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PIYUSH MISHRA
10 VIVACITY

International flights won't resume

Omicron scare
puts off Dec 15
resumption plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Omicron scare, India may not resume scheduled international flights from December 15 as planned earlier.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday decided to postpone the resumption of the scheduled international flights from December 15 citing "evolving global scenario" in the wake of the emergence of the new Covid variant.

No case of Omicron has been reported in India so far but air travel is becoming longer and more expensive due to guidelines issued by the Government.

"In view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new variants of concern, the situation is being



Air passengers lined up at a terminal at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Wednesday. SPTI

watched closely in consultation with all stakeholders and an appropriate decision indicating the effective date of resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services shall be notified in due course," the DGCA said in a circular on Wednesday.

The DGCA also referred to its circular issued on

November 26 wherein it was decided that scheduled international flights will resume from December 15.

The Pioneer had earlier reported that resumption of scheduled international flights was likely to be delayed from December 15 as planned earlier. The USA, Canada, the European Union, Israel, China

have already banned travellers from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. Japan has also decided to completely shut down international air travel from its soil.

A decision on the resumption of international flights will only be taken after the

OMICRON EFFECT

- With new guidelines, air travel become more longer and expensive
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation said only two per cent of the passengers coming from countries that are not in the 'at-risk' list will be subject to random sampling for coronavirus and such passengers will be permitted to leave the airport after giving the samples
- Passengers are being charged ₹500 for the RT-PCR tests, the test result of which will be available in 5-6 hours. Those who opt for Rapid PCR tests need to shell out ₹3,900 at the airport and these are however available in one hour
- Air passengers flying to Chennai from 'at risk' countries will need to pay ₹4,000 for Rapid test while those opting for regular RT-PCR will pay ₹900

Government finds it relatively safer to do so amid the prevailing pandemic situation.

The Chief Ministers of Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to reopen international flights from affected countries in the present scenario

The decision comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked officials to review the plans to ease international travel restrictions in light of the "emerging new evidence".

What UPA? Mamata attacks its relevance

TMC chief bats
for non-Congress
Opp unity to take
on might of BJP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing her one-upmanship over the Congress leadership, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday questioned the very existence of United Progressive Alliance (UPA), by saying, "What's UPA? There's no UPA now", but stressed on the need for bringing together like-minded Opposition parties as a "strong alternative" to fight the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Interacting with the media persons jointly with NCP chief Sharad Pawar after meeting the latter at his Mumbai residence, Mamata negated the very presence of UPA in the country's political spectrum by saying: "Kya UPA hai? Abhi UPA nahi hain" (What's UPA? There's no UPA) and indicated that she was prepared to go "with or without" the Congress in the proposed Opposition alternative.

Mamata, who has of late been desperately trying to occupy the Congress' space by way of aggressive posturing



NCP president Sharad Pawar with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after a meeting at his residence in Mumbai on Wednesday. PTI

like the one witnessed in Goa and poaching of 12 out of 17 Congress MLAs in Meghalaya, indirectly accused the Sonia Gandhi-led party of lacking in "the will" to fight the ruling BJP at the Centre.

The West Bengal Chief Minister, who appeared to be making the most of the NCP chief's presence to undermine the role of the Congress in the proposed Opposition front being cobbled by her, said, "Like what Sharadji said, there should be a strong alternative that believes in fighting it out (against the BJP). If somebody does not want to fight, what can we do? They should at least be ready to fight by being within the force".

Asked if Pawar being the senior-most leader should be the chairman of UPA, Mamata, who is on a visit to Mumbai, said, "Kya UPA hai? Abhi UPA nahi hain" (What's UPA? There's no UPA). She chose to remain silent on the issue of the Opposition front's leadership.

On her plans to cobble a strong alternative to the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Mamata said, "In view of the situation prevailing in the country, we should develop a strong alternative force against the current Government at the Centre. I cannot do it alone but strong like-minded parties should come together".

Contagious Omicron may displace Delta, says S African expert

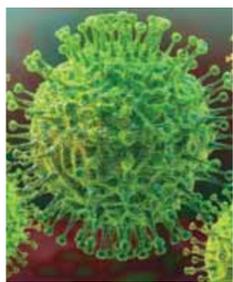
Johannesburg: The Omicron coronavirus variant detected in southern Africa could be the most likely candidate to displace the highly contagious Delta variant, the director of South Africa's communicable disease institute said on Tuesday.

The discovery of Omicron has caused global alarm, with countries limiting travel from southern Africa for fear it could spread quickly even in vaccinated populations and the World Health Organization saying it carries a high risk of infection surges

"We thought what will out-compete Delta? That has always been the question, in terms of transmissibility at least, ... perhaps this particular variant is the variant," Adrian Puren, acting executive director of South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), told Reuters in an interview.

If Omicron proves even more transmissible than the Delta variant, it could lead to a sharp spike in infections that could put pressure on hospitals. Puren said scientists should know within four weeks to what extent Omicron can evade the immunity generated by vaccines or prior infection, and whether it leads to worse clinical symptoms than other variants.

Anecdotal accounts by doctors who have treated South African Covid-19 patients say Omicron appears to be pro-



ducing mild symptoms, including a dry cough, fever and night sweats, but experts have cautioned against drawing firm conclusions.

Puren said it was too early to say whether Omicron was displacing Delta in South Africa, since local scientists have only produced 87 sequences of Omicron so far.

But the fact that cases have started to rise rapidly, especially in the most populated Gauteng province, is a sign that some displacement might already be happening.

Delta drove a third wave of Covid-19 infections in South Africa that peaked at more than 26,000 cases per day in early July. Omicron is expected to trigger a fourth wave, with daily infections seen topping 10,000 by the end of the week from around 2,270 on Monday.

Anne von Gottberg, a clinical microbiologist at the NICD, said it looked like infections were rising throughout the country.

Amid Omicron scare, 6 fliers Covid-19 +ve

11 international flights landed at various airports in the country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Omicron scare, six passengers were reported to be Covid-19 positive from the total 11 international flights that landed here on the first day of operation of the central Guidelines for International Travellers as public health response measures for control and management of the new reported variant of the virus.

It has been designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Total of 11 international flights landed at various airports of the country except Lucknow, from midnight to 4 pm today, from 'at risk' coun-



tries. These carried 3,476 passengers," said a statement from the Ministry.

All 3,476 passengers were administered RT-PCR Tests, wherein only 6 passengers were found Covid-19 positive.

The samples of the Covid-19 positive passengers have been sent to INSACOG labs for Whole Genomic Sequencing. INSACOG Labs network, a multi-laboratory, multi-agency, pan-India network has set up by the Government to monitor genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 for genome sequencing to determine the strain of the virus.

States will then undertake contact tracing of these positive individuals and follow up for 14 days.

"The Government continues to keep track of the evolving situation, and supports States/UTs in the fight against the pandemic through "whole of Government" approach," said the statement from the Ministry.

Petrol cheaper by ₹8/litre in Delhi as Govt reduces VAT

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol will be cheaper in the National Capital by ₹8 per litre after the Delhi Government on Wednesday announced a reduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate to 19.40 per cent from the existing 30 per cent.

Therefore, petrol rates will come into effect from Wednesday midnight.

Delhi's diesel rates are cheapest in the National Capital Region (NCR) at ₹86.76 per litre, while the rates of diesel in Noida and Gurugram are ₹87.01 and ₹87.11 per litre respectively.

Taking it to social media, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "We have made petrol very cheap in Delhi from today. VAT rates have been reduced from 30 per cent to 19.4 per cent. Petrol and diesel will be cheaper in Delhi as compared to other cities of NCR. I hope



this step will bring huge relief to the people of Delhi from inflation."

The Delhi Government had marginally increased the VAT rate on petrol last year. Back then there was 27 per cent VAT on petrol in Delhi, which was increased to 30 per cent.

Defeating BJP sans Congress a hollow dream: Venugopal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has reacted sharply to TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's claim that there was no UPA now.

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Wednesday replied to her comments saying "defeating BJP without Congress is merely a dream".

Mamata, who has poached several Congress leaders in last couple of months, is on a visit to Maharashtra, where she met with NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut in Mumbai.

"There is no UPA now," Mamata said soon after her meet with Pawar. "Everybody knows the reality of Indian politics. Thinking that without Congress anybody can defeat BJP is merely a dream," Venugopal said when asked a response on the TMC comments.



Significantly, Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress are in an alliance Government in Maharashtra and what has irked the Congress is now that while Mamata and her party is keeping dates with all other Opposition members, but has ignored the Congress.

The Trinamool Congress even skipped a meeting called by the Congress for a united Opposition face in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament.

CAPSULE

GVADMK TWEAKS BYLAWS TO SHUT DOOR ON SASIKALA

Chennai: The main Opposition AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, which is facing challenge from eased out leader VK Sasikala, on Wednesday amended its bylaws to strengthen norms to retain the present leadership structure of top two positions held by O Panneerselvam and K

AAP Govt issues notice to CPWD over Vista work during pollution ban

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after carrying a surprise inspection of Central Vista project, Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday issued a notice to the Central Public Works Department's (CPWD) for violating construction ban imposed due to rising pollution levels.

Rai said the CPWD has to answer by Thursday on what basis and on whose orders the work is going on at the Central Vista despite the ban on construction.

"Violation of anti-dust pollution guidelines has been found at the project site. A separate notice is being given for this," Rai said. The Minister ordered the Delhi Pollution



Control Committee (DPCC) to issue two separate notices to the CPWD — first for ignoring the ban which was imposed to reduce pollution in the city, and second for violating anti-dust guidelines while construction was observed in full swing.

"The CPWD must respond to these notices by tomorrow and further action will be taken on the basis of their response," he said.

Army to now don new combat uniform

Made of durable fabric with digital pattern to give better camouflage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With changing nature of modern warfare in mind, the Indian Army is going for a change of its combat uniform. The new kit will be on display at the Army Day parade here on January 15 next year.

Interestingly, the marching contingents in the Republic Day parade next year will don the uniform of different era starting over 100 years ago.

Unlike the previous years when the contingents wore the dress of their regiments, the Republic Day next year will see the troops marching past the saluting dais in uniform ranging from those worn during the World War I, World War II and other campaigns, sources said here on Wednesday.

As regards the new combat

uniform, they said it is of a digital pattern which will help the personnel to have better camouflage in the battlefield besides comfort. Unlike the past, the officers and men will not tuck in the shirt inside their trousers to provide them more comfort and fluidity in movement, sources said.

The Army is likely to switch over to the new combat uniform from mid next year. The uniform will be a mix of colours, including olive and earthen. The uniform is formally known as battle dress uniforms (BDU).

Several countries, including the US and European armies, have switched over to digital pattern uniform. The Indian Army decided to change its combat uniform after studying the dress of these countries,



officials said. To ensure safety and comfort element in the operational areas, the uniform is camou-

flaged, either in monochrome such as shades of green or brown to blend in with the background.

The new combat uniform is made of lighter and durable material suitable for both summer and winter as the Army operates in all kinds of terrain ranging from minus 40 degrees at the Siachen Glacier to 50 degrees plus in the Thar desert.

Meanwhile, the Army was working on the issue of having shoulder or collar tags marking the rank of the personnel. Some armies around the world have such rank markings on the button of their combat uniform.

However, some others prefer to have no rank or tags on the shoulders to maintain secrecy on the battlefield.

With more than 13 lakh troops on its roll, it will take some months before the entire Army is provided with the new combat uniform, sources said. They also said the authorities were mulling over changes in the present olive green regular uniform worn by officers and troops.

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WORLD AIDS DAY CM Dhama calls for united fight against HIV

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has said that apart from creating awareness on AIDS there is a need to strengthen people so that they can prevent themselves from the effects of the HIV. He was addressing a programme organised by the state health department on the occasion of the World AIDS day here on Wednesday.

The CM said that the day reminds us that everyone should remain united to fight dreaded diseases such as AIDS. He said that counselling is a very important part in the treatment of the disease and efforts should be made to provide pointed, complete and relevant information about the disease.

Dhama said that humanity is facing a dreaded disease which is Covid-19 in the present times and called upon the people to follow the Covid appropriate behaviour. He said that despite its tough geographical terrain Uttarakhand was able to complete the task of



vaccinating its entire adult population with the first dose two months ahead of the target. He said that the state government is doing every possible effort to control Covid and improve the health infrastructure in the state. Dhama said that 207 types of pathology tests are being done free of cost in the government hospitals of the state.

The health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that there are 4800 people infected with HIV

Dhama unveils various development works in Pauri

PNS ■ PAURI

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the new collectorate building in Pauri while also inaugurating and unveiling the foundation stones of various development works amounting to more than Rs 100 crore on Wednesday. Before this event, he also participated in a BJP rally which passed through various localities to reach the event venue at Ramliha Ground.

Dhama reiterated the state government's commitment to make Uttarakhand a model state by 2025. He said that about 500 decisions had been taken by the government in the four months since he assumed office, adding that all the decisions are being executed. The CM said that under the sports policy 2021, the government will bear the expenses of talented players of the state for national and international competitions.

Listing various steps taken by the government, he also said that Pauri will be linked with helicopter services. Cabinet minister Dhan Singh Rawat, MLAs Dilip Singh Rawat, Mukesh Kohli and others were also present on the occasion.

Punjab, Delhi CMs to come out with their poll strategies today

CHANNI WILL SHARE DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS AND PRO-PEOPLE INITIATIVES, WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT SINCE HE ASSUMED THE CHARGE AS CM

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Already engaged in a war of words, the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Delhi will come out with battle strategies on Thursday. Both Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal are scheduled to make announcements ahead of 2022 Punjab Assembly polls.

Kejriwal would be on another Punjab visit from Thursday to lead the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) 'Tiranga March' in Pathankot after which he would announce the "fourth guarantee".

On the other hand, Chief Minister Channi is also expected to make some announcement on Thursday. Channi, through his official Twitter handle, has informed that he would be addressing a Press conference at 3 pm.

During the conference, Channi would be sharing the details of development works and pro-people initiatives,

which have been taken by his Government since he assumed the charge as the Chief Minister.

The visit of Kejriwal, AAP's national convener, will be dedicated to the unity and integrity of the country, and along with this, he will also give a fourth guarantee to Punjab and its people, said AAP Punjab unit president Bhagwant Mann.

Arvind Kejriwal will reach Pathankot in the afternoon. After this, he will lead the 'Tiranga Yatra' to be organised by the party at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk in the city. After addressing the 'Tiranga Yatra', Arvind Kejriwal will give the fourth guarantee to the people of Punjab and then return to Delhi in the evening," he said.

Mann said before this, Kejriwal has given the first guarantee of free and 24-hour electricity; second guarantee of free health services and setting up 16,000 mohalla clinics; and the third guarantee of giving Rs 1,000 per month to women and girls above 18 years of age. Continuing with this, the fourth guarantee will be given on December 2 in Pathankot, he added.

The development assumes significance as Channi on

Wednesday targeted AAP supremo Kejriwal by dubbing him as "outsiders" and "kaale angraz" (black Englishmen).

Asserting that outsiders wanted to rule Punjab, Channi said that Punjab is of Punjabis. "They want to rule Punjab by coming from outside. They don't know anything about the culture and the needs of Punjab. They are like kaale angraz," said Channi, addressing a Congress rally at Badhni Kalan in Moga district.

Taking a stern note, AAP's national spokesperson and Punjab affairs co-in-charge Raghav Chadha said that by sitting in a responsible chair, Chief Minister Channi has crossed all the boundaries of slander, which is a shame.

Chadha, in a video released, said that the people of Punjab love Kejriwal immensely. "Channi today called popular leader Arvind Kejriwal a 'black Englishman'. Even before this, they (Channi and Congressmen) used to insult Arvind Kejriwal every day. By using such derogatory language for the hero of the people, Channi and his associates are insulting all those people including Punjabis, who like Arvind Kejriwal as a pro-people leader," he said.

Punjab Cabinet nod to trader-friendly decisions worth ₹1,140 crore

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major reprieve to the traders across the State, the Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday decided to exempt about 1.50 lakh cases from assessment related to cases of 'C' form for the past years from 2014-15 to 2017-18. With this decision, taken during the Cabinet meeting, about 8,500 such cases would now be assessed under this category every year. This trader-friendly decision would cost Rs 200 crore on the State exchequer.

Forms 'C's are used for filing returns against the tax already paid in interstate sale of goods. To further boost trade and economic activity in the State, the Cabinet also gave approval to exempt the traders from making payment of 70 per cent of the excess demand and now they would be only required to deposit 30 per cent of the surplus demand. The decision would also cost the state exchequer to the tune of Rs 940 crore. Subsequently, they would now be required to deposit the said amount — that is 20 per cent of the 30 per cent portion of the additional demand by March 31, 2022, and the remaining 80 per cent by March 31, 2023. Notably, the State Government has taken these significant decisions to facilitate traders in the wake of the recent Covid pandemic.

Dhama visits house of martyr Chitresh Bisht

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama visited house of martyr Major Chitresh Bisht on Wednesday. He met S S Bisht and Rekha Bisht who are father and mother of martyr respectively. Dhama paid floral tributes on picture of martyr and consoled parents. He also took earth from courtyard of house for proposed Sainya Dham in Dehradun. Dhama said that Uttarakhand is proud of supreme sacrifice of Major Chitresh Bisht and all its martyrs. He said that earth from households of all martyrs is being collected for setting up Sainya Dham. The CM said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned a mega Sainya Dham which would be its fifth Dham and state government would fulfill it.

Awareness raised in SIIDCUL Pantnagar on AIDS

PNS ■ PANTNAGAR

A public awareness rally and street play were held at SIIDCUL Pantnagar on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Wednesday.

The programme was held on the theme of 'end inequalities, end AIDS'. Focus was laid on raising awareness to ensure that services and medicines available reach all those in need.

The means of preventing the disease were also focused upon. SIIDCUL RM Kamal Kishor, SEWS head Manoj Tyagi along with other officials and representatives of various enterprises were involved in organising the programme.

Himalayan Hospital raises awareness on World AIDS Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Himalayan Hospital organised an awareness programme on World AIDS Day on Wednesday. Those coming to the OPD on the occasion were informed about the causes of AIDS, symptoms, precautions and treatment. Misconceptions about the disease were also dispelled on the occasion.

The dermatology department head Dr YS Bisht informed the people that the HIV virus which causes AIDS weakens the body's immune system. He also informed about the different ways in which one can get infected.

The other doctors informed about the various symptoms of AIDS and suggested that those experiencing these should immediately visit their nearest health centre for a screening.

The Swami Rama Himalayan University also held an awareness programme at the Doiwala community health centre on the occasion.

Capt, Badal hand-in-glove with Modi to ruin Punjab: Channi



PNS ■ BADHNI KALAN/MOGA

Coming down heavily on Capt Amarinder Singh and the Badals, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday said these families are hand-in-glove with the Union Government led by Narendra Modi for ruining Punjab in order to achieve their personal motives. "Firstly, the Badals implemented the farm laws in the State and then played a leading role in getting the same enforced upon the entire coun-

try by giving ill advice to the Narendra Modi led Union Government," said Channi addressing a mammoth gathering during a State level function. He pointed out that in order to save the ministerial berth of Harsimrat Kaur Badal, the Badal family went to the extent of even campaigning in support of these black laws. "Harsimrat didn't resign on her own from the Union Cabinet but the massive angst amongst the people forced her to do so," he said. Taking on the former Chief Minister Capt

Amarinder Singh, Channi said Punjab and the Punjabis by aligning with the Modi Government and justifying the notification of the Central Government enhancing the jurisdiction of BSF in Punjab by 50 kms. "This is a direct attack on the rights of States as well as the federal structure which would not be tolerated by the Punjabis," said the Chief Minister.

Intensifying the attacks on the Badal and the Capt Amarinder families, Channi said it was due to their joining hands with each other that the transport and cable mafia has looted the people of Punjab. Although it's been only two months since he has taken over as the Chief Minister, he has nipped the evil of Transport mafia nurtured by the Badals, in the bud. Now, the State Government is fully geared up to act tough on the cable mafia which also received their patronage, he said.

Taking the attack right into the opposition ranks and castigating AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister said that the Delhi Chief Minister's bunch of men is plotting to rob Punjab on the pattern of outside invaders by donning the garb of 'aam aadmi'.

"Punjab's sensible people would not let the nefarious designs of such imposters to succeed," said the Chief Minister adding clearly that Punjab would only be ruled by the people of the State as the likes of Kejriwal have absolutely no familiarity with the problems as well as the needs of the common masses of the State.

Int'l Gita Mahotsava from Dec 2 in Haryana: Khattar



PNS ■ KURUKSHETRA

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said the International Gita Mahotsava will start from December 2 and will continue till December 19 while the main events will be held from December 9 to 14 in Kurukshetra.

"Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is the essence of life. It is a matter of great fortune for the country and the people of the state that this time on the occasion of International Gita Mahotsava, the celestial message of Gita will be 5,158-year-old, the Chief Minister said during a Press conference at Purushotampura Bagh located on Brahmavar in Kurukshetra.

He said till now, there were 134 pilgrimage places in the 48 kos area of Kurukshetra but this time, 30 more pilgrimage sites have been added to it, after which the total number of sites will increase to 164. Along with this, a Mahabharata-themed building will be constructed at Gitasthali Jyotisar on 2 acres of land at a cost of Rs 205 crore. The Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Saraswati river and Vedic Civilization will be depicted through a multimedia system in this building, he announced.

