

OPINION 6PROPAGANDA AROUND
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TRANSITION TO 4.5 DAY WORK WEEK**AVEUNES 10**BREAKING HEALTHCARE
BARRIERS

DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2

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Farmers to take final call today on ending protest

Most kisan leaders satisfied with Govt response, but seek clarity on issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The agitating farmers' groups will meet on Wednesday to take a final call whether to end their protests after they reportedly received a positive response from the Government on meeting their demands.

In a meeting held at Singhu border on Tuesday, farmer leaders expressed their satisfaction over the Centre's move to resolve the standoff, but some wanted more clarity on the issues raised by them and sought clarification from the Government.

After the meeting, farmers' leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said they will hold another meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday. He said several farmers have sought certain clarifications, including on the precondition set for withdrawal of "fake" cases against farmers.

"The Government sent a proposal, it was discussed and presented before all members under the aegis of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and sent it to the



Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders address a Press conference after their meeting to decide their future course of action in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Government with our reservations," Rajewal said.

Farmer leaders added that there is a general consensus among the SKM leaders on the written assurance they have received from the Government. "The Morcha will seek further clarifications on a few points of the Government's proposal, and will reconvene at 2 pm on Wednesday for further discussion. The Morcha hopes for a positive response from the Government," said the SKM in a statement.

Last week Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to two farmer leaders (via a phone call) to discuss outstanding issues; this was after their protests forced the recall of the farm laws.

The Centre has conveyed to farmer unions that the proposed committee on the min-

imum support price (MSP) will have representations from the SKM, Government officials, and representatives of States.

Besides, the Government has agreed to drop all police cases against farmers — this includes stubble burning complaints and cases filed by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police after withdrawal of protests.

On the Government proposal to set up a committee on MSP, Rajewal said that farmers had objections to it. "We do not want other committees. We have demanded the Government give a clarification in this regard.

On the withdrawal of cases against farmers, Rajewal said, "We are also against the condition set by the Government that farm unions should lift the protest for the withdrawal of fake cases against farmers. We

won't accept any such precondition."

Farmers groups earlier formed a five-member committee of Balbir Singh Rajewal, Shiv Kumar Kakka, Gurnam Singh Charuni, Yudhvir Singh and Ashok Dhawale to hold talks with the Centre and State Governments on their demands.

After the announcement of repealing three contentious farm laws, the SKM had written to the Prime Minister on November 21 and placed six demands.

The demands are: Legal guarantee of MSP for all produce based on C2+50% formula; withdrawal of draft Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020/2021; removal of the penal provisions on farmers in the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021; withdrawal of false cases registered against the farmers over the course of the ongoing movement; dismissal and arrest of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra Teli in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri incident; compensation and rehabilitation to the families of the who died during the farm movement; and allocation of land for a memorial to them at Singhu.

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Lal topiwala like red alert for UP: Modi

PM inaugurates 3 mega projects in Yogi's home turf in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at the launch of various development projects, in Gorakhpur on Tuesday PTI

Without naming the Samajwadi Party chief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday unleashed a sharp attack on Akhilesh Yadav warning people against "lal topiwala". The SP chief always dons red cap during his political campaigns.

The PM was addressing a rally in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home turf Gorakhpur ahead of the Assembly elections in the State.

Modi inaugurated three mega projects, including an AIIMS and the fertiliser plant, in Gorakhpur.

Taking a jibe at Akhilesh and his party men, Modi said the people of UP are aware that "lal topiwala" are only interested in cars flashing red beacons.

Questioning the ideological commitment of BJP's political rivals, Modi said "lal topiwala" discarded the ideologies of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jai Prakash Narayan long back.

"They are not bothered about the problems of common people. Lal topiwala want power so that they can indulge in scams, load their safes with cash and valuables, carry out illegal encroachments and allow the mafia to have a free run," Modi said.

"Please remember that lal topiwala are like red alert for UP — they are like the ringing of danger bells," the PM said amid loud cheers from the crowd.

Modi said before 2014, the country was known for importing urea, and the shortage of fertilisers used to make headlines, but the situation has improved now.

Modi said his Government stopped misuse of urea, and issued soil health cards to farmers so that they know which type of fertiliser is needed.

The PM said his Government also took steps to hike urea production by reviving closed fertiliser plants.

He said the amount of sugarcane dues paid by the Yogi Government in four and a half years is more than the total sum paid by the previous Governments in the State in 10 years.

The other project he inaugurated is a Regional Medical Research Centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The three big-ticket projects are worth over ₹9,600 crore.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

DJ, WRESTLER HELD FOR ARMS TRAFFICKING

New Delhi: A disc jockey and a wrestler were among three men who were arrested on charges of supplying illegal arms to criminals, and 27 semi-automatic pistols were seized from their possession. Yogesh Patel, alias Nitesh (22), Pankaj Kumar Bhardwaj (20) and Jitendra, alias Jittu, were arrested in two operations by the Special Cell unit, they said.

SERVICES AT DELHI'S 3 CENTRE-RUN HOSPS HIT

New Delhi: Patient care at Delhi's centre-run Rani Manohar Lohia, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge hospitals were hit as resident doctors boycotted all routine and emergency services for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as part of a nationwide protest over the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling.

UP: 3 KIDS BURNT TO DEATH DURING SLEEP

Mirzapur: Two sisters and a brother, aged three to seven years, were burnt to death at Pachokhara Khurd village in Madihana area of the district here, police said. The children were sleeping on a pile of straw in the barn on Monday evening when it caught fire, police said.



A child sitting in a bucket being evacuated by a man and a policeman from a flooded area of Verma Nagar due to the overflowing Ariyar river following heavy rain, in Trichy district on Tuesday PTI

SP, RLD stitch alliance for UP Assembly polls

In joint rally with Jayant, Akhilesh attacks BJP

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav with RLD leader Jayant Choudhary during a SP-RLD rally in Meerut on Tuesday PTI

Samajwadi Party chief Jayant Chowdhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) formally announced their alliance for Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections 2022 at a joint rally in Meerut district on Tuesday.

Akhilesh and Jayant arrived for the rally, dubbed "Parivartan Sandesh" in the Dabathua area of Meerut district, in the same helicopter.

Addressing the gathering, Akhilesh said if the alliance comes to power after next year elections, the first work will be to build a memorial for "martyrs" of the farmers' protest. He attacked the ruling BJP saying the "2022 election will see the eclipse of the BJP from western UP, as the ruling party has practiced the politics of lying

with the people and politics of polarisation."

Akhilesh remembered Chaudhury Charan Singh, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Lohia, and farmers leader Mahendra Singh Tikait and highlighted their contribution to making an egalitarian society.

"Now, the BJP will be

wiped out from the State. This time there would be the sunset of the BJP forever in West Uttar Pradesh," he said.

"Kisan ka inquilab hogा, 2022 me badlav hogा (there will be a revolution by farmers and change in 2022)," Akhilesh said.

Continued on Page 2

Air quality panel orders closure of NCR plants not using clean fuels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Tuesday issued directions for immediate closure of industries located in industrial areas where PNG infrastructure and supply are available but have still not switched over to PNG.

"These violating industries/industrial units will not be permitted to schedule their operations till December 12, 2021, and the position will be reviewed for further decisions," CAQM said.

While the air quality in Delhi is not improving despite the several measures taken by both Centre and Delhi Government, the CAQM has enforced strict actions against the industries. "The commission believes that there is an urgent need to take further pre-



ventive measures, as a matter of extreme emergency and abundant caution," it added.

Earlier, CAQM directed Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to audit inspect the industries which are already connected to PNG supply and ensure that those industries are

not using any other polluting fuels like coal and maintain strict vigil to prevent the use of unapproved fuels in the NCR, through the enforcement agencies concerned and take stringent action, in the case of the defaulting units.

Continued on Page 2

SC rejects NIA plea against bail to Sudha in Elgar case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed National Investigation Agency's (NIA) appeal challenging the Bombay High Court order granting default bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

"We see no reason to interfere with the High Court order," said a bench of Justices UU Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi, refusing to consider the submissions raised by the NIA which had moved the apex court against the December 1 order.

Bharadwaj was arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case in August 2018 under the provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The activist lawyer was accused of hatching conspiracy to overthrow the Union Government, was enti-

led to bail and its denial would be in breach of her fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the High Court had said.

The High Court had directed that Bharadwaj, lodged in the Byculla women's prison, be produced before the Mumbai special NIA court on December 8, and conditions of her bail and date of release be decided.

Bharadwaj is the first

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

The High Court had rejected the default bail plea filed by eight other co-accused in the case — Sudhir Dhawale, Varavara Rao, Ron Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira. The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad conclave, held at Shaniwarwada in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial located on the city's outskirts.

The High Court had issued an order of "winding up SpiceJet and appointment of official liquidator" in a case filed by Credit Suisse claiming non-payment of \$24.01 million dues to engine maintenance services firm SRT Technologies.

"The company is examining the order and shall initiate appropriate remedial steps including preferring an appeal before the appellate jurisdiction within the time frame allowed by the HC," SpiceJet noted.

maintenance during the currency of the agreement rejected the company's defence and ordered winding up of the airline and directed the official liquidator to take over the assets of the company." SpiceJet noted.

However, on the same day, the Madras High Court issued another order wherein it stayed its earlier order of winding up SpiceJet and the airline will soon initiate "appropriate remedial steps including preferring an appeal" against the order before a higher bench, the company said on Tuesday.

In a filing to BSE, the budget carrier said the Madras High Court had on Monday issued an order of "winding up SpiceJet and appointment of official liquidator" in a case filed by Credit Suisse claiming non-payment of \$24.01 million dues to engine maintenance services firm SRT Technologies.

"The company is examining the order and shall initiate appropriate remedial steps including preferring an appeal before the appellate jurisdiction within the time frame allowed by the HC," SpiceJet noted.

Pay \$5 mn in 2 weeks or face liquidation, HC tells SpiceJet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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Deputy Commandant's Parade held at IMA Dehradun

319 Indian & 68 Foreign Gentleman Cadets displayed their turnout & precision march-past

PNS ■ Dehradun

The deputy commandant and chief instructor's parade on Tuesday at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) set the stage for the final passing out parade (PoP) which would be held on Saturday. In the parade 319 Indian and 68 Foreign gentleman cadets displayed their immaculate turnout and precision march-past. The parade was reviewed by

deputy commandant and chief instructor of IMA Major General Alok Joshi.

He complimented the gentleman cadets and encouraged them to be the finest officers of Indian Army. He also emphasised the importance of valour, honour, ethos and fine traditions of Indian Army. The chief instructor mentioned that the efforts of



the faculty and the hard work of the gentleman cadets were evident from the crisp and coordinated movements on the drill square.

He said, "Gentlemen you must never forget that the hallmark of a good officer apart from professional competence is a fair play and righteousness. Whenever situations demand you to choose between military

ideals taught in the academy and actual ground realities, you must recall the 'Chetwode Credo' and the 'Honour Code'. The choice will always be between the harder right and an easier wrong and I presume you all know the right course. In that way you will be able to always look at your men, colleagues and superiors squarely in the eyes. You will then be self-assured and confident with

and

radiate an aura of a true leader".

Maj Gen Joshi also complimented gentleman cadets from ten friendly foreign countries on successful completion of the training and wished them all the success ahead as they carry the cherished memories of their time at IMA.

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BJP condemns Rawat's statement on projects launched

PNS ■ Dehradun

The Bharatiya Janata Party state spokesman Suresh Joshi has strongly objected to senior Congress leader and former chief minister Harish Rawat's statement regarding the development projects launched recently by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the state. Rawat had said that some of the development projects worth Rs 18,000 crore dated back to the tenure of the UPA government. Joshi said that Rawat keeps on making such flippant statements to remain in the news. Stating that Rawat is disconnected from ground realities, he said that even the public takes the statements made by Congress leaders lightly. Questioning the statement made



by Rawat, he asked whether even a rupee had been released for any of the said projects before May 26, 2014 when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister. He said, "Rawat should provide evidence if any money was released for the development projects. Regarding the rail project, it is laughable that at the last moment Rawat got it inaugurated by Sonia Gandhi without the money being approved and in the absence of a detailed project report. A sum of Rs 4,200 crore was approved for the project after the Modi government assumed office and presently tenders worth Rs 8,800 crore have been invited. Our work is visible on the ground while the Congress' work is on papers."



Auli, Badrinath under blanket of snow

PNS ■ Joshimath

The tourists are enjoying the season's first snowfall in the Upper Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand. The Badrinath shrine and its surrounding areas are under a blanket of fresh snow. Famous tourist destination Auli has also received the first snowfall of the season which has brought smiles on the faces of the hotel owners and others associated with the tourism industry. On



Monday Auli received heavy snowfall which sparked the

enthusiasm of tourists who were seen thoroughly enjoying the condition. Those associated with the industry hope that the snowfall would continue in coming days as it will boost the tourist footfall for the Christmas and New

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STF nabs four conmen for insurance frauds

PNS ■ Dehradun

The Special Task Force (STF) has arrested four members of a gang for alleged frauds in vehicle insurance that have possibly caused a loss of crores of rupees to the central and state governments. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of STF, Ajay Singh informed that STF was getting information for quite some time that vehicle owners in Dehradun are getting insurances of four wheelers and commercial



vehicles at cheaper rates than the real prices of the insurance. He said that the status of these insurances was also displayed as valid on the portal of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. "The STF teams started the investigation and arrested three men outside RTO in Dehradun and one man from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. They revealed during the investigation that after 2018, many companies started offering online insurance services for vehicle owners. They started posing as agents of these companies and started

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In school record of my son Piyush Bangwal my name has been mistakenly entered as Oonam Bangwal whereas my correct name is POONAM BANGWAL and it should be corrected for all future purposes.

Poonam Bangwal, M/o Piyush Bangwal, R/o 14, Badrinath Colony, Naishavila Road, Dehradun

खोया-पाया/सूचना

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सीती राम खेवाल पुत्र मोहन लाल खेवाल, गली नं. 10 सुनाप नगर, देहरादून।

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For advertisement booking or any query contact-9045057787

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Principal, Oak Grove School, Northern Railway, Jharipani and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open tender on the prescribed forms scheduled to be opened on 14.01.2022 for the under noted works:

Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender Form Per Set (₹)
01/W/OGS/2022-2023	Supply of Eggs of hen and dressed Chicken to Oak Grove School during the period of 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2023	25,93,300.00	51,900.00	3,000.00
02/W/OGS/2022-2023	Supply of Bread & Buns to Oak Grove School during the period of 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2023	19,84,200.00	39,700.00	2,000.00
03/W/OGS/2022-2023	Supply of Fruits, Vegetable, Potatoes and Onions to Oak Grove School during the period of 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2023	30,96,010.00	61,900.00	3,000.00
04/W/OGS/2022-2023	Laundry Services to Oak Grove School during the period of 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2023	13,18,642.00	26,400.00	2,000.00
05/W/OGS/2022-2023	Hiring of one 22-26 seater bus on retaining basis with driver and helper for carrying school children to Mussoorie & Dehradun area as well as other parts of Uttarakhand and inside the school during 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021 for 12 months (Except during the months of December & January)	12,19,992.00	24,400.00	2,000.00

Please Note: 1. TENDERS WITHOUT EARNEST MONEY WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED. 2. Tender Forms can be purchased from the office of Principal, Oak Grove School, Northern Railway, Jharipani, Mussoorie, Distt. Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248179 on working day from 27.12.2021 to 13.01.2022 up to 17:30 hours on payment of the requisite cost of tender forms. In case, the Tender Form is required by post, ₹ 500.00 will have to be paid extra. The request for tender forms by post should reach not later than 27.12.2021. The cost of the tender forms is non-refundable and tender form is not transferable. The demand draft for the cost of tender forms must only be made in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad. 3. The tenders duly sealed in the prescribed manner can be deposited in the tender box kept in the office of Principal, Oak Grove School, Northern Railway, Jharipani, Mussoorie, Distt. Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248179 up to 12:00 hours on 14.01.2022 and will be opened soon thereafter. Tenders can also be sent through registered post so as to reach in these offices not later than date and time specified above. Any tender received after the specified date/time will be rejected. 4. Validity of Offer:- 60 days from the date of opening of tender. 5. Tenderers must read the tender form carefully as regard the submission of the earnest money and cost of tender forms and complying with the other conditions. 6. Tender Notice is available on school's website www.oakgrovejharipani.in and Northern Railway's website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. Tender document will also be available on these websites from 27.12.2021 to 13.01.2022 upto 17:30 hrs.

