for filing 'frivolous petition with ulterior motives'. "This is a frivolous petition filed with ulterior motives and I have a strong doubt that there is political agenda also to the petitioner. This is a publicity oriented litigation. Therefore, this is a fit case that is to be dismissed with a heavy cost," said Justice

Kunhikrishnan. The judge gave a piece of his mind to the petitioner, a State level master trainer at Jawaharlal Nehru Leadership Institute. "You work at an Institute named after a Prime Minister. Why don't you ask the university to take that down as well?" the judge had asked the petitioner in the course of the hearing to which the latter did not reply. While issuing a certificate for Covid-19 vaccination, if the Prime Minister of India gave a message with his photograph that with the help of medicine and strict control, India will defeat Covid-19, what is wrong

with it? When the counsel for the petitioner argued this case, I specifically asked him this question. Counsel said that the photograph of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his vaccination certificate is an intrusion to his privacy! What a fantastic argument! Is he not living in this country? The Prime Minister of India is not a person who entered the parliament house by breaking the roof of the parliament building. He came to power because of the mandate of the people. The Indian democracy is being praised by the world. The Prime Minister is elected

because he has got people's mandate. Till the general election is over, the citizen can campaign based on their political view. Once the election is over and the majority of people gave a mandate to a political party which leads to the election of Prime Minister, he is not the leader of that political party but he is a leader of the country. There can be grievances against the policies of the Government. There can be political differences with the views of the Prime Minister. But those views can be raised in a democratic manner.

3 killed in IOC fire in Haldia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

At least three persons were killed and 44 people were injured when a fire broke out at the Indian Oil Corporation refinery plant at Haldia, police said. Out of the 44 injured 37 were said to have been referred to better hospitals in Kolkata, police said adding out of the 37 people the condition of seven were critical as all of them had sustained burn injuries. A IOC statement later said that the accident occurred when shutdown work was in progress. "The primary cause seems to be a flash fire leading to burn injuries to 44 persons ... and three persons have unfortunately succumbed to their injuries," IOC sources said adding however that the fire had been put out and normalcy restored.

4 aides of JeM ultra arrested in Kashmir

Srinagar: Four terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Awantipora and arms and ammunition recovered from their possession, officials said on Tuesday. Police said acting on specific input, Awantipora police, along with the army's 50 RR and the CRPF, apprehended the four terrorist associates, identified as Zubair Gul, Adil Fayaz Ganie, Basit Ali, all residents of Sambhoora, and Shahid Nabi Pandith, resident of Konibal Pampore. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including a pistol, and hand grenade were recovered from their possession. "During the preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the arrested terrorist got injured during the retaliation but managed to escape. Police sources said they are following on the vehicle-borne terrorist. Additional forces have reached the spot and an operation has been started to nab the attacker. Besides, they were providing shelter and other logistic support to the active terrorists

operating in Sambhoora and Pampore areas of Awantipora." A case has been registered and further investigation has been taken up. POLICE, CRPF PARTY COME UNDER FIRE AT SRINAGAR CHECKPOINT Srinagar: A joint party of the J&K Police and CRPF came under fire from terrorists at Soura in Srinagar district on Tuesday evening, officials said. Police sources said the Superintendent of Police, Hazratbal, along with a CRPF team, were conducting checks at a 'naka' point in Soura when a terrorist fired upon them. Nobody was hurt but the team of police and security forces promptly retaliated. Sources say probably the terrorist got injured during the retaliation but managed to escape. Police sources said they are following on the vehicle-borne terrorist. Additional forces have reached the spot and an operation has been started to nab the attacker. IANS

Powerful IEDs detected in Meghalaya, defused

Shillong: Two powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), weighing over 11 kg, a live grenade and other live ammunitions were recovered during separate anti-insurgency operations in Meghalaya, officials said on Tuesday. Police said that the two IEDs were found in a bag placed under a culvert at Rechange village in West Garo Hills district late on Monday night. Later, the security personnel defused them. One of the IEDs, weighing about 10 kg, was stored in a pressure cooker while another was assembled in a tin box. In another incident, one live grenade and six 7.62 mm bullets were recovered by the Meghalaya police at Du'magitok village in the same West Garo Hills district on Tuesday night. The police registered separate cases and launched a probe.



A police officer said they are yet to confirm whether any militant outfit or any other inimical group planted the IEDs or planned any attack. IANS

Five killed in Bihar road accidents

Patna: Four persons were killed and four others critically injured after a three-wheeler in which they were travelling was hit by a dumper in Bihar's Nalanda district on Tuesday. The accident took place at Hargawa village around 3 p.m. after the dumper collided with the three-wheeler coming from the opposite direction. All victims were on board the three-wheeler. Shibli Noman, the SDPO of Nalanda (Sadar) said four persons

died on the spot. Local residents and police rescued four others trapped inside. They were taken to Sadar hospital in Nalanda where the condition of the injured people are critical. Following the accident, the driver of the dumper fled the spot. The agitated villagers set the vehicle on fire and blocked the state highway. In another accident, a youth was killed after he was hit by a speeding bus on NH-139 at Naubatpur on Tuesday

Public Notice is given about loss of Original Lease deed dttd. 11.01.1985 in respect of Plot No. 70 Aarajee 65/4, Barra, Kanpur 170.63 sq. yds. registered in the name of Smt. Asha Saxena at zild 4065 pages 277/298 at No. 3553 in the office of Sub Registrar, Kanpur is lost. For which Police report has been lodged. Housing Loan over said property is under consideration by the LIC HFL. If any one has any objection/claim over said property, same can be presented before B.N. Bajpai Advocate (Mob. No. 09450514381) within 15 days of publication of this Notice. (B.N. Bajpai) Advocate

कार्यालय अधिशासी निदेशक 370 राज्य कर्मचारी कल्याण निगम 742, जवाहर भवन, लखनऊ संख्या: 957 डब्ल्यूबी/वर्तमान-2021 लखनऊ दिनांक: 21.12.2021 सार्वजनिक सूचना उ३०० राज्य कर्मचारी कल्याण निगम, 742, जवाहर भवन, लखनऊ द्वारा प्रदेश के विभिन्न जगहों में पीपीओ माडल पर फेमिली बाजार खोले गये, प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा जी०एस०टी/एस०जी०एस०टी० से छूट न मिलने के कारण सभी फेमिली बाजार निगम से अलग हो चुके हैं। यदि इन फेमिली बाजारों द्वारा उ३०० राज्य कर्मचारी के नाम का प्रयोग किया जाता है तो नियमानुसार कार्यवाही की जायेगी। (ओम प्रकाश वर्मा) अधिशासी निदेशक

Ready for polls: Shah to Telangana BJP leaders

IANS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asked Telangana's BJP leaders to be ready for the state Assembly elections whenever they are held, and work hard to bring the party to power. The state BJP leaders led by Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy called on Amit Shah in Delhi. Shah has directed the BJP leadership to educate people about the corruption indulged in the by Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government. The senior BJP leader reviewed the political situation in the state and gave directions to the state leadership to achieve the goal of bringing the BJP to power. State BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BJP national vice president D.K. Aruna, former minister Eatala Rajender, MP D. Aravind, former MPs Vijay Shanti, G. Mohan Rao, Jitender Reddy and others attended the meeting with Shah. The meeting is likely to give a boost to BJP's efforts to focus on Telangana ahead of Assembly elections in 2023. Shah, however, asked the BJP

leaders to be prepared even if the TRS goes for early polls. The Union Minister asked the state BJP leadership to expose the rice scam and other corruption by the TRS government and suggested that they demand a probe into the same. Shah also wanted the BJP leaders to effectively counter the allegations being made by Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao against the BJP. The Central minister wanted the BJP leaders to prepare an action plan to expose the TRS over the issue of paddy procurement. The meeting was held a day after the TRS organised state-wide protests against the Centre over 'anti-farmer' policies. The protesters set fire to the effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Union ministers. The meeting also discussed the strategy to counter the allegations by TRS against the Central government over the procurement of paddy. Stating that the government and party are different, Shah said the party should carry on its activities irrespective of the relations between the state and the Central govern-

ments. The Union Minister also suggested to the party leaders to chalk out programmes to remain in the midst of the people. Referring to the first phase of Bandi Sanjay's 'praja sangrama yatra', he advised him to work out plans to launch the second phase. After the meeting, Sanjay said they briefed Shah on bad governance, family rule and the attempts by the TRS Government to crush dissent by foisting cases against BJP leaders. Amit Shah also congratulated Eatala Rajender over his victory in the recent by-election to Huzurabad Assembly seat. Rajender had quit TRS and joined BJP after KCR dropped him from the state Cabinet following the allegations of land encroachment. Shah told BJP leaders that he will visit Telangana for two days after the current Parliament session and will address a few public meetings. State BJP leaders claim that following its victories in the by-election to Dubbak Assembly seat last year and the recent win in Huzurabad, BJP has emerged as the only viable alternative to TRS.

Ensure release of 68 Indian fishermen from SL: Stalin

IANS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to intervene for the immediate release of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu in Sri Lankan captivity. With the arrest of another 13 fishermen from Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, the total number of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody has risen to 68. Stalin had already written a letter to the External Affairs minister to take up with the Sri Lankan government, through diplomatic channels, the arrest and judicial remand of 55 Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy for purportedly transgressing into the island nation's territorial waters. In his latest letter to the Minister, a copy of

which was handed personally to the minister by the DMK's parliamentary party leader, T.R. Baalu, Stalin said: "The alarming frequency at which these incidents of detention and attacks are happening needs urgent attention. The lives and livelihoods of our fishermen must be protected while they are fishing in the traditional waters of Palk Bay." As many as 19 incidents of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu being arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and Coast Guard have taken place in a year's time. Two incidents of attack on Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy has taken place in 2021 and five fishermen had lost their lives. A total of 43 fishermen from Rameswaram were arrested on Saturday while 12 fishermen from Mandapam were arrested on Sunday. IANS

Advertisement for Central Bank of India featuring a table with columns for SI No., Borrower, Guarantor, Account No. & Branch Name, Mortgage and Description of Mortgaged Property, Date of Possession Notice, and Date of Demand Notice & Amount Due. The table lists several borrowers and their respective mortgage details.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (A Statutory Body of Government of India) Notice. Applications are invited for filling up 05 (Five) posts of Assistant Manager (AM) on deputation basis. The last date of submission of application is 7th February, 2022. The detailed notice may be seen at www.ibbi.gov.in. davp 07121/11/0007/2122

यूपीओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि० (एनए प्रोडेर सरकर का कंपनी) CIN: U1501UP1976SC004285 3/70, नितास बस्, मोदी नगर, लखनऊ-226 010 | website: www.uprojects.org Email: upproj-pm14@gmail.com, pm14@uprojects.org GSTIN: 09AAUC39393FZ8 पत्रांक: 1741 / पीपीओएलओ / परि प्रो-14 दिनांक: 18 / 12 / 2021 अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना एतद्वारा इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत जनपद लखीमपुर खीरी के राजकीय आई.टी.आई. परिसर में आवासीय भवनों के निर्माण कार्य (अवशेष कार्य) से सम्बन्धित निविदा सूचना संख्या-72 / यू.पी.पी.सी.एल., परिप्रो-14 / 2021-22 दिनांक 18.12.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से प्रतिशत दरों के आधार पर ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य की विड दिनांक 23.12.2021 से दिनांक 29.12.2021 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी विड उसी दिन अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे अफोहरस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की सिध्दि आदि का समस्त विवरण www.uprojects.org एवं https://tender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14

IN THE COURT OF THE V ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT; BANGALORE O.S. No. 1460 OF 2013 BETWEEN: Smt. Nita Gupta Represented by her GPA Holder Sri. Sanjay Gupta Plaintiff AND Sri. Abbas Ali Bohra & ors Defendants To 36. Mr. OSAMA NAIYER Aged about 37 years, S/o. Mr. Iqbal Naiyer, Residing at Shaikh Alam Chack, Jahanabad, BIHAR PUBLIC NOTICE Whereas Plaintiff has filed the above suit against Defendants for relief to declaration, demerolition of illegal structure, and hand over vacant possession of suit schedule property and to restrain defendants from alienating the suit schedule property. Inspite of sufficient opportunities, you failed to appear before the Hon'ble Court. Therefore you are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court, either in person or through a pleader on 04.01.2022 at 11.00 a.m. to answer the matter. If you fail to appear before the court, the matter will be heard and then proceed further by placing ex-parte. SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.17, Katha No. 3938, formed in converted survey No.8872, vide conversion order No. B.DJS.ALN.SR.(S) 116/90-91 by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at Guttigeri village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and measuring East to west, 40ft and north to south 60 feet and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Property No.14, North by: Property No.18, South by: Property No.16 Given under my hand and seal on this the 18th day of December, 2018. Advocate for Plaintiff HARANAHALLI LAW PARTNERS LLP No.160, 'Ananta', Level II & III, R.T. Nagar Main Road, M.L.A. Layout, Bangalore - 560 032

North Central Railway E-Tender Notice. Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12.00 hrs. on 14.01.2022. The details of the Tender is as under: Table with columns: S N Tender No., Name of Work, Approx. Cost of Work (₹), Completion Period. Works include Telecom work in connection with construction of pavilion at Railgaon ground, Annual Maintenance contract of equipments & software of Digital ISDN Exchange at NCR HQ and IPDSLAM system at NCR HQ and Prayagraj for three years, Annual Repair Contract of SMPS charger of Naini-Manikpur section for five years, Improvement of communication system in Chunar-Chopan section.