Giving information related to the International Gita Mahotsava, the Chief Minister said the Shilp and Saras Mela will start on December 2, in which about 350 eminent artists and craftsmen will participate. It will run till December 19. The main programme will start with Gita Yagya and prayers at Brahmavar on December 9. A grand Gita Maha Aarti will be organised on the holy bank of Brahmavar, he said.

Khattar said Shrimad Bhagavad Gita has also been an inspiration for the freedom fighters who were martyred for the freedom of the country and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-themed programmes will be conducted to honour their sacrifice.

A three-day International Gita Seminar will be organised at Kurukshetra University. Research papers from within the

country and abroad will be presented online in the seminar on the topic "Role of the Holy Book Gita in the Freedom Movement". On completion of 75 years of independence, 75 freedom fighters and their families will be honoured.

On December 12, Sant Sammelan will be organised during the festival. During this, the saints will discuss the subject of Gita and spirituality and give their views. Along with this, Gita Sansad will be organised in colleges of Haryana on December 13. Cultural programmes will be organised at 75 pilgrimages of 48 Kos Kurukshetra on December 14. On concerns related to Covid-19, the CM said the Covid protocols will be strictly followed in the International Gita Mahotsav. Thermal screening and vaccination will be done as per the requirement at various entrances of the venue, he added.

1,100 students to recite Gita
The CM said on December 14, about 1,100 students will recite the Gita at Brahmavar, while 55,000 students from the country and abroad will participate in online Gita recitation. Along with this, 75 eminent sculptors will make sculptures based on the theme of Mahabharata and Gita. Even before the start of International Gita Festival 2021, 3.5 lakh people from more than 25 countries, including America, Canada, UK, are associated with the festival through social media.

Exhibition on Gita proposed in various countries
The CM said option of promoting the International Gita Mahotsav by arranging exhibitions at embassies of various countries will be explored. Apart from that, the possibility of holding Gita Mahotsava in various State capitals would also be mapped.

He said the Gita Mahotsav is now being celebrated internationally. Most recent International Gita Mahotsava included scholars from 28 nations. Additionally, High Commissioners of six nations were present during last Gita Mahotsav, he added.

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय: असीएम अडिवाला, निर्माण अण्डल
स्ट्रीट नं. 11, राजेन्द्र नगर, देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड)
फोन/फैक्स: 0135-2751879 (का.) E-mail: se9circle10@yahoo.com

पत्रांक: 6221/निविदा/811 दिनांक: 30.11.2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधीक्षण अनियंता, निर्माण मंडल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के पत्रांक 6192/निविदा/800, दिनांक 30.11.2021 द्वारा अमृत कार्यक्रम में देहरादून जलापूर्ति की 23 जोन आच्छादन के अंतर्गत देहरादून नगर में सहस्रधारा जोन सं 40 के राजीव नगर, कन्डोली क्षेत्र में राईजिंग मेन/फीडर मेन, नलकूप निर्माण, पम्पिंग प्लांट के अधिष्ठापन, पम्प गृह के निर्माण एवं तत्संबंधी कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से दिनांक 06.12.2021 से 27.12.2021 तक ई-निविदा (e-Tender) आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से निर्धारित सिद्धि एवं समायोजन प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधीक्षण अनियंता
"जल संवय-जीवन संवय" "कृपया जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाइये"
वैधानिक चेतावनी-जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना दण्डनीय अपराध है।

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
ऑफ इंडिया
एक सार्वजनिक उद्यम A Government of India Undertaking

Assets Recovery Management Branch : Union Bank of Building, 5th Floor, 66/80, Mumbai Samachar Marg, Fort, Mumbai-400 023. • Tel. No.: (022) 22629451 / 52 / 54 • Mob. No. 9928211305 • E-Mail : arb.msm@unionbankofindia.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISION TO RULE 6 (F) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 16.12.2021 at between 10:00 A. M. to 03:00 P. M., for recovery of respective amounts, due to the Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned below. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below. For details terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) website i.e. www.unionbankofindia.co.in. Bidder may also visit the website <https://www.ibapi.in>. The under mentioned properties will be sold by Online E-Auction through website www.mstcecommerce.com on 16.12.2021 for recovery of respective amounts plus interest and other expenses in the respective borrowers accounts.

Online E- Auction through website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>
Date & Time of Auction : 16th DECEMBER, 2021 at 10.00 A. M. to 03.00 P. M.

Lot No.	a) Name of the Borrower, b) Name of the Branch, c) Description of Property, d) Name of the Owner's	a) Reserve Price (₹) b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (₹)	Debit Due Amount Contact Person & Mobile No. Inspection Date / Time	Encumbrance Possession: Symbolic / Physical
1	a) M/s. Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd. b) Asset Recovery Management Branch c) Factory Land & Building at plot No. 14, 15, & 16, Sector-6, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand. Total Land Area of the Property : 77421 sq. ft. or 7200 sq. mt. d) M/s. Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd.	a) ₹ 4,24,50,000/- b) ₹ 42,45,000/-	₹ 37,25,17,331.00 (Rs. Thirty Seven Crore Twenty Five Lakh Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty One Only) as on 30.09.2021 plus further interest thereon w. e. f. 01.10.2021 at applicable rate of interest, cost and charges till date. Mr. Suryeshwar Deshbhartar - Mob. No. 9082071047 • Mr. Shalish Singh - Mob. No. 8840439119 • 10.12.2021 / 03.00 p. m. to 05.00 p. m.	Not Known to A. O. Physical Possession

Bidders are requested to visit the Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in for detailed terms & conditions of E-Auction and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the E-Auction. Bidder may also visit the website www.ibapi.in of Service Provider Indian Banks Auction Properties Information (IBAPI) Portal. The intending bidders must have valid e-mail ID to participate in on-line Auction. The terms and conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6 (F) / RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
This may also be treated as notice under Rule 6(f) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided i.e. www.unionbankofindia.co.in or <https://www.ibapi.in> in www.mstcecommerce.com

Place : Rudrapur, Uttarakhand
Date : 30.11.2021
Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III
SECTOR-VII, R. K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
N.I.T. No. 36(2021-22)SW-III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1.	Boring of 05 Nos. T/well in rocky strata inside primary UGR premises at Greater Kailash-I Under South-III(AC-50)	Rs. 25,35,979/- Rs. 500/-	29-11-2021 Tender I.D No. 2021_DJB_211761_1	15.12.2021 At 2.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 692 (2021-22)

Sd/-
(Naveen Kumar Khare)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-50

DELHI JAL BOARD
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-VIII
SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI. 110075

"Stop Corona : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hygiene"
PRESS N.I.T. No. 13/EE(SDWVIII)(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/Money In Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Deployment of operation & maintenance Staff for 91 MLD STP Papankalan Ph-I Dwarika	3781442/-	75700/-	500/-	Tender ID:- 2021_DJB_211885_1 Date. 30.11.2021	15.12.2021 at 11.45 A.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 694 (2021-22)

Sd/-
(T.P. Singh)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-VIII

COVID-19 53 new cases reported in State on Wednesday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand registered yet another jump in Covid-19 cases on Wednesday with 53 new cases being reported in the state. This is the highest single day number of positive cases in about three months in the state. With 11 patients also recovering from the disease on the same day, the total number of active cases now stands at 183 with a recovery percentage of 96.01.

According to information provided by the Health department, out of the positive cases reported on Wednesday, 29 were reported from Nainital district, 14 from Haridwar, eight from Dehradun and one each from Pauri and Pithoragarh.

No new cases were reported on Wednesday from Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Rudrapur, Tehri, Udham Singh Nagar and Uttarkashi districts. As far as the number of active cases is concerned, there are 52 in Dehradun district, 49 in Nainital, 32 in Haridwar, 23 in Pauri, seven each in Almora



and Udham Singh Nagar, four in Uttarkashi, three in Pithoragarh and two each in Chamoli, Champawat and Tehri. Meanwhile, 909 vaccination sessions were held in the state on Wednesday in which a total of 60,179 beneficiaries were vaccinated.

According to departmental data, 75,93,141 beneficiaries have been partially vaccinated while 51,40,322 have been fully vaccinated in the state.

IMA PoP: Prez Kovind to review parade

CM Dhami, CDS Bipin Rawat to remain present

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind who also is the supreme commander of the armed forces of the country would review the passing out parade (PoP) at prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA) here on December 11.

The top training academy is currently engaged in preparing for its Autumn term PoP which shall witness 387 Gentlemen Cadets (GCs) passing out. This includes 68 foreign trainees from ten countries. The ceremonies associ-

ated with the PoP will commence on December 10 with a solemn wreath laying ceremony, where homage will be paid to the brave alumni of this prestigious training academy.

The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami and the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat would also be present in the PoP.

"The IMA Passing out Parade of Autumn Term 2021 highlights the unwavering commitment of the Armed Force to face any challenge and constantly strive to excel. The 387 GCs set to be commissioned in various armies, are sure to earn laurels and add glory to this great institution," a communique from the IMA stated.



Aam Aadmi Party to begin tour of 12 constituencies today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The state in-charge of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Delhi MLA Dinesh Mohaniya will start his four-day visit to eight constituencies in Uttarakhand from today. Delhi's cabinet minister Imran Hussain will also commence his two-day visit from today.

The AAP's state spokesman Naveen Pirshali informed that both AAP leaders will interact with public during their visits to make them aware of party's policies for development of state. He informed that Mohaniya will visit Ramnagar, Kaladhungi and Lalkuan constituencies on December 2 and address a public gathering. He said, "The state in-charge will visit Ranikhet and Someshwar constituencies on December 3 and Dwarahat and Salt on December 4. On December 5, he will end tour with a rally in Vikasnagar constituency."

Talking about Hussain, Pirshali informed that he will start his two-day visit from Haldwani constituency where he will address a public meeting. He said, "He will subsequently visit Jaspur same day. The next day, he will visit Piran Kaliyar and Manglaur constituencies to address public and meet party workers."

MCD to resume drive against stray cattle ahead of PM arrival

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) will resume its intensive drive against stray cattle from Thursday. The corporation is resuming the campaign in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to the city on December 4.

In the past few months, the number of cattle roaming around the city have increased considerably causing issues like the spread of roadside garbage on main routes and road accidents. Some councillors have also

complained to the corporation about the increasing menace of the stray cattle. The senior municipal veterinary officer DC Tiwari informed that there are already about 1,400 cows in MCD's animal shelters and it will resume picking maximum stray cattle on a daily basis from Thursday before the arrival of the PM.

However, he added that the MCD will run the campaign till December 31. He also said that the MCD teams will pick stray animals including cows, bulls, swine, mules and horses and impose penalties on the owners.



Frightened by cold, BJP running away from Bharadisain: Cong

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Former chief minister and head of the campaign committee of Uttarakhand Congress Harish Rawat said the BJP government of Uttarakhand caught cold on the issue of holding the assembly session in Gairsain. He added that the state government should seek apology from the people for running away from Gairsain.

Addressing the media persons at Congress Bhawan here on Wednesday Rawat said that the Pushkar Singh Dhami government had first decided to hold the winter session of the assembly in Bharadisain, Gairsain but later developed cold feet and now the government is planning to hold session in Dehradun.

He said that the government can hold session at either Dehradun or Gairsain but taking the plea of cold conditions for not holding the session in Gairsain is an insult to the people of Uttarakhand. Rawat said that Uttarakhand was created as a mountainous state and there are many areas in the state which are colder than Bharadisain where the assembly is located. He said that the government didn't consult opposition parties when it convened a session in Gairsain but

now it is claiming to consult the opposition for organising the session in Dehradun.

Rawat said that he would soon embark on a month-long Yatra of the state to promote Uttarakhandiyat. He said that he would highlight the failure of the government to fulfil the aspiration of the people of the state by raising issues of Mandwa, Sugarcane and Artisans in the Yatra. Rawat said that he would try to cover all parts of the state and all assembly segments of the state in his Yatra.

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal said that the Congress party had decided to hold a massive protest rally in Gairsain on the opening day of the assembly session. He claimed that the government got terrified of the protest plan of the Congress and ran away from Gairsain. Godiyal added that the speaker of Uttarakhand assembly Prem Chand Agarwal had called him on phone and inquired about his preference for the assembly session. "I told the speaker that the session should be held in Gairsain. Now they are planning to hold the session in Dehradun which proves that the government has conceded to the pressure of their MLAs who don't want to go to Gairsain," Godiyal said.

Harish to puncture BJP's Hindutva plank with 'Shiva's trident'?

Ahead of Assembly polls, Congress treading on Hindutva line in Hindu dominated Uttarakhand

GAJENDRA SINGH NEGI ■ DEHRADUN

In what can be termed as a change of strategy ahead of the crucial assembly elections, the Congress party is trying to tread on the Hindutva line in Uttarakhand. As part of this strategy the former chief minister and head of the campaign committee of the Uttarakhand Congress Harish Rawat appeared with a Trident in a press conference in Dehradun on Wednesday.

Rawat handed over the trident to the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal and the party MLA from Kedarnath Manoj Rawat and congratulated them for the victory of the party's stand on the issue of the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board. He said that the Kedarnath MLA was the first person who raised his voice in the state assembly when the bill was tabled and the party stood firmly with the

Teerth Purohiths and the stake holders in opposing the Devasthanam Board due to which the BJP government was forced to repeal the act. When asked Rawat said that religion is the matter of one's individual faith but BJP thinks that it has sole proprietorship over Hinduism.

It is pertinent to mention here that Rawat tried to score a political point over BJP by visiting the Kedarnath shrine ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. The pictures and videos of Rawat in Kedarnath holding a Trident and Damru (the drum of Shiva) while dancing with a Sadhu were widely circulated in social media.

The Congress leaders also tried to counter Modi's mega show in Kedarnath which was telecast live in all the Shaktipeethas of the country by offering water in the Shiva temples of the state. The Congress also made an issue of Modi wearing shoes inside Kedarnath temple. Rawat in particular is keen to showcase his Hindu image as the BJP has always branded him as a pro Muslim leader. The BJP leaders always claim that Rawat



during his tenure as CM of Uttarakhand had declared a holiday on Friday for Muslims to offer Namaz. The predicament of the Congress to adopt a pro Hindutva line in Uttarakhand is understandable since Hindus are in an overwhelming majority here. As per the census data of 2011 the state has 83,68,636 Hindus out of its total population of 1,00,86,292.

The voters of the state have swayed to the emotive issues such as Ram Mandir and nationalism in the past. In Uttarakhand the Congress is up against BJP which wears its Hindu identity on its sleeves.

Interestingly the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which is trying to get a foothold in the politics of the state is also try-

ing to woo Hindus by offering free pilgrimage and assurance that it would make Uttarakhand the spiritual capital of Hinduism when it comes to power. Political commentator Jai Singh Rawat said that there is no surprise in Congress adopting Hindutva line in Uttarakhand which is considered a Dev Bhoomi. He said that the BJP has already played the communal card by raising the issue changing demography and the Congress is trying to counter it.

"It is said that there are many Shivas as the number of pebbles in Uttarakhand. The Shaivs are in dominance here and understanding this Harish Rawat is brandishing the Trident which is associated with lord Shiva," he quipped.

Cong's Hindu bent BJP's achievement, says Kaushik

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Congress now moving towards Sanatan Dharma is an achievement of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Stating this, the BJP State president Madan Kaushik said that in the past, the Congress had an anti-Hindu image due to issues like calling lord Ram fictitious and declaring a holiday on Fridays however recently, the Congress leaders went to offer water to lord Shiva when Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid obeisance to the lord in Kedarnath. This transformation was made possible by the BJP, he said.

Kaushik said, "The Congress is struggling to get out of its current situation without success as it is too late. Considering itself out of contention before the elections, the Congress is now acting desperately. As far as going door to door to expose the BJP is concerned, nobody had stopped the Congress from doing so in the past five years. Sitting in the opposition for five years, the Congress has suddenly become active and start-



ed remembering public issues. It is a seasonal party which was never active on issues and problems of the public." Referring to Congress raising price rise ahead of PM Modi's visit, Kaushik said that the price rise in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Punjab should also be cited. "The people should be informed about rates of petrol, diesel and food items in these states. The BJP will release a chart to show what it has done to provide relief to people. On the issue of holding an assembly session in Gairsain, he said that in his knowledge, the government had sought the opinion of all parties.

Moderate rain and snowfall likely today in mountain districts



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The high altitude places in Uttarakhand are expected to receive light to moderate rainfall and snowfall on Thursday especially in Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts while the plain districts like Dehradun and Haridwar might experience very light to light rainfall.

The director of the meteorological centre in Dehradun, Bikram Singh informed that the weather remained cloudy in most of the districts in the state that slightly escalated the cold on Wednesday but the temperature will drop lower on Thursday as many districts might receive light to moderate precipitation. He said that mainly the areas at and above the altitude of 3,500 metres are expected to expe-

perience moderate snowfall. Singh said "The weather will start to get clear on December 3 but some remote areas in mountainous regions can receive very light to light rainfall.

The weather will be clear on December 4 but light to moderate rainfall is expected on December 5.

Areas at or below the altitude of 2,500 metres can also experience moderate snowfall on December 5 and 6 along with light to moderate rain in some plain areas." He added that the weather will be clear on December 7 but the temperature will drop to two to three degrees in plain areas and about seven degrees in mountainous regions. Singh said that plain districts like Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar will also experience fog during mornings from December 7 onwards.

USWC directs separate dining for girls and boys in orphanage

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the wake of a recent incident in which a minor was found five months pregnant in one of the oldest orphanages of Dehradun, the chairperson of the Uttarakhand State Women Commission (USWC), Vijay Barthwal has directed the orphanage administration to make separate dining arrangements for girls and boys.

She opined that restricting their interaction will minimise the chances of such incidents in the future.

On Wednesday, Barthwal conducted an inspection of the said orphanage along with law officer Dayaram Singh and sub-inspector Sangeeta Nautiyal. She said that the orphanage's administration informed her that a total of 49 children including 26 girls and 23 boys aged five to 19 years were living there.

She said that the 17 year old girl who was allegedly raped by a boy of the same age was living there since she was five years old.

The accused was also living in the orphanage since he was seven years old. Barthwal said that the administration informed her that the doctors visit the children every month

for a medical check-up and the employees from the orphanage take them to the hospital in case of any medical emergencies. Talking about the minor, the USWC head said that the girl complained of having headaches and some stomach issues in October and was taken to the hospital the same day.

Barthwal said that after the girl felt sick again, she herself revealed her situation on November 26 after which the orphanage administration informed the authorities concerned.

Barthwal also asked other girls whether they had any prior knowledge of the incident which they denied. After the inspection, she directed the orphanage administration to hire a female counsellor for the counselling of girls.

She also directed them to keep the children segregated by making separate seating arrangements in the premises and not allowing them to have meals together.

Barthwal told The Pioneer, "I recommended separate dining space for girls. If we restrict interactions between boys and girls, it will minimise the chances of such incidents happening in the future."

Placement exercise begins at IIT-Roorkee

PNS ■ ROORKEE

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee is looking forward to another promising year for placements. The placement exercise 2021-22 began as per the schedule on Wednesday.

Speaking about this year's placements drive, Vinay Sharma professor in-charge of the institute's Placement and Internship Cell said, "The pandemic scenario has brought some directional changes in the placement scenario.

We accordingly made our strategy for this placements season, wherein we tied up with the best of the companies in the sectors related to AI, software, networks, analytics, e-commerce, FMCG, finance, manufacturing and others with sincere focus on the core sectors.

Along with this we ensured diversification in the profiles which resulted in more offers extended to the students in the companies specific to their interests.

Furthermore we analysed the economic growth across the globe and accordingly collaborated with established growing firms, on the basis of forecasting done by our team. With these strategies we were able to do exceedingly well in international as well as domestic offers," averred Sharma.

IS AAP ALREADY STRUGGLING IN UTTARAKHAND?

PURNIMA BISHT ■ DEHRADUN

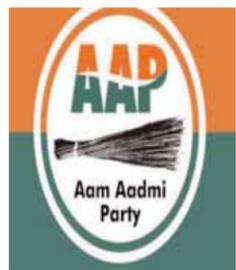
Though the senior leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) continue to claim that many prominent leaders of BJP and Congress will join the party before the 2022 state assembly elections, none of this appears to be happening anytime soon in Uttarakhand.

The party has made various promises to woo voters offering free electricity and unemployment allowance to the public but it has evidently not yet attracted senior leaders of other parties.

Before the party announced colonel (ret'd) Ajay Kothiyal as its chief ministerial candidate in the state, the senior AAP leaders were claiming that many leaders including some ministers and MLAs from the ruling and the opposition parties are in contact with them.

The names of senior leaders from BJP like Satpal Maharaj and Harak Singh Rawat were also making rounds about a year ago due to the speculations that both might join the AAP soon.

The AAP leaders never denied these rumours but consistently maintained their statement that prominent faces from both parties will join AAP. Though many party members of both Congress and BJP have joined AAP in



the past few months, most of them are junior party members who never held any significant position in their respective parties.

On the other hand, many prominent leaders recently joined Congress and BJP. Independent MLAs from Bhitmal and Dhanaulti constituencies- Ram Singh Kaira and Pritam Singh Panwar recently joined BJP.

Congress MLA from Purola, Rajkumar also joined BJP. Yashpal Arya who was a cabinet minister under the BJP government and is considered a prominent Dalit face in the Kumaon division also rejoined Congress along with his son MLA Sanjeev Arya in October.

