**OPINION 6** 

**WORLD 8** 

**SOARING INFECTIONS** 

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BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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# Omicron cases soar to 107 in India

Delhi reports 10 new cases, Maha 8; Govt warns against non-essential travel

PNS NEW DELHI

The Omicron variant of the Tocomavirus is "spreading rapidly" with 11 States reporting altogether 107 cases. The Health Ministry has warned that 19 districts were at high risk of a surge in Covid-19 cases. The national Capital reported ten more Omicron cases on Friday, taking its tally to 20.

The Ministry also urged people to avoid non-essential travel and stay away from large crowds and gatherings. The Ministry's caution comes in the wake of approaching Christmas and New Year celebrations. Globally the variant has been detected in 91 countries.

The Ministry also pointed out that the districts with over 5 per cent Covid positivity rate will have to mandatorily ensure that restrictive measures were followed for at least two weeks unless the rate comes down below 5 per cent.

Delhi Health Minister Satvendar Jain said 10 new cases of the new Covid variant Omicron have been detected in the national Capital, taking the tally to 20. Ten of these patients have been discharged,

The Minister said 10 out of the 40 samples sent for genome



of the viral disease, in Noida on Friday

sequencing tested positive for from Mumbai and the twin the new variant. The Minister had on Thursday said many international travellers are turning out Covid positive upon arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Maharashtra on Friday recorded eight more Omicron cases, taking the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases in the State to 40. A report released by the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV) said that of the eight news cases, six cases were from Pune, while one case each

townships of Dombivli-Kalyan in the neighbouring Thane district. Of the total 40 Omicron cases recorded so far, Mumbai accounted for 14, followed by Pimpri-Chinchwad where 10 cases have been found. There are in all six cases in Pune, while Kalyan-Dombivali and Osmanabad have recorded two cases each. Latur, Buldhana, Nagpuir and Vasai-Virar have registered one

case each. Warning against lowering the guard in the wake of Omicron transmission, ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava told reporters that "this is the time to avoid non-essential travel, mass gatherings and it is very important to observe lowintensity festivities."

Maharashtra — the worsthit Covid State — has recorded the maximum number of Omicron cases — 40, followed by Delhi (20), Rajasthan (17), Karnataka (8), Telangana (8) Gujarat (5), Kerala (5), Andhra Pradesh (1), Chandigarh (1), Tamil Nadu (1) and West

Citing the WHO warning on the fast transmission of the new mutated variant, Health Ministry Joint Secretary Lav Agarwal said that it's likely that Omicron will outpace Delta variant where community. variant where community transmission occurs.

"There is no evidence to suggest that vaccines are not effective against Omicron variant of coronavirus," he added and assured that sufficient systematic and strategic sampling is being undertaken for genome sequencing for detection of Omicron cases in India.

On Covid front, the official said, "Maharashtra continues to account for more than 55% of the total active cases. A total of 99,763 active cases were recorded across the country as of December 2. Around 15 districts across the country have more than 10% positivity rate, whereas 18 districts have positivity ranging between 5-10%. These are still a matter of concern for us, we are continuously in talks with those States."

The case positivity for the last one week is 0.65 per cent. Currently, Kerala contributes 40.31 per cent to the total number of active cases in the country, he pointed out. Agarwal further said that daily cases in India have stayed below 10,000 for the past 20 days, while the positivity rate has been recorded at 0.65% for the past 1 week.

Dr Bhargava said that we have been discussing anti-viral Covid-19 pills and added that we have found that these pills need to be given very early,

Maha for delay in aid to kin of Covid preys

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday pulled up the Kerala, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra Governments over delays in compensating the families of those who died because of Covid-19. The court also issued notice to the Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, and Delhi Governments, seeking

additional data on the subject.

Justice MR Shah and
Justice BV Nagarathna
slammed the "sorry state of affairs" in Kerala, and said, "As a welfare state it is their duty to pay compensation to people who have already suffered.'

In October, the court approved the payment of ₹50,000 to the families of those who died due to Covid; this was to be paid over amounts paid by centre and state under various schemes.

even before the diagnosis of the disease. "Scientific data is still not supported in a big way that the pills will be useful at the moment," he added.

On Covid-19 vaccination, Agarwal said, "India is administering Covid-19 vaccine doses at the highest rate in the world and the daily rate of doses administered is 4.8 times the rate of doses administered in the USA and 12.5 times the rate of doses administered in the United Kingdom.

## Capt, BJP stitch alliance after 7 rounds of talks

#### **Seat sharing to be** announced at 'an appropriate time'

MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

Former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh will fight the great electoral battle of Punjab against the army he once headed with the help of his erstwhile foes.

Completely reversing the previous election's scenario, Capt Amarinder and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday sealed the alliance, while leaving the decision on seatsharing to be announced at "an appropriate time".

It took "seven rounds of

talks" between Capt Amarinder and the several leaders of the saffron brigade to seal this deal. Rajya Sabha member and an Akali stalwart Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's party — Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Sanyukta — is likely to join the Sanyukta — is likely to join the evolving alliance between the BJP and Capt Amarinder's new outfit — the Punjab Lok Congress (PLC).

Speculated ever since he quit the Congress the previous month, Capt Amarinder, along with Union Minister and Punjab BJP affairs' in-charge Continued on Page 2 | Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,



announced the decision in New Delhi after their meeting. "We had met in Chandigarh earlier... Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) and our president (JP) Nadda have also given indications regarding this. So today, we can say we (the BJP and Capt Amarinder) will fight Punjab polls together... About the remaining issue and seat shar-

appropriate time," said Shekhawat after the meeting. Capt Amarinder, accompanied by his son Raninder Singh and close aide Bharat Inder Singh Chahal, said talks regarding the alliance have been going on "for many days".

ing, we will convey this at an

Today, our alliance is confirmed. Only seat-sharing talks are going on...We are all prepared, and 100 per cent, we will win," he said.

Continued on Page 2

## NBCC fined ₹1 cr for violating construction ban order in Delhi

I imposed a penalty of ₹1 cr on the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), a public sector company, for violating the con-

struction ban in the city. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday also ordered the sealing of one of the NBCC construction sites for operating in the night and violating the Supreme Court's

anti-pollution norms. Addressing the media, the Minister said, "NBCC was recently caught trying to covertly continue construction activities in pitch-black darkness at night at its Netaji Nagar site. The same site had previously been inspected by the DPCC on December 3, when a notice was issued and fine of ₹5 lakh was imposed on the NBCC. Despite this, the agency was found to be repeatedly violating the ban, and hence a fine of ₹1 crore has been imposed

The Government has set up 11 night patrol squads to struction and demolition

Meanwhile. Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas on Friday said the restriction on construction and demolition will continue in Delhi-National Capital Region.

#### Schools above Class 6 allowed to conduct physical class

New Delhi: Considering that children are out of school for about two years leading to frustration among them with serious adverse effect on their studies, the central air quality panel on Friday allowed authorities in Delhi-NCR to resume physical classes for students in classes 6 and above, colleges and other educational institutions with immediate

## China's stance in Indo-Pacific a concern: French Def Min

PNS NEW DELH

 $F_{\text{concern over growing}}^{\text{rance on Friday expressed}}$  aggressive stance of China in the Indo-Pacific region and the the need for ensuring freedom of navigation and adherence to international maritime rules.

Making this point here, visiting French Defence Minister Florence Parly also said France and India continue to face the threat of terror attacks and the challenge of terrorism has to be dealt with in

a comprehensive manner. She made these observations during a seminar organised by a think tank before her high profile talks with Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh. Her remarks about Indo Pacific came against the backdrop of India, the US, Japan Australia forging an alliance (Quad) and holding a series of naval exercises in the region in the last one year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first inperson meeting of heads of the Quad nations in the US two months back.

Also, Australia, the US and



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his French counterpart Florence Parly at National War Memorial during the latter's visit to India, in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri I Pionee

the UK formed a coalition — AUKUS — some time back to safeguard their interests in the region. This alliance did not go down well with France.

Noting that China is a major country and there are areas, including in fighting against climate change, where cooperation can be envisaged, she said, "China is also a partner for trade and commerce but we see that China is getting more and more aggressive in the region, and it is even more

specific when it comes to the (South) China Sea," she said. "France and, if I may, India share the same views on something which is key -- I mean the international maritime law, the freedom of navigation is not only a principal concept. This is among the set of rules we comply with, but is also something which puts at risk the freedom (of) navigation and

trade," Parly said. 'We see that sometimes there are attempts to close this (South) China Sea and we want to make sure that this freedom of navigation is respected," the French Defence Minister noted.

Continued on Page 2

## **Jolt for Didi as SC stays Bengal Govt panel's probe into Pegasus**

PNS NEW DELHI/KOLKATTA

In a setback to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the probe tions of surveillance by using Pegasus software.

The Bengal Government has set up a commission under (retd) Madan B Justice Lokur to probe the scandal. The former chief justice of Calcutta High Court Jyotirmay Bhattacharya was a member of the commission of inquiry.

A bench comprising Ćhief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli took note of the plea that despite the assurance of the West Bengal Government that the Lokur panel would not proceed with the inquiry, the commission has commenced its

The apex court on October 27 had appointed a threemember panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of certain people in India, saying every citizen needs protection against privacy violation and mere invo-



cation of national security by the State does not render the

court a mute spectator. The SC on Friday also allowed petitioner NGO Global Village Foundation to make the Justice Lokur Commission a party in the proceedings. The NGO had opposed the parallel probe by the Lokur Commission.

While constituting the probe panel, Mamata had launched an all-out attack on the BJP Government for putting Opposition parties and their leaders, including herself, under surveillance.

"It is very dangerous that the Opposition parties and those who do not support this Government's policies should be put under surveillance like this ... do you call it a democracy ... I have put plastered the the camera of my phone out of fear and have been speaking to my advisers in person and not over the phone ... I have also advised Ministers and other key people to maintain extreme privacy in such cases," the CM had said. She also alleged that her election adviser Prashant Kishore too had been put under surveillance.

#### on them." **CAPSULE**

COLD WAVE LIKELY TO HIT N INDIA IN 5 DAYS: IMD New Delhi: Cold wave to severe

cold wave conditions are likely over Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, parts of Gujarat and north Rajasthan over the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday

#### **US APPROVES IMPORT BAN FROM CHINA**

**Washington:** US Senators gave final congressional approval Thursday to a Bill barring imports from China's Xiniiano region unless businesses can prove they were produced without forced labour.

#### 1 DIES AS 43 JUMBOS RAID C'GARH VILLAGE Korba: A 71-year-old woman

was trampled to death when a herd of 43 marauding wild elephants raided a village in Chhattisgarh's Korba district on Friday, officials said

## Amazon's approval to acquire stakes in Future Coupons suspended

#### CCI slaps ₹202 crore as penalty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant development, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Friday suspended its more than two-year-old approval for Amazon's deal to acquire stake in Future Coupons Pvt Ltd and also imposed a ₹202 crore penalty on the e-commerce major for certain contraven-

This comes amid a bitter legal battle between Amazon and Future Group over the latter's proposed ₹24,713 croredeal with Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL). Against this backdrop, Future Ğroup had complained to the CCI.

In a 57-page order, the regulator said the approval for imposed on Amazon.



the Amazon-Future Coupons deal "shall remain in abevance". Citing certain contraven-

tions, CCI said those have arisen "from a deliberate design on the part of Amazon to suppress the actual scope and purpose of the combination" and that it finds no mitigating factor. Consequently, fines totalling ₹2 crore have been

For failure to notify the combination in the requisite terms, the watchdog has also

The parties involved in the combination Amazon.Com NV Investment Holdings LLC (Amazon) — a subsidiary direct Amazon.Com Inc Future Coupons.

slapped a penalty of ₹ 200

order passed by the Competition Commission of India, and will decide on next steps in due course," an Amazon spokesperson said in a statement.

While approving the deal in November 2019, CCI had also mentioned the order shall stand revoked if, at any time, the information provided by the acquirer was found to be

"This approval should not be construed as immunity in any manner from subsequent proceedings before the Commission for violations of other provisions of the (Competition) Act," it had said.

On November 29, the Supreme Court gave two more weeks' time to Amazon to appear and argue before the CCI which had declined adjournment of hearing in a investor in Future Coupons.

"We are reviewing the case related to revocation of approval given to the e-retailer for the deal with Future Coupons. În August 2019, Amazon

had agreed to purchase 49 per cent in unlisted Future Coupons, which owns 7.3 per cent equity in listed Future Retail through convertible warrants, with the right to buy into the flagship Future Retail after a period of 3 to 10 years. In August 2020, RRVL said

it will acquire the retail and wholesale business, and the logistics and warehousing business of Future Group for ₹24,713 crore. The scheme of arrangement entails the consolidation of Future Group's retail and wholesale assets into one entity Future Enterprises Ltd and then transferring it to Reliance Retail. The deal has been contested by Amazon, an

## **N Koreans banned from** laughing for 10 days!

Pyongyang: To mark the 10th anniversary of the death of former Supreme Leader Kim Jong Il, North Korea banned its citizens from laughing for 10 days from December 17 to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. This year, the mourning

period has been extended to 11 days as this is the 10th death anniversary. Generally, a 10day mourning period is observed every year.

The ban on laughing is among several restrictions imposed on North Koreans to mark the occasion. North Koreans have been banned from drinking alcohol, laughing, shopping for groceries, or engaging in leisure activities, a resident of the border city of Sinuiju told Radio Free Asia.



Jong II on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang,

North Korea Thursday on the occasion of 10th anniversary of demise of Kim Despite massive economic shocks caused by draconian anti-virus measures and longdormant diplomacy with the

United States, North Korea shows no signs of political instability. Continued on Page 2

## 'Recognise Paika Bidroha as 1st Independence war'

#### State Govt urges Centre again Paikas hold rally in Khordha

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $F_{
m ollowing\ a\ resolution}$ adopted by the State Assembly, Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi has written a letter to his counterpart at the Centre G Kishan Reddy to consider the Paika Bidroha as the first war of Indian Independence.

Referring to the Chief Minister's earlier letter, Panigrahi said the rebellion of 1817 took place 40 years before the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, which is currently known as the First Indian War of Independence.

The connecting threads that link the entire journey of Indian Independence move-



and catalyst in shaping

people's movement of resis-

tance, which ultimately led to

the Indian Independence

movement. It cannot be

called a war of resistance be-

cause it was a complete war of

Independence against British

ment cannot miss the visible impact of Paika Rebellion both in form and content. It was a rebellion in which all sections of the society, Paikas, Zamindars, Malangis (manufactures of salt), ordinary peasants and tribals (Kondhs, Chohars) participated, Panigrahi informed in the letter.

"The Paika Rebellion played the role of a torchbearer

A resolution in this context has been adopted unanimously in the State Assembly on December 7, 2021 to recommend the Government of India to consider the proposal positively.

Therefore, Panigrahi requested the Union Minister

busted after

encounter

Maoist camp was

busted following an encoun-

ter with the Red rebels at

Jholaparha under the Sinapali

police station in Nuapada dis-

trict on Friday.

In Nuapada

Maoist

camp

once again to consider the proposal expeditiously in order to encourage and keep patriotism in the mind of the people of Odisha and the upcoming generations to come.

Meanwhile, hundreds of members of the Odisha Bira Mahasangha took out a procession from the Barunei foothills and then went through Khordha town on Friday demanding the first war of Independence status to the Paika Rebellion and free land for a Paika Bidroha memorial.

Many Paikas from differ-

ent parts of the State congregated under the banner of the Mahasangha and demonstrated various martial art skills at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar. Later at a meeting, Mahasangha general secretary Dillip Srichandan said an agitation would be launched soon if land is not provided for a Paika memorial at Barunei.

## Premiere of Odia film 'Bishwaas...' held

BHUBANESWAR

The grand premiere of much awaited new Odia film BISHWASS-The Light over Darkness' under the banner of Sudhanya Creatives was held on Thursday at Cinepolis, Bhubaneswar.

The eclectic story is based on the supernatural elements of belief and make-belief, hypnotic spells prevalent across religion, culture, traditions, taboos and societies worldwide. The film is based on the life of a girl Pallavi; the central character and the protagonist of the social drama played by an amazing new comer, debutante Sahil Mishra (Guddi). Director Chinmay Das Pattanayak has composed the story board, screen-play, dialogue and lyrics in harmony and shot them in various enchanting locations of Odisha and in the natural bounties of Mayurbhanj, Puri, and



Bhubaneswar; with its lilting

toe-tapping songs. The potential voices of Pandit Shiba Prasad Ratha, Ira Mohanty and Bishnu Mohan Kabi and contribution of the Music Director Santanu Satpathy have been amazing. The creative head Bibhudatta Panigrahi, chief assistant Sudharanjan Mallick and Aasish Behera etc have garlanded the film magically. Producer Dr Bibekananda Panigrahi, a great litterateur and film lover believes the strong concept and the philosophy of music which act as an emotive key for social change by influencing the

All the artists and casts, male and female actors have made their debut in the film but maintained with the audio vibrations. The selected male castes include Sujay Mohanty, Arun Mohanta, Dr Biswajit Das, Tapas Panda, Sudhir Mohanty, Mangal Besra, Gokul Das, Santosh Mohanty, Shiba Shankar Barik, Master Navneet Mohanta, Lambodar Singh, Sangram Bhanjdeo and Sujeet Natha. Nevertheless, the major debut female actress including Sagarika Das, Darsana Bhanjdeo, Arpita Das, Prakashini Mishra and Reslee Patra etc. have contributed

## 'India needs a giant leap in health sector'

#### **Opines Prof** Ashok Mahapatra

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he 10th annual day celebration of the Netaji School and College of Nursing was held here on Wednesday. Chief guest SOA University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Ashok Mahapatra said the nursing education must be expanded for smooth functioning of medical services to the over four-crore population of Odisha.

Dr Mahapatra revealed that according to a survey among 210 nations, the position of India is 10th from the bottom in the health sector. "We need adequate numbers of quality doctors and nurses," he said. He also observed that more and more male nurse students should be enrolled along with female students. He suggested for opening of M.Sc. in nursing

Dr Mahapatra announced to donate Rs 50,000 to the institution to initiate a Dinamani Debi memorial award in memory of his mother to the best student of the college every year.

courses in the Netaji institution.

Guest of honour Bhubaneswar North MLA Susanta Rout said this nursing college has provided great services to the community during the last two years of Covid pandemic. He pledged to extend his support to the college.

College Chairman Prof Dr Bijan Kumar Jena presented the annual report. The successful students in various competitions were given prizes. It was followed by a colourful dance, drama and musical extravaganza. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by CEO Rashmita Jena. The programme was presided over by senior journalist Sugyan Choudhury.

Nuapada SP Pratyush Diwaker said a combing operation was launched in the Patdhara Reserve Forest based on inputs on December 14. The operation was launched by a joint team of the CRPF, SOG and DVF.

"On Thursday, the team detected the rebel camp near Jholaparha. On spotting the security personnel, the ultras started firing indiscriminately which was retaliated by our team. The security forces fired 49 rounds during the operation," said Diwaker.

It was suspected that there were 15 to 20 Maoists at the camp who managed to escape during the counter firing by security personnel.

Several materials including medicines, jackets, radio and Maiost literature were seized. Meanwhile, combing operation in the area was intensified, Diwaker added.

## 237 outstanding athletes honoured

standing performances at the na-

the PWD category.

"The cash award is in recog-In recognition of their out- nition of your hard work and outstanding achievement. You all are role models for the



the Sports and Youth Services Department on Friday honoured 237 athletes of the State.

Departmental Minister Tusharkanti Behera felicitated them with cash prizes. Total Rs 1 crore 8 lakh and 83 thousand was awarded. Out of the awarded athletes, 172 were in the general category and 65 in

younger generation of sports; and I wish you greater laurels in your sporting journey ahead," the Minister said

The annual cash award scheme of the Sports Department is aimed at encouraging and motivating the players and inspiring them for higher

## Attempt to loot woman foiled in city

4 women snatcher nabbed by locals

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 ${m A}$  gang of four women looters attempted to snatch the purse from a woman in broad daylight near Rasulgarh here on Friday afternoon. But locals came to the victim's rescue and managed to nab the miscreants.

The woman commuter was waiting for an auto-rickshaw when one of the gang members snatched her purse cepted by locals and passersby. Meanwhile, the other members of the gang joined her trying to rescue her from the clutches of the crowd. When the locals surrounded them and asked the

snatcher to hand over the

purse, she handed over the

empty purse and attacked the

and attempted to flee. How-

ever, the snatcher was inter-

locals with a sharp blade in a bid to escape. However, the crowd overpowered her and the other members and thrashed them

black and blue. They then handed them over to the Saheed Nagar police.

## Rs 10L cleaned out from IPS officer wife's A/c

#### CB begins probe after plaint by victim

BHUBANESWAR

In yet another case of the rising cybercrimes in the State, fraudsters have siphoned off over Rs 10 lakh from the bank account of an IPS officer's wife in Bhubaneswar.

The criminals were withdrawing cash from the salary account of Anuja Tripathy, wife

Chief Secretary Suresh

Mahapatra on Friday approved

four new infrastructural devel-

opment projects worth around

Rs 5,192 crore for different in-

dustrial estates in the State.

He approved the projects while

presiding over an inter-de-

partmental coordination

committee meeting on In-

dustrial Infrastructure Devel-

sure basic infrastructures like

good road, quality power sup-

ply, piped drinking water and

drainage to all the industrial

estates, both old and new. The

Departments of Industries,

MSME and IDCO were asked

to jointly work out details of

the requirement with esti-

tary Hemant Sharma said

these projects are essential for

Industries Principal Secre-

mated costs.

Mahapatra directed to en-

opment Fund (IDF).

Kumar Nath, over the past two the Crime Branch on Tuesday cious withdrawals on December 14. More shockingly, while the miscreants kept on withdrawing money from the salary account of the victim from 2019, no message was received by her on the mobile number registered with the bank. "As many as 31 unauthorised transactions have been made from my account in last two years.

furthering industrial activities

and making them more attrac-

external water supply to differ-

ent industrial estates at Baleswar

estimated at Rs 2,745 crore, (ii)

external wide approach road for

heavy vehicles and containers

to the seafood park at Deras

from Baranga-Pitapali road (Rs

443 cr), (iii) external water sup-

ply to the textile park at

Dhamnagar from Akhupada

barrage on river Baitarani and

(iv) laying of treated water pipe

line and commissioning of wa-

ter supply to Andharua biotech

the progress of the infra de-

velopment projects approved

earlier in two phases during the

current year. In the first phase,

the projects worth Rs 4,829.12

projects were construction of

approach road from IOCL side

were approved. These

Mahapatra also reviewed

park (Rs 1,100 cr).