North Central Railway, Prayagraj Tender Notice No. 6120212022 Dated : 21.12.2021 TENDER NOTICE Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 12.01.2022. The details of the tenders are as under: Table with columns: S Tender No., Name of Work, Approx Cost of work (Rs.), Completion Period, similar work for Eligibility Criteria. Works include Improvement of basic infrastructure of staff quarters, approach road of colonies, etc. in the section of ADEN/ETW, Improvement of basic infrastructure of staff quarters, approach road of colonies, etc. in the section of ADEN/FZD, Provision of LWR on various Loop Lines in CNB-RRR section under Sr.DEN/III/PRYJ and RRR-TDL section under Sr.DEN/IV/PRYJ by Mobile Flash Butt Welding of Rails.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Vote matters

The elections in two different corners of the world show that citizens are the final arbiters

A citizen who does not vote is no less than a citizen who votes; depending on circumstances. Democracy is not a straight-jacketed concept limited to people voting their representatives in and being happy ever after. It is a dynamic idea that mediates between citizens and their rights and needs to the latter's satisfaction. The mediation is done by a system of governance that can be voted in or out of power. Problems arise when the system gets top-heavy and replaces mediation with subjugation. Such a system takes people for granted and, at times, takes away the one thing that distinguishes a citizen from a subject: their vote. It can attempt to restrict the use of the vote or not allow some sections to vote or even nullify the vote. Pessimists would say that the system is autocratic or dictatorial. Optimists, on the other hand, would see a silver lining. They would think that despite the power it wields, the system seeks legitimacy from time to time and is under the misconception that it can force the citizens to give it the legitimacy it desperately needs. If votes did not matter, why would the system offer you sops for your votes? Why would an autocratic, even oppressive regime, regularly conduct elections? The citizens are the final arbiters. They can vote to punish a corrupt or authoritarian system. Or, they may refuse to vote to punish a corrupt or authoritarian system.



Two elections in two different corners of the world this week illustrate this point. Millions of people took to the streets in Santiago, Chile, after voting in a Leftist millennial to power, bringing down the curtains on the rule by a regime that believed in conservative nationalism made notorious by Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship decades ago. The

people, subjected to humiliating inequalities, decided against having anything to do with what modern-day Pinochets stood for. Last year, a whopping 78 per cent Chileans had already voted for a new Constitution to replace the one from the Pinochet era. Around the same time, in far-off Hong Kong, the little island that seeks democracy and separation from mainland China, millions of people rejected an election orchestrated by the authorities to elect only pro-China loyalists. Beijing brought in legislation to cut down the number of elected representatives and introduced strict eligibility clauses to see that only 'patriots' contest. Less than a third of Hong Kong voters turned up to vote. Beijing's electoral changes were 'rejected' by the majority non-vote. It was democracy at work in both Chile and Hong Kong. The latest Global State of Democracy Report tells us that two-thirds of the world's population now lives in 'backsliding democracies or autocratic regimes'. Multi-party elections, however, continue to be held. Why? That only shows regimes use democracy if not as a value, then as a procedure. What is pertinent is democracy loses resilience not even when citizens are under attack, but when their vote is.

### PICTALK



Light trails of passing vehicles at the AIIMS flyover, in New Delhi

# Enforcing equality barely gives hope

A combination of democracy and socialism had been tried by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It did not end inequality but induced tax evasion



PRAFULL GORADIA

The World Inequality Report, 2022, has been published. French political economist Thomas Piketty and his team have reportedly brought forth a goldmine of data in what they claim are several insights into this egregious problem. Christians are especially concerned with inequality and its corollary, namely poverty. The deprivation of poverty is indeed one of the worst curses on humanity and perhaps on animals, although a lot of it goes unnoticed. Or probably animals move away or migrate to greener, richer areas if they can. To move away is not always possible for humans who have to cross national boundaries.

Speaking as a believing Hindu, inequality is caused by the person's, or people's karma, whether in this life or an earlier one. Foreigners, especially from the West, while visiting India are horrified by the sight of poor localities and the shanties therein. If one goes to speak to the poor to ask them why they are so poor, the reply is likely to be 'what to do, Sir, (or Madam), my karams (karma) must have been bad, now I cannot change them.' In Christendom, the belief is that God created men equal but society has rendered them unequal. Bernard Shaw, the distinguished playwright, called the poor casualties of civilisation. He thus blamed society for the inequality, which in turn causes poverty.

Karl Marx was the product of his witnessing inequality resulting in acute poverty, which became more and more visible as industrialisation advanced. Poverty was not so visible in villages because it was scattered, although inequality was sharper in the rural areas. The difference between the lord and the serf in the standard of living was generally very acute. But ideologues like Marx had no facility to travel in the villages to study the economic life in the rural areas. Which partly explains why communism has not been considerate to poor peasants; its regimes dispossessed them and collectivised their minimal portions of land.



The communist leaderships have been obsessed by the proletariat and Marx's Communist Manifesto called for the workers of the world to unite; there was no mention of the peasants in this all-important call.

In any case, communism killed itself rather than prosperity, poverty or inequality. A clear conclusion one can draw is that the ideology failed and its practitioners met their demise primarily because the problem of inequality was insoluble. This is an indication that the theory of karma stands vindicated. Look at the large number of Christians, rather Jesuits, who have spent their lifetimes trying to teach in schools and cure the poor in hospitals but have not been able to crack the problem of poverty. Instead, they have succeeded only in converting millions of poor to the worship of Jesus Christ. They have not been able to solve any problem other than their utilisation of economic activity to create socio-political tensions.

If economic theory, political activity and socio-religious service has failed to knock the bottom out of inequality, what can? There is a family of two brothers who

inherited vast fortunes from their father. One brother has grown richer while the other is comprehensively bankrupt in a matter of a decade and a half. How does one explain such a phenomenon except with the help of karma? A learned Englishman has recently suggested democracy as a cure for inequality. As a last resort, he prescribed the removal of social barriers erected by caste, religion, ethnicity and gender, which should help reduce inequality. Many societies in Europe had none of these barriers except gender, and yet the problem has persisted. A combination of democracy and socialism had been tried by Jawaharlal Nehru. It did not touch inequality; but it induced tax evasion and the illegal remittance of money out of the country to banks in countries that are tax havens.

The Scandinavian countries as well as Switzerland have gotten as near as abolishing poverty as presumably possible; but that is not equality. Those who wrote the Constitution of India did not come to grips with this subject. They wrote Liberty, Equality and Fraternity at its beginning. The country was divided but that has not

brought about fraternity. There is tension, violence and killing in all the three parts. There is about as much liberty as anywhere in the world, although differences of opinions persist between the Opposition and the ruling party. India is a free country if a citizen is not a criminal, whether socially or as a result of his/her ideology.

However, liberty does include the freedom to perform as much good karma as one can. There is no lid on karma as there was an attempt on income in Nehru's India. If there cannot be a lid on karma, how can there be equality? Because not everyone can excel and be equal in the performance of good karma. If that be so, our last postulate, and that of our Constitution makers, collapses. No hope of equality! The reality of karma allows genuine liberty to the living being, but with attendant responsibility of the wisdom of choice. However, there is no scope for an artificially enforced equality, whose outcomes have always been very debilitating.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)



THE REALITY OF KARMA ALLOWS GENUINE LIBERTY TO THE LIVING BEING BUT WITH ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WISDOM OF CHOICE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR AN ARTIFICIALLY ENFORCED EQUALITY WHOSE OUTCOMES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN VERY DEBILITATING

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME FOR HINDUS TO SELF-INTROSPECT

Sir — The assertion "Hinduism is tolerance-personified" might be true if we consider the humanitarian, secular and all-embracing ethos of Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. However, this statement is nothing but a joke if "mainstream political" Hinduism or Hindutva is taken into consideration. What was the religion of Nathuram Godse who killed the Father of our nation? What about the 2002 Gujarat pogrom? Which religious community had committed gangrapes and mass murder of innocent Muslims who had no relationship with the criminals of Godhra?

Not to forget the daily doses of hatred and violence inflicted upon the people of lower castes and Dalits that has continued since centuries. It is a matter of utmost disgrace to see how none other than the persons holding leading Constitutional posts, are shamelessly dividing the electorate and citizens between and scandalously battling for Hindus, fomenting "Islamophobia" and taunting Rahul Gandhi's democratic right of choosing electoral constituencies for himself — as in Wayanad, "majority is in the minority." Instead of beating their own trumpet, it is high time "proud" Hindus indulged in a bit of introspection and accord highest priority to humanity by discarding the fangs and poisons of rabid Hindutva.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

### A CASE AGAINST THE ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

Sir — There is unease among Christians and believers in India's religious pluralism over anti-Christian propaganda and anti-Christian violence in Karnataka. This unease is justified. With the right-wing groups and the Karnataka Government, Christians have a double whammy of attacks on churches and church-run institutions and the anti-conversion Bill. The Karnataka Government is more interested in bringing in the anti-conversion law than in taking action against those responsible for the wave of attacks on Christians. The rationalisation adduced for the attacks and the leniency shown to the attackers point to the tacit acquiescence of the State

## Who would fill in for Ashwin?



Ravichandran Ashwin is one of the best right arm off-spinners India has ever produced. But does India have alternatives to fill in Ashwin's position after he retires in a few years? There has been an emergence of good left-arm orthodox in recent times but right arm off-spin is an area that needs to have a good look. Junior level is the place where every cricketer emerges and gets his basics right. But with the dom-

inance of T20 cricket, not many are willing to take up off-spin. Not many players are learning to flight the ball up which was once considered an art that made the batters play forward. But today, how many players do we see fighting the ball up? Not many to be honest.

With T20 cricket gaining dominance over other formats, the ground dimensions are reduced in order to make the game entertaining. Having a right and left-arm spin bowling in tandem makes a team more lethal. Batters have all the advantages they need — having good bats with wider edges, shorter boundaries, good batting pitches — but it's the bowler who's always at the receiving end. With legendary bowlers leaving the team, India needs to develop high caliber bowlers who can deliver when the chips are down. It's time we look at our options and see who is going to be India's next off-spinner after Ashwin.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Government in the attacks.

The charge of forced conversion is leveled against Christians to justify the anti-conversion Bill. The fact that the Christian ranks are not swelling appreciably debunks the bogey of conversion. The anti-conversion Bill is part of the politics of Hindu revivalism; it is premised on the notion of domination of the country by a single religion. There is no need for a law that is amenable to being misused when laws already exist to prevent and punish conversions by way of misrepresentation, force, fraud or allurement. It is significant that reconversion or return to the Hindu fold or ghar wapsi in the popular parlance under any circumstances is not an offence under the new law.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### WHAT NEXT AFTER THE ELECTORAL BILL?

Sir — The electoral reforms Bill that would allow linking of Aadhaar to a person's voter ID card was passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday and now in the Rajya Sabha as

well amid the Opposition walk-out. The proposal seems good on paper as it can keep a check on the malpractice of duplicating and rigging the elections to some extent. Many eligible voters are denied their voting right at the last minute due to faulty electoral rolls, which is a more serious violation of an individual's right than the issue of malpractice.

Free and fair elections cannot be possible if there is no level playing field for all contenders. The use of money and muscle has made a mockery of the election process. The electoral bonds system, that keeps people in the dark about fund donors, places the political parties at a safe distance from scrutiny for any quid pro quo dealings. Unless an atmosphere is created where a common man can confidently contest the elections, one cannot say the democratic process is healthy and evolved.

DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Our safety is in our own hands and face masks are the best defence against COVID-19.



Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal

US President Joe Biden does not plan on locking the country down in response to a surge in COVID-19 cases.



White House Press Secretary —Jen Psaki

Thanks to Dil Raju Garu and the team of F3 for shifting the release date of their film.



Filmmaker —SS Rajamouli

I'd love to see a women's IPL kick off. It is certainly the next step in growing the game globally for women.



NZ women's cricket captain —Sophie Devine

Earlier, the mafia ruled the roost on the roads of UP. But CM Yogi Adityanath has put them in their right place.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

## Punjab conundrum

Punjab goes into power play as leaders try to outrun each other just ahead of the polls

The Assembly polls in Punjab are inching closer and the accompanying last-minute politics is on with intensity. Politics in India is an uncertain road. The BJP, for example, which was not anywhere in the race to Punjab Assembly earlier, has now created a buzz for itself after stitching up a coalition with the Punjab Lok Congress — Captain Amarinder Singh's new political outfit after exiting the Congress. How the BJP ends up in the polls remains to be seen but the Congress's Punjab prospects are visibly hurt; so are Navjot Singh Sidhu's who, in a veiled attack on Monday, called the Captain an "arrogant king" and accused him of obsequious behaviour towards



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress leadership is apparently at the receiving end of what seems a multi-front attack from the Captain and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. The Delhi Chief Minister has been consistently nagging the Congress, fueling his Punjab campaign with the promises of freebies. The State is under a barrage of political and personal attacks from the Opposition. Had the Congress — which was always viewed as leading the Opposition charge when out of power — denounced the current Government at the Centre with similar zest, they would still perhaps be leading from the front. The Congress has already suffered enough damage and retaining Punjab is not going to be easy. The BJP or the AAP have nothing much to lose in Punjab but the Congress has everything on the line. If Punjab — one of the only three States under its rule — slips away, the 'grand old party' would become a mere blip on the map of Indian politics. Therefore, the party's high command needs to start making wise choices, picking the right leaders and engaging more often with party stalwarts.

The AAP, with a sole MP in the Lok Sabha, is trying to rectify its past oversights and — having honed its electoral skills in the Capital — is going all out to woo the voters with the promises of good governance and doles, including for the nearly 50 per cent women's franchise. Basically, the current situation is: The Congress slipping from a position of strength, a resurgent AAP and the defensive-but-steadfast BJP, which has the open option of joining hands with the SAD after repealing the three controversial farm laws, which was the main demand of the Akali party. The political equation in the State really hangs in balance.





## FIRST COLUMN

## ENERGY: THE RISKS OF SUCCESS

Costs are going up for rival sources of energy and renewables retain their price advantage



GWYNNE DYER

The "new normal", said International Energy Agency spokesperson Heymi Bahar last May, may be a far faster expansion of renewable energy than expected, driven mainly by market forces. So fast, in fact, that it raises a different kind of risk (but he didn't mention that). The good news is big and undeniable. There has been a step-change in the growth of wind and solar power, which jumped by 45 per cent worldwide in 2020. The old pattern was that the global economy grew by around three per cent a year, and the demand for electricity grew a bit faster. Renewables grew at around the same rate, but their share was not rising at all. And it was only 15 per cent of total electricity generation, compared to 85 per cent for fossil fuels and nuclear. That's why the overall global emissions of carbon dioxide have not been shrinking. There was no hope of cutting emissions until non-fossil energy sources were being produced in volume to take



up the slack. Now that has all changed. Over the past decade the 'levelled' cost of renewable power has dropped by between around 60 per cent (wind) and 80 per cent (solar), making both of them cheaper than fossil fuels in most places. The trend has been visible for years, but now it is being reflected in actual hardware. The non-fossil share of electricity production, will be 29 per cent in 2021 and probably be 31 per cent next year. Solar accounts for more than half of that amount, and wind for most of the rest. And the IEA estimates that renewables will make up 95 per cent of new power capacity globally between now and 2026. So, if the share of renewables in total power generation is now growing at two per cent a year, what will it be in 2026? Forty per cent? And 50 per cent in 2030? That would be a genuine revolution. But costs are going up for rival sources of energy too, and so far, renewables are retaining their price advantage. So, the question remains valid: what would actually happen if fossil fuels go into an unexpectedly rapid decline, with around a third of their existing market vanishing by 2030 and most of the rest in the course of that decade?

