

**OPINION 6**

RESTORE DETERRENCE  
ALONG LAC FOR PEACE

**WORLD 9**

WESTERN NEW YORK HIT BY COLD,  
STORM; DEATH TOLL UPS TO 28

**MONEY 10**

SENSEX, NIFTY RISE FOR 2ND DAY AS  
BANKING, METAL SHARES SHINE

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WARNER SCORES  
200 IN 100TH TEST  
MATCH FOR OZ  
12 SPORT

## Hold local body polls sans OBC quota: HC to UP Govt

Yogi says 'will hold elections only after ensuring quota', UP Govt to move SC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed the State Government's draft notification on urban local body elections and ordered holding the polls without reservation for the OBCs. The verdict passed by a division bench of Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Saurav Lavania annulled the December 5 draft notification issued by the Uttar Pradesh Government providing reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the urban local body elections. The bench ordered the State Election Commission to immediately issue notification for the election. Unfazed by the HC order, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the elections would not be held before the grant of reservation to the OBCs and the State would go to the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court's order for immediate notification of elections, if need be. "The UP Government will

constitute a commission as directed by the Allahabad High Court that will conduct a survey of OBCs as per the Supreme Court guidelines. We will not go for the elections without ensuring reservation for the OBCs. If required, we will go to the Supreme Court against the High Court's order," Yogi said. The verdict comes in the light of PILs challenging the preparation of the OBC reservation draft without following the triple test formula prescribed by the Supreme Court. The petitioners had pleaded that the State Government must follow the apex court formula and constitute a dedicated commission to study the political backwardness of OBCs before fixing the reservation.

## SP, BSP, Congress tear into Yogi Govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress launched a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath Government over the decision of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, which ordered holding the local body polls without reservation for the OBCs. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav slammed the Government and said it was the result of a conspiracy by the BJP Government to deprive the backward classes of reservation. "The Allahabad High Court directing conduct of the urban local body' elections without OBC quota is unfortunate. Relevant facts were deliberately not placed before the bench of the Allahabad High Court by the Uttar Pradesh Government. The OBCs who constitute 60 per cent of the population have been deprived of their constitutional right of reservation," Yadav said on Tuesday. He added that the "BJP manipulated the issue of reservation for

the OBCs only for its political interests." BSP supremo Mayawati tweeted that the State Government had to finalise the process of elections by fixing the system of OBC reservation on the basis of a triple test, following the instructions of the Supreme Court with full devotion and honesty, which didn't happen. "The OBC society will definitely punish the BJP for this mistake," she said. The Backward Classes Department of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee too slammed the Yogi Government, alleging that the present BJP Government is systematically denying the backwards and Dalits their rights in the civic elections. Manoj Yadav, president of the backward classes department of UPCC, said the BJP and the Yogi Government wanted to end reservation. He said that under the guise of the HC order, the BJP was determined to end the reservation system for the deprived communities in the elections.

## No foul play in citizens' death: Russian embassy

Antov, vocal against Putin's Ukraine attack, and his friend, found dead in 2 days in Odisha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



As mystery shrouds the death of two Russian citizens within a span of two days in Odisha at the same hotel, the Russian embassy said here on Tuesday the local police have not found any criminal link in the deaths. This assertion came against the backdrop of reports alleging foul play. The two deceased were identified as Pavel Antov and Vladimir Bidenov. Their post-mortem was conducted on Monday. Authorities and the Russian Embassy are treating it as a suicide case. Antov, a multi-millionaire and elected politician, was reportedly highly critical of President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and called it "terror". "We are in constant contact with the relatives of the deceased as well as with local authorities. As we know, police do not yet see a criminal component in these tragic events," the Russian Embassy said. Antov, 65, was found dead in a pool of blood at a hotel in Odisha's Rayagada district on

Saturday, December 24. Reports say he fell from the terrace of the hotel and died. Antov was in Odisha for his 66th birthday celebrations. He was travelling with 61-year-old Vladimir Bidenov, his associate, and a couple, Mikhail Turov and Natalia Panasenka. They were also accompanied by an Indian tourist guide. Bidenov was found dead in the same hotel just two days before Antov's death. He was found lying unconscious in his room on the first floor of the hotel. As per police, Bidenov died due to a stroke and was cremated. His friend, Antov, was depressed after Vladimir's death and he too died on December 25, the police further said. The police are investigating Pavel's death from all angles, including the possibility that he has fallen from the terrace accidentally. "First tourist was found unconscious, after medical examination he was found dead. Second tourist was mentally disturbed after his friend's cremation, he was found lying on hotel premises. When taken to hospital, he was found dead," the owner of hotel Sai International in Rayagada, where the Russian tourists stayed, told the media. Pavel Antov is not the first high-profile Russian to have died a mysterious and sudden death. In September this year, oil boss Ravil Maganov died after falling to his death from the sixth floor of a hospital in Russia. He was reportedly on antidepressants.

## China ends Covid ban on foreigners' arrival from Jan 8

PTI ■ BEIJING

Days after it faced nationwide anti-government protests against its stringent zero-Covid policy, China in a major shift of its coronavirus response policies has announced that it will scrap quarantine for international travellers from January 8 next year as it reopens its borders and comes out of international isolation after nearly three years. The National Health Commission (NHC) on Monday announced that Covid-19 management will be downgraded from Class A to B from next month, in the same category as less-severe diseases, such as dengue fever.

China will cancel inbound quarantine for international arrivals starting from January 8, 2023, it said. Previously passengers coming from abroad had to mandatorily stay in over two weeks of quarantine in government accommodations, which was gradually reduced to five days with three days' of observation. These announcements come at a time when the country is grappling with a sudden spurt in coronavirus infections fuelled by the Omicron variant after the Xi Jinping regime relaxed its stringent zero-Covid policy earlier this month following a wave of anti-government protests.