However, the AAP is yet to attract any senior politician. It appears that prominent leaders from the two dominant parties of Uttarakhand are not

inclined to join AAP anymore. Some opine that AAP's announcement of making Kothiyal its CM candidate might have affected opinion of many prominent leaders who now see no advantage or a promising future in switching from their leading parties to AAP before the assembly elections.

Many believed it is quite unlikely that any prominent leader will now join AAP, just months before the elections. This has left many to speculate whether the AAP is fizzling out in Uttarakhand. However, the AAP leaders are still claiming that some top leaders and MLAs from BJP and Congress will join the party.

According to the state in-charge of the party, Dinesh Mohaniya, the party made these claims on the basis of the facts. He said that political equations kept changing in the state this year that affected the joining of many leaders.

He said that ruling party changed three chief ministers this year that also changed certain equations in politics of political parties. "As we have claimed earlier, the AAP is in contact with other senior party leaders of both Congress and BJP. We are in talks and when things materialise, we will reveal it to public which will possibly be soon," stated Mohaniya.

PARLIAMENT'S WINTER SESSION RS adjourned as Opp continues to protest MPs' suspension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition continued to remain in a bellicose mood on the issue of suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha members and warned that Parliament could see further disruption if the action was not reviewed.

The suspended MPs sat near the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Parliament premise to register their protest.

The proceedings of the Upper House were adjourned for the day as Opposition members lodged strong protest on the issue. The first adjournment happened soon after the House met for the day and then two other adjournments followed.

The MPs demanded that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge be allowed to speak on the suspension, while the treasury bench moved the Dam Safety Bill for consideration. As the Chair refused to let Kharge speak, Opposition members raised vociferous protest. Placard-carrying opposition MPs trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans against the suspension.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu expressed dismay at their conduct, and said the suspended MPs have shown no



remorse, and there was no question of revoking their suspension. "It is sacrilege of the House, I have said (on the conduct of the 12 suspended MPs during the last session in August). There is no remorse by members who have really insulted the parliamentary system," he said.

Naidu ordered that nothing that the opposition MPs say would go on record but said their conduct in the Well of the House should be shown to the people of the country.

"Protest will go on until this illegal suspension is revoked. It is autocratic. Other opposition colleagues have been protesting in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha,

As soon as the House resumed in the afternoon, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who was in the chair, asked Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to move The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 for consideration in the House. The minister moved the motion for consideration of the bill by the House, and thereafter the Deputy Chairman asked him to speak on the bill. In the meantime, Kharge asked the Deputy Chairman to allow him to speak on the issue of suspension of 12 members of the House. However, Harivansh did not allow him to raise the matter, and said he can speak on the Bill.

As the minister started his speech on the Bill, opposition members started raising slogans and again demanded that Kharge be allowed to speak on the issue of suspension of members. Harivansh requested the opposition members not to come into the Well and to go back to their seats.

He also told some members that photography in the House is not allowed when they tried to click pictures with their phones. But when opposition members refused to relent, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the House till 3 pm and thereafter for the day after a brief functioning of the house.

Shiv Sena leader Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi told The Pioneer.

Ripun Bora, another suspended MPs belonging to Congress, said "Every day from 10 am to 11 am opposition MPs are protesting and will continue to do so. The suspended MPs are also sitting in protest and will do so every day from 10 am to 5 pm in front of the Gandhi statue."

"Rajya Sabha Chairman should explain why they have been suspended as they were raising farmers' and peoples' issues such as price rise and Pegasus snooping allegations. Is that an offence? Should we apologise for it?," Bora stated.

Govt should give ₹5 cr aid to kin of martyred farmers: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After two days of disruptions, the Lok Sabha Sabha on Wednesday witnessed active participation by most of the Opposition members in the House proceedings with Congress members seeking a legal guarantee for the MSP and ₹5 crore compensation for each of the farmers 'martyred' in the ongoing agitation.

Proceedings largely went on smoothly even as 'Telangana Rashtriya Samiti' members continued to protest in the well on the issue of paddy procurement by the center.

The question hour lasted 28 minutes with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishaw and Consumer Affairs Minister Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti answering questions on electrification of railway tracks and LPG prices respectively.

Cabinet Minister for Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal said the question on the LPG was not related to his ministry and that "international prices guide these prices". This was when a member pointed out that LPG prices have risen to Rs 1400.

TRS members who were in the well carried placards 'don't punish farmers', 'bring bill for MSP' and 'no discrimination among states' and sought to block members speaking during question hour with their placards.

Criticising members for sloganeering and creating a ruckus in the House, Lok Sabha



Speaker Om Birla said their behaviour is not justified and the House cannot function if some members disturb the entire House.

"You are a member of the House. Senior members are speaking and you are waving placards in front of them. What decorum do you want to create in the House?," he said.

Lok Sabha was adjourned till 12 noon and it lasted one hour and 35 minutes during zero hour before adjourning till 2.35 pm when Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya moved the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020 for discussion.

The house proceedings were a clear departure from last two-day when it could not conduct any business and adjourned for the day after repeat disruptions.

During zero hour, Congress members Manish

conceding law on the MSP all those in jail for farmer agitation be released.

Apart from farmers issue, Sangita Azad (BSP) brought up the matter of leakage of question papers for teachers exam in Uttar Pradesh, Mahua Moitra (TMC) sought demolition of a villa near 'an ASI protected site' in Goa, Shashi Tharoor questioned reduction in Kerosene subsidy which he said was affecting Kerala fishermen and Nishikant Dubey (BJP) wondered as why the country did not have a common Civil Code despite 75 years of independence.

Congress looked distancing itself from the TRS saying it wanted to participate in the proceedings of the House to put the government in the mat after it rolled back three farm laws.

The Congress suspects "a hidden agenda" in TRS protests in the house to not to allow a proper discussion on farmers issue.

Lok Sabha passes Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed by voice vote a Bill to regulate and supervise assisted reproductive technology clinics.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, seeks to regulate and supervise assisted reproductive technology (ART) clinics and assisted reproductive technology banks, and ensure the safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also moved various amendments to the Assisted Reproductive (Regulation) Bill based on recommendations made by a parliamentary committee. Moving the Bill, Health Minister said the Bill was tabled in Parliament in September 2020 and the lower House referred it to the Standing Committee. Many suggestions came from the Standing Committee and Government has considered those recommendations, he said. The Standing Committee Report on the Bill was submitted in March this year.

"Many such ART clinics have been running in the country without regulation. Need was felt for regulation of such clinics as it has implication on health of those who

undertake the procedure," he said.

Initiating debate on the Bill, Karti Chidambaram (Congress) said this law is a Victorian law as it is not all encompassing. It excludes those who could not afford this expensive procedure for a baby and the Government should consider supporting poor childless parents for taking help of ART, Karti suggested.

He also suggested that the Government should consider including lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBTQ). Heena Gavit (BJP) said the Bill seeks to set minimum standards and codes of conduct for fertility clinics and egg/sperm banks. It also proposes stringent punishment for those practising sex selection and sale of human embryos or gametes. She said about 80 per cent ART clinics are not registered and the Bill will ensure strict adherence to guidelines.

"Ensuring confidentiality of the commissioning couples, women and donors will also be done under the aegis of this proposal of the Cabinet. The Bill also has a provision that those involved in trafficking and sale of embryos will be fined Rs 10 lakh at first instance and in second instance the person could be imprisoned for up to 12 years," she added.

PM to lay foundation for Delhi-Dehradun corridor project on Sat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation of the ambitious Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun) project on Saturday during his visit to Dehradun.

Official sources said besides the Expressway, the PM will inaugurate and dedicate projects worth Rs 18,000 crore in the run-up to Uttarakhand assembly polls.

The corridor will have seven major interchanges for connectivity to Haridwar, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Yamunagar, Baghpat, Meerut and Baraut. It will also have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 km) for

unrestricted movement of animals, according to the PMO release.

A 340-m tunnel near Dat Kaali temple, Dehradun, will also help reduce impact on wildlife, the Government said.

Road Ministry sources said the Delhi Dehradun corridor will be built at a cost of around ₹8,300 crore and after completion will reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun to two-and-a-half hours.

At present, it takes six hours to travel from Delhi to the Uttarakhand capital.

According to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi will lay the foundation stone of 11 development projects, including the government's ambitious project -- the Delhi-

Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun).

Further, multiple animal passes are being built in the Ganeshpur-Dehradun section for avoiding animal-vehicle collisions. The economic corridor will also have arrangements for rainwater harvesting at intervals of 500m and over 400 water recharge points.

A greenfield alignment project from the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, connecting Halgoa, Saharanpur to Bhadrabad, Haridwar, will be constructed at a cost of over ₹2,000 crore.

It will provide seamless connectivity and reduce travel time from Delhi to Haridwar as well.

SC clears hurdle on custodial interrogation of ex-Unitech promoters by ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court on Wednesday cleared a hurdle for fresh custodial interrogation of ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra by the Enforcement Directorate as it clarified that its earlier order of production of the accused through video conferencing facility will not come in the way. The ED has sought clarification of the August 26, order of the top court by which it had transferred the Chandra brothers to two separate jails in Mumbai and said that they will participate in judicial proceedings against them through video conferencing.

ED has said that given new evidence found against them, it needs to confront the ex-promoters, and for that their custodial interrogation is needed. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said, "Having regard to the contents of the application, which have been filed by the ED, we clarify that the order dated August 26, 2021, will not come in the way of ED to bring the requisite application before the magistrate for the purpose of seeking custodial interrogation of the accused, which shall be decided in its own merits".

Speculation of BJP, JDS tie after Modi-Gowda meet

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Speculation is a buzz about BJP having a pre-poll tie-up with the JD(S) for the December 10 Legislative Council elections in Karnataka. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday following BJP veteran B S Yeduriappa setting the ball rolling on the issue by his public statement.

On Tuesday, photos of Modi holding Gowda's hand and offering him a seat went viral setting off possibilities of both the sides exploring electoral adjustments in the Southern State. Earlier, former BJP Chief Minister Yeduriappa had publicly solicited JD(S) backing on seats where the regional party is not contesting. Gowda had said after his meeting that he discussed the upcoming MLC elections with Modi. "I told Modi that state-level leaders from JD(S) and BJP have to take a decision on forging an alliance," he said.

On December 10, elected representatives of local bodies will choose 25 members to the Legislative Council. This election gives BJP the chance to control the upper house with a majority. The BJP and Congress are contesting in 20 seats whereas the JD(S) in just six where it is confident of winning.

Normal-to-above-normal min temp likely over northwest India: IMD's winter forecast

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted a higher probability of normal temperatures during winter this year in Haryana, Punjab, West Rajasthan, and Delhi NCR while normal to above normal minimum temperatures over many parts of northwest, south, and north east parts of the country from December 2021 to February 2022.

According to the IMD, India witnessed 645 events of heavy rainfall this year. Of them, 168 very heavy rainfall occurred in November, the highest in the month in five years.

In its forecast for minimum and maximum temperatures for the winter months, the IMD said that below normal minimum temperatures are most likely over some parts of the north interior peninsula. "Below normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except over some parts of northwest India and most parts of northeast India, where normal to above normal maximum temperatures are most likely during the upcoming winter season," the IMD said.

"The rain in December in the peninsular region is likely to be above normal at around 132% of the long-period average. Currently, weak La Niña conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific region. The latest Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System



(MMCFS) forecast indicates that La Niña conditions are likely to strengthen and peak to moderate conditions during the upcoming winter season," it said.

According to the IMD, the country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall and 168 of very heavy rainfall in November, the highest in the month in five years. The IMD recorded 11

extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) events in the month, equalling the number reported last year.

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data. It was mainly

because of five low-pressure systems over the Andaman Sea in November compared to 2.4 on an average in November. The northeast monsoon was also in its active phase last month. To put things in perspective, the number of heavy rainfall events this November was more than the total such events in the last four years -- 247 in 2020; 116 in 2019; 135

in 2018 and 139 in 2017. The Met office also said peninsular India gauged 160 per cent more rainfall -- 232.7 mm against the average of 89.5 mm -- in November, the highest in the month since 1901.

The country as a whole received 56.5 mm of rainfall against the normal of 30.5 mm -- an excess of 85.4 per cent -- in November.

Covid-19 survivors could suffer health effects for years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Patients who survive severe Covid-19 may not be lucky enough to survive for long, a study has said suggesting that they are more than twice as likely to succumb over the years than those who remain uninfected or experience milder virus symptoms.

As these deaths frequently occurred long after the initial infection had passed, they may never have been linked to Covid-19 by the patients' families or doctors, the study published in Frontiers in Medicine has found.

This is for the first time that any study has found that Covid can cause severe symptoms and death for vulnerable people, particularly those with underlying health conditions. So far, studies have been high-

lighting that some people may experience long Covid, signs and symptoms that last for a few weeks or months after infection. Symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath can linger for months after the infection has passed.

Indicating the importance of vaccination, the study said that coronavirus infections may significantly damage long-term health. The increased risk of dying was greater for patients under 65, and only 20% of the severe Covid-19 patients who died did so because of typical Covid complications, such as respiratory failure.

"We conducted a previous study that showed that patients with severe Covid-19 who recovered were at significantly greater risk of being hospitalised in the subsequent six months," said Prof Arch

Mainous of the University of Florida, the lead author of the study. "This new study extended that to investigate mortality risk over the next 12 months."

The researchers tracked the electronic health records of 13,638 patients who underwent a PCR test for Covid within the University of Florida health system, with 178 patients experiencing severe virus symptoms, 246 mild or moderate Covid-19 and the rest testing negative. All patients included in the study recovered from the disease, and the researchers tracked their outcomes.

The study found that patients who were very unwell with coronavirus had a greater chance of dying over the next year, a trend that was particularly notable among those aged under 65.



ADMK thwarts Sasikala's entry bid

Bylaws effectively closes party door

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The main Opposition AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, which is facing challenge from eased out leader V.K. Sasikala, on Wednesday amended its bylaws to strengthen norms to retain the present leadership structure of top two positions held by O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami.

The party also harped on 'unity' and strengthening the 'hands of party's top leaders' and to work hard to win future elections.

The amendments to bylaws at the Executive Committee meeting of the AIADMK held in Chennai, effectively closes the door on Sasikala, who has claimed to be the party's general secretary, a post last held by the late Chief Minister J Jayalithaa who died in December 2016.

The commencement of the year long golden jubilee celebrations of the AIADMK on October 17 witnessed a vigorous attempt by Sasikala, confidante of Jayalithaa, to get back control of the party, when she declared herself as its general secretary, which was strongly resisted by the party leadership.

While amendments made in 2017 bestowed all the pow-



ers vested with the top position of general secretary to the then newly created positions of party coordinator (Panneerselvam) and joint coordinator (Palaniswami), the current tweaks further strengthen that top party structure.

The first amendment mandates a 'single vote' by 'primary members' to elect the top leadership, which is the two positions of coordinator and joint coordinator.

While the posts are two, there cannot be separate votes, as the twin positions together constitute the party top leadership.

According to the AIADMK, Sasiakala is not a member of the party, though she has claimed to be the general secretary.

Senior leader D Jayakumar told reporters that only those who have been primary members for five years or more are

eligible to vote to elect the party leadership.

The next amendment makes it clear that the fundamental rule that the party leadership can only be elected by the primary AIADMK members could neither be changed nor modified or revised.

The third amendment declares that 'exemption' or 'relaxation' cannot be made to the basic norm of members alone electing the AIADMK leadership.

The fresh amendments to bylaw takes immediate effect, a special resolution adopted for this purpose at the EC meet said adding approval would be sought for such decisions in the next party general council meeting.

The special resolution to make amendments were proposed by seven senior leaders including the two deputy coordinators KP Munusamy and R Vaithilingam besides veterans,

KA Sengottaiyan and C Ponnaiyan, both party organising secretaries. The resolution was adopted unanimously, being seconded by all the executive committee members.

The EC meet was presided by Panneerselvam and Palaniswami, both former chief ministers of the state. Munusamy, considered close to Panneerselvam and Vaithilingam, seen as a confidant of Palaniswami occupied top slots in the meeting held at party headquarters here, rechristened recently after its founder M G Ramachandran as 'Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Maaligai'.

On October 17, Sasikala had unfurled the AIADMK flag at the T Nagar memorial of the party founder and a plaque unveiled on the occasion addressed her as party 'general secretary' which was dismissed by the AIADMK leadership as a mere claim that had no binding effect on the party.

On that day, Panneerselvam and Palaniswami had presided over the inaugural of the jubilee fete at the party headquarters.

Subsequently, Palaniswami had rejected her claims and ruled out scope for her return.

Later, Panneerselvam had said the party leadership would hold discussions and take a decision on re-admitting her. This was however opposed immediately by leaders like

Jayakumar and Munusamy.

Sasikala had returned to Tamil Nadu on February 8, 2021 after completing her four year sentence that commenced in February 2017 in a disproportionate assets case in a Bengaluru prison.

A case filed by her, challenging the 2017 AIADMK general council resolutions, including removing her from the post of interim general secretary, is pending in a Chennai court.

Though she had announced ahead of the April 6 Assembly election, that she would stay away from politics, in May she hinted at resumption of efforts to regain control of the AIADMK.

Audio clips of her interactions with her supporters and some AIADMK workers also surfaced following which AIADMK men faced disciplinary action. Sasikala's nephew and another former AIADMK leader, TTV Dhinakaran who backs her claim to AIADMK leadership, heads the outfit Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK).

In the AIADMK meet held on Wednesday, as many as 11 other resolutions were adopted including the one that harped on 'unity' mantra and another that appealed to the cadres to slog for victory in the urban civic polls, expected to be held soon.

UP TET PAPER LEAK

One held in Aligarh; STF searches for teacher accused of involvement

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Gaurav, one of the accused in leaking UP TET paper was arrested by STF. A resident of Hajiyapur village of Tappal, he had been living separately from the family for a long time in the Melrose bypass area of Bannadevi area. No one knew much about what that business he was doing.

It has been told that to arrest Gaurav, the team of STF Meerut had camped here as soon as the input was received. The STF was searching for Gaurav overnight. He was seen in Tappal. But when inputs were received that he was in the Maelrose area of Bannadevi in the city, he was nabbed. Right now the police is also trying to know who else is in contact with him in Aligarh. How many people does his network have? The answer to these questions will come out only after interrogation. After this exam paper was leaked, it went viral on WhatsApp. It was learned from the accused arrested in Shamli and Mathura that they got this paper from Gaurav. After this the STF team caught Gaurav. Here, a team of STF is still camping in search of his close friends and network



people. After the interrogation of Gaurav Malan, who was arrested by the STF in the TET paper leak case, the name of the teacher of the district has come to the fore, in search of which the STF raided Gonda with Gaurav. Till late Tuesday night, the team was looking for him in Aligarh and Mathura. It has come to the notice that two other youths were also taken into custody along with Gaurav, who are discussed to be released after interrogation. Input is being received that Gaurav's connections are also being traced from the absconding gangster Yogendra of Police Recruitment Solver Gang.

It is learned that Gaurav and two youths accompanying him were picked up from the Melrose bypass area. From here, the STF has gone to Meerut, Bagpat, Shamli and Mathura with all three. It is learned that the team had come to Gonda on Monday night in search of a basic teacher named Nirdosh. On Tuesday night also, news of the team being in search of some other comrades of Gaurav in Aligarh district and surrounding area has been received. Officially, neither the STF has given any information nor the district police has any news. The search for teacher is going on in Aligarh and Mathura. It has now been learned from the sources that Gaurav's connections are being traced to Yogendra of Khair Narayanpur, who is the kingpin of Police Bharti Solver Gang, as both belong to the same area. It is hoped that with the help of Gaurav, Yogendra and his associates can be nabbed.

UP ELECTIONS AND POLITICS

Furore over 'Krishna Janmabhoomi next' remark by Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Just a couple of weeks before the Election Commission of India is expected to announce the crucial Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's statement that Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi is next on the agenda of the Bharatiya Janata Party, stirred up a political furore.

In a tweet, Maurya posted in Hindi, "Ayodhya Kashi bhavya mandir nirman jari hai, Mathura ki taiyari hai (grand temples are being constructed in Ayodhya and Kashi, preparations are on for Mathura)."

Later Maurya has tagged it #Long live Rama, #jai_Shiv_Shambhu and #jai_Shri_Radhe_Krishna.

But when contacted, Maurya refused to speak on the issue.

The construction of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor is underway in Varanasi and it is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first week of December while the construction of Ram temple is going on at a frantic

pace in Ayodhya and is likely to open for pilgrims by December 2023.

Reacting to Maurya's statement, Samajwadi Party spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary said, "The statement is a clear indication of the mindset of BJP leaders. The party always tried to communalise the elections. Ram mandir is always on the election agenda of the party. Once the construction of Ram temple has started at the behest of the Supreme Court, the party feels it is orphaned and therefore has come up with Mathura."

"In the last assembly elections, the BJP had raised the issue of 'shamsaan and kabristan'. Through this politically loaded tweet, Maurya, who is also deputy chief minister in the government, is setting the communal agenda of the election," he further said.

Opposition leaders believe that Mathura and Kashi would now find prominent places in the election manifesto of the BJP.

Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya have always been on the agenda of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

BJP regime spreading hatred, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president S Akhilesh Yadav hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh, charging that the present regime has only spread hatred, ruined the future of youths and pushed the State into backwardness.