The very good thing that would happen is an equally rapid decline in global carbon dioxide emissions, maybe even fast enough to enable us to stay below the +1.5°C threshold of warming through the 2030s. That would save some tens of millions of lives and a few trillion dollars in avoided fire, flood and storm damage. The less attractive result would be chaos in 'sunset' industries on which the Sun is going down much too fast: no time for retraining and gentle transitions, just collapse. One can see the parts of the car industry that didn't turn electric fast enough going down that route, together with the entire coal industry. The gas industry goes into rapid decline and the oil industry splits between the few very low-cost producers in the Gulf, who stay in business by cutting their prices radically, and the rest, who go to the wall. Then, around 2040, the remaining oil producers go broke as well. If you can't get some geopolitical clashes out of that scenario, you're not really trying, but it's still the most promising scenario I have seen for a long time. If we can actually replace the world's entire energy infrastructure in a single generation without even a major war or famine, I will gladly revise my views on the evolutionary fitness of the human race.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

## Measures of social security for a wife

Under S/18 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, a Hindu wife shall be entitled to be maintained by her husband during her lifetime



SHAMINDRA KADIAN DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

The Supreme Court judgment in the case of Ganesh v. Sudhir Kumar Srivastava and Ors. (2019) continues to cause apprehension about the right of a divorced woman to get alimony. Justices Indu Malhotra and UU. Lalit held that it "was certainly open to the wife to give up any claim so far as maintenance or permanent alimony or Stridhana but she could not have given up the rights which vest in the daughter (a minor) insofar as maintenance and other issues are concerned." Many jurists feel strongly that the very proposition that it would be acceptable for a woman to waive the right to her own maintenance goes against settled law and public policy.

It would be pertinent to mention that the parties to the case were married as per Hindu rites and had a minor daughter born out of the wedlock. Due to irreconcilable differences, they agreed mutually and consented on certain terms for a divorce. The divorce agreement included, among other things, the withdrawal by the wife of criminal proceedings against the husband and the relinquishing her right to alimony and maintenance as well as the right to her daughter's maintenance. They got the divorce. However, the husband filed a Contempt Petition in the Bombay High Court as the criminal proceedings against him by the ex-wife were not withdrawn as per mutually agreed terms. The contempt petition having been dismissed by the High Court, the husband preferred an appeal to the Supreme Court. The apex court observed that if the parties had arrived at a settlement and decided to withdraw the cases filed by each of the parties against the other, the compromise ought to be effectuated in complete sense. The Supreme Court quashed the criminal proceedings but expressed reservation insofar as the divorce decree passed by the Family Court relinquishing the right of the minor child to get maintenance from the father even though the mother had agreed to relinquish the same. The Court observed that while it was certainly open to the wife to give up any claim so far as maintenance or permanent alimony or stridhan, she could not have given up the rights which vest in the daughter insofar as maintenance and other issues are concerned. Exercising the power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the apex court set-aside the said Clause of the Consent Terms.

The precise legal point and a matter of vital societal concern is that the approval given by the apex Court to the voluntary relinquishment of the statutory right to maintenance by a woman is in conflict with public policy and the principles well settled judicially. In Rajesh R. Nair vs Meera Babu, (2013), a division bench of the Kerala High Court held that an agreement, by which the wife waived her right to claim maintenance, would be a void agreement it being against public policy. Such an agreement would amount to ousting of jurisdiction of Magistrate and Family



IT IS CLEAR FROM VARIOUS JUDGMENTS AND PROVISIONS OF THE PERSONAL LAWS AND THE OVERARCHING CrPC THAT THERE CAN BE NO RELINQUISHMENT OF THE STATUTORY RIGHT TO MAINTENANCE IN THE FUTURE. A WOMAN MAY CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE ALIMONY OR MAINTENANCE FROM HER HUSBAND BUT THERE CAN BE NO RELINQUISHMENT OF THE STATUTORY RIGHT TO MAINTENANCE IN THE FUTURE

(Shamindra Kadian is a Delhi-based advocate and Devendra Singh Aswal ex-Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and a legal scholar. The views expressed are personal.)



Court to entertain maintenance claim, which cannot be permitted by law. The Bombay High Court in Ramchandra Laxman Kamble vs Shobha Ramchandra Kamble and Anr, (2016), while dealing with the right to maintenance under S/125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.), had held that even if the wife gave up or relinquished her right to claim maintenance, at any time in the future, it was opposed to public policy and therefore such an agreement, even if voluntarily entered into, would not be enforceable. Likewise, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the matter of Ranjit Kaur vs Pavittar Singh (1992), held that the right of maintenance is a statutory right which the legislature has framed obliterating the cast or creed of the parties, and, therefore, distinct from the liability under any other law. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court that there is a refusal or neglect on the part of the husband to maintain his wife, children or parents, none of them can be deprived of the statutory protection of maintenance. Therefore, "the statutory right of a wife to maintenance cannot be bartered, done away with or negated by the husband by setting up an agreement to the contrary. Such an agreement in addition to it being against public policy would also be against the clear intent of this provision".

The right to maintenance, a substantive measure of social security, is enshrined in various statutes. S/125 of the Cr.P.C. provides that "if

any person, having sufficient means, neglects or refuses to maintain... his wife, unable to maintain herself... a Magistrate of the first class, may, upon proof of such neglect or refusal, order such person to make a monthly allowance for the maintenance of his wife'. Further, "if such person offers to maintain his wife on condition of her living with him, and she refuses to live with him, such Magistrate may consider any grounds of refusal stated by her, and may make an order notwithstanding such offer, if he is satisfied that there is just ground for so doing. "Wife" includes a woman who has been divorced by, or has obtained divorce from her husband and has not remarried." More so, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.) is based on unexceptionable principle and makes no distinction between caste, creed or religion.

Under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, an order for maintenance, interim or temporary, may be made by the Court under S/ 24 and for monthly maintenance and alimony under S/ 25. Under S/18 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, a Hindu wife shall be entitled to be maintained by her husband during her life time. Notably, a Hindu wife shall be entitled to live separately from her husband without forfeiting her claim to maintenance subject to laid down conditions under the law. Under S/20 of the Protection of Women from the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the

Magistrate has the power to grant fair, adequate and reasonable maintenance or monetary relief to not just the wife but every woman who has been in a relationship in the nature of marriage and has been the victim of domestic violence. Under the Parsi Marriage Act, 1869 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, a wife can seek maintenance from the husband on specified grounds.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 provides that the Muslim women be provided with fair and reasonable maintenance within the 'iddat' period by her former husband. But in the famous Shahnaz Bano vs. Babbu Khan (1985), the Supreme Court held in their pathbreaking judgement that even in a case where the wife has surrendered her rights voluntarily, and if after waiving her right to maintenance, she becomes vagrant and destitute and is unable to maintain herself, then irrespective of her personal law, she would be entitled to avail statutory remedy for maintenance under S/125 of Cr.P.C.

It is abundantly, and unambiguously clear from various judgments and the provisions of the personal laws and the overarching Cr.P.C that there can be no relinquishment of the statutory right to maintenance in the future. A woman may choose not to take alimony or maintenance from her husband but there can be no relinquishment of the statutory right to maintenance in the future.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

ALL OUR PHONES ARE BEING TAPPED AND OUR CONVERSATIONS RECORDED. THE CM HIMSELF IS LISTENING TO THE RECORDINGS.  
—SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



PROBABLY AKHILESH DID SOMETHING SIMILAR WHEN HE WAS IN POWER. SO NOW HE IS ACCUSING OTHERS.  
—UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

## We must learn to live with COVID-19

Some experts predict that there will be new mutations, new variants as the pandemic will be around for years like the flu and common cold

It has been two years since COVID-19 emerged in China and spread worldwide. Since then, the globe has faced upheavals. As we enter 2022, what does the crystal ball say about the pandemic? Will the new year see the end of the pandemic, or will it continue through the year? The short answer is the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet and is likely to continue through 2022. With unpredictable outbreaks still occurring worldwide, it is difficult to predict the end of the pandemic.

If we assume that all pandemics must end, every pandemic in history has completed its cycle at some point, even without the advances in sciences we have today. The bubonic plague was never entirely eradicated and has



KALYANI SHANKAR

killed millions of people over the past 2,000 years. The 1918 Spanish flu lasted for around two years and infected 500 million people.

Despite early hopes, only about 40 percent of the population is fully vaccinated, and millions are skipping their second doses. The World Health Organization has evaluated more than 270 million people had been affected by COVID-19, while an estimated 57 per cent of the global population has received at least one dose of vaccine.

A few days ago, some experts predicted that many countries might become free of Covid-19 after suffering Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and other variants in the past two years. The rapid spread of the highly-mutated Omicron variant,



identified in late November, undermines that hope. Some experts predict that there will be new mutations, new variants, as Covid-19 will be around for years like the flu and the common cold; there is no other option than to learn to live with it.

While coping with the covid forever might be daunting, experts predict it might become endemic sooner.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates predicted last week: "I

am hopeful that the end is finally in sight. It might be foolish to make another prediction, but I think the acute phase of the pandemic will come to a close sometime in 2022."

Many countries have once again resorted to wearing masks, maintaining social distances, and banning large gatherings. Omicron is spreading fast.

An independent population health research centre at the University of Washington Medicine in the United States has predicted India's cumulative death toll will be nearly 2.9 million by March 1, 2022.

However, Vidyasagar, head of the National COVID-19 Supermodel Committee, has predicted: "Third wave is likely to arrive early next year in

India. It should be milder than the second wave due to a large-scale immunity present in the country now."

Though caught unaware during the second wave early this year, India has administered about 1.2 billion vaccines since. The government will likely complete its first round of vaccinations in 2022. India has also increased the production of vaccines and might even export to needy countries.

We have learned some lessons from the second wave. When the Indian government thought we had almost defeated Covid-19 and the then health minister Harshvardhan even said that it was dead, the second wave hit the country with such force. This second wave was mainly due to the compla-

cy that things were becoming okay. People threw caution and went about without a mask or keeping social distance. People crowded in public places like temples and parks. The poll rallies held in poll-bound states like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry caused enough spread. We can escape the third wave if the people and politicians stick to the safety regulations.

The Indian government is getting ready to meet any eventuality and has stepped up the vaccine supply. The health sector has been allocated more funds in 2021 and it is likely to continue in the 2022 budget. The upcoming Assembly elections in UP, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, and Gujarat are crucial

for the BJP and Congress. The political parties should make sure that they address only virtual rallies and propagate their poll agenda through digital mode.

The future is unknown. The good news is that India is better prepared to deal with Covid-19 today than two years ago because vaccine supplies have increased. The bottom line is that the virus will continue to affect our lives and livelihoods unless the global community collectively addresses inequitable access to vaccines. At the same time, governments must invest in preparedness, prevention, and health care. The public also has its duty to cooperate with the government and follow regulations so that the new variant does not spread fast.



# Markets stage a comeback on bargain-hunting

RIL, IT counters spurt

Mumbai: Market benchmarks clawed back some lost ground on Tuesday after two days of heavy declines as investors made a cautious return to energy, IT and finance stocks amid supportive global cues.

A sharp recovery in the rupee further fuelled the rebound, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened strong and rallied to 56,900, before paring some gains to close at 56,319.01, up 497 points or 0.89 per cent.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 156.65 points or 0.94 per cent to 16,770.85.

HCL Tech was the top performer in the Sensex pack, spurring 3.91 per cent, followed by Wipro, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Titan and Sun Pharma.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI, M&M, Kotak

Bank and HDFC closed with losses of up to 1.50 per cent. The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 23 advances compared to seven declines.

## Rupee spurts 31 paise to nearly 2-week high against USD, rises for 4th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rising for a fourth straight session, the rupee surged by 31 paise to close at a nearly two-week high of 75.59 against the US dollar on Tuesday as positive domestic equities and a weak American currency in the overseas markets boosted investor sentiment.

Risk sentiment recovered in global markets, helping riskier assets and emerging currencies post gains against the dollar, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened strong at 75.74 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 75.41 and a

low of 75.74 during the day's trade. It finally ended at 75.59 a dollar, the highest closing level since December 8. In the previous session, the rupee had settled at 75.90 against the US dollar. Aided by low crude prices, the local unit has appreciated by almost 1 per cent or 73 paise in the four sessions to Tuesday.

"Indian rupee continued its upward momentum for a fourth day in a row as dollar index retracted while risk sentiment recovers. The RBI was absent over the past few weeks, but yesterday's announcement of the auction of VRRR worth ₹2 lakh crore on Wednesday indicated policy normalisation.

# No Cabinet decision on privatisation of two PSBs: FM

New Delhi: The Cabinet has not taken any decision on privatisation of two Public Sector Banks (PSBs), which the government had announced in Budget 2021-22, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. In the Union Budget for financial year 2021-22, the government had announced its intent to take up privatisation of two PSBs in the year and approval of a policy of strategic divestment of public sector enterprises, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. She was responding to a question on privatisation of two PSBs.

The objectives of the policy include enablement of growth of public sector enterprises through infusion of private capital, technology and best practices, the



minister said. "Consideration of various issues related to divestment is entrusted to the Cabinet Committee designated for this purpose/ Cabinet. Decision by the Cabinet Committee/Cabinet has not been taken in this regard," Sitharaman said further.

The bill related to privatisation of PSBs has been listed for the ongoing winter session of Parliament which ends on December 23.

# Accelerated digitisation to drive 9-12 pc dollar revenue growth for domestic IT services firms: ICRA

New Delhi: Domestic IT services companies are expected to log a dollar revenue growth of 9-12 per cent in FY2022, driven by accelerated demand for digital technologies from enterprises globally and partly on account of low base of last year due to the COVID-19 impact, ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

Industry growth is expected to moderate marginally to 6-9 per cent in FY2023, partly also on account of the base effect, ICRA said in a statement.