The projects included (i)

tive for investors.

even up to Rs 90,000, which is years. The victim approached beyond the transaction limit fixed by me," Tripathy stated registered a complaint with the bank ombudsman in connection with the case demanding refund of the lost money for not getting alert for the withdrawals on his mobile phone.

While the matter is currently under investigation, sources said such cases usually occur when somebody gets access

construction of external 2-lane

approach road from NH-5(A)

to the plastic park, external

power linkage to plastic park,

construction of surge protec-

tion embankment cum road

from PPT gate to IDCO land

and construction of main en-

trance road and cross drainage

work to Kholadwar industrial

estate in Khordha. Four of the

the second phase include a

high-level bridge on 2-lane ex-

ternal approach road from NH

to the plastic park, an external

approach road and a molten

metal road to the aluminum

park at Angul and external

water supply to industrial es-

tates at Jayamngal, Ramdaspur,

Chhatabar and Bamuni. The

cost of these projects was Rs

4,095.32 cr. The high-level

bridge and the external ap-

proach road are completed.

The projects approved in

five projects are completed.

to an account holder's ATM pin. 4 infra projects approved for industrial estates to the Paradip plastic park,

## 2-day strike hits bank service in State



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The All Odisha Bank Employees' Association (AOBEA) on Friday claimed that the two-day all-India bank strike was fully successful in the State. Over 20,000 bank employees of 4,500 branches of various national, regional and private banks actively participated in the strike on Thursday and Friday.

The AOBEA said that all clearing houses were closed and

banking transactions of at least Rs 40,000 crore affected AOBEA general secretary Prafulla Kumar Tripathy said the main demands of the employees were withdrawal of the Banking Amendment Act 2021and stopping bank privatisation.

He said the Union Government has clandestinely handed over Rs 1.5 lakh-crore savings to corporate players and is making all attempts to privatise the national banks and profit making PSUs.

## HC bail to AT Group chief Sethy in 3 cases

CUTTACK

Arthatatwa (AT) Group chief Pradeep Sethy, who has been languishing in jails for over eight and a half years since he was arrested in May 2013 in chit fund cases, was on Friday granted bail in three more cases by the Orissa High Court. But he is unlikely to walk free from jail now as four more cases are still pending against

"For remaining in jail custody more than the sentence period, if he was to be con-

victed in the case registered against him by the Enforcement Directorate, Justice SK Panigrahi granted him conditional bail, informed his coun-

sel Chandana Mishra. In another relevant case, Justice Panigrahi also rejected a petition filed by former BJD MLA Pravat Tripathy seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by the CBI in the AT chit fund scam. Tripathy, who was arrested in October 2014, is now out on bail after the HC allowed him bail in March 2015.

## BALARAM for landless farmers fails to meet target

### Out of 5L farmers of 1L JLGs, only 5,118 JLG comprising 4-10 farmers

each given aid **TAHTYA B**HUBANESWAR

 ${
m A}_{
m gricultural\ loan\ of\ Rs}$ tioned to 5,118 Joint Liability

49.89 crore has been sanc-Groups (JLGs) of landless farmers under Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan and Resources Augmentation Model (BALARAM) scheme in the State.

The BALARAM is another flagship programme of the Odisha Government launched after Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Aug-

mentation (KALIA) for benefit of farmers. According to official data available till October of 2021, various banks have sanctioned Rs 49,89,85,371 to 5,118 JLGs in all 30 districts of the State. Highest Rs 37.37 crore has been given to the landless farmers in Kendrapara through 3,474 JLGs, followed by Cuttack where Rs 2.31 crore was sanctioned in favour of 153 groups.

Only Rs 1.50 lakh has been sanctioned to two Joint Liability Groups in Keonjhar dis-

State. The other poor performing districts are-Bhadrak (Rs 8.70 lakh), Gajapati (Rs 2.40 lakh), Jajpur (Rs 2.47 lakh), Nabarangpur (Rs 9.27 lakh) and Jagatsinghpur (Rs 9.90 lakh). In the remaining districts, the banks have extended loans above Rs 10 lakh. Till October, the banks and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) have verified data of 1,42,949 eligible farmers and 20,960 JLGs have been formed covering 1,02,670 farmers. However, only 5,118 JLGs are able to get credit flow. Means, only one third of the eligible farmthe BALARAM scheme.

The State Government in collaboration with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had launched the scheme in July last year. Target was set to cover around 5 lakh landless cultivators through one lakh JLGs under the scheme in the two years. However, it seems that the scheme is not in the way it is supposed to be. A Joint Liability Group is an informal group of 4-10 individuals coming together for the purpose of availing bank loans on individual basis or through group

guarantee. A group can avail loan upto Rs 1.60 lakh without any collateral guarantee.

According to the estimation of the Agriculture Census 2015-16, there are 48.66 lakh hectares (ha) of operational holdings in Odisha. Out of this about 9.05 lakhs ha operational holdings are of "leased in" tenancy status (2.83 lakhs ha are of "wholly leased in" and 6.22 lakh ha are of "partly leased in" tenancy status).

In brief, about 18.6% of operational holdings are being operated by sharecroppers out of which 93.2% are small and marginal farmers.

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## Sonepur declared ODF, yet no toilet in most households!

And, the few having toilets prefer to defecate in open

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA SONEPUR

Even though several villages under Sonepur block have been declared open defecationfree (ODF), little has changed so far on ground.

The grim picture was revealed during a recent drive in the block to check the progress of the ambitious Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). According to sources,

most households in the block do not have toilets. And those having the facility prefer defecating in the open due to lack of adequate water supply, said a villager requesting anonymity. This apart, the amount being provided by the Government to build latrine is meagre. The Government provided Rs 12,000 to a household for constructing a latrine. It was insufficient to meet with the ever-rising prices of construction materials, added the villager.

"Although community toilets have been built in a few villages of the block, women and girls feel unsafe to use them especially after sundown. Signages put up at village approach roads read, 'an open defecation-free village welcomes you.' 'We, the villagers, are committed to keep our village open defecationfree.' Such meaningless signages are no less than a mockery," claimed a few rights activists of the district.

To meet the ODF target in pen and paper, sub-standard latrines were hurriedly constructed and villages were declared ODF in August, 2019. However, many genuine beneficiaries in the block are yet to avail the amount for building latrines as their

names did not reflect in the list, the activists pointed out. They added that the latrine building has become a money-minting sport for a few unscrupulous block officials as they work hand-inglove with the local contractors to make extra bucks.

"We were highlighted the issues with the authorities on several occasions but nothing had been done in this regard," the activists said. They added that rampant corruption is also going on in the recent ongoing Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Phase II being implemented in the block.

### 'Rakshyak' training in K'jhar

34 Youth Red Cross Counsellers get certs

PNS KEONJHAR



**J**n Thursday, a valedictory function of the project "Rakshyak" was held at Keonjhar and 34 Youth Red Cross Counsellers from three districts such as Keonjhar, Debgarh and Angul, who were inducted in a training programme by a team from New Delhi, were awarded certificates at the end of the func-

Naveen Patnaik undertaken by STA (State Transport Authority) aims to help the accident victims by creating trainers in the accident prone area identified by the district administration. Accordingly a team had visited those areas to interact with the youth of the locations and the target was to create at least 30 councilors from each area, he informed.

tion being presided over by RTO

Nirmal Chandra Mohanty and

ASP Biranchi Narayan Dehury.

Joint secretary, Red Cross Soci-

ety, Keonjhar, AR Khan said the

Rakshyak, a dream project of CM

#### INBRIEF

#### RAMA CHNADRA BHANJDEO REMEMBERED

Bhubaneswar: Rich tributes were paid to the first president of Utkal Sammilani and Mayurbhani Maharaja Late Sri Rama Chandra Bhanjdeo on his 151st birth anniversary here



on Friday. A meeting was held to recall the great contributions made by Bhanjdeo. Utakal Sammilani Mnacheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma said despite the road connecting Power House Square to CRP Square was named as Utkal Sammilani Marg, the administration is yet to put a signboard for it. Among others, Utkal Sammilani branch vice-president Sheetal Mohanty and secretary Govinda Subudhi and Basanti Tripathy were present.

#### **BALANGIR BANK STAFFS OPPOSE PRIVATISATION MOVE**

Balangir: Banking activity here was badly affected as employees under the United Forum of Bank Unions banner on Thursday began their two-day strike protesting the



Union Government's move to privatise public-sector banks. Members of the forum's Balangir unit led by its convenor Rohit Satpathy staged a dharna before the main branch of State Bank of India. "We oppose the move to privatise the publicsector banks besides highlighting other issues," said Satpathy.

#### PTOA HOLDS SWEARING-IN FOR NEW OFFICE-BEARERS

swearing of the new office-bearers of Paradip



Truck Owners' Association (PTOA) was held on Wednesday. Prominent guests were Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera, Water Resources Minister Raghunandan Das, Kendrapada MLA Sashi Bhusan Behera, Jagatsinghpur MLA Prasant Muduli, Paradip MLA Sambit Routray besides Odisha Truck Owners' Federation president Bibhuti Prasad Das and secretary Rabi Narayan Satpathy. New PTOA president Sumant Kumar Biswal, vice-presidents Pradipta Gahan and Khageswar Lenka, general secretary Rajesh Mohanty, joint-secretaries Sambit Tripathy and Suryakant Parija and treasurer Smruti Ranjan Samantaray took oath. A memorandum was submitted to the Transport Minister and other guests on development of truck transport business.

#### **VETERAN CRICKETER SADANGI NO MORE**

Brahmapur: Former Ranji Trophy player and former Ganjam District Cricket Association (GDCA) secretary Sibananda Sadangi (71) died here on Thursday. As a coach, he trained thousands of youths and cricket lovers. Soon after news of his death spread across the city, hundreds of his fans, students, cricketers, locals paid last respects to him at his residence. He was a bachelor. Berhampur University Sports Officer Ashoak K Sahu and senior advocate Prafulla Jagannath Padhi de-



#### scribed Sadangi's demise as a great loss to the cricket world. PANDA JOINS HEALTH CARD CAMP IN GANJAM

Brahmapur Former Assembly Deputy Speaker Rama Chandra Panda during his two days' tour to



participated in a BSKY smart health card distribution programme along with Chhatrapur MLA Subash Chandra Behera at Lakshmipur GP under Chhatrapur block and at Rajpur GP of Ganjam block. Thousands of beneficiaries, mostly women, participated in the programme.

#### NAPE GROUP-C STAFF CONF AT B'PUR ON JAN 9

the National Association of Postal Employees Group-C will hold an open session of its 12th Biennial Conference of Group-C employees at the Revenue IB at Engineering School Road here on January 9, said NAPE-Group-C secretary Kedarnath Satapathy. Brahmapur Post Master General M Venkateswarulu, Senior Superintendent of POs Tarini Charan Padhi, former Gopalpur MLA and Congress leader Trinath Behera, NAPE Group-C general secretary Sivaji Vashi Reddy and the INTUC president and INC Committee Ganjam working president

### Woman has kidney failure, seeks help block is now struggling for

After all her sources get exhausted

■ JHARSUGUDA

Arati Sahoo (37) of Jamera village under Jharsuguda Sadar life due to kidney failure. Since long, both Arati and her husband Narottam are suffering from the fatal disease.

According to family members, they have spent everything for treatment but without any improvement.

Rather, their health condition is deteriorating day by day. In this situation, kidney transplant has become very much necessary for Arati, mother of two children. He is expecting some Government help for the treatment as he has exhausted all the sources of finance. He has also requested benevolent persons through social media to save Arati by donating kidney.

Now Arati is continuing treatment in a private hospital at Bhubaneswar. She reauires O positive kidney, her husband said.

## Blockade on; Barbil Kasia Mines yet to start ops

Govt losing Rs 15 cr a day; locals losing livelihood

PNS 
KEONJHAR/ BHUBANESWAR

 ${
m T}$ he JSPL won the Kasia Iron and Dolomite block in the Keonjhar district at a 118% premium, in the recent mines auction conducted by the State Government.

After the deposit of the required upfront payment, performance security and stamp duty, the mining lease deed of the block was executed with the State Government in November. Though it was a working mine, JSPL is struggling to start its operation for the last one month because of a blockade by a handful of vested interest people.

A group of about 25-50 persons have been illegally blocking entry to the mines and not allowing entry of any men and machinery of JSPL to the site since November 23. The blockade has prohibited JSPL to enter into the mine and carrying out mining operations as prescribed under sub-section 1 of section 24A of MMDR Act, 1957. Non-operation of the mine is causing a huge revenue loss to the State Government to the tune of over Rs 15 crore on daily basis, besides loss of livelihood to local people. The company has already intimated the district administration about the issue and all reasonable endeavours have been made to address the grievances

of the local community. A coordination meeting has been conducted with the local community members and opinion leaders in the presence of the district administration right on the site. Such initiatives have been appreciated by the local opinion makers and community members. Still, vested interests are inciting few people to continue the blockade and not allowing JSPL to start the operation of the mine.

Kasia Iron and Dolomite was not in operation from 2012 to 2019. It resumed operation for about six months October 2019 to March 2020, on which the mining lease expired. After it was allotted to JSPL in the recent auction, the local people were hoping to revive their livelihood with the restart of the mines. However, the illegal blockades have shattered their hope.

#### In Jharsuguda

## Paddy procurement row: Farmers warn stir

PNS JHARSUGUDA

Farmer leaders here on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the district Collector for his intervention in streamlining paddy procurement by the Civil Supplies Department.

They alleged that the department is making unnecessary delay in procurement despite registration of farmers. Without any verification, Revenue Inspectors and Agriculture Gram Sevaks have deleted their registration, as a result of which the farmers have been deprived of selling paddy.

While requesting the district administration to validate their registration, they said that in the DLPC (kharif crop)



meeting on November 25, it had been decided to purchase paddy starting from December 7, but it is yet to start.

The farmers have warned

that paddy is purchased from registered farmers; otherwise they would start an agitation in all blocks and choke the National Highway.

## PM's natural farming talk telecast at CIFA

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Khordha, in association with ICAR- Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, organised a Prime Minister Live Telecast Programme on natural farming at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar on December 16.

Senior Scientist and Head (I/c), KVK, Khordha AK Dash welcomed the participants and briefed about the programme. A total of 210 farmers from Balipatna, Balianta and Jatni blocks of Khordha district along with scientists and staff of ICAR-

CIFA and KVK, Khordha participated in the Live Telecast Programme on natural farm ing addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A farmer- scientist interaction meet was organised on the occasion. Experts of KVK-Khordha AK Dash (Senior Scientist and Head (I/ c), S Singh (SMS, Crop Production), Dr BK Banja (CTO, Animal Science), PR Sahoo (SMS, Fishery Science), Dr Harapriya Nayak (SMS, Home Science) and S Behera, (ACTO, Home Science) interacted with the farmers about natural farming and their issues relating to agriculture were addressed.

Brahmapur: The Brahmapur Postal Division Branch of would attend the event.

#### Coop staff stir hits paddy procurement in B'swar **UBACHAK MOHANTY** revision as per 7th Pay Com-Routray besides stating or two," said Routray. Reports **BALESWAR** mission, etc., around 600 emthat the procurement has re-

plovees across 143 societies are  ${f A}$ n ongoing agitation by in dharana before their respecthe employees of cooperative tive societies for four days. The societies has hit the procuresociety offices have been locked ment of Kharif paddy from by the agitators. Meanwhile, the farmers through societies paddy procurement kicked off although the procurement proin the district from Nilgiri on cess began from Wednesday. Wednesday. District Collector K Reports said that in order to Sudarshan Chakravarthy and press a 10-point charter of deother senior officials of the demands, including recognition partment including District as Government employees, re-Civil Supplies Officer

ceived a jolt due to the ongoing agitations by the employees of the societies claimed the department was making alternative arrangements to procure paddy from the farmers. "The agitation is a part of their State programme. Most likely from tomorrow the procurement would be made through RMCs at 30 centres and procurement would be made. Further, we are hopeful that the employees will call off their agitation within a day

further added that 94,191 had applied for registration while 2,102 were found ineligible following verification. The district has a target of procuring around 12 lakh quintals of paddy from the farmers. In the last three years around 65,000 registered farmers couldn't sell their produce despite registration.

Since the agitation has come as a hurdle this year, the farmers are apprehensive whether they will be able to sell their paddy during the season.

ated with the Jangal Surakhya

# JSW declares job, financial aid for land losers

The JSW has declared its compensation package for the project affected people with ration card in the land losing villages of Nuagaon, Gada Kujang and Dhinkia GP, for its Integrated Steel Plant at Paradip.

instatement of suspended and

expelled employees, promotion

according to seniority and wage

The compensation announced is way above the policy provisions outlined in the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, Government of Odisha, 2006. The proposed compensation has emerged through a series of collaborative discussions at the district, GP and village level with extensive participation of villagers, district administration and other stakeholders to elicit public opinion. For loss

of betel vines, compensation of Rs 17, 500 per decimal has been declared. This is way above the government provision of Rs 6,000 per decimal. Additionally, a bonus of Rs 50,000 per betel vine, irrespective of size, provided it is demolished within a fortnight of announcement in the said village, has been declared. For the first time, a differential compensation of Rs 6,000 per decimal is offered to all the old betel vine owners, who earlier received Rs 11,500 per decimal.

Pradyumna Routray were

present and 5 quintals of paddy

was procured.

For wider and inclusive coverage all the ration card holders in the eight land losing villages- namely Polang, Bayanalakandha, Jatadhara, Nuagaon, Gobindpur, Patana, Dhinkia and Mahala--who have not received betel vine

compensation or have not received any labour compensation earlier from erstwhile projects, betel vine labour compensation of Rs 88,000-Rs 44,000 as one-time financial assistance after demolition of all betel vines and Rs 44,000 balance as additional bonus after completion of boundary wall of the entire project area has been offered. For the villages from where betel vines have already been removed, eligible families will be paid Rs 44,000 after the demarcation of the boundary wall in the said village and rest 44,000 after the boundary construction for the project is complete.

Each family under the Jangal Surakhya Committee will be paid Rs 50,000 and the number of the families associ-

Committee will be selected based on the records and proceedings of the committee for past three years. One representative member per ration card holding family will be eligible for this compensation and the amount will be disbursed after completion of the tree felling. For the prawn ponds with requisite permission from competent authority, the compensation is Rs 2.5 lakh per acre. For the fruit bearing trees, as per Government norms and notification compensation would be paid. There is an initiative to engage youths in the project area. A door-to-door survey in the land losing villages to identify one eligible member between the age group of 20-30 years from the

ration card holder families for engagement would be taken up shortly. Company would try to provide direct or indirect engagement to one member from each ration card holding family in land losing villages.

The jobs would be given in any of JSW group companies, associated company or contractors of the plant or project agencies, in a phased manner. Ration card holders, on the date of issue of proclamation in the land losing villages will be treated as eligible families unless and otherwise specifically excluded.

Besides, the JSW is collaborating with the administration for renovation of schools in the region and for upgradation of health services in the project site.

## All Odisha GPs covered under banking services'

brick and mortar branches

■ NEW DELHI

The Union Government on Monday claimed that all the gram panchayats (GPs) of Odisha have been covered unvarious banking services. This was informed by Minister of State of Finance Dr Bhagwat Karad while replying to a question of BJD MP Manjulata Mandal in Lok According to Dr Karad, all

the GPs of Odisha have been covered with banking outlets, bank branches, Business Correspondents and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) within its 5 km radius. In terms of the revised guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular 'Rationalisation of Branch Authorization Policy' dated

May 18, 2017, the term 'Branch' has been substituted by 'Banking Outlet (BO)' Informatics Centre (NIC). The which includes both physical

and Business Correspondent (BC) outlets to enable banks in expanding their network even in remote rural areas in a cost-effective manner for hassle-free services to customers in rural areas, the Union Minister said. Further, he said, in pursuance of extant RBI guidelines, rolling out of banking outlets in uncovered areas is a continuous process looked after by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), in consultation with the concerned State Government, member banks and other stakeholders. To ensure availability of banking outlet (bank branch / Business Correspondent), within 5 km of all inhabited villages, the Government has launched a Geographic Information System (GIS) based App, namely, Jan Dhan Darshak App (JDD App) developed by National of their branches, Business Correspondents (BCs) and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) on the app, he told. "As per JDD App data, all GPs of Odisha are covered with banking outlets (Bank Branch/ Business Correspondent/IPPB) within the radius of 5 km," he claimed. Recently Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari had raised the issue of financial inclusion with Union Minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman, which is of utmost importance for envisaging a systematic approach for investment, infrastructure and growth. He had pointed out that

banks upload the GIS location

financial inclusion in Odisha is constrained by lack of brick and mortar branches. More than 70% of GPs do not have a brick and mortar bank branch thereby depriving a majority of population of banking/ credit services.

## **India, France agree to** strengthen bilateral ties

Tndia and France on Friday Lagreed to further strengthen their bilateral defence and strategic ties besides working together to enhance cooperation in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. The two sides also agreed to explore possibilities for joint venture in weapon manufacturing.

These were the major takeaways from the talks between visiting French Defence Minister Florence Parly and her Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh here.

France also offered to supply more Rafale fighter jets to India if it requires with Parly saying the use of the same air craft by the two strategic partners is a reflection of "real asset and strength" in their ties.

France was also ready to supply the naval version of the jets for the second aircraft carrier INS Vikrant likely to be inducted into the Navy late next year. The carrier is indigenously designed and built here and is now undergoing mandatory sea and other trials.

India bought 36 Rafale jets worth over Rs 60,000 crore from France and the induction process into the IAF is on with 33 of them already in service now. The remaining jets will arrive next year. India and France had inked a Government-to-Government deal for the Rafale jets in 2016.