## Nationwide mock drills assess Covid combat readiness

IMA, top doctors urge Govt to allow people to take 2nd booster dose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday held Covid response mock drill across the country as part of precautionary measures to check its preparedness to deal with any surge in cases with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya cautioning that the country might witness a spike in cases and there is a need to be on the guard. "It is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness", Mandaviya said after reviewing the Covid response mock drill at the centre-run Safdarjung Hospital here to check its readiness to deal

with any increase in the number of coronavirus cases. "I reviewed the Covid response mock drill at Safdarjung Hospital. This mock drill was necessary to know how prepared our hospitals are," the minister said. "Covid cases are rising all over the world and India might witness a spike in cases too. Hence it is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in terms of equipment, processes and human resources are at a state of operational readiness," he stated. Meanwhile, representatives of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and other top doctors and public health experts on Tuesday urged the Minister to allow people to take their second coronavirus booster doses. The meeting, over a video conference, was called to discuss the preparedness for any possible surges in the outbreak.



Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya speaks with a doctor as a medic collects swab sample of a woman, during a nationwide mock drill for Covid-19 preparedness, at Safdarjung hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday

### CAPSULE

**KOCHHAR, HUSBAND APPROACH BOMBAY HC**  
Mumbai: Former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar on Tuesday approached the Bombay High Court, calling their arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in a loan fraud case illegal.

**7 FRESH MEASLES CASES IN MUMBAI**  
Mumbai: At least seven fresh cases of measles were reported and 15 children hospitalised in Mumbai on Tuesday, an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said.

**GOVT TWEAKS GST RULES FOR TAX CREDIT CLAIM**  
New Delhi: GST taxpayers will be required to reverse by November 30 the input tax credit (ITC) claimed in the last fiscal in case their suppliers fail to deposit the due tax by September 30, the Finance Ministry has said. The taxpayers can claim the ITC later following the deposit of taxes by the supplier. P10

## On rethink, BJP to contest MCD mayor, deputy polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a U-turn on its earlier stand on not contesting the mayoral elections in Delhi, the BJP on Tuesday named Rekha Gupta and Kamal Bagdi as its candidates for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor of the MCD. Gupta is a three-term councillor from Shalimar Bagh, while Bagdi is a first-timer from Ram Nagar. The elections for the post of mayor and deputy mayor will be held on January 6. The BJP has also named Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Gajendra Daral and Pankaj Luthra for the standing committee member posts. The AAP has named Dr Shelly Oberoi and Aaley Mohammad Iqbal for the mayor and deputy mayor posts. The AAP ended the BJP's 15-year-rule in the MCD winning 134 of the 250 wards in the civic body polls earlier this month. The BJP managed to win 104 wards. One indepen-



dent candidate joined the BJP on Monday. The Congress has nine councillors, while there are two independent councillors. The BJP's mayor candidate, Gupta, has been a general secretary and member of the party's national executive. She was the president of the Delhi University Students Union from 1996 to 1997. She has a stronghold in North

## Maha resolution plans to merge Marathi-speaking K'taka villages into State

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Reiterating its stand that it would pursue its litigation in the Supreme Court for inclusion of 865 disputed border villages in the State, the Maharashtra Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to implement the decision taken at the recent joint meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai in New Delhi. In its resolution passed unanimously in the ongoing winter session of the State Legislature in Nagpur, the Maharashtra Assembly expressed its solidarity with the Marathi-speaking people in border areas and asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek an undertaking from the Karnataka Government for the safety of its people living in

the border areas. Condemning the Karnataka Government for its acts of "oppressing and terrorising the Marathi population" and also for its "anti-Marathi" stand in the border areas, the Eknath Shinde Government reiterated its claim for inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking areas in Maharashtra. While moving the resolution on Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "All the necessary efforts would be made in the Supreme Court for inclusion of Belgaum, Karvar, Nipani, Bhalki, Bidar towns and 865 Marathi-speaking villages of Karnataka in Maharashtra under any circumstance." The resolution said, "The Maharashtra Government stands firmly with the Marathi-speaking people in 865 Marathi-speaking villages in the border areas."

## Modi's brother, family injured in road accident near Mysuru

PTI ■ MYSURU



Wrecked remains of the car after an accident in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members were reportedly travelling, in Mysuru on Tuesday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members sustained injuries when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident near here, police said on Tuesday. According to sources, other than the driver, Prahlad Modi, his son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild were in the car. They are said to have suffered some injuries and have been shifted to JSS Hospital for treatment. As per the police, the injuries are said to be "minor" in nature. The incident happened near Kadakola around 1.30 pm when their car, on the way to Bandipur, is said to have hit the road divider. Mysuru Superintendent of Police Seema Latkar has visited the spot and the hospital, sources said. A doctor at the hospital said, "all were stable with minor injuries when they came, they

were immediately attended and are out of danger without any major bleeding. X-rays and CT scans have been done...Only the child has suffered a small fracture on left leg tibia, but it is not major and is being treated." Member of Parliament from Mysuru-Kodagu constituency Pratap Simha, who visited the hospital too, said the family that was on a private visit had sustained "minor" injuries, and the child has suffered a minor fracture, and is undergoing treatment.









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PAPER WITH PASSION

## National parties?

Both the BJP and Congress units in Maharashtra and Karnataka have opposite views on land dispute

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has upped the ante by presenting a resolution on the decades-old border dispute with Karnataka in the state Assembly. It enunciates Maharashtra's resolve to contest the pending case in the Supreme Court with full strength for the inclusion of each and "every inch" of 865 villages including Belgavi, Karwar, Nipani, and Bidar Bhalki. This is reminiscent of the resolution that both houses of our Parliament unanimously adopted on February 22, 1994, stressing that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, and that Pakistan must vacate parts of the state under its occupation. But Pakistan is an enemy nation that has illegally grabbed the territory; in the present instance, both states involved are Indian and following the Indian Constitution. In both states, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which prides itself on its nationalist credentials, is in power. Such a resolution is an affront to national unity. To be fair to Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnis, their Government was apparently responding to an equally deplorable resolution passed by the Karnataka Assembly a few days ago. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai moved the resolution which was unanimously adopted by a voice-vote. "There is no compromise on the matters relating to Karnataka's land, water, language and Kannadiga's interest. The feelings of Karnataka's people and members [of the Assembly] is one of this subject, and if it is affected, we are all committed to unitedly take constitutional and legal measures to protect the interest of the state."