"In line with the growth trajectory witnessed over recent quarters, Indian IT services companies are expected to report healthy growth over the near term due to aforementioned favourable factors," ICRA Assistant Vice-President and Sector Head Deepak Jotwani said.

He added that this growth has been supported by uptick in all key verticals such as BFSI, telecom, manufacturing, retail and distribution. However, concerns have emanated from elevated attrition levels for the industry due to strong demand for digital technologies and lack of adequate skilled manpower to service the same.

Companies are reskilling employees to overcome this challenge. Moreover they have also been able to achieve higher

employee productivity through increased deployment of technology. Hiring by IT companies is at an all-time high buoyed by strong demand and net addition over past four quarters has been increasing exponentially, Jotwani noted.

ICRA said IT services companies remain focused on enhancing the share of fixed price contracts as it assures better revenue visibility and also allows for higher deployment of offshore resources where the salaries are 60-70 per cent lower, coupled with better utilisation of manpower across such projects and deployment of automation.

The benefits are shared with the client leading to mutual advantage.

The share of fixed price contracts has remained between 60-65 per cent in the past three years, ICRA said.

There was some increase in H2 FY2021, which has tapered to around 61 per cent levels in the second quarter of FY2022, given the higher share of new contracts and mix of contracts secured.

"ICRA has a stable outlook on the Indian IT services industry, led by minimal impact of the pandemic on revenues and profitability and steady earnings outlook over the near to medium term," Jotwani said.

# No recommendation by GST Council to bring petroleum products under new tax regime

New Delhi: The GST Council has not recommended bringing petroleum products under the reformed taxation regime even as certain representations have

been made to the government to include petrol and diesel in GST, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Excise duty on petroleum

products is calibrated time to time for generating resources for infrastructure and other developmental items of expenditure, Minister of State for

Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The change in duties takes into account relevant factors

such as international product prices, exchange rate, tax structure, inflation and keeping in view the prevailing fiscal situation, the minister said.

"Certain representations have been received to bring petrol and diesel under GST (goods and services tax). Article 279 A (5) of the

Constitution prescribes that the Goods and Service Tax Council shall recommend the date on which the goods and services tax be levied on petro-

leum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)," the minister said

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY50	16773.15	16936.40	16682.25	16770.85	156.65
HCLTECH	1168.90	1214.95	1160.55	1210.00	50.10
WIPRO	676.00	697.10	671.00	691.15	25.20
UPL	716.65	737.60	712.65	733.95	25.65
TATASTEEL	1090.00	1124.25	1085.00	1108.85	35.90
ADANIPORTS	710.00	728.00	707.00	724.95	23.25
HINDALCO	438.00	449.70	437.35	445.55	12.45
COALINDIA	141.80	146.00	141.40	144.60	3.90
JSWSTEEL	677.00	666.00	645.40	668.50	15.90
TECHM	1605.50	1655.30	1605.50	1635.00	36.95
TITAN	2251.30	2310.00	2251.30	2290.45	51.10
ULTRACEMCO	7238.00	7375.00	7180.10	7315.45	154.60
SUNPHARMA	764.05	783.95	760.45	780.10	16.15
NESTLEIND	18987.00	19285.95	18900.55	19250.00	368.75
LT	1817.90	1852.20	1812.50	1830.00	30.65
SHRECEAM	2500.00	2620.00	2572.00	2589.65	42.30
RELIANCE	2311.35	2346.00	2292.00	2313.00	35.65
ICICIBANK	720.00	728.95	716.15	721.00	11.05
TCS	3582.65	3641.20	3566.40	3611.00	54.10
TATAMOTORS	452.10	460.90	449.85	453.50	6.45
INDUSINDBK	855.05	867.95	848.35	857.95	11.85
BRITANNIA	3479.00	3541.35	3461.05	3519.00	47.10
HDFCBANK	1439.50	1450.75	1430.00	1445.65	19.00
DREDDY	454.05	462.90	454.80	460.00	59.30
BPCL	364.40	365.20	357.40	364.60	4.60
GRASIM	1618.15	1668.80	1618.15	1635.75	19.30
BHARTIARTL	663.95	679.00	659.20	666.05	7.80
ASIANPAINT	3247.00	3296.00	3240.00	3273.00	33.55
BAJAJ-AUTO	3112.00	3160.05	3092.00	3135.45	30.25
ONGC	135.05	136.85	133.80	135.30	1.30
INFY	1801.00	1838.00	1801.00	1814.70	15.80
IOCL	109.50	110.30	108.65	109.65	0.90
HDFCLIFE	640.00	643.95	633.00	638.00	4.40
SIRILIFE	1135.60	1141.45	1117.70	1133.45	7.75
ECHERMOT	2417.00	2437.85	2390.15	2422.25	15.80
HINDUNILVR	2290.00	2302.70	2252.75	2279.05	9.95
NTPC	123.55	124.70	120.85	121.20	0.35
MARUTI	7306.50	7404.95	7284.00	7295.00	8.40
BAJAJFINSV	2610.00	2615.00	2567.00	2583.65	9.45
ITC	114.00	214.55	211.05	212.50	0.10
M&M	82.40	827.00	807.50	813.95	-0.35
DIVISLAB	4448.25	4448.25	4361.00	4403.95	-4.50
HDFC	2583.75	2588.90	2530.00	2547.00	-3.30
KOTAKBANK	1761.05	1768.00	1721.00	1738.00	-4.50
HEROMOTOCO	2290.00	2300.00	2233.05	2348.55	-8.10
SBN	457.05	458.25	444.50	447.30	-1.90
CIPLA	893.80	897.40	885.00	889.00	-4.80
TATACONSUM	710.55	725.00	704.00	709.45	-4.60
BAJFINANCE	6725.15	6750.00	6540.00	6587.00	-47.15
AXISBANK	683.00	683.00	662.60	667.00	-7.35
POWERGRID	211.45	211.45	208.20	208.20	-3.65

## BSE 500

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
IDEA	13.81	14.79	13.81	13.93	
WIPRO	676.00	697.00	671.00	691.15	
TATAPOWER	212.50	216.20	209.80	211.95	
TATAMOTORS	451.90	460.90	450.05	453.55	
ZEELE	334.00	356.00	329.20	349.00	
TATASTEEL	1085.05	1124.00	1085.05	1104.90	
IRCTC	802.00	818.45	800.00	814.10	
ICICIBANK	723.80	728.85	716.45	720.35	
SBN	454.55	458.50	446.65	445.85	
TRIDENT	50.00	54.55	49.00	50.75	
RELIANCE	2304.60	2345.00	2293.00	2310.10	
TCS	3585.00	3639.60	3568.05	3608.45	
HDFCBANK	1436.00	1456.85	1430.00	1442.30	
IEX	242.15	249.30	242.00	244.65	
BAJFINANCE	6739.00	6750.00	6538.30	6579.45	
ABB	2091.00	2215.00	2091.00	2214.30	
LT	1810.00	1851.75	1810.00	1826.80	
BAJAJFINSV	16600.00	16600.00	15675.45	15831.10	
BPCL	362.10	365.85	357.55	364.25	
AXISBANK	684.80	684.80	662.75	665.95	
NATIONALUM	95.30	100.30	95.00	98.45	
HONAUT	39560.10	39600.05	38722.10	38885.00	
SUNPHARMA	874.00	894.80	871.50	891.10	
SBICARD	108.00	111.00	107.10	110.65	
FRETAIL	62.40	63.60	64.90	53.00	
SAIL	108.00	111.00	107.10	110.65	
ADANIPORTS	708.00	728.00	701.85	725.40	
SUNPHARMA	764.05	783.95	764.05	778.25	
BHILSECHN	223.00	226.00	217.25	218.45	
ICICIFIN	1161.00	1142.15	1161.00	1205.25	
VEDL	329.80	340.45	326.40	336.85	
INFY	1800.00	1838.50	1800.00	1812.50	
ADANIENET	1627.00	1645.65	1603.00	1622.00	
PNB	36.95	37.60	36.65	36.95	
HDFC	2584.00	2584.00	2531.00	2545.00	
DIVISLAB	4423.50	4423.50	4361.00	4405.00	
IBREALEST	154.00	159.50	151.50	157.85	
ITC	214.00	215.45	211.10	212.55	
ITC	1602.10	1654.50	1602.10	1612.50	
TECHM	1602.10	1654.50	1602.10	1612.50	
LI	6755.00	7030.00	6750.00	6971.55	
ACC	2135.95	2178.40	2125.00	2131.65	
SUZLON	7.30	7.51	7.22	7.51	
BHEL	57.25	58.80	56.70	57.25	
INDUSINDBK	852.00	868.15	848.25	858.00	
BANKBARODA	80.50	82.25	78.50	78.95	
ASIANPAINT	3250.00	3295.00	3240.00	3270.45	
PERSISTENT	4500.00	4546.55	4384.40	4433.00	
BHARTIARTL	662.50	670.70	659.20	667.05	
APOLLOHOSP	4746.00	4868.40	4696.95	4846.20	
DEEPAKNI	2400.00	2400.00	2190.40	2282.60	
DIXON	5290.35	5533.40	5251.10	5291.35	
HINDALCO	4340.00	4482.70	4340.00	4435.85	
MINDTREE	1851.85	1857.00	1772.00	1844.25	
INDIGO	74.75	77.40	74.65	75.35	
HDFCLIFE	5900.00	5665.80	5420.50	5436.25	
CANBK	192.25	195.85	190.45	192.20	
BANDHANBNK	250.00	253.20	243.55	246.15	
BSOFT	478.00	485.85	467.55	474.20	
DALBHARAT	1812.70	1901.05	1808.00	1843.60	
MINDAINT	1050.00	1122.80	1043.30	1106.65	
MARUTI	7300.15	7401.60	7284.00	7295.00	
GODREJPROP	1875.00	1875.00	1792.80	1811.70	
KOTAKBANK	1744.10	1768.35	1721.75	1736.75	
LITTS	5140.00	5259.95	5077.85	5218.60	
INDUSTOWER	238.00	254.15	238.00	253.00	
NMDC	132.00	134.80	128.90	131.50	
SRF	2086.00	2189.40	2082.30	2171.40	
PIIND	2885.00	2950.00	2855.00	2892.60	
TATACONSUM	714.70	725.95	704.50	706.55	
EXIDEIND	157.80	163.90	155.95	156.50	
GODREJCP	898.05	948.00	898.05	936.40	
CIPLA	894.00	897.45	882.05	885.60	
HINDUNILVR	2288.00	2302.75	2253.00	2273.60	
IDFCFIRSTB	46.25	46.55	45.20	45.75	
FEDERALBNK	81.60	82.25	79.90	80.15	
PEL	2497.35	2568.00	2458.20	2552.55	
TITAN	2253.00	2311.60	2252.00	2287.50	
UNIONBANK	42.30	43.50	42.20	42.35	
DLF	370.00	381.20	368.75	372.95	
IOCL	109.25	110.35	108.65	109.50	
JSWSTEEL	648.45	665.95	645.00	657.90	
RBBLANK	171.10	173.25	167.45	168.90	
ASHOKLEY	120.50	124.05	119.95	122.30	
L&TFH	75.00	78.40	74.70	77.05	



# Opp seeks MoS Teni sacking over Lakhimpur

Takes out a protest march; will not rest till Min sent to jail for his son role in killing farmers: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mounting more pressure on the Modi Government, the Opposition leaders on Tuesday took out a protest march demanding that action be taken against Union Minister Ajay Mishra in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Leaders of several Opposition parties took out the march from Gandhi statue inside Parliament complex to Vijay Chowk demanding that the minister, whose son has been arrested in the Lakhimpur violence case, be immediately sacked. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said they will not rest till the Minister is sent to jail. They also demanded that the suspension of their 12 MPs in Rajya Sabha be immediately revoked.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, along with other Opposition leaders, addresses the media after a protest march from Gandhi statue on Parliament premises to Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

MPs of various parties raised slogans against the Government and held placards and banners demanding the immediate sacking of the Minister. Talking to reporters at Vijay Chowk, Rahul Gandhi said the entire Opposition was united in raising its demand for the sacking of Minister Mishra. Referring to the

SIT report on the violence, he said a report has come out that it was a conspiracy and not an isolated incident. "We will not spare him (Ajay Mishra) and continue our struggle till he is sent to jail," Rahul Gandhi said. "The Prime Minister has

not done anything on this. Neither the Government nor the media is doing its job. The Prime Minister, on the one hand, apologises to farmers, but on the other hand, he keeps the minister who is involved in Lakhimpur Kheri incident in

his cabinet. We will not accept what is being done against farmers," Rahul Gandhi said. Rahul also took on Prime Minister directly on Twitter on Tuesday and went on to taunt the Prime Minister with a "Thank you Modiji". He

remarked the word lynching was practically unheard of before 2014 when the BJP came to power. "Before 2014, the word 'lynching' was practically unheard of. #ThankYouModiji," Rahul Gandhi's tweet said. The attack comes in the wake of lynchings in Amritsar and Kapurthala in Punjab where the Congress is in power.

Asked about the lynching jibe at the media briefing, the former Congress president said, "Sarkar ki dalali mat karo (Don't do mediation for the BJP)." Rahul, who appeared to lose his cool, responded after reporters asked him about the BJP's attack on his tweet.

Opposition leaders said they will continue to raise the demand even if more of their MPs are suspended. Derek was suspended after the House passed a motion moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraliedharan in this regard.

The Winter Session is scheduled to end on December 23. Sasmith Patra, who was in the Chair, said the TMC MP had raised a point of order and the

deputy chairman duly responded to it. A little later, O'Brien flung the rule book furiously in the direction of the Chair, Patra observed. "The rule book would have hit the chair, or secretary general or officials sitting at the table," he said.

Earlier in the morning, leaders of several Opposition parties met in the chamber of Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and discussed their further strategy. Opposition parties have been protesting against the suspension of MPs, which they have termed as undemocratic and against the rules of the House.

Kharge and Congress MP Deepinder Singh Hooda also gave adjournment notices in the Rajya Sabha on the Lakhimpur matter. Congress MP Manickam Tagore gave a similar adjournment notice in the Lok Sabha on the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in the Lakhimpur violence on October 3. The notices were, however, disallowed by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

## RESERVATION OF OBCs IN LOCAL BODY POLLS

# Centre considering moving review petition in Supreme Court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has said it is considering moving a review petition before the Supreme Court to allow "political reservation" of OBCs in local bodies and municipal corporations till the States comply with the apex court's triple test criteria.