2869/2021

Tender Notice No.: 01-05/W/OGS/2022-2023 Dated: 26.11.2021

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Sports Policy-2021 to promote sports, players- CM Says an international standard sports university would be set up in the state

PNS ■ Dehradun

The chief minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the state government has implemented the Sports Policy- 2021 to promote sports and sportspersons in the state. He said that the new policy aims to find and shape the sporting talent, increase the interest of people for sports, sports planning, arrangement of extra nutritious food and creating new employment opportunities for sportsmen. He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the national level table tennis competition at the parade ground here on Tuesday. The competition would be organised from December 7 to 14.

Comparing sports with the rainbow which emerges from among the dark clouds, Dhami said that sports teaches us discipline, perseverance, commitment and the ability to correct oneself. He said that by taking part in sports one can



remain more active and healthy. Dhami said that the Indian sportspersons performed well in the recently held Olympics and Paralympics and now sports has become a point of discussion in every household and this discussion should not stop.

He opined that the national

sporting events not only provide a platform for the players to show their talent but also help in cultural exchange. The CM said that the new sports policy of Uttarakhand would help in giving recognition to the state in the field of sports and exuded confidence that the players from the state would perform exceptionally well in the national and international events.

The CM said that the state government is committed to setting up a sports university in Uttarakhand and the efforts are being made to make Sports College Raipur as a university of international standards. He announced that a state level

Khelo India centre and a sports science centre would be opened in Dehradun. The CM informed that the state government has started the process to set up open Gyms in every village panchayat.

He said that the state government has made Hockey star Vandana Kataria as the brand ambassador of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign.

The sports and education minister Arvind Pandey said that the state government is doing every possible effort to promote sports in Uttarakhand. He said that every facility is provided to the players under the new sports policy.

The Rudraprayag MLA Bharat Chaudhary, sports director GS Rawat, the president of Uttarakhand Table Tennis association Chetan Gurung, secretary Prince Vipon and others were present on the occasion.

Multitudes pay homage to soldier martyred in Nagaland

PNS ■ New Tehri

The mortal remains of soldier Gautam Lal, a resident of Noli village in Kirtinagar block of Tehri district, who was martyred in the recent Nagaland Ghat. He was then accorded a final farewell at his ancestral ghat with state and military honours.

Local MLA Vinod Kandari,

the chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Several people paid homage to martyr Gautam Lal at Lakshmi Kirtinagar. He was then accorded a final farewell at his ancestral ghat with state and military honours.

floral tributes at the mortal remains of the martyr. On Sunday morning, Ramesh Lal of Noli village received information that his son, a paratrooper in the 21st battalion of the army's Parachute Regiment was martyred in Nagaland. Gautam was



village people from the whole area came out in large numbers to pay homage to the martyr amid

district magistrate Eva Ashish Srivastava and senior superintendent of police Tripti Bhatt also paid

the youngest of five siblings of whom three are sisters.

AAP to gherao Vidhan Sabha on Dec 9

PNS ■ Dehradun

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that it will gherao Vidhan Sabha on the first day of the winter session of the Assembly session on Thursday alleging that the BJP led state government has been a failure during its nearly five year term so far. The AAP spokesman Ravindra Anand said that BJP has failed to fulfil the promises it made during the last assembly elections and has not done any significant development work across the state. He said that like the past chief ministers, chief minister Pushkar Dhami also made

several announcements but nothing is being done at the ground level. He added that rather than improving the deteriorating condition of the state, the BJP remained busy changing the CMs. He said, "The government has failed to tackle major public issues like unemployment, migration and condition of health services in remote areas. They have also failed to fulfill the promises made in their manifesto of the 2017 assembly elections. It is appalling that the party still expects the public to vote for it."

Anand stated that hundreds of party workers and AAP

supporters will gherao the Vidhan Sabha on Thursday to protest against the government's failure.

Kejriwal to visit U'khand on Dec 11

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal will visit Kashipur in Uttarakhand on December 11. This will be his second visit in one month and an overall fifth visit to the state ahead of the 2022 state assembly elections. Addressing mediapersons in the party's state office in Dehradun, the AAP's state spokesman Naveen Pirzali informed that Kejriwal will visit Kashipur on Saturday this week to make an important announcement for the public. He said that the Delhi CM will also address a public gathering besides reviewing the party's preparation for election in the Kashipur constituency.

PNS

supporters will gherao the Vidhan Sabha on Thursday to protest against the government's failure.

DLSA to organise camps for compoundable cases under MV act

PNS ■ Dehradun

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) of Dehradun will set up camps in all the courts of the district today to raise awareness among locals about the compoundable cases under Motor Vehicles (MV) Act which can be settled in Lok Adalat. The DLSA secretary and civil judge Neha Kushwaha informed that Lok Adalat is being organised in all the courts of the district on December 11 as per the directions of the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA). She said that many are not aware that besides the cases related to land acquisitions, banks and debt recovery, family disputes and matrimonial cases, compoundable cases under the MV act can be settled in Lok Adalat too through amicable settlements. The DLSA secretary also informed that representatives from the

Strict Covid protocol for winter session of U'khand assembly

Negative RT- PCR test report must even for double vaccinated, 50 % attendance in Press and visitors' gallery

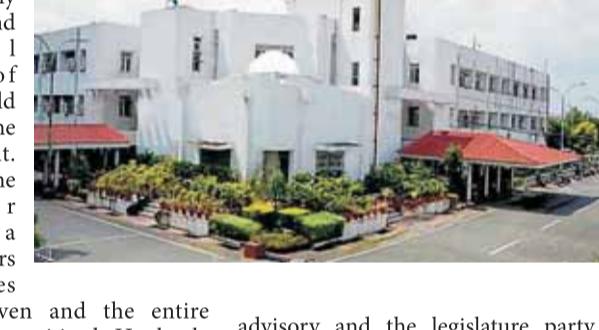
PNS ■ Dehradun

The speaker of Uttarakhand assembly Prem Chand Agarwal held a meeting with senior officers of administration and police on Tuesday and reviewed the preparation for the assembly session starting on December 9. In the meeting Agarwal said that Covid-19 protocol would be followed during the session and that everyone including the MLAs would have to produce the negative report of RT PCR test for entry in the assembly premises. The negative Covid-19 test report is mandatory for even those who have received both doses of the vaccine. The speaker said that arrangements for the Antigen test would be made at the entry of the Vidhan Sabha.

In the meeting the Speaker directed that the security arrangements should be fool proof. Later talking to the media persons Agarwal said that the

Covid protocol would be strictly adhered to and the main screening of everyone would be done at the entrance point. He said that the orders for deployment of a team of doctors and medicines

have been given and the entire building is being sanitized. He clearly said that non government people would not be given entry in the assembly and only 50 per cent attendance would be allowed in the press and visitors gallery. The security personnel of the MLAs would also not be allowed inside the building. The speaker said that the business



advisory and the legislature party meetings have been convened on Wednesday. The Deputy speaker Raghunath Singh Chauhan, chief secretary S S Sandhu, Additional Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan, District Magistrate (DM) R Rajesh Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

Pokhri fair of Chamoli given status of State Fair

PNS ■ Dehradun

The famous Pokhri Fair of Chamoli district has been given the status of a 'State Fair'. This announcement was made by the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at the winter fair named after the famous poet Chandra Kunwar Bartwal in Chamoli on Tuesday. He also inaugurated a tourist bungalow in Pokhri constructed at a cost of Rs 97.30 Lakh. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that Bartwal who depicted nature in all its splendor had given a treasure trove full of Hindi poems to the Hindi literature at the age of only 28 years. He said that Bartwal in his small journey wrote

more than 700 poems, songs and essays. The CM said that the state government is consistently for rural empowerment. He announced that the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Tapovan Dhak (Koshimath) would be named after former president of Badri Kedar Temple Committee (BKTC) Mohan Prasad Thapliyal. He also made many other announcements for the area. The Badrinath MLA Mahendra Bhatt and others were present on the occasion.

BRIDCUL (ब्रिड्कल)
CIN No. - U45203UR2008G032591
पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड बाजार लैंगरघाट कार्यपालक उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
इकाई कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, राजकीय आर्टोटोडॉइड निवासन पर के सामने, गाजरा, राहारनगुर रोड
टेलीफ़ोन-0135-2522941 ई-मेल - pmbridcul.ddn@gmail.com

Ref. No.: 1302/BRIDCUL-231

NIT (Notice Inviting Tender)

On behalf of Managing Director, BRIDCUL, sealed Item Rate Tenders with Post Qualification, are invited in two separate envelopes (Technical and Financial) simultaneously from Contractors/Dealer/Manufacturer for S.No. 1 & Contractors Empanelled with BRIDCUL in Civil Work Category-III (upto 2 Cr.) for S.No. 2 and as per the detailed specification, Terms & Conditions given in the tender documents for following work-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In Lac)	Bid Security /EMD (In Lac.)	Cost of Tender Form	Tender Document can be obtained/ submitted at
1	Providing & Placing of Furniture Equipments for Govt. Professional Degree College Paithani (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand	27.40	0.55 + 18% GST	Rs. 2000.00 + 18% GST	Project Unit BRIDCUL Dehradun
2	Construction of Green Campus and Beautification work of Govt. Degree College Jaiharikhali (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand	14.90	0.45 + 18% GST	Rs. 2000.00 + 18% GST	Project Unit BRIDCUL Dehradun

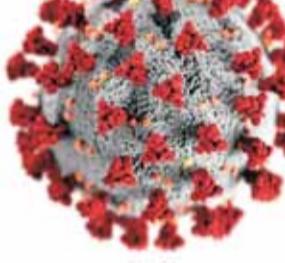
The tender documents can only be purchased from the office of the respective Project Manager between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on all working days from **08.12.2021 to 22.12.2021**. The cost of tender document amounting to Rs. 2000+18%GST, will be paid while purchasing the tender documents, by cash or Demand Draft. The tenders should reach the office latest by 1700 hours on **22.12.2021** and the technical bid shall be opened on same day at **1530 hours** in presence of tenderers who choose to be present.

Project Manager
BRIDCUL

Covid-19 21 patients surface in State on Tuesday

PNS ■ Dehradun

The state health department reported 21 new cases of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) on Tuesday from Uttarakhand. The department also reported three recoveries and no death from the disease on the day.



The cumulative count of Covid-19 patients in the state is now at 3,44,385 while a total of 3,30,611 patients have recovered from the disease so far. A total of 7411 patients of the disease have so far died in the state. The recovery percentage from the disease is at 96 per cent while the sample positivity rate on Tuesday was 0.15 per cent.

The state health department reported six new patients from Dehradun, five new patients

DLSA to organise camps for compoundable cases under MV act

PNS ■ Dehradun

from Nainital, four from Champawat and two each from Pithoragarh and Udhampur Nagar on Tuesday. One patient each was reported from Haridwar districts while no new patient was found in Bageshwar, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Tehri and Uttarkashi districts on the day.

The state now has 189 active cases of Covid-19.

Nainital with 54 cases is at the top of the table of active cases while Dehradun has 65 new cases of the disease. Uttarkashi has no active cases of the disease now. In the ongoing vaccination drive 70,981 people were vaccinated in 1177 sessions in the state held on Tuesday.

Maharaj inaugurates restored George Everest House

PNS ■ Dehradun

Sir George Everest House, which was in a dilapidated condition, will now emerge as a major tourist destination after being renovated. Tourists from around the world will come here in large numbers to see it. Tourism minister Satpal Maharaj said this after inaugurating the restored Everest House in Mussoorie on Tuesday.

He said that George Everest had spent a long time in Mussoorie. This surveyor and geographer from Wales had told the exact height and location of Everest for the first time. Therefore, on the recommendation of British surveyor Andrew Waugh, in the year 1865, this peak was named after him. Earlier this

peak was known as Peak-15. Maharaj said that the Everest House (residential complex)

situated in the middle of 172 acres site near Mussoorie and the observatory situated

about 50 meters away from it was constructed in 1832. He said that the renovation work

of the building was started in January 2019 and the entire project cost Rs 23.69 crore.

He said that the project comprises house renovation, observatory renovation, outhouse and bachelor room renovation, approach road, trek route, open air theatre, construction of demonstration ground and four mobile toilets, five food vans and two tourist buses etc. Till now an amount of Rs 16.41 crore has been spent while the remaining work will be completed soon. The minister also flagged off a tourist van, released the book The Great Ark and planted a sapling on the occasion.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of Principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Suprem Hardware, Kiran Arora, Raghav Arora, 63/64, Arhat Bazar, Dehradun 'Uttarakhand. A/c No: 242005000062	Property Situated at Municipal No- 29 New Number- 93/1, Guru Road Dehradun Uttrakhand- 248001	03/11/2021 Rs. 21,19,602.06/-	31/03/2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Sena: There is no alternative without Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Raut said during the meeting with Rahul Gandhi, what TMC leader Mamata Banerjee said on the opposition was also discussed.

Rajya Sabha member and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Sources said Raut discussed several issues with Rahul Gandhi, including Mamata Banerjee's move.

"There can be no front without the Congress. Even if there is a new alliance, an alliance will work under the leadership of Congress. There are many parties with the Congress. So why three - three front are required? What to do with so many fronts? In this way, we will not be able to give an alternative to BJD," Raut said.

"There should be only one coalition of the Opposition, its effort should be made. I told Rahul ji that he should take the lead. There were talk on the coming elections also," Raut told media persons.

Raut also said their another coalition partner under the guidance of NCP supremo Sharad Pawar is making efforts for a common Opposition front and he will make best efforts to ease out the strained relationship between the Congress and the TMC.

While Mamata had directly attacked Congress in her statement after meeting Pawar in Mumbai last week that there is no UPA, Pawar played safe saying all are welcome in fight against the BJD.

Sharing that "an attempt is being made to convene a meeting of the opposition," Raut said, "I have requested Rahul Gandhi to take the initiative in this matter."

"The leadership of this front will be decided later," he further informed.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha did not transact any significant business for the second consecutive day this week as Opposition parties continued their protest on Tuesday demanding the revocation of suspension of 12 MPs.

Holding the Government responsible for the deadlock, Opposition members said they will continue with their joint protests against the suspension of 12 MPs till the time it is revoked. While the Opposition members called for a full boycott of Parliament proceedings for a day on Wednesday, TMC announced that its MPs will boycott both houses of Parliament for the remainder of the Winter Session by accusing the Central Government of being "anti-farmer".

With Opposition members raising slogans, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the Bills, repeated requests from Deputy Chairman Harivansh to maintain order went unheeded and the

Pralhad Joshi said the treasury benches would also like the suspended MPs to participate in the proceedings of the House and they should apologise for their conduct so that their suspension could be revoked. He added, "If they apologise, the Government is ready to take them back immediately."

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill 2021 and The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020 amid the din. In all, the House witnessed two adjournments before the final one for the day around 3.12 pm. As the House resumed proceedings at 3 pm, Deputy Chairman Harivansh asked Mandaviya to introduce the bills.

As Mandaviya introduced the Bills, repeated requests from Deputy Chairman Harivansh to maintain order went unheeded and the

Opposition members continued to raise slogans against the Government. With the Opposition unrelenting, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the House for the day.

Earlier in the day, Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he has received a notice under the Rajya Sabha rule 267, that calls for setting aside the business of the day to take up the issue listed and is disallowing it. "Your notice is under rule 267. I have gone through it. I have not permitted it," Naidu told Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge.

Later in the day as the Opposition tried to raise their issues again, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said only the listed business will be allowed to be discussed and no other matter would be taken up. When he allowed Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge to speak, the latter took exception to Labour and Environment

Minister Bhupender Yadav's interruption, terming it "undemocratic", and compared it to the suspension of the 12 MPs.