Since both resolutions were unanimously adopted in the respective Assemblies, all parties, including the BJP and the Indian National Congress, consented to their contents. A question arises: where do these national parties stand on the land dispute between the two states? The state units of BJP and Congress Maharashtra believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Maharashtra; similarly, the state units of BJP and Congress Karnataka believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Karnataka. What, pray, do the BJP and the Congress believe — that is, if they believe in anything other than power? For how long can national parties keep pandering to the groups which thrive on sentimentalism, be it region, linguistic, or religious? Governance is a serious business, which must be carried out with reliance on facts, commonsense, and reason; it cannot be allowed to run amok, following the vicissitudes of demagogic politicians. But, unfortunately, that is exactly what seems to be happening. Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is of the view that the Centre should declare "Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra" areas as a Union Territory. Despite the inappropriate description of the dispute areas, his suggestion is worth examining; it can be a UT till the Supreme Court decides over the matter. It is, however, not just the duty of the Centre to sort out the dispute but also of the two national parties.

### PICTALK



Snow-covered Himalayas mountain range after fresh snowfall, seen from Shimla

PTI

## Nature's wrath

Extreme weather is playing havoc in the USA where such a big chill is being witnessed after decades

At least 48 people have already died and thousands of flights have been canceled in the USA due to storms and severe cold conditions which are being touted as one of the biggest chills in decades. The cold is so stark that it is posing danger not only to humans but to entire ecosystem. Though it has been over a week there are no signs of any let-up and it is feared that the worst is yet to come. Buffalo, New York is one of the severest hit areas by the storm which is causing high-speed wind, rains, and snow across the US. According to the forecasts, the extreme cold settling over the US this week will be biting, as a blast of arctic air and strong winds threaten to plunge several regions into subzero temperatures. Roughly 150 million people across the US are facing the frigid conditions, posing life-threatening dangers to anyone without shelter, wrecking havoc on holiday travelers and causing power outages, and blocking supply lines. Since this extreme weather is not normally witnessed in the USA it is not as prepared to face it as Canada where sub-normal temperatures are routine. Govt agencies across the country are urging households to prepare for the worst, with strong winds adding to the possibility of disruption in power supply. People are being advised to keep extra supplies, including blankets, to face any eventuality. This could be life saver.



Ironically, worldwide stark winters are becoming less common. The dramatic and sudden shift in temperatures, can have a profound effect on adaptation, especially for plants, animals, and ecosystem. The extreme weather and storms may be direct consequence of upheaval in climate change, and fall out of human actions and interference. But it's clear that the underlying impacts caused by global heating may make them harder to endure. The abruptness of the drop in temperatures is also expected to impact aquatic life. It may be intriguing to know that such conditions can prevail in warmer climates like ours as some scientists are indicating. What has been the reason for such a sharp decrease in such a short span of time is still being debated but the reason for so many deaths can be attributed to a lack of preparedness and lesser tolerance for extreme cold conditions. This extreme winter is also a reminder that no matter how technically advanced you might be, you cannot beat nature which can take away what it gives. Life!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

**NEW GOVT IN NEPAL**  
Sir — Instability in Nepal for the last few decades has cast an ugly shadow on both its internal and external affairs. The November general election failed to produce a single candidate as no party could claim to form the govt despite Nepali Congress emerging as the single largest party. However, in a dramatic turn of events after weeks of speculation and negotiations were put to rest as former Maoist rebel leader Pushpa Kumar Dahal, Prachanda, is set to become the PM of the Himalayan state. His previous two terms in 2008, 2009 and 2015-16

# Restore deterrence along LAC for peace



ASHOK K MEHTA

A 'Snow Leopard' style operation is needed to dissuade China from doing another Yangtse. The lasting peace can come only through quid pro quo.

Ram Madhav, once a powerful RSS voice who counted in the government, recently remarked that Indian action at Yangtse was only defensive but India is now prepared for China, adding that only Operation Snow Leopard against China was proactive. On the 15,000 feet high Yangtse plateau, the LAC follows Yangtse Ridge, the watershed where Indian border posts are located along a stone wall. Overlooking the plateau are the Yangtse heights which command a towering 360-degree view, especially of Tawang bowl 30 km away extending to Sela Pass where a tunnel is being built. It is one among several disputed areas resulting from the patchy marking of the McMahon Line on an 8-inch map and perhaps the only disputed area in Indian possession. This riles China as it was under its possession for two months in 1962. China's new border law 2022 equates territory with sovereignty and makes recovery of lost territory sacred.



The PLA's attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo at Yangtse is not their first. They've done so regularly since 2016 to assert China's claim over disputed territory. According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, supported by satellite imagery Dec 2022 of Planet Labs, Chinese infrastructure has improved significantly in one year with a road now 150 m short of LAC with new villages coming up close by. China's infrastructure development along LAC has created an 'escalation trap' for India which it tries to compensate for with increased readiness and surveillance to reduce the risk of accidental escalation. On 9 December, the PLA operation started around 3 am in foggy conditions, expecting to overwhelm Indian troops who were forewarned and beat back intruders with clubs and sticks. Through these attempts, says ASPI, China is testing Indian willingness and readiness to resist while eroding the status quo.



INDIA HAS GONE SILENT ON DOKLAM IN BHUTAN WHERE IN 2017, INDIAN TROOPS ALLEGEDLY 'ILLEGALLY' CROSSED LAC INTO CHINESE TERRITORY TO PREVENT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD TO THE DISPUTED TRI-JUNCTION INVOKING ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS WITH BHUTAN

India has gone silent on Doklam in Bhutan where in 2017, Indian troops allegedly 'illegally crossed LAC' into Chinese territory to prevent the construction of a road to the disputed tri-junction invoking its treaty obligations with Bhutan. Following an agreement, the Indian and Chinese disengaged after 73 days. But the Chinese feigned withdrawal and soon returned. According to Planet Lab's, imagery obtained this month Chinese village 9 km east of Doklam at Pangda is inside Bhutan with now a bridge over Torsa Nullah. This will create a new red-line situation for India with Indian troops at Dokla just meters away from PLA at Doklam. India has allowed the Doklam front to reopen as Bhutanese would any day settle their differences with China but for India's security concerns in Chumbi valley.