The development comes after the Supreme Court decided to strike down the recent 27 per cent reservation in favour of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies made by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Governments. "In this connection, States are being advised to follow the reservation policy as per provisions of the Constitution in the election to the local bodies after observing all the criteria set forth by the Supreme Court," the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said in a statement issued late Monday night.

The Ministry said it is also considering moving a review petition before the Supreme Court to allow "political reservation" of OBCs in the local bodies and municipal corporations till the States comply with the triple test criteria set forth by the top court. Political reservation is reservation of several seats in Parliament, State assemblies, urban and rural-level institutions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

The triple test includes setting up a dedicated commission to conduct a contemporaneous rigorous empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness as regards local bodies

within the State. The second condition is to specify the proportion of reservation required to be provisioned local body-wise as per recommendations of the commission. The third test is the reservation should not exceed an aggregate of 50 per cent of the seats reserved in favour of SCs, STs and OBCs taken together.

The Centre said it is concerned about the matter and is examining the issue in its entirety taking into account the opinion of all stakeholders including the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Parliamentary Affairs, the Department of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Supreme Court has directed the State Election Commission (SEC) of Maharashtra to notify 27 per cent seats in the local body, which were reserved for the OBCs, as general category so that the poll process can be taken forward.

Also, the apex court on Friday directed the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) to stay the poll process on seats reserved for OBCs in the local body there and re-notify those seats for the general category.

Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti on Monday had claimed that panchayat polls in her party-ruled Madhya Pradesh without reservation for the OBCs will be an injustice to about 70 per cent of the State's population. She urged State Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to find a way out that these polls are not held without ensuring the participation of the OBCs.

# Aadhaar link with electoral roll will clean voters' list of multiple enrollment: Govt sources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid protests by Opposition parties against the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Government on Tuesday reiterated that these reforms are needed and the move would solve the "major problem" of multiple enrolment of the same person at different places and help in "cleaning" the voters list to a great extent.

Sources said the "Election Laws (Amendment) bill 2021" incorporates various electoral reforms which have

been discussed for a long time. The assertion comes a day after the "Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021" to link electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem and bring other poll reforms was passed by the Lok Sabha after a brief debate and amid demand by the Opposition to refer it to a standing committee.

According to the sources, that registration in electoral roll is done based on an application by a person who is eligible to be registered as a voter. This bill has a provision whereby the new

applicant may voluntarily provide Aadhaar number along with the application for the purpose of identity.

"No application will be rejected on the grounds that Aadhaar number has not been provided, the sources added. Aadhaar linking with electoral roll will solve 'one of the major problems' in electoral database management which is multiple enrolment of the same person at different places," sources said.

This may be due to the frequent shifting of residence by electors and getting enrolled in the new place with-

out deleting the previous enrolment, the sources noted. Thus, the possibility of electors whose names appear in more than one electoral roll or at times more than once in the same electoral roll can be removed, they said.

The Government functionaries also said on the condition of anonymity that once Aadhaar linkage is achieved, the electoral roll data system will instantly alert the existence of previous registration whenever a person applies for new registration. "This will help in cleaning the electoral roll to a

great extent and facilitate elector registration in the location at which they are 'ordinarily resident'."

Besides linking electoral roll to Aadhaar, the bill also seeks to make the statutes gender neutral by substituting the term 'wife' with 'spouse' to allow husbands of service voters to cast their vote from the place where their wives are posted. It also seeks to provide four qualifying dates — January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 — in a year for registration of voters, instead of a single qualifying date — January 1.

# No evidence that existing vaccines don't work on Omicron: Govt in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work on the Omicron variant of coronavirus, though some of the mutations reported on spike genes may decrease the efficacy of existing vaccines, the Government told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

"There is limited available data, and no peer-reviewed evidence, on vaccine efficacy or effectiveness to date for Omicron," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a written reply.

He was responding to a

question on whether the vaccinations that are given in the country are effective to develop immunity for this variant.

"However, vaccine protection is also by antibodies as well as by cellular immunity, which is expected to be relatively better preserved. Hence vaccines are expected to still offer protection against severe disease and vaccination with the available vaccines remains crucial," he added.

Listing the steps taken by the Government after the news of the spread of Omicron variant of Covid-19 in various countries, Mandaviya said his ministry on the basis of risk



assessment reviewed the existing travel guidelines and revised rules for international arrivals were issued on November 28 which were further amended two days later. According to the guidelines, regions or countries have been re-classified as "at-risk" based on the epidemiological situation of Covid-19 there and reporting of Omicron vari-

ants from these countries. List of such "at-risk" regions or countries is dynamic in nature and has been updated from time to time.

All travellers coming from countries deemed "at-risk" will also mandatorily undergo Covid-19 testing on arrival through RT-PCR, followed by mandatory home quarantine for 7 days, Mandaviya said.

A repeat RT-PCR testing shall also be done on the eighth day of arrival in India to be monitored by State health authorities. Two per cent of travellers from 'non-at-risk' countries will be tested at ran-

dom for Covid-19.

Individuals tested positive shall be subjected to Whole Genomic Sequencing at identified INSACOG network laboratories to determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 variants (including Omicron).

States and union territories have been asked to undertake several activities which include strict monitoring of international travellers in the community, contact tracing of positive individuals and follow up for 14 days, genome sequencing of positive samples through INSACOG Labs in a prompt manner, Mandaviya said.



Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh conducts proceedings in the House during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI/TV Grab

# Aircraft personnel can't take alcohol 12 hrs before flight

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

DGCA...

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ordered that no aircraft personnel, including the cabin crew, pilots and maintenance should take any alcoholic beverage within 12 hours of the commencement of the flight

Asked all airlines to have doctors or emergency medical technicians for pre-flight breath analyser tests to check blood alcohol levels and to ensure compliance

To conduct post-flight breath analyser examination, the DGCA stated to carry out in the aircraft after its arrival. The level of blood alcohol compatible with safe flying is "Zero", which is also recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

For all scheduled operators, each flight crew member and cabin crew member shall be subjected to pre-flight breath-analyser examination at first departure airport. If a crew member operates a flight without undergoing the pre-flight breath-analyser examination, the Chief of Operations of the concerned airline shall ensure that the involved crew member is off-rostered at the first point of landing and same is reported to DGCA as per the CAR provisions, said the DGCA.

Compatible with safe flying is 'Zero', which is also recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation



member is detected positive for alcohol consumption, the medical officer on duty shall provide the prescribed performa for the crew to submit a declaration whether the second test is to be done on the same equipment or alternate equipment. Under rules, if the breath analyser examination result is positive, a repeat test is to be carried out within 20-25 minutes. As per the previous CAR (civil aviation requirement), the time between first and second test was around 15 minutes.

The DGCA order said two ounces of whiskey raise the alcohol level to 50 mg. The amount of alcohol in a can of beer is approx. the same as in a single mixed drink. "Wine, champagne, ale and other alcoholic beverages have same

effects as liquor, though the concentration of alcohol varies from one beverage to the other," it added.

"Consumption of alcohol results in significant deterioration of psychomotor performance and decreases the amount of mental capacity available to deal with many essential tasks involved in the conduct of the safe flight. Should an emergency occur in-flight, the crew member under the influence of alcohol is not capable of dealing with the problem," DGCA said.

Alcohol causes hypoxia and reduces an individual's tolerance with increase in altitude and disturbs the sensor-motor, visual and cortical reaction, resulting in significant deterioration of psychomotor performance and decreasing the amount of mental capacity available to deal with many essential tasks involved in the conduct of safe flight. It is known that a low alcohol blood level between 30 mg% to 50 mg% disturbs the sensor-motor, visual and cortical reaction.

"...When the blood alcohol levels are zero in the body, there could be some effect of hangover, which is mainly due to congeners. These congeners may take 15 to 18 hours to get dissipated and may produce ill effects for up to 36 hours depending upon the amount of alcohol consumed. Even 12 hours after a bout of drink, when blood alcohol level remains zero, there is a decrement in task performance. Alcohol present in the body even in small quantities jeopardises flight safety on several counts and is likely to adversely affect an aviator well into the hangover period," it said.

# ED arrests jailed promoters of real estate group Unitech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested jailed promoters of real estate group Unitech, Ajay Chandra and Sanjay Chandra, in a pending money laundering case against them.

The ED arrested them after obtaining Supreme Court's permission as the brothers were earlier lodged in Mumbai's jail. After their arrest on Monday, the duo was brought to Delhi for custodial interrogation, officials said. The brothers were lodged in separate jails in Mumbai in a cheating case filed by the Delhi Police.

The ED move comes after the apex court earlier this month allowed the anti-money laundering agency's plea for a fresh custodial interrogation of the duo saying it has obtained new evidence against them and it needs to confront them with those documents. The agency will produce them before a special Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA) court here seeking their custody for interrogation, they said.

The agency had earlier informed the SC that the brothers were conducting business from the Tihar Jail premises in connivance with the prison staff despite being in jail. The ED had made a startling revelation that it unearthed a "secret underground office" in the jail which was being operated by erstwhile Unitech founder Ramesh Chandra and visited by his sons Sanjay and Ajay when on parole or bail.

Following this disclosure by the ED, the SC directed the authorities to shift the brothers to two separate prisons in Mumbai, Arthur Road Jail and Talaja Jail. The agency has been investigating money laundering charges against the Chandras and their realty firm Unitech Ltd. It told the top court in its report that both Sanjay and Ajay have rendered the entire judicial custody meaningless as they have been freely commu-

nicating, instructing their officials and disposing of properties from inside the Tihar jail in connivance with the prison staff.

The brothers are undergoing judicial custody since August, 2017 and are accused of allegedly siphoning money of home buyers.

The ED filed a criminal case under various sections of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) early this year against the Unitech group and its promoters over allegations that the Chandra brothers illegally diverted over Rs 2,000 crore of depositors funds to Cyprus and the Cayman Islands.

In October, the agency had arrested Unitech founder Ramesh Chandra, Sanjay Chandra's wife Preeti Chandra and Rajesh Malik of the Carnoustie group. It has attached properties of the accused firm and its promoters worth over Rs 690 crore in this case till now under money laundering charges.

# NEET-PG 2021 counselling: Protesting doctors 'shower' flowers, bang 'taali-thaali'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a novel way to register their protest over the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling, several resident doctors in Delhi on Tuesday threw flowers on security barricades, and banged utensils and clapped in front of the Nirman Bhawan here, saying they were symbolically "returning" the adulation showered on them for being Covid warriors.

As the stir led by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA), resumed after a week-long hiatus, entered into its fifth day in Tuesday, patient care remained affected at three Centre-run facilities -- Safdarjung, RML and Lady Hardinge hospitals - and some of the Delhi government-run hospitals. Meanwhile, the IMAs Junior Doctors Network has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya demanding fast-tracking of the court hearing to expedite NEET-PG 2021 counselling, while extending solidarity with resident doctors protesting outside Nirman Bhawan, which hous-

es the health ministry office, for the second consecutive day.

Many wore white lab coats, and stethoscopes thrown around the neck, chucked floral petals on security barricades, and on a lab coat hung on a barricade, with "Dear Union Health Ministry" scrawled on its back, as scores of other medics clanged utensils, clapped and chanted "We want justice".

During the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government authorities had showered floral petals from mid-air and had asked people to clang utensils and clap for a few minutes by coming out in the open in balconies of their homes, in acknowledgement of the yeoman services rendered by doctors to fight the pandemic.

FORDA, in a statement issued late evening, said, "Since the voices of thousands of resident doctors are not being heard by the authorities, we have returned the 'taalis and thaalis' that were clamoured, and 'phool' (flowers) which were showered upon us during the previous waves of Covid-19 pandemic".



People warm themselves around a bonfire on a cold morning in New Delhi on Tuesday. AP



# China refutes Zeya's job as US envoy for Tibet

**Says will never recognise her role**

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday reacted angrily to the US move to appoint Indian-origin diplomat Uzra Zeya as America's Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that she has been tasked with promoting "substantive dialogue" between China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in support of a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

While designating Zeya as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that she has been tasked with promoting "substantive dialogue" between China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in support of a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

Responding to questions on Zeya's appointment, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that Tibetan affairs "are purely China's domestic affairs. They brook no foreign interference". "By designating a so-called special coordinator for Tibetan

issues the US is interfering in China's domestic affairs. China firmly rejects this. We never recognise this designation," he said. He asked US to take "concrete actions to abide by its commitment of recognising Tibet as part of China and not supporting Tibet independence and stop using Tibetan related issues to interfere in China's domestic affairs. China will continue to take all measures to firmly safeguard our sovereignty, security and development interests."

Responding to a follow-up question, he said, "I would like to stress that since peaceful liberation of Tibet 70 years ago Tibet has experienced social harmony, economic prosperity and religious and cultural development". "People there lead a happy life (and) there is no need for certain US individuals to worry and there is no room for their criticism."

If US politicians can't find anything better to do perhaps they should pay some attention to serious racial discrimination and human rights problems at home," he said. The US should appoint Special Coordinator,

not for Tibetan issues but to probe genocide of American Indians, human rights affairs of ethnic minorities and the "botched COVID-19 response" resulting in a heavy death toll, he said.

Zeya, who was once posted in New Delhi during her diplomatic career, had quit foreign service in 2018 in protest against policies of then-president Donald Trump. She is also Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. As US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Zeya will coordinate US government policies, programmes and projects concerning Tibetan issues, consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, as amended by Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020. "Specifically, she will promote substantive dialogue, without preconditions, between Government of People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Dalai Lama, his representatives, or democratically elected Tibetan leaders in support of a negotiated agreement on Tibet," according to the US Department of State.

# Hindu temple's statues destroyed in Pakistan's Karachi

PTI ■ KARACHI

The statues of deities at a Hindu temple in this Pakistani city have been destroyed, the police said on Tuesday, the latest incident of vandalism against the places of worship of the minority community in this country.

The incident took place at the Narayan Mandir in Karachi's old city of Narainpura on Monday evening, they said.

A man, identified as Muhammad Waleed Shabbir, has been arrested for damaging the statues of the deities, a senior police officer official, Sarfaraz Nawaz, said.