As regards talks, a wide range of bilateral, regional, defence and defence industrial cooperation issues were discussed in the annual meeting. The visiting minister also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Incidentally, she had visited India last year when the first batch of four Rafale jets were inducted into the IAF at

The Ministers reviewed

The World Health Organisation on Friday World Health

approved emergency use listing of Covid vaccine Covovax,

produced by the Serum

Institute of India under licence

from Novavax and part of the

"This is yet another mile-

our fight

Covid-19. Covovax is now

WHO approved for emergency

use, showing excellent safety

and efficacy. Thank you all for a great collaboration," Serum

Institute of India CEO Adar

regimen and is the ninth to

receive emergency use approval

from the WHO. However, it is

yet to be granted emergency

use authorisation (EUA) by

the top drug regulator, the DCGI, in India.

The listing aims to increase access particularly in lower-

income countries, 41 of which

have still not been able to vac-

cinate 10 per cent of their

populations, while 98 countries

have not reached 40 per cent,

Covovax has a two-dose

Poonawala said.

Covax facility portfolio.

Covovax receives WHO

approval for emergency use



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his French counterpart Florence Parly at National War Memorial during the latter's visit to India, in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri I Pionee

the existing military-to-military cooperation, which has increased in spite of pandemic challenges. They discussed ways to increase defence cooperation in all domains. India and France have recently concluded their annual bilateral Army Exercise, Shakti, with focus on counter-terrorist operations, in France in November. Defence industrial cooperation was discussed with focus on future collaborations and co-production between the two countries, officials said after the high profile parleys.

The Ministers acknowledged their convergences on number of strategic and defence issues.

They expressed commitment to work together to enhance cooperation in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. France is the current chair of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and shall take over the Presidency of European Union from January 01, 2022. The two Ministers decided to work closely on a number of issues during the French

said the global health body.

under the WHO EUL proce-

dure based on the review of

data on quality, safety and effi-

cacy, a risk management plan,

programmatic suitability, and

manufacturing site inspections

carried out by the Drugs

Listing (TAG-EUL), convened

by the WHO and made up of

experts from around the world,

has determined that the vaccine

meets WHO standards for pro-

tection against Covid-19, that

the benefit of the vaccine far

outweighs any risks, and that the

vaccine can be used globally, the

developed by the SII in part-

nership with the US-based

Novavax, is the third India-

related vaccines to be approved

by the WHO. The other two

vaccines are Covishield and

Covaxin. Covaxin is India's

first indigenous Covid vac-

cines, while Covishield is

Indian version of Britain's

AstraZeneca jab.

The Covovax vaccine,

WHO said in a statement.

The Technical Advisory

Controller General of India.

Covovax was assessed

er more Rafale jets, Parly said earlier in the day during a seminar "I am very happy that the Indian Air Force is satisfied with its Rafale and we are very proud that despite Covid, the 36 aircraft will be delivered on time according to the contract... It's a real achievement."

"Using the same aircraft is a real asset and strength. I am sure that there is room for new developments. We are ready to answer any additional needs of request that could be made by India," she said.

The French minister also referred to India's planned induction of a second aircraft carrier and indicated that France will be interested in supplying the carrier-based jets.

We know that the aircraft carrier will soon be...That aircraft are needed. We are open and ready to provide any other Rafale if this is India's decision,"

The first batch of five Rafale jets, manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, arrived in India on July 29 last year.

vax effective

against Omicron

The Sputnik V has also demonstrated 3-7 times less of

a reduction in virus neutralis-

ing activity against Omicron.

Sputnik V has shown to be 11.8

times ineffective against

Omicron, while Pfizer has

shown a 41-fold decline in

antibodies generated and Moderna has shown 49-84

times decrease.

variant: Study

Naidu asked Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Sputnik V Covid Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi to take note. He

Session of Parliament with party MPs categorised Statewise. 'Teni's son is among the 13 accused arrested in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on October 3 during Farmers agitation in UP in which eight People were killed.

interaction in the Winter

Modi meets UP BJP

State which, however, significantly missed the MP from Kheri Ajay Mishra 'Teni' whose Teni' is a Brahmin, an influential caste in the UP which is to go to polls in less than three months. Around 36 MPs from the

State attended the breakfast meeting with Modi.

others laying papers on minis-

ters' behalf with prior notice

when ministers were not present

in the House when their names

are called for the laying certain

official papers and others had to

ed chairpersons of some of the

parliamentary standing com-

mittees for their timely reports

and holding regular meetings.

NAIDU ADJOURNS RS

Venkaiah Naidu on Friday

FOR DAY TILL MONDAY

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman

Meanwhile, Naidu also laud-

do so on their behalf.

There have been occasions

and permission.

The number was report-

edly restricted to less than the total strength of the party in Parliament from Uttar Pradesh due to Covid-19 protocols, sources said. The discussion was focused

on how MPs could foster better communication between constituents and themselves.

Modi told UP MPs what he also said to the party MPs from five southern states a day before that they should organize cultural and sports events in their areas to encourage both health and a sporting spirit and identify talents.

### Don't privatise public sector banks, Varun urges Govt MPs, 'Teni' not present

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{move\ to\ privatise\ public}^{peaking\ against\ the\ Centre's}$ sector banks on the plea that they "alone failed to recover NPAs", BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Friday asked the Government to desist from privatising them given their huge capacity to employ people across the country and social role.

In a tweet, Varun said private bank may not support selfhelp groups, provide rural banking and loans to SMEs.

"As we push towards privatising public sector banks, we must take pause to note that they employ almost a million, while helping self-help groups,

providing rural banking and giving loans to SMEs. All things that private banks may not pursue", the MP from Pilibhit, UP,

In another tweet in Hindi, Varun sought the union finance Minister to consider pushing Banking bill (amendment) 2021, only after discussing it with the "all affected

groups". He said there is "no basis' for privatising PSU banks "only on the basis that it is only banks which failed to recover their NPAS".

Varun indicated that Government was as much accountable for Non-recovery of NPAs of the PSU banks in the country.

#### ABSENCE OF MINISTERS IN RAJYA SABHA

### Ministers can't take it casually, says Naidu

Kheri violence.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A gainst the backdrop of the ongoing hectic poll-campaign in the Assembly election

bound Uttar Pradesh, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on

Friday met BJP MPs from the

resignation as a Central

Minister is being demanded by

the Opposition parties in con-

nection with the Lakhimpur

It was the PM's fourth such

Peeved over absence of Ministers in the Rajya Sabha, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said they cannot take it "casually" and "it cannot be usual" and asked the Government to take note.

He made these observations when some ministers were absent from the house even though papers were listed against their names and others presented the papers on their behalf.

"The Ministers who are supposed to lay papers on the table of the House having given notice to the Chair should not be absent from the House. In extreme circumstances — there would be some occasions — if there is any problem, they must approach the Chair in advance and seek permission.

"Some of them are doing it while others think it is casual. It cannot be casual, it cannot be usual," he said, asserting he will not allow such things in the

said he was not objecting to

adjourned Rajya Sabha for the day till Monday within 17 minutes of its proceedings appealing to the members to reach a consensus so that the House can function normally for the remaining days "Today I had a talk with the Leader of the House, and also

some senior members of the Opposition. I would like to appeal to each one of you, please arrive at some sort of consensus to see that the House functions normally. In order to facilitate discussions among yourselves, I am adjourning the House to meet on Monday,"

#### DGCA: 1.05 cr travelled by air in Nov in domestic flights PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday shared data saying around 1.05 crore domestic passengers travelled by air in November, 17.03 per cent higher than the 89.85 lakh who travelled in October.

The data showed that domestic passengers travelling by air during the period from January 2021 to November 2021 were 726.11 lakh versus 556.84 lakh during the corresponding period of previous year thereby registering annual growth of 30.40 per cent and monthly growth of 65.50 per cent. This indicates a major revival in the confidence of the travellers in air travel in the country. "IndiGo carried 57.06 lakh

passengers in November, a 54.3 per cent share of the domestic market, SpiceJet flew 10.78 lakh passengers, accounting for a 10.3 per cent share of the market", the data showed. Go First (previously known as GoAir), Air India, Vistara, AirAsia India and Alliance Air carried 11.56 lakh, 9.98 lakh, 7.93 lakh, 6.23 lakh and 1.20 lakh passengers, respectively, in November, the data showed.

The occupancy rate for SpiceJet was 86.7 per cent in November. The November occupancy rate for Air India was 82 per cent, followed by IndiGo (80.5 per cent), Go First (78.2 per cent) and AirAsia India 74.6 per cent, it added.

The data mentioned that in November 2021, Vistara had the best on-time performance of 84.4 per cent at four metro airports — Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. AirAsia India and IndiGo were at the second and third positions at these four airports in November with 82.4 per cent and 80.5 per cent on-time performance respectively, the DGCA said. During the last two years, all airlines in India have opted for cost-reducing measures such as pay cuts, leave without pay and layoffs in order to tide over the coronavirus-induced crisis.

India to again directly connect with Switzerland New Delhi: India will again be directly connected with Switzerland from next year. From January 10, 2022, A380 will replace Airbus A350-900on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 424/423 (VTL services) between Mumbai and Singapore, while from February 14, SIA will operate A380 in place of Boeing 787-10 on its flight SQ 406/403 (VTLservices) between Delhi and Singapore, a

### CBI files chargesheet against Corporation Bank former CMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday said it has I filed a chargesheet against then CMD, Corporation Bank, Ramnath Pradeep besides then Chief Manager and then Senior Manager of the bank in a case related to loss of Rs 79 crore to the public sector lender.

Besides Pradeep, the then Chief Manager SN Murthy Shankar, the then Senior Manager AP Shiva Kumar have also been named in the chargesheet.

The CBI had registered a case on June 16, 2017 on a complaint from Corporation Bank, Mumbai against a Mumbai-based private company Parekh Aluminex and others including its Directors, Chartered Accountant & unknown others. The private company incorporated in 1994 was engaged in manufacturing of Aluminum Foil

The accused had allegedly conspired and availed various credit facilities to the tune of Rs 60 crore from Corporation Bank (now UBI), the CBI said in a statement.

They had also allegedly diverted the funds and deployed it in real estate and other non-related business activities by way of loans/advances in different real estate projects. An alleged loss of Rs. 79.04 crore was caused to Corporation Bank.

### India, US announce programme to tackle climate, clean energy challenges

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

A programme to support India-US science and technology-based entrepreneurial initiatives to tackle climate and clean energy challenges was announced on Friday.

The programme, titled Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero', will address the development and implementation of next-generation clean and renewable energy, energy storage, and carbon sequestration. a Science and Technology Ministry statement said.

It constitutes a call for Ignition Grants by the US-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF), in partnership with Social Alpĥa, a non-profit organisation promoting S&T entrepre-

neurship, it said. The programme will identify and support 'technology showstoppers' or promising joint India-US S&T-based entrepreneurial initiatives in this area, the Ministry said.

"Climate Change is one of the biggest challenges our world is facing in the current times, spurring the call for global collaborations to tackle this crisis.

"The launch of the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership in April 2021 reiterated the commitment of both nations to work together to achieve their ambitious climate and clean energy targets and to strengthen bilateral collaborations," it said, adding that

The new programme aligns with the goals of the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership and will be administered by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTE) a histeral organica (IUSSTF), a bilateral organisation under the India's Department of Science and Technology, and the US Department of State.

### New drug could treat patients with Covid pneumonia: Study patients aged over 16 with Covid-19 pneumonia either

IANS ■ NEW DELHI Namilumab drug — an anti-body already in late-stage  $T^{\text{he Sputnik V vaccine and}}_{\text{the one-shot Sputnik Light}}$ trials to treat rheumatoid arthritis — may be used to effectively treat some patients booster are effective against the vaccine-evading and super hospitalised with Covid-19 study published in The Lancet Covid, claimed a preliminary laboratory study conducted by Respiratory Medicine journal. However, the researchers

Russia's Gamaleya Center on said that as the sample size has The study shows that been small, more investiga-Sputnik V demonstrates high tions are needed in this regard.

virus neutralising activity The team, including against the Omicron variant researchers from the University and is expected to provide of Birmingham and the strong defense against severe University of Oxford, UK, had disease and hospitalisation.

tested namilumab in patients hospitalized with Covid-19 pneumonia. They were receiving 'usual' care, as well as having high levels in their blood of a marker of inflammation known as C reactive protein

ed important proof-of-concept evidence that namilumab reduces inflammation in hospitalised patients with Covid-19 pneumonia," said Ben Fisher, co-chief investigator of the trial at the University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB).

"However, our sample size is too small for a definitive assessment of clinical outcomes and further studies are required for this, as well as to understand better the population that may benefit most," Fisher said.

'cytokine' which is naturally secreted by immune cells in the body, but in uncontrolled levels is believed to be a key driver of the excessive and dangerous lung inflammation seen in Covid-19 patients.

The trial carried out between June 2020 and February 2021 involved

patients given usual care as well as a single intravenous dose of 150mg of namilumab. As well as Covid-19 pneumonia, all study participants

being treated on a ward or Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at

nine hospitals across the UK.

patients receiving 'usual care' —

treatment with steroids and

The study involved 54

had CRP levels greater than 40mg/l. The researchers compared the probability of the reduction of levels of CRP in

### PM asks Mayors to | IMD predicts cold to ensure LED bulbs widely used

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asked Mayors of all cities across the country to ensure that LED bulbs are used widely in the streetlights and homes of their cities and take-up this work in "mission mode" and make cities "divyang-

Addressing the All India Mayors' Conference through video conferencing, the Prime Minister referred to the recent developments in the ancient city of Varanasi and recalled his statement that the development of Kashi can be a roadmap for the entire country.

The Prime Minister said most of the cities in our country are traditional cities, developed in a traditional way. In this era of modernisation, the antiquity of these cities is equally important. He remarked that these cities can teach us how to preserve heritage and local skills. The Prime Minister insisted that

destroying the existing structures is not the way but emphasis should be on rejuvenation and preservation. This should be done in accordance with the requirements of modern times.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri were among those present on the occasion. Modi asked Mayors to ensure that

LED bulbs are used widely in the streetlights and homes of their cities. He asked them to take this up "in a mission mode." Modi also told Mayors to see that every facility in their city is "divyang-friendly" as per 'Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan-Accessible India Campaign.

He said "we should always think of using existing schemes for new uses and taking them forward."

### severe cold wave in some parts of country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ India\ Meteorological\ Department}$  (IMD) on Friday predicted cold wave to severe cold wave conditions in some parts of the country, including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Rajasthan in the next five days.

Dense to very dense fog, ground frost conditions are likely in some areas, it said. Meanwhile, temperature is likely to drop a few notches in some parts of the country including Delhi. According to the IMD, Punjab,

Haryana, Chandigarh, Saurashtra and Kutch could witness a cold wave or a severe cold wave from December 17 to 21. A cold wave is likely over north Rajasthan from December 18 to 21, while one is predicted for west Uttar Pradesh from December 19 to 21, and Gujarat from December 19 "Cold wave conditions are predicted for

Jammu, Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, HP and Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh during the next four days. Gujarat is likely to witness cold wave conditions over the next three days; West UP is expected to witness cold wave conditions between December 19 and 21," it said. The IMD added gradual fall in mini-

mum temperatures by 2-3°C over most parts of Northwest India and Maharashtra; by 3-5°C over most parts of Central India during the next four days The IMD records a cold wave when the

minimum temperature is equal to or less than 10 degree Celsius at a weather station in the plains, and is 4.5 degrees to 6.4 degrees below the normal temperature for

#### Modi to be awarded highest civilian decoration conferred by Kingdom of Bhutan PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**D**rime Minister Narendra Modi will be awarded Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo or the Order of The Druk Gyalpo, the highest civilian decoration conferred by the Kingdom of Bhutan for the unconditional friendship and support extended over the years and particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Modi is the first foreigner to receive the coveted award. Modi had earlier been recipients of highest civilian honours in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, UAE, Palestine, Bahrain, Maldives and Russia. He also received the Legion of Merit by the US Government in 2020.

"Overjoyed to hear His Majesty pronounce Your Excellency Modiji's @narendramodi name for the highest civilian decoration, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo," Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering tweeted on December 17, 2021, the country's National Day.

Modi thanked Bhutan's king for according the country's highest civilian decoration on him, and said India will always cherish the country as one of its closest friends and neighbours and will continue to support its development journey in every possible way. The PM tweet-ed that he admires Bhutan for its unique model of sustainable development and the deeply spiritual way of life. "Successive Druk Gyalpos — Their Majesties the Kings — have given a unique identity to the Kingdom, and nurtured the special bond of neighbourly friendship that our nations

share," he said The Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo is being awarded to Prime Minister Modi for the unconditional friendship and support extended over the years and particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.



outskirts of Ahmedabad on Friday

## PDP, NC slam land conversion regulation

Under new norm District Collector is empowered to allow use of farmland for non-agri purposes

Aday after the Administrative council headed by Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha approved the regulations framed by the board of revenue for conversion of agriculture land for non-agricultural purposes two mainstream Kashmir based parties reacted sharply claiming the move is aimed at engineering 'demographic' changes and 'disempowering'

Under the new regulations, the District Collector has been empowered to grant permission to the change in land use from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes in accordance with the procedure as to be notified by the board of

The permission is to be granted within 30 days of filing

of the application with a provision of deemed approval if no decisions are taken. The powers have been delegated to the District Collector to grant permission for land up to 12 ½ standard acres against a fee of 5 percent of the market value of the land notified under the Stamps Act.

Apparently this decision has unnerved some of the valley based politicians.

First of all former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party Chief Mehbooba Mufti in her tweet said the move is aimed at engineering demographic changes by allowing outsiders to buy land in J&k.

Mehobooba tweeted, "JK admin's new policy enabling conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural purposes reveals their nefarious designs

of engineering demographic changes. The development agenda is a ruse. Latest regulation doesn't even require the 15 vr domicile certificate as a pre-

After depriving locals of their rightful share of govt jobs, such abrupt policy decisions that pave the way for outsiders to buy land in J&K are taken only to further disempower locals".

On the other hand National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah invoked his grandfather Sheik Mohd Abdullah's land to the tiller reforms while opposing

Omar tweeted, "Allowing use of agricultural land for nonagricultural purposes is another nail in the coffin of the "land to the tiller" reforms in J&K.

a major reason for the low levels of poverty and it will also threaten the food security of the people of J&K".Raising other concerns Omar said the fact that this conversion of land use doesn't even require the 15 year domicile certificate as a prérequisite will also rekindle fears about the motives

behind such decisions. Meanwhile, sharing details of the regulation a statement issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations said, "The regulations empower the applicant to commence the non agriculture use on the permitted land within one year from the date of the order issued by the District Collector in this behalf.

However, the land can be diverted and used only for the purpose specified in the per-

Moreover, the regulations ovide exemption from seeking the permission in cases of conversion for construction of residential house or farm-related buildings and storages with a ceiling of 400 Sq. mtrs (17 Marla).

Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Tehsildar concerned have been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of these regulations within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Besides, it will be the duty of every Agriculture Extension Officer to report cases of violation to the revenue officers and any neglect on this account can attract disciplinary action for dereliction of duty, the state-

#### **NAGALAND FIRING**

## Rally seeking justice for victims held in Kohima

Kohima: Thousands of people took part in the 'Peoples' Rally' held here on Friday, demand-ing justice for the 14 civilians killed by security forces in Nagaland recently and scrapping of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the North-eastern region.

Participants of the rally walked from the Old MLÁ Hostel junction in the heart of state capital Kohima to the Raj Bhavan, a distance of around 2.5 kilometres, and submitted memorandum on the demands to the governor's sec-

Besides members of the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) which organised the rally, representatives of the North East Students' Organisation (NESO), All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and apex bodies of several tribal bodies took part

The protestors raised slogans denouncing the killing of 14 civilians by army para-commandos in Oting area of Mon district in a botched up operation and its aftermath in the North-eastern state on December 4 and 5.

They also held banners and placards some of which

read, "Nagas are not terrorists", "Ban AFSPA, not our voice" and "Justice for Oting victims". NSF president Kegwayhun

Tep, Peoples' Rally organising committee convener Vipopal Kintso, NESO advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya and other leaders submitted a memorandum, addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to the governor's secretariat at Raj Bhavan.

In the memorandum, the NSF - the apex students' body of Naga students of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland - demanded immediate justice for the slain youths of Oting and all Naga victims of alleged army excesses, repeal of the AFSPA, and expedition of finding out the solution to the Naga political

Altogether 14 civilians in Nagaland's Mon district were killed in three consecutive episodes of firing by security forces, the first of which has been claimed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Shah had told the Lok Sabha that the army had received information on the movement of insurgents in Mon and '21 Para Commando' unit had laid an ambush. PTI It is wrong to generalise human rights violated due to AFSPA in

NE: NHRC chief

Guwahati: Justice Arun Mishra, the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), on Friday said it would be wrong to generalise that human rights get violated due to imposition of AFSPA in some of the northeastern states. He also pointed out that the NHRC cannot examine or hold a debate on the legality or constitutionality of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

"It cannot be generalised that human rights are violated due to imposition of AFSPA. The government should be reviewing the need for application or withdrawal of the Act," Justice Mishra told reporters, after the conclusion of a two-day camp here. He, however, asserted that the commission views custodial deaths or extra-judicial killings "very seriously" and all cases must be reported or it may take suo-moto cognisance.

### Tabling of anti-conversion Bill: Cong makes daily presence of MLAs in K'taka House must

Belagavi: Amid reports that the BJP government in Karnataka is likely to introduce the contentious anti-conversion bill during the ongoing winter session of the State legislature, Opposition Congress on Friday issued a "Whip", asking its members to mandatorily take part in the assembly proceedings next week.

The winter session of legislature that began here on December 13 is scheduled to go on till December 24. Stating that matters of

utmost public importance are coming up for discussion next week, the Whip issued by the Opposition's Chief Whip in the assembly Ajay Dharam Singh has asked all the members to mandatorily participate in the proceedings from December 20-24, from the beginning till conclusion.

Leader of Opposition in assembly state Siddaramaiah has already said that the Congress party will not allow the anti-conversion bill to be passed.

The proposed anti-conversion bill that is also being opposed by Christian community leaders, according to official sources, is expected to come before the Cabinet on Monday and once cleared there, it is likely to be introduced in the legislative assembly and council.