Addressing a public meeting at GIC grounds to launch the fifth phase of his Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra in Banda on Wednesday, Akhilesh questioned the people whether they needed a Yogi Government or a 'yogyta' (responsible) and development-oriented Government. He said that those who could not use laptops would never provide it to the youths.

"Now it is the right time for the people to show the door to the ruling BJP for making false promises. During its nearly five-year regime, the BJP government only renamed places and the projects conceived and launched during Samajwadi Party regime," alleged the SP chief, who is on a three-day tour of Bundelkhand region and will take out Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra from Banda to Mahoba.

Akhilesh was scheduled to address a rally near Mahoba Police Lines later in the day and on Thursday, he would go to



Lalitpur and address a public rally.

On Wednesday morning, the SP chief reached Banda and embarked on the fifth leg of 'Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra' with a focus on Bundelkhand region of the state. On the first day of the fifth leg of the Yatra, Akhilesh Yadav covered the distance from Banda to Mahoba and stopped randomly to meet and greet people.

On Thursday, Akhilesh will address a public meeting in Lalitpur and the Yatra will reach Jhansi district on Friday. Earlier in November, he had embarked on the fourth leg of Vijay Rath from Ghazipur to Lucknow through Purvanchal Expressway, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the highway on November 16.

The SP chief had shared the stage with allies Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar and Janwadi Party (Socialist) chief Sanjay Chathan on the occasion.

The Rath Yatra is considered a lucky charm by the Samajwadi Party as in 2012, Akhilesh had taken out a Yatra and the party was voted to power. Decorated with pictures of party patron and former chief minister of UP Mulayam Singh Yadav, party MP Mohammad Azam Khan, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, and state party president Naresh Uttam Patel and embossed with the slogan 'Bado Ka Haath, Yuva Ka Saath' (the older generation blesses the new) the bus is ferrying the SP chief across the state during the Rath Yatra.

Govt announces subsidised houses for LIG employees, advocates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government is likely to provide houses on subsidies to lakhs of employees and advocates with low incomes.

A nominal value of ₹ 1 for land will be charged from the buyers of these houses.

The discount will be given to the buyers on the condition that they will not be able to sell the house for the next 10 years.

Official sources said that a draft of the scheme was prepared during a meeting of high-ranked officials and now an approval from higher authorities was awaited after which the draft would be placed before the state cabinet for its approval.

Employees of Group C and D and advocates, who do not have much income, face difficulties in getting a house. So far, there has been no system of providing houses on discount to Group C and D employees. Taking note of this issue, discussions were held and this draft, seeking to provide these people houses on discount, was prepared. The process of providing the house was discussed during a preliminary round of talks and the eligibility criteria for this will be decided later.

NCRB does not maintain specific data on attacks on journalists: Govt



New Delhi: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists," he said.

He said the ministry of home affairs has issued advisories to states and Union Territories from time to time to maintain law and order and ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is punished promptly as per law.

"An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to the states/UTs on October 20, 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of mediapersons," he said.

He said the central government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all residents of the country including journalists.

"The National Crime

ELGAR PARISHAD-BHIMA KOREGAON CASE

Bombay HC grants default bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted default bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj, who is one of 16 accused in the Elgar Parishad-cum-Bhima-Koregaon riots case, after holding that "to deprive her indefeasible right on the premise that the application preferred on 26th November 2018 was premature would be taking a too technical and formalistic view of the matter".

However, the HC bench of Justices SS Shinde and NJ Jamadar rejected the default bail pleas of eight other accused on the ground that they had failed to apply for such a default bail prior to the filing of charge-sheet in the case.

The two-member HC bench directed Bharadwaj, who is lodged in Mumbai's Byculla women's prison, be produced before the Special NIA Court here on December 8 to decide on the conditions of her bail and date of her release.

The HC bench refused to entertain a request by NIA counsel, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, for a stay on its order. Bharadwaj is the first



among 16 activists and academicians arrested in the case to have been granted default bail. While Jesuit priest Stan Swamy died in a private hospital on July 5 this year while waiting for medical bail, Poet-activist Varavara Rao is currently out on medical bail.

The eight accused whose default bail pleas were rejected were: Varavara Rao, Sudhir Dhawale, Vernon Gonsalves, Dana Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut and Arun Ferreira.

Holding that the Pune Sessions Judge was not competent enough -- in terms of jurisdiction -- to extend time for investigation and detention under provisions of Section 43D(2) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Section 167(2) of the Cr.PC, the HC bench observed that the Sessions Judge had no judicial competence to extend the period of

detention under Section 43-D(2)(b) of UAPA and considered four other aspects -- the period of 90 days of her detention expired on January 25, 2019, no charge-sheet was filed, there was no lawful order of extension of period of detention and the Bharadwaj's bail plea awaiting adjudication.

Relying on a catena of decisions which held that the right of the accused to be released on default bail is indefeasible and is also associated with the fundamental right flowing from 'the procedure established by law' under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, the HC bench granted Bharadwaj default bail.

In their order, the two judges noted: "On the touchstone of the guarantee of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, in our view, to deprive the applicant-Sudha Bharadwaj of the indefeasible right on the premise that the application preferred on 26th November 2018 was premature, would be taking a too technical and formalistic view of the matter. In our view, all the requisite conditions to release the applicant-Sudha Bharadwaj on default bail stood fully satisfied".

Didi, Modi in same boat as both want Cong-free India: Adhir

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Just as Mamata Banerjee called for an Opposition unity and met NCP leader Sharad Pawar Congress Lok Sabha Leader Adhir Chowdhury on Wednesday lashed out at the Bengal Chief Minister for actually helping the BJP and destroying the Opposition cause by engineering defection in the Congress Party.

"Here she is advocating opposition unity but doing just the opposite ... Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan is in favour of a Congress free India ... here Mamata Banerjee is also calling for a Congress free opposition ... you can easily understand it from the way she has been trying to engineer defection in the BJP and dividing the anti-BJP forces for her own interest," Chowdhury said, adding this smacked of an clandestine unholy alliance between the Trinamool Congress.

"If the Congress is weakened then how there can be an opposition unity ... she is trying to finish the Congress as can be seen from what she did with the help of Prashant Kishore in Goa and Meghalaya

... though such minor blows in a few places will not harm the Congress much ... but she has to realize that the Congress is the biggest opposition party without which no anti-BJP forces can stand ... and you cannot say that a senior politician like her is doing all this without calculating the consequences ... She is for all practical purposes helping the cause of the BJP," the Bengal Pradesh Congress president said.

Earlier the Left Front too attacked the Chief Minister for furthering the BJP's agenda in the country.

"The Left has always been of the view that Mamata Banerjee is the biggest friend of the BJP ... Her Trinamool Congress was born in the lap of the BJP and they remained an ally for about 10 years ... even now the politics of Mamata Banerjee is helping the BJP in Bengal where they were a nonentity in Bengal," said Sujan Chankrabarty CPI(M) former MP and central committee member.

Describing how "Mamata Banerjee's minority communalism helped the cause of the BJP's majority communalism," another senior Left leadersaid.

'Article 370 was in BJP's manifesto but no logic for division, downgrading of J&K'

PTI ■ BHADERWAH/JAMMU

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said revocation of Article 370 was in BJP's manifesto but there is no logic behind withdrawal of statehood and division of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also accused the BJP of misleading the country by "false propaganda" to justify its action of August 5, 2019 and said the security situation has deteriorated to such an extent that "one cannot feel safe in any part of Kashmir owing to growing militancy which was evident from the selective killings including that of Kashmiri Pandits in the recent past".

The former chief minister and National Conference vice president was speaking at a public meeting in Bhaderwah town of Doda district on the penultimate day of his week-long tour of Chenab valley in Jammu division.

He urged the locals to maintain communal harmony and brotherhood to "frustrate conspiracies of those dividing the people on the basis of religion" to win elections.

"The National Conference lost the 2014 assembly elections and the BJP took advantage



and came to power through the back door and then pulled down the PDP-led government followed by what it was planning (to abrogate Article 370)," he said.

"I accept that the revocation of Article 370 was in the manifesto of the BJP but why was the erstwhile state downgraded and divided into two parts which was not in their manifesto. One fails to understand what the reason was for this. No one had any answer to it as well as what benefit it had to the people of J&K," Abdullah said.

He said the demand for Union Territory status was only from "Buddhists of Leh" district, while the Kargil population wanted to be with Jammu & Kashmir.

"The reality is that all the claims (of the BJP) have fallen

flat as there was no benefit of its decision on the ground. They talked about development, investment, jobs, peace and end to militancy and separatism but none of this happened over the past nearly two and a half years," he alleged.

Abdullah claimed that the situation in Kashmir valley is grim "not because of Pakistan or some other country but growing militancy due to joining of local disgruntled youth into the ranks of militants".

Referring to the removal of 40 security pickets from Srinagar with the improvement in security situation during his rule in 2009-2015, he said the community centres built by his government to facilitate marriage ceremonies in congested downtown Srinagar were converted into security camps.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Open approach

The need is to remove the fear of memory-based tests so that students start understanding concepts

There is a lot of churning on the higher education front. For one, Delhi University is checking for any discrepancies in the process of admissions to undergraduate and graduate courses. Secondly, Delhi University is conducting online Open Book Exams (OBE) for undergraduate and graduate students of four semesters. This is because the university is not yet offline and students are pressing for re-opening of classes after the tapering down of the coronavirus pandemic. Whatever the reasons that caused the university to re-evaluate its admission process and hold OBEs, the fact is both are progressive steps. One is in keeping with making admissions a fair and just exercise. The other is adapting to new technology even in adversity. The university, and for that matter all higher education institutions in the country, need not stop here but use the occasion to reform the education system. The focus is on revising the method of teaching. The OBE process leaves several hints at why the focus area is critical. In this mode, students take the exams remotely with no bar on consulting books and other resource materials. There are two issues. One is the presumption that the new system would make the students complacent and they would not study seriously, thinking they can copy from the open books. The second is another presumption that the teachers may not be adept at setting meaningful question papers and evaluating the answer sheets efficiently.



The OBE allows consultation of books, but is not a bookish examination. It is not an exam that encourages rote learning and superficial knowledge either. It is a method that challenges the students' mastery of the subject, analysis and critical thinking. It requires a higher order of thinking skills. Unfortunately, heuristic teaching is still not in vogue in higher learning institutions in India. The concept of rote learning is carried over from school days. There is spoon-feeding and over-dependence on guide books. The pattern of teaching is changing but only because of individual efforts of some teachers. This is where the University Grants Commission and the Ministry of Education should step in, using the OBE exams as the pretext to introduce new teaching that enables students to research and discover things for themselves. A university cannot expect teachers to overnight devise question papers that challenge the examinees' critical thinking abilities. Resorting to OBE as a quick fix solution can lead to avoidable issues about setting the question papers, in turn, affecting the performance of the students who may be lulled into a false sense of security that writing with open books is easy. Many countries in the west have shifted to OBE culture. In India there, discussions on the subject have not led anywhere. The greatest achievement of the education system would be to remove the fear of memory-based tests so that students start learning and understanding concepts with teachers acting more as mentors than advisors at exam time.

PICTALK



An aerial view of the flooded DLF residential locality at Semmancheri, in Chennai

PTI

Humour hurts

Criticising someone in a free democracy is fine until it starts taking an ugly turn

Who doesn't like to laugh? Most sane people do. But lately, jokes and comedians have stirred more controversies than politicians in the country. Apparently, their jokes and "poems" have hurt the sentiments of some sections of the society. So much so that they received serious backlash on social media while some have repeatedly received death threats, too. Does it have much to do with a sense of humour or is it intolerance and religion-sensitivity that is disturbing the audience. Interestingly enough, most of these "hurt" people aren't even part of the audience. The Freedom of Speech and Expression is much talked about. Politicians in India usually enjoy this right pretty well. Derogatory remarks against Opposition leaders come as prerequisites to woo the voters during election campaigns. But those are rarely accounted for. However, actor-comedian Vir Das's "Two Indias" monologue "maligins" the country's image. It was so "hurtful" that a BJP leader had filed a complaint against him at Tilak Marg police station alleging that he used 'derogatory' statements against the country on an international platform.



There may not be a definitive answer to whether his satirical monologue could actually hurt India's image but it might hurt his future comedy prospects, as has been seen lately. Another comedian, Munawar Faruqui, recently announced his decision to quit stand up comedy after 12 of his shows got cancelled in various cities due to 'pressure' created on event organisers and venue hosts. Faruqui spent a month in jail earlier this year on charges of "insulting Hindu gods and goddesses" in one of his shows. This is not a win for anybody but rather a defeat for the country that boasts of tolerance and secularism. If comedy can be a crime then what profession can't be? Of course, jokes and satire should be respectable. But what defines respectable? When you start putting out disclaimer on jokes, you reach the borderline of intolerance. The term 'boycott' has become the bread and butter of religious fanatics these days. A new boycott hashtag trends on social media everyday. It's high time we addressed the question that where are we heading as a tolerant nation? Because all that's happening is that we are finding religious loopholes in jokes, comments, statements, movies etc. We were not like this before, orange was just a color until it became a sign board and humour used to lighten us until it started shrinking our minds.

Who really murders democracy in India?



PRAFULL GORADIA

Only a democrat can face the public as the Indian Prime Minister does on *Mann ki Baat*. Anyone can ask anything and embarrass the respondent

There were repeated mentions of the 'murder of democracy' on the opening day of Parliament. The cause was the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha members by the Vice President of India presiding over the house. The behavior of some of the MP's was extraordinary to put it politely. In my year in the Rajya Sabha, such a scheme was unthinkable; times obviously change. The repeal of the farm laws so soon was, to my mind, a new peak of democratic step. The Sanskrit saying *kshama virasya bhushanam* or forgiveness is the ornament of the valorous is to the effect. A variation of this wisdom would be 'a gifted retreat behoves the generous king'. A mere politician could have suspended the laws and gone on to separate the farmers from the middlemen who feel threatened; but, in fact, were permitted to do what they liked; sell their produce to anyone overseas, including resorting to middlemen in the event of an emergency. How this is a murder of democracy, I do not know.

If the Opposition has any doubt with the democratic nature of the repealing of laws, let us glimpse at the track record of Prime Minister Modi. The abolition of the Planning Commission on the following day of his coming to power in 2014 was the big beginning. It was the control of national wealth which could be distributed at the will of the Central Government.

Every statement came up with a Plan and its budget. The Chief Minister came to annual call on the vice chairman of the Commission with a bouquet of flowers. No one asked questions except as a formality if the Centre was happy with the particular State. The two VIPs had a photograph taken with grins on their faces and the CM returned to his State.

The grant was money for jam. The responsibility for the implementation of the projects was that of the State Government. For example, one of the proposals of the State was to build a bridge for ₹800 crore



and it was granted. The CM and his side-kicks would have the foundation stone laying photographed for record. After that whether the State built the bridge or not was to be seen by the State. No one at the Centre needed to bother about that. On the other hand, the State could year after year debit in its annual plan the depreciation of say ₹80 crore or ten per cent. In short, the Planning Commission amounted to a gifting body; what the State did with the gift was at its discretion as is a birthday present.

The Modi Government replaced the Planning distribution as well as the State sales tax with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which the State independent of reliance on the Centre to distribute its annual doles. Every State was on its own and the Centre had no discretion. It is based on the merits of each State's economy, production, service and so on. The Centre cannot deny anything to an Opposition ruled State or give more to its favourite State. Is that not very democratic compared to the previous arrangement? This is related to the main finances



TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS IS TO CUT ONE OF THE MAIN BRANCHES THAT THE PARLIAMENT MEMBERS OCCUPY. THE MEMBERS CAN DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION BUT THEY SHOULD NOT LOSE FLOOR TIME WHICH IS TELEVISED TODAY

of a state. I am alleging that everyone was corrupt but the scope at the State level was considerable. Take a Planning grant from the Centre and do not spend it. Equally, the scope for favourite was also substantial. Once in power at the Centre, a party could make a State the way it chose. I do not know whether Planning had any connection with the economic progress or its lack. But one thing is certain that no planned economy has reached the First World.

Only a democrat can face the public as the Prime Minister does on the *Mann ki Baat* programme. Anyone can ask anything and embarrass the respondent. The Opposition can have the mischief played; the respondent has to have a clan record and no skeletons in his cupboard. No previous Prime Minister has experimented with such an open public programme. The public, on the other hand, feels that the country's top leader is accessible to them. He does not keep away from the common folk. This means that the PM is not their indirect representative but a direct one. This is how the Greek city democracy

began and is the ultimate is freedom and people's rule. This is unusual for a leader who carries the highest security risk in the country and perhaps is the world. He mingles with people when he campaigns in the elections. He spares no punches.

The Parliament is essential to remain in the limelight. To interrupt its proceedings is to cut one of the main branches the Parliament members occupy. Rushing into the well, in that sense, is suicidal for the Opposition. I realised that it is very necessary for the Opposition to protest as obviously as possible, but not to provoke its adjournment. The members can draw public attention by, for example, wearing black, whether masks, clothes or anything else. They can also sit in the aisles instead of their seats, and so on. But they should not lose floor time, which in today's time, is televised. Another gain is avoiding the impression that MPs collect their pay but avoid work.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DAY NOT FOR POLLUTION

Sir —The National Pollution Day is observed in India every year on December 2, to spread awareness among people towards the rapidly growing problem of pollution and in the memory of those who died in the Bhopal gas tragedy. As per data, about 2.5 million people succumb to pollution in India every year. India has ranked 155th out of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index. Many Indian cities, including the Capital, rank among the top most polluted cities globally.

There are several reasons that aggravate pollution; whether air, land, noise or water. While the Government should be blamed for not dealing with the issue proactively, the citizens, too, owe responsibility to protect the environment they live in. In the recent COP26 Summit that was held in Glasgow, countries pledged to reduce net-zero emissions and this is a welcome step. Only time can tell whether such summits are fruitful and till then, we need to do our bit. Simple measures like using public transport, using biodegradable bags, reducing forest fires and smoking, avoiding firecrackers and being aware that if we don't start acting early, we will face consequences. **Tarun Patidar | Ujjain**

CARRYING FAITH ON GROWTH

Sir —The 8.4 per cent growth compares well with the 7.4 per cent fall that the GDP saw last year in the same quarter, the peak period of the pandemic-induced lockdown. The first quarter of this year, however, had seen a 20.1 per cent growth, which puts the number for the first half at 13.7 per cent. With this being the fourth consecutive quarter of growth, the indications are that the economy has found its feet after the pandemic-induced contraction. Employment-intensive sectors like hospitality and construction seeing an uptick is also positive news. Economists, however, see several issues in this growth story. A key one is that it is Government investments that are the main drivers of growth rather than private consumption. Rising infla-

An era passes away



The sudden demise of the prolific Telugu film lyricist Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry is a great blow especially to the Telugu film industry which was already in pain after the demise of SPB Garu a year ago. The combination of SPB and Sirivennela was a beautiful one. The two made some wonderful songs together and their work is still loved by the listeners. The words of Sastry, coupled with the voice of SPB, captivated the audience. The speciality of this great lyricist is that his lyrics are simply beautiful and

thought provoking. He captured millions of hearts through his lyrics. Having written around 3000 movie songs, received the Padma Shri and the Nandi Awards more than 10 times are enough to prove his devotion towards creating a healthy lyrics culture in the Tollywood industry.

Sirivennela has penned poems that showered the light of knowledge, aroused mind-boggling thoughts and, at the same time, calmness, too. The accolades he has earned speak enough of his excellence, expertise and legacy. However, if one wants to know him truly then his songs and poems are the way. Sastry created magic with his vocabulary and command over the Telugu language. In his career, he wrote songs for some amazing movies, including *Swayamkrushi*, *Gaayam*, *Alludu Garu* and many more. Writers will come and go but Sirivennela's contribution as a lyricist and human will be remembered by generations. **Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad**

tionary pressures as indicated by the difference between real and nominal GDP is also a matter of concern. Some of the economists are projecting only single digit growth for the year compared to the Government's double-digit expectations. These differing perspectives on India's current economic scenario is vital. **Mr Jayanthi | Mumbai**

UNWARRANTED SUSPENSION OF THE MPS

Sir —What the wider implications of the suspension of 12 MPs from the Parliament are for our democracy is a broad topic on which opinion can well be divided depending on political leanings. The BJP supporters hold that it was needed to protect democracy, whereas others denounce it as an undemocratic decision. Be that as it may, the suspension of the MPs for something that happened in the previous monsoon session under provocation is amenable to be explained in terms of several considerations. It gave a clear indication that the Government was

not quite keen on winning the cooperation of the Opposition for the smooth functioning of Parliament. The Government may have gone for this high-handed action to divert attention from burning issues like farmers' protests, price rise and inflation.

The prospect of being placed in a clear majority in the Rajya Sabha may have been another consideration that motivated the decision. We would consider it a sad day for Indian democracy if the decision was taken in the mistaken belief that the Opposition should be subservient to the Government. When the BJP was in the Opposition, disruption of Parliament was a 'legitimate form of protest'. But when it is in power, it becomes nothing short of 'misconduct' and 'unruly behaviour' deserving suspension. **G David Milton | Maruthancode**

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

This time, we have prepared 30,000 oxygen beds. Out of these, 10,000 are ICU beds.



Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



We're going to learn a lot more in the next couple of weeks about the lethality of the new variant.