"He was arrested on complaint of a Hindu man, Mukesh Kumar, who with his wife was at Narayan Mandir for prayers when they saw this man damaging the statues of Hindu deities with a hammer," he said.

An eyewitness said that angry Hindus, who were at temple, caught hold of miscreant and handed him over to police. Later, the Hindu residents of the area staged a protest outside police station, demanding government to provide security to Hindus.

They also raised slogans and protested that they were feeling insecure in the area after the incident.

The area is mostly inhabited by poor and low-income Hindu families who have been living in Narainpura for decades. The police and Pakistani Rangers reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

Sindh's Minister for Minority Affairs Gyanchand Israni said that a case should be registered. He said that such incidents create unrest in the society. "We condemn such attacks," he said.

Another Hindu resident said that there were lots of Hindu families in area and they had never seen such an incident and there had never been any incident of Hindu-Muslim tension in area. "We are labourers and very poor people."

We do not harm anyone and always pray people will respect our worship places too," he said. The police official said that they were investigating motive behind incident. The videos of broken holy statues were seen circulating on social media.

# Joe Biden to pledge 500M free COVID tests to counter omicron

AP ■ WASHINGTON

With the omicron variant on the march, President Joe Biden plans to announce 500 million free rapid tests for Americans, increased support for hospitals under strain and a redoubling of vaccination and boosting efforts.

In a speech scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, Biden is announcing major changes to his COVID-19 winter plan, his hand forced by the arrival of the fast-spreading omicron variant, whose properties are yet not fully understood by scientists.

The world is confronting prospect of a second straight holiday season with COVID-19 as families and friends begin to gather. Scientists don't yet know whether omicron causes more serious disease, but they do know that vaccination should offer strong protections against severe illness and death. The White House provided details on the proposals Biden will announce in his speech. A cornerstone of the plan is Biden's decision for the government to purchase 500 million coronavirus rapid tests and ship them free to Americans starting in January.

## Virus fears widen as Omicron variant takes hold across US

**BOSTON:** The nation's second-largest city called off its New Year's Eve celebration Monday, and its smallest state re-imposed an indoor mask mandate as other variants to become dominant version of coronavirus in US.

The moves in Los Angeles and Rhode Island reflected widening fears of a potentially devastating winter COVID-19 surge. Much of concern is being driven by omicron, which federal health officials announced accounted for 73% of new infections last week, a nearly sixfold increase in only seven days.

Omicron's prevalence is even higher in some parts of US. It's responsible for an estimated 90% of new infections in New York area, the Southeast, the industrial Midwest and Pacific Northwest, federal officials said. The announcement underscored variant's remarkable ability to race across oceans and continents. It was first reported in southern Africa less than a month ago. **AP**

## Omicron sweeps across nation, now 73% of new US Covid cases

**NEW YORK:** Omicron has raced ahead of other variants and is now dominant version of coronavirus in the US, accounting for 73% of new infections last week, federal health officials said Monday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention numbers showed nearly a six-fold increase in omicron's share of infections in only one week.

In much of country, it's even higher. Omicron is responsible for an estimated 90% or more of new infections in New York area, the Southeast, the industrial Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

The national rate suggests that more than 650,000 omicron infections occurred in US last week. Since end of June, the delta variant had been main version causing US infections. As recently as the end of November, more than 99.5% of coronaviruses were delta, according to CDC data. **AP**

# Former intel chief confirms Israel's role in Soleimani killing

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's former military intelligence chief says the country was involved in the American airstrike that killed Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in January 2020. It was the first public acknowledgement of Israel's role in the operation.

Soleimani headed the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force and helped orchestrate Iran's involvement with paramilitary groups abroad. He was killed in a U.S. drone strike at the Baghdad airport in January 2020, an incident that threatened to pull the countries into full-blown conflict.

A week after the airstrike, NBC News reported that Israeli intelligence helped confirm the details of Soleimani's flight from Damascus to Baghdad. Earlier this year, a Yahoo News reported that Israel "had access to Soleimani's numbers" and gave that intelligence to the United States. But Maj. Gen. Tamir Heyman, the now-retired general who headed

military intelligence until October, appears to be the first official to confirm Israel's involvement. Heyman's comments were published in the November issue of a Hebrew-language magazine closely affiliated with Israel's intelligence services. The interview was held in late September, a couple weeks before his retirement from the military. The authors wrote that Heyman opened the interview by talking about the American airstrike that killed Soleimani, but in which Israeli intelligence played a part.

"Assassinating Soleimani was an achievement, since our main enemy, in my eyes, are the Iranians," Heyman told the magazine. He said there were "two significant and important assassinations during my term" as head of army intelligence.

"The first, as I've already recalled, is that of Qassem Soleimani -- it's rare to locate someone so senior, who is the architect of the fighting force, the strategist and the operator -- it's rare," he said.

# Pakistan tests home-grown missile with additional range

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military test-fired a home-grown Babur cruise missile on Tuesday that has a range of more than 900 kilometers (560 miles), twice the distance of an earlier missile of the same model, a statement said.

The missile's extended range further enhances nuclear-armed Pakistan's military capability. Pakistan and neighbor India, which also has a nuclear arsenal, have a volatile relationship, having fought three wars against each other.

The military buildup of both countries is closely watched by a nervous international community as India and Pakistan have come dangerously close to a fourth war at least twice over the last two decades.

The missile, dubbed the Babur Cruise Missile 1B, is domestically developed, said the military statement. An earlier version had the limited capacity to travel just 450 kilometers (280 miles).

# China imposes sanctions on US officials over Xinjiang

AP ■ BEIJING

China announced sanctions on Tuesday on four members of the U.S. government's Commission on International Religious Freedom in retaliation for penalties imposed on Chinese officials over complaints of abuses in the country's northwestern Xinjiang region.

The tit-for-tat sanctions add to spiraling tension over Xinjiang. Washington has banned imports from the region that might be made with forced labor, while activists are calling for a boycott of February's Winter Olympics in Beijing. China has denied accusations of abuses and earlier retaliated by publicizing calls for boycotts of foreign shoe and clothing brands.

The chairwoman and three members of the U.S. panel are barred from visiting mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, and any assets they have in the country will be frozen, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian

said. Zhao identified those targeted as chairwoman Nadine Maenza, deputy chairman Nury Turkel and members Anurima Bhargava and James Carr. Zhao gave no indication whether they have assets in China. China threatened to retaliate after the U.S. Treasury announced sanctions Dec. 10 on two officials accused of involvement in repression of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang. Beijing is accused of mass detentions, forced abortions and other abuses. Treasury targeted Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the region's government from 2018 until early this year, and Erken Tuniyaz, who holds the position now and previously was deputy chairman. "The United States should withdraw the so-called sanctions and stop interfering in Xinjiang's affairs and China's internal affairs," Zhao said. "China will make further responses in accordance with the development of situation."

# Democrats try to 'build back' after Manchin tanks \$2T bill

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats are struggling to pick up the pieces after Sen. Joe Manchin effectively crushed President Joe Biden's big domestic policy bill. But they face serious questions whether the \$2 trillion initiative can be refashioned to win his crucial vote or the party will be saddled with a devastating defeat.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed on Monday that the chamber would vote early in the new year on Biden's "Build Back Better Act" as it now stands so every senator "has the opportunity to make their position known on the Senate floor, not just on television." That was a biting reference to Manchin's sudden TV announcement against the bill on Sunday.

Biden and Manchin spoke later Sunday, according to a person familiar with call, first reported by Politico. It was cordial and respectful, said person who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

# US official to travel to Israel to discuss Iran nuclear programme

**AL JAZEERA:** United States national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, will visit Israel this week for detailed discussions with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Iran's nuclear programme, a senior Biden administration official has said.

The visit, which is expected to begin on Tuesday, comes as negotiations in Vienna over Iran returning to 2015 nuclear deal have shown modest gains, but remain far from a breakthrough.

"We will talk about where we see state of Iran's nuclear program and some of timelines," the official told reporters. "It will be a good opportunity to sit down face-to-face and talk about state of talks, the timeframe in which we are working and to re-emphasise that we don't have much time."

Sullivan will be accompanied by National Security Council's Middle East director Brett McGurk and other US officials, and will also meet Palestinian President Mohammed Abbas in Ramallah in occupied West Bank to discuss strengthening

US relations with Palestinians, the official said. The Biden administration has made a return to Iran nuclear deal, from which former President Donald Trump withdrew in 2018, its top priority. The accord saw Iran agree to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

Since US withdrawal, Tehran has increasingly flouted restrictions, saying it is no longer beholden to agreement. The Western signatories of nuclear deal have repeatedly sought urgency due to Iran's nuclear advances.

Last week, a senior US official said Iran's breakout time to producing enough highly enriched uranium for one nuclear weapon is now "really short" and alarming. Iran has repeatedly denied that it seeks to develop a nuclear weapon. An eighth round of talks between Iran and other signatories of deal, with US participating indirectly, are set to resume next week. Reports have indicated that sides may be close to reaching a new joint draft. **Agencies**

## FROM PAGE 1

### DECISION TO RAISE GIRL'S MARRIAGE AGE UPSETTING SOME: MODI

"We have opened account of girls under the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme and interest rates were kept high. Crores of toilets were made under 'Swachh Bharat scheme', free gas connections were given under Ujjwala scheme and under Ayushman scheme free treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided," he said.

He lamented that for decades, house and property were considered as the right of men only.

"In families where there was no property in the name of women for generations, they now have a house in their name. This is true women empowerment. In village 'swamitva scheme' is underway in which property papers were given to house owners and women are being given priority, he said.

"The state government will do mapping of village houses and give property papers to women," modi said.

The prime minister transferred Rs 1,000 crore to bank accounts of self help groups (SHGs) to benefit around 16 lakh women.

Under the Mudra Scheme, 70 per cent beneficiaries are women, he said and termed SHGs as "rashtira sahayata samoh" and women there as "champions" of *atmanirbhar bharat*.

He said the help given to SHGs after 2014 has been increased 13 times and added restrictions for women to work in mines have been lifted and doors of 'sainik schools' have been opened for women.

Modi earlier paid tribute to doyen of Hindi literature Acharya Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi on his death anniversary.

He released over Rs 20 crore to over 1 lakh beneficiaries of the 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme', which provides conditional cash transfer to a girl child at different stages of her life and also laid the foundation stone of 202 supplementary nutrition manufacturing units in 43 districts.

### GUPKAR ALLIANCE TO PROTEST AGAINST DELIMITATION DRAFT

Tarigami said, "We have decided to use every opportunity and every forum and will reach out to the people of the country, leaders of political parties, including those who do not agree with us, and make them understand the pain we are going through".

On the Delimitation Commission's recommendations, Tarigami said, "We are firmly of the opinion that it (proposal) is divisive and will further deepen the divide in Jammu & Kashmir. It will also deepen the alienation of the people and will create a much bigger void which is also detrimental to the interests of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as well and will also damage the interests of the country as a whole."

"We regret that the constitutional framework for such an exercise, which is the population according to the census, was completely ignored," Tarigami added.

The PAGD leader also claimed the BJP is trying to mainstream Jammu & Kashmir on its own terms and is taking decisions that are "detrimental to national unity and will harm the peoples' aspirations".

"Was everything suspended in Jammu & Kashmir? This is our question to our nation, leaders and the civil society... we are fearful that such a decision (delimitation recommendation), if implemented, will further deepen the crisis in J&K," the leader said. Tarigami also said the PAGD is not representing one region or one community but is a platform for "all communities, regions, sub-regions, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh".

### OMICRON SNEAKING UP ON YOU

foresight, data analysis, dynamic decision making and strict and prompt containment action is required at the local and district level. The decision-making at the State/UT and district level must be very prompt and focused, said the Union

Health Secretary.

The Ministry left on the States to take the containment measures saying that it can be based on the local situation and population characteristics such as density etc. "... and keeping in mind the higher transmissibility of Omicron, States/UTs can take containment measures and restrictions even before these thresholds are reached," said Bhushan.

The Centre also asked the States to ensure cent per cent vaccine coverage of the left out first and second dose eligible beneficiaries in an accelerated manner. With 137 crore doses administered so far, 88 per cent of the country's population have received one dose of the vaccine, while 58 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

"Special focus should be given to those districts where the first and second dose coverage is less than the national average. The door-to-door vaccination campaign need to be strengthened," he said.

Some of the strategic areas of intervention focusing on containment, test, track, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination and Covid appropriate behaviour need to be taken up, the official said in the letter.

### OUR BOOSTER CAN INCREASE NEUTRALISING ANTIBODIES...

dose increased 37-fold, but when the dose was doubled, antibody levels rose 83-fold.

Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel called the results "reassuring" adding that the company continued to develop an Omicron-specific jab.

Hoge added, "We're cautiously optimistic given the data presented here... that the authorized booster dose of 50 microgram should provide good protection, we would hope, against the Omicron variant."

"We do expect that there will be a need in the future for seasonal boosting," he added.

risome variants at the same time to broaden immunity.

### BILL TO FIX 21 YRS AS AGE OF MARRIAGE INTRODUCED...

Irani said the bill also seeks to override all existing laws, including any custom, usage or practice governing the parties in relation to marriage. Opposition members hit out at the Government for the introduction of the bill in a "hurry" and "without any consultation with stakeholders".

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the manner in which the bill was introduced was reflective of the "nefarious intentions" of the Government of not holding any consultations. Congress deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said the provisions of the bill were contrary to the Law Commission recommendations that had suggested making 18 years as the uniform marriageable age for men and women.

Muslim League MP ET Mohammed Baasher said the bill was "unwanted, unconstitutional and violation of Article 25 of the Constitution". "This bill is an attack on the personal laws and fundamental rights," he said. AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi termed the bill a "retrograde step".

"At 18 years, a girl can choose Prime Minister, have a live-in relationship, have sexual relations, but you are denying her the right to marriage," Owaisi said. NCP member Supriya Sule and DMK member Kanimozhi also pitched for referring the bill to a standing committee. RSP member N K Premachandran said the Government should spell out how it plans to make the law enforceable.

Responding to the Opposition, Irani said that had the Opposition members heard her patiently, they would have known that the Government was ready to refer the bill to the standing committee. She urged the Chair to refer it to the standing committee. "As a democracy, we are 75 years late in providing equal rights to men and women to enter into matrimo-

ny," she said.