Sanjay Singh of AAP and some other Congress members stormed the Well of the House twice. There was sloganising by the members who were joined by TMC MPs. TMC MP Derek O'Brien was also not allowed to raise the matter of suspension of the MPs.

Addressing reporters outside Parliament, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the suspension is against rules and undemocratic. He said they will continue to protest in support of the suspended members and sit on a dharna with them and also urge Lok Sabha members to sit in support with them.

Besides Congress president Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party in



Opposition parties' MPs participate in a protest near Mahatma Gandhi's statue demanding revocation of the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha members, during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Parliament on Wednesday to further deliberate on the winter session strategy. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will also be in attendance. The party has been pressing for revoking the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs and the proceedings of the Upper House have been disrupted due to Opposition protests over the issue.

Accusing the Central

Government of being "anti-farmer", the TRS also announced that its MPs will boycott both Houses of Parliament for the remainder of the Winter Session. Shouting slogans against the Government and in support of farmers, TRS MPs staged a walkout from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. All the MPs were dressed in black.

IIT scientist, IMA predict severe 3rd wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Day after one of the creators of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine warned that future pandemics could be even more lethal than Covid-19, an IIT scientist and top medical body, Indian Medical Association (IMA), echoed similar apprehensions as they predicted a severe third wave of the virus in India amid the threat posed by the Omicron variant which has infected two dozen people so far.

The IMA said taking precautionary measures is key to combating the challenge while IIT scientist, Manindra Agarwal predicted the third wave of coronavirus could hit the peak by February with cases likely to be reaching up to 1.5 lakh a day in the country.

Agarwal added that as of now South Africa has not seen a rise in hospitalisation.

milder than the second wave. He said in the new forecast, the new Omicron variant has been factored in.

"With the new variant, our current forecast is that the country could see the third wave by February but it will be milder than the second wave. So far we have seen that the severity of Omicron is not like the one seen in the Delta variant," Agarwal told a news agency.

He, however, said a close eye is being kept on cases in South Africa where many cases of this variant have been recorded.

Agarwal added that as of now South Africa has not seen a rise in hospitalisation.

He said a fresh set of data on the virus and hospitalisations would help in getting a more solid picture.

"It looks like although the new variant has shown high transmissibility, its severity is

not like the one seen in the Delta variant," Agarwal said.

He said as observed during the spread of delta, a mild lockdown (night curfew, restrictions on crowding) can bring down beta substantially. That will significantly reduce the peak value, he added.

The IMA has warned about a severe third wave of Covid-19 in India and recommended taking precautionary measures as a key to combatting the challenge.

IMA's warning comes at a time when cases of Omicron have multiplied in the country in less than a week. It is said to be the most heavily mutated strain of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Early data suggests it spreads fast but the illness may be mild.

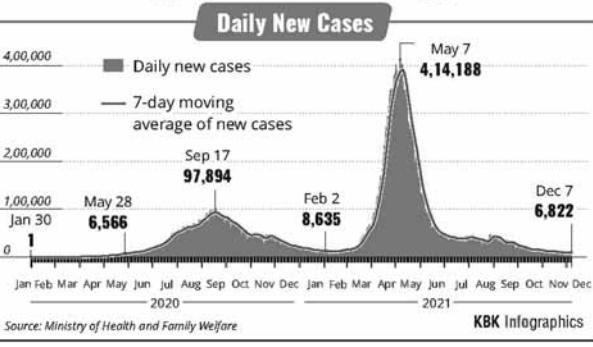
The IMA demanded the inoculation of people in the 12-18 age group — a proposal that has been pending for long. It further called for the adminis-

tration of booster doses to healthcare and frontline workers in view of the Omicron threat.

Omicron has some 50 mutations including over 30 in its spike protein alone. It was first reported from southern Africa where it is most prevalent. Scientists around the world are working to understand how effective existing vaccines & treatments are against the new strain.

Sarah Gilbert, one of the creators of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine said in the Richard Dimbleby Lecture that future pandemics could be even more lethal than Covid-19 so the lessons learned from the outbreak must not be squandered and the world should ensure it is prepared for the next viral onslaught.

"This will not be the last time a virus threatens our lives and our livelihoods," according to a foreign news agency.



Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

KBK Infographics

Plasma therapy receives thumbs down from WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

plasma therapy with high antibody levels to treat Covid-19 in 2020. It was supposed to be used for those who were unwell with Covid-19 and had an underlying health problem.

However, the WHO has now said current evidence shows that it does not improve survival or reduce the need for mechanical ventilation, they said.

Earlier this year, the use of convalescent plasma was removed from the Indian Council for Medical Research's recommended guidelines for Covid-19. Despite the fact that



an ICMR trial of 400 patients last year, known as the PLACID trial, found no significant benefit

from plasma therapy. The ICMR dropped the plasma therapy without citing any significant benefit for Covid-19 treatment.

The WHO also has now issued a statement that convalescent plasma therapy shows no improvement in survival and other important measures and is not recommended for patients infected with Covid-19.

Despite its original promise, recent research reveals that it does not increase survival or reduce the need for mechanical ventilation, and it is costly and time-consuming

to administer, according to a WHO Guideline Development Group of international specialists writing in The British Medical Journal (BMJ).

Except in the context of a randomised controlled experiment, the WHO strongly advises against using convalescent plasma in patients with non-severe disease and in patients with severe and critical illnesses (RCT). The guidelines are based on data from 16 trials, including 16,236 individuals with non-severe, severe, or critical Covid infection.

A ll international passengers arriving in India are mandated to declare their current health status prior to boarding on the Air Suvidha portal along with the required documents which include a copy of passport, PCR negative certificate from a test conducted within 72 hours of departure and the vaccination certificate amid omicron scare. This comes at a time when passengers at Delhi airport complained of chaos and crowding at its terminal following the implementation of new coronavirus-related travel guidelines.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Tuesday also discontinued the exemption forms from the Air Suvidha portal and filling of the details have been made compulsory for all international passengers arriving in India.

"This portal developed by MoCA aids passengers in providing their details of travel and final stay along with RT-PCR, vaccination status etc," the Ministry said in a statement, adding that this helps state officials in contact tracing. For immigration, the copy received in e-mail is essential on arrival in India and has to be verified at the APHO counter, the ministry said.

"The implementation of

the Air Suvidha intends to provide hassle-free, queue free, and convenient air travel to all international passengers arriving in India. Air Suvidha portal has already assisted over 2,50,000 passengers from December 1 to December 5, 2021 since the new travel guidelines were issued on November 30. Furthermore, over 10 million passengers have been benefitted from the Air Suvidha portal since its launch in August 2020," the ministry further added.

All applications from 'at risk' countries are marked with H and red band and others are green. The countries at risk are countries in Europe, including The United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Israel. This helps in smooth on arrival segregation and processing. This list is dynamically updated to keep up with MOHFW updates. Application also takes into account countries visited in the last 14 days to highlight 'at risk' applications. This field

Taking to Twitter, Scindia said, "Took stock of the preparedness, testing capacities, and the situation on the ground with regard to crowd management at both private and AAI airports." The Airports Authority of India (AAI) controls more than 100 airports across the country. However, major airports such as in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad are operated by private entities.

The Minister said he has put in place an action plan with eight compliances on immigration queues, expanding RT-PCR service providers, ramping up help desks and forex counters, along with seamless floor management".

Decision on inoculation among kids, booster dose for adults postponed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has postponed the decision on inoculation of the Covid vaccine among children as well as booster dose for the adults, till next year.

A meeting was held on Monday to deliberate on an 'additional' dose of vaccine and inoculation of children.

During the meeting, the NTAGI, a Central Government's panel on vaccine immunisation said children The members of the group did not make the final recommendation on these issues as of now.

nation, additional shot is given to immunocompromised and immunosuppressed individuals when the primary inoculation does not provide adequate protection from the disease.

Last week, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had told the Lok Sabha that a decision on booster doses and vaccines for kids would be taken on the basis of scientific advice and that the focus of the vaccination drive would be to expand the coverage of the second dose.

INSACOG, the country's top genome sequencing laboratories, on Saturday said more scientific experiments are required to assess the impact of a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/ST/Procurement/Spl-Bag/355/2021/7722 Date :03.12.2021 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of bag for supply of Special Bag.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahlipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Janasanyog /CF/2257/21 Sd/-Mission Director, SSA, Assam Kahlipara, Guwahati-19

Notice Inviting e-Tender

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

CIRCLE SASTRA, JALANDHAR (WEST), 2ND FLOOR 922, G. T. ROAD , JALANDHAR, (PUNJAB)

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 constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Sr. No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & address of the borrower/guarantor	Description of the immovable properties mortgaged / Owner's Name (Mortgagor of the property/ies)	E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 F) Outstanding Amount as on _____ G) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (last date of deposit NA) C) Bid increase amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	INDUSTRIAL AREA, JALANDHAR Borrower(s): 1. M/ R S International, Plot No. 71, Leather Complex, Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar, 2. M/s Kanti Lodge Pvt. Ltd., 46 Amrit Nagar New Delhi, 3. Smt. Poonam Virallya W/o Sh. Vinay Kumar, 4. Sh. Krishnalal Virallya S/o Vinod Kumar, 5. Sh. Vinod Kumar S/o Raghuvin Singh, 6. Sh. Vinay Kumar S/o Sh. Raghuvin Singh, 7. Sh. Raghuvin Singh (252/3A Shivlokpur, Kankar Khera, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh).	Residential Plot no ½ A RTD No.6807 dated 28-05-2011 in the name of M/s Kanti Lodge Private Limited through its Directors Mr Vinay Kumar and Raghuvin Singh situated at Mauza Rithani, Pargana, Old Merrut National Highway,				

Tri-Services' tactical drill held in Kashmir

To validate joint capability to insert troops behind enemy lines

PNS ■ JAMMU

Battle hardened troops of the Indian armed forces led by Air Force Gladiators squadron AH-64 E Tuesday conducted a tri-services tactical drill in the higher reaches of Kashmir valley demonstrating their capabilities to insert troops behind the enemy lines in an intense air defense and electronic warfare operating environment.

The completed drill was planned and executed by the Chinair Corps in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley. Top brass of the Chinair corps witnessed the complete drill as it showcased their capabilities to

carry out successful operations in high altitude areas incorporating all facets of cobtempo-ray and modern battlefield synergy with Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

Srinagar based Defence Spokesman Col Emron Musavi in a statement said, "The heli dropped task force operated in snow-clad regions at heights over 9000 feet. The Heli borne task force included troops from Infantry, The Special Forces and the MARCOS from the Indian Navy."

The heli drop exercise included full transportation and armed helicopters from Indian Army and Indian Air Force including the Apaches attack helicopters. Aspects related to electronic warfare were also validated".

Col Musavi said, "this was a tri-service exercise undertaken in Kashmir with the Indian Air Force, Navy &

Army. The exercise was planned to validate the joint capability to insert the task force tactically behind enemy lines in an intense air defence and electronic warfare operating environment".

"The successful conduct of the mission validated the true spirit of jointness achieved in planning, utilization of resources and accomplishment of laid down mission objectives as a true reflection of the tri-service ethos of the Indian Armed forces" added Col Musavi.

Earlier, a similar drill was conducted by the Indian army along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh to practise airborne landing to hone its rapid response capabilities.

The drill was conducted to familiarise the troops with the rugged area and harsh winters in the cold desert region.

Sasikala calls on Rajinikanth

Shunted ADMK Gen Secy says wanted to check on actor's health

PNS ■ KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Tamil filmdom's reigning superstar Rajinikanth and his wife Latha had a surprise visitor on Tuesday. V K Sasikala, who claims herself to be the general secretary of the AIADMK, dropped in at the house of Rajinikanth in Chennai's Poes Garden.

A statement released by Sasikala said that she called on Rajinikanth to enquire about his health and it was a courtesy visit.

This is Sasikala's first visit to Poes Garden since she returned to Chennai after serving a four year jail term in Bangalore in connection with the Disproportionate Asset Case. She was staying earlier in Veda Nilayam, the private bungalow owned by late Jayalalithaa, in Poes Garden and



Rajinikanth was a neighbour.

Veda Nilayam was taken over by the Tamil Nadu Government during the tenure of Edappadi Palaniswamy as chief minister with the announcement that it would be converted into a memorial for Jayalalithaa. But the Madras High Court in a verdict delivered last month had quashed the government decision and ordered the transfer of the

palatial house to Deepa and Deepak, niece and nephew of late Jayalalithaa. The former chief minister died intestate and various courts in the State are hearing petitions filed by her relations pleading with the courts to declare them as her legal heirs.

Sasikala's visit to Rajinikanth is seen as a move by her to win friends and influence people, according to

Kolahala Srenivas. "On Monday, the AIADMK announced that O Panneerselvam and Edappadi Palaniswamy have been elected as the coordinator and joint coordinator respectively of the party, shutting the doors once and for ever at Sasikala," said Srenivas, chief editor of Kolahala TV.

"Sasikala is a closed chapter as far as the AIADMK is concerned. We do not have anything to do with her," said former minister D Jayakumar immediately after the announcement of the election of OPS and EPS duo as the leaders of the party. There are reports that some of the senior leaders in the AIADMK had demanded during the meeting held on Monday that Sasikala should be brought back to the party. Though Sasikala claims herself to be the AIADMK general secretary, she has not been allowed anywhere near the party headquarters making her the only party chief in the country who does not have an office of her own.

Lok Sabha debates High Court, Supreme Court Judges Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Chair reminding some MPs not to speak on specific cases in the judiciary, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday debated High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021.

"Sasikala is a closed chapter as far as the AIADMK is concerned. We do not have anything to do with her," said former minister D Jayakumar immediately after the announcement of the election of OPS and EPS duo as the leaders of the party. There are reports that some of the senior leaders in the AIADMK had demanded during the meeting held on Monday that Sasikala should be brought back to the party. Though Sasikala claims herself to be the AIADMK general secretary, she has not been allowed anywhere near the party headquarters making her the only party chief in the country who does not have an office of her own.

In contrast, Tharoor said, "Many commentators have contrasted with the urgency with which Bombay High Court dealt with a writ of a certain editor of a television channel which claims to deliver news that the nation allegedly wants to know."

Pointing to a case on the constitutional validity of demonetisation, Tharoor said, a three-judge bench ordered constitution of the larger bench which is yet to be constituted. When he mentioned some pending cases including, Bhima Koregaon case and Sohrabuddin Sheikh and Ishrat Jahan case, BJP's Nishkant Dubey raised point of order to which A Raja, who presiding the House, asked Tharoor not to mention cases which are pending before various courts. While introducing the bill for passage, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said it has a very limited provision and it pertains to a pension of retired judges.

This bill seeks to bring clarity on when Supreme Court and High Court judges are entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension on attaining a certain age.

The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021, which was introduced by Rijiju amid din by the opposition over farmers' issues, proposes to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Service) Act and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Condition of Service) Act.

According to the Bill, in 2009 the two laws were amended to provide that every retired judge or after his death, the family, as the case may be, will be entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension. Accordingly, the additional quantum of pension to retired judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court is being sanctioned on completing the age of 80 years, 85 years, 90 years, 95 years and 100 years, as the case may be.

PM lauds Yogi for development in Uttar Pradesh

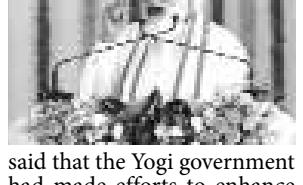
Indicates coming UP polls will be contested under CM's leadership

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his hard work and credited him for the development carried out across Uttar Pradesh and in the process enforcing the belief that the next assembly elections in the state will be contested under Yogi's leadership and he will be the face of the Bharatiya Janata Party's election campaign.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating projects worth Rs 10,000 crore in Gorakhpur on Tuesday, Modi said, "The amount of sugarcane dues paid by the Yogi government in four and a half years is more than the total sum paid by the previous governments in the state in 10 years. The Uttar Pradesh government led by Yogi Adityanath has worked relentlessly to benefit cane growers in the state. Consistent efforts have been made in Uttar Pradesh to transform the lives of farmers and double their incomes."

The prime minister further



said that the Yogi government had made efforts to enhance the facilities in the state.