US President — Joe Biden



Nick and I talk all the time, you know. We know each other's hearts and prioritise each other.

Actor — Priyanka Chopra



Virat Kohli has taken a pay cut for the larger interest of the RCB. We all know how good a player he is.

Former Indian batsman — Parthiv Patel



The Government is trying to silence the voices of the Opposition. No question arises to offer an apology.

Congress leader — Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN
FASHION DESIGN AND E-LEARNING

Aspiring designers can learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format



ARCHANA SURANA

While the world is struggling with a health pandemic, an economic depression, and a global social justice movement, Bill Cunningham's quote — "Fashion is the armour to survive the reality of everyday life" — became the inspiration to the fashion and design fraternity. From adjusting to the new normal to navigating through it and bringing creativity to reality, the fashion industry has set trends yet again. In the modern world, creativity has never been just about classroom learning. Now, with the 'anything anywhere' approach of the digital world, fashion design learning has stepped into a transformative revolution. When FHCM's couture week 2020 went digital, the fashion industry was in awe. FHCM stands for Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode that brings together fashion brands that foster creation and international development. However, with Gucci partnering with the art auction house Christie's on NFT video "ARIA", the industry realised that we had just scratched the surface of technology. Fashion design institutes have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to innovate old-fashioned teaching methods and adapt to the fast-moving digital world. Being a stu-



dent-centric process enables the learner to customise the procedures and processes based on her needs. With digital platforms for aspiring designers to learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format and accelerated personalisation in digital tools to customise one's virtual studio, it has never been a better time to flow along with creativity. The importance of exploring global perspectives through international fashion shows, exhibitions, webinars that reflect the global context in fashion education and industry cannot be emphasised enough. The design education colleges have been quick on the uptake and started organising virtual events and platform during the lockdown in 2020 where they allow the students to showcase their learnings and creations. These institutes also use social media platform like Facebook Live where students presented their work online.

The field of technology is growing every day and therefore, it is impacting education, teaching and learning processes with its innovative solutions and sustainable methods. Increasing use of technologies like AI, IoT and AOT is helping effectively in saving costs, time and energy in the education sector especially the creative fields. In 2020, due to the pandemic, all the education institutes introduced many innovative ways of teaching and learning in order to maintain the quality of education and content material. According to InTech report 2017, design learning needs digital or online learning to have a progressive future. There is a great need for active interaction between humans and technology through activities using creative intelligence for a bright future of designing field. Even if we were in a digital utopia with digital equity and no technical glitches, to imagine learning fashion design virtually is difficult. From the touch of the fabric to the aesthetics and design, physical interaction is as essential as the field itself. Paris Fashion Week's physical return to the runway, including industry heavy weights from Chanel and Hermes to Louis Vuitton and Yves Saint Laurent, proves that fashion cannot survive without it being inferred by the senses. Rethinking decades-old teaching models requires a more finely tuned equilibrium between physical and digital education to work successfully. Combining face-to-face lectures with technology may give rise to blended learning, increasing students' learning potential. Need of the hour is for institutes to become omnichannel and build an efficient e-learning model and for the fashion fraternity to come together as a community and use technology as a venue for Sustainable Fashion Culture.

(The writer is Founder and Director, ARCH College of Design & Business. The views expressed are personal.)

Village secretariats of AP: Doorstep welfare



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to doorsteps; Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other States have evinced interest to adopt similar systems

A game-changer initiative in Andhra Pradesh Government's unique grass root administration and a brain child of young Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the concept of Village/ward Secretariat - door-step services to ensure welfare programmes reach the beneficiary — is gaining the attention of international agencies, the Union Government and a number of states.

Aimed at revamping and improving the delivery of government services, the largest of its kind in India, the setup involved hiring 389,000 volunteers to ensure that government benefits-ration cards, pension accounts and other welfare schemes—are made available in the rural areas as also in the wards in towns.

The Village Secretariat and Ward Secretariat (VSWs) Department was created to manage the operations. The volunteers who are key in the new set up are being paid a monthly remuneration of ₹5000 and they are always available in the area to provide government benefits that are listed under various schemes at the door step of the beneficiary.

On average, there is one volunteer for every 70-100 households, tasked with doorstep-delivery of government services and ensuring that beneficiaries are identified and mapped for proactive service delivery. To ensure that services improve, issues relating to the delivery of food, social and health security benefits are to be addressed within specified time frames, with a team of 200 call-centre executives to track and monitor service delivery requests and notify relevant secretariats about impending deadlines. It all started on October 2, 2019 when the Chief Minister launched the flagship programme of his government. As a preamble to the new concept, he recruited village secretaries who would head the village secretariats. The idea came to him during his "padayatra" before the 2019 general elections when villagers complained how they are going around offices and officials for benefits of welfare programmes and how they are denied them on account of lack of funds.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti Sanitation has acknowledged the services being offered to the people at their doorstep through the new system. National Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry which brings out a monthly e-book, Jal Jeevan Samvad, highlighted the village/ward secretariat system in AP and pointed out: "This is a unique experiment in itself and furthers the spirit of the 73rd Constitution Amendment, 1992 and in line with 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar'- administration at your doorstep. Now by setting up of village secretariat, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a concrete step towards administrative transparency and accountability to provide better services to the people at their door step".

The special story in the magazine also



THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE KEY IN THE NEW SET-UP ARE BEING PAID A MONTHLY REMUNERATION OF ₹5000 AND ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT ARE LISTED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE BENEFICIARY. ON AVERAGE, THERE IS ONE VOLUNTEER FOR EVERY 70-100 HOUSEHOLDS

(The writer is Advisor, National Media and Inter State Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



mentioned that out of various services for the people, around 318 services have started reaching villagers through the village secretariat system. The beneficial effects of government schemes are clearly visible in the villages.

UNICEF, which has identified the potential strength of the village secretariat system, associated itself with the grass root network to continue its awareness campaign among children as mothers about nutrition food. A special cell with three representatives has been created by UNICEF attached to the State level Head office of village/ward secretariat. Besides, the Institution has also appointed district coordinators to take the task.

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to the people's doorsteps, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other states have evinced interest to adopt similar systems. Ministerial and Official representatives from these states are planning to visit AP soon to have the first-hand experience of the functioning of the setup.

As a matter of fact, the then Chief Minister of united AP Chandrababu Naidu too launched the village secretariat concept in 2002. But there is no comparison between the two since the present setup is well thought over and target-oriented, supported by a digital road map to ensure doorstep deliveries of benefits.

While Naidu had to introduce the village secretariat in view of World Bank guidelines in the name of reforms, the current CM made it happen in real terms and

people are getting total benefits from the new system.

Between the first and third of every month, the present government disburses ₹1,420.5 crore worth of pensions to 6.1 million beneficiaries under the YSR Pension Kanuka. They are delivered to beneficiaries wherever they might be, even those displaced from their homes. For transparent, well-targeted delivery of benefits, the state relies on biometric identification. A call centre with toll-free number 1902 has been set up to enable the people to register their grievances and also obtain feedback on the welfare schemes.

In all, a strong contingent of 1,34,694 village ward secretariat staff along with dedicated gram volunteers numbering 2,47,344 extend 540 services under 35 departments. Fact sheets reveal that while 3,31,57,081 service requests were registered till the end of October last, 3,29,70,051 services have been delivered.

Specific time frames are fixed for delivery. While Pension card, rice cards are to be handed over within 21 days, eligible applicants should get Arogyasri cards in 20 days and the deadline for getting house site pattas is 90 days.

A study paper on the village administration in Andhra Pradesh published in The Indian Journal of Political Science in its quarterly publication in 2006 clearly mentioned the 'outcome' of the reforms in Panchayat Raj introduced by Chandrababu Naidu.

The paper originally submitted by its author D.Ravinder at an International conference on "State,

Civil Society and Citizens: Revisiting the Relationship" held in Osmania University in February, 2004, concluded that "it (the system) introduces babudom at the local level". The study paper highlighting the lacunae said with the onset of World Bank led reforms processed under the regime of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, "good governance" has become a catchy word. It is in this name that a number of reform processes were introduced in the state. One such important reform process at the grass roots level has been the introduction of "Village Secretariat" system.

The paper said this system instead of bringing good governance has become a bone of contention between hitherto existing departments, panchayat raj and revenue, and also between the elected representatives and government officials, i.e., between Sarpanch and the newly created position of "Village Secretary". Thus, the process of good governance at the grass roots level unleashed new conflicts. The present paper makes an attempt to analyse the dynamics of these new reforms at the grass roots in Andhra Pradesh.

Quite contrary to the setup introduced during Chandrababu regime, the present village/ward secretariat system supported by village secretaries and a battery of village/ward volunteers day and night ensuring the targeted people get welfare programmes at their doorstep without spending a single pie and wasting time.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHICH IS THE MAIN PARTY, THE CONGRESS OR THE TMC? THE SESSION WILL BE OVER BEFORE THEY COME TO ANY DECISION.

—BJP NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

DILIP GHOSH



IT IS INSIGNIFICANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON DILIP GHOSH'S OBSERVATION. LET THEM THINK OVER THEIR DEFEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

—TMC LEADER

SOUGATA ROY

Role of universities in fostering entrepreneurship

Interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in university settings

Entrepreneurship is extremely important for any economy, for its ability to make a significant impact on citizens and nations as a whole. Great entrepreneurs can change the way we live and work, by creating jobs and wealth, with changes varying between social impact to immense innovations. But can entrepreneurship be taught? The answer to this age-old debate is both yes and no. Since education is essential to enhance the thinking abilities and as entrepreneurship ecosystem is developed by the interplay of actors like universities, government and entrepreneurs themselves, universities become the hotbed of fostering the required entrepreneurial environment. An early introduction and expo-



HIMA BINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

sure to entrepreneurship and innovation is more likely to sow the seeds of entrepreneurial careers for students at a future juncture. Cities which are ranked highly for their entrepreneurial activities also boast promoting entrepreneurial education and culture. To take an example, Silicon Valley is known for entrepreneurship and is also the home to more than 10 universities, including Stanford and UC Berkeley.

There are three ways in which universities can take advantage of their position to further entrepreneurship. As universities are places of higher education, attracting workforce who wants to lead a better life, they can transform themselves into breeding grounds for budding entrepre-



neurs. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship to the economic development and job creation, universities can impart entrepreneurial skills and knowledge by updating existing programs and developing new courses. Going forward, interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in a controlled environment in the university setting. Creation of industry linkages to provide internships to students with

local companies will further enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Secondly, universities can act as incubation centres to follow up and promote potential ideas by facilitating collaborations and incubation capacities not only to students from the area of business, innovation and entrepreneurship, but also from other areas like engineering, humanities, applied sciences and medicine. Provision of physical space to give wings to potential ideas and suitable support to raise funds at an early stage to transform these ideas into business models are their added advantages. of for the development of the business model. The faculty also play an important role in the incubators, as they are crucial resource for mentorship

and can channelize the energy of their students by providing proper guidance in research activities. However, not much can be achieved with research and publications of an idea, if it cannot be exploited for business opportunities.

Therefore, thirdly, the role of a university as a knowledge transferer and as a bridge between academia and industry is noteworthy. Universities involved in applied research have large number of patents, articles and registered intellectual property rights, converging the joint efforts, experience and creativity of students and faculty. However, such research has to be commercialized as well, and here comes the role of universities as a conduit to industry linkages. By establishing connections with industry,

universities develop entrepreneurial ecosystems and provide students entrepreneurs with advice on aspects like licenses, consulting, and spin-offs. Entrepreneurship education in universities inspires students to start their own ventures. Several surveys have shown that a majority of students enrolled in an entrepreneurship course aspire to set up their own businesses. Through their studies, it is also found that entrepreneurship courses at universities have a profound impact on the students. Thus, entrepreneurship courses have a positive impact the students' founding abilities.

Entrepreneurs are assets to any nation as they contribute towards innovation, job creation, and enhanced standard of living and the best way to

promote entrepreneurship is to make people aware of it by educating them.

Entrepreneurship education can provide students with technical skills and managerial skills, but most importantly should cultivate entrepreneurial intent among them, which ultimately increases their tendency to start their own enterprise. The Indian higher education system has to step up and distinguish a general business management course from an entrepreneurship course to motivate, train and support budding entrepreneurs. The demand is for education programs which can expand their horizons in entrepreneurship by their unique and hands-on content and teaching techniques. Are the universities listening?

African, W Pacific and European regions report increase in Covid cases: WHO

AP ■ GENEVA

The World Health Organisation says the rate of increase of coronavirus cases held steady over the last week, though its African, Western Pacific and European regions all reported gains.

At the same time, new deaths globally linked to Covid-19 fell 10 per cent.

The UN health agency, in its latest weekly epidemiological report on the pandemic, said case counts shot up 93% in Africa, though it cautioned about interpreting too much from that high figure because it was largely due to "batch reporting" of antigen tests by South Africa.

The report, for the first time, referred to the new omicron variant that was christened on Friday after being



People queue to be vaccinated against Covid-19 at the Lenasia South Hospital, near Johannesburg on Wednesday. South African doctors say the rapid increase in cases attributed to the new Omicron variant is resulting in mostly mild symptoms AP

detected in South Africa and Botswana. WHO said the variant has now been reported in a "limited number" of countries — though it has spread widely, into four of the WHO's six regions.

As of Sunday, more than 280 million cases and more than 5.2 million deaths have been tallied due to the pandemic, WHO said.

Slovakia may give cash to some who get vaccine

AP

Prague: Slovakia's government has proposed a plan to give people 60 and older a 500-euro (\$568) bonus if they get vaccinated against Covid-19, the finance minister said Wednesday.

The measure, announced by Finance Minister Igor Matovic, should boost inoculations in the European Union country with one of the bloc's lowest vaccination rates. So far, only 46.1% of the nation's 5.5 million people have been fully vaccinated.

The current four-party ruling coalition in Slovakia has been split over the issue. The pro-business Freedom and Solidarity opposed it, saying it was ready to support a 150-euro (\$170) bonus only. But the party didn't veto it, making the approval possible.

Student shoots, kills 3, wounds 8 at Michigan high school

AP ■ OXFORD TOWNSHIP

A 15-year-old sophomore opened fire at his Michigan high school, killing three students, including a 16-year-old boy who died in a deputy's patrol car on the way to a hospital, authorities said.

Eight other people were wounded, some critically, including a 14-year-old girl who was placed on a ventilator after surgery. Investigators were still trying to determine a

motive for the shooting Tuesday at Oxford High School, located in a community of about 22,000 people roughly 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Detroit, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.

"The person that's got the most insight and the motive is not talking," he said at a news conference late Tuesday.

Deputies rushed to the school around lunch time as more than 100 calls flooded 911 dispatchers with reports of a shooter. They arrested the student in a hallway within minutes of their arrival. He put his hands in the air as deputies approached, Bouchard said.

The boy's father on Friday bought the 9 mm Sig Sauer used in the shooting, Bouchard said. He didn't know why the man bought the semi-automatic handgun, which his son had been posting pictures of and practicing shooting, Bouchard said.

Polish Prime Minister urges vaccinations as deaths rise

Warsaw: Poland's prime minister got a booster shot against the coronavirus and made an emotional appeal to citizens to get vaccinated as 570 new deaths in one day were reported from Covid-19.

Mateusz Morawiecki's appeal on

Wednesday was made to a nation with a vaccination rate of just 54%. The numbers those fully vaccinated have risen very slowly in recent weeks, though fears of the new omicron variant have appeared to spur some to finally get vaccinated. AP

Saudis detect 1st case of new variant Omicron

Dubai: Saudi Arabia said Wednesday it detected its first case of the new coronavirus variant omicron. The kingdom's state-run Saudi Press Agency said the case came from a citizen coming from what it described as a "North African country". The report said the infected individual and his close contacts had been quarantined.

The case marks the first-known instance of omicron being detected among Gulf Arab nations. AP

S Korea confirms 5 cases of variant

Seoul: South Korea confirmed its first five cases of the new Omicron variant in people linked to arrivals from Nigeria.

Following the confirmation of the Omicron infections, South Korea announced it will require all passengers arriving from abroad over the next two weeks to quarantine for at least 10 days. AP

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE
DIVISION No: 1st SULIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR
(e-mail ID: xen_sewerageued@yahoo.com)

Notice Inviting e-Tendering
GIST OF e-NIT No: 27 of 2021-22

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer S&D Division 1st UEED Srinagar invites online e-bids in 2 cover system from Registered Electro-Mechanical Contractors or SSI Unit Holders for the following work.

S.No 1. Name of work :- Providing, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electro Mechanical Equipments at IPS # 05 Jogi Lanker under Sewerage Scheme "Sewerage Network of Sore Spots in Khanyar

Cost of work (Rs. In lacs) :- 25.46, **Cost of T/doc. (In rupees) :-** 1500/= **Time of operation & maintenance :-** 1 Month, **Class of Contract :-** Registered Firms / Agencies

IMPORTANT DATES

1. Date of publishing :- 30.11.2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 30-11-2021 to 21-12-2021 up to 5:00 PM
3. Bid submission Start Date :- 30-11-2021 from 5:00 PM
4. Bid submission End Date :- 21-12-2021 up to 4:00 PM
5. Date & time of opening of bids (online) :- 22-12-2021 at 11:00 AM or any other convenient date.

Tender Receiving Authority:- Executive Engineer S&D Division 1st Sulaiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar

Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&D Division 1st Srinagar

No. DDPK-14006/21 Dated: 01-12-2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/24/2021-22NW-3 Dated :- 01.12.2021

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1] Name of work	Repair and maintenance of Bridges in the section of SSEW/IDL/UL under ADEN/DLI
2] Approx cost of work	Rs.49,37,136.94 (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six and Ninety Four Paise Only)
3] Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 0/-
4] Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5] Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	24.12.2021 @15:00 Hrs.
6] Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. 2811/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
NISHTHA PARISAR, BJALEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/2186 Date : 01.12.2021

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/733	Rate Contract for 200 Kg 9 Meter Long FCC Pole.	172.40	5900	13.12.2021 03.00 PM	22.12.2021 03.00 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. Website <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.

SAVE ELECTRICITY
M.P. Madhyam/102838/2021 CGM (Proc.)

GLOBE TROTTER

BLAST OF WWI BOMB IN MUNICH INJURES 4
Berlin: A World War I bomb exploded at a construction site next to a busy railway line in Munich on Wednesday, injuring four people, one of them seriously, German authorities said.

TEL AVIV NAMED AS MOST EXPENSIVE CITY TO LIVE IN
London: Tel Aviv is the world's most expensive city to live in as soaring inflation has pushed up living costs globally, according to a survey published on Wednesday. The Israeli city climbed five rungs to score top place for the first time in the authoritative ranking compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The Worldwide Cost of Living Index is compiled by comparing prices in US dollars for goods and services in 173 cities. Tel Aviv climbed the rankings partly due to the strength of the national currency, the shekel, against the dollar, as well as increases in prices for transport and groceries.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Yudhveer Singh/ Gurpreet Kaur/ LBNOD00002312278	Flat No. 2204, Tower A1, 22nd Floor, Rudra Palace Heights Noida Extension Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 29, 2021	March 19, 2021 / Rs.20,39,314/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Somashri Shahi/ Alok Kumar/ LBGUR00002436557	Flat No B 106, FF Plot No 6/GH-4 Sec 6, aditya Garden City Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ November 29, 2021	March 24, 2021 / Rs.16,38,043/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : December 02, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Chemist & Metallurgist, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly is inviting open e-tender (Tender Notice No. - MCF-MTL-WC-X-RAY Date:- 29/11/2021) based on single packet system online through Indian railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work:- Description of work Design, layout & construction of X-ray chamber; the mandatory training of operator and approval of radiography facility from AERB in a turnkey project. Approx. Value of work-1 Work (As per e-tender document) Work completion period:- 150 Working Days • E-Tender submitted through online up to 15:15 hrs. on 22/12/2021. Manual offer will not be considered. • E-Tender shall be opened on 22/12/2021 at 15:30 hrs. through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. • Detailed Tender E-Notice and Terms & Conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Chemist & Metallurgist.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 04 Dated- 29.11.2021

Sl. No.	Corrigendum
01	48/ET/2021-22 Dated: 20.11.2021 Tender No. 04211373 Existing Value 3157 Modified Value 2657 Due date may be read as 06.12.2021 instead of 29.11.2021

Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O. No. 928 Short Term Tender Notice Dt. 01-12-2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :-

Tender No. : 11/SPH/2021-22

Name of work : Construction of Community Centre near Purnagiri Temple at Chaurapani, Lohiahead, Khatima, Dist. U.S.Nagar.

Estimated cost : Rs. 9,56,868/- GST extra.

Date of availability of bid document on website : From 17:00 Hrs. of 01.12.2021

Last date for submission of tender : Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 16.12.2021.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity" Executive Engineer (M&G)

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-44/2021-22 E-Tenders Date : 29.11.2021

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No., Tender No., Due Date, Description and Quantity.