It is increasingly clear China will neither clarify LAC nor settle the border question. It will repeat its 2020 tricks in East Ladakh in other areas as its infrastructure expands further. After withdrawal from Hot Springs in September, China said it would not accept the status quo of 2020 created by India's 'illegal crossing of LAC'. This fiction China has

used after every clash with Indian troops in shifting the onus of blame to India. High time India paused to rethink its China policy of diplomacy which has hit a cul de sac. PM Modi's handshake at Bali with President Xi Jinping has made little difference. Last week's 17th round of military talks produced a blank with zero progress on friction points Depsang and Demchok. It is the end of Disengagement without any Deescalation.

Madhav is wrong claiming India is prepared for China. Far from it. Deterrence has broken down and military diplomacy has also failed. The government's resolve to keep Parliament in the dark and Modi's reluctance to utter the 'C' word add to the complexity of the LAC dilemma. China is extracting maximum advantage from it. One way to rebuild deterrence is through QPQ (Quid Pro Quo) operations like Snow Leopard. Political will is needed for QPQ but so is a worthy allocation to next year's defence budget to boost deterrence.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY?

Sir — This is in response to Prafull Goradia's article titled "The life & career of Mohammad Ali Jinnah" (December 24). Though it would be unfair to say that the Partition of India was the handiwork of MA Jinnah only, the whole world knows that the Muslim League leader played a pivotal role in that gory episode. Had Pakistan been achieved by taking resort to non-violence dialogues debates and the population of the sub-continent not got adversely affected; perhaps a favorable case could have been made for Jinnah.

But the fact remains that it was Jinnah's call of "Direct Action Day" that provoked the year-long Great Calcutta Killings and resulted in thousands of innocents being butchered to death. Jinnah's dream of Pakistan got fulfilled at the expense of the lives of millions. And those who survived the mayhem found themselves raped, widowed, orphaned, uprooted, and homeless overnight. After achieving his goal, Jinnah acted pious by promising equality for all Pakistanis, irrespective of their religious affiliation! But that rhetoric is not enough to absolve Jinnah of the deadly crime that he had perpetrated against humanity. So painting him as "originally secular" is meaningless in the context of his future deeds.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

**SPORTSPERSONS' CAREERS**  
Sir — Sportspersons' careers often hang on slender threads, waltzing amidst swings in fortunes. None can be a better example of this fact than the two soccer giants - Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, whose contrasting campaigns were the highlights in the recently con-

### A good decision



The decision or initiative of the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who invited Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati and Jayant Singh of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), as per

sources for the unity of the country is a welcome step. A formal letter has been written by the Congress leader but its not received consent from these leaders.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will resume on January 3 from Ghaziabad in UP and it is said that Congress wants all like-minded parties to participate in the Yatra which is already successful in other states with a very large participation of people from all castes, communities, and religions. Earlier, many non-Congress leaders and celebrities including actor and politician Kamal Haasan joined the yatra. It is high time leaders of political parties must join the Yatra irrespective of different ideologies.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

were marred in controversy owing to a political crisis over sharing of power. His decade-long armed struggle from 1996 to 2006 only ended with establishing peace in November 2006 by means of an agreement.

In a nation clouded by political and economic instability where smaller parties role as brokers by siding either with Mr Deoba or Mr Oli, it is no surprise then that its pressing problems like maintaining law and order, fighting corruption, creating jobs, improving economic conditions, providing health and quality education remain as elusive as ever. The new govt has its task cut out. The political changes may not bode well for India as the guerrilla leader's proximity to China and his pro-China stance will pose problems for a healthy relationship.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

**Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai**  
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUNDBITE

He (Vajpayee) was a rare combination of a politician, poet, fearless human being, and sympathetic leader who had no enemies, like Ajatshatru.

Former President — Ram Nath Kovind

I wished (Modi) a successful G20 presidency...now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked (him) for humanitarian aid and support in the UN.

Ukrainian President — Volodymyr Zelensky

... I was coming out of some serious cinema with Uri, Bhoot. As an actor, even I was hungry to explore.

Actor — Vicky Kaushal

I feel honoured to have been assigned this responsibility by the PCB Management Committee and will have no stone unturned in fulfilling this responsibility to the best of my abilities.

Pakistan cricketer — Shahid Afridi

A lot of lies are being spread about Rahul-jii. They should start Rahul Gandhi Troll Ministry and put Smriti Irani as the in-charge. She does not talk about when atrocities are committed against women.

Congress Social Media incharge — Supriya Srinetra

## FIRST COLUMN

## HEALTHY, FIT INDIA IS MUST FOR WELLBEING

Govt is addressing numerous critical health challenges



MONIKA ARORA

Health is the building block for the prosperity of a nation. The Covid-19 has brought the focus back on healthy living and the need for robust health infrastructure, and the Indian government has been quick to respond. Even before the pandemic struck, the government was emphasising on the holistic health and well-being of all.

With programmes like Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush, the government has been addressing numerous critical health challenges and promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Another important but often ignored area for health programming has been women and adolescents. The health of the nation depends on the health of its women, children, and youth but health-seeking data among them in India is less than one per cent as per a study.

Similarly, only a few adolescents (5 per cent young men and 8 per cent young women) are aware of AFHC in India. Health Promotion among adolescents is the need of the hour as their empowerment is crucial to address the looming burden of overweight – obesity and NCDs among adolescents alongside the unfinished agenda of malnutrition and communicable diseases.

POSHAN Abhiyaan is a path-breaking government flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.



CNNS data has highlighted huge overweight-obesity prevalence among 10-19 years in India with five per cent in both girls and boys. Over 17 million children, aged 5-19 years in India are affected by obesity. If left unchecked, these numbers will increase to 27 million by 2030-34. Thus, addressing the food environment to enable healthy choices for children and adolescents is crucial. Findings of a recent study conducted by the PHFI's research team with support from the WHO country office for India in 2021 highlighted that the advertising environment in and around schools is obesogenic, despite government and educational institutes guidelines on restricting the availability and accessibility of HFSS foods.

Another PHFI study conducted a content analysis of food advertisements on popular television channels among children and youth in India. The results revealed that a total of 88.6 per cent of 1735 food advertisements were for HFSS foods and a higher proportion of food advertisements were seen on children's channels (38 per cent) than on youth channels (23 per cent). The study highlighted that the majority (90-95 per cent) of advertisements broadcast on television channels targeting children and youth were of HFSS foods. These studies laid the foundation for designing and initiating the "Let's Fix Our Food" (LFOF) campaign to combat an obesogenic environment for children and youth.