"Earlier, the samples of encephalitis patients in Gorakhpur were sent to Pune for testing and by the time it was confirmed, the patient either had died or was paralysed. Today, we inaugurated the Regional Viral Research Centre in Gorakhpur to test coronavirus, encephalitis, and other diseases," he said.

Modi also lauded the Yogi government for taking up development projects across Uttar Pradesh.

"Beginning of a fertiliser plant and AIIMS in Gorakhpur is sending out several messages. When there is a double engine government, then work takes place at double speed. When work is done with honest intentions, then even calamities can't become obstacles. Besides, government godowns were opened for poor farmers and 15 crore people of UP were provided with free ration. And all this happened due to Yogi ji's good intentions," the prime minister said.

Modi hai to mumkin hai, says Adityanath

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the launch of developmental projects across the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said "Modi hai to mumkin hai" and what Gorakhpur is today is only because of Modi ji.

Yogi was in his home turf Gorakhpur to attend the inaugural ceremony of three mega projects worth Rs 10,000 crore on Tuesday. The projects include a fertiliser factory, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and a hi-tech laboratory of Indian Council of Medical Research-Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR-RMRC).

"In 2016, the prime minister had laid the foundation stone of this fertiliser factory in Gorakhpur, which will be four times bigger than the earlier plant which was shut down in 1991," he said.

Referring to the declining rate in cases of Japanese Encephalitis and other vector-borne diseases in the region, Yogi said that Gorakhpur was fighting medical issues for the last 40 years and thousands had died because of the negligence of the previous state and Central governments.

"There were deaths due to

encephalitis, malaria among others. In 2016, the prime minister laid the foundation stone of this AIIMS which has also been inaugurated on Tuesday," he said.

The chief minister further said, "A chain of medical colleges is getting ready in Uttar Pradesh. At present, there are medical colleges in 59 districts of the state and the process of setting up medical colleges in other districts is also underway. The health infrastructure has been improved considerably."

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"Everyone was left to their own fate. The facilities of AIIMS will be a boon for the people of eastern UP," he said.

Speaking on the high vaccination coverage in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that the world's largest vaccination campaign was being run under the able guidance of the prime minister and UP had reached the milestone of administering 17 crore vaccine doses on Tuesday.

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Lashing out at the previous regimes in the state for neglecting public health, Yogi said that for the last several decades, thousands of deaths occurred every year due to various diseases in eastern UP, but the previous governments did not care about the people's health.

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Sarpanches urge PM to let Goa resume iron ore mining ahead of his visit to State

PNS ■ PANJAI/NEW DELHI

A head of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week to Goa on the occasion of State Liberation Day on December 19, the Sarpanches of Goa have appealed to the PM to save their livelihood by resuming iron ore mines that have been closed for five years.

More than 20 Sarpanches of Goa's mining belt have apprised the PM that five lakh people in Goa were fully dependent on mining for their livelihood but mining is completely closed since 2018 and with covid already affecting tourism of the State, about a lakh families are directly or indirectly dependent on mining.

"Due to this the right of livelihood given to the citizens under the Constitution is also in danger. Goa had nominated Narendra Modi as Prime Minister in 2013, now he should resume mining and give a return gift to Goa. We want that mining should resume in Goa this time before the elections," one of the signatory Sarpanch Surya Naik said.

Another Sarpanch Siddharth Desai said that tourism is almost closed in Goa for the last two years due to covid and common people have no work as well as there is no source of income due to the closure of mining. In such a situation, our appeal to PM is

to save our livelihood, he mentioned.

In the letter the Sarpanches have said that they have apprised all representatives of the State many times about helplessness and situation. The letter says that as Goa assembly elections are due next year, the Sarpanches desires that BJP and its alliance come back to power. "Both the central and state government are fully aware of the whole matter. We appeal to you again that this is the right time when you can save millions of lives by resuming mining in Goa on time," said the letter to PM.

The late Manohar Parrikar government had banned iron ore mining in Goa and now the matter is in Supreme Court. Incumbent Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has already indicated that he wants to start eight mines by forming a mining corporation but more than 300 mines are still closed in Goa.

The signatories include Village Panchayat Rivona, Village Panchayat Bhati, Village Panchayat Seldem, Village Panchayat Kardi. There are 40 gram panchayats in Goa through which the local administration is run as part of Panchayati Raj system. In a state where TMC, Congress and AAP are ready to take on the BJP government, the Aam Aadmi Party has given an election slogan that if they come to power, they will resume mining in six months.

Over ₹500 crore unaccounted transactions detected in IT raid

₹1.80 crore unaccounted cash seized, 18 bank lockers restrained

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department searches in Ahmedabad has resulted in detection of total unaccounted transactions exceeding ₹500 crore besides seizure of unaccounted cash of ₹1.80 crore and unexplained jewellery valued at ₹8.30 crore. So far, 18 bank lockers have been put under restraint.

The Department initiated search and seizure operations on a prominent business group, engaged primarily in the manufacturing of stainless steel and metal pipes, in Ahmedabad. The searches were conducted in more than 30 premises in Ahmedabad and Mumbai, the IT Department said in a statement.

"During the course of the search operation, a large number of incriminating documents, loose sheets, digital evidence etc. have been found and seized. These evidence contain detailed records of the group's unaccounted income on which due taxes have not been paid,"

it said.

A preliminary analysis of evidence indicates that the group is indulging in unaccounted sales of goods and scrap in cash which is not recorded in the regular books of account. Further, incriminating evidence of various malpractices such as unaccounted cash loans advanced and interest earned thereon, expenses incurred in cash, bogus expenses and purchases and unaccounted land investments has also been unearthed.

The deleted WhatsApp chat of a key person, detected during the search, revealed evidence of obtaining huge accommodation entries by the group to reduce its taxable income. Certain benami properties have also been identified, it said.

Meanwhile, a similar action in Tamil Nadu in respect of two groups engaged in the retail sales of jewellery, textiles and home appliances through their popular chain of stores in Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. As many as 37 premises were covered in this action.

In the case of the first group, seized documents and other incriminating materials gathered during the searches have revealed that, the assessee had been actively involved in

systematically suppressing sales by manipulating their books of accounts.

"The extent of suppression of sales is found to be more than ₹1,000 crore, over a period of several years. It was also found that, the assessee had made unaccounted cash purchases of about ₹150 crore in textile division and jewellery division, during the past few years," it said.

In the case of the second group in Tamil Nadu, incriminating material seized during the course of search, has revealed that the assessee group had obtained bogus bills from a set of parties to the tune of ₹80 crore and thereby suppressed taxable income.

Evidence relating to the unaccounted purchases of gold have also been gathered. Besides, the assessee group is found to be debiting inflated making charges of jewellery. In addition, unaccounted rental receipts and the unaccounted scrap sales aggregating to ₹7 crore have also been detected, it said.

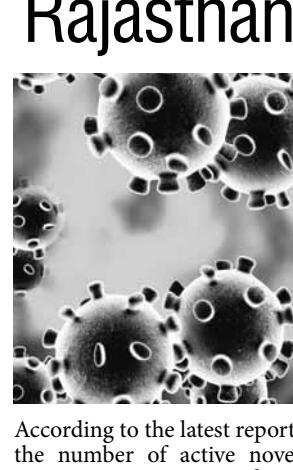
The searches on the two groups have led to a seizure of cash of ₹10 crore and jewellery/bullion worth about ₹6 crore.

Further investigations are under progress in connection with all the three groups.

24 fresh Covid cases reported in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Twenty-four more people tested positive for coronavirus in Rajasthan, pushing the infection tally to 9,54,944 on Tuesday, according to an official report.

The fresh cases were



According to the latest report, the number of active novel coronavirus cases stands at 220 in Rajasthan.

PTI



Balancing act

Putin used the Indian soil to take a snipe at the US, putting it in a spot

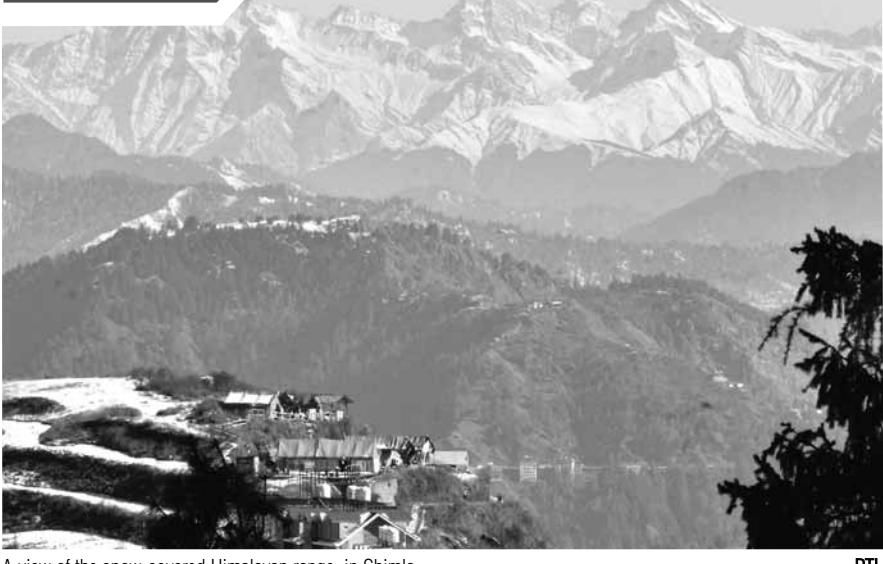
The summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin has tested India's ability to do a balancing act so as not to get caught between the brittle relationship between the US and Russia over Ukraine and the proposed Summit for Democracy. For the record, Modi and Putin reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing ties. Significantly, it was Putin's second visit outside Russia since the pandemic's outbreak, after he visited Geneva this June to meet US President Joe Biden. The New Delhi visit underlined Russia's importance to India as a provider of defence systems. Russia handles over half of all Indian arms imports, technology and joint production agreements. Russia has also agreed to lease a nuclear-powered submarine to India. The icing on the cake is Russia's long-range S-400 ground-to-air missile defence system which initially attracted the displeasure of the United States. It was expected at one time that despite the warm relations between the US and India, Washington might sanction India under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), which warns of sanctions for any country buying arms from Russia. That has not come to pass yet, but the fact remains that India looked to Russia, and not the US, for its defence needs. In the case of the nuclear-powered submarine, too, it looked to Russia. Interestingly, the AUKUS pact of September will allow Australia to become the first non-nuclear weapons



State to acquire a similar nuclear-powered submarine.

Even as Modi and Putin vowed to cement their unique ties, New Delhi realised that Russia used Indian soil to take a snipe at the US. Its Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recalled that the US tried to undermine Russia-India cooperation on the S-400 deal and tried to make India obey American orders. "We", Lavrov said, witnessed how the US tried to make India "to follow the American vision of how this region should be developed". It appears that Russia used Putin's visit to put the US in a spot by leaning more heavily than required on its friendship with India. That line of thinking is open to interpretation because the US has not followed up on the sanctions threat. After all, it understands the challenges India faces from its neighbours in the west and east. Also, the US and India have their association in the Indo-Pacific in the form of QUAD. Lavrov's statement, however, may have more to do with two areas of current friction between Russia and the US. One is the Russian troop movement near Ukraine's borders amid speculations of a conflict. Lavrov's remarks came just a day before the Biden-Putin virtual summit on the issue. The US has said it will send reinforcements to Nato's eastern flank if Russia invades Ukraine. The second issue is Biden's invite to 100-odd countries to his Summit of Democracy on December 9 and 10. Ukraine has been invited to the summit, but Russia stands excluded.

PIC TALK



A view of the snow-covered Himalayan range, in Shimla

Dam it!

Tamil Nadu's ban on *Dam 999* continues since 2011, and on a flimsy narrative

The DMK and its natural allies, the Communists, are always in the forefront to agitate against the violation of the right to free speech. But it is shocking that the Dravidian Government continues to ban a 2011 production, *Dam 999*. The movie, which bagged several national and international honours, was shortlisted for even the Oscars. However, the TN Government banned it citing law and order problems. Though bans were earlier imposed on certain films like *Vishwaroopam* and *Thuppakki* fearing reprisal from a minority community, the issues were resolved within days and those were released to a grand welcome. Meanwhile, the State Government's reason for banning the movie is ambiguous. "The film's story is woven around the Mullaperiyar Dam; the core issues are pending before the Supreme Court. If the ban is lifted, there may be widespread agitation and disruption of peace," states the November 22, 2021, order issued by the Additional Chief Secretary. Film's producer-director Sohan Roy says that there was nothing in *Dam 999* which could upset law and order in Tamil Nadu.

"The movie was released all over the world, except in Tamil Nadu, though we had hired many artists and technicians from that State for the project, including national award-winning designer Thotta Tharini. The film makes no reference to the Mullaperiyar Dam and the storyline was based on the bursting of the Bangiao Dam in China in 1975, which resulted in the death of 2.5 lakh people. I never had Mullaperiyar in my mind when I was shooting the movie," Roy adds. The ban is seen as the "true colours" of the Dravidians, according to noted author and film critic PK Sreenivasan. "History is repeating itself in Tamil Nadu. MG Ramachandran was thrown out of the DMK for questioning the party leadership's stance on a number of issues. We cannot expect anything different from them even now," Sreenivasan comments on the ban issue. The truth is that Tamil Nadu does not like to discuss the Mullaperiyar Dam. The term '999' evokes nervousness in the powers that be there since they know that the 999-year-long agreement is a fraud perpetrated on the people of Travancore by the then Madras Province. How an incident that reportedly happened in China could force the people of Tamil Nadu to violate law and order is anybody's guess. Dams should not be used for damning creativity!"



Propaganda around China's 'infallibility'

Under Xi Jinping's leadership, the seeds of Mao's manipulative propaganda tactics have mushroomed like never before in China



BHOPINDER SINGH



In the early days of 'helmsman' Mao Zedong's Chinese revolution, propaganda assumed a key role in shaping the Chinese optics, discourse and popular narrative. In 1958, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, *People's Daily*, wrote: "...today, in the era of Mao Zedong, heaven is here on earth..." — ironically, this was also the year of the start of the Great Chinese Famine that has been regarded as amongst the greatest manmade disasters in human history, accounting for millions (estimates ranging from 15 to 55 million) deaths. The instinctive cover-up reaction of the Chinese officialdom entailed releasing propaganda posters of Chinese children standing atop surreal green fields of wheat so dense that they could hold their weight — the reality of the 'fields' actually made of deliberately transplanted stalks with a bench to hold the children, was hidden from the masses.

Today in Xi Jinping's China, the seeds of Mao's manipulative propaganda tactics have mushroomed like never before, and the curation of the 'Chinese Dream' is a zealously guarded effort that brooks no contrarian viewpoint. Xi's barely concealed and insidious efforts to "tell China's story well" comes packaged with the usual spirit of defensive and reactive censorships, heavily massaged headlines, deflections to even outright buying out international opinions eg, *South China Morning Post*. Awkward subjects like the ensuing dissonance in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet or the Dalai Lama remain subject to editorial mancuring with the requisite smoke-and-mirrors to ensure that the domestic audience does not get "brainwashed" to what Xi calls "western values of journalism". An important aspect of this control phenomenon is to define the so-called redlines that necessitates the continuing maintenance of the official charade of the Communist Party's supremacy, infallibility and perfection — anyone questioning the same risks immediate threat or, in Chinese context, mysterious disappearances.

Last year, flamboyant Chinese entrepreneur Jack Ma, at

the cusp of the world's largest

public offering of his company ie The Ant Group (a flourishing empire including the Alibaba, then valued at well over \$1 trillion), was subjected to a reality check of overstepping the mandated redlines (in this case, criticising Chinese regulatory policies) in Xi's hypersensitive China, and soon disappeared. Since then, Ja Ma has gone under the radar with patchy, dubiously organised and sanitised public appearances that are typical of China's treatment of anyone blowing the lid off the official narrative. Many others like award-winning photographer Lu Guang, businesswoman Duan Weihong, actress Zhao Wei, artist and activist Ai Weiwei, real estate tycoon Ren Zhiqiang — all followed the patented route of inexplicable disappearances. No criticism of the leader, party or its policies is ever tolerated.