S. No. 1. 10211308A (22.12.2021), Spring Part No. 16160113, 8600 Nos. S. No. 2. 10211376 (23.12.2021), PIN (Clutch Drive Asm) Part No. 16210580, 9164 Nos. S. No. 3. 10211281 (23.12.2021), Pump and Motors Assembly Part No. 16241526, 10 Nos. S. No. 4. 10211291 (23.12.2021), Wave Spring Part No. 16160174, 319 Nos. S. No. 5. 03211016 (24.12.2021), Component of General Argt, P L No. 29470092, 60 set. S. No. 6. 09191057A (24.12.2021), RELAY (GP), to PL No. 18180024, 56 Nos. S. No. 7. 06211195 (21.12.2021), MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER (VCB) WITH ITS CONNECTOR and 05% extra flexible reinforced rubber 27' long air hose pipe I/D 5/16" with 3/8" BSP. Female coupling fitting at both ends as manufacturing spares. specn: CLW/ES/C-47/1 to PL No. 2971106 Qty. 335 Sets. The details of above tenders are available on www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.

Corrigendum - S. No. 8. Bid No. E-41 Tender No. : 02211542 Misc. Hardware kit for LAS Part No. 29408489 due on 16.12.2021 Revision : 1 Details of Correction: Existing Quantity : 99 Set. Revised Quantity : 152 Set. S. No. 9. Bid No. 41 Tender No. : 07210069A Due Date : 06.12.2021 PL No. : 29170217 Description : Impregnated Compressed Laminates Corrigendum for Quantity : 313 Set. Corrigendum Notice - S. No. 10. Tender No. : 05215137B Bid Inv. No. 42 Existing due date : 10.12.2021 Revised due date : 06.12.2021. S. No. 11. Tender No. : 06211077 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 297 Set Revised Quantity : 363 Set Existing due Date : 29.11.2021 Revised due Date : 08.12.2021. S. No. 12. Tender No. : 06211078 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 246 Set Revised Quantity : 317 Set Existing due Date : 29.11.2021 Revised due Date : 08.12.2021. S. No. 13. Tender No. : 06211760 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 319 Set Revised Quantity : 377 Set Existing due Date : 30.11.2021 Revised due Date : 09.12.2021. S. No. 14. Bid Inv. No. E-43 Tender No. : 08210102 PL No. : 1. 29070041 Existing Qty. : 152 Sets Revised Qty. : 166 Sets. PL No. : 2. 29230378 Existing Qty. : 137 Sets Revised Qty. : 170 Sets. S. No. 15. Tender No. : 06211749 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 258 Set Revised Quantity : 316 Set Existing due Date : 28.11.2021 Revised due Date : 07.12.2021. S. No. 16. Tender No. : 06211748 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 293 Set Revised Quantity : 351 Set Existing due Date : 26.11.2021 Revised due Date : 07.12.2021. All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged. SMM/Imp-I

f t @ /blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

PAK ELECTED CHAIR OF GROUP OF 77 IN 2022
Islamabad: Pakistan has been elected as the next Chair of the Group of 77 for the year 2022 with Islamabad promising a development agenda focusing on debt restructuring, concessional financing, climate finance and ending illicit financial flows. The 45th Ministerial meeting of "Group of 77 and China" was held virtually on Tuesday, the Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) said here in a statement.

85% OF CITIZENS WILL USE MANDARIN BY 2025: CHINA
Beijing: China is launching an aggressive campaign to promote Mandarin, saying 85% of its citizens will use the national language by 2025. The move appears to put threatened Chinese regional dialects such as Cantonese and Hokkien under even greater pressure.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)
Durg, Dated: 22.11.2021

e-Procurement Tender Notice
1st Call

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 13-12-2021

Tender System & NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
289/87558	B.T. Renewal of Kodiya Sagni Road & 03 Other Roads Length 8.50 Km. Under Sub Div. No 02 Durg	150.02
290/87559	B.T. Renewal of Madiyapar-Purda Road & 02 Other Roads Length 9.20 Km. Under Sub Div. No 02 Durg	162.36
291/87565	B.T. Renewal of Aouri-Dhamna-Basin Road & 04 Other Roads Length 9.70 Km. Under Sub Div. Patan	178.58
292/87566	B.T. Renewal of Purai Umarpoti Road & 02 Other Roads Length 4.80 Km. Under Sub Div. No. 01 Durg	148.55
293/87567	B.T. Renewal of Siloda-Khatri Road & 01 Other Roads Length 6.30 Km. Under Sub Div. No. 01 Durg	119.13
294/87568	B.T. Renewal of Nandghat Malda Mau Bikhuli Road Length Km. 1 to 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 = 10.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	184.10
295/87569	B.T. Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Siltara Road Length Km. 7.9, 10, 12 = 4.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	136.08
296/87570	B.T. Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Siltara Road Length Km. 13, 14, 18, 19 = 4.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	136.08
297/87571	B.T. Renewal On Murhia To Sahaspur Road Length-2.85 Km Under Sub Division Dongargarh	49.99
298/87572	B.T. Renewal Work In Various K.M. On (1) Gandai to Pandariya Road 1.60 K.M. (2) Suradabri to Mainhar Road 2.80 K.M. (3) Mudiya Approach Road length 1.90 km & (4) Khairagarh Town Approach Road length 3.00 km Under Sub Division Chhuikhadan & Khairagarh Sub Division	155.56
299/87573	B.T. Renewal Work Gabdi-Khurudi Road & other 3 Roads Total Length = 7.90 km. Under Gunderdehi	129.41
300/87574	B.T. RENEWAL OF SIKOSA-DANIYA ROAD (VR) IN = 2.80 Km (Actual Length 2.85 km), PHUNDA-CHARBHATA (VR) IN KM 4.90 (TOTAL LENGTH 7.70KM)	127.97

Note-
1- NIT No. 289, 290, 291, 292 & 293 are under Public Works Department Durg Division Durg, NIT No. 294, 295 & 295 are under Public Works Department Bemetara Division Bemetara, NIT No. 296 & 297 are under Public Works Department Khairagarh Division Khairagarh NIT No. 298 & 300 are under Public Works Department Balod Division Balod.
2- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.
3- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)
Tel. 0788-2210876

R.O. No. 65497/4
R.O. Date 30/11/2021

Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No.: 2312/11-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated: 01.12.2021

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-18/2021-22

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Chamoli & Tehri for 07 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs.16.03 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 02.12.2021.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 09.12.2021 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kashflori@rediffmail.com

Gist of e- Tender Notice No. 34 of 2021
Dated: - 26/11/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, e-tender is invited from various Govt. Approved Registered Dealing Agencies/Suppliers for supply of **Neem Based Vermi Compost Manure with Trichoderma** as per the details given in the BOQ:-

The NIT consisting of complete information, eligibility, criteria, specification Book of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from J&K State e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in/ www.dirflorikmr.in as per schedule of date given below:-

Sl. No.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.11.2021 from 01:00 PM to 20.12.2021 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	30.11.2021 from 02:00 PM
3.	Bid submission End Date	20.12.2021 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders	22.12.2021 at 02:00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the tender opening date will be considered the next working date.

No. DDPK-13937/21 Dated: 01-12-2021

Sd/- Accounts Officer
(Member secretary)

Nov GST mop up at ₹1.31 lakh crore

SECOND HIGHEST SINCE ROLL OUT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in November grew 25 per cent to ₹1.31 lakh crore - second highest since its implementation - indicating economic recovery with normalisation of business activity and increased compliance, a Finance Ministry statement said on Wednesday.

This is the fifth month in a row that the revenues from goods sold and services rendered was over ₹1 lakh crore.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2021 is ₹1,31,526 crore of which CGST is ₹23,978 crore, SGST is ₹31,127 crore, IGST is ₹66,815 crore (including ₹32,165 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹9,606 crore (including ₹653 crore collected on import of goods)," the statement said.

CGST refers to Central

Goods and Services Tax, SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) and IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax).

The revenues for the month of November 2021, are 25 per cent higher than close to ₹1.05 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in November 2020, and 27 per cent higher over November 2019 revenues.

"The GST revenues for November 2021 have been the second highest ever since introduction of GST, second only to that in April 2021, which related to year-end revenues and higher than last month's collection, which also included the impact of returns required to be filed quarterly. This is very much in line with the trend in economic recovery," the ministry said.

In October 2021, the revenues were at ₹1,30,127 crore, while in April 2021 it was the highest at ₹1,39,708 crore.

The recent trend of high GST revenues has been a result of various policy and adminis-

trative measures that have been taken in the past to improve compliance. GST, which subsumed a host of indirect taxes like excise duty, service tax, VAT, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

A large number of initiatives undertaken in the last one year like, enhancement of system capacity, nudging non-filers after last date of filing of returns, auto-population of returns, blocking of e-way bills and passing of input tax credit for non-filers has led to consistent improvement in the filing of returns over the last few months, the ministry added.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said collections may dip in December 2021, as suggested by the deceleration in the daily average e-way bill generation in the first three weeks of November 2021.

"We expect Central GST collections to rise to ₹5.8 trillion in FY2022, exceeding the FY2022 BE by ₹50,000 crore," Nayar added.

5,554 cr digital transactions logged in FY2020-21: Minister Chandrasekhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital payment transactions have witnessed a multifold increase in the last few years, growing to 5,554 crore in FY2020-21 from 1,004 crore in FY2016-17, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

The number of digital transactions stood at 4,683 crore in the ongoing fiscal till mid-November, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

"Digital Payments transactions have been steadily increasing since last few years. Over the past four years, digital payment transactions have grown multifold from 1,004 crore in FY2016-17 to 5,554 crore in FY2020-21. State/UT-wise transaction details are not maintained," he added.

The Minister said number of digital transactions stood at 3,134 crore (FY19), 4,572 crore (FY20), 5,554 (FY21) crore and 4,683 crore (FY22 till mid November).

Citing a report by the

Reserve Bank of India, Chandrasekhar said India has a strong regulatory system and robust large value and retail payment systems that have contributed to the rapid growth in the volume of transactions in these payment systems.

There has been a substantial growth in e-payments by Government and also in digital infrastructure in terms of mobile networks, the report said.

The report emphasises the need to undertake further efforts to bring down the volume of paper clearing and increase acceptance infrastructure to enhance digital payments in India, it added.

In response to a separate question, Chandrasekhar said the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) had rolled out Digital Village project on pilot basis in 700 villages (with at least one Gram Panchayat or Village per district per State/UT) in October, 2018 for delivery of various citizen centric services viz education and health, skill and financial inclusion, and solar lights.

IPO rush continues; 10 cos line up public issues worth ₹10,000 cr in Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IPO lane will continue to be busy in December as 10 companies have lined up initial share-sale plans worth more than ₹10,000 crore, merchant banking sources said on Wednesday.

Moreover, the initial public offerings of Star Health and Allied Insurance and Tega Industries are currently open for public subscription.

This comes after 10 firms successfully concluded their initial public offerings (IPOs) in November.

Among the companies that scheduled their IPOs in this month include Rate Gain Travel Technologies, travel and hospitality technology services provider, and Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd, part of Mumbai-based financial services group Anand Rathi. RateGain's ₹1,335-crore initial share-sale will open for public subscription during December 7-9, and the ₹660-crore IPO of Anand Rathi Wealth will open on December 2.

India-China trade deficit stands at USD 30 bn during Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trade deficit between India and China stood at USD 30.07 billion during April-September 2021, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

India's exports to China during the April-September 2021 period was USD 12.26 billion, while imports were aggregated at USD 42.33 billion, according to data given by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

She said the imports from China have increased from USD 60.41 billion in 2014-15 to

USD 65.21 billion in 2020-21, exhibiting an increase of 7.94 per cent over six years.

However, the imports were static between 2019-20 and 2020-21, she said.

"The Government has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China, including bilateral engagements to address the non-tariff barriers on Indian exports to China," Patel said.

Schemes like the production-linked incentive scheme will help promote domestic manufacturing capacities and attract investment and reduce dependency on imports from China, the Minister said.



Commercial LPG cylinders hiked by ₹100

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders for commercial usage was hiked by ₹100 per cylinder by the Oil marketing companies. This is a second hike after the price was increased on November 1. Following the hike, the price of the 19-kg commercial cylinder will now cost ₹2101 per cylinder in Delhi; ₹2051 in Mumbai; ₹2174.50 in Kolkata and ₹2234 in Chennai. However,

there is no increase in prices of other domestic cylinders weighing 14.2kg, 5 kg, 10kg composite or 5kg composite cylinders.

Presently, a 14.2kg Domestic cylinder in the national capital cost ₹899.50 and the 19kg cylinder commercial cylinder is costing ₹2,101. LPG Cylinder Rate is revised monthly for all over the States and Union Territories in

India. Earlier on November 1, prices of 19kg Commercial cylinder has seen a steep rise of ₹266, increasing the prices to ₹2,000.50. On October 1, prices of 19kg commercial cylinders were increased by ₹43 and decreased by ₹2.50 on October 6.

On September 1, the prices of these cylinders were increased by ₹75.

States debt-to-GDP ratio worryingly higher than FY23 target, says RBI report

Mumbai: The combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31 per cent by end-March 2022 which is worryingly higher than the target of 20 per cent to be achieved by 2022-23, according to a RBI report. The Reserve Bank's annual publication titled 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22' further said as the impact of the second Covid-19 wave wanes, State Governments

need to take credible steps to address debt sustainability concerns. "The combined debt to GDP ratio of States which stood at 31 per cent at end-March 2021 and is expected to remain at that level by end-March 2022, is worryingly higher than the target of 20 per cent to be achieved by 2022-23, as per the recommendations of the FRBM Review Committee," it said.

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow Custom Bid Inviting Notice

Notice No.: 008/GeM/PS/FO/21-22 Dated : 01-12-2021
Custom bid on GeM Portal are invited under 02 e-bid systems (technical & financial) for the Purchase of Equipment for Diff. Departments & PICU (Covid) from the OEM and their or their authorized Indian agents for diff. departments items and OEM for PICU item on the terms and conditions as per custom bid document. Short details can be viewed at kgmu.org & detailed will be available on GeM portal. (Finance Officer)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Sangeeta Makkar, Mr. Pulkit Makkar and Mr. Prateek Makkar had entered into Agreement for purchase of House No. 951-P, measuring 173.33 Sq.Yards, Sector-7C, Faridabad, Haryana from Mr. Gurpreet Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Mohan Singh Sodhi and Original General Power of Attorney dated 23.03.1972 in favour of Mr. Ramesh Chand Mahajan, Smt. Asha Mahajan and Smt. Ravi Rekhi and Original Sale Deed dated 11.08.1972 in favour of Smt. Sudeesh Aggarwal and Original Sale Deed dated 05.05.1981 in favour of Shri Gurendra Singh and Original Re-Allotment Letter dated 26.11.1996 in favour of Shri Preet Kumar Singh Sabharwal has been lost/misplaced and my client is mortgaging the said property with LIC Housing Finance Ltd. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidences. In the event of no response to this notice, then our client shall procure that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"MUTUATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NUMBER B-21, SECTOR-14, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH. PROBATE CERTIFICATE DATED 25.10.2021 GRANTED BY THE COURT OF HONOURABLE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE(1), GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR IN PROBATE PETITION 28 OF 2012, IS BEING APPLIED BY THE EXECUTORS / KRISHAN KUMAR KASHYAP AND BINDU JAIRAJ SINGH ANY PERSON HAVING OBJECTION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF PUBLIC NOTICE WITH RESIDENTIAL PLOT DEPARTMENT, NOIDA AUTHORITY."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Shop No. 5 & 6, Pk-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

GAURAV KUMAR SINGH

(Advocate, TR.5654/98 Regn. No. UP-4385/99) 59-D, Pocket-03, Mayapuri Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091 Ph.: 981284899

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: Nitin S/o Shyamveer R/o C-74 JJ Colony Raghur Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 16.11.2021 at about 5:00 PM. In this regard DD No. 105A Dated 17.11.2021 has been lodged at PS Khyala, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'9" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Red & White colour Tracksuit and Plastic chappal in feet.
Any person having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-
Website: http://cbi.nic.in **SHO**
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Khyala, Delhi**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob:** 9599730246, 8750871132
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/645/WD/2021**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely unknown S/o unknown R/o unknown. Age about 40-45 yrs., Height 5'4", Fair Complexion, Face long, Thin built wearing brown colour sweater and blue jeans was found dead on footpath Asaf Ali Road, Dayanand Bhawan Darya Ganj, Delhi on 21.11.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 42-A Dt. 21.11.2021 has been lodged at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at MAMC Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.
S.H.O., PS Darya Ganj, Delhi Ph.: 011-23274683, 23279331

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बैकुण्ठपुर जिला कोरिया (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत उद्देशकों द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक / दिनांक	टेंडर सिस्टम नम्बर	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
27/25.11.2021	87590	जल जीवन मिशन हर घर नल से जल अंतर्गत रोड्रोसेफिटिंग योजना का कार्य विकासखण्ड - खड़गवा ग्राम सौरा एवं खड़गवा।	रु. 381.47 लाख
28/25.11.2021	87591	जल जीवन मिशन हर घर नल से जल अंतर्गत रोड्रोसेफिटिंग योजना का कार्य विकासखण्ड - खड़गवा ग्राम कटकोना।	रु. 146.12 लाख

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यो की निविदा दिनांक - 13.12.2021 तक ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की सामान्य शर्तों, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता / - कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बैकुण्ठपुर
R.O No.: 65491/11
R.O Date: 30/11/2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** S/o Ikram R/o Jhuggi No. 42, Shyam Nagar, Near Pacific Mall, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1003/2020 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** accused of FIR No. 1003/2020 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.01.2022.

By Order : Sh. Vinik Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate (West), Room No. 356, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi
DP/648/WD/21

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER 2nd CALL

Online Percentage Rate bids for the following works are invited from registered Contractors/firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria.

S. No.	System E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract & EMD & Cost of Tender Form	Completion Period	Date of Purchase & Submission of Bids	Date of Opening of Tenders Envelop A
1.	2021_MPHID_170733	Construction of New Work, Renovation Work, Barrier Free and Renovation Work at Govt. Srimant Madhavrao Scindiya College Gwalior (M.P.)	Rs. 779.96 Lacs & Rs. 780000/- & Rs. 23600/- (I/c Gst)	15 Months I/c Rainy Season.	Dt. 08.12.2021 10:30 AM & Dt. 29.12.21 upto 17:00 PM	Dt. 30.12.2021/ 17:15 PM Envelop A

Full Details of above Tenders can be seen on www.mptenders.gov.in. Amendments in NIT, if any Shall be published on Website only.

(S.K. SHARMA)
E.E., Div. 02, Gwalior
Mob. : 7898894711

M.P. Madhyam/102837/2021

GOVT. OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CUM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JORHAT MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, JORHAT (Under Society for Medical Education Jorhat)

No. SMF/JMCH/2552/2021/ 14 572

Short Tender Notice (Inviting e-tender)

Sealed bid (two bid systems) affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (rupees eight and paise twenty five) only or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) arc invites from the experienced **Authorised Dealer/Distributor/Manufacturer for Supply of Radio Diagnostics and Interventional Items** on rate contract basis to Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat-Assam through the online e-procurement system i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in as per following schedule:

Date and Time of Publishing of e-Bid Document	Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting	Date and Time of Start of Bid submission	Date and Time of End of Bid submission	Date and Time of Opening of e-Technical Bid	Tentative Date and Time of Opening of e-Price Bid
3.00 P.M. only of 03-12-2021	1.00 P.M. of 09-12-2021	2.00 P.M. of 10-12-2021	12.00 P.M. of 24-12-2021	1.00 P.M. of 24-12-2021	Shall be communicated to the technically qualified bidders subsequently

- The complete e-tender document may be obtained from the e-tender portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in/> & our official website: <http://jorhatmedicalcollege.in>.
- The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>.
- The Tender shall be submitted online only through the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>. The bidders must submit a hardcopy of their tender document to the o/o. the Principal cum Chief Superintendent, JMC&H, Jorhat after successful submission of their tender through online on or before 26-12-2021 at 12.00 P.M.
- The institute reserves the right to reject any/all applications without assigning any reason what so ever.

sd/-
Principal cum Chief Superintendent, Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorbat
Janasanyog/C/8391/21

ICICI Bank PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See provision to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sangeeta De (Borrower), Sagarika De, Suranjana De (Co-Borrower)	Flat No. T2/1601, 16th Floor, Sunword Arista, GH-01/C, Sector 168, Noida, UP 201301 Area 3500 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 2,31,39,445.8 (as on November 23, 2021)	Rs. 1,32,00,000/- (Rs. 13,20,000/- to 1:00 PM)	December 24, 2021 From 11:00 AM	December 24, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website <https://disposalhub.com> of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **December 23, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else this secured asset will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **December 23, 2021 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 on or before **December 23, 2021 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9599281817/ 9372730494/ 7304914763 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/ 01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: December 02, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

RAIL DISPLAY NETWORK CONTRACT AT RANGIYA

Tender Notice No: C/78/RNY/INDV/2019, Date: 29-11-2021. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works. Name of Work: Rail Display Network Contract (Rudain) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Video Wall of size 6'x4', Digital screen of size 65", True Color Video Wall of size 18.90'x12.60", LED TV screen of size 49" & 55" at 19 stations namely New Bongaigaon, Ranginya, Barpeta Road, Bini, Bongaigaon, Dhernaji, Goolpara Town, Gogamukh, Hamtui, Murkongselek, Naharlagun, North Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Pathasala, Rangapara North, Sitapathar, Tihu, Tangla & Udalguri Station with scope of display of advertisements along with railway messages in 50:50 Time Slot/Space sharing for 05 (five) years contractual period. Advertised Value : ₹ 19,72,559/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,09,500/-; Tender Document Cost: ₹ 5,600/-; Date and Time of Closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 30-12-2021. For details please visit in website www.iireps.gov.in

Sr. DCM, Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

ELECTRICAL WORKS

E-Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/MLG/13/2021; Dated: 26-11-2021. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor (s)/firm(s) having valid electrical contractor and supervisor license for the following work:- SN-1. Tender No. ELC-MLG-06-21-22-DK-RT. Name of work: Clearing of electrical infringement by shifting, diversion & modification of overhead power line and overhead track crossing by under ground cable of 33 KV, 11 KV & LT over head power line in between Dhansiri-Zubza section in connection with New BG line project of Dimapur-Kohima new BG line project. Tender Value: ₹ 2,95,88,328/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,95,000/-; Completion period: 180 days. SN-2. Tender No. ELC-MLG-06-20-20-21-D-K. Name of work: Electrification on new Camp Office cum rest house building, circulating area & sub-ordinate rest house at Kohima in connection with Dimapur-Kohima New Line Project. Tender Value: ₹ 1,55,10,082/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 1,55,000/-; Completion period: 180 days. E-Tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 22-12-2021 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 22-12-2021. For Details Please visit www.iireps.gov.in.