The bill is expected to have penal provisions, and may also insist that the persons who wish to convert to another faith file an application before the Deputy Commissioner two

Also, the person who wishes to convert is likely to lose the religion of his or her origin and facilities or benefits attached with it, including reservations; however, one is likely to receive the benefits entitled to, in the religion he or she converts to.



Christmas decorations at the Jio World Drive, Bandra Kurla Complex, in Mumbai, on Friday

### Pink Police force launched in Goa

**Panaji:** The Goa police's 'Pink Force' to respond to crime against women, children and tourists was launched on Friday by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.The CM said the Pink Force would start in 11 police stations in the initial stage before being expanded to all units."The all-women force has been trained to handle all kind of situations and would be working to prevent The force will be operational

round the clock

## Woman teacher shot in Mainpuri

 $U_{\text{school with bullets in broad daylight, sending shock waves}}$ at Mainpuri on Friday. The victim's family members lodged a report, accusing her

husband and in-laws of orchestrating the killing. A case was registered and the body was sent for autopsy

As per reports, Chandraka alias Monika Yadav used to live at her in-laws place on Devi Road of Bichwa locality in Mainpuri and served as a teacher at a government-run primary school in Ruppur area on Karhal Road in Mainpuri. On Friday morning, Monika left for school and en route she

was stopped by gunmen who peppered her with bullets, causing instant death. Reacting to the staccato of gunshots, some neighbours rushed outside their houses and found Monika lying in a pool of blood on the road. They later informed the local police and the cops rushed to the spot and shifted the woman to a hospital where she was pronounced dead upon arrival.

## Song eulogising 'mother Tamil' to be TN State anthem BJP slams Cong over

Government on Friday announced 'Tamil Thaai Vaazhthu,' an invocation sung in praise of Mother Tamil, as the State anthem and directed that all present during its rendition should remain standing.

the wake of the Madras Vaazhthu," the court had

Devendra Fadnavis on Friday

took a dig at the Congress, say-

ing that it is now a "part-time"

party which is slowly vanishing

from the country, and added that parties from Delhi and

West Bengal have arrived in

Goa ahead of the Assembly

elections to carry out their experiments and to create divi-

Fadnavis for his 'part-time'

party remark and said the BIP

has failed to produce any for-

midable leader in Goa and

hence it has to poach func-

tionaries from other parties to

shore up its ranks, and point-

The Congress hit back at

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu that 'Tamil Thai Vaazhthu' is a prayer song and not an anthem.

"There is no statutory or executive order requiring the attendees to stand up when Tamil Thai Vaazhthu is sung. But highest reverence and respect ought to be

Chief Minister M K Stalin said a Government Order to this effect has been issued, mandating that all barring the differently abled persons should remain standing when the 55 sec-

ond long song is sung. It should be sung before educational institutions, unipublic sector undertakings and other public fora in the state, Stalin said in a statement quoting the GO. In 2018, at a function

here, pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Sri Vijavendra Saraswathi remained seated when the

Kanchi Math raising provocative slogans.

They allegedly entered the math premises wearing footwear and when the manager of the religious criminally intimidated. sitting in a 'Dhyana' posture Subsequently, led by a Following the manager's with his eyes closed. PTI

party leader, Kan Ilango,

protesters assembled before

the Rameswaram branch of

complaint, an FIR was registered.

Quashing the FIR, since the petitioner-party leader and complainant-math manager have 'shaken hands' the Madurai Bench of the High Court had said in its order dated December 6,

### K'taka MLA's 'rape' remark New Delhi: The BJP on Friday a rape victim for being dragged to court

slammed the Congress for its over various issues, she noted. Karnataka MLA's comments on rape on the floor of the state assembly, and have a history of making humiliating questioned its leaders Rahul Gandhi and shameful comments about women over the issue, alleging that its leaders have a history of making such insulting comments about women.

The BJP was, however, also left embarrassed when its spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi also criticised Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, who is from the ruling party, for not objecting to Congress MLA K R Ramesh Kumar's rape remarks.

"What is sad that the Speaker said nothing after such objectionable comments were made and even laughed," she said.

Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and another BJP spokesperson Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, however, defended the Speaker. Rathore said Kageri made no statement, and things should not be implied.

Chandrasekhar accused Kumar of trivialising crime against

Sarangi, who was also at the dais with them for a party press conference, later clarified that she meant to refer to Kumar as he is also a former speaker. Even as speaker he had made such remarks by equating himself with

She said Congress leaders likes of former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh.

Noting that the Gandhi siblings had rushed to Hathras, where a Dalit girl was allegedly raped and murdered, Sarangi questioned their silence over the issue. BJP chief spokesperson Anil

Baluni said Kumar's comments were very painful and shameful and alleged that the Congress has a history of making such remarks against women.

Kumar, who had courted controversy by saying "when rape is inevitable, lie down and enjoy it", apologised for his remarks on

As the proceedings of the Assembly began, Kumar stood up and said he made a statement (in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday), which people found outrageous.

"However, my intention was never to demean the prestige of this House or behave in an inferior way. I

will not defend myself. I tender my sincere apology for my utterance during the proceedings of the House if it has hurt people from any part of the country," Kumar said. *PTI* 

### Man dies after being thrashed by hotel staff

Hyderabad: A man died after allegedly being beaten up by some hotel staff members here, who suspected his intentions, when he went into the hotel's cellar after midnight, police said on Friday.

The man, a labourer from Odisha, entered the cellar on December 15 when some staff members were celebrating the birthday of a colleague there, they said.

They allegedly questioned him and beat him up.
Those working at the hotel

found his father's (who lives in Odisha) mobile number in his pocket and told him about the incident on Thursday morning.

The father informed his daughter-in-law and she took her husband home.

experimenting, dividing Goa: BJP adjoining Maharashtra in 2019.

Cong a 'part-time' party, AAP, TMC

Besides the Congress, Fadnavis also targetted the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which rules Delhi, and the Banerjee-led Mamata Trinamool Congress (TMC), which is in power in West Bengal. Both these parties have announced their decision to contest the assembly polls in Goa due in early 2022.

Slamming the TMC and nerjee, the former Banerjee, Maharashtra CM said there is no democracy left in West the top in terms of unemployment and crime.

T N RAGHUNATHA III MUMBAI

Maharashtra recorded eight more Omicron cases on

Friday, taking the total number

of the new Covid-19 variant

Pune-based National Institute

of Virology (NIV) said that of

the eight news cases, six cases

were from Pune, while one case

each from Mumbai and the

twin townships of Dombivli-

Kalyan in the neighbouring

cases recorded so far, Mumbai

accounted for 14, followed by

Pimpri-Chinchwad where 10

cases have been found. There

are in all six cases in Pune

(rural), where there are two

cases each Pune Municipal

Corporation (PMC), while

Of the total 40 Omicron

Thane district.

A report released by the

cases in the state to 40.

tion in-charge of Goa, was addressing a gathering in Panaji after the induction of former Porvorim MLA Rohan Khaunte into the party fold. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP's state unit chief Sadanand Shet Tanavade were also present on the occasion.

People are here for experiment. They want to conduct experiment of their own (political) parties in Goa. But Goans are wise enough to understand all this. Goans know who will be with them and who will fly Bengal and that the state is at away after the election," the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

8 more Omicron cases

Kalyan-Dombivali

registered one case each.

logged in Maha, tally 40

Osmanabad have recorded two

cases each. Latur, Buldhana,

Nagpuir and Vasai-Virar have

those eight persons who have

tested positive for Omicron

were taken in the first week of

December. "All eight patients

are men. They are aged between 29 and 45 years. While

seven patients were asympto-

matic, the remaining one

showed symptoms of Omicron," a state public

information, four patients from

Pune have a history of travel to

Dubai, while two are their

contacts. One patient from

Mumbai had travelled to USA

and the other patient from

According to preliminary

department bulletin said.

The swab samples of all

## Silver Line rail project: Discontent in Kerala Cong mounting against Tharoor

Thiruvananthapuram: Discontent is brewing in the State unit of the Congress party over its Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor's reluctance to sign a letter prepared by the MPs from the partyled UDF to the Centre against the state government's semi-high speed rail corridor and his open praise of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for his "investment-friendly" initiatives.

An unfazed Tharoor on Friday said

in a tweet that on some issues it is necessary to put political differences aside and shared his photo with the CM.

Veteran Congress leader and former KPCC president Mullappally Ramachandran today flayed the Thiruvananthapuram MP saying that he should learn party discipline, while Leader of Opposition in the state

KDMC had travelled to

two are in hospital while six are

at home in isolation. "The

close contacts of these patients

are being tracked. All patients

have been vaccinated," the

ties said the total number of

passengers who arrived at

Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur

airports since December 1 was

1,14,446 (16,617 from At-risk

countries and rest 97,829 from

other countries), while pas-

sengers whose RT-PC tests

have been done are 19165

(16,617 from high-risk coun-

tries and 2548 were other coun-

tries). Similarly, RT-PCR pos-

itive and samples sent for

genomic sequencing was 81.

Meanwhile, the authori-

health bulletin said.

Of the infected patients

Assembly V D Satheesan said the Congress would examine Tharoor's stand and take an appropriate decision. While attending a programme here

on Thursday, Tharoor praised Vijayan, saying he, as an administrator, was trying to change the impression that the southern state was not investmentfriendly. The statement came days after he refused to sign a letter prepared by the UDF MPs against the multi-crore Silver Line semi-high speed rail corridor linking the north and south ends of Kerala, a flagship infrastructure project of the Left government.

"Tharoor may be an internationally renowned person, writer or an orator. But, he has to learn the principles and discipline of the Indian National Congress", said Ramachandran. PTI

of Ganga Expressway

PM to lay foundation stone

### UP Govt has failed to deliver on all fronts, says Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government has taken Uttar Pradesh to top position in the country in custodial deaths, hunger index and farm-

on Friday, Akhilesh said, "Those who claim to make Uttar Pradesh number one in the country have actually taken it to the top position in custodial deaths, hunger index, farmers' suicides, in selling public enterprises and banks and in burying cows alive. Can anyone imagine that live cows can be buried? "Yogi Adityanath also claims that UP is number one in 'Ease

of Doing Business'. I am curious as to in which fields is UP in the top position? In UP, there is no Ease of Doing Business but 'Ease of Doing Crime'. Look at the condition of roads. If you smash a coconut on a newly-built road during inauguration, the coconut won't break, but the road will. The BJP leaders would soon use tomato instead of coconut for inaugurating roads. The fact is that the BJP government has failed to deliver to the people on all fronts and would be wiped out of the state in the upcoming assembly elections. People will not rest till they throw out the Uttar Pradesh engine of the so-called double engine government," the SP chief stressed. Akhilesh also targeted the BJP over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and said, "Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni should be sacked from the Union Cabinet by the PM.

### PNS LUCKNOW

iming to give fillip to infra-Astructure development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the much-hyped Ganga

on Saturday. Last month, the prime minister inaugurated the Purvanchal Expressway and on January 4, he is scheduled to inaugurate the Bundelkhand

at a cost of over Rs 36,200 crore. Starting near Bijauli village in Meerut, the expressway will extend till Judapur Dandu village of Prayagraj, meandering through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi,

it will become the longest Expressway at Shahjahanpur

Ganga Expressway," a top gov-ernment official said in Expressway. The 594-km-long six-lane Ganga Expressway will be built Lucknow on Friday.

> new expressway would give a fillip to multiple sectors, including industrial development, trade, agriculture, tourism, etc., and provide a big boost to socio-economic development of the region.

#### Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj. "Upon completion of work,

expressway of Uttar Pradesh, connecting the western and eastern regions. A 3.5-km-long airstrip for assisting emergency take-off and landing of India Air Force planes will also be constructed on the expressway

The official hoped that the

at Shahjahanpur. Besides, an industrial corridor is also proposed to be built along the

Addressing a crowd in Rae Bareli during Vijay Rath Yatra

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## **Ants in pants**

A section of orthodox parents is crying hoarse over a school's decision to introduce unisex uniforms

It is not funny how what we wear can create friction in society. It is as if fashion maligns culture. For some, the baggage of illogical and impractical traditions is lighter to carry than the weight of change. Take the case of girl students. Why does it always have to be girls, or women, when it comes to experimenting with change or conflicting with it? The latest is a section of Muslim community unhappy with a Kozhikode school in Kerala introducing unisex uniforms. A notice of the Government Higher Secondary School said boys and girls will wear trousers and shirts. If the girls wish to wear scarves or mufflers to cover their heads to respect their religious beliefs, they are allowed to do so. Is that what hybrid culture is, a mingling of the retro and the modern, a fusion of haute couture and tradition? That is a debate for another day. The school principal said they consulted the stakeholders — the students and their parents — before affecting the change. Incidentally, the move comes close on the heels of salesgirls in Kerala winning a court battle to get the right to sit while on duty. However, some conser-

vative Muslims in Kozhikode are miffed at their girls dumping skirts for pants. They have organised protest marches, intent on making it a political issue. They must have realised the futility of the protest because no women joined them.

The Government, too, believes a uniform uniform bridges the gender gap and is a sprightly step towards gender equality. Some Kerala schools had introduced three-fourth pants a couple of years ago despite facing opposition. It would have been welcome had the debate been on whether the concept of gender neutrality that is sweeping across the

world should impact school uniforms. The issue here, however, is quite narrow. It is a patriarchal objection to girls wearing pants. One of the Kozhikode protesters let the cat out of the bag by arguing that women wanting to progress does not mean they wear the same clothes as men. He makes two other points. One, that pants are "undemocratic" because they amount to a denial of "diversity". Imagine! Two, it is a "liberal" approach. That, surely, is the crux of the problem. The orthodoxy does not want progress to pass it by, leaving it alone by taking away the children. The girl students are thrilled to wear pants to school. They may have been more thrilled if they had a choice. The whole theory of empowerment of women goes for a toss if it is not about them having a choice. Reacting to a similar neutral uniform row in Ernakulam last month, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor remarked that making girls wear pants is no different from making them wear skirts. Why cannot they have the freedom to choose a uniform that makes them feel comfortable and confident? Wonder why boys are never asked to mandatorily wear *dhoti* and *kurta*.



## An object lesson

Online classes are the way forward as these help save time, fuel and lessen health risks

he intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic might have ebbed but the cataclysm caused by it continues unabated. Several States are reeling under the impact of Omicron, the latest dreaded variant of the virus, and an impending threat of the third wave. Medical fraternity is worried about the pandemic's after-effects on children more than on the elderly. Uncharacteristically, complaints about 'memory fog' (loss of memory) are galore among the young citizens. Till the pandemic receded, the Government shut down schools and colleges and opted for online classes, which proved to be successful to a limited extent. But now that most State Governments have ordered



the reopening of educational institutes, many parents are circumspect of sending their children to schools and colleges, fearing they may get afflicted by the bronchial affliction. Online classes are here to stay, according to many national award-winning school teachers and professors with decades of teaching experience. Dr C Ramakrishnan Nair, a venerated teacher for whom online classes were an altogether new experience, says the medium is more powerful than taking physical classes.

"If the teacher and the student are equally serious about studies, online classes are the best

method to resolve the issues of scarcity of classrooms, poor infrastructure and the shortage of good teachers. The teacher can interact with students on a one-on-one basis and make sure that they have comprehended what has been taught," says Dr Nair, who takes hundreds of students across the country every day through the complex maze of various Indian laws and Constitution. His is not the lone voice. Sukumaran Periyachur, a national award-winning teacher, and Shylendran, a teacher in Navodaya Vidyalaya, are of the view that online classes are safe, secure and make education accessible to all. "The only section which would be affected because of this technological advancement is the private school managements who literally hold the education system to ransom," say these two teachers. Another voice of authority is Isro's former chairperson G Madhavan Nair, who feels that if the Centre invests a few thousand crores in launching communication satellites, the entire education system in the country could be brought under the online network. The innovation would help save commute time and energy, fuel bills (with the exception of practical experiments) and learning could be done without external disturbances.

## Reasons for dearth of Muslim leaders



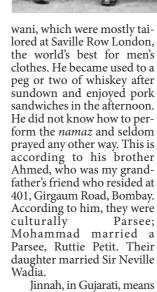
Since 1762, a number of Muslim chieftains showed the spark with some good ideas but could not command the increasing followers

alman Khurshid's defence of what he said about Hindutva as well as others defending him brings out a stark fact. Muslims of the subcontinent have failed to throw up a leader of stature since Akbar, the Mughal emperor. Akbar showed the way of integrating with the rest of the populace. He conquered territory after territory, consolidated his empire and ruled for five decades. He made it possible for his successors to rule well for a century and poorly until 1762.

Thereafter, the British began to rule for nearly two centuries, with a number of Muslim chieftains who had ideas but could not command the increasing followers. Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan was a sincere officer who pleaded for educating Muslim youth but could not go beyond Aligarh and declaring that Hindus and Muslims were separate nations. Justice Ameer Ali was the first Indian High Court judge but migrated to England after he retired. Maulana Muhammad Ali was active and imaginative but he was obsessed with retaining the Caliph on the Turkish throne. It was his uppermost priority and he died too early to have greater influence.

Poet Iqbal wrote an extremely popular song, or tarana — Saare jahan se achcha Hindustan hamara — which Indian military bands play with alacrity even now. However, upon returning to India after a long tour of Europe, Iqbal underwent a revolution of mind and sponsored a division of India into the northeastern provinces and the rest. In short, he sponsored a confederate partition of India; he became a separatist.

Chaudhary Rehmat Ali, a Cambridge scholar, coined the name 'Pakistan' and did little else. Thereafter followed Qaide-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who was a true secularist until he arrived at the parting of ways with Gandhiji at the Calcutta plenum of the Congress in 1928. Earlier, popular Congress leader Sarojini Naidu described Jinnah dest ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity". He regularly wore lounge suits, never chudidar pyjamas and sher-



tiny, which was his grandfather's name. When he converted from the Lohana, a Hindu caste, he continued being called Jinnahbhai but returned to India as Jinnah. He became a barrister in two years but was too young to be awarded the recognition. He had to stay back for two more years. He had learnt many an English habit and had no interest in religion.

On being sidelined by Gandhi in the Congress, Jinnan went away to London to continue his law practice and became arguably the highest paid barrister across



MUSLIMS OF THE

SUBCONTINENT HAVE FAILED TO THROW UP A LEADER OF STATURE SINCE AKBAR, THE MUGHAL EMPEROR. AKBAR SHOWED THE WAY OF INTEGRATING WITH THE REST OF THE POPULACE the British Empire. He had bought himself an impressive mansion in Hampstead in north London. In 1934, the Muslim League began persuading him to return to India because the party had become moribund. On the assurance that he would be made president for life, Jinnah returned to Bombay. He dictated terms to the League, whose other leaders did what Jinnah said. When the party did not do well in the 1937 elections, he decided to blow the bugle for Pakistan on March 22, 1940. To quote from his speech: "The Hindus and Muslims have different religious philosophies, social customs and literatures. They neither intermarry nor interdine and, indeed, they belong to two different civilisations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their views on life and of life are different. It is also quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes in different episodes. Very often, the hero of one is a foe of the other and, likewise, their vic tories and defeats overlap."

The point we are stressing is that Muslims find it diffi-

As is known, proper track signals, loco

pilot sensitisation, periodic review and main-

tenance of elephant corridors and a unique

elephant detection system are proposed for

cult to throw up a tall leader. Jinnah was successful in getting Pakistan but he played the role of a brilliant advocate rather than a leader. The only beneficiaries of Pakistan were a few migrants from UP, a few Gujarati businessmen from Bombay and the Punjabis who still dictate to the rest of their country centred around Lahore. The majority of Pakistanis went with Bangladesh. The rest feel that they are under Islamabad's heel. Yet, more Muslims remain in India than in Pakistan. Their economy is in a shambles. It is still agrarian, if not also backward. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the hill districts are in the 19th, if not the 18th, century while Sindh is unhappy and Balochistan

wants to secede. Incidentally, another beneficiary of Pakistan was Jinnah who established his place in history as the founder of a nation. What is the reason for the paucity of leadership? Is it the comprehensiveness of the scriptures? Have they covered all aspects of life?

(The writer is a wellknown columnist, an autho and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

#### TERS TO THE EDITOR

#### ATTACK IS THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE Sir — The Bangladesh Liberation War, also

known as the Bangladesh War of Independence or simply the Liberation War in Bangladesh, was a revolution and an armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in what was then East Pakistan during the 1971 Bangladesh genocide. It was a bold and purposeful decision to give full autonomy to the Indian Army back then by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Similar to the freedom she gave to General Sam Manekshaw to liberate Bangladesh in 1971; Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 gave the same liberty to General Krishnaswamy Sundarji to evict the Chinese from Sumdorong Chu valley in Arunachal Pradesh. The recent Balakot surgical strike to eliminate Pakistani terrorists is another striking

There is no scope for buying time at this juncture from these eternal enemies at the Line of Control. Attack is the best form of defence and the Indian armed forces can strike the hard way to drive away the enemy once and for all. We remember the soldiers who laid their lives in these operations on the 50th Year of the Liberation War in Bangladesh. It is a proud day for our forces for these successful operations across the border.

MR Jayanthy | Mumbai

#### IS MAN NO LONGER A SOCIAL ANIMAL?

Sir — If being reminded that the aphorism 'live and let live' needs to be modified to suit the modern times is in itself a straightforward and unemotional statement difficult to comprehend; 'live and help others live' as the new cliché is sure to raise enough eyebrows. In an age where the 'self' has taken precedence over all other aspects of relationships, it is hard to perceive any special efforts being made towards giving shape to such a noble

When it comes to awareness about our immediate vicinity, it is generally believed that concerns for our neighbours come first and then the community. But in most of the metro cities, even today, people are

## Why so many elephant deaths?



he gigantic but lovable elephant is placed in schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Many projects are in place in India to save this magnificent creature from extinction. But the stark reality is that elephant deaths have surged significantly over the last few years. As many as five elephants died due to collisions with trains in Tamil Nadu and Assam in November and early December this year. This perennial "train-elephant collision" has been studied for a very long time but halfhearted measures have not helped.

safeguarding the lives of elephants. But these measures have to see the light of day to help the jumbos. Overpasses and underpasses have proven advantageous. Solar powered fences and elephant proof trenches are vital to minimise deaths due to man-animal conflict. Such projects are on full swing in Kerala. a State known to love and admire the elephants. Shrinking elephant habitat is one of the root causes of the big mammal succumbing to causes other than natural. More and more elephant corridors and enhanced budgetary provisions for ensuring elephants are in the safe confines of their homes, and hence away from human interference, cannot be overstressed. Elephants are magnificent animals and a critical part of the ecosystem. It is high time we realised the need of the hour to find ways to protect this creature.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

unaware of the existence of residents next door. In these modern times where man's materialistic pursuits have morphed him into a caricature of insensitiveness, emotional connections hardly exist between people. Hence it is difficult to gauge any empathy building up for fellow beings. Considering that man by nature is a social animal, cordial interactions between people are expected. But personal interests always seem to gain the better of people and hence 'minding my own business' has become the social norm more so now than it was ever before.