Irani said that seven per cent of the girls aged between 15 and 18 years were found to be pregnant and nearly 23 per cent of the girls were married below the age of 18 years. "It is also important to bring down the incidence of teenage pregnancies, which are not only harmful for women's overall health but also result in more miscarriages and stillbirths," she said in the statement of objects and reasons of the bill.

### TMC SWEEPS KMC POLLS, WINS 134 OUT OF 144 WARDS

The Left, in fact, pushed the BJP behind to crawl up to the second place finishing second in about 65 seats. The Congress too finished second in 16 seats. The BJP finished second in 53 seats.

Congratulating the people for "reposing so much of faith on the TMC," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who went to Kamakhya Peeth in

Guwahati to offer special prayers said "it is the victory of democracy and more so secular politics as we could see the near-ouster of divisive forces".

The Mayoral candidate would be elected after the Trinamool KMC party meeting on Thursday, she said.

The Opposition BJP, Left and the Congress however continued to lash out at the TMC and the State Election Commission for "conducting a farce in the name of elections."

### DEREK SUSPENDED FROM RS SESSION ...

Before walking out, Derek had said, "Sir, please understand that we have all the regard for the Chair, we have all the regard for the rules, but the same thing you did on the farm laws you are doing today."

Ruling BJP members condemned the behaviour of the TMC leader and demanded his suspension. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal condemned Derek



For several first-time insurance buyers in smaller cities and towns, insurance premiums may make for a bulk of their monthly savings, but the lack of physical copies of insurance may put their claims to risk, says PRASHANT SHAH



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.**  
— Cesar Chavez

UG/PG AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN



BA/MA DESIGN AT APEEJAY STYA UNIVERSITY

The Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD) in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London offers undergraduate programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion Business Management.

The Institute offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education and strives to groom the next generation of designers and design thinkers at its state-of-the-art campus in New Delhi. To know more about the admission process and scholarships, visit our website.

Website: www.iiad.edu.in  
Admission Process: IIAD Entrance Test  
Exam Date: 26th and 27th December 2021 (Online), 26th December 2021 (Offline)  
Admission Helpline: +91 98713 83633, +91 11 4138 0000

The School of Design & Visual Arts (SDVA) at Apeejay Stya University (ASU) is inviting applications for its Bachelor and MA in Design programmes, with durations of 4 and 2 years respectively. For both the programmes, specialisations are available in Fashion Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design and Animation & Multimedia.

Next Design Aptitude Test (DAT) Date: 27 January 2022  
Last date to apply for DAT: 22 January 2022  
Admission Helpline Number: 1800-103-7888  
Application forms can be downloaded from the University website: www.university.apeejay.edu

# PREVENT UNCERTAINTIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced insurance companies to go digital. But that may not necessarily facilitate widening of the insurance net in the country with nearly 50 per cent of the population without any internet access till 2020. Incidentally, many insurance companies have completely stopped issuing physical certificates to the policy-holders, which has not only created a lack of trust amongst the insured but also heightened risk of cyberattacks, resulting in identity thefts and hacking and better understanding of the policy terms and conditions.

Currently, the insurance penetration in India is 4.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) as against the world average of 7.4 per cent. India's insurance density, which is calculated as the ratio of insurance premium to population, stood at \$78 in 2020, which is dismally lower than \$455 for China and \$383 for Thailand. In fact, the global average is \$809.

This reflects India's untapped potential for the insurance market. But, it takes trust for people to lock their savings in insurance products. Therefore, protecting the interest of insured becomes crucial. For several first-time insurance buyers in smaller cities and towns, insurance premiums may make for a bulk of

their monthly savings, but the lack of physical copies of insurance may put their claims to risk, with instances suggesting that the claims process largely remains paper-driven.

The lack of internet connectivity, especially in rural India, makes it challenging to take printouts of the policy documents. Even policyholders from metro cities feel safer holding a physical copy of the insurance certificate to prevent uncertainty around the claims process, a recent survey showed.

As per regulation 4 of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Issuance of e-Insurance Policies) Regulations, 2016, an insurer has to issue both physical and electronic insurance certificates to policyholders. However, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, IRDAI as an interim measure allows insurers to issue only electronic policy documents and exempts them from the requirement of sending insurance policies in physical form till March 31, 2022, following two extensions.

Prioritising the interest of buyers, it becomes pertinent to restore the mandate of issuing both physical and electronic policy documents.

Concerns around claim settlement continue to haunt the insured. According to the industry data, as of

**Many insurance companies have completely stopped issuing physical certificates to the policy-holders, which has not only created a lack of trust amongst the insured but also heightened risk of cyberattacks**

July, of the total reported claims of around ₹ 27,000 crore, claims worth ₹ 16,000 crore were settled, with settlement amounts ranging between 55 per cent and 65 per cent of the claim.

This makes it even more important to lay out the terms and conditions of the policy on paper. First, that makes it accessible for the insured. Second, hard copies also act as the proof for the future for parents or children in case of the demise of the policy holder. Third, only-digital copies are risky in times when cyber-attacks are common. Moreover, in case the buyers' inbox crashes or get hacked, physical

copies come to the rescue.

An insurance policy is a contract between the insurance company and the insured individual and contains critical details of the insurance cover laying out the benefits, terms and conditions, the procedure to file for a claim if needed, and the contact details of the insurer. Therefore, physical copies make it easier for the buyers to read clauses, terms, and conditions more clearly. It is not possible to read the multitude of Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) online.

In the first COVID wave up to February 2021, insurers reported claims worth ₹ 13,000 crore, of which claims worth ₹ 7000 were settled. In the second wave, between February and July, of total health insurance claims of ₹ 14,000 crore, claims only worth ₹ 9,000 crore were settled.

Even as several insurance companies decided to 'Go Green' by either discarding the physical copies of insurance policies completely or making it optional, even before the pandemic, policyholders believe that the same insurance companies ask them for a physical copy while claiming the policy amount. The companies not only ask for the physical copy of the insurance policy but also other related documents.

A recent survey by The Bombay Master Printers Association (BMPA) showed that over 80 per cent of the

insurance buyers prefer a physical copy of their policy document. Nearly eight in 10 survey participants felt that during the time of the claim or an emergency, a hard copy of the policy issued by the insurance company would be preferable. Nearly 79 per cent of respondents felt that during a time of claim or an emergency (or to share the policy within your family members), a hard copy of the policy issued by the insurance company would be preferable.

Incidentally, 56 per cent of the survey participants fell in the age group of 18-40 years, suggesting that even the younger policyholders prefer physical copies. Nearly 73 per cent of the survey participants believed that it was better to have a physical copy of the document for records, especially in case of life and health insurance.

In the first half of FY22, the life insurance industry recorded a growth rate of 5.8 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent in the same period last year. While the growth potential is huge, it is imperative for the insurance sector to make the policy-holders feel secure about their investment. That's the only way the insurance penetration and insurance density in the country can grow.

The writer is Chief Executive at Bombay Master Printers Association

## Sharda University celebrates 25th Foundation Day

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

The Sharda University celebrated its silver jubilee. About the journey of the Sharda group for the last 25 years was highlighted and a short film was screened.

On this occasion, PK Gupta, the chancellor of the University addressed all the office bearers, teachers, non-teaching employees and told them that each one of them has an important contribution to the journey that Sharda Group has reached today.

This institution has impacted the lives of 15 crore people across the globe. He mentioned that people of more than 80 countries are associated with the Sharda group in one way or the other. YK

Gupta, Pro-Chancellor of Sharda University, wished that with the hard work and trust of all the people associated with the institution, the Group would reach greater heights.

A coffee table book of Sharda University was also released by the dignitaries. The staff, officers, and teachers involved in the group's journey and working in the institute for more than 15 years were also felicitated on the stage as a mark of their loyalty and respect for the Group. Along with this, the people of the founding family and the invited dignitaries were also honored.

The group had organised a music night event for all the employees as part of the celebrations.

## Crack it with confidence

The JEE Main 2022 exam will be conducted in four sessions in January, February, March and April. SAURABH KUMAR shares tips to prepare and ace it

With the recent announcement of the syllabus revision for JEE Advanced 2023, many aspirants have been under the dilemma of how to cope up with the preparation in the upcoming JEE examinations 2022. The syllabus for JEE Advanced 2023 is in sync with the New Education Policy 2020, and purely aims to reduce the student's pressure. One should also note that there will be no change in pattern or syllabus of JEE Main 2022, and aspirants need not worry about the same, and instead focus on their preparation and revision.

The syllabus revision would not make much difference in the preparation strategy, but aspirants may not feel the extra pressure. Since this will also give rise to an extra-competitive ambience, one should not lose their focus from the preparations.

The JEE Main exam will be conducted in four sessions in January, February, March and April, and all the aspirants must focus on betterment in all the sessions to secure a better percentile and ranking. The reaction from the students after the exam during last year's JEE Main showed that some found it to be tougher and lengthier, others found the difficulty levels at par with the previous year Main exam.

Thus, always attempt theoretical/fact based questions first and then questions which require calculation.

**Attempt online mock tests:** Rigorous revision and attempting several mock tests will help them get thorough

- ❖ Taking mock test and having a real time analysis have been found to be quite useful
- ❖ Systematic approach towards proper revision plan will help students get successful
- ❖ Right strategy along with time management plays a pivotal role in deciding the exam results
- ❖ Follow question banks from reputed source and solve them in a reputed manner
- ❖ Focus more on polishing the strengths by consistent revision to perfect the concepts



mistakes and hence avoid repeating them on the D-Day.

❖ **Systemised revision plan:** Make a systematic plan for revision and follow it strictly in order to test your topic wise concept clarity. Systematic approach towards proper revision plan will help students get successful.

❖ **Focus on managing time:** Plan your study by keeping in mind the available time left before exams. Make a habit of noting main points while studying that will help you later in quick revisions. Right strategy along with time management plays a pivotal role in deciding the exam results. So, practice enough to be quick to adapt to the level of the paper and act promptly.

❖ **Follow a reputed source:** Start the preparations with NCERT books, since they form the basis for both the exams having a good conceptual base and simple to understand. Follow question banks from reputed source and solve them in a reputed manner which

helps in efficient practice.  
❖ **Resolve your doubts:** Always clear your doubts from teachers, mentors, peers and never hesitate in asking questions. Sometimes smart work prevails hard work and preparing strategically ensures a better performance in comparison to the peers. Adaptability and swift response to questions comes with regular practice and hence making the most of the available time in revision helps in scoring better. Focus more on polishing the strengths by consistent revision to perfect the concepts.

Creating self-written notes helps one to memorise the formulae, tips and trick and are very helpful during JEE preparation and easy to revise. Taking some time to relax or rest also prepares the brain to recollect the learnt things on your fingertips. Keep calm but do not lose focus as temperament plays a vital role in JEE success.

The writer is Academics Director, Vidyamandir Classes

## Bouquet of insightful stories

Author Smita Das Jain's new book *A Slice of Life* explores different human emotions and stories. The book is a fictional potpourri of extraordinary narratives of ordinary people who have more to their everyday lives beneath the surface, these stories reflect myriad hues of human behavior.

The author takes us into the book, "The book is about relationships, and I have taken inspiration from real life to write this book on human relationships. Truth is stranger than fiction, and the more you observe people and things around you, the more stories you will get to narrate. People have emotions and emotions drive people. *A Slice of Life* is a potpourri of human emotions divided into three main categories: Romance, Humor and Relationships. Love, joy, humor, anger, sadness, pride and quirkiness are some of the most prominent emotions that come to the fore from the stories."

Jain talks about her journey and how she ended up being an author, "I enrolled in Stanford Continuing Studies for their Creative Writing and Novel Writing courses in 2018, following my desire to learn something new. Subsequently, I started to draft fictional pieces regularly and circulate these write ups among my close friends to get their views."

One such short fiction, titled *The Lost Identity*, was appreciated a lot, and quite a few in my circle told me that this is worthy of being published. That was in late 2020. I researched about the best way to publish short fiction and got acquainted with the world of Kindle Direct Publishing. That is how my debut short fiction-*The Lost Identity* got published in early 2021."

"*A Slice of Life- Every Person Has A Story* is not the end, my journey as an Author has just begun, and I look forward to it," she adds. The author also shares her favorite lines from the book, "They both gazed into each other's eyes. Even after all these years it was like love at first sight, 'It is better to be angry than heartbroken,' She had put one of her dreams on hold for another."



Today she was sure that she hadn't made a mistake. "Old ways do give way to new beginnings when the underlying reason happens to be beautiful."

For those who are dreaming of becoming an author here are a few tips from the author herself, "Write something every day. Like any other craft, you hone your writing skills with practice. If you complete one story every week, you can't produce 52 bad stories in a year. And be patient."

Writing is a long process, and the job doesn't get finished after completing the first draft of your manuscript. Editing, Publishing and Marketing takes more time combined than completing the draft. Lack of patience will make your path more arduous."

## First edition of Bharat Youth Dialogues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In India 2021, it is the young who are at the forefront of voicing issues, whether it's about climate change, social inequalities or mental health issues. The first edition of Bharat Youth Dialogues brought critically acclaimed actor Swara Bhaskar, who is deeply passionate about social issues that matter to India to a conversation that highlights



rural issues and ideas for how the urban youth gets engaged in today's world.

At the Siri Fort Auditorium II, New Delhi, Swara shared her experiences from rural India and why it is important for young people today to engage with rural and marginalised communities.

The Bharat Youth Dialogues brings young people to the centre of creating a just and more equitable soci-

ety. Swara Bhaskar said, "When I landed in Kesla, I realized that the place where you are staying has got nothing to do with your capability. My greatest learning was awareness and empowerment. Your habitation has nothing to do with it; we are just taught to assume that we are staying in a city, so somehow are more capable than the person staying in rural parts of the country."

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The VIT-AP school of Business held 3-day International conference on Business Transformation and Excellence in global scenario. It was inaugurated by Dr Ruth Kattamuri Senior Director Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, The Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom on December 16, 2021 late evening hours in presence of Ganesh Ram, CEO & MD, MF Utilities, Dr SV



Kotareddy, Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University. This conference sessions were carried forward on December 17 and December 18,

Expresses the need of preparedness of youth to capture opportunities for the country's growth. She says that VIT has always put a foot forward for the upskilling of youth with multi-disciplinary studies and preparing the leaders for global economy.