Now, the hardly curious case of former No 1 women's tennis doubles player, Peng Shuai, follows the exact same path. Her crime: Calling out the bluff of so-called discipline, propriety and morality within the top ranks of the CCP by accusing former Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Expectedly, Chinese social media platform Weibo took down Peng Shuai's post and discussions about her

THIS IS THE THIN ICE ON WHICH THE CHINESE SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IS PREDICATED; XI JINPING KNOWS THIS, AND THEREFORE AMONG HIS PREDECESSORS, HE PREFERS MAO ZEDONG'S HARD PROPAGANDA APPROACH

couple of months.

It's not so much about defending Gaoli's personal reputation (who too remains away from public gaze) as much as it is about defending the linear mirage of the 'Chinese Dream' (read, Party's governing capacity and infallibility) and, therefore, avoiding the dangerous precedent of questioning any of its imperatives. The *People's Daily*, which noted the "heaven on earth" analogy in 1958, launched its English daily tabloid, *Global Times*, in 2009 with the same level of propagandistic enthusiasm — so it noted WTA's action as "pursuit of political correctness", forcing her to comply in accordance with the imagination and expectations of Western public opinion" and as "politicisation of sports", all the while remaining defective on the specifics of Peng Shuai's disappearance. This is the thin ice on which the Chinese society, governance and sustainability is predicated; Xi Jinping knows this, and therefore among his predecessors, he prefers Mao Zedong's hard propaganda approach to the relatively reformist approach of Deng Xiaoping.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Numbers make all the noise



Despite climbing to the third position in the list of most wicket-takers in Test cricket in India and leading the team to victory innumerable times, Ravichandran Ashwin continues to be criticised and compared. He has done remarkably well as an off-spinner for Indian cricket time and again. Whether it is ODI, T20 or Test cricket, Ashwin adjusts as per the format and situation on ground and plays a pivotal role.

the United States, Japan and Australia and, thus, Russia became the fourth country to be accorded that importance. President Putin hailing India as a "great power" should do wonders for healthy bilateral relations.

Military, space, power, energy and infrastructure sectors between India and Russia are all set to be further expanded in the aftermath of President Putin's short but crucial visit. Interpersonal relations between the two have always been above board. There is nothing unusual in differences of opinion between the two friends. Putin kept away from the G20 and rescheduled his Beijing visit amid the pandemic; but kept his word on attending the summit in India. New Delhi, therefore, has to engage Russia on a personal level keeping with its dehyphenation policy on international relations.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

THE BJP SHOULD LEARN TO BE HUMBLE

Sir — There is little doubt that the repeal of the three contentious farm laws that were hastily passed in September last year is a victory for the farming community,

He has won the 'Man of the Series' award nine times in his illustrious career. He stands up to the challenge when the chips are down and can perform with the bat as well.

Ashwin came, saw and conquered the cricketing field with a purpose. Ironically, the last wicket of New Zealand cricketer Henry Nicholls was taken by the ace spinner to hasten the end of Kiwi innings in the two match Test series. Ashwin has reached a historic milestone in test cricket. The off-spinner went past Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh in taking 50 wickets in a calendar year for the most number of times. Ashwin is a star spinner and instead of criticising him or comparing his bowling figures with other bowlers, we should remember the times he held the fort and saved the day for Team India.

CK Subramanian | Mumbai

and the triumph justly connotes the popular saying, "Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy." However, the about turn made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is nothing but a sheer political opportunism with an eye on the forthcoming assembly elections in the key States of UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand, and as well in the wake of the BJP's recent dismal performance in bypolls.

The rollback of the farm laws shows how politically difficult it will be for India to overhaul a sector that supports about 60 per cent of the country's population. The farmers' victory is a tribute to their unprecedented struggle that it not only withstood the multi-fanged State repression, but, in fact, increased its defiance massively for a year. The ruling BJP must have learnt a hard-hitting lesson that a community, which is strongly united for a cause, can never be defeated.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to:

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

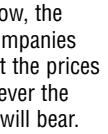
SOUND BITE

There is no need to panic. I request you all to maintain social distancing and wear masks.



Delhi Chief Minister
—Arvind Kejriwal

Right now, the drug companies have set the prices at whatever the market will bear.



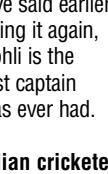
US President
—Joe Biden

Today I completed 25 years in our wonderful film industry. I am, and will always be, eternally grateful.



Actor
—Arshad Warsi

As I have said earlier and saying it again, Virat Kohli is the best Test captain India has ever had.



Former Indian cricketer
—Irfan Pathan

The BJP has made the country economically weak and has created a rift between people of different communities.



SP chief
—Akhilesh Yadav



FIRST COLUMN

WTO AND COMMON IP FOR COVID VACCINES

Dissent persists on whether a waiver is answer to shortage and inequitable distribution of vaccines



PK VASUDEVA

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), scheduled to be held in Geneva, stands postponed again because of the outbreak of the Omicron Coronavirus variant. At MC12, whenever it is now held, ministers will be reviewing the functioning of the multilateral trading system, delivering prepared statements, and taking action on the WTO's future work programme. As is known, the Doha Development Round, launched in 2001, has had a very rocky journey with a low level of achievement. Its main success was the adoption of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation at MC9 in 2013. There is, therefore, considerable pressure for a successful outcome at MC12 at a formal meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on November 18, WTO members agreed to keep actively engaging up until the WTO's MC12 in order to find a common intellectual property (IP) response to Covid-19. Members adopted the oral



status report of the TRIPS council. The text provides a factual overview of discussions held at the Council since October 2020, on the proposal by India and South Africa requesting a waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 and the proposal by the European Union for a draft General Council declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in the circumstances of a pandemic. On the waiver request, the report indicates that disagreement persists on the fundamental question of whether a waiver is the appropriate and most effective way to address the shortage and inequitable distribution of, and access to, vaccines and other COVID-19-related products. The role of IP in the context of the pandemic has become the centre of attention in the run-up to MC12, and a pragmatic and tangible outcome of these discussions would be a strong and positive signal to the Ministerial Conference and the global community as a whole. The chair of the WTO's agriculture negotiations, Ambassador Gloria Abraham Peralta, told heads of delegations at a meeting on 15 November that she plans to circulate a revised draft negotiation text as soon as possible. The first draft negotiation text was introduced on July 29, with the chair proposing suggestions for a possible agriculture package at MC12. The text encompasses the seven main negotiation topics — domestic support, market access, export restrictions, export competition, cotton, public stockholding for food security purposes (PSH) and a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) as well as cross-cutting transparency issues. The chair emphasized the draft was based on members' discussions as well as her consultations in various configurations and served as a starting point for the final text-based negotiation phase before MC12. The chair also reported to WTO members on the state of play in the negotiations. She said the most recent consultations have focused on engaging members to find convergences on three primary issues: domestic support, public stockholding for food security purposes and, to a lesser extent, market access. Other members reaffirmed that a meaningful MC12 outcome on agriculture will address the compelling issue of food and livelihood security in light of the pandemic and commit members to continuing agricultural reform to make the agriculture trading system fit for purpose. Singapore presented a paper outlining its responses to the questions posed by India regarding an initiative that calls for exempting the World Food Programme's humanitarian food purchases from any export restriction. The initiative has gained wide support from most members and was described by many as a "low-hanging fruit" for MC12.

(The writer is former senior professor, international trade and member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Colonial outlook can't fix climate issues now



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Singling out coal won't serve the purpose. India's argument that other fossil fuels used by the rich nations are equally responsible for emissions is logical

Recently the United Nations Environment Conference 'COP 26' concluded in Glasgow, UK. India was praised at this conference, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Panchamrit" commitment for safe environment. Today's environmental crisis is actually linked to the existence of humanity. The devastation caused by the changing climate is now affecting the common man all over the globe.

Cloudbursts in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, excessively low rainfall in some regions and excessive rainfall in some others, and resulting droughts and floods, and causing diseases and resulting in climate change inducing natural calamities, all are impacting lives in the country today. Globally, life on small islands is endangered due to rising sea levels. Environmental hazards are also becoming the cause of large-scale displacement. If we do not rise to the occasion, this earth will not remain a habitable place in the next few decades.

In view of this concern, environmental conferences are being organized under the auspices of the United Nations annually since 1994. These conferences are also called 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'. At the Environment Conference held in Kyoto, Japan a treaty was signed, known as the 'Kyoto Protocol', (with amendments in Doha's Environment Conference in 2012), according to which countries announced targets to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The 'Kyoto Protocol' was the last such agreement in which developed countries accepted their responsibility to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases emissions; and the less developed and developing countries were exempted from the responsibility of reducing the emission of these gases for some time.

After the 2015 Paris's Environment Conference, India, with a liberal change in its earlier stance, unilaterally pledged to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and made it clear that India would not only live up to its ambitions but also raise the same. But India had also made it clear that developed countries should desist from blaming India for environmental degradation or global warming. The reality is that if seen from the historical perspective, today the world is suffering the consequences of what happened in the last 100 years. Whereas the United States is responsible for 40 per cent of greenhouse gases emissions, Europe's and China's contribution is 10 per cent and 28 per cent respectively, India is responsible for merely three per cent for these emissions.

India had said that while the rich countries are responsible for a major part of the emissions, they had not lived up to their promise, made in Copenhagen, to provide \$100 billion to the developing and least-developed countries to deal with the



THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS THAT IF THE EARTH IS TO BE KEPT HABITABLE, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE TO MAKE AVAILABLE THEIR RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IT. THEY WILL HAVE TO COME OUT OF THEIR COLONIAL MINDSET THAT THEY ARE THE RULERS OF THE WORLD AND CAN DO ANYTHING THEY DESIRE

(The writer is a Professor in PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



environmental crisis. Moreover, given the magnitude of the problem and the efforts needed to deal with the same, even \$1 trillion may fall short of the requirement. Unfortunately, there is no reference to the commitment of \$100 billion in COP26's final document. Rather, all efforts are being made to put the blame on India for the environmental crisis due to over usage of coal. In the draft of the final document of the Environment Conference of Glasgow (UK), the rich countries included the condition to phase out of coal in the draft declaration, and when India refused to accept the same, a campaign was started in the western media to defame India that it is becoming an obstacle in the way to solution of environmental crisis.

Whereas the media in the west is trying to portray India as the villain of the environmental crisis for not accepting the condition to phase out coal usage in the final document, countries like the US, Europe and China, who are main culprits, are nowhere close to being held responsible. We need to understand that singling out coal will not serve the purpose. India's argument that other fossil fuels like petroleum and gas are equally responsible for emissions is a logical one. However, since the US and Europe have an advantage in

using them (petroleum and gas), there is no mention of reducing emissions from these fossil fuels in the final document, which is downright unfair.

Today, when the developed countries are calling India a hindrance to the environmental treaty, they have to introspect and realize that the reason for the present environmental crisis is the uncontrolled consumption by those countries, which is reflected in the fact that the US and Europe alone — where only 14 per cent of the total world's population lives — account for 50 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the last 100 years.

Not only this, even today the per capita emission of greenhouse gases in India is only 1.77 metric tons, while in America it is 14.24 metric tons and in England it is 4.85 metric tons, and in China also the per capita emission of greenhouse gases is 7.41 metric tons.

The main reason for excessive greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries is wasteful and irresponsible consumption, which is due to their lifestyle. Developed countries today are not ready to concede that the present environmental crisis is due to their stubbornness to not change their lifestyle. The people of these countries and their leadership will have to realize that they have to control

their consumption to overcome the current environmental crisis. Whether it is the goal of not allowing the world's temperature to rise more than 1.5 degrees from the pre-industrial level, or the reduction in smoke, the only solution is the control of consumption, for which the developed countries have the main responsibility.

Apart from this, the efforts made by developing countries and underdeveloped countries like India to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and global warming will require the use of technology. This technology is available mainly with the developed countries, which they want to share only for a hefty price. On the other hand, developing and underdeveloped countries will have to increase the use of renewable energy such as solar energy, wind energy, etc., for which they will need more investment and technology. The need of the hour is that if the earth is to be kept habitable, the developed countries have to make available their resources and technology for it, rich countries will have to come out of their colonial mindset, that they are the rulers of the world and can do anything they desire. It should not be forgotten that heat emanating from global warming will not spare even these rich countries.

POINT COUNTER POINT

WE WILL SOON WRITE TO THE CENTRE AND MEET THE UNION HOME MINISTER, URGING TO OPEN TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING PAKISTAN.
—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI



THE NEIGHBOURING NATION SHOULD FIRST STOP KILLING INDIAN SOLDIERS, THEN WE WILL TALK ABOUT TRADE.
—FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CAPT AMARINDER SINGH

The Congress faces a host of challenges before 2024

All Opposition parties might be willing to unite under Sonia Gandhi's leadership; however, they have reservations against Rahul Gandhi

Will Congress perish as West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and others believe? Even in the past, many predicted the end of Congress, but it survived many onslaughts. The latest was in 1998 when Sonia Gandhi emerged, Sphinx-like, to revive it and rule from 2004-2014. The 2019 Lok Sabha results gave Congress 12 crore votes, though seat-wise it got only 52. Even in its second successive defeat in 2019, the party retained a solid block of 20 percent votes. The Gandhi family is complacent, believing that the voters will get disenchanted sooner than later and return to the Grand Old Party. No doubt they live in a fool's paradise as there is an urgent need to revive the



KALYANI SHANKAR

party. Undoubtedly, Congress faces a leadership crisis and challenges from many sides.

The first is to quell the internal indiscipline and revolt. The group of 23 led by Ghulam Nabi Azad is an example and this disenchantment is prevalent in almost all states.

The second comes from within the Opposition bloc. Of late, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's attack, backed by the wily NCP chief Sharad Pawar, has intensified. Now that Mamata has decided to bid for the Prime Minister's post in 2024, she is trying to edge out Congress from the opposition bloc. As a first step, Banerjee is preparing to broad-base her party and also gain pan-national recognition.

The third is the shrinking Congress party in many states and even regions. Congress should now aim to build upon the 18-crore voter base instead of embroiling itself in self-made controversies. Of the 186 direct fights between BJP and Congress in 2019, the former won 170 seats, amounting to a 91.4 percent strike rate. It bagged 162 of these seats in the 2014 elections. The Congress, which won 24 of these seats in 2014, has come down to 15. In Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, where it ruled in the past, Congress won only 10 out of 286 seats. The party has no representation from 20 states. Further, BJP has taken over the opposition space in Odisha, Tripura, and West Bengal, where Congress was traditionally the main opposition. Also, the regional parties continue to put up a much better fight than Congress.

So, what are the options for the party now that there are cracks within the opposition?

The first is to think of a long-term strategy and start preparing for 2024. Mamata is doing precisely that. Congress is involved in short-term quick-fix solutions, often messing up the party's chances as they did in Punjab recently. But before that, the party needs to resolve its leadership crisis, which has been going on since August 2019.

The second is that the party needs enormous resources and committed booth committees to compete with BJP. Once these two are addressed, the other things are more manageable.

The third is to find ways of uniting the opposition. Sonia Gandhi has the stature to do this as almost all opposition parties might be willing to unite under her leadership, but they have reservations against Rahul Gandhi. If necessary, the Gandhi family

should pave the way for some other leader.

The regional leaders realize that though they could contain BJP in their states, they do not have a pan-national presence. Even today, therefore, they need a party like Congress; every village has a

Rahul Gandhi has been in politics since 2004, but he is not yet accepted as the opposition face. Rahul's efforts to befriend second-generation leaders like Akhilesh Yadav have not succeeded. He needs an image makeover.

The fourth and more complex option is to give a call to all those leaders who had left Congress to come back. This idea springs up on and off. Congress has been the parent of many ruling parties like the NCP, TMC, YSRCP. There have been suggestions that such a united party could function under a presidium and collective leadership. But the parent party is hesitant to take such a plunge. A united Congress, than a divided opposition, is a more formidable opponent to BJP.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Biden to warn Putin of eco pain if he invades Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is ready to warn Vladimir Putin during a video call Tuesday that Russia will face economy-jarring sanctions if it invades neighboring Ukraine as Biden seeks a diplomatic solution to deal with the tens of thousands of Russian troops massed near the Ukraine border.