Pachu Menon | Margao

**DURGA PUJA GETS HERITAGE STATUS** Sir — Durga Puja is a Hindu religious celebration that has evolved into a cultural and secular occasion. It has also become a spot for social and artistic gatherings. Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava or Sharadotsav, honours and pays respect to Hindu goddess Durga and commemorates

Durga's victory over Mahishasur. It originated in the Indian subcontinent. The emotion and joy of Durga Puja will soon be known world over as it has been accord-

ed heritage status by a top UN body. For the first time in Asia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has inscribed Kolkata's Durga Puja on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (ICH), giving Bengalis and Indians a cause for celebration. Durga Puja joins other Indian cultural practices and manifestations on the ICH list, including the Kumbh Mela, Bengal and Odisha's Chhau dance, Manipur's Sankirtana, Yoga, Ramlila, Buddhist chanting in Ladakh and Nawruz. "A subject of tremendous pride and excitement for every Indian". Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Khushbu Khatri | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

He (PM Modi) fears only one thing - losing an election. I'm glad that he fears at least



—P Chidambaram



The Omicron variant is going to spread rapidly in the US and a winter of severe illness and death awaits the

unvaccinated. **US President** 

Very interesting that I'm promoting one of the most iconic film franchis-



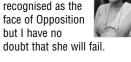
-Priyanka Chopra Sourav Ganguly is



the BCCI president and surely should be asked why there is this discrepancy.

Former India captain -Sunil Gavaskar

Mamata Banerjee is trying hard to be recognised as the face of Opposition but I have no



**BJP** leader —Roopa Ganguly www.dailypioneer.com

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### **FIRST COLUMN** THE BANKERS' STRIKE **IS MERE TOKENISM**

As the general public is not with the unions, there is no way they can stop privatisation of banks



#### **S KALYANASUNDARAM**

anking operations, including cheque clearances across the country, got affected as bankers under the aegis of the United Forum of Bank Unions have gone on a nationwide strike to protest against the proposed privatisation of two government banks. The United Forum of Bank Unions which is an umbrella body of nine unions has given the strike call for December 16 and 17. For the same demand they have abstained from work on March 15 and 16 also. Earlier as part of budget announcement, the Finance Minister had informed that two unnamed public sector banks will be privatized. Bank workers going on strike is not a new phenomenon, but over the years the strength of the unions to bargain 'based on their right to strike work' has depleted. It is well settled under different labour laws that employees have a right to strike work to highlight their demands as any management can have the right of lock-out or lay off, all subject to conditions. Long



time ago, we had only public sector banks and some private sector old generation banks and the workers of these banks were all well organized under communist unions. The workers had different settlements that were reached under Industrial Disputes Act and there was not much scope for the management to deviate from any of these. There used to be a system of 'collective bargaining', which in a lighter vein used to mean that the 'management will bargain' but ultimately 'unions will collect'. However, in 1990s, new private banks, like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank etc, had come into existence. These banks have adopted technology for providing service and the role of labour unions has been curtailed by keeping all the staff under officer cadre. Over the years, these banks have acquired sizeable business also. As the employees of new private sector banks are not under these unions, these private banks function without any disruption. Even in public sector banks, when customers are having facility of online banking, the employees' strike does not disrupt transactions. Alternate channels like internet banking, mobile banking, ATM etc ensure that customer service is not affected. The only major service which is affected is clearing house function where cheques are cleared under the Cheque Truncation System administered by Reserve Bank of India. Though most of the employees obey the command of the unions and strike work, they are not happy about it. Under the principle of nowork-no-pay, they forego the wages of the days of strike. Moreover, when they resume the work next day, there will be added pressure of work without any compensation. When the issue involved is other than service conditions, they feel that they are unnecessarily dragged into the issue which is political. And many of them are not convinced with the ideology of the unions also. Everyone knows that the government will carry on their agenda as they have got the mandate of the people. With the majority they have in both the houses of parliament, any amendment to Acts required will be carried out. As the unions are totally opposing the move of the government, they lose the opportunity of bargaining for the welfare of their employees after privatization. If the unions are tactful, instead of blindly opposing the privatisastion, they can bargain for the welfare of the employees in those banks and cooperate with the government. In any case the government will carry out its agenda. When the general public is also not with the unions, there is no way that they can stop privatization of banks. The strike is just tokenism.

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed

# Insects help richly in ecological restoration



Insects help break down organic matter like corpses and animal faeces. This is important as it reuses nutrients, making them available for aerating the soil

ewilding is a progressive way to conserve the environment. It is a form of environmental conservation and ecological restoration which has significant potential to increase biodiversity, create self-sustaining environments, and mitigate climate change.

There are two main approaches to rewilding: First, it enables degraded lands to recover by preventing anthropogenic influences, and allowing nature to conserve itself with minimum human interference. Second, re-introducing lost or dwindling plant or animal species into their nat-ural environment, enabling restoration of

their populations and ecological balance. Rewilding does not take place only in protected areas or remote locations. Examples of this can be seen in many cities. Over the years, mining has caused rampant destruction in parts of the Aravalis, in Gurugram, Haryana. An NGO led by Latika Thukral and her team has healed nearly 550 acres of land and converted it into the Aravali Biodiversity Park by planting thousands of saplings. Today, it is a repository of native flora and fauna, which also has a water-conservation zone, and is an educational space for spreading awareness about environmental issues. Similarly, Yamuna Biodiversity Park of Delhi is an example of the successful restoration of barren land.

Kaikondanahalli Lake, which lies on the south-eastern periphery of Bengaluru, was severely polluted with sewage and solid waste. Following a newspaper report, the corporation planned to restore this lake with the support of groups formed of local residents, experts from engineering, education, ecology, etc. A year after restoration, over 50 species of birds and a great variety of butterflies, snakes, and frogs began to appear. There has been an enormous increase in animal and insect species since then.Regeneration of Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Rajasthan is also an example of the revival of a degraded

This article will briefly discuss the importance of restoration of insect habitats, which is currently untouched despite their tremendous potential and biological contributions in restoration of biodiversity in urban areas. The term 'Biodiversity'is used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth. It refers to all of the species in a particular region or ecosystem which encompass plants, bacteria, animals, humans and other living things.

Insects are critical to agriculture,

human health, and bioresources because they play important role in cycling of nutrients, disperse seeds, pollinate plants, maintain soil structure, improve fertility, and control population of other organisms. Insects are at the base of the food chain, therefore their recovery is a prerequisite for the recovery of other species.

They provide various kinds of useful services which are described below: Insects possess significant amounts of



CONSERVATION OF INSECTS CAN RICHLY BENEFIT FROM **INSECT-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND POLITICAL** ADVOCACY. HENCE, WE HAVE NUMEROUS WAYS TO CONSERVE INSECTS AND CAN USE ANY OR ALL OF THEM TO **SLOW DOWN** INSECTS' DECLINE. IT IS IMPERATIVE

THAT WE PROTECT available for aerating the soil. AND PRESERVE THE INSECTS' WORLD FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

by ants. They bring these seeds to their nests to eat and it is possible that some seeds are dropped along the way and others may be cached in the soil. These seeds may germinate and establish plants at a new location. Therefore, ants play a cruciai role in the dispersal of fruit and seeds from plants. There are over 150 plant species that depend on insects for dispersal. Similarly, honeybees pollinate

almonds, apples, squash etc.

nutrients required by both humans and animals such as proteins, car-It was once stated by EO bohydrates, vitamins, fibres, minerals etc. In South America, caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, and

crickets are popular foods. Approximately \$500 million worth of tinned silkworm pupae are exported from Thailand.

The pollination process of many flowering plants and crops relies on animals — primarily insects. Animal induced pollination

food we eat. Predatory insects feed on pests that threaten crops, thus performing the role of pesticides without chemicals. This reduces pest-control costs and increases crop yields, while reducing pesticide residues.

is crucial to the production of the

Insects also contribute to the breakdown of organic matter like fallen litter, corpses and animal fae-ces. This is important since it reuses nutrients, making them

Some plants produce fruit and seeds that are eaten and collected

and help plants grow, breed, and produce food. To keep the cycle of life going, bees transfer pollen between flowering plants. Most of the food we consume depends on pollination, particularly by bees: like

We also rely on insects for silk, dye, honey, wax and medical and genetic research.

Wilson, a noted biologist: "If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos."

An ecosystem is based on the coexistence of species and communities alongside the environment. The rivet popper hypothesis was proposed by Ecologist Paul Ehrlich to illustrate the consequences of species extinction on ecosystem. He compares key species to airplane rivets and claims that if those rivets were gradually removed, the plane would also crash. Similarly, if key species are removed from an ecosystem, their absence would eventually harm the ecosystem not immediately but in the long run.

There are many countries where pollinators have disappeared and people are forced to hand pollinate apples, pears and passion fruits, etc. Therefore, the loss of insects from the food chain would negatively impact human food

A recent study led by experts revealed that darkling beetle (indigenous to East Asia including the Korean peninsula) larvae are capable of decomposing plastic components by breaking them down at the molecular level. Researchers discovered that the larvae of the beetle in the order Coleoptera (Plesiophthophthalmusdavidis) can decompose polystyrene, which earlier was difficult to break down due to its unique molecular structure. Currently, there are more than 50 known species of plastivores, including the greater wax moth, providing hope for scientists seeking to reduce a thriving future.

plastic pollution.

Thus, insects constitute a substantial part of our ecosystem but the number and diversity of insects are decreasing due to habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. Preservation and restoration of habitats that support insect diversity are essential to their conservation, otherwise many of these species will become extinct.

Therefore, every home, school,

and local park should dedicate a portion of their lawn space as a nat-ural habitat which would provide the insects a conducive environment. Pesticides and insecticides such as Neonicotinoids should be prohibited in local vegetation and green areas since they harm insect populations and mandate naturerich development practices. Furthermore, artificial light at night can harm and kill many creatures including amphibians, birds, insects and plants. For example, most nocturnal insects are attracted to artificial lights that indirectly kill insects via exhaustion or through predation before dawn. Therefore, protecting dark night skies will benefit insect populations. Growing native plants provides more benefits to native insects due to their close ecological relationships. There are many insect species that depend on these plants for food and nest ing sites and become prey for birds and other wildlife, so native plants indirectly attract numerous vertebrates. Insects' conservation can richly benefit from insects-friendly environmental policies and political advocacy. Hence, we have numerous ways to conserve insects, and we can use any or all of them to slow insect declines.

It is imperative that we protect and preserve the insects' world for

THOSE WHO SAID WE DON'T ALLOW DURGA PUJA IN BENGAL SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES. TODAY. THEIR FALSEHOOD STANDS EXPOSED. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER **MAMATA BANERJEE** 





WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN HOW THE TMC TWICE TRIED TO STOP DURGA PUJA IMMERSION AS THE DATE OF MUHARRAM CLASHED WITH IT.

-BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

## Preserving the linguistic diversity of Northeast India

Since English is the preferred medium of instruction, learners have remained aloof from the benefits that come with education in mother tongue

(The writer is a former IFS officer. The views

expressed are personal.)

→he north-eastern region of India is blessed with unparalleled ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. The land of seven sisters and a brother, it is the most diverse part of the most diverse nation, being home to a number of plain and hill tribal communities having their own cultures, traditions, livelihood practices, language and dialects.

As for linguistic diversity, in Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, around 23, 20, and 15 languages, respectively, are in use and Meghalaya is home to Khasi, Garo and Pnar/Jaintia languages. The languages used across the region belong to five different language families, <sup>°</sup>Indo-Aryan, namely, Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic and Tai-Kadai.



RAGHAVENDRA P **TIWARI** 

However, these are not recognised by respective governments as official languages. The pace of development

in the region is exerting massive pressure on the autonomous tribal communities. As such, some of these languages and dialects encompassing cherished civilizational discourses have already become 'vulnerable' to 'moribund. The contributing factors to the vanishing of languages in the region are better job prospects in English, conversion to Christianity and impact of churches in the choice of lingua franca and inappropriate language policies framed for

administrative conveniences. A mother tongue is vital for design thinking and comprehension and creating the mind-set necessary for holis-



tic development. Moreover, learning in a foreign language also brings a sense of alienation from one's own culture and heritage leading to an inferiority complex, whereas learning in mother tongue helps develop a better sense of one's cultural traits. Thus, learning in the mother-tongue is of paramount significance in improving the quality of education. Since English is the preferred medium of instruction in India, learners have remained aloof from the benefits that come with education in the

mother tongue. UNESCO has

mother tongue in the early years of schooling to enable children to learn to read and write alongside introducing them to the early mathematical and academic concepts. In order to capitalise on the advantage of learning in the mother tongue, The NEP 2020 emphasises mother tongue as medium of instruction at least up to the fifth standard. This policy also envisages integrating teaching and learning of Indian languages with school and higher education at every

It is in this backdrop that the announcement made by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the recently concluded North East Education Conclave on NEP-2020 organised by Assam

also recommended the use of Government and Shamkardev Education and Research Foundation for making Guwahati the Language Laboratory of India and for creating safe educational zones is significant. He also emphasised capitalizing on the strength of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, biotic and abiotic diversities of North-eastern region for its emotional integration

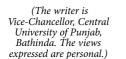
with the rest of the country. Thus, the North-eastern States should not adopt English as the State language merely for administrative conveniences but embrace regional languages as State languages as many languages are being pushed to the endangered category without the official status and patronage. Major dialects should be given scripts

status of languages. The policy of the three-language formula should be revisited to promote regional languages. Dictionaries and learners' books need to be written for every language and dialect spoken in the north-east. A group of people needs to be trained in languages spoken in the region for the purpose of translation, as is being done for international languages. Customs and traditions should be penned down in every lan-

guage and dialect. Skilled teachers for every language should be there for the purpose of teaching and creating ICT enabled e-materials in those languages. Highquality programmes in trans-lation and interpretation should be offered in all the lanso as to promote them to the guages of the NER. Every

central university in the northeast should be sanctioned a Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Local Languages and Dialects (CPPLLD) for implementing these and other imperatives for preserving linguistic diversity and harmonious inter-relationships of the tribal communities with nature, ecology and cosmos.

We are running out of fuel with the passing away of senior citizens, and without a holistic language policy, languages and dialects are getting increasingly marginalised, causing a decline in our traditional knowledge base about tribal cultures, traditions, livelihood practices, environmental ethics, nature centric development, etc which are necessary ingredients for securing the future of the region.





## **US senators nods import ban on China**

Senators gave final congressional approval on Thursday to a bill barring imports from China's Xinjiang region unless businesses can prove they were produced without forced labour, overcoming initial hesfrom White itation House and what supporters said was opposition from corporations.

The measure is the latest in a series intensifying US penalties over China's alleged systemic and widespread abuse of ethnic and religious minorities in western region, especially Xinjiang's predominantly Muslim Uyghurs. The Biden administration also announced new sanctions Thursday targeting several Chinese biotech and surveillance companies, a leading drone manufacturer and government entities for their actions in Xinjiang.

The Senate vote sends bill to President Joe Biden. Press secretary Jen Psaki said this week that Biden supported measure, after months of White House declining to take a public stand on an earlier version of legislation. The United States says China is committing genocide in its treatment of

spread reports by rights groups and journalists of forced sterilization and large detention camps where many Uyghurs allegedly are compelled to work in factories.

China denies any abuses. It says steps it has taken are necessary to combat terrorism and a separatist movement. The U.S. cites raw cotton, gloves, tomato products, silicon and viscose, fishing gear and a range of components in solar energy as among goods alleged to have been produced with help of the forced labour.

Xinjiang is a resource-rich mining region, important for agricultural production, and home to a booming industrial sector. Detainees also are moved outside Xinjiang and put to work in factories, including those in apparel and textiles, electronics, solar energy and automotive sectors, the US says. "Many companies have already taken steps to clean up their supply chains. And, frankly, they should have no concerns about this law," Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican who introduced the earlier version of the legislation with Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley, said in a statement.

## China vows to respond after US enacts Xinjiang sanctions

rhe China will take all nec-Lessary measures to safeguard its institutions and enterprises, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday after the U.S. Senate passed a law barring imports from the Xinjiang region unless businesses can prove they were made without forced labor.

The spokesman, Wang Wenbin, said the measure approved Thursday "indicates that the U.S. has no scruples about smearing China by every means.""The relevant actions seriously undermine the principles of market economy and international economic and trade rules, and seriously damage the interests of Chinese institutions and enterprises," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing. "China strongly deplores and rejects that and urges the U.S. to immediately correct its mistake. China will take all necessary measures to

resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese institutions and enterprises," Wang said without elaborating. The law is the latest US

penalty over China's alleged systemic and widespread abuse of ethnic and religious minorities in its far western region, especially Xinjiang's predomi-Muslim UyghursPresident Joe Biden is expected to sign the law after overcoming initial hesitation from the White House and what supporters said was oppo-

sition from corporations. He also announced new sanctions Thursday that target several Chinese biotech and surveillance companies, a leading drone manufacturer and government entities for their actions in Xinjiang. Despite numerous independent investigations finding forced sterilization and large detention camps where many Uyghurs allegedly are compelled to work

in factories, China has denounced all such claims as the "lie of the century." It portrays them as part of an effort to stifle China's growth and damage its reputation. China at first denied the prison-like camps exist but later said they were voluntary centers for job training and de-radicalization. It now says all "students" have graduated.

"The U.S. government is trying to strangle the economy of Xinjiang through its industrial and supply chains under the false pretexts of 'forced labor' and 'violations of human rights, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday, citing a report by the Institute for Central Asia Studies under Lanzhou University in northwestern Gansu province. The U.S. says raw cotton, gloves, tomato products, silicon, fishing gear and a range of solar energy components are among goods allegedly made with help from forced labour.

## Soaring infections rattle Europe, fuel dread about holidays

**AP** ■ LONDON

Soaring infections in Britain driven in part by omicron variant of coronavirus rattled Europe on Thursday, prompting new restrictions on the Continent and fueling a familiar dread on both sides of Atlantic about entering a new phase of pandemic just in time for the holidays.

Much remains unknown about omicron, but officials increasingly warn that it appears more transmissible than delta variant, which has already put pressure on hospitals worldwide. With so many questions unanswered, uncer tainty reigned over how quickly and how severely to crack down on Christmas travel and year-end parties. After the U.K. recorded its highest number of confirmed new COVID-19 infections since pandemic began, France announced Thursday that it would tighten entry rules for those coming from Britain.

Hours later, country set another record, with a further 88,376 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported Thursday, almost 10,000 more than day before.

### **Travel curbs augur** somber Christmas amid omicron uncertainty

AP ■ LONDON

Travel restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the omicron variant of the coronavirus are hammering the already beleaguered travel and tourism industries and adding to the gloom in Europe in the midst of the crucial holiday season.

Travelers are rearranging or canceling trips because of tightening rules. Eurostar, which operates trains across the English Channel, sold out of tickets to France on Friday before new travel restrictions to and from Britain went into Much remains unknown

about the new variant, although increasing evidence indicates it spreads more easily. While researchers race to figure out how severe it is and how well vaccines work against it, the uncertainty itself is also causing some to change their plans. Amanda Wheelock, 29, a grad student at the University of Michigan, canceled a trip to France with her partner as cases spiked there. Even though the surge isn't necessarily due to omicron, the uncertainty about the new variant, and a new requirement that all US travelers have to test negative before flying back to the US, made her worry that the trip would be more stressful than fun.Instead, she's traveling to the Anchorage, Alaska, area to see friends.

She feared that she would spend much of her trip trying to avoid getting infected thus not able to take full advantage of being in France. "A vacation with a lot of stress probably not a great vacation," said Wheelock, who is from Arvada, Colorado. She is

### UN leader urges 'concrete' moves on year-end vaccine goal

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres exhorted the world on Thursday to make "concrete" progress within days toward a now-distant goal of vaccinating 40% of the global population against COVID-19 before the year ends.

"Vaccine inequity is giving variants a free pass to run wild," Guterres—working from home because of exposure to the coronavirus — told reporters by videoconference as countries grappled with the spread of the virus' omicron variant. "The strategy of vaccine hoarding, the strategy of vaccine nationalism or strategy of vaccine diplomacy has failed. This new variant has demonstrated this failure," said Guterres, who came into contact last week with someone who tested positive for virus; it's not clear which version. Guterres has since tested negative but said he's remaining in

isolation until the end of this week.Scientists have long warned that patchy vaccination raises the risk of worrisome coronavirus variants emerging. That's because the more the virus spreads, the more chances it has to mutate. While there are many unknowns about the new omicron variant, the World Health Organization says it's spreading faster than any other variant to date.

With little more than two weeks to go, 98 countries have yet to meet the WHO's 40%vaccinated target, Guterres said. Forty countries haven't vaccinated even 10%.

"All countries, especially those that have potential of responsibilities, must take concrete action in coming days to make greater progress" toward year-end goal, Guterres said. He added that they need to "be far more ambitious" in moving toward the WHO's next benchmark: inoculating 70% of world by middle of next year.

#### MBS now uncrowned King amid concerns over father's health

**Riyadh:** GB From greeting foreign leaders to heading regional summits, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is taking over reins from his elderly father and becoming Saudi Arabia's uncrowned king.

With increased concerns over nearly 86-year-old King Salman's health, Prince Mohammed, 36, is taking charge of presidential meetings and reception of dignitaries, with king rarely making public appearances.