Better adolescent health can only be achieved by meaningfully engaging adolescents in intervention design and implementation. Recently, when multiple stakeholders convened nationally on the issue of addressing obesity among children and adolescents in India, it was noted that adolescents' voices were missing in these academic and scientific debates. It led to the launch of the 'LFOF initiative, which is co-created with adolescents. Under this initiative, their meaningful engagement in creating a healthy food environment in the country and leading to ownership of issues as campaigns are designed and delivered by the youth themselves. It will create health-promoting norms among adolescents, in families, and communities and will also support policies that will enable addressing malnutrition by addressing both ends of malnutrition: obesity and undernutrition. The time is ripe to come together and work towards the nation of our dreams, a healthier and happier India, by bringing all the relevant stakeholders for strengthening awareness and adoption of healthy behaviours around nutrition and physical activity among adolescents.

(The author is Vice-President, Public Health Foundation of India)

## Teachers should play role of friend, parent

A teacher's job is to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life



DR BIJU DHARMAPALAN

There was a time when a teacher was looked upon as a role model by students. Apart from imbibing knowledge, students also copied their teacher's attitude and character in their private life. A teacher is considered as par with God; whatever they deliver is considered divine by the students and the parents. They were the sole provider of knowledge for students. Before the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, corporal punishment by teachers was never considered a punishable act.

There are instances where parents supported the action of the teachers, for they knew that teachers punish students only for their betterment. Situations have changed recently, and parents consider even compelling a student to learn as a grave crime! If a student commits suicide, authorities make the teacher a culprit, and the media also goes against the teachers. A true teacher should act as a guiding light in the life of students, correcting them when they make mistakes and acting as a philosopher to provide tips to manage the travails in life.

But in today's digital era, the public perception of teachers has changed a lot. They are no longer considered a provider of knowledge. For today's generation, Google and YouTube are the knowledge sources. Even a kindergarten child knows how to use these on a laptop and smartphone. Today's children learn to attain every skill through the internet. They learn foreign languages, learn music and other skills easily using apps available on the internet.

Suppose the purpose of a university is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the development of high cognitive skills in the community. In that case, Google can aptly be called a 'Google University'.

In this era of 'Google University', a teacher is considered secondary, mostly to act as an intermediate between humans and machines. For teachers to survive in this new world is challenging, especially for school and college teachers.

Teachers in the earlier generations ranked based on their knowledge in their domain and their attitude. Today if a teacher has to earn respect in the knowledge domain, they need to overpower the 'Google University'. This is a difficult task for many. The attitude of a teacher in the present generation is hard to define. Indian society gives high respect to teachers and the teaching profession. Our tradition considers teachers as par with God, and hence they expect some qualities from a teacher that a student can emulate.

Truthfully speaking, most teachers are just moving with the trends of the society and never try to keep their individuality at the forefront. They try to satisfy the needs of the present generation of students.



IN THIS ERA OF 'GOOGLE UNIVERSITY', A TEACHER IS CONSIDERED SECONDARY, MOSTLY TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN HUMANS AND MACHINES. FOR TEACHERS TO SURVIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD IS CHALLENGING, ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TEACHERS

(The author is a science communicator and academic)

Many of today's teachers try to be friends with students to be in their good books and be among them. Partying with students, dancing with them and being with them on social media are new means of impressing students. There are hardly very few students who expect their teachers to be a knowledge repository.

Everyone in our society, be it students or teachers, has become an attention seeker through social media. Seeking attention is the basic human instinct. Toddler seeks attention from their parents; a student seeks attention from their teachers; a teenager from friends of the opposite sex, a professional from their peers; in every sphere of life and every stratum of society, people have become attention seekers.

The quantum of posts available on various social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or Pixstory is ample proof of this. A teacher being a part of this new digital society is no exception. Teachers dancing with students, partying with students, or even dating students and posting their photos and videos on social media has become a new norm in this new world. Many teachers play appeasement politics with their students for their survival.

Of course, like any other person, a teacher has a professional as well as private life. There is no need to intrude into their private life. That doesn't make sense to have the teacher and student consuming alcohol together or taking a smoke together. There are excellent teachers who have their tempta-

tions like any other person. The authorities should check whether the teacher is doing their profession judiciously.

Even though a good teacher should be a friend to a student, they should know where to draw the line. They should know how to keep a distance from students. Too much closeness to students may be misused by some.

Many institutions have put forth a dress code for teachers, driven mainly by the prevailing traditions in that society. The dress code also gives dignity to the profession and helps demarcate teachers from students. Otherwise, it would be tough to identify a young teacher from a student. Imagine how our army men/women would look without proper uniforms.

The unwritten rules and codes of ethics formulated by society are based on the experience our ancestors gained through their experience. The teachers are dealing with students, who are mostly in the age group of adolescents or teenagers. Their brain is fluid and is driven by the temptations caused by body chemicals. Many times the outward behaviour a student expresses is beyond their control. It's the duty of every teacher not to instigate their physiological status to extremes. In a recent affidavit filed by the Kerala University of Health Sciences at the Kerala High Court, it was stated that "absolute freedom on attaining the age of 18 may not be appropriate and good for the society, and maturation is fully accomplished at the age of 25".

In this digital communication world, a teacher must be more cautious in their attitude and behaviour on social media, as their students are constantly monitoring them. In this era, it is the duty of teachers to teach students how to behave on social media and how to tackle crimes associated with it. They should teach students how to use the internet judiciously.

With the emergence of AI technologies, all creative things like writing, drawing, compositions, etc., where human brains need to be used, can be done using the internet within minutes. In this situation, evaluating a student and developing content for teaching is an arduous task for the teachers.

A teacher's job is not only to complete the syllabus or pass examinations but to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life. A good teacher should play the role of a good student, friend and parent. Only if they consider themselves a student will they be curious to learn more from their domain. Similarly, they should be a good friend to students, listening to their concerns. They should also play the role of parents showing empathy and correcting them when they make mistakes.

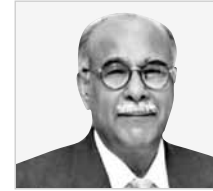
The problem we face in our education system is that we lack teachers who are passionate about the profession. Many have taken up the job either by accident or by peer pressure.