DY. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON Maligaon
Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers with a smile



Bollywood
 'I feel Sharmita is being
 accosted for having a
 heart and viewed as
 privileged by some.'
 —Shilpa Shetty



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

ROGIER HESP aims to show the other side of success through his film *Gold*, featuring at the European Union Film Festival. By KHUSHBU KIRTI



won gold and silver twice at the Cannes Lions Festival in 2010 with his commercial *DramaQueen*.

Read on for excerpts from an interview with Hesp about his debutant.

◆**Congratulations on your film, *Gold*, entering the European Union Film Festival.**

Please tell us everything about it!
Gold is my feature debut and an intimate story about a professional sport. It is a film in which we follow a young gymnast closely, who experiences the pressure of being the top athlete. The narrative is explored through his eyes.

The story revolves around the suffocating relationship between him and his disabled father and their dream of winning the Olympic gold.

◆**Is *Gold* inspired by true events?**
Gold is inspired by many stories in professional sports in which athletes' thought-process clashes with that of their parents. In many cases, that relationship breaks down.

In my youth I saw how top-class sport gave one of my friends a status.

It gave him an identity and security. Back then, I only saw the success. Later on, I understood the possible pressure that comes with it. Doesn't our society look too much at what you are, and not at who you are? Does success work as an adhesive poison? And what role do parents play in this?

It is a dangerous thing, you see — parents seeing their children as an extension of their own ego. Sometimes, they have to live up to their missed dreams or opportunities. This was the starting point for our vision of *Gold*.

◆**So, the film is about the distorted relationship and the war of ego between the father and the son?**

Every parent hopefully wants the best for his child. They give them directions, so their children can sail the right course.

I became a father myself and I got to know feelings of proudness when my

son learns something new. How will I react when I notice that he has a special talent? Indicating a course can quickly change in determine direction. The pride creates a monster. There is a danger that parents will over-identify with their children. This way you can get a reversed dependency. Children have to perform for the egos of their parents. It is in the sports world mostly, where you come across these kinds of stories.

This film shows in a penetrating way the dilemma of so many teenagers. The inner struggle between your identity and the love of a parent.

◆**What is the significance of the title?**
 Every top athlete has one goal — winning gold. However, with this film, we wanted to show the other side of the medal. A real story about the hellish journey towards that dream.

◆**What do you think of the difference between films that are making a mark at the festivals and which are commercially successful. Why do you feel that is?**

The reason, according to me, is because there is obviously more freedom, and less thinking within the box, along with sharper subjects.

◆**What, according to you, is the USP of the film? Why should more people watch it?**

For the first time, it shows a sports film that does not romanticise the image. This is a sincere portrait of the life of a young athlete. And to make it as authentic as possible, the main role is played by a real gymnast. So David has transformed himself from a gymnast into an actor.

◆**EUFF is an event that celebrates the diversity and creativity of European theatre, heritage and culture.**

◆**What opinion do you have for platforms of this sort that give recognition to the local films?**

A film is a way to reflect emotions. It is beautiful to see that emotion is universal and these festivals enable that. Stories from every corner of the world reach a wider audience and touch more lives. It is wonderful!



Discovering hidden gems

CYRUS SAHUKAR is back to unfold unexplored cultures of India with Discovery's *Lost Essence S2*

After the success of *Lost Essence Season 1*, Discovery Channel is back with its season two and is all geared up to showcase the unexplored gems of India that are tucked away in the remotest corners of the country. The new season that premiered on November 30 inspired conversations, captured imagination, and created awareness about these unexplored locations of India like the rugged valleys and mountains of Ladakh and Turtuk covering North and roaring beauty of Shillong, Meghalaya and Manipur covering Northeast regions of India, whilst taking one through a journey like never before.

Hosted by a man of numerous talents, who is also a travel enthusiast, Cyrus Sahukar will be unfolding hidden facts about unexplored cultures and locations to bring the country's lost essence to life. With roads that are not well-trodden, the anchor also encountered unmatched thrill and adventure, as he experienced the authentic mouth-watering North East cuisines, learnt of old and rich culture of these places and met some interesting people as he made his way to the destination.

Sharing his experience on the show, Sahukar said, "This show has given me an experience of a lifetime. While the picturesque terrains, culture and food etched a place in my heart, this journey has thoroughly satisfied my inner travel enthusiast. I am thrilled by the fact that the world will now know more about these magical hidden gems that are travel friendly and were tucked away in the remote parts of the country. These places are sure to top the viewers' travel list as the show uncovers the best kept secrets of India."

Shaun Nanjappa, head of advertising sales, South Asia, Discovery Inc, shared, "India is one of the world's largest, oldest and richest civilizations and is known for its abundant heritage. It is home to so much more than one has explored or aims to explore. This show is sure to inspire conversations on so many levels whilst the viewers discover the undiscovered."

◆**Remove makeup and cleanse the face**
 The very first thing is to use a cleansing lotion and remove make-up. Cleanse your face. It will help to clean your skin and help to breathe them.

◆**Apply face toner and repair face serum**
 Face toner is a skincare essential that helps to tone and balance your skin pH. A vitamin C based or witch hazel based serum is amazing to give skin the needed rejuvenation. After applying the toner, give your skin a break of one to two minutes and then go for vitamin C serum. Vitamin C is an amazing antioxidant that neutralises the free radicals, de tan the skin and makes skin even-toned and healthy. At night this serum will help to repair your damaged skin.

◆**Go for under eye cream gel**
 Afterwards, apply an under-eye cream gel to give your eyes some beauty treatment. A good under eye cream-gel will not only help to tackle dark circles but also provides your under-eye skin with the needed relaxation and a renewed life.

◆**Pamper your skin on alternate days**
 Now take any natural face mask made of fuller's earth, gram flour or oatmeal. Apply this on every alternative day before sleeping. It will bring a different kind of sun-kissed glow to your face.

◆**Give your skin the much-needed treatment**
 Now decide what your skin needs the most. Are the dark spots your concern or ageing signs? Else, you only need to give a hydrating touch to your face. Accordingly end your pm skincare routine with brightening cream, anti-ageing cream or just a good hydrating moisturiser.

Apply these simple am and pm skincare rituals into your daily life and gift yourself the natural illuminating skin.
 (The author is co-founder of Derma Essentia.)

Start-ups are dynamic organisations. Being a new business in the market, they always thrive for new ideas to gain traction. To ensure success, start-ups need to have the right talent at the right time that can contribute to their flourishing growth. However, amid the competitive business scenario, hiring has become one of the toughest challenges for every organisation. It becomes even difficult if a start-up relies on skilled or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) employees. Landing at the right talent can give a tough time to the organisation.

On the other hand, larger companies have deeper pockets than start-ups. They focus on hiring new-age tech talents including software developers, data scientists, AI or IoT experts and many others to stay ahead in the technology-driven world. Start-ups need to attract the right talent and retain them for long.

Focusing on the potential of culture

The key to having a competent team is culture fit. It is one of the most crucial parts of the hiring strategy. Culture is something that evolves over time and shapes the personality of the brand. To attract the right talent, start-ups need to cultivate an atmosphere to make the employees feel welcomed, required and happy to work that in turn impacts business performance. As per the estimates of a study — around 94 per cent of executives and 88 per cent of employees believe a distinct workplace culture is important to business success. Any organisation can start from the first day to create a fun and engaging work environment. They can build an atmosphere where employees feel comfortable while increasing the chances of growth in the organisation.

Utilising the capabilities of technology

Technology has become an indispensable part of our life and start-up ecosystem. Similarly, it has become an important part of business and when organisations look for a competent workforce, they should adopt the technology. This increases employees' productivity and automates their tasks for better efficiency at work. From improving the way employees work to freeing them from the burden of tedious

THE RIGHT FIT

Start-ups need to find and retain employees that fit into their work culture, suggests YOGITA TULSIANI



Give people reason to join you

The advent of start-up culture has redefined the way industries function. Traditionally, the corporate industry revolved around money. However, start-ups have recreated the culture to join a company for reasons other than money. Some people find start-up organisations more flexible while others get space to innovate and think creatively. Start-ups must focus on building positive company culture with great team spirit. It helps employees recognise the company's people-centric culture that will help them grow. For instance, startups can create purpose-driven non-financial incentive programs to promote learning and rewarding employees.

Showcasing business impact

It is imperative to understand that not all employees work only for money. They have become mission-driven and passionate about accomplishing their professional goals. This category of employees makes a greater contribution to the company's overall business performance. Furthermore, start-up teams are usually small, thus, the company can take due advantage of recognising and appreciating their employees to boost their motivation. It becomes vital in aligning them with business goals and make them a part of the development process to impact the consumers' life make a robust strategy to innovate the talent development process.

Summing up

Start-ups have a higher degree of accountability than larger organisations. It is considered a learning ground for beginners and a battlefield for experienced employees. However, retention and attribution need to be viewed differently and a precise focus must be kept on innovating the talent development process.

(The author is the MD and co-founder of iXceed Solutions, a global tech-recruiter provider.)

Skincare has always had a special place in everybody's life. Some people can get away by only using moisturiser and sunscreen daily while others follow a full-fledged regimen. Skincare becomes a requisite thing when some special days are just about to next door. These can be your first date day, your anniversary night or the most special wedding day. It can be anything.

Then just using a moisturiser, cream or even only sunscreen can't serve the purpose. You need to follow a proper am to pm skincare routine that could give you a glowing, brighter, flawless and spotless face.

So, what are you waiting for? Here is the full bloom skincare routine for your special days. It takes just a few minutes for you to look through this important skincare timetable that you can also do on normal days:

AM SKINCARE ROUTINE

◆**Start your day with a glass of water**

Your AM skincare routine starts in the early morning and it is not about cleansing your face. The first thing you need to do in your morning skincare regimen is to drink warm/lukewarm water on an empty stomach, about one hour before eating anything. You can add some lemon drops or honey to it.

This ritual will help to detox your blood and eventually your skin. This provides your skin with a natural glow and radiance from within. You can't get results in one day or a week. Start doing this routine at least before a month of your wedding.

◆**Use a mild cleanser to clean the face**

Don't go for harsh soaps or sulphate or chemical-based cleansers before your wedding. Such products can harm your skin, lead to dryness or some kind of sensitivity. Opt for a mild cleansing lotion.

◆**Give your skin the dose of hydrating serum**

Serums are very good for

Get that glow

Follow the routine, by RAJESH GROVER, to shine on your special day



your skin. It goes deeply into the skin and nurtures the skin from within.

A hyaluronic acid serum is best to include in your skincare routine before your wedding special day. It will help to maintain the overall skin integrity, skin barrier function and long-lasting skin hydration. Your skin will look healthy, refreshing and illuminating.

◆**Must add moisturiser into your daily routine**

Many of us think that only applying sunscreen or serum is enough and our skin needs no moisturiser. But this is not the case, even when your skin type is oily.

A moisturiser acts to cover your skin and prevent transepidermal water loss. For people with oily skin, a mattifying moisturiser helps to keep skin oil-free and mattify along with keeping skin hydrated. So, don't skip this step, although do some search and find a proper moisturiser as per your skin type.

◆**Safeguard the skin with a broad-spectrum sunscreen**

It is the must have step of skincare. Your skin needs protection against harmful sun rays, urban pollution and heat (IR) rays. A broad-spectrum sunscreen with potent antioxidant formula and PA factor can give whole protection from all these environmental aggressors.

You can choose gel-based, mineral or any other base for your skin type as per your skin type. Apply sunscreen every single day.

◆**Some greens, a fruit and green tea every day**

Along with the above mentioned skincare, also give inner nutrition to your skin. Some greens like broccoli, spinach; fruits like oranges, strawberries, kiwi, apples and a cup of green tea every day will help to detox your body, clean skin from within and provide radiance from within.

PM SKINCARE ROUTINE

Night skincare is as important as morning skincare. Grime, dirt and pollution make your face dirty and full of free radicals. Your skin needs rejuvenation therapy after the whole day.

TRENDBLAZER

MANOJ BAYPAYEE PRAISES IFFI
 Stating that he believed the International Film Festival of India was a great vehicle to encourage India's next generation of filmmakers, actor **MANOJ BAJPAYEE** said that he believed the country could be a great force in entertainment. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 52nd edition of IFFI here, Bajpayee said, "I personally believe that the IFFI, organised by the government of India is a great vehicle to instigate and encourage new filmmakers and the coming generation of filmmakers. A country of such a huge population can be a great force in entertainment."

fairtalk
 PIYUSH MISHRA
 'You know I did my first play in school. My first professional theatre was in 1979 (*Dilli Teri Baat Nirali*). I have a sense of belonging and have a relationship with stage. I never knew what stage-fear is...never felt it. When I write, act in theatre, direct plays or other creative outlet that I have been exploring, I think I am meant for it. But I am not talented as an artiste, I am gifted.'

dailytalk
 SHAM MASHALKAR
 'In films, the scene which we are going to do is already pre-decided like in the film *Bachna Ae Haseeno*, one or one and a half months before, I got a welcome letter from YRF along with the script, chocolates and a bouquet. In TV, such things do not happen as the scenes change immediately. They tell us to mug everything up.'

CLOONEY ON HIS 2018 ACCIDENT
 Actor **GEORGE CLOONEY** thought he would die in his 2018 motorbike crash. He was frustrated that people stopped to film him on the ground instead of helping. Clooney shared, "If you're in the public eye, what you realise when you feel it's the last minute of your life is that, for some people, it's just going to be entertainment for their Facebook page." "I'm a pretty positive guy, but that told me — clearly — that you really are here just for their entertainment," he added.

Building partnerships

Metro Railway has signed an agreement with LIC for awarding co-branding rights of Phoolbagan and city centre stations of East-West metro

Kaushik Mitra, Dy chief operations manager/comm'l signed the agreement on behalf of Metro Railway in presence of NP Sinha, zonal manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited (LIC).

Metro Railway has offered 1,500 sq feet spaces of each of these two stations to LIC. LIC has got the station co-branding rights and can add their brand names, logo (prefixed/suffixed) to the station name at all places where the station name is displayed.

With the signing of this five-year contract, Metro Railway, for the first time, is handing over the co-branding rights of any of its stations to a public sector undertaking like LIC.



Safety in check

A passenger evacuation mock drill was conducted in the metro to tackle emergencies in a better manner

Metro Railway always gives top priority to the safety and security of the commuters. In order to check the preparedness of metro staff to tackle any fire incident in an AC rake on the viaduct, a passenger evacuation mock drill was conducted in between Masterda Surya Sen and Netaji Metro stations, in which senior officers and staff of concerned

departments took part.

Metromen were imparted training on how to take immediate necessary action to rescue passengers in case of a fire in a running AC rake.

The objective of this mock drill was to upgrade the evacuation skills as well as check alertness and preparedness of metromen during such emergencies.

In command

VIKAS KUMAR TAKES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) AT DMRC

The DMRC has strengthened its operation and maintenance (O&M) wing with the appointment of Vikas Kumar as Director (Operations) and A K Garg, who was so far looking after O&M as Director (Operations), as Director (Infrastructure).



Director (Operations) will now be primarily looking after matters pertaining to operations, fare and non-fare revenue, last mile connectivity, parking, safety & security, Delhi Metro Rail Academy, and so on. While, Director (Infrastructure) will be looking after the maintenance of infrastructure including, civil, electrical, signaling and telecommunication, rolling stock, upgradation or renewal issues, solar power, and so on.

Nutrient-rich trade

NAFED, with the support of Arunachal Pradesh government, has taken a step towards providing market linkages to certified organic kiwi farmers of Ziro

With the support of the government of Arunachal Pradesh, NAFED has taken a step forward to provide market linkages to the certified organic kiwi-growing farmers of Ziro.

The first consignment of organic kiwi from the region was dispatched to Delhi on November 21 for promotion and marketing. The Minister of Agriculture, Tage Taki, flagged off the consignment to mark the beginning of a new initiative for the benefit of the kiwi growers of Arunachal Pradesh.

On arrival of the consignment in Delhi, Kiren Rijju, Union Minister, Law & Justice, along with Kailash Choudhary, MoS Agriculture, launched



this nutrient-rich delicious fruit at Delhi Haat on November 27.

The initiative will help in enhancing the livelihood of kiwi farmers in Arunachal Pradesh and boost the trade of

kiwi outside the state. The launch event was followed by a live cooking session for the guests, during which recipes of kiwi-based dishes were demonstrated, followed by sample-tasting.

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Deputy Leader, Rajya Sabha, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi today said here that while, on one hand, lakhs of people visited Hunar Haat at Pragati Maidan, on the other hand, sale of indigenous products worth crores of rupees took place, which encouraged artisans and craftsmen from across the country.

Over 550 artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 States/UTs participated in the 33rd Hunar Haat, organised at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan from November 14-27.

Hunar Haat received the prestigious IITF 2021 silver medal for strengthening commitment to 'Vocal for Local' and its strong presence at Trade Fair. Renowned artists of the country mesmerised the audience through their various

Vocal for local

Indigenous products worth crores of rupees were sold at Hunar Haat which encouraged artisans and craftsmen from across the country, comments Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi



cultural and musical programmes. The Indian circus artists also performed diverse entertainment shows. With 300 stalls, this

was the largest participation by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs in India International Trade Fair this year.

Rising through the ranks

Rakesh Kumar Jain joins as Director of Finance at GAIL

Rakesh Kumar Jain assumed charge as Director (Finance) of GAIL (India) Limited. A cost and management accountant by profession, Jain started his career in the company as a management trainee and gathered a rich experience of nearly 30 years as he rose through the ranks to his present position.

Prior to his appointment as Director (Finance), he held the position of Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) in GAIL. Additionally, Jain holds the position of Director in Indraprastha Gas Limited. Earlier, he was on the board of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt Ltd (RGPP). He joined GAIL in 1992 and has been a part of the growth trajectory of the company.



The inauguration of ESI Dispensary and branch office, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh was concluded on November 27. Smriti Zubin Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India, was the chief guest in this event. On this occasion, Irani expressed her happiness and said that ESI Dispensary, Rae Bareilly was operating in a rented building since 1978, which government now dedicates to the people, by getting this complex, constructed by CPWD. She handed over monthly pension approval letters to the beneficiaries under the 'Covid-19 relief scheme'. This measure of ESIC helps in strengthening financial condition of the families affected by Covid-19 pandemic.

ESI dispensary and branch office in Pragati Puram was constructed at a cost of ₹ 2.27 crore in a 933 square meter campus. The dispensary has two doctors, pharmacist, lab technician and emergency services, OPD, pharmacy, oxygen cylinder, testing machine and

Covid-19 relief scheme

Smriti Irani inaugurates ESI Dispensary and branch office in Rae Bareilly,



so on have been provided in the dispensary. This will benefit 60,000 ESI beneficiaries of Rae Bareilly area. In addition, about 15,000 workers will also get cash benefits from the ESIC Branch Office on the first floor. On this occasion, Rameshwar Teli, Minister of State for Labour and Employment and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, in his address said that

the largest share of workers is of unorganised workers. A 'national database' has been prepared for the unorganised workers, which has been named as 'E-Shram Portal'.

Registration on the portal is very simple and free. One gets an insurance cover of ₹ two lakh after registration on the portal. So far, more than nine crore people have been registered on this portal. At the

same time, he also appealed to the people to come forward in maximum numbers to get registration on the portal at the earliest.

ESIC has launched Covid-19 Relief Scheme. ESIC provides 90 per cent of the average salary to the dependents of IP, who unfortunately passed away due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, through the Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, if the insured person loses his/her job, he/she is given a relief of 50 per cent of the average daily earnings during the last four contribution periods. As a once-in-a-lifetime measure, relief is paid up to a maximum of 90 days of unemployment. Relief is paid directly to the insured persons in their bank account by ESIC Branch Office on submission of claim.

Achieving targets

Mission Van Dhan targets establishment of 50,000 Van Dhan SHGs subsumed into 3,000 Van Dhan VDVKCs

Keeping in line with the Prime Minister's call for *Atmanirbhar Bharat* aligned to the slogan of "Be Vocal for Local Buy Tribal", towards realising the goal of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, TRIFED has been implementing *Sankalp Se Siddhi - Mission Van Dhan*. As part of this initiative, Mission Van Dhan was launched by Minister for Tribal Affairs in June 2021. The mission targeted the establishment of 50,000 Van Dhan SHGs subsumed into 3,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters (VDVKCs). Through its extensive ecosystem of partners involving State Nodal Department, State implementing agencies, convergence partners, reputed training institutions, established over the past few years, to systematically and efficiently implement the scheme, TRIFED has been able to achieve the target.