Biden aims to make clear that his administration stands ready to take actions against the Kremlin that would exact "a very real cost" on the Russian economy, according to White House officials. Putin, for his part, is expected to demand guarantees from Biden that the NATO military alliance will never expand to include Ukraine, which has long sought membership. That's a non-starter for the Americans and their NATO allies.

"We've consulted significantly with our allies and believe we have a path forward that would impose significant and severe harm on the Russian economy," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday in previewing the meeting. "You can call that a threat. You can call that a fact. You can call that preparation. You can call it whatever you want to call it."

The leader-to-leader conversation — Biden speaking from the Situation Room, Putin from his residence in Sochi — is expected to be one of the toughest of Biden's presidency and comes at a perilous time. U.S. intelligence officials have determined that Russia has massed 70,000 troops near the Ukraine border and has made preparations for a possible invasion early next year. In a statement released just hours before the leaders' video call,



Ukrainian authorities charged that Russia is sending tanks and snipers to war-torn eastern Ukraine to "provoke return fire."

Ukraine's Defense Ministry alleged that Russia is holding "training camps under the leadership of regular servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces." The Kremlin hasn't commented on the allegations.

The U.S. has not determined whether Putin has made a final decision to invade. Still, Biden intends to make clear to the Russian leader that there will be a "very real cost" should Russia proceed with military action, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

Biden was vice president in 2014 when Russian troops marched into the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and annexed the territory from Ukraine. Aides say the Crimea episode — one of the darker moments for former President Barack Obama on the international stage — looms large as Biden looks at the current smoldering crisis.

The eastward expansion of NATO has from the start been a bone of contention not just with Moscow but also in

Washington. In 1996, when President Bill Clinton's national security team debated the timing of membership invitations to former Soviet allies Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, Defense Secretary William Perry urged delay to keep Russian relations on track. Perry wrote in his memoir that when he lost the internal debate he considered resigning.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were formally invited in 1997 and joined in 1999. They were followed in 2004 by Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the former Soviet states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Since then, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia have joined, bringing NATO's total to 30 nations.

A key principle of the NATO alliance is that membership is open to any qualifying country. And no outsider has membership veto power. While there's little prospect that Ukraine would be invited into the alliance anytime soon, the U.S. and its allies won't rule it out.

In Washington, Republicans are framing this moment as a key test of Biden's leadership on the global stage.

Biden vowed as a candidate to reassert American leadership after President Donald Trump's emphasis on an "America first" foreign policy.

Rohingya sue Facebook for \$150B, alleging role in violence

AP ■ LONDON

Rohingya refugees sued Facebook parent Meta Platforms for more than \$150 billion over what they say was the company's failure to stop hateful posts that incited violence against the Muslim ethnic group by Myanmar's military rulers and their supporters.

Lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit Monday in California saying Facebook's arrival in Myanmar helped spread hate speech, misinformation and incitement to violence that "amounted to a substantial cause, and eventual perpetuation of, the Rohingya genocide." Lawyers in the United Kingdom have issued notice of their intention to file a similar legal action. Facebook, which was recently renamed Meta, did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

It's the latest in a series of accusations that the social media giant fueled misinformation and political violence, outlined in redacted internal documents obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press. The combined legal

claims from Rohingya refugees are being filed on behalf of anyone worldwide who survived the violence or had a relative who died from it.

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group forced to flee persecution and violence in Myanmar starting in 2017, with an estimated 1 million living in refugee camps in neighboring Bangladesh. Some 10,000 have ended up in the United States.

In 2018, United Nations human rights experts investigating attacks against the Rohingya said Facebook had played a role in spreading hate speech.

More than 10,000 Rohingya have been killed and more than 150,000 were subject to physical violence, according to the law firms organizing the cases.

The lawsuits say Facebook-fueled anti-Rohingya sentiment motivated and enabled the military government of Myanmar to engage in a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya," the lawsuit says.

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ing violence or using hate speech directed at the ethnic group.

Facebook arrived in Myanmar in 2011, arranging for millions of residents to access the internet for the first time, according to the lawsuit filed in California Superior Court for San Mateo County.

But the lawsuit says the company did little to warn people about the dangers of online misinformation and fake accounts — tactics employed by the military in its campaign against the Rohingya.

The lawsuit says Facebook knew that rewarding users for posting dangerous content and allowing fake accounts created by autocrats to flourish would radicalize users.

"The resulting Facebook-fueled anti-Rohingya sentiment motivated and enabled the military government of Myanmar to engage in a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya," the lawsuit says.

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UAE BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO TRANSITION TO 4.5 DAY WORK WEEK

Targets to boost work-life balance

PTI ■ DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates on Tuesday announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day

starting January 1, becoming world's first country to make employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.

According to new schedule, Monday to Thursday, work timings would be from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm, followed by a half day on Friday from 7.30 am to 12.00 pm, said UAE Government Media Office.

Saturdays and Sundays are full-day holidays under new rule. The government said: "Longer weekends to boost productivity and improve work-life balance; starting from 1st of January, 2022." In line with announcement, the government said all Friday sermons and prayers would be held after 1.15 pm henceforth. Further, employees would be offered flexible working hours and work-from-home options on Friday. The media office said.

government's move is expected to make it come closer to timetables of US, UK and Europe, boosting commerce. The new system will first be implemented in all federal government entities; schools, colleges and private institutions are expected to follow suit. The Emirati governments of Dubai and Abu Dhabi have already announced four-and-a-half day workweek.

The UAE Government Media Office said extended weekend comes as part of efforts to boost work-life balance and enhance social wellbeing while increasing performance to advance country's economic competitiveness.

From an economic perspective, the new working week will better align Emirates with global markets, reflecting country's strategic status on global economic map, the Khaleej Times reported. It will ensure smooth financial, trade and economic transactions with countries that follow a Saturday/Sunday weekend, facilitating stronger international business links and opportunities for thousands of UAE-based and multinational companies, the media office said.

China protests US diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics

AP ■ BEIJING

China accused the United States of violating the Olympic spirit on Tuesday after the Biden administration announced a diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Games over human rights concerns.

Rights groups have pushed for a full-blown boycott of Games, accusing China of rights abuses against ethnic minorities.

The US decision falls short of those calls but comes at an exceptionally turbulent time for relations between powerhouse nations and was met with a barrage of criticism from China.

The US is attempting to interfere with Beijing Games "out of ideological prejudice and based on lies and rumors," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters.

The boycott "seriously violates principle of political neutrality of sports established by Olympic Charter and runs counter to the Olympic motto 'more united,'" Zhao said. As he did previous day, Zhao vowed that China would respond with "resolute countermeasures" but offered no details.

Whistleblower: As Afghanistan fell, UK abandoned supporters

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Foreign Office abandoned many of the nation's allies in Afghanistan and left them to mercy of the Taliban during the fall of capital, Kabul, because of a dysfunctional and arbitrary evacuation effort, a whistleblower alleged Tuesday.

In devastating evidence to a parliamentary committee, Raphael Marshall said thousands of pleas for help via email were unread between Aug. 21 and Aug. 25. The former Foreign Office employee estimated that only 5% of Afghan nationals who applied to flee under one U.K. program received help. He said that at one point, he was only person monitoring inbox.

"There were usually over 5,000 unread emails in inbox at any given moment, including many unread emails dating from early in August," he wrote to Foreign Affairs Select Committee, which is investigating Britain's chaotic departure from Afghanistan. "These emails were desperate and urgent. I was struck by many titles including phrases such as



"please save my children."

Marshall said some of those left behind had been killed by Taliban. One of Marshall's most explosive allegations is a claim that British officials spent time and energy arranging evacuation of almost 200 dogs and cats from a Kabul animal shelter run by Nowzad, a charity founded by former Royal Marine Pen Farthing.

Marshall claimed Foreign Office staff had "received an instruction from Prime Minister to use considerable capacity to transport Nowzad's animals." He claimed British soldiers were put at risk to get the animals out of Kabul.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain, said allegation was "entirely untrue" and neither Johnson nor his wife Carrie, an animal-welfare advocate, had been involved in helping animals leave.

Indian-origin USAF doctor among 10 chosen by NASA for as astronauts future missions

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Indian-origin physician Anil Menon, a lieutenant colonel at the US Air Force, has been selected by NASA along with nine others to be astronauts for future missions, the American space agency has announced.

Menon, 45, was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Ukrainian and Indian immigrants.

He was SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission and building

a medical organisation to support the human system during future missions.

In a statement, NASA announced that it has chosen 10 new astronaut candidates from a field of more than 12,000 applicants to represent the US and work for humanity's benefit in space.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson introduced the members of the 2021 astronaut class, the first new

class in four years, during a Monday, December 6 event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that our Clients Sh. Ramesh Aggarwal S/o Late Shri Nanak Chand Aggarwal and Smt. Mamta Aggarwal both Residents of D-8, Polo Road (Near Mother Dairy), Old Gupta Colony, Delhi - 110 009 do hereby sever all their relationship and ties with their son Mr. Hiren Aggarwal & his family members including but not limited to his wife Mrs. Sonal Rathod all permanent residents of D-8, Polo Road (Near Mother Dairy), Old Gupta Colony, Delhi - 110 009, presently residing at 128 Curtin Court, Pittsburgh PA 15237 with immediate effect. Our clients have, with immediate effect, disowned all of them and their respective legal heirs, if any, from all their properties (both movable and immovable) property(ies) owned and/or possessed by our Clients. Our clients will not be held responsible or liable for any consequences arising out of any give and take acts, deeds, transactions and things done by Mr. Hiren Aggarwal and/or his family members, as mentioned above, (jointly or severally), both, in present or in future. Anybody dealing with Mr. Hiren Aggarwal and/or his family members shall be doing so at his or her own risks, perils, costs, expenses and consequences.

NISHANT ANAND (Advocate)
A-141, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U.S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Atul Kumar S/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar R/o H.No. 75, Vasant Gaon, New Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 262/16, U/S 363 IPC & 10/12 Poco Act, P.S. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Atul Kumar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Atul Kumar have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Atul Kumar of FIR No. 262/16, U/S 363 IPC & 10/12 Poco Act, P.S. Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 21.01.2022.

By Order
Sh. Ashutosh Kumar
Addl. Session Judge-01/Special Court POCSO, Room No. 34, Patiala House Court, New Delhi

DP/950/SW/2021(Court Matter)

Date : 07.12.2021

2865/21

Seal (Shrih Aggarwal)
ACJ/ARC (Central) Delhi

Notice (For the attention of Shareholders of Superior Finlease Limited)

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Members of Superior Finlease Limited is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 03:00 PM.

through Video Conferencing ('VC') Other Audio Visual means ('OAVM') to transact the Business as set out in the Notice of EGM. The Notice of the EGM and remote e-voting details has been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/ RTA/ Depository.

In case you have not registered your emails address with the Company/ Depository Participant(s) then please follow below instructions to register your email id for obtaining Notice and login details for e-voting.

1. In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), Aadhar (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to superiorfinlease@gmail.com

2. In case shares are held in demat mode, please provide DPID-CLID (16 digit DPID + CLID or 16 digit beneficiary ID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account Statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), Aadhar (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to superiorfinlease@gmail.com.

Alternatively, Member may send an e-mail request to voting@nsdl.co.in for obtaining User ID and Password by providing the details mentioned in Point (1) or (2) as the case may be.

Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended) and Regulation 44 of SEBI ('Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements') Regulations, 2015 (as amended), and the MCA Circulars, the Company is providing facility of remote e-voting to its Members in respect of the business to be transacted at the EGM. For this purpose, the Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide e-voting facility.

The remote e-voting period will commence on Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 09:00 A.M. and end on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 05:00 P.M. During this period, the Members of the Company holding shares in the physical or electronic form as on the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, December 22, 2021 may cast their votes electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter.

Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, he / she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast vote again. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. December 22, 2021, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at voting@nsdl.co.in or complaints@skylifeira.com.

The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the EGM.

The Notice of the EGM will also be available on the Company's website <http://www.superiorfinlease.com/> and also on the website of BSE Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com/> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.mseindia.in/> where the shares of the company are listed.

Shareholders, who may have questions/queries, can send their questions/queries in advance mentioning their name, demat account number/folio number, email id, mobile number at superiorfinlease@gmail.com latest by Friday, December 24th, 2021. The same will be replied by the company suitably.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no : 1800-222-990 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

Members, who still hold share certificates in physical form, are advised to dematerialise their shareholding to avail the numerous benefits of dematerialisation, which include easy liquidity, ease of trading and transfer, savings in stamp duty and elimination of any possibility of loss of documents and delivery. Further, Members are hereby informed that the Company will not entertain any request for physical shareholding from the Record Date which will be intimated accordingly post approval of stock split and thus this is hereby requested to the Members to Dematerialize their Shareholding so that the number of sub-divided Equity Shares be credited to the respective beneficiary accounts of the shareholders with the Depository Participants, in lieu of the existing credits representing the Equity Shares before sub-division.

For Superior Finlease

Despite the strong growth and immense opportunities for future in the country's pharmaceutical industry, gender diversity has always been a big concern. ANJULA MASURKAR shares how women workforce is revamping it



BREAKING HEALTHCARE BARRIERS

The Indian pharmaceutical industry enjoys a prominent position in the global pharmaceutical market with the industry being the largest provider of generic drugs globally. However, the sad part of the story is that despite the strong growth and immense opportunities for the future, gender diversity has always been a big concern for the industry.

The percentage of women executive directors in the pharmaceutical industry is only 7.69 per cent. However, with studies pointing to the benefits of women in leadership roles and a greater push towards gender equality, things are taking a turn with a new crop of women business leaders emerging at the top.

The scenario so far
Traditionally, workplaces dominated by men have not been accommodating to women. Whether it is related to child care in the workplace, the flexibility of working hours or safety, women were not encouraged, supported or made to feel that they are equally capable of handling the tasks as handled by men.

Also, organisations pay little attention to helping women adjust to motherhood. The majority of women have to give up their work after childbirth owing to the lack of support and policies to help them resume their careers after childbirth.

However, with the latest guidelines by SEBI on board representation along with an increasing number of women inspired to make a difference, things are slowly changing.

Organisations nowadays are making conscious efforts to highlight their women leaders on platforms like media, conferences, business meetings etc. providing room for their growth.

Such initiatives act as a strong communication point in encouraging future generations.

Women who have broken the barriers and redefined the pharmaceutical sector with their contributions:

Zahabiya Khorakiwala — Managing Director, Wockhardt Hospitals

Zahabiya Khorakiwala has played a major role in making Wockhardt Hospitals a 250 crore business. She entered the business in 2010 as a director, soon after she completed her post graduation. Like most mothers, she also had to deal with the challenges of balancing work and personal life but that didn't stop her from learning the nitty-gritty of running the business and remoulding it from providing tertiary healthcare to giving quaternary healthcare.

Zahabiya has plans of capitalising on the opportunity that high healthcare costs in India coupled with low bed count offers and aims to open more specialty hospitals across the country.

Dr V Shanta — Oncologist and Chairperson, Adyar Cancer Institute

Awarded with the Magsaysay Award winner, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, she is the co-founder and chairperson of Chennai's state-of-the-art Adyar Cancer Institute. In an age when specialised medical care has become commercialised, she strives to make sure that the Institute remains true to its ethos, 'service to all'. Even at the age of 91, Dr Shanta is still devoted to changing the scene for cancer treatment in the country that serves as an inspiration to young physicians and doctors.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw—Founder and Chairperson, Biocon Limited



Anjula Masurkar
Clinical Director of
ENTOD Pharmaceuticals

ORGANISATIONS NOWADAYS ARE MAKING CONSCIOUS EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR WOMEN LEADERS ON PLATFORMS LIKE MEDIA, CONFERENCES, BUSINESS MEETINGS, PROVIDING ROOM FOR THEIR GROWTH

Regarded as one of the most influential and top women entrepreneurs in India, she is the founder of India's largest pharmaceutical firm — Biocon. Established in 1978, the company has today emerged as India's largest biotech giant and Asia's biggest producer of insulin.

Owing to her relentless efforts to develop, manufacture and supply life-saving biopharmaceuticals at price points that are affordable and accessible to the masses, she has also been honoured with the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan award.