Teaching is a divine profession, and teachers should show divinity by inculcating the spirit gained from our rich heritage.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOU CHANGED THE ENTIRE [PCB] CONSTITUTION TO BRING IN ONE PERSON, NAJAM SETHI, AND TO ADJUST HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

— EX-CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD RAMEEZ RAJA



THE CRICKET REGIME HEADED BY RAMIZ RAJA IS NO MORE. THE 2014 PCB CONSTITUTION STANDS RESTORED. THOUSANDS OF CRICKETERS WILL BE EMPLOYED AGAIN. THE FAMINE IN CRICKET WILL COME TO AN END.

— CHAIRMAN PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD NAJAM SETHI

## Next year will be crucial for India on several counts

Economy, politics and foreign affairs will hog limelight with keen global interests in 2023

What is in store for the year 2023? Will it be good or bad? For the past three years, the world has faced an unprecedented pandemic, Covid-19, which has devastated the globe. Crystal-ball gazers are hoping for a better scenario next year. They expect the economy's health will be restored and hope to resolve the war-like situation in Ukraine.

But the famous French astrologer Nostradamus predicted that in 2023 the Ukraine crisis might lead to a world war. He foretold a temperature rise and heralded the arrival of a new Pope, a civil war in America, civil unrest in the world, and a Mars landing.

The Economist magazine notes the global interlocking challenges, including the war



KALYANI SHANKAR

in Ukraine, food and fuel prices, the fight against inflation, the transition to renewable energy, and China's uncertain post-pandemic path. India might overtake China as the world's most populous country next year. It has the world's largest youth population.

On foreign policy, India will host the prestigious 18th G20 Heads of State and Governments summit on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. As part of the Summit, India will hold more than 200 events spread across major metro cities. Prime Minister Modi plans to showcase himself and India in a grand show to project himself as a world leader ahead of the 2024 polls.

The coronation of King Charles 111 is a colourful

event next year. Politically, for India, the upcoming nine state elections are the most significant in 2023. It will decide the fate of several parties and their leaders, including Congress, the BJP, and other regional parties. The strength of Rahul Gandhi will be tested in these polls after his current Bharat Jodo yatra ends in February.

Nine states will go to polls over the next 12 months. They are—Meghalaya, Tripura, and Nagaland in February; Karnataka in May; Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, and Rajasthan in November. The government might also hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The results will be a precursor for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Who wins and

who loses will impact the electorate and the workers' morale.

The ruling BJP is making all efforts to expand its base. For the Opposition, it is vital to ensure that non-BJP parties win to stop the BJP juggernaut. There is a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. In Karnataka, there will be a triangular contest between BJP, Congress, and JDS. In Telangana, a triangular fight will be between TRS, Congress, and BJP. In Tripura, too, there will be a triangular fight between the BJP, the Congress, and the Left Front.

Of these, the BJP rules Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Both are critical for Congress and the BJP. And so are Chhattisgarh and

Rajasthan, the only two states Congress currently holds. The BJP wants to wrest Telangana from chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who fancies himself as the challenger to Modi. Confident because his party has maintained over 40 per cent vote share, establishing its formidable position in Telangana, KCR wants to perform a hat trick. Though he has finished the Congress and Telugu Desam, to his dismay, the BJP has emerged as the main opposition party in the space vacated.

The immediate focus is on Karnataka. The BJP has high stakes as that is the only state the BJP is ruling in the south. The Congress-JD(S) combine has a chance to wrest the government from the BJP.

Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Mizoram are poll bound in the Northeast. The BJP currently rules Tripura. In Meghalaya and Nagaland, the BJP-backed governments are in power. The Mizo National Front government is ruling in Mizoram. The once pre-eminent Congress is almost finished now.

Will Congress revive its strength? Will Rahul Gandhi emerge stronger? The Himachal Pradesh win this month has boosted the morale of the Congress. It has allowed a chance for Congress to unite the Opposition.

The opposition parties have realised that Modi will get a third term unless they combine. They will decide on the prime ministerial candi-

date only after the polls. There are at least half a dozen contenders, mostly the egoistic regional satraps like Mamata Banerjee, KCR, and Arvind Kejriwal.

The return of covid with a new variant is a new threat. India managed to contain the pandemic by vaccinating a billion plus people. Still, the government should be on guard against any new variants.

On the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1. Inflation and price rise are two critical issues. The World Bank expects India's GDP growth to be better than expected, but inflation would stay above 7 per cent.

Overall, 2023 might bring us better prospects in most spheres.





# Western New York hit by cold, storm; death toll ups to 28

**AP ■ BUFFALO**  
Buffalo residents hovered around space heaters, hunted for cars buried in snow drifts and looked for more victims Monday, after 28 people died in one of the worst weather-related disasters ever to hit western New York.  
The rest of the United States also was reeling from the ferocious winter storm, with at least another two dozen deaths reported in other parts of the country.  
Up to 9 more inches of snow (23 centimeters) could fall in some areas of western New York through Tuesday, the National Weather Service said. "This is not the end yet," said Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, calling the blizzard "the worst storm probably in our lifetime," even for an area accustomed to punishing snow.  
Some people, he noted, were stranded in their cars for more than two days.  
President Joe Biden said his prayers were with the victims' families, and offered federal assistance Monday to the hard-hit state.  
Those who lost their lives around Buffalo were found in cars, homes and snowbanks.

Some died while shovelling snow, others when emergency crews could not respond in time to medical crises.  
Melissa Carrick, a doula, said the blizzard forced her to coach a pregnant client through childbirth by telephone. An ambulance crew transported the woman to a hospital about 45 minutes south of Buffalo because none of the closer hospitals were reachable.  
"In any other normal Buffalo storm? I would just go because that's what you do — just drive through the snow," she said. "But you knew this was different."  
Scientists say the climate change crisis may have contributed to the intensity of the storm. That's because the atmosphere can carry more water vapour, which acts as fuel, said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder.  
Victor Gensini, a meteorology professor at Northern Illinois University, likened a single weather event to an "at-bat" — and the climate as your "batting average."  
"It's hard to say," Serreze said. "But are the dice a little bit loaded now? Absolutely."