While Prince Mohammed has been considered de facto leader since his appointment as heir to throne in June 2017, his growing prominence has never been more apparent than when he met with French President Emmanuel Macron in early December, and led Gulf Cooperation Council summit on Tuesday. King Salman, who usually heads the annual meeting after warm embraces and friendly handshakes, was a no-

KAVYAM

### 2,500 Myanmar villagers flee **Army troops into Thailand**

**AP** ■ BANGKOK

Fighting between Myanmar government forces and ethnic guerrillas has sent about 2,500 villagers fleeing across the border into Thailand, a Thai army officer said on Friday.

The exodus was biggest

since April, when several thousand villagers from Myanmar's eastern state of Karen fled to Thailand following airstrikes by Myanmar government forces in of several ethnic minorities who have been battling for decades for greater autonomy from Myanmar's central government.

Fighting between two sides is intermittent, but heated up after military in February seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A Thai army officer in western border province of Tak told The Associated Press that around 2,500 villagers from Myanmar had crossed Moei River, which marks border, since Thursday to seek shelter in Thailand's Mae Sot district.

The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release ly women and children -- with humanitarian assistance including shelter and food, and tested them for COVID-19.

## US regulators lift in-person restrictions on abortion pill

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday permanently removed a major obstacle for women seeking abortion pills, eliminating a long-standing requirement that they pick up the medication in

Millions of American women will now be able to get a prescription via an online consultation and receive pills through mail. FDA officials said a scientific review supported broadening access, including no longer limiting dispensing to a small number of specialty clinics and doctor's offices. But prescribers will still need to undergo certification and training. Additionally, agency said

dispensing pharmacies will have to be certified. The decision is latest shift in the polarized legal battle over medication abortion, which has only intensified amid disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is certain to spur legal challenges and more restrictions in Republican-led Earlier this year FDA

stopped enforcing in-person requirement because of the pandemic. Under Thursday's decision, the agency permanently dropped 20-year-old rule, which has long been opposed by medical societies, including American Medical Association, which say restriction offers no clear benefit to patients. The FDA's latest scientific review stems from a 2017 lawsuit led by

Union, which argued that the agency's restrictions block or delay medical care, especially for people in low-income and rural communities.
The ACLU hailed elimina-

the American Civil Liberties

tion of strictest requirements but said regulators should have gone further and allowed prescribing by any physician and broader pharmacy dispensing. Abortion opponents said FDA decision would result in more drugrelated side effects and complications for women. Physicians who prescribe the drug, mifepristone, will have to certify that they can provide emergency care to deal with potential adverse effects, including excessive bleeding, FDA officials said

### agranté 💸

#### KAVYAM" - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Advertisement is invited to inform general public at large regarding cancellation of units of already allotted customers through the 1st draw of lots dated 24.06.2019, 2nd draw of lots dated 01.08.2020 and 3rd draw of lots dated 01.08.2020 and 01.08.2020 dated 22.01.2021 due to non-payment despite several reminders, in the Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project Kavyam is being developed by Agrante Realty Ltd Sector-108, Gurugram, Haryana, as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof (details available at the Department website, i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in).

S.No.	Application No.	TYPE	Unit No.	Applicant Name	Co-Applicant Name	
1	3833	Type-1	TC-1202	Shripal Singh	N/A	
2	4439	Type-3	TD-107	Varun Arya	N/A	
3	3773	Type-1	TA2-802	Vijay Kadian	Shri Devi	

It is to inform to all above allottees that it is last & final opportunity to restore the allotment after making the all dues till date within seven working days, otherwise it shall be considered as cancelled and the same shall be allotted to the aspiring applicants under the applicable provisions of policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendments thereof. Office address: Agrante Realty Ltd Unit No. 122 Suncity Trade Tower, Sector-21, Gurgaon-122016

CIN: U70101DL2013PLC248731 Contact at: - website: www.kavyamhomes.com; 0124-4769500-599, 8800499383, 8800499674

#### Office of Executive Engineer Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan ne No/Fax. 0135- 2742028, E-mail – eenorth-ujs-uk@nic.in

Letter No: 2140 /E-Tender notice/21-22

Dated: 16.12.2021 **NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING** 

e-Tender notice

On behalf of the Chief General Manager, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Dehradun online tenders in Two Bid System,on item rate contract basis, are invited for the following works in District Dehradun (Uttarakhand) from technically and financially capable bidders, registered with Uttrakhand Jal Sansthan/Uttrakhand Peyjal Nigam in appropriate class & category up to prescribed date & time on the portal as mentioned in terms and conditions.

No.		(Earnest Money)	Document (in Rs)	completion of works
03	Strenghtening of vishvanath Enclave And Defence Enclave, Danda Nooriwala, Sahastradhara Road Ward no-60, Nagar Nigam Under North Division, District Dehradun	Order No- 121(1)/XXVII(7)/21- 32/2007 टी०सी० दिनांक 29-04-2021 Bidder	₹5000.00 + 18%GST	12-months

Bid No.	Description	Time Schedule (Key Dates)				
1	Date of Online Publication	18.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs				
2	Document download : Start Date	19.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs				
3	Pre-Bid Meeting : Date	23.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs				
4	Bid Submission : Start date	29.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs				
5	Bid Submission : End date	06.01.2022upto17:00 Hrs				
6	Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).	07.01.2022upto17:00 Hrs				
7	Date of Technical Bid Opening	10.01.2022 at 11:00 Hrs				
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	14.01.2022 At 11:00Hrs				
Executive Engineer (North)						

#### territory held by Karen ethnic minority. They were allowed to stay for a few days then returned information, said Thai authorito Myanmar. The Karen are one ties provided evacuees -- most-

#### RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (S/ P) JHOTWARA ROAD, JAIPUR TEL No. 0141-2281912, 2281913 Email:-gmsprsrtc@gmail.com

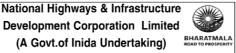
**E-Tendering Notice** 

E-tender invited for the purchase of Tyre retreading material For further details you can visit online website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or from e-procurement cell RISL, Yojana Bhawan ,Tilak Marg, C- Scheme, Jaipur-302005 and contact on Toll Free number No. 1800-3070-2232 (Help Desk be contacted directly in the following nobile nos. 91-7878007972 and 91-7878007973 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM on al ng days).and e-mail-eproc@rajasthan.gov.in

UBN No RTC2122GLOB00294 Advt. No. 161/2021-22 General Manager (S/P) Raj.Samwad/C/21/9536



Development Corporation Limited (A Govt.of Inida Undertaking)



Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4-Parliament Street, New Delhi-11000

#### NOTICE TO KEY PROFESSIONALS REGISTERED ON INFRACON WEB PORTAL OF MORT&H

- INFRACON is a web based National Portal for Consultance Firms which facilitates the hosting of CVs of Key personnel and Credentials of Consultancy Firms since 2015 under MoRT&H maintained by NHIDCL.
- 2. The CVs of Key Personnel in INFRACON Portal are currently under the process of Background Verification and the issues in CVs have been intimated through Official Emails and through notifications in respective INFRACON IDs. The portal gets updated in a dynamic manner; hence,the Key Personnel are advised to continuously monitor the Portal for important updates.

Note: a) Incase your issues/queries have been resolved then'this Notice may be ignored.

b) Key personnel are also advised to refrain themselves from any unwanted non-factual complaints as it will invite strict legal action apart from debarment.

For details of observations on your INFRACON CVs, refer to our Email from support-infracon@gov.in or by logging into your INFRACON ID on www.infracon.nic.in

davp 37112/11/0004/21-22

**BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION** 

### LORDKANHIYA INFOTECH LLP

LLPIN: AAF-4647 Regd. Office: 68, Chanderlok Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE "FORM NO. URC-2" Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act

[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014] Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companie Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar of companies at Delhi that LORDKANHIYA INFOTECH LLP a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) may be registered under

Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares The Principal objects of the company are as follows:-Carrying on the business of Traders, Merchandisers, Importers, exporters of computers, its

Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate the objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana) Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with copy to the company at its registered office.

parts, allied products and developing any type of software, giving of services A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the registered office at 68, Chanderlok Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 on any

Dated: 18th December, 2021

Name(s) of Applicant(s 1. Vijay Garg 2. Ashish Garg

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to change the composition

of the following Express Trains from the dates shown against each:-						
REVISED COMPOSITION OF THE TRAINS						
Train No. & Name	Existing Composition	Revised Composition	Date w.e.f. (Originating Station)			
16317 Kanyakumari-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Himsagar Express	Sleeper-10 General-03	AC-3 Tier-02 Sleeper-10	From Kanyakumari: 15.04.2022			
16318 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kanyakumari Himsagar Express	Parcel (SLR)-02 Pantry-01	Dorool (CLD) 02	From Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra: 18.04.2022			
For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc						

passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.





visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

Please join us on Tibe f B

12 months

12 months

Superintending Engineer

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 



E-Tendering/Tender Notice

Wall & Apprutenant works in following Water Supply Schemes

Date 17-12-2021

Rs. 250.16 Lakh

Rs. 425.46 Lakh

Letter No. 6099 / 613 / 545 Name of Work: - Over Head Tank, Pipe Line, FHTC, Pump House, Boundary

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated cost	Period of completion of work:
1	Majhola-2 MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 419.69 Lakh	12 months
2	Gangi MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 376.84 Lakh	12 months
3	Gausi Kunwa MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 422.52 Lakh	12 months
4	Jhankat MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 425.94 Lakh	12 months
5	Aencheta MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 358.71 Lakh	12 months
6	Haraiya MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 219.60 Lakh	12 months
7	Halduwa MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 427.95 Lakh	12 months
8	Pindari MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 424.60 Lakh	12 months
9	Chikaghat MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 266.06 Lakh	12 months
10	Barki Dandi MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 375.94 Lakh	12 months

12	Pandari MVS W/S Scheme
Ke	Pandari MVS W/S Scheme y Dates :-

11 Deyudi MVS W/S Scheme

1	Date of Online Publication	18.12.2021 at 17:00hrs.
2	Document Download : Start Date	20.12.2021 at 10:00hrs.
3	Document Download : End Date	03.01.2022 at 17:00 hrs.
4	Pre Bid Meeting	24.12.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
5	Bid Submission : Start Date	20.12.2021 at 10:00hrs.
6	Bid Submission : End Date	03.01.2022 at 17:00 hrs.
7	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding	04 01 2022 upto 17:00 brs

Date of Technical Bid Opening 05.01.2022 at 11:00 hrs Date of Financial Bid Opening To be announced Later Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc may be obtained at web 10

document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the

Supporting Documents in support of qualification)

site: www.uktenders.gov.in



## Benchmarks bleed as virus, taper trigger global retreat; log weekly losses

meted 889 points while the Nifty sank below the 17,000mark on Friday, in line with a selloff in global markets as hawkish central banks and rising Omicron cases sparked a retreat from riskier assets.

Continued selling by foreign institutional investors put further pressure on domestic bourses, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 889.40 points or 1.54 per cent to finish at 57,011.74. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 263.20 points or 1.53 per cent to 16,985.20.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard on the Sensex chart, shedding 4.89 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, HUL, Titan, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv

In value terms, Reliance Industries and HDFC twins accounted for around half of the benchmark's losses.

Only five index components managed to close in the green -- Infosys, HCL Tech, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma and TCS, spurting up to 2.84 per cent. "Weak global sentiments inundated domestic indices as markets are digesting the hawkish stance of major international central banks amid surging Omicron cases," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

While the European Central Bank took a small step in rolling back the crisis-era stimulus although holding down borrowing costs next year, the Bank of England surprised the markets by raising interest rates for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Continued FII selling created tension among domestic investors. Barring IT, all sectors bled," he added.

During the week, the Sensex slumped 1,774.93 points or 3.01 per cent and Nifty tanked 526.10 points or 3 per cent. Kurian, Senior EVP and Head- Equity Research, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company, said emergence of the Omicron coronavirus vari-

BSE, NSE come out with guidelines on technical glitches for members

**New Delhi:** Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE have put out comprehensive guidelines for handling technical glitches at members' end in rder to prevent disruptions.

Under the new framework, members will have to pay Rs 20,000 per day in case of failure to report the incident to the exchanges within the required timeline, BSE and NSE said in separate circulars.

The guidelines outline technology infrastructure and system requirements that a member should put in place to prevent any incident of business disruption resulting from technical glitches.

Also, the guidelines pre-scribe a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for reporting of technical glitches by memant, inflation concerns. PTI is bers, handling business dis-

ruption, management of such business disruption, including declaration of disaster and framing of provisions for disciplinary action in case of noncompliance in reporting or inadequate management of

business disruption. Technical glitches include malfunction in hardware, software or any products and services provided by members.

The exchanges said members with a client base of more than 50,000 unique registered clients across all bourses will be required to mandatorily establish a business continuity plan or disaster recovery set up to ensure that there is welldefined continuity plan in case

of such business disruptions. The move will ensure that there is continuity of business and stability in operations of

members in case of any technical glitches, so that interest of investors and market at large is not adversely impacted, the circulars issued on Wednesday

With regards to reporting requirements, the exchanges have asked members to intimate them about the incident within two hours from the start of the glitch.

Besides, a preliminary incident report will be submitted to the exchange within T+1 day of the incident (T being the date of the incident). The report will include the date and time of the incident, its details, effect and the immediate action taken.

Further, Root Cause Analysis (RCA) of the issue will have to be submitted within 21 working days.

## Forex reserves decline USD 77 mn to USD 635.828 bn

**Mumbai:** Declining for the third consecutive week, India's forex reserves dipped by USD 77 million to reach USD 635.828 billion for the week ended December 10, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week, the reserves had slid by USD 1.783 billion to USD 635.905 billion.

In the reporting week ended December 10, the dip in the forex kitty was on account

ponent of the overall reserves. FCA dropped by USD 321 million to USD 572.86 billion, as per the data.

of a decline in foreign curren-

cy assets (FCA), a major com-

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Value of the gold reserves rose by USD 291 million by to USD 38.709 billion in the reporting week.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were down by USD 37 million to USD 19.089 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also increased by USD 10 million to USD 5.17 billion, the data showed.

#### Airtel prepays ₹15,519 cr to DoT to clear all deferred liabilities for 2014 spectrum

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Friday said it has paid Rs 15,519 crore to the government towards prepayment of its entire deferred liability pertaining to spectrum acquired in the 2014 auction.

The company had acquired 128.4 MHz spectrum (including Telenor spectrum) for a consideration of Rs 19,051 crore in the 2014 auction, Airtel said in a statement.

The company estimates that the prepayment to Department of Telecom (DoT) will likely result in interest cost savings of at least Rs 3,400 crore over the residual life for

fully substituted capital.

In a statement, Airtel said it has prepaid Rs 15,519 crore to clear all deferred liabilities for the spectrum acquired in

"These liabilities were due in annual instalments from FY2026-2027 to 2031-2032, and carried an interest rate of 10 per cent (the highest rate among the deferred liabilities and borrowings) and an average residual life of 7 plus years," the statement added.

Airtel said it continues to exercise flexibilities towards a stronger and efficient capital PTI Jalan-Kalrock consortium approaches NCLT to fast-track Jet Airways resolution

Mumbai: The winning consortium of Jet Airways on Friday said it wants to infuse funds in the airline and has approached the NCLT to fast-track implementation of the resolution plan approved by the insolvency court in June this year. The consortium also said it plans to restart domestic operations at the earlest in 2022 as a full-service carrier. The Murari Lal Jalan and Florian Fritsch consortium, which emerged as the winning bidder for Jet Airways after the completion of the resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. said it wants to commence

payments to all stakeholders. PTI

## Rupee firms up gains to end at 76.06 against dollar

Mumbai: The rupee pared its initial losses to settle marginally higher by 3 paise at 76.06 against the US dollar on Friday, even as concerns over foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices weighed on overall sentiment.

for following work:

T 21-22

Tender Notice No.: T\_21-22\_DPC23009\_NOTICE

Description of

HP DPC23009 to

Conversion of 1400 One

The local unit, however, recorded its fourth weekly decline amid growing concerns over the Omicron variant of coronavirus. Firming up of crude oil prices too weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign

Completion

period

03

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Cost (₹

64,23,317.43

(Rs. Sixty four lakhs wenty three thousand

three hundred seventeer

& paise forty three only)

E-Tender Notice

Chief Workshop Manager, Coach MLR Workshop, Jhansi for and on pehalf of the President of India invites open e-tender from reputed contractors

Earnest money: ₹ 0/-, Tender doc. cost: ₹ 0/-, 1. Tender will be closed at 15.00 Hrs. on 14.01.2022 and is available on Indian Railway E-Tendering website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. For detailed information please visit Indian

सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवंटित भूखण्ड संख्या-700, पॉकेट-एन, सैक्टर-20, क्षेत्रफल-300 वर्गमीटर, आवंटन संख्या-YEA008608, आवंटी/अंतरिकी LATE MOHD. SALEEM की मृत्यु के उपरांत उनकी माता MRS. MEHARUN NISHA द्वारा उक्त भूखण्ड का नामान्तरण अपने नाम कराने हेत् म्यूटेशन प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत किये गये है। अतः इस म्यूटेशन के संबंध में किसी को कोई आपित्त हो तो प्रकाशन की तिथि से 35 दिन के अंदर अपनी लिखित आपितत प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में दर्ज

कराने का कष्ट करें, अन्यथा नियमानुसार प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में आवंटी / अंतरिकी LATE MOHD. SALEEM की मृत्यु के उपरांत

उनकी माता MRS. MEHARUN NISHA का नाम दर्ज कर दिया

**UJVN Limited** 

Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvr

**Short term Tender Notice** 

Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara, Uttarkashi invite

ealed Tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 18/EE(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/2021-22
Name of work: Renovation & Modification work of P-II Residentia

Last Date for submission of Tender: 30-12-2021 up to 16.00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents ca e downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY" Executive Engineer (C&M)

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Auction Date: 27-December-2021 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17,

Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to

the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the

said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction and also original DD of EMD wherein applicable.

Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding

EMD amount if applicable) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draff/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited wherein you have submitted EMD.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085. for

etails and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle

Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1,

Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022.

**Asset Details** 

Vehicle No-HR51AG9317, Make & Model MARUTI SWIFT VXI, Manu. Year-2010

Vehicle No-UP16BW6148, Make & Model

HYUNDAI I-20 SPORTZ CRDI, Manu. Year-2018

Vehicle No-UP16BP6145, Make & Model

MARUTI SWIFT ZDI, Manu. Year-2017

Vehicle No-UP14DJ9744, Make & Model

HYUNDAI EON ERA PLUS, Manu. Year-2017, Reserve Price: Rs 1,20,000, EMD

Amount Rs 12,000, FMD is to be made in

favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED PAYABLE AT DELHI AND BIDDER HAS TO BRING

ORIGINAL EMD AT SITE WITH KYC

Building at Joshiyara colony, Uttarkashi. Estimated cost: Rs. 19.37.273.00(excluding GST) Date of availability of bid document on website: 16-12-2021

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Vipin Nagpal, Suit No.1432-19

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Dev Prakash. CS (Comm) 1121-20

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Sajid

Malik, Cs (Comm) No. 83/2021

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Dimple Chaudhary, CS No.2772/19

सहायक महाप्रबन्धक-(सम्पत्ति)

Bid

No.

exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 76.23 a dollar, registering a decline of 14 paise from the last close. During the day, it pared its losses and settled at 76.06 (provisional) against the American currency. On a weekly basis, the rupee depreci-

ated 28 paise against the US dol-

### Gold climbs ₹398; silver zooms ₹1,033 on global cues

New Delhi: Gold price in the national capital on Friday rallied by Rs 398 to Rs 47,762 per 10 gram reflecting gains in precious metal prices in the international market, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 47,364 per 10 gram. Silver also gained Rs 1,033 to Rs 61,147 per kg from Rs 60,114 per kg in the previous trade. In the interna-6 dol- tional market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,808 per ounce PTI and silver was flat at USD 22.62 per ounce. PTI



कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रूद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)



राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक अल्पकालीन निविदा (e-tendering) महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लो०नि०वि० रूद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वार

निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई–टेण्डरिंग द्वारा टू–बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 20.12.2021 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र0 सं०	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर घनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रू० में)	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	फर्म / ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	वित्तीय वर्ष 2020–21 में मा० मुख्यमन्त्री घोषणा संख्या 336/2021 के अन्तर्गत जनपद ऊधमसिंह नगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र खटीमा में ग्राम बड़ी अंजनिया नहर होते हुए 17 मील चौराहे तक नव निर्माण का डामरीकरण कार्य।	3.58	5000.00 + 18 % GST	120 दिन	12 माह	केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के विभाग/ उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी बी एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत
2	मा० मुख्यमन्त्री जी की घोषणा संख्या 28/2021 के अन्तर्गत जनपद ऊधमसिंह नगर के विधानसभा क्षेत्र खटीमा के अमाऊँ खेतलसण्डा खाम में 04 कि॰मी० आन्तरिक मार्ग में टाईल (सी०सी०) मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य ।	4.10	5000.00 + 18 % GST	120 दिन	12 माह	–तदैव

नोट:– क्रमांक 01 पर अंकित कार्य की निविदा स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में आमन्त्रित की जा रही है। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

Office Of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, **Uttrakhand Jal Sansthan** Lane No-1, Tarun Vihar, Mothrowala Road, Dehradun-248001 Phone No/Fax. 0135 2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com Letter No. 3705 /E-Tender Notice/2021-2

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e - Tender Notice

On behalf of the Chief General Manager, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Dehradun online tenders in Two Bid System, on item rate contract basis (inclusive of all materials & taxes) are invited for the following works in District Dehradun (Uttarakhand) under Jal Jeevan Mission from technically and financially capable bidders, registered with Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan/ Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam in appropriate class & category up to prescribed date & time on the portal as mentioned in terms and conditions

01	Construction of Majri Water Supply Scheme Includings Laying, Jointing testing & commissioning of Rising main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT, Development of Tube well & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etcomplete	As Per GoUK Order No- 121(1)/XXVII(7)/ 21-32/2007 टी०सी० दिनांक 29-04-2021 Bidder have to submit Bid Security declaration	₹4000.00 +GST	12 months
02	Construction of Baluwala Water Supply Scheme Including Laying, Jointing testing & commissioning of Rising main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT, Development of Tube well & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etc complete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
03	Construction of Dhakrani Water Supply Scheme Including Laying, Jointing testing & commissioning of Rising main & Distribution System, Construction of OHT, Development of Tube well & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etcomplete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
04	Construction of Khairi Kalan Water Supply Scheme Including Laying, Jointing testing & commissioning of Pipeline Distribution System, Repairing of OHT, Pump House, and SITC of Pumping Plants etc complete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
05	Construction of Purtad Supply Scheme Including Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Gravity Main & Distribution System, Construction of Clear Water Reservior etc complete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
06	Construction of Gauri Mafi Water Supply Scheme Including Laying, Jointing testing & commissioning of Pipeline Distribution System, Repairing of OHT, Pump House, and SITC of Pumping Plants etc complete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
07	Construction of Bhagwanpur Julo Water Supply Scheme Including Laying, Jointing, testing & commissioning of Gravity main & Distribution System Repairing of CWR, construction of source work etc. complete		₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
The	tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows: -			

Date of Online Publication 20.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs Document download: Start Date 20.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs 24.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs Pre-Bid Meeting: Date Bid Submission: Start date 28.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs Bid Submission: End date Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).