In a short span of two years, it has successfully now sanctioned 52,976 VDSHGs subsumed into 3,110 VDVKCs covering 9.27 lakh beneficiaries and 27 States/UTs. These VDVKCs are at different stages of development and many success stories have emerged till date. The VDVKCs in Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, Kerala, Tripura, Gujarat, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, to name a few along with all the 27 participating states have begun producing almost 600 varieties of products.

To commemorate this com-

mendable milestone, a virtual event was organised on November 29, which saw the participation of members of SIA, SNA, tribal beneficiaries and other stakeholders in a notable number and was live streamed through TRIFED's page Van Dhan Se Vikas.

Problems and progress of the scheme was discussed in detail in the session. The mission activities will be implemented all over India for Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries and is an ongoing intervention, covering all the 27 states and 308 tribal pre-dominant districts under the Van Dhan Programme and MSP for MFP scheme. The initiative is expected to provide active employment and livelihoods to one million tribal families enabling them to engage in productive economic activities leveraging forest resources and activities they are already familiar with, without any dislocation or migration needs.

With the focus on ensuring round-the-year income generating opportunities for tribals and addressing the formidable problems that they face, such as possession of land/house with no rights; restrictions in the collection of minor forest produce; exploitation by middlemen; displacements, lack of development in forest villages, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, hopes to usher the next phase of tribal empowerment.

Tradition, art, craft and culture

SARAS Aajeevika Mela saw the exhibition-cum-sale of the finest handloom and handicraft products along with the regional cuisines

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2021, focusing on the theme of 'tradition, art, craft and culture' is a government initiative, that not just offers best of the cultural heritage, but also tells a story of rural women donning the hat of an entrepreneur at a national-level platform concluded on November 27. It was held at the 40th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan.

The finest handicraft and handloom products from the remotest areas of Rural India were displayed at the SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2021, organised by the Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). More than 300 craftsmen had participated and showcased their



products at 137 stalls in the exhibition.

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela showcased the best of its collection in handloom sarees, dress materials, accessories and organic handicraft products from different states across India.

Master plan in place

DDA conducts BoEH meeting about Delhi-2041

DDA conducted its 14th Board of Enquiry and Hearing (BoEH) meeting on the objections/suggestions for the draft master plan for Delhi-2041.

In the board hearing meeting, representatives/members from National Hawker's Federation were invited and given the opportunity to sub-

mit their objections/suggestion orally before the board.

During this hearing, objections/ suggestions regarding issues of provision of civic facilities for vendors/ hawkers, allocation of space for vending zones, declaration of vending zones and number of vending zones, incorporation of relevant provisions of Street Vending Act in MPD-2041, recommendation of town vending committee were heard in which participants provided their valuable suggestions.

Rising returns

APCPL, IPGCL and HPGCL pay second interim dividend for FY 2021-2022

Ravali Power Company Private Limited (APCPL), a joint venture company of NTPC, Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited (IPGCL) and Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) paid the second interim dividend of ₹135 crores (net of TDS) for the financial year 2021-22 towards NTPC's 50 per cent share.

Somes Bandyopadhyay, CEO (APCPL) handed over dividend cheque of ₹135 crores to Gurdeep Singh, chairman & MD, NTPC on November 30.

The interim dividend @ 10.467 per cent on the paid up capital has also been paid to other joint venture partners viz. IPGCL and HPGCL on their respective shareholding of 25 per cent each.

The total interim dividend paid to its promoters for the financial year 2021-22 is ₹900 crores, which is the highest ever interim dividend paid by APCPL since inception.

Complimenting the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) for holding a very successful edition of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF), Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Minister for Minority Affairs, Government of India pointed out that IITF 2021 has remained highly successful with enhanced number of participants, despite all challenges and time constraints. The organisers deserve all the appreciation. He shared that the event has generated brisk business in the fair including Hunar Haat.

Present on the occasion were L C Goyal, chairman and managing director of ITPO, and Vibhu Nayyar, ED of ITPO, along with participants from India and abroad.

Announcing the theme of next IITF - 'Vocal for local, local to go global', Goyal hoped that the next edition of the event would be the largest ever after completion of the remaining IECC project of the Pragati Maidan. He informed that the as per preliminary reports and

Curtains drawn

L C Goyal announces theme for next year at ITPO's award function during the closing ceremony of IITF 2021,



estimation, the fair has generated an economic activity of ₹1,000 crores which is an indication of economy fast returning to normal in the post pandemic situation. He also expressed happiness over the participation response and enthusiasm of the visitors.

The Awards for Excellence in Display were presented by the Union Minister in different categories. Bihar was honoured with gold medals in the partner state as well as in the state/UT categories, while both of the focus states, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, were also awarded gold. Assam was conferred silver medal, Kerala bronze and Madhya Pradesh was given special appreciation.

Ensuring ease of living

Jitender Singh launches face recognition technology for submission of Digital Life Certificate by pensioners



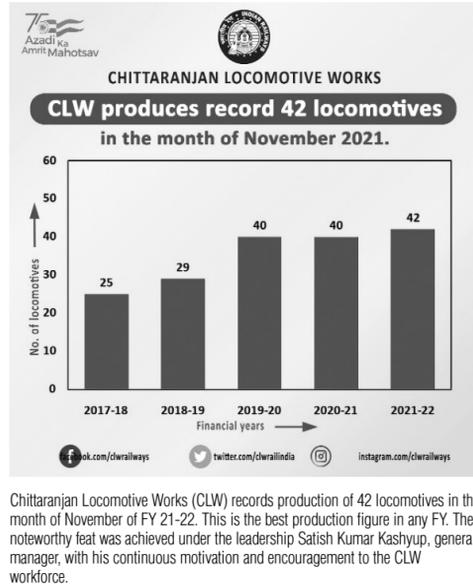
The Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitender Singh launched the face recognition technology for submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) by the pensioners.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh informed that Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has been undertaking several reforms for timely and smooth payment of pension and has also taken various steps in the past for promoting welfare of pensioners. An online system for submission of life certificate 'Jeevan Pramaan' was launched by the Prime Minister in 2014 for ease of living of pensioners. Jeevan Pramaan Pportal has made the process for submission of life certificate faster and more transparent, as a pensioner can give an online life certificate, anytime and from anywhere, by attaching a biometric device to his PC/mobile or by using services of a Common Service Centre (CSC) or any bank branch. The pensioner also gets status of submission and acceptance through SMS. The system is

also helpful to the banks as they can update thousands of life certificate records in a single click

Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has been working with National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) for development of a face-recognition technology-based system using UIDAI's Aadhaar software for submission of digital life certificate. Introduction of this technology is a further step in the direction of ensuring ease of living for pensioners and family pensioners. Under this facility, identity of a pensioner or family pensioner will be established through face recognition technique. It will be possible to submit life certificate using this technology from any android based smart phone.

DLC through face recognition technique is a breakthrough technology which will reduce pensioners' dependence on external bio-metric devices and make the process affordable and accessible, thus, ensuring ease of living for pensioners and family pensioners.



PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

Defending champion PV Sindhu has got a first round bye and faces the prospect of coming up against Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying and former world number one Carolina Marin in the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively of the World Badminton Championships here.

Sindhu, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, has been seeded sixth in the December 12-19 showpiece event.

The world number seven Indian has seen a resurgence in form as she had reached semifinals in the last three tournaments she had played.

Sindhu faces the winner of Martina Repiska of Slovenia and Ruselli Hartawan of Indonesia in the second round. If she clears the third round, Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, who had beaten her in the Tokyo Olympics semifinals, will be awaiting her in the quarterfinals.

If she Sindhu gets past Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, she could be up against Marin who had beaten her in the 2016 Rio



PV SINDHU GETS FIRST ROUND BYE IN WORLD C'SHIPS, TAI TZU IN LINE IN QUARTERS

Olympics summit clash.

Marin returns from injury straight into the World Championships and she will be

playing in an arena named after her. Tai Tzu has also taken sufficient rest as she hasn't played since winning silver at Tokyo 2020.

The other half of the women's singles has two players -- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan and An Seyoung of Korea -- who have

swept the prominent World Tour titles since the Olympics.

Nozomi Okuhara of Japan whom Sindhu had beaten in the

2019 final is also in the other half of the draw.

Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yu Fei of China is not taking part like many other players from her country.

In men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth, seeded 12th, will open his campaign against local player Pablo Abian and has the prospect of facing compatriot B Sai Praneeth (seeded 14th) in the quarterfinals, if both are able to reach that stage.

Defending champion and top seed Kento Momota of Japan could be the man waiting for the Indians in the semifinals.

Young Lakshya Sen has also been drawn in the same half as his two senior compatriots and faces Max Weisskirchen of Germany in the opening round. He can be up against Momota in the quarterfinals if the Indian reaches there.

In the men's

doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been seeded eighth and handed a first round bye. Three other Indian pairs -- Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Arun George and Sanyam Shukla are also in the fray.

In women's doubles, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face the French duo of Delphine Delrue and Lea Palermo in the first round.

Two other Indian pairs -- Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh, and Maneesha K and Rutaparna Panda -- are also in the fray.

In mixed doubles, three Indian pairs -- Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh, MR Arjun and Maneesha K and Utkarsh Arora and K a r i s h m a Wadkar -- are in the fray.



We are getting best possible preparation for World Cup: Mithali | Andy Flower steps down from coaching role at Punjab Kings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India are scheduled to play only one series before the Women's World Cup early next year but ODI skipper Mithali Raj feels the team is getting the best preparation possible ahead of the mega event.

In the last nine months, India hosted South Africa before playing a three-match series in England and Australia. They lost all three series but made the mighty Australia work really hard for it and also ended their 26-match winning streak in the third ODI Down Under.

India will play World Cup hosts New Zealand before the ICC event in March-April.

"We have played three best teams since March and it has



given us good preparation. Players have played domestic cricket and also in the Women's Big Bash so they are getting game time which is the most

important thing. "We are getting to play in New Zealand before World Cup which is also good," said Mithali after a partnership

between KFC and Indian Deaf Cricket Association was announced here on Wednesday.

India, who were unable to post 250 plus scores, did that twice in the Australia series and chased down 265 in the final ODI.

"When you play against a strong team in its backyard you try to give your best. Though we lost the series, the matches were very close. We scored 270 and chased 270 odd, if we can do that consistently we will be among the best sides in world cricket," said Mithali.

Middle-order batting needs improvement but Mithali said all departments must fire as a unit if they are to win the World Cup.

"We bat as a unit so you can't pinpoint one area. There

are times when top order failed and the others performed. As a unit if we look to post a good total then it will help. If we focus on one area like middle order then it becomes too much of a burden for that particular slot."

India finished runners-up in 2017 when not many expected them to but expectations will be high this time.

"There were not enough expectations back then. Now in 2021 players have got experience and got a lot of exposure with the T20 leagues. Overall we have young players but they have got enough exposure. It is just of matter of gelling well as a team.

"Every match will be different there. The quicker we read our opponents the better it will be for us," she added.

Andy Flower steps down from coaching role at Punjab Kings



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assistant coach Andy Flower has parted ways with Punjab Kings and is expected to land a role in one of the new teams ahead of IPL 2022.

Former Zimbabwe captain Flower, who worked as a coach in England for more than a decade and guided the national team there, was hired for his maiden IPL stint ahead of the 2020

season. "He sent his resignation to the team recently. It has been accepted.

"There is a good chance that he goes to one of the new teams (Lucknow or Ahmedabad)," a BCCI official told PTI.

There is a good possibility that the 53-year-old is given a bigger role in his next IPL assignment.

Flower worked alongside head coach Anil Kumble for the past two seasons. The development comes at a time when K L Rahul, Punjab Kings skipper for the past two seasons, is expected to move to the Lucknow franchise.

Punjab wanted to retain Rahul but he did not want to stay.

It remains to be seen if Flower stays as head coach of CPL franchise Saint Lucia Kings, which is owned by a same consortium that owns Punjab Kings. Saint Lucia finished runners-up in 2020 and 2021 season.

Injury-plagued Saina pulls out of World Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world no.1 Saina Nehwal will miss the World Championships for the first time in her international career due to multiple injuries that have derailed her season.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist, who has won a silver and bronze besides eight quarterfinal finishes in the World Championships over the years, is recovering from a groin pull and knee injury.

The big event will be held in Huelva, Spain from December 12 to 19. "Saina had to withdraw from World Championship as she is still recovering from the groin and a knee injury. She

won't be able to regain fitness in time to play the tournament," Saina's husband and fellow shuttler Kashyap told PTI. Returning to action at the Thomas and Uber Cup Final in Aarhus, Denmark in October, Saina had to retire midway in the round-robin match against Spain's Clara Azurmendi due to a groin niggle. She played in Denmark but again withdrew midway into the second game of the first round match at French Open.

"She had a tough groin injury in Uber Cup. She was fine in Denmark but it didn't heal properly and again started paining when she was playing in French Open. It aggravated and became serious," said Kashyap. "She also had a



knee injury in France and had to pull out. She is doing her rehabilitation now. Hopefully, she will be able to get back to training from 10th or 15th of this month." In a stellar career, Saina has never missed the World Championships since making her debut in the 2006 edition. The 31-year-old from Hyderabad claimed the silver in 2015 when her rampaging run was stopped by Spain's Carolina Marin in the final. She also secured a bronze two years later at Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2018, Saina claimed her second individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and also helped the country win its first mixed team title in the quadrennial event.

'Golden Boy' Neeraj Chopra to launch PM's mission

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra will visit Sanskardham School in Ahmedabad on December 4 and launch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission to spread awareness about balanced diet, fitness and sports.

During his meeting with Tokyo Olympians at his residence on August 16, Modi had urged India's Olympians and Paralympians to visit 75 schools each by the 2023 Independence Day and spread awareness against malnutrition and also play a sport with schoolchild-

ren. On Wednesday, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted to say that javelin thrower Chopra will set in motion the PM's mission.

"PM Sh @narendramodiji gave a clarion call to our Olympians & Paralympians to visit schools and interact with students on the importance of 'santulit aahaar', fitness, sports & more. Starting Dec 4 @Neeraj_chopra1 will be at Sanskardham School in Ahmedabad to launch this mission," Thakur wrote on his Twitter handle. PTI

Germany beats Britain in Davis Cup for 1st semi since 2007

AP ■ INNSBRUCK

Germany came from behind to upset Britain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals after Kevin Krawietz and Tim Pütz won the decisive doubles match.

The German pair defeated British teammates Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) after the best-of-three tie was level following the two singles.

Krawietz and Pütz saved four set points in the tiebreaker before taking the opening set and won the second tiebreaker after winning seven straight points from 5-0 down.

"This is an incredible team achievement," Krawietz said.



"We have a great atmosphere in the team from day one."

Daniel Evans had given Britain the lead by beating Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-1, but Jan-

Lennard Struff pulled Germany even with the 10-time champion by beating Cameron Norrie 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2.

Germany has won the Davis

Cup three times but not since 1993. In its first semifinal since 2007, Germany will meet either Sweden or the team from Russia on Saturday. Croatia will face either Serbia or Kazakhstan in the other semifinal.

"We have done everything to win," Struff said. "We hope our journey goes on and the next goal is to win the semifinal."

Britain was seeking its fourth semifinal berth in the last six editions of the tournament. It last won the event in 2015, and it had beaten Germany 2-0 when the teams also met in the quarterfinal two years ago.

"Everyone is gutted, this is a tough day to swallow," Britain

team captain Leon Smith said. "It could have gone either way, but it wasn't to be today. They gave their best effort but sometimes that is not enough, and Germany deserves to go through."

Struff said his win over Norrie was "one of the most important victories of my career. Cam Norrie is a real fighter. I started very well, went 4-1 up, but when you take so many risks, you can expect that more mistakes will come."

The 12th-ranked Norrie failed to serve out the opening set against Struff when leading 6-5, and the Briton missed two set points in the tiebreaker.

Hyderabad kick off December with Jamshedpur challenge



PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Coming off a memorable victory over defending champions Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC will be raring to go when they take on in-form Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League game here on Thursday.

The game will be the first of six for Manolo Marquez's men in a hectic December, and inci-

dentally, all of them are scheduled to be played at the same venue.

Currently in fourth position, Owen Coyle's Red Miners are fresh from a 3-1 victory over FC Goa and will be high on confidence going into this game.

HFC head coach Marquez believes his team is ready for the game but also knows that it will not be an easy one for his side.

"For me, Owen Coyle's team are always tough to face. Last season, both games were very equal and ended in a draw," the coach said.

"This season, they have players who are comfortable playing different styles of football and are happy to play with more possession. They also have a similar squad from last season and for me, they will surely fight for the top-4," he added.

In attack, Jamshedpur have Nerijus Valskis and Jordan Murray, both of whom were on the scoresheet in the last game.

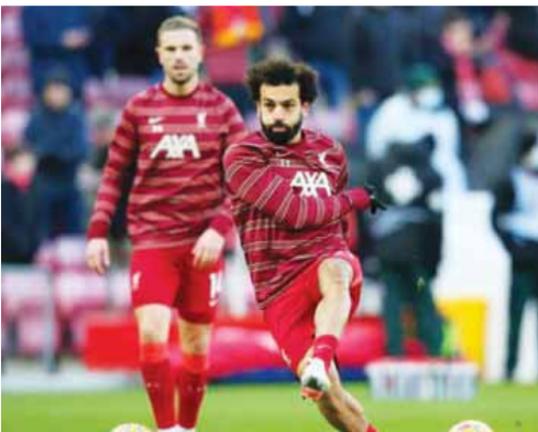
Liverpool primed to pile on misery for Everton

AP ■ LONDON

Arriving with the best attack in the Premier League, Liverpool looks primed to pile on the misery for local rival Everton in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

Everton hasn't won any of its last seven games and the pressure is increasing on manager Rafa Benitez, who is taking on his former club.

Meanwhile, Liverpool great Steve Gerrard could do his old club a big favor by leading Aston Villa, where he has recently taken over as manager, to a win over Manchester City, one of Liverpool's main title contenders. Second-place City is a point ahead of third-place Liverpool and a point behind Chelsea, which is also in action at Watford. Fourth-place West Ham is at home to Brighton, third-to-last Burnley looks for just its second win of the season in a trip to Wolverhampton, and Leicester travels to Southampton.



SPAIN

Spanish league leader Real Madrid can increase its advantage at the top when it hosts Athletic Bilbao

in a match postponed from the ninth round. Madrid is four points clear from both Atlético Madrid and Real Sociedad.

Madrid is unbeaten against Athletic in 12 league matches, with eight wins and four losses.

Eighth-place Athletic hasn't won in five consecutive league matches.

In the Copa del Rey, Sevilla plays at Córdoba, Real Sociedad visits Panadería Pulido and Real Betis plays at CFI Alicante.

ITALY

After losing back-to-back Serie A matches, AC Milan will try to get back on track in the league when it visits relegation-threatened Genoa.

Milan has slipped three points below league leader Napoli, which travels to Sassuolo.

Inter Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip up from the top two and hosts lowly Spezia. The defending champion is third, four points below Napoli. Also fifth-placed Roma visits Bologna.

FRANCE

It's Super Wednesday in Ligue

1 with 10 games in the evening. Leader Paris Saint-Germain will miss an injured Neymar when it hosts third-placed Nice.

PSG will rely on Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi to crack the joint-tightest defense in the league. On a 13-game unbeaten run in all competitions, Rennes can consolidate second place against defending champion Lille.

Expect goals in that game as it features Lille's Jonathan David, the league's top scorer, and Rennes' Gaetan Laborde, the second most prolific scorer.

Marseille can make up ground in the race for Champions League spots with a win at mid-table Nantes.

Lyon will host Reims without spectators after the league sanctioned Lyon for incidents at home on Nov. 21 when Dimitri Payet was hit on the head by a bottle of water thrown from the stands in a game that was abandoned.

Six-time champions Germany, Argentina, France enter Junior Hockey WC semifinals

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Six-time champions Germany and Argentina earned hard-fought wins over Spain and Netherlands respectively, while France cruised past Malaysia to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.

In the first quarterfinal of the day, Germany eked out a narrow 3-1 win over Spain in shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 2-2 in regulation time, before Argentina beat Netherlands 2-1.

In the third quarterfinal, the tournament's surprise package France beat Malaysia 4-0.

Germany took the lead from a penalty stroke through Christopher Kutter in the fifth minute but the lead was shortlived as Ignacio Abajo equalised for Spain from a penalty corner six minutes later.

After two barren quarters, it was Spain who shocked the Germans in

the 59th minute when Eduard de Ignacio-Simo scored a fine field goal to give his side the lead.

There was more drama in store as just at the stroke of the hooter, Germany secured a penalty corner and Masi Pfandt stepped up to take the match into shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, Paul Smith, Michel Struthoff and Hannes Muller found the back of the net, while Matteo Poljaric missed.

Spain were awful from the one-on-one situation as Abajo, Guillermo Fortuno and de Ignacio-Simo missed while only Gerard Clapes scored.

Germany are the most successful team in the history of the Junior World Cup having won the tournament six times.

The Germans won consecutive titles in 2009 and 2013 in New Delhi, which was their last crown. Germany secured the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in 2016 in Lucknow.