Utility trucks line up in Buffalo, N.Y., where thousands remain without power after blizzard conditions on Monday. AP | PTI

The blizzard roared across western New York Friday and Saturday. With many grocery stores in the Buffalo area closed and driving bans in place, some people pleaded on social media for donations of food and diapers.  
"It was like looking at a white wall for 14 to 18 hours straight," Poloncarz, the county official, said.  
Relief is coming later this week, as forecasts call for temperatures to slowly rise, said Ashtun Robinson Cook, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.  
Cook said the bomb cyclone — when atmospheric pressure drops very quickly in

all totals are not far off from the 242 centimeters the area normally sees in an entire winter season.  
The National Weather Service said the snow total at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport stood at 1.25 metres at 10 am Monday. Officials say the airport will be shut through Wednesday morning.  
Shahida Muhammad told WKBW that an outage knocked out power to her 1-year-old son's ventilator. She and the child's father manually administered breaths from Friday until Sunday when rescuers saw her desperate social media posts and came to their aid.  
In a makeshift hut in her living room, Trisha LoGrasso was still huddled around a space heater Monday with three of her children and her eldest daughter's boyfriend. The temperature inside her Buffalo home was 5.5 degrees Celsius. She was without heat because of a gas leak, and burst pipes left her with no running water.  
"I've lived here my whole life, and this is the worst storm I've ever seen," the 48-year-old said. Melissa Osmon and her husband James were without

power for more than 72 hours in the Buffalo suburb of Williamsville, and would retreat to their car to stay warm for hours at a time.  
"We even watched the Buffalo Bills game on our phone," Osmon said, speaking by phone from her GMC Acadia. "You can see your breath inside the house," she said. "That's how cold it is."  
The storm knocked out power in communities from Maine to Seattle.  
Storm-related deaths were reported practically nationwide, including at least eight killed in crashes in Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky. A woman fell through Wisconsin river ice, and there was a fatal fire at a Kansas homeless persons camp.  
In Jackson, Mississippi, crews struggled Monday to get water through the capital city's beleaguered water system, authorities said. Many areas had no water or low water pressure. On Christmas Day, residents were told to boil their drinking water due to water lines bursting in the frigid temperatures.  
"The issue has to be significant leaks in the system that we have yet to identify," the city said in a statement Monday.

# More Rohingya refugees reach Indonesia after weeks at sea

**AP ■ PIDIE**  
A second group in two days of weak and exhausted Rohingya Muslims landed on a beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Monday after weeks at sea, officials said.  
At least 185 men, women and children disembarked from a rickety wooden boat at dusk on Ujong Pie beach at Muara Tiga, a coastal village in Aceh's Pidie district, said local police chief Fauzi, who goes by a single name.  
"They are very weak because of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea," Fauzi said. They were taken to the village hall and will stay there while they receive help

from residents, health workers and others. Fauzi said that immigration officials and police were trying to identify the refugee to determine if they were from the group of 190 Rohingya who were reported by United Nations to be drifting in a small boat in the Andaman Sea for a month.  
The UNHCR on Friday urged countries to rescue the refugees, saying reports indicated they were in dire condition with insufficient food or water.  
"Many are women and children, with reports of up to 20 people dying on the unseaworthy vessel during the journey," the agency said.  
Also on Friday, another group of 58 Rohingya — all



Indonesian soldiers help ethnic Rohingya women and children to step out of a military truck upon arrival at a temporary shelter after their boat landed in Pidie, Aceh province, Indonesia on Monday. AP | PTI

men — arrived in Ladong village in Aceh Besar district.  
Azharul Husna, who heads the Aceh branch of KontraS, an Indonesian rights group, said Monday that the men in the group all carried UNHCR cards from refugee camps in Bangladesh and had left in search of a better life in Malaysia.  
Citing one of them, Husna said the 58 refugees left Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, where more than 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar had fled, to work on plantations in Malaysia. Their boat was damaged and the engine failed, leaving them drifting at sea until they came ashore in Aceh.  
Since 2017, Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and burning of thousands of homes belonging to Rohingya.

# Foreign firms happy as China ends quarantine

**AP ■ BEIJING**  
Foreign companies welcomed China's decision to end quarantines for travellers from abroad as an important step to revive slumping business activity while Japan on Tuesday joined India in announcing restrictions on visitors from the country as infections surge.  
The ruling Communist Party's abrupt decision to lift some of the world's strictest anti-virus controls comes as it tries reverse an economic downturn. It has ended curbs that confined millions of people to their homes and sparked protests, but hospitals have been flooded with feverish, wheezing patients as the virus spreads.  
The announcement late Monday that quarantines for travellers from abroad will end Jan. 8 is the biggest step toward ending limits that have kept



most foreign visitors out of China since early 2020. Quarantines were reduced last month from seven days to five.  
Also Monday, the government downgraded the official seriousness of Covid-19 and dropped a requirement for people with the virus to be quarantined. That added to a rapid drumbeat of steps to dismantle controls that had been expected to stay in place at least through mid-2023.  
"It finally feels like China has turned the corner," the chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, Colm Rafferty, said in a statement. He said ending the quarantine "clears the way for resumption of normal business travel." Business groups have warned companies were shifting investment away from China because foreign executives were blocked from visiting.  
The American chamber said more than 70% of companies that responded to a poll this month expect the impact of

the latest wave of outbreaks to last no more than three months, ending in early 2023.  
The British Chamber of Commerce expressed hope China will restart normal processing of business visas to allow "resumption of crucial people to people exchanges." It said that will "contribute to restoring optimism and reinstating China as a priority investment destination."  
The move "will potentially boost business confidence," but companies are likely to "wait to see how the situation on the ground evolves" before making long-term decisions, the European Chamber of Commerce in China said in a statement.  
Meanwhile, Japan announced visitors from China will undergo virus tests starting Friday as a "temporary emergency measure."