Date of Financial Bid Opening

Date of Bid Opening

S. No. Description

🗘 AXIS BANK LIMITED

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERALARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENT PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 28.12.2021AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS

SR. No.	BRANCH NAME	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF RECALL	GROS WEIGI
		BRANCH NAME: ASHOK VII	AR, NEW DELHI [DL]	_		
1.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	DIMPLE SINGHAL	920060049842952	1040376	30-Apr-21	378.5
2.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	GURMEET KAUR CHAWLA	920060049809308	1017223	25-Mar-21	318.6
3.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	TARUN KUMAR	920060052313982	569436	23-Nov-21	193.2
4.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	TARUN KUMAR	920060052314901	556954	23-Nov-21	183.3
5.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	URMILA	920060001911050	539101	22-Jun-21	135
6.	ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	RAGHAVENDRA CHAUBEY	919060060899427	28399	25-Mar-21	16
		BRANCH NAME: DARYA	GANJ, DELHI [DL]	•		
7.	DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]	VIRENDER KUMAR	920060052494256	167512	20-May-21	57.8
8.	DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]	ANKIT GUPTA	920060051281150	61688	25-Mar-21	20.3
		BRANCH NAME: FAR	IDABAD [HR]	•		
9.	FARIDABAD [HR]	POOJA RANI	920060047959047	301166	26-Dec-20	14.2
10.	FARIDABAD [HR]	DEEPAK PAUL	920060052772394	162843	15-Mar-21	51.7
11.	FARIDABAD [HR]	SUBHASH CHAND	921060050991239	146940	30-Apr-21	95.4
12.	FARIDABAD [HR]	ASHOK KUMAR	921060053783152	42510	22-Jun-21	6.7
13.	FARIDABAD [HR]	UDAY KUMAR	921060051397294	117945	7-Jun-21	46.2
14.	FARIDABAD [HR]	SANTOSH SHARMA	919060069952165	119110	7-May-21	69.9
15.	FARIDABAD [HR]	AMAR JEET	920060052725657	92923	22-Jun-21	9.2
		BRANCH NAME: KALKAJ	I, NEW DELHI [DL]			
16.	KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]	GAUTAM CHANDRA DAS	920060053089026	214572	18-Jan-21	77.7
17.	KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]	MOHD FAHAD SALIM	920060013241374	151984	25-Mar-21	67.5
18.	KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]	SUNDER SINGH	920060052064994	148996	27-May-21	52.7
		BRANCH NAME: LAJPAT NA	GAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	•		
19.	LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	ANJU SAINI	920060052689001	2050188	22-Jun-21	602.05
20.	LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	SUHAVINI SINGH	920060050445658	1593577	27-Nov-20	481
21.	LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	JAI PRAKASH ADVANI	921060050932261	106969	30-Apr-21	39.7
22.	LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	SHABBIR KHAN	920060000442968	65806	22-Jun-21	39.7
23.	LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]	YOGENDER KUMAR	920060043691341	45074	23-Nov-21	26.2
		BRANCH NAME: NAZAFGA	RH, NEW DELHI [DL]			
24.	NAZAFGARH, NEW DELHI [DL]	RICHH PAL SINGH	920060050656214	34983	16-Apr-21	11.5
		BRANCH NAME: N	IOIDA [UP]			
25.	NOIDA [UP]	RAJ KUMAR	920060049929017	670448	22-Jun-21	227.8
26.	NOIDA [UP]	RAJ KUMAR	920060049929082	387239	22-Jun-21	107.9
27.	NOIDA [UP]	PREETI BALA	921060050983397	115470	22-Jun-21	4.8
28.	NOIDA [UP]	BIVASH MONDAL	920060051255229	112171	22-Jun-21	39.3
29.	NOIDA [UP]	NEETU	920060050010728	101521	30-Apr-21	33.6
30.	NOIDA [UP]	NEETU	920060050004095	89334	30-Apr-21	29.4
		BRANCH NAME: ROH	INI, DELHI [DL]			
31.	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]	YOGESH	920060050546340	336841	18-Jan-21	106.6
32.	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]	NIDHI SINGLA	920060049947361	280055	20-May-21	108.1
33.	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]	AMRESH KUMAR SINGH	920060050591670	204806	30-Apr-21	74.9
34.	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]	RAGENDAR KUMAR AGARWAL	919060062340178	430107	23-Nov-21	193.3
35.	ROHINI, DELHI [DL]	SANDEEP KUMAR	920060050994134	255734	7-Aug-21	81.4
		BRANCH NAME: SECTOR	14, GURGAON [HR]			
36.	SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR]	SUMAIYA AHMED	920060049889582	153447	22-Jun-21	62.4
37	SECTOR 14 GURGAON [HR]	PRIVANKA SINGH	920060000804474	85352	22- lun-21	18.2

18.2 SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR] PRIYANKA SINGH 920060000804474 85352 22-Jun-21 SECTOR 14. GURGAON [HR] NOORDEEN 920060003358437 81678 25-Mar-21 39.2 SECTOR 14. GURGAON [HR] HATENDRA SINGH 920060011907517 51483 25-Mar-21 22.8 SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR] LOKESH SINGH 92106005375582 49469 20.7 23-Nov-21 SECTOR 14. GURGAON [HR] ARVIND KUMAR 921060049868029 33633 20-May-21 10.8 20-May-21 100.3 SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR] HARISH KUMAR 921060049757262 268875 SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR] NITIN KUMAR 22-Jun-21 71.9 92006005409660 195164 SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR] AMRENDER KUMAF 92006005416972 178232 22-Jun-21 66.7 BRANCH NAME: SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] SECTOR 16. FARIDABAD [HR] SAPNA SHARMA 920060051183661 173048 30-Apr-21 60.4 SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] SUNITA THAPA 920060038305725 42902 25-Mar-21 16.5 SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] NITIN JINDAL 920060050791618 173680 18-Jan-21 61.1 Recall Linked NPA-27-Jul-21 SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] JITU KUMAR SINGH 92006005008137 129000 SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR] 12-Aug-21 30.3 BRANCH NAME: SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL] 25-Mar-21 7.6 SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL] MAHENDER SHARMA 19926 919060072160784 BRANCH NAME: SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] SHUBHAM 20-May-21 26.8 921060051016050 187702 27-Nov-20 10.8 SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] RAVI KUMAF 92006003858349 15-Mar-21 48.5 SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] RAJESH KUMAF 919060051288135 98411 SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] KUNDAN KUMAR JHA 84384 23-Nov-21 29.9 921060054734908 SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL] AJAY KUMAR 919060095748019 57096 30-Apr-21 31 BRANCH NAME: TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL] TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL] PARVEEN KUMAR PANDEY 92006005169952 307837 16-Apr-21 112.9 25-Mar-21 55.5 57. TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL] MUNAZIR HUSSAIN 920060053210563 94279 TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL] RUDRADEV PANDEY 921060052974102 22-Jun-21 10.3 BRANCH NAME: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP] VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP 507578 22-Jun-21 9.6 DINESH KUMAR 92106005017004 VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP PRAMENDRA SINGH 92006005268062 337669 22-Jun-21 35.4 61. VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP] NASIM 920060051603741 183556 26-Dec-20 69 VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP RAJA SAIF 920060049658472 71043 16-Apr-21 26.2 63. VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP] ANKIT GARG 920060053017924 77358 25-Mar-21 19.9 64. VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD IUP ADITYA GANJOC 920060052307864 43542 22-Jun-21 14 VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP] DHEERENDRA SINGH 19-Jul-21 13.2

XXIS BANK LTD. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ACCOUNT/CHANGE THE AUCTION DATE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. AUCTION WILL BE HELD ONLINE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN BETWEEN 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM OR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE LOG INTO GIVEN WEBSITE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN

HAJARI LAL SAIN

VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER** DATE: 18-12-2021

16-Sep-21 69.6

BRANCH NAME: VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]

''जल संचय—जीवन संचय''

03.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs 03.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs 04.01.2022 at 11:00 Hrs To be intimated later

Bid Security | Cost of Bid | Period of

(in Rs)

Document completion

(Earnest Money)

**Executive Engineer** 

Time Schedule (Key Dates)



TRAVEL BUG

# IN A FOREST FULL OF BUTTERFLIES

The area around Ramnagar in Uttarakhand might be known for tigers but NIVI SHRIVASTAVA finds it to be a haven for winged creatures also











id you know that just like bees, butterflies are excel-lent indicators of environmental changes? Not only do they play a vital role in an ecosystem by pollinating billions of flowers and trees, but they also warn about the climatic changes and rise in temperature of the earth by their lifecycle patterns. According to experts, there are 1,327 identified species in India but due to data deficiency, one cannot put them in the endangered category. In the forests of Ramnagar, adjoining the Jim Corbett Park known for tigers, one can find myriad varieties of butterflies and moths in the Terai West region of Kumaon, Uttarakhand.

On a balmy winter day, I travelled with some butterfly experts to discover the hidden aspects of eco-tourism in this area. Just 250 km away from Delhi by road, it's convenient to plan a last-minute getaway to explore this offbeat forest region solo or in a group. The best time to visit this quiet town is mid-November to mid-June when the jungle safari is open for the public and the weather is pleasant to explore the forest on foot.

The Ramnagar forest belt, especially the Kyari region, is blessed with a variety of flora and fauna and hence a of butterflies and birds found here. As we crossed the semi-arid Khichdi River at Corbett Tiger Reserve to reach our destination, I couldn't help but notice the monkeys perched on lush green pines and a curious herd of deer crossing our path and guiding us into the dense forests. There are many places to stay inside the forest as well as close to it. The adventure lovers can book luxury tents while those who prefer leisure accommodations can stay at resorts and hotels that are operational in the tourist season. Early morning is the best time to find butterflies in their natural habitat near the Kosi River forest area where many local villagers go to catch fish and some mushroom enthusiasts trek to collect the rare fungi varieties that only grow here. During the nature walk, one can hear the wild calls of birds and see butterflies fluttering over wildflowers. On close inspection, one can even see the various stages of a butterfly's lifecycle on the trunk of an old tree. Right from the cluster of eggs to metamorphosis into larva, pupa and adult butterfly the forest fauna nurtures these colourful creatures in every stage of their life.

As for the myriad butterflies, one can spot the Common Mormon, Oak Leaf, Common Mapwing, Plain Tiger, One-Spot Grass, Walnut Blue as well as various types of Hairstreak butterflies like White-Spotted, Wonderful, Dull Green, Brown Gorgon across the forests. Experts have even reported some rare species of Swallowtails, Five Bar Swordtails and Redbreasts in this region.

To highlight the attractions and create awareness about butterflies, a month-long festival for tourists and local children was held recently in Ramnagar. Anil Oraw, regional director (North), the Ministry of Tourism, informed, "People so far know Jim Corbett Park for tigers but the whole Bhabar belt around the National Park is also very unique. We want more people to enjoy the forest area and the Titli Tyar programme was one such initiative to spread awareness about the beautiful butterflies, moths and rare birds." As part of the awareness for butterflies, Sohail Madan, an ecologist from Bombay Natural History Society, mentioned how chemical poisoning with man-made fertilisers and linear infrastructures (roads and highways, electric power lines, railway lines, canals, pipelines, firebreaks and fences) in cities





and towns are hampering the habitat of butterflies. He says, "Habitat loss is the primary reason for the fall of insect population coupled with the use of chemical poison and anthropogenic pressure. To prevent this, we must plant native host plants, stop the use of chemical poisons and raise our voice against linear infrastructure development."

It is a fact that butterflies need the sun to survive and ecological experts studying their behavioural patterns point out that every specific butterfly sub-species requires a specific temperature to continue its life cycle. Any delay in their annual patterns could be a clear indicator of changes in average temperatures, leading to the inference of climate change. "Although, scientifically inconclusive, a comprehensive study of butterflies may lead us to decipher the subtle evolution of nature and climate around us," mentioned Saurav Bhattacharya, founder member of Tyar Foundation. His non-profit organisation hosted the Titli Tyar festival centred around butterflies to impact the wildlife tourism industry through tourists and the local community. "Did you know that moths and butterflies are the same species? And that one comes



darkness of the night. All creatures are created equal and were supposed to have an equal share of the environment. With a higher intellect, humans have evolved into supreme beings with the biggest footprint. However, micro-fauna such as the amazing butterflies have an equally significant role to play in the scheme of nature. With a multi-pronged life cycle, butterflies are involved in many crucial aspects of ecology. From feeding on the host plants as a caterpillar to being the high protein nutrition of birds and reptiles, from

helping floral pollination to being indi-

species is an absolute miracle in our sacred environment," informed Bhattacharya as he guided us through the butterfly trail.

After an informative butterfly exploration.

After an informative butterfly exploration, one can also visit the untouched Corbett falls and have a little picnic in the jungle with proper precautions. This pristine waterfall is located 25 km away from Ramnagar and is surrounded by teak wood forest. After reaching the parking area near the forest, you will have to trek 1.5km up to get there but the walk is worth remembering.

— The writer is a freelance journalist who reports on responsible travel and hospitality trends.













# LIVING A FAMILY-ENTERTAINER

AMOL PARASHAR, SMRITI KALRA, and KEVIN DAVE reveal that they had a lot of fun during the shoot of their recent satirical and witty film, Cash, in a heart-to-heart with Khushbu Kirti

7ith the recent release of the film *Cash*, my mind was transported to 2016 when we had queued up in long lines in front of ATMs under scorching heat. Many might say it was a terrible time, the remaining might recall it as a petulant move by the government. But as director Rishab Seth mentioned, the filmmakers or the actors are not here to pass judgement on it or their stance on it, even today, remains very neutral. They want to take people back to that time and remind them that we all got past this together. And when you go back in time — even if you thought that it was dark time then — you can always, in retrospect, laugh it off. The idea behind the film was to use collective consciousness and evoke laughter instead of pain.

Cash, directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Vishesh Bhatt, stars Amol Parashar, Smriti Kalra, Swanand Kirkire, Kevin Dave, and Gulshan Grover. The light-hearted dramedy, that centers around the period of demonetisation and rising entrepreneurship in India, started streaming on Disney+Hotstar.

Read on for excerpts from a heart-to-heart with the young actors, Smriti, Amol and Kevin:

**₩**Tell us a bit about your characters.

You're a street smart entrepreneur (Armaan), Amol. Let's start with you.

AP: Yes! (all pumped up) Armaan Gulati is a street-smart entrepreneur and that kinda encapsulates his whole personality because he's a hustler and keeps brimming with new ideas. He is always thinking and wants to become a wealthy person like Elon Musk, wants to succeed in life. His wild dream is to create a successful start-up. Demonetisation is the trigger of a new idea because a lot of businesses failed at the time and he realised he

could take advantage of their failure. He decided to help people convert their money. Armaan is joined by Neha and Soda to culminate his

They try various ways — funny and bizarre — to convert this money and that was what might've happened at the same. People to desperate to save their black money. So, you know, the guy is a bit of an opportunist, in a way. I'm saying this because his heart is clean, even if his ideas are twisted.

**\***Smriti, we've loved the character of Suvreen Guggal you've played before. How was this new avatar you donned?

SK: Thank you! (cheerful) Since you just mentioned Suvreen, Neha the character that I play in the film — is 180° opposite (laughs). So, Neha is sassy, she's feisty, she's independent, confident and extremely jugadu. She is a natural fixer and someone who can double-cross you for her own good. So, Armaan and Soda approach Neha and while Armaan is smart and has a lot of ideas, Neha has tons of contacts up her sleeve. And, so, they're the perfect fit — for a start-

She's someone you would want on your team, because she's so jugaadu, she'll find one way or another to do her job. In a way, she orchestrates things so that is Neha, something I'm completely not, something I've completely never been, and a very, very different character that I've played and have thoroughly enjoyed.

KD: So, I'm playing Soda in the film, who is Armaan's best friend and is, thus, always stuck with him. In the name of the said friendship, poor Soda always ends up in trouble as Armaan's accomplice (chuckles). First, he denies all of Armaan's ideas but eventually gives in. Soda is loyal, however, Armaan and Soda are poles apart. Like Amol said, Armaan is a



hustler, while Soda is a coward. He finds problems in everything, while Armaan finds opportunities in the same. Smriti's character sort-of balances the two, you know. So, the trio sets on this new endeavour.

**\***We know *Cash* is a satirical take on a very serious event, how do you think the drama and comedy mingle into the seriousness of it?

AP: Kevin had rightfully said it in the last interview, 'tragedy mei bhi comedy hoti hai'. At that time, none of us would've wanted to have a funny take on this. But, now, from a distance once you've crossed the event, you can laugh about even the bitter parts. Now that it is in the past, that is an advantage we have, people now remember it as a memory. We're now laughing on how these people that are trying to convert their money in all the stupid and bizarre ways. We're not laughing at people that have probably faced real misery. These are people — the people who had black money on them and were running

from here to there to somehow save themselves - we cannot have sympathy with. We would sympathise with other people who, in the process of because of your money laundering, had to face difficulties.

**SK:** You know, the script is so well-written by Arsh Bora, the writer, and Rishabh Seth, the director, that I was just smiling all through, so the comedy, drama and satire were wellblended, served to us on a plate. It's a fast-paced situational comedy, based on the chaos created in the sit-

Our job was, thus, made easier. We just had to imbibe the script and live the characters.

**\***What do you feel about the shift from home viewing to OTT? Has the shift given an impetus to stories based on real events?

AP: Um, I believe we used to have stories from real events earlier, too. OTT has a wider audience and

so, yes, people watch this stuff there. **SK:** The thing is that the content on OTT platforms is at the tip of your fingers, you're empowered to

pause/play.

AP: Yes, and there's more responsibility in OTT, to write better. Because in theatres, you'd buy a ticket, would be entitled to stay because you've paid so much for one film. Here, OTT is cheaper and you have the liberty to watch so much

KD: And there is luxury of having this audience in OTT, but also there's the responsibility of entertaining them also. There are so many options and that puts pressure, of a good kind, on the stories you choose

SK: Which is why films and television will up their game because of healthy competition. Every genre has expanded, one of which is reallife based content. People are experimenting on this medium. (pauses and adds) Which is good!

\*What is one thing that this thing (portraying social reality) has taught you, Kevin?

KD: We should not hoard black money... (everyone breaks into laugh-

(He chuckles and continues) As actors? We learnt what limits people can go to, to save themselves, to get out of trouble when, clearly, they are in the wrong.

tance of contacts, something that I don't have. Also, that there's always a way out, you know. **\***You recently worked in Sardar

SK: I think, I learnt the impor-

Udham Singh, and the genres are poles apart. How was the experi-

Udham Singh which was a very serious film. Cash was fast-paced comedy that I fully enjoyed. To be open to other's ideas of funny, as an actor, there are four-five ways of approaching the same scene and being funny and the greed was that we wanted to shoot everything. So, a lot of sweat and tears.

I came out a different human being, I had fun, I worked with lovely people and got to make a fun film.

\*What was the most exciting part of the film, Smriti?

SK: It's my first film, man! (pumped up) I'm so excited.

I went for different paths in life I was a science student and then some time later, an RJ before stumbling upon acting. I'm grateful to the director for having faith in me.

KD: It was real nice to have a good relationship with the writer and producer and the entire team. And felt youthful and fun to be a part of

\*Choked is yet another film on demonetisation. How is it similar to or different from Cash, Kevin?

KD: Um, there's no similarity whatsoever except that the concept is demonetisation.

\*What is one thing that the audience should look out for? AP: Have fun and enjoy the

humour. It is a very tightly written screenplay, there's not a single dull moment, so, sit back and enjoy, fellas! The film doesn't preach, it's sim-

SK: Also, the topic is such, with very relatable main characters that it makes for a great family entertainer. There's something there for everyone!

KD: Basically, each and every character is written so well, you might have not seen these, and that will be the freshness of the film peo-**AP:** Exactly, opposite genre from ple will look forward to.



## Living the avatar

Actor AVINASH WADHAWAN has changed his body language, attire and attitude to get into the skin of his character in Aggar Tum Na Hote. By Team Viva

Zee TV recently launched a fresh romantic drama, Aggar Tum Na *Hote*, which showcases the extent to which a nurse goes to treat her patient. The story revolves around Niyati Mishra — a young, hard-working, and dedicated nurse and Abhimanyu Pandey who is a charming, rich young man dealing with mental instability. While the show has a unique storyline, it is Abhimanyu and Niyati's camaraderie that has become the talk of the town. While the leads Simaran Kaur and Himanshu Soni have made an impression on the audience, one such character who has mesmerised the audience with his impactful performance is Avinash Wadhawan. Wadhawan has been a part of Zee TV's Piyaa Albela before and now he is making a comeback on television after almost three years as Gajendra Pandey in the show.

Wadhawan plays the pivotal role of Abhimanyu's father, who is a very influential, rich, and suave power broker based in Uttar Pradesh. He is a very strong and authoritative man and there is no task that he cannot complete once he sets his mind to. He loves his family too much and would do anything to keep them together. His character has a dark side, but as his story unfolds, we get to know how he is so caring towards his family. His relationship with his son has a lot of friction but he has a heart of gold for the people in need. He has even

donned a new look to play this emo-tionally challenging role of Gajendra in debonair style, Wadhawan is very excited to show the different shades of his character with his impeccable acting skills and his new suave.