Ganesh Ram, CEO & MD, MF Utilities, emphasises on Indian Capital Market transformation in Global scenario. Capital Market Growth & Drivers like Demat accounts, MF Folios, Asset under Management.



# 2 ASHES TESTS, 2 LOSSES: Not much is going right for Eng



275-run loss to Australia in Adelaide on Monday.

"You have to be able to score big runs, and if there's chances, you have to take them."

The Adelaide loss followed a nine-wicket defeat in the opening match in Brisbane. There, England only scored 147 in its first innings and Australia notched 425, leaving the visitors 278 runs in arrears going into their second innings.

"The frustration within our dressing room is that we have missed out or we're not quite executing those basic things well enough for the second game in a row," Root said. "And we need to respond very quickly."

The next match begins Sunday, the traditional Boxing Day test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, followed by matches in Sydney and Hobart in January. With Australia holding the Ashes, the visitors now need to win all three to regain the urn.

That won't happen if their fielding doesn't improve.

In the first two tests, England's total of dropped catches was in double figures and they've taken two wickets from no-balls.

Root said one positive was England's resistance on the final day, led by Jos Buttler.

Buttler got through 207 balls before backing into his stumps and was out for 26. Chris Woakes

also had a good innings and scored 44.

Only one team has ever come from 2-0 down to win an Ashes series: Don Bradman's Australians in 1936-37.

Root is undeterred, despite England not having won a match in Australia since 2010-11, when it won the series 3-1. In two series since before this one, it's been 5-0 and 4-0 with a draw for the home side.

"We have to absolutely believe," Root said. "And have that same attitude that we went out today with. Because if we do that, I'm convinced we have got what we need to win test matches out here."

Buttler's role is one of several that selectors will discuss before the MCG test. He is expected to retain his spot in England's team, but could lose the wicketkeeping role to Jonny Bairstow after Buttler dropped three catches in Adelaide.

Ollie Pope (5 and 4 in Adelaide) is also under pressure to keep his spot at No. 6, potentially creating room for Bairstow to come in.

Haseeb Hameed (6 and 0 in Adelaide) and Rory Burns are under threat at the top of the order, although Burns fought hard on the fourth night in Adelaide to put up 34 after scoring just 4 in England's first innings.

To heat up the bowling, England could bring back rested paceman Mark Wood for Melbourne.

# If you can't influence bowlers, what are you doing on field? Ponting questions Root's leadership

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting has slammed Joe Root for criticising England bowlers after his side's second consecutive defeat in the ongoing Ashes series, saying as the leader it is his responsibility to ensure the strategy is followed.

Root didn't hold back after England's 275-run defeat to Australia in the second Test that saw the tourists fall behind 0-2 in the five-match series. The 30-year-old blamed his bowlers for not bowling the right lengths, especially in the first innings.

"I nearly fell off my seat when I heard that. Whose job is it then to make them change? Why are you captain then?" Ponting was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au'.

"If you can't influence your bowlers on what length to bowl, what are you doing on the field?"



Ponting, who led Australia to two World Cup titles, said the onus is on Root to influence his bowlers.

"Joe Root can come back and say whatever he likes but if you're captain, you've got to be able to sense when your bowlers aren't bowling where you want them to."

"And if they're not going to listen, you take them off, simple as that. Give someone else a chance that is going to do it for you. Or you have a really

strong conversation with them on the field to tell them what you need."

"That's what captaincy is all about," Ponting said.

Root had said England were making the same mistakes they did during their 0-4 series defeat in 2017-18. To which Ponting said as skipper one needs to be firm with the bowlers if they are not executing the captain's plan.

"Regardless of whether they have taken (more than) 1150 wickets between them - well, too bad."

"I need you to bowl differently here to how you bowl in England."

I need you to bowl differently to how you bowled four years ago, and if you're not willing to do it then I'll find someone that can - that should have been the conversation five overs into day one.

"If they had that (conversation) maybe the result could

have been different."

Ponting felt the only time England bowled fuller lengths was on day four when Ben Stokes was leading in the absence of Root, who was off the field due to a groin injury.

"The interesting thing for me is the only time they bowled full in the game was when Joe Root wasn't on the ground," he said.

"The start of day four when they had a meeting on the ground before play started, Ben Stokes took over the captaincy, and that was the only time in the game they pitched the ball up."

Ponting feels that there will be "some real selection dramas" in the tourists' camp ahead of the Boxing Day Test.

"Every message that they've sent so far has seemed like a confused one. Even their bowling coach last night said that in hindsight 'we (might have) picked the wrong team'."

# Sports ministry released ₹6,801.30 crore under various sports development schemes in last 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday said his ministry has released a sum of Rs 6,801.30 crore under various sports development schemes in the last five years.

Thakur, who took over from Kiren Rijiju as the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports earlier this year, said that Rs 7,072.28 was allocated to the ministry.

"During the last five years, a sum of Rs 7,072.28 crore was allocated and a sum of Rs 6,801.30 crore was released under the various sports development schemes of this Ministry," Thakur informed in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

Sports is a state subject and thus the



responsibility to make sports accessible to the masses at the village level rests primarily with the State/Union Territory

Governments with the Centre supplementing their efforts.

However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports runs the following schemes for the development of sports in the country, including at the village level: (i) Khelo India Scheme; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards; (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Fund; (vii) National Sports Development Fund; and (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India. (SAI).

Funds are allocated scheme-wise, not State/UT-wise.

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

After lopsided losses in the first two Ashes tests, England captain Joe Root says he's frustrated by three components of his team's per-

formance. Unfortunately for Root, they're the three main ones in the game - batting, bowling and fielding.

"You have to be able to put the ball in the right areas for long enough," Root said after England's



# Japan stun India 5-3 to set up title clash against Korea in ACT hockey

PTI ■ DHAKA

Defending champions and Olympic bronze medallist India suffered a stunning 3-5 defeat against Japan in the second semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

India were the overwhelming favourites before the start of the match after having thrashed the same opponents 6-0 in their last round robin match and also on head-to-head record, but the Japanese had other plans.

The Japanese looked a completely different side on Tuesday as they toyed with the defence of the Manpreet Singh-led side from the beginning.

Japan scored through Shota Yamada (1st minute, penalty), Raiki Fujishima (2nd

minute), Yoshiki Kirishita (14th), Kosei Kawabe (35th) and Ryoma Ooka (41st).

India's goals were scored by Hardik Singh (17th, 58th minute) and vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh (43rd).

India and Japan had met 18 times before with the hosts winning 16 games, while Japan emerged victorious on one occasion and one ended in a draw.

Japan will now take on South Korea in the summit clash, while India will be once again up against Pakistan in the bronze medal clash on Wednesday.

The tournament ended in a anti-climax for India as after having topped the round robin stages with an unbeaten record. In the other semifinal of the day, South Korea beat Pakistan 6-5 in a thrilling contest.

# Srikanth will need to curb his errors to be more consistent in busy 2022, says Gopichand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand has lauded Kidambi Srikanth for winning a historic silver medal at the world championships but said he will need to cut down on his errors in order to remain consistent through a busy 2022.

The 28-year-old from Guntur, a former world number one, on Sunday became the first Indian man to claim a silver medal at the prestigious tournament.

In the summit clash, Srikanth, currently ranked 14th, blew leads of 9-3 and 18-16 in the two games against Loh Kean Yew to see the coveted title slip out of his grasp.

"Srikanth's game got sharper and sharper as the tournament went by. He was lacking in confidence when he started playing this year but some performances against players such as Lee Zii Jia and Kento Momota gave him some confidence," Gopichand told PTI.

"He got his form in time but he will need to curb his errors to be more consistent as he prepares for the big year ahead where there will be big ticket events like the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games."

Srikanth will be defending his men's singles title at the Commonwealth Games and is expected to play a big role as



India look to retain the mixed team gold at Birmingham.

He had a stellar run in 2017, securing four super series titles in five finals. It was a rare feat achieved only by the likes of Lee Chong Wei, Lin Dan and Chen Long in a calendar year.

However, the year ended with Srikanth suffering a knee injury during the French Open in November, and he aggravated it at the national championships.

The Andhra Pradesh-born shuttler managed to claim the coveted Commonwealth Games gold at Gold Coast in 2018 and also remained world

number one for a week in April, but then came the slide.

The knee injury and other niggles, especially related to his ankle, affected his performance and he eventually missed out on the Tokyo Olympics after three qualifiers were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With back to back tournaments, sometimes it becomes difficult for a player to recover from an injury."

Srikanth was troubled by his injuries as he rushed himself back from it with the Olympic qualification at stake," Gopichand, the 2001 All England champion, said.

# India rises one place to 3rd in global doping list published by WADA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India continued to be among the top-ranked doping nations in the world as it was placed third in the anti-doping rule violations in 2019.

In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency, 152 (17 per cent of world total) anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs) were reported in India in 2019, with the maximum dope offenders coming from bodybuilding (57).

Among Olympics sports, weightlifting leads the way with 25 ADRVs, followed by athletics (20) and wrestling (10). Boxing and judo have four ADRVs each. Four cricketers were also found to have committed ADRVs in 2019.

An ADRV is reported after a final decision has been rendered and a sanction (a reprimand or period of ineligibility) imposed against the athlete following the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings. A lightweight in global sport, India is only behind Russia (167) and Italy (157), while Brazil (78) is at fourth and Iran (70) fifth. Russia was banned from fielding its national team in Tokyo Olympics for not complying with international anti-doping rules.

The country has gained one place from the previous report of 2018 while it had gone down to seventh in the 2017,



with 57 ADRVs.

In the previous WADA report meant for anti-doping violations in 2018, India was placed fourth with 107 ADRVs, behind Russia (144), Italy (132) and France (114). Weightlifting (22) had produced the highest number of dope offenders in that report also, followed by athletics (16).

A total of 278,047 samples were collected by Anti-Doping Organisations worldwide in 2019, and subsequently, analyzed by WADA-accredited laboratories. Of these samples, 2,701 (1 per cent) were reported as Adverse Analytical Findings.

Based on a compilation of the information received by WADA till January 31, 2021, 1,535 samples (57 per cent) were confirmed as ADRVs (sanctions), the world anti-doping watchdog said.

Among Olympics sports worldwide, athletics leads the number of dope offenders with 227 (18 per cent), followed by weightlifting with 160. Bodybuilding leads overall with 272.

# We are excited and fully prepared for Pro Kabaddi Season 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana Steelers will take on Patna Pirates in their first match of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 on 23 December 2021.

The Haryana Steelers are all in readiness to begin their Pro Kabaddi League campaign as they will go up against Patna Pirates on Thursday.

The Pro Kabaddi, which is returning after two years, will be held in a secure bubble at the Sheraton Grand in Bengaluru.



# Himachal stun UP by five wickets, storm into semifinals

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Himachal Pradesh rode on a stroke-filed 99 by Prashant Chopra as they stunned Uttar Pradesh by five wickets to storm into the semi-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Tuesday.

First, despite a 76 by Rinku Singh, UP could only manage 207/9 as the Himachal bowlers, led by pacer Vinay Galletiya (3/19), ripped apart the opposition line-up.

Then, Chopra's sublime knock, and a quick-fire 58 by Nikhil Gangta saw Himachal chase down the total with 27 balls to spare.

Put into bat at the Sawai Mansingh stadium, UP were reeling at 39/4 as Galletiya (3/19) wreaked havoc on their top-order.

Pacer Siddharth Sharma got the first breakthrough when he trapped

opener Abhishek Goswami (17) in the 8th over.

Hamirpur-born Galletiya pegged back UP further by removing Aryan Juyal (9) and skipper Karan Sharma (0) in the 9th over. It became 39/4 as Galletiya dismissed Sameer Rizvi (5).

Akshdeep Nath (32) and Rinku, who came in at number six, resurrected the innings with a 64-run fifth-wicket stand.

But when it looked like the duo would score big, Siddharth Sharma (2/27) dismissed Nath, as UP lost half their side with just 103 runs on the board.

Rinku hit six boundaries in his 102-ball knock, and along with Bhuvneshwar (46 off 52 balls), added 75 runs for the sixth wicket to give their bowlers something to defend.

Chasing 208, Himachal openers

Shubham Arora (19) and Chopra gave the side a sedate start and added 54 runs for the first wicket in 17.2 overs.

With no scoreboard pressure, the two openers catered towards the target, hitting the odd boundaries.

TN crushes Karnataka to reach Vijay Hazare Trophy semi-finals. Tamil Nadu came up with a superb all-round performance to crush Karnataka by 151 runs to progress to the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy domestic 50-over tournament here on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat by Karnataka captain Manish Pandey, Tamil Nadu first amassed 354 for eight in 50 overs and then dismissed the opposition for 203 inside 40 overs for a massive victory with medium-pacer R Silambarasan picking up four wick-



ets to hasten the slide.

Opening batter N Jagadeesan hammered 102 (101 balls, 9x4s, 1x6) and left-arm spinner R Sai

Kishre, pushed up the order to go after the bowling, smacked 61 (71 balls, 4x4s, 3x6s) before the burly M Shahrukh Khan bludgeoned an

unbeaten 39-ball 79 (7 fours, 6 sixes) to help Tamil Nadu pile up 350-plus score.

That the last four overs yielded 64 runs was an indication of the aggressive mood Shahrukh Khan was in as the Karnataka bowlers bore the brunt in the death overs.

Shahrukh Khan, who has often been underlining his hitting skills and starred in the TN's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph with a last ball six in the final against the same opponent, toyed with the opposition bowling and took 23 runs off the 48th over bowled by Prasad Krishna.

The fact that R Silambarasan scored only one run in a ninth-wicket partnership of 64 with Shahrukh Khan indicated the kind of form the latter was in. The stand took the team to an imposing total which at

one point of time did not look a possibility.

Jagadeesan and Sai Kishore gave the impetus to the Tamil Nadu innings with a superb 147-run partnership for the second wicket which left the Karnataka bowlers searching for answers.

Dinesh Karthik (44, 37 balls, 4x4s, 2x6s) and Baba Indrajith (31, 24 balls, 3x4s) too came up with crucial contributions before Shahrukh Khan took over the onus with his pyrotechnics.

However, skipper Vijay Shankar (3) and Washington Sundar (0) could not make an impact.

Leg-spinner Praveen Dubey finished with 3 for 67 and Prasad Krishna took 2/57 though he proved expensive towards the end. None of the other Karnataka bowlers could contain the opposition batters.