# UN agency probes origin of Rohingya refugees in Indonesia

**AP ■ PIDIE**  
A United Nations agency is seeking information about the voyage of over 100 Rohingya Muslim refugees who landed on an Indonesian beach this week, and warned Tuesday that there will likely be more.  
A distressing video circulated widely in social media showed the dehydrated and exhausted Rohingya, crumpled weakly and emaciated, many crying for help.  
At least 185 men, women and children disembarked from a rickety wooden boat Monday at dusk on Ujong Pie beach at Muara Tiga, a coastal village in Aceh's Pidie district, said local police chief Fauzi, who goes by a single name.  
"They are very weak because of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea," Fauzi said.  
Muhammad Rafki Syukri, the Protection Associate at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

said the agency would provide Rohingya language translators and counselling to determine if they were from the group of 190 Rohingya who were reported by United Nations to be drifting in a small boat in the Andaman Sea for a month.  
"With prolonged-conflict and insecure situations in their country of origin, it is possible that the movement of refugees to find safe places will continue to grow," he said.  
Chris Lewa, the director of the Arakan Project, which works in support of Myanmar's Rohingya, confirmed Tuesday that the boat that landed Monday on Ujong Pie beach was from the group of 190 Rohingya. But Syukri said the UNHCR could not verify that information and was still coordinating with governments in the region.  
"But we will continue to search for further information to ensure the actual data," Syukri told reporters on Tuesday while visiting the Rohingya refugees.

# Israeli air force veterans say incoming government a danger

Israeli doctors reject Netanyahu ally's anti-LGBTQ remarks  
**AP ■ JERUSALEM**  
Israel's largest medical centre and healthcare workers from hospitals around the country have spoken out against remarks by allies of Benjamin Netanyahu calling for a law to allow discrimination against LGBTQ people in hospitals and businesses.  
It was part of a broader backlash against remarks made this week by Religious Zionism politicians calling for legal discrimination against LGBTQ people.  
Netanyahu's new government — the most religious and hard-line in Israel's history — is made up of ultra-Orthodox parties, an ultranationalist religious faction, and his Likud party. It is to be sworn in on Thursday.  
Nun, a former commander of the air force and Amos Yadlin, a former head of military intelligence.  
All three are former fighter pilots. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ultra-Orthodox and far-right partners captured a parliamentary majority in Nov. 1 elections.



AP ■ JERUSALEM

# Japan PM sacks 4th minister to patch up scandal-hit Cabinet

**AP ■ TOKYO**  
Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday dismissed his fourth minister in two months to patch a scandal-tainted Cabinet that has raised questions over his judgment of staff credentials.  
Kenya Akiba, minister in charge of reconstruction of Fukushima and other disaster-hit areas, has faced allegations of mishandling political and election funds and of having murky ties to the Unification Church, whose cozy political ties and practices surrounding followers' huge donations have

raised controversy.  
"I have made a heavy decision and submitted my resignation," Akiba told reporters after meeting with Kishida. He repeated that he has never violated any law in relation to the issues for which he has been criticised.  
Kishida tapped former reconstruction minister Hiromichi Watanabe as a replacement. Watanabe's appointment was to be official after a palace ceremony.  
Akiba's dismissal was seen as Kishida's attempt to remove an administration's soft spot.

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Akiba's dismissal was seen as Kishida's attempt to remove an administration's soft spot.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Rashmi Kaushik, owner of the property situated at Plot No. 1220 on G.F in G.T.B. Enclave, Nand Nagri, Ilaga, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Relinquishment Deed Dated 04.07.2018, Initially Ravi Parkash Kaushik was the Owner of said property by virtue of Conveyance Deed executed by POI registered vide Doc No. 588 / and after the death of said Ravi Parkash Kaushik, the legal heirs of late Ravi Parkash Kaushik had executed a relinquishment deed same is registered vide Doc No. 3950 SR IV A / Shahdara in favour of Rashmi Kaushik and Said Rashmi Kaushik has agreed to sell the said Property to Naveen Kumar & Chanchal Upadhyay and Said Naveen Kumar & Chanchal Upadhyay has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD., Rajendra Place Branch, New Delhi.  
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise, however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan on the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.  
Vishal Diwan (Advocate)  
For Diwan and Company LLP  
Advocates and Solicitors  
House No. 2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi - 19  
Phone/Fax No. 9818269922  
Mobile No. 9818269922

### Public Notice

BIHAR BANDHU CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD  
Flat No. 3, Pocket-5, DDA Flats, Sector-12 Dwarka, New Delhi-110075  
In accordance with rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that the 2 members of the Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd. have resigned from the society and they have been paid their share money & contributions. The names of resigned member are  
1. Sh. Mahesh Chandra Pant (M. No. 129) and  
2. Smt. Anshu Sharma (M. No. 237).  
If anyone who is having objections, may lodge objections at the society office, which is located at Flat No. 3, Pocket-5, DDA Flats, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78, or at the RCS office, Parliament Street, New Delhi within 7 days from the date of publication of the public notice.  
Secretary - Bihar Bandhu CGHS Ltd.

### OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

GHINGARIKHAL, RANIKHET, DISTT- ALMORA 283645  
Letter No. : 3052/Nivda/247 E-Tender Notice  
Date: 26-12-2022

- Name of the work: CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSE SURFACE PARKING AT MAJKHALI, DISTRICT-ALMORA.
- Estimated Cost: Rs. 48.81 Lakh
- Period of Completion: 6 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27-12-2022 (17.00hrs)
- Online Bid submission: End date: -16-01-2023 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening: -18-01-2023 (11.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place: 30-12-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
- 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)

PROJECT MANAGER

### PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identification Number(CIN):U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in) e-tendering portal: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Contact No: 96461-19383, 96461-11036

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-243/PO-C Date: 27.12.2022  
Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multi-storey Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender for procurement of 15.3 MT ISI Marked Polypropylene yellow coloured rope, 3 strand, Hawser Laid, conforming to IS:5175-1992 (with latest amendments) and PSPCL Specification QQ-243 for 10mm, 16mm & 20mm sizes.  
For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.01.2023 at 11:00 PM onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
C 490/22 PR-Advr. No.-76155/12/1308/2022/202022

### UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharanji Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-2276388 Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2010SGC025866 Website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

RO No. 961 Tender Notice Date: 27.12.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Dhakrani invites Tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
Tender No.08/EE(Test)/DKN/2022-23  
Name of work: Supply, Installation, and Testing & Commissioning of 48 Volt /20 Amp. Float and float cum boost charger and 48 V/100AH Plant's Battery Bank for Kulhal Powerhouse.  
Estimated cost: Rs. 13.00 Lakh (GST extra)  
Date of Availability of bid document on website: 27.12.2022  
Last date for submission of bids: 18.01.2023 up to 16:00 hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com). The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com).  
Executive Engineer (Test), Dhakrani  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"