Talking about his role, Wadhawan says, "It feels great to be back on television after a forced sabbatical of around two and half years (laughs). Talking about coming back to television, I feel that the kind of public reach television has, no other medium offers that, be it cinema or OTT. When I was first narrated about my character, I was extremely excited after listening to the story as I was looking out for a good role and Gajendra's character is very complex and I've never played a role like this in all my earlier shows. The story is like an emotional rollercoaster and has some immersive drama that shows a strained but deeply bonded relationship between a father and his son."

He adds, "I'm enjoying enacting this role and I have even changed my body language, attire and atti-tude to get into the skin of my character. Personally, my nature is opposite to Gajendra's loud, ruthless, and show-off nature so it is a bit more challenging, and I couldn't relate to it. But I am trying my best to portray the role."

(To know more, stay tuned for Aggar Tum Na Hote every Monday to Friday at 10:30pm, on

The poster boy of content cinema, Ayushmann Khurrana, is hugely keen to play India's golden boy at the Olympics, Neeraj Chopra, in case a biopic is made on him.

Khurrana, who is riding on tremendously positive reviews and word of mouth for his recent release Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui in which he is tackling the issue of inclusivity of the transgender community, says, "I'm constantly inspired by real people who do extraordinary things. Right now, I'm hugely inspired by Neeraj Chopra and what this youth and made our nation incredibly

Khurrana is keen to play Chopra in case he chooses to not play himself and act in his biopic. Khurrana adds, "The resolve and the nerves of steel that he showcased at the Olympics to a win gold for India needs to be saluted. I would love to play him in a biopic if it's

## India's golden boy

Bollywood star AYUSHMANN KHURRANA would love to play NEERAJ CHOPRA if the latter chooses to not play himself in his biopic. By TEAM VIVA



THE RESOLVE AND **NERVES OF STEEL** THAT HE SHOWCASED AT THE OLYMPICS TO WIN GOLD FOR INDIA NEEDS TO BE SALUTED. I WOULD LOVE TO PLAY HIM IN A BIOPIC MADE IN **NEAR FUTURE** 

made in the near future and if Neeraj chooses to not play himself on screen. Such achievements need to be celebrated and the life stories of such heroes need to be told to

In his debut at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Chopra won the gold medal in javelin throw. As of 2021, he is one of only two Indians to have won an individual Olympic gold medal (the other being Abhinav Bindra), as well as the youngest-ever Indian Olympic gold medalist in an individual event and the only one to have won gold in his Olympic debut.

#### OTT RULING SPACE

#### TEAM VIVA picks brave, untold and clutter-breaking films that dominated 2021

and then goes missing from police custody. What follows next is

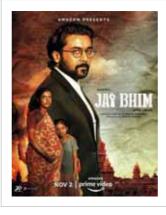
 $N^{ ext{othing about the entertainment industry was predictable}$ or cliched in 2021 as filmmakers and storytellers moved beyond tired narratives to explore new milieus, themes and issues. Here are some of our favourites that ruled the OTT space this year:

200 HALLO HO

This Sarthak Dasgupta directorial and Yoodlee production bravely mainstreamed a story about caste-based atrocities, the denial of justice and the inevitable retribution that follows when hundreds of Dalit survivors strike a blow to avenge the systematic suppression of their pain and violation. Inspired by true events, this ZEE5 original slow burns to reach a moment of cathartic explosion when 200 women take law into their own hands to respond to centuries of erasure. Starring Amol

Palekar, Rinku Rajguru, Barun Sobti and others, the film equated Dalit identity with power and not iust victimhood and reminded us why we must tell and hear more such stories.

JAI BHIM



This Jyothika and Suriya production will go down in history as one of the most important films about Dalit rights. The Tamil legal drama is directed by T J Gnanavel and stars Suriya and Lijomol Jose with K Manikandan, Rajisha Vijayan, Prakash Raj, Rao Ramesh and others. Like 200 Hallo Ho, this film too is based on a true incident and recounts how in1993, Justice K Chandru, fought relentlessly to get justice for Senggeni and Rajakannu. The lives of this tribal couple are forever changed when Rajakannu is first arrested

wrenching and eye-opening. *Jai Bhim* also became the first Indian film to top the IMDb ratings.

Sherni is yet another example of how director Amit V Masurkar is pushing the thematic limits of Hindi cinema. Produced by T-Series and Abundantia Entertainment, *Sherni* had a solid female lead in Vidya Balan who played an upright and conscientious Forest Service officer caught in the corruption and inertia of a cruel and incompetent system. Sharat Saxena, Vijay Raaz, Ila Arun, Brijendra Kala, Neeraj Kabi and Mukul Chaddha played supporting roles. The film highlight-



ed little known aspects of animal and human conflict and how habitat destruction is pushing wildlife on the margins of forests and into a spiral of extinction.

**SHERSHAAH** 

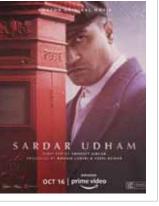


A war film without jingoism seems like an anomaly but this Dharma and Kaash Entertainment production pulled this off while paying a passionate tribute to Param Vir Chakra-awardee Captain Vikram Batra. Directed by Vishnuvardhan, the film showed us how an idealistic young man who loved life as much as his country, made the ultimate sacrifice during the Kargil war. It also celebrated his eternal love story with a girl who chose to celebrate his memories and his life even after losing him tragically. Sidharth

Malhotra as Vikram Batra played possibly the role of a lifetime while Kiara Ádvani played his girlfriend Dimple Cheema.

SARDAR UDHAM

Vicky Kaushal continues to stun with his ability to become every character he gets to play and Sardar Udham is no exception. This historical drama helmed by Shoojit Sircar, and produced by Rising Sun Films in collaboration with Kino Works, gives Kaushal another chance to display his depth and histrionic range as an actor as he plays the titular character of an iconic freedom fighter who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The film is a far cry from hurried entertainers and takes viewers on an intense journey to meet the man who tried to right a historic wrong.



## Young Sen, Srikanth assured of maiden medals

PTI HUELVA (SPAIN)

n a historic first, India were assured of at least two medals in the men's singles competition of the ongoing BWF World Badminton Championships after the seasoned Kidambi Śrikanth and young Lakshya Sen entered their maiden semifinals of the marquee event here on Friday.

However, it was disappointment for defending champion PV Sindhu, who lost to familiar foe Tai Tzu Ying in the women's singles quarterfinals.

India are assured of at least a silver as Srikanth and Sen will face each other in the first semifinal on Saturday

It turned out to be a historic day for Indian badminton as first Srikanth, seeded 12th in the showpiece tournament, sent Mark Caljouw of the Netherlands packing with a 21-8 21-7 win in a match that lasted just 26 minutes.

And then the unseeded Sen fought his heart out to get the bet-ter of China's Jun Peng Zhao 21-15 15-21 22-20 in an enthralling three-



game encounter lasting one hour and seven minutes

The two will join the legendary Prakash Padukone (bronze in 1983)

and B Sai Praneeth (bronze in 2019) as the Indian medal winners at the showpiece.

nal match against Tai Tzu, has won five medals in the showpiece while Saina Nehwal has two medals Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa had also won a bronze in 2011.

The world number 14 Srikanth was ahead 11-5 at the first game's change of ends and from 14-8, he took seven straight points to pocket it in a jiffy.

The second game was no different as Srikanth completely out-played his opponent. From 4-3, it was Srikanth all the way as he zoomed to another seven straight points. From 17-7, Sriknath pocketed another four points on the trot to win the match.

In the women's singles, Sindhu suffered a straight-game defeat to world number one Tai Tzu of Chinese Taipei to bow out of the championships.

The top-seeded Tai Tzu beat Sindhu 21-17 21-13 in an energysapping match that lasted 42 min-

Sindhu found it difficult to match Tai Tzu's speed, court coverage and drop shots as has been the case many times earlier though the Indian produced some fine crossmany unforced errors during the match, was always playing a catchup game. She managed to do that in the second game at one stage but lost steam later on.

The win extended the head-tohead record between the two top players to 15-5 in favour of the Chinese Taipei player.

The world number seven and double Olympic-medallist Sindhu had also lost to Tai Tzu in the Tokyo Games semifinals earlier this year. Tai Tzu, on the other hand,

avenged her defeat to Sindhu in the 2019 World Championships at the same stage. The two players -- friends off

the court -- were tied 2-2 early on but Tai Tzu shifted gears quickly to take a lead of 11-6 at the change of ends in the first game.

Sindhu made a recovery to narrow down the gap to 16-18 and then 17-19 with some fine cross-court smashes. But the Indian could not maintain the tempo till the end as she hit wide twice to lose the first game in 17 minutes.

The second game was more

11-8 at the change of ends after Sindhu made an error in judgment.

But two brilliant smashes for which Tai Tzu had no answer saw the gap narrowing to just one point

Tai Tzu took the next point but Sindhu produced another crosscourt smash to make it 11-12. The Chinese Taipei player then sent the shuttle wide for Sindhu to level the

scores at 12-12. The nimble-footed Tai Tzu took the next three points but then hit on the nets. An unsuccessful line call challenge saw Sindhu trail 13-

The Indian hit on to the net next and could not reach to a drop shot from her great rival to trail by five points at 13-18. Sindhu continued her unforced

errors as she hit wide and then missed Tai Tzu's smash to lose the In HS Prannoy, another Indian

is still in the reckoning for a place in the men's singles semifinals as he will take on Kean Yew Loh of Singapore later in the day.

## England limps to 17-2 after Australia declares at 473-9

Marnus Labuschagne became the first player to hit three centuries in daynight test matches while captain Steve Smith missed out on a ton as Australia strangled England with a powerful total of 473-9 declared in the second Ashes test on Friday

Labuschagne made 103 and Smith scored 93 before Australia's tailenders knocked off some quick runs against England's worn-out bowlers and Australia declared after tea.

England limped to 17-2 in 8.4 overs -- still trailing by 456 runs -- before a massive flash of lightning took the players off the field and brought an early closure to the second day's play.

Michael Nesser got a wicket off his second ball in test cricket when he had Haseeb Hameed (6) caught at mid-on after Mitchell Starc had Rory Burns (4) caught in the slips off a delivery which went across the left-hander and took the shoulder of the bat.

Starc (39 not out) and Neser (35) had earlier shared a rapid half century stand for the eighth wicket after England seemed to have contained the damage and had Australia on 390-7 at tea.

Jhye Richardson lofted Chris Woakes (1-103) for a big six off his second ball over midwicket before Smith declared when Richardson was caught behind off Woakes. Ben Stokes, who dropped a hard

catch of Starc off his own bowling, finished with 3-113 but Australia removed both England openers cheaply before play was called off early. Smith and Alex Carey (51) combined in a 91-run sixth wicket stand before

Anderson removed both batsmen in successive overs just before tea. Smith shuffled back across the line and was adjudged lbw and Carey chipped an easy catch in

Earlier, England took three wickets



during an even first session after Australia resumed on 221-2.

In a dramatic 40 minutes to start the day, Labuschagne, resuming on 95, edged Jimmy Anderson to third man for four to record the sixth century of his career and

first in the Ashes.

Moments later he was caught behind off Ollie Robinson, retreating all the way to the boundary rope before replays showed it had been a no-ball.

Labuschagne eventually fell in the

400th minute of his innings, lbw after trying to leave a ball in Robinson's next over that came back at him.

Of the 3,068 players in test cricket's 144-year history, only Don Bradman, George Headley, Herbert Sutcliffe and Mike Hussey have reached 2,000 runs faster than Labuschagne's total in 34

Bradman achieved his 2,000 runs in 22 innings, Jamaican Headley in 32 and England's Sutcliffe and Australia's Hussey

Labuschagne has now scored centuries in three consecutive day-night tests at the Adelaide Oval, averaging almost 100 and with just one score below 40.

Australia's humungous first innings total could prove significant in the outcome of the game. All eight teams which have posted 300 or more batting first in day-night tests have gone on to win. And the eight teams to pull up short of that



### Rohit, Jadeja begin rehab at NCA

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

↑ndia white-ball captain Rohit Sharma **L**and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja have started their rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy here after being ruled out of the upcoming Test series in South Africa due to injuries. The two senior players were seen at the NCA with India U-19 captain Yash Dhull in his social media posts. The U-19 team is currently camping at the NCA ahead of the Asia Cup beginning in the UAE from December 23.

Rohit, who was named ODI captain last week replacing Virat Kohli, was to travel to South Africa as vice-captain of the Test team for the series starting on December 26 but a hamstring injury during training ruled him out. His expected recovery time is between three to four weeks.

India 'A' captain Priyank Panchal was named in place of Rohit in the Test squad, which reached South Africa on Thursday for the series.

#### India lose 0-1 to B'desh in SAFF U-19 Women's Championship

PTI DHAKA

India lost by a solitary goal to hosts Bangladesh for their first defeat in the SAFF U19 Women's Championship here on Friday.

India had earlier registered comfortable victories over Sri Shamsunnahar's seventh

minute strike from the penalty spot made the difference between the two sides The match began with both teams going hard from the first

whistle as Bangladesh looked to make the most of their physical prowess and pressed the Indian defenders high up the pitch. The first opportunity of the game went to Bangladesh, who

were awarded a penalty in the seventh minute which was converted by Shamsunnahar.

Although, Bangladesh went on an attacking mode and dominated possession after the goal, India got an excellent opportunity to restore parity in the 40th minute when Sumati Kumari passed a ball to Mariyammal whose left-footer went straight into the hands of Bangladesh goalie Rupna.



#### Pakistan sweeps virus-hit West Indies in Twenty20 series Run-machine

of IPL's Lucknow franchise

owned franchise.

**D**akistan completed a P clean sweep in the three-match Twenty20 series against a virus-hit West Indies with a resounding seven-wicket win on Thursday

Andy Flower appointed head coach

"I am incredibly excited to

Mohammad Rizwan rounded off the year with his 12th half century in Twenty20 internationals by scoring 87 while captain Babar Azam made 79 in Pakistan's blistering runchase of 208-3 in 18.5

The West Indies squad was further depleted on the morning of the match when three more players tested positive for the coronavirus, increasing the number of cases to nine six players and three sup-

port personnel - in the tourists' camp.
The West Indies' top-

order batters, led by captain Nicholas Pooran's blazing 64 off 37 balls, still did well to post 207-3 after the tourists had won the toss and elected to bat.

of going till the end and keep managing the run rate," Babar said. "Our bench strength got a good workout too and it's a great sign for me as a captain."

**ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED** 

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**TENDER ALERT** 

01) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-01/2021-22: Engineering

Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 01x80

MVAR, 420kV Bus Reactor along with 400kV Bay

extension (GIS) & other associated system at 400/220kV

GIS Grid S/S, Meramundali-B at an Estimated Cost of the

Package for Rs.23.40 Crore on Turnkey Contract basis.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Wheeling Charges, Cross Subsidy Surcharge, Additional Surcharges and Standby Charges for FY 2022-23.

nancial Year 2022-23 under Section 42 the Electricity Act, 2003 and in accordance with OERC(Terms and Conditions of Intra-State Open Access) Regulations, 2020 for approval of Wheeling Charges, Cross Subsidy Charges, Additional Surcharge & Stand by charge applicable to open access customers for use of intra-State transmission/distribution system.

website (www.orierc.org)/ TPWODL's website www.tpwesternodisha.com or it may be obtained from the Office of the Commission by paying photo copy charges of Rs.25/ (Rupees twenty five) only. The Commission has decided to dispose of the matter through a hearing and the date of hearing which shall be communicated latter on.

objections supported by affidavit before the Commission on or before 18.01.2022 serving copy to the applicant TPWODL and take part in the hearing on date & time to be fixed by the

TPWODL. Burla

#### Rahul, privilege to lead an he will work with our vision KLand add value to our team." who IPL franchise was Punjab's skipand I am per for the looking forlast two seaward to working sons, is also expected to

closely with Dr Goenka Lucknow team. "I will relish the challenge

be joining the new Lucknow to build something meaningfranchise and I am very grateful and successful with the ful for the opportunity. Since Lucknow franchise, I am lookmy very first tour to Índia in ing forward to meeting the 1993, I have always loved tourmanagement and staff when I ing, playing and coaching visit Uttar Pradesh in the new year."Goenka added: "As a in India," said Flower in player and a Coach Andy has a statement. "The passion for left an indelible mark in the cricket in India is unrihistory of cricket. We respect valled and it is a real his professionalism and hope

and the

The Zimbabwean great, who coached England to the T20 World Cup title in 2010 and also the number one spot in Test rankings, is at the helm of Punjab Kings owned franchise in the Caribbean Premier League -- Saint Lucia Kings.

In the matter: An application of TP Western Odisha Distribution Ltd. for approval of

The copy of the aforesaid application may be downloaded from the Commission's

## Harmanpreet's double strike hands India 3-1 win over Pakistan

PTI DHAKA

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as Olympic bronze-medallists India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 3-1 to register their second consecutive win and virtually qualify for the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Friday. Harmanpreet (8th, 53rd minutes) converted two penalty corners, while comeback-man Akashdeep Singh, who couldn't make the Tokyo Olympics squad, found the net from a field effort in the 42nd minute for his second goal of the tournament.

Pakistan's lone goal was scored by Junaid Manzoor in the 45th minute.

It was India's second win in the tournament after their 9-0 drubbing of hosts Bangladesh while Pakistan are still winless having drawn goal-less against

Japan in their opening match. India had earlier drawn 2-2 against Korea in their tournament opener. India are current-

seven points from three games and will take on Japan in their last round-robin match of the five-team tournament on Pakistan, meanwhile, have

just one point from two

games.India and Pakistan were

the joint winners in the last edi-

tion of the tournament in

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Premier League.

move to

the Sanjiv

Goenka-

Former Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower was on Friday

appointed as the head coach of

the yet-to-be-named Lucknow

franchise, which will make its

debut in the 2022 Indian

with Punjab Kings as assis-

tant coach for the past two

Flower was working

washed out. The Indians completely

dominated possession in the first two quarters while Pakistan preferred to sit back. But they defended admirably save for Harmanpreet's lone strike. The play was mostly on the Pakistan half in the first two quarters as Indians pressed hard from the goalie.

ly leading the points table with Muscat after the final was onset and created a couple of chances but credit must go to goalkeeper Mazar Abbas who was brilliant overall.

But expectedly, it was India who took the lead in the eighth minute when Harmanpreet converted the team's first penalty corner with a powerful low flick to the left of the Pakistan



GOYERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT Tender call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-14/2021-22 Memo No - 1778 The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:

Nature of Work No of Work

Class of Contractor Available of Bid document in

Last Date of receipt of tender Date of opening of Bid

**Building Works** 4 Nos Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)

Dt.07.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM Dt. 10.01.2022 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the

OIPR-34127/11/0020/2122

### **TPWØDL**

TP WESTERN ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED CASE No. 113 of 2021

M/s TPWODL has filed an application for approval of Open Access Charges for the

Interested Persons/ Institutions/ Organizations may file their views/suggestions

Chief Executive Officer

#### ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION PLOT NO. 4, CHUNUKOLI, SAILESHREE VIHAR, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751021,

Web: www.orierc.org CASE No. 115/2021 **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

An application of TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd. for approval of Wheeling Charges, Crosssubsidy Surcharges ,Additional Surcharges and Standby

M/s TPCODL has filed an application for approval of Oper Access Charges for the Financial Year 2022-23 under Section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and in accordance with OERC (Terms and Conditions of Intra-State Open Access) Regulations, 2020 for approval of Wheeling Charges, Cross Subsidy Surcharges, Additional Surcharge & Standby charges applicable to open access customers for use of intra-State transmission/distribution system.

The copy of the aforesaid application may be downloaded from the Commission's website (www.orierc.org) / licensee's website www.tpcentralodisha.com or it may be obtained from the Office of the Commission by paying photo copy charges of Rs.25/-(Rupees twenty five) only. The Commission has decided to dispose of the matter through a hearing and the date of hearing shall be communicated latter on. Interested Persons/ Institutions/ Organizations may file their

views/suggestions/ objections supported by affidavit before the Commission on or before 18.01.2022 serving copy to the applicant TPCODL and take part in the hearing on date & time to be fixed by the Commission. By Order of the Commission

Dated. 18 .12.2021 Sd/- SECRETARY 02) E-Tender Call Notice No.43/2021-22: Shifting of 132 kV Nimapara-Samagara-Puri LILO Line (Approx. Line Length-1.2KM) from Sri Jagannath Medical College Campus by using UG Cable, at an estimated cost of the package for Rs.8.50 Crore on Turnkey Contract Basis. For details please visit: www.optcl.co.in & www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL.

OIPR-04011/11/0120/2122 Sd/- CGM (CPC)

THE ODISHA STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Recruitment of Banking Assistant Grade - II in the District Central Co-operative Banks functioning in the State of Odisha Applications for the posts of Banking Assistant Grade-II in the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) functioning in the state of Odisha are invited online

HIPR-40/2021-22

Tentative Schedule of Events:						
Activity	Tentative Dates					
Online Registration including Edit / Modification of Application by candidates	29.12.2021 to 17.01.2022					
Payment of Application Fees / Intimation charges (Online)	29.12.2021 to 17.01.2022					
Download of Call Letters for Examination	10 days before Examination					
Online Preliminary Examination	February / March 2022					
Online Mains Examination	April /May 2022					

Candidates are advised to be in regular touch with the authorized website mentioned above for details and updates

Examination Fees / Intimation Charges: Category of Candidates Unreserved/ SEBC Rs. 1000/-SC/ST

letter No. 7835 dated 13.03.2020 of R.C.S, Odisha, have to apply afresh in response to fresh advertisement, if they want to participate in the recruitment process as candidates. In that case, they will have to simply apply afresh and will not be required to deposit any examination fee. Applications of such candidates will be checked after registrations are over. If, at

any stage, it is found that old registration number has been entered erroneously

The Applicants who had applied earlier in response to advertisement issued vide

and/or an application fee was not paid successfully against old application, such applications will be rejected. The eligibility criteria for the post of Banking Assistant Grade-II in the District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and all other details are available in the above websites. The candidates may download the details, carefully go through the

same and apply for the posts on the basis of their eligibility on the dates specified for online registration along with online payment of application fees shown in the portal. The links for the purpose will be available on the specified dates. Sd/- Managing Director

OIPR-39012/11/0014/2122

Odisha State Cooperative Bank Ltd.

through the link available in the website www.odishascb.com from the residents of