Samina Vaziralli — Executive Director, Cipla

Samina Vaziralli is the granddaughter of founder Dr K A Hamied and she is credited with growing the consumers business of the 75-year-old pharmaceutical company.

As the mother of 2 children, she needs no telling of the struggles women have to face to maintain a work-life balance. In the quest to help women manage both their personal and professional demands, she brought vast changes in the way women are taken care of in her organisation. Up to fifty per cent of the Management Council in Cipla is constituted by women.

There is no reason to believe that the pharmaceutical industry is not suitable for women. Today, there is an increasing number of women making their mark in the industry and breaking the stereotypes. In order to bridge the gender gap in the pharmaceutical industry, organisations need to actively create a culture that actively advocates diversity and inclusion.

A few organisations have already stepped up and there will come a time when women will have equal representation in the workforce in the pharmaceutical sector.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

MSC ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for its MSc Advanced Pharmacology course starting in September 2022.

The Masters in Advanced Pharmacology will provide you with a comprehensive three-part postgraduate life sciences training.

The programme has a special focus on how drugs and other chemicals affect the body in health and disease. You'll explore the development of new and improved medicines and the treatment of disease.

Duration- 1 year

Eligibility- Minimum second-class Honours degree, or overseas equivalent, in a biological or chemical discipline. English language minimum score of IELTS 6.0 (with no component below 5.5)

Fee- £22,400 for international students for 2022/23

UG/PG AT WUD

World University of Design invites online applica-



tions from candidates for admission to its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across all disciplines being offered at the university for the year 2022. WUD DAT 2022, the design aptitude based entrance exam is scheduled on Saturday, February 5th, 2022.

Admissions are open for nearly 30 programmes offered across Fashion, Product, Interior, Transportation, Graphic Communication, Animation, Film & Video, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Architecture and Management.

Apply: www.wud.ac.in
Candidates would be required to register, verify their email IDs and fill the form. They can use the unique WUD Query Management System (WUD-QMS) for getting their queries promptly and efficiently responded.

Sommet Education kick-off development plans for India

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Sommet Education, world leaders in hospitality and culinary education, which owns globally renowned institutes including Les Roches, Ecole Ducasse and Glion Institute of Higher Education, recently entered into a strategic partnership with Indian School of Hospitality (ISH), founded by hospitality veteran Dilip Puri.

The partners aim at offering a global standard of education to a larger number of hospitality and culinary arts aspirants in the years to come, in India and the neighbouring countries.

Through this partnership, worldwide education reference in culinary and pastry arts

Ecole Ducasse has now its first campus in India at ISH, and Les Roches, one of the world's leading hospitality business schools, enters in an academic alliance with ISH for its undergraduate and postgraduate hospitality management programmes.

At an event in Delhi NCR to celebrate the partnership, Benoit-Etienne Domenech, CEO, Sommet Education and Dilip Puri, Founder & CEO, Indian School of Hospitality announced their future development plans for India.

The first step of this plan is to expand the current ISH Gurugram campus, which will feature an additional 25,000 sq. ft of classrooms, training kitchens, and student experience areas.

Social media and growth of cybercrimes

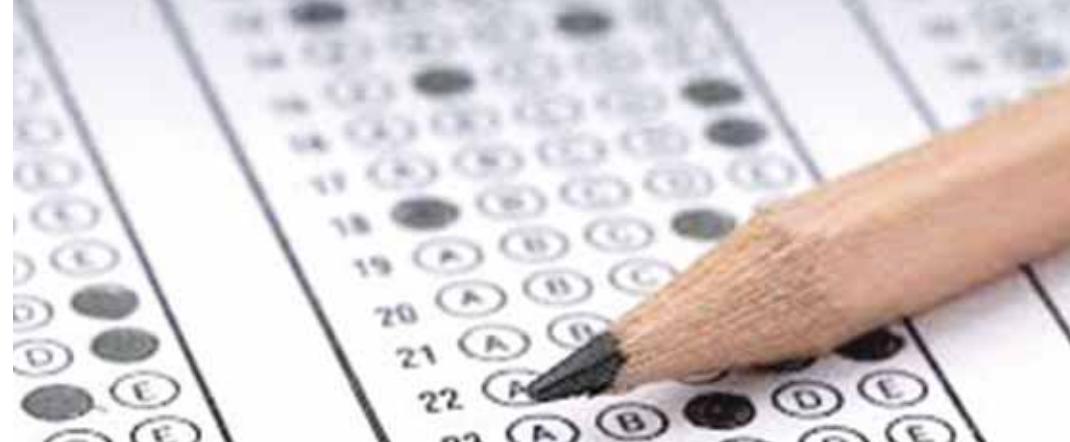


that's only because we as users aren't aware enough.

The best way to stay protected is to change your passwords after a designated interval and always use a lengthy combination of upper and lower case characters, numbers and special characters. We should also equip ourselves with protection such as web camera covers, and privacy settings that bring into our knowledge if some unusual activities are occurring in our systems.

To be safe on social media should be everyone's topmost priority, especially now when everything starting from our addresses to our phone numbers are readily available, and can put our and our loved ones life in danger. Never give into the blackmailing but fight back with the right attitude, that's what will put the cybercriminals in the right place.

The writer is Ajeept Gunwant Parse, Social Media Expert



IIFT analysis 2021

While paper was quite lengthy, students found it to be moderately difficult to tackle. Given the time crunch, one had to select right set of questions to ace, says SUMIT SINGH GANDHI

rect response, +1.5 is awarded and for every incorrect, -0.5 is deducted.

The exam was not very difficult, it was manageable provided your concepts were clear.

Feedback from some of the students

"The paper was overall moderate to difficult. The verbal section was lengthy but comparatively easier than last year. What was surprising was to see no data interpretation questions to be calculation intensive like the previous years, however, logical reasoning took up a lot more time than I had initially planned." — Jayant

Negative marking existed for the multiple-choice questions. In VARC, DILR, and QA sections, for each correct response, +3 is rewarded and for each incorrect, -1 is deducted.

In the GA section for every cor-

"The paper was very structured but lengthy and time crunching. VARC was time consuming with concerns with the fact-based questions in all Reading comprehensions not many inference questions. DI was pretty easy and had glimpses of old cat papers. Overall in the paper, selection was the key so now let's hope for the best." — Akrosh

Sectional Analysis

Overall Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

VARC 35 Questions: Reading comprehension was dominated in the verbal section. There were 2 passages with 5 questions each and 2

passages with 3 questions each.

Verbal ability was overall easy.

Summary of Questions

Reading Comprehension 16

questions

Verbal Ability 19 questions

Ideal attempts in VARC Section: 11-13 questions

DILR: 30 questions

LR/DI was easy to moderate,

lengthy and time consuming. Here the success mantra was the set selection as a few sets were the toughest and time consuming, so the students should first wrap up the easy ones and grab a good base and then move to the trickier ones. Also, as men-

tioned by one of our students, practicing for CAT gave him a little extra boost for IIFT.

Summary of Questions

Ideal attempts in DILR Section: 16-19 questions

Quants 25 Questions:

Quants were the easiest out of the three sections with direct formula application and concept based questions dominated by arithmetic and little geometry and algebra. There was no need for having a lot of shortcuts and tricks, your solving speed and your temperament to understand what the question is asking was the main focus. Arithmetic dominated the paper then algebra and numbers, geometry saw a lesser.

General awareness 20 Questions:

General awareness was fairly easy with more current affairs questions than static GK questions. The section was well structured and diverse to cover a wide variety.

Summary of Questions

Ideal attempts 45+ with 90 per cent accuracy can be expected to get a call for IIFT.

Overall a happy day for students who know their basics and have preached their books with building conceptual clarity and like Rahul Sir always says "Success comes to those who work for it. Keep working hard and you will see the results!"

For an in-depth analysis on each section, overall cut-off, which colleges to apply and how to gear up ahead stay tuned to the CATKing YouTube Channel.

Now let the karma play its role, party tonight and come back with a bang for the series of exams lined up ahead, one day one exam can never give an idea about one's aptitude nor decide your career path.

The writer is CEO, Director, CATKing

SRM NCC Naval Troop inaugurated on Navy Day

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR



The SRM NCC Naval Troop was inaugurated at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava observed nationwide to commemorate the 75th Year of Independence and Navy Day.

Organised by NCC Dte (TN P & AN) in association with SRMIST. The inaugura-

C Muthamizhchelvan, and Registrar Dr S Ponnusamy.

As part of the National Navy Day celebration a Boat Pulling Regatta for the 4 (TN) Naval Tech Unit NCC was held. About seven teams took part in this contest which was flagged off by Gp Capt T Arunachalam.

This was part of the nationwide event that is being held in 75 locations in the country.

3,40,000 is the present demand-supply gap for tech talent in India. This programme aims to bridge the gap and enable freshers and early career professionals with knowledge and skills to become ready for roles like JavaScript Developer, Back-end Developer, Full Stack Engineer, Python Developer and Front-end Engineer, which are amongst the top 15 emerging jobs in India based on a recent study by LinkedIn. The programme will provide dedicated placement assistance with recruitment processes from leading technology companies and also career support in the form of mock interviews with industry experts, resume guid-

ance and dedicated placement drives. Great Learning works with 1200+ leading companies, and conduct over 20,000+ interviews per month among its learner base. Some of the marquee companies that hire for technology talent from Great Learning include Capgemini, Dell, Amazon, Flipkart, Nvidia, HCL, Uber, Intel, KPMG, Cognizant, Deloitte and more.

Hari Krishnan Nair, Co-founder, Great Learning says, "Companies today are investing heavily to create products and services that provide value in the digital economy. The demand for qualified professionals with expertise is on the surge."

PG Programme in Software Development by Great learning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Learning, a part of BYJU's group and one of the Edtech companies for higher and professional education, has flagged off a Post Graduate Programme in Software Development and Engineering. This 6-month programme designed by industry experts and Great Learning mentors will enable freshers, graduates and early career professionals to obtain in-demand software development skills. Dedicated placement assistance will be provided to help them get placed in top IT companies. According to a recent NASSCOM report,

A competitive entrance exam like Chartered Accountancy needs a credible and right strategy because it varies with respective syllabus and the expected number of people appearing for it, says ASHISH KALRA



PREP TIPS FOR CA

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) announced exam dates of CA Foundation, CA Intermediate (IPC) and CA Final courses for December 2021 phases. The examinations of all three course levels will be held between December 6-20, 2021.

The most challenging part is to prepare and then to clear the CA exam. You should start streamlining aims at the initial stages of preparation/studies. There are so many questions in an aspirant's mind — what actually you want to be, what is in your mind, how to prepare, from where the guidance needs to be taken, how to crack CA exam in first attempt and so on.

You should draw a clear-cut time agenda, be well-versed with the concepts and decide if you will be more comfortable to self-study or choose coaching for preparation. Also, there are certain tricks which the candidates learn over the period of time and can use it on the day when they appear for exam.

Keep on reading: Developing a habit of reading at the early stage leads you towards cracking required entrance exam. Primarily newspapers, motivational or story books, fiction or non-fiction novels, e-papers etc always benefit you by increasing your knowledge, reasoning and comprehensive abilities. Try to learn something new every day and these small efforts would surely bring big fortunes in future.

Update yourself as per syllabus: Before preparing for any competitive exam, you should know the syllabus and that is the first step of preparation. This will help you to prepare for those subjects, topics and sub-topics which are required to be covered. It will help you to save your time which you would have wasted on studying and preparing redundant part. You must know the syllabus of the exam you are preparing thoroughly. You can print multiple copies of syllabus, topic-wise or chapter-wise and try to grab the same by heart.

Learning source: Arranging right study material is the second step, the type of questions that can be asked and the questions for which you must prepare, you need the study material. The study material should consist of books which have the necessary content. Know the importance of a particular topic. Clear your concepts from one book rather than reading too many books or study material, our idea is to clear fundamentals and its implementation to the fullest.

Give much time to studies: All competitive exams need time for the preparation, although it depends on exam to exam but an early start is the key to success. Improve your quality of time for the reading, not just the number of hours. Clear your concepts repeatedly, underline important points and try to write on the paper.



Studying for long hours and short of sleep may overload your brain and you can start feeling bored or uninterested. To relax your mind, it is important to take short but regular breaks while you are studying

Planning: Basis all inputs that you have received to clear your dream exam, design your own strategy to prepare, dedicate time to everything, write your own notes, it will help you for the revision and finally at the exam time. Keep cross-checking your preparation with the syllabus and time available with you.

Exam pattern: Irrespective of the exam culture, you must solve the previous papers and mock test to get the exam feel and understanding. Keep the terms and conditions as similar as real test while appearing for the exam. Also, you need to identify your strong sections and weak points. Attempt what you know is right. Attempt your strong section first and then move to other sections accordingly, if there is section cut-off, you have to attempt best possible options in every section.

Preparation environment: Preparing in a right atmosphere is also very important to prepare for entrance exams such that there should not be any mental disturbance. If you have good environment around you, you will be able to prepare better, faster and more easily for the exam. Avoid any distraction like unwanted noise around your study area.

Belief: While preparing for the exam you may feel like giving up or you are not the right candidate for this exam. It is very important for you to have high level of self-confidence to crack competitive exams. You need to convince yourself that it's your dream and you have to be fully prepared to clear the exam.

To bring in sufficient self-confidence and strengthen your intentions, you can read motivational books and inspirational material. Share your feelings with your mentors and parents.

Be healthy: Students generally ignore their physical and mental health while preparing for the exams. Due to which they may experience physical weakness or mental exhaustion. They must understand that if their body does not have sufficient energy then they will not be able to pay required attention to their studies. It is important to have a good diet, sufficient water and sound sleep.

Short breaks: Studying for long hours and short of sleep may overload your brain and you can start feeling bored or uninterested. To relax your mind, it is important to take short but regular breaks while you are studying. Feeling tired and laziness are again the signals that you need a break. You should try simple activities — listen to some music, take a few minutes walk or watch a 5-10 minutes inspirational or funny video. These things will surely help you to refresh your mind and re-energize your body.

The writer is a CA/CS and founder-director of An IGP Pvt Ltd

Be analytical about the future

Credit analysis is one of the most sort after professions for those looking for lucrative opportunities in finance, says AMIT GOYAL

When a firm or company wants to take a loan, someone at the bank that has been approached will examine whether lending money to that party is safe. This professional, called a credit analyst, needs to figure out if the lender will be able to recover its money. Credit analysis exposes you to diverse industries and organizations, which could include large corporates, small and medium enterprises, partnerships or proprietorship firms, as well as other banks.

JOB PROFILE

Credit analysts work in the lending and credit departments of commercial banks, credit card companies and other financial firms. They are responsible for evaluating the creditworthiness of new credit applicants and monitoring the ongoing financial performances of existing credit customers. They use a variety of analytical techniques to evaluate the risk associated with lending money or extending credit to applicants. Analysts typically assess credit reports, payment histories, financial statements and job histories. When evaluating a business, analysts may also study its operations and the industry and local market in which it operates to make determinations about its ongoing competitive outlook. Credit risk analysts generally produce reports and recommendations based on their analytical work. They are also responsible for making the final decision whether to approve or deny credit applicants.

CAREER PATH

They start working in junior analytical positions after earning associate or bachelor's degrees in accounting, finance or a related business field with a quantitative focus. Some positions deal with consumer credit evaluation and may be open to candidates who have associate degrees and relevant experience. Positions that focus on business credit evaluation often demand greater knowledge.

Top-performing analysts can rise into financial management positions overseeing analytical departments, making final credit decisions and monitoring departmental performance.

QUALIFICATION

Need a bachelor's degree in finance, accounting or another related field. A



Amit Goyal
Director, TKW's Institute of Banking and Finance

bachelor's degree in finance or accounting exposes you to subjects like basic accounting and finance, statistics, ratio analysis, calculus, economics, industry assessment and financial statement analysis. Subjects like industry and ratio analysis are necessary because part of assessing the risk for a company includes assessing its environment. Candidates also do the post graduate diploma in banking and finance.

SKILLS

A commercial credit analyst must have accounting skills since he spends time running calculations for corporate financial statements and tax returns. His knowledge of spreadsheet allows him to create reports to compare with data from previous years. He prepares a narrative report and recommendations based on the analysis of the data. He needs written and oral communication skills to present his findings.

REMUNERATION

These analysts can work in a variety of fields. Many work for lending institutions like banks or insurance companies. There is great demand in investment, working for an asset manager or private equity firm. The plethora of opportunities is reflected in the salary. The annual salary ranges between ₹5 lakh-₹8 lakh and depends on experience, industry and location.

circumstances for how you feel especially in such covid pandemic but there are ways to find ways to cope up with such circumstances like

Be your own friend: Instead of rehashing your past mistakes, focusing on the negative aspects, talk to yourself just like you do with your friends.

Pat yourself on the back: Take some time to believe in you and make yourself think positive and give credit that you have the will to do best in your CA exams.

Change your morning thoughts: Before you go to sleep try to write down something positive which you can read when you wake

up in the morning.

Here are some more ways that you can follow to keep your preparations strong:

- Get enough sleep. Set aside 7 to 9 hours each night for sleep.
- Avoid skipping meals.
- Hydrate. Drink plenty of water.
- Stay active to energise yourself and help raise your spirits.
- Rest and recharge with fulfilling hobbies like reading, art, or music.
- Meditating or keeping a grief journal can help you process emotions.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about any new physical or mental health issues.

MIND IT

to boost your mood in your examination days.

Regular exercise plays a vital role in keeping your mind and body relaxed and perfect to deal with your CA exams. You don't have to be dependent on medications or energy drinks to be active during your CA examination. All you need is just few minutes of walk, exercise and movement of your body. You can dance to your favourite music. You can meditate to improve

concentration and memory. You can do yoga to keep yourself fit to fight any uncertainty like covid.

■ Reframe negative thoughts

Although there are several factors that contribute to depression during this pandemic, you can still think of several realistic and hopeful ways to fight with such negativity engulfed us by the COVID-19 fear.

■ Find hope and have faith

We always try to blame nature/life

71% OF PARENTS STILL HELP KIDS WITH ACADEMICS

In the wake of the online model of schooling,

parents across the country became more involved with their kid's academics than ever before. As several schools welcome students back to classrooms, Brainly conducted a survey to determine the evolving role of parents. Survey highlights:

■ Most parents were hesitant to send students back to physical schools:

Over 18 months into the study-from-home model, the tides turned again as schools reopened their gates with the utmost focus on hygiene and safety.

The survey has identified that 62% of the Indian parents were

hesitant to send their children back to school as

many continue to work from home. The finding

calls for a greater focus on creating tech-led hybrid classrooms that

accommodate students in both physical and virtual formats.

■ Parents are more involved in their children's education even as schools reopen: A majority (59%) of students say that their parents are more involved in their education after the viral outbreak.

Interestingly, 71% of the students continue to receive academic assistance from their parents even after the commencement of physical classes. Online learning resources have empowered parents by giving them the necessary tools to tutor their children.

The survey also corroborates this idea by revealing that 60% of

IN BRIEF

NANOPARTICLES AS PACKAGING DEVELOPED

The National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh Researchers collaborating with other Institutes have demonstrated how the concept of nanotechnology can be used to develop food packaging materials that enhance the shelf-life, maintain quality, retain flavor and color of packed food materials.

A group of interdisciplinary researchers led by Dr Tingirikari Jagan Mohan Rao, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, NIT Andhra Pradesh, have published an article in the prestigious peer-reviewed Journal of European Food

research and Technology. Nanotechnology is an emerging area of research as its application is growing day by day in various sectors including food and agriculture due to their wide physical, chemical, and biological properties which are functionalised with several biomolecules to enhance the properties of packing and storage materials.

Dr Rao said: "The research emphasizes the role of nanoparticles to provide mechanical stability to packing material and shows how the nano-sensors can be developed to detect pathogens, contamination, pesticides, and allergens and enhances the antimicrobial properties of packing material to prevent food spoilage and contamination."

IT GUWAHATI SETS A NEW RECORD

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has seen a huge jump in terms of the number of offers made by the end of day two,

The total number of PPOs this year is 179, a 34.5% increase since 2020. Offers made till the end of the second day of the placement are 530.

STUDY ABROAD MBA PROGRAMME

The Simplilearn announces its partnership with IU International University of Applied Sciences (IU) to offer learners a one-year international MBA programme. Through the partnership, learners are offered a dual degree in association with

London South Bank University. The learners get an opportunity to study abroad in Germany for one semester. Learners are also eligible to apply for a Post Study Work Visa after completing the course.

ONLINE TALENT SEARCH EXAM FOR UG ASPIRANTS

The Triumphant Institute of Management Education (TIME) is conducting Talent Search Examination for CLAT/IPM/BBA and HM 2022-23 aspirants on December 19, 2021.

The test will be conducted in two slots — 10 am and 6 pm. Aspirants can choose to write the test in any one slot.

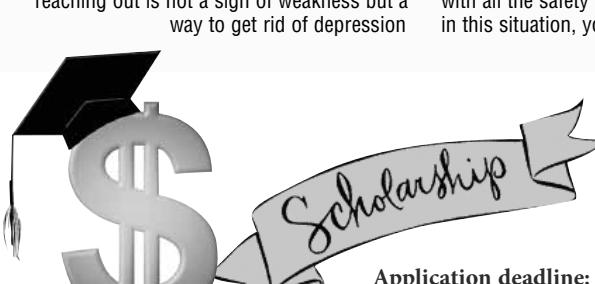
Attractive performance-based fee waivers

(up to 100% on CLAT/IPM/BBA/HM 2022-23 classroom/online courses) will be available for the students.

A minimum assured discount of 10% of the total course fee will be available for those who enrol in the said courses between December 6-19, 2021.

To register: <https://www.time4education.com/local/arts-clecm/page.php?id=4876>

To know more contact: <https://www.time4education.com/index.php>



Application deadline: The deadline for scholarship applications is 13:00 (UK time) on Monday April 25, 2022.

Application are invited from highly skilled students to manage their finances for a postgraduate degree by applying for this Future Leaders International Scholarships at the National College of Ireland.

The scholars will get a discount of 50% on tuition fees for the academic year 2022/2023.

Eligibility: To be eligible, the applicants must have an undergraduate degree an excellent academic record.

Supporting documents: Candidates are requested to submit all the following documents:

Copy of your academic transcripts and certificates, both in original form and translated to English by a recognised translator; Copy of English language test results; Copy of passport; Copy of CV/resume

Admission requirements: Entry requirements vary depending on the course and are detailed in our international brochure and individual course pages.

Language requirement:

IELTS English language requirements are listed next to each course in our brochure or available on our English language requirements page.

How to apply: Fill the scholarship form provided by the college and mail the completed form to admissions@ncirl.ie

Application deadline: It is April 30, 2022.

For further terms and conditions please visit <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate>

Must not be a sponsored student. You must enter a degree programme at the University of Sheffield. All undergraduate degree courses are eligible with the exceptions of Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200). For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and eligible to pay the overseas tuition fee.

You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the University of Sheffield. All undergraduate degree courses are eligible with the exceptions of Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200). For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and eligible to pay the overseas tuition fee.

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Ashes could revolve around contest between Cummins, Root

It will be 181st Test match between the two teams in Australia and 352nd overall. Australia have won 95, lost 57 and draw 28 in 180 previous Test matches played against England at home. Overall, Australia have won 146, lost 110 and draw 95 in 341 Test matches played against England.

Australia have won 33, England 32 in 71 Ashes series played between the two teams. The remaining six series ended in a draw. The last series played in England in 2019, were drawn, both teams have won two matches each while one match ended in a draw.



AP ■ BRISBANE

miss the first test starting Wednesday at the Gabba.

Buttler said the senior players in the team were ready to step up to support Root, and the return of inspirational all-rounder Ben Stokes would also help.

"We know he's our best player, we want to support him, help him, share that load," Buttler said of Root. "He's been in incredible form. He comes here determined to continue that. "It's a massive series for him." Root heads into this series as the leading test batsman in the world, having scored 1,455 runs in 12 tests in 2021 at an average of 66.

But England has lost nine of the 10 tests it has played in Australia since its drought-breaking series win Down Under in 2010-11, mostly by big margins. Root has been on the last two tours, and was captain for the 4-0 loss in 2017-18.

And then there's England's record at the Gabba, where it hasn't won a test since 1986 and has recorded only two wins since 1946.

Buttler said England was only looking back as far as January, when an injury-depleted India squad clinched a series win by ending Australia's unbeaten record at the Gabba that dated to 1988.

"I don't think we have anything to lose ... (rather) everything to gain," he said. "You know to do that against Australia here, you have to be at your best."

England released a 12-man squad later Tuesday, leaving most speculation over the formation of the bowling attack. Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson were included as specialist pace

ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA TEST ENCOUNTERS

Venue	M	Eng won	Aus won	Draw
In England	171	53	51	67
In Australia	180	57	95	28
Total	351	110	146	95
At Gabba	21	4	12	5

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

England in England:	903-7dec in 335.2 overs at The Oval	1938
England in Australia:	644 in 177.5 overs at Sydney	2010-11
Australia in England:	729-6 dec in 232 overs at Lord's	1930
Australia in Australia:	662-9 dec in 179.3 overs at Perth	2017-18

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

England in England:	52 in 42.1 overs at The Oval	1948
England in Australia:	45 in 35.3 (4-ball) overs at Sydney	1886-87
Australia in England:	36 in 23 overs at Birmingham	1902
Australia in Australia:	42 in 37.3 (4-ball) overs at Sydney	1887-88

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

England in England:	364 Len Hutton at The Oval	1938
England in Australia:	287 Tip Foster at Sydney	1902-03
Australia in England:	334 Don Bradman at Leeds	1934
Australia in Australia:	307 Robert Cowper at Melbourne	1965-66

BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS

England in England:	10-53 Jim Laker at Manchester	1956
England in Australia:	8-35 George Lohmann at Sydney	1886-87
Australia in England:	8-31 Frank Laver at Manchester	1909
Australia in Australia:	9-121 Arthur Mailey at Melbourne	1920-21

BEST BOWLING IN A MATCH

England in England:	19-90 Jim Laker at Manchester	1956
England in Australia:	15-124 Wilfred Rhodes at Melbourne	1903-04
Australia in England:	16-137 Bob Massie at Lord's	1972
Australia in Australia:	13-77 Monty Noble at Melbourne	1901-02

LAST FIVE ASHES SERIES

Season	Venue	Winner	Result
2013	England	England	3-0 (5)
2013-14	Australia	Australia	5-0 (5)
2014	England	England	3-2 (5)
2017-18	Australia	Australia	4-0 (5)
2019	England	Drawn	2-2 (5)

FAISEL FEATURES



KBK Sports Graphics

bowlers, and left-arm spinner Jack Leach was also in the mix. The starting XI will be confirmed at the coin toss.

Cummins revealed his starting XI well ahead of time, giving himself plenty of time to adjust to his new job. That now includes attending the pre-match news conferences and going out for the coin toss instead of marking out his run-up to prepare to bowl.

The 28-year-old Cummins made his test debut as a teenager in 2011 and was elevated to the captaincy when Tim Paine quit last month after media reports he'd been investigated four years earlier by cricket administrators for sending an explicit text to a work colleague.

He said he plans to rely heavily on his experienced deputy Steve Smith, who was replaced as Australia's test cap-

tain by Paine in 2018 after the infamous Sandpapergate scandal in South Africa.

But the wet weather and quarantine requirements means neither team is going into the series with a lot of red ball cricket et form.

The bulk of the Australian team was involved in the Twenty20 World Cup victory in the United Arab Emirates last month, where coach Justin Langer gave the playing group more control over the preparations.

It's something Cummins wants to carry into the test arena.

"The environment we created at the World Cup is a blueprint," he said. "The relaxed environment, empowering everyone to do their own way. Tailor the preparation. They're great lessons we learnt the World Cup that worked."

Hardik undergoing rehab in Mumbai, decides to skip Hazare Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Out of favour India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has decided to skip Vijay Hazare Trophy (National One Dayers) starting across the country from Wednesday as he is undergoing an extensive rehabilitation programme in order to regain his bowling fitness.

The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) had sent an e-mail to Hardik enquiring about his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He has rarely played for Baroda in last three years. However he gave a one-line reply that he is currently doing rehab in Mumbai," a senior official privy to developments in BCA told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Asked what is the injury he is carrying at the moment, the official said: "Even the BCA doesn't know. It is understood that he is trying to do some strength and conditioning module for his back which is no longer in best of shape post surgery in 2019," the source added.

If Hardik doesn't play the domestic tournaments, he will not be considered for a comeback in the Indian side for the white ball tournaments. "The current national selection committee has told all the players that all those who are not in the India squad should go back and play domestic cricket — Hazare and Ranji Trophy," the source added.

Offspinner Sajid Khan claimed a career-best 6-35 as Pakistan reduced Bangladesh to 76-7 and produced a glimmer of hope of forcing a result in the second and final test on Tuesday.

After day three was washed out, Pakistan resumed the fourth day from 188-2 and declared at 300-4 after lunch. Then spinners Sajid and Nauman Ali got to work until stumps was called an hour early because of bad light. Bangladesh trailed by 224 runs and still needed 25 runs to avoid the follow-on at the end of a dramatic day.

"After the declaration, our target was to give us the best chance to win the game and attack relentlessly and that's what we did," Sajid said.

"Fortunately, there was turn and bounce aplenty. We two spinners bowled in partner-

Chance for youngsters to impress ahead of IPL mega auction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian fringe players would get one last chance to impress ahead of the IPL Mega Auction in the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day cricket tournament beginning on Wednesday. The auction is slated for January and a stand-out performance in the 50-over event could lead to a hefty pay package with an I.P.L franchise.

The likes of Harshal Patel, Rahul Chahar, Deepak Chahar, who were not retained by their respective franchises in the IPL, would look to make it count when they represent their respective states in the domestic ones.

The IPL has seen a number of youngsters making it big overnight as it also has served a big platform to represent the country and it would be no different this time around.

In the opening day's action, defending champions Mumbai will take on Tamil Nadu who would be riding high on the confidence of winning Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy recently. All-rounder Shams Mulani will lead

Mumbai in their Elite Group B campaign in Trivandrum. Mulani had also captained the team when they had toured Oman and in absence of senior players, who are on national duty. The team will have formidable left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal along with Arman Jaffer, crisis man Siddhesh Lad and all-rounder Shivam Dube to bank upon, while the bowling attack will be led by experienced Dhawal Kulkarni.

The Tamil Nadu side would be bolstered by the inclusion of Dinesh Karthik and Washington Sundar as they would look to make amends of their show last season when they failed to make the last-eight.

Bengal will be boosted by the inclusion

of senior batsman Anustup Majumdar who will give stability to their side as they open their campaign against Baroda who capped a poor show in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy winning just one match out of five.

Sudip Chatterjee-led Bengal impressed in patches before bowing to Karnataka in the quarterfinals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and they would look to go the distance in the fifty-over format.

In Maharashtra, all eyes would be on Ruturaj Gaikwad who was retained by his franchise Chennai Super Kings after a stupendous show as an opener that saw the MS Dhoni-led side clinch their fourth IPL title.

Harbhajan set to join support staff of major IPL franchise for next season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will be seen in a different avatar during next year's Indian Premier League as a key member of the support staff in one of the high-profile franchises. The 41-year-old Harbhajan, who featured in a few matches during the first phase of last IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders, didn't play a game in the UAE leg of the league.

Sajid dismissed all but skipper Mominul Haque, who was run out for 1 by a direct hit from Hasan Ali at point.

The Bangladeshi batsmen, however, also invited the trouble by playing rash shots as if it was a Twenty20 game.

got to be a part of the support staff of at least a couple of franchises.

"The role could be that of a consultant, mentor or part of the advisory group but the franchise with which he is talking are keen to use his vast experience. He will take active part in also helping the franchise decide on their auction picks," an IPL source privy to the development told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Harbhajan has always shown keen interest in grooming players and that was also his role in the later years with Mumbai Indians where he spent a fruitful decade.

I-League to start on Dec 26, to be played in four venues in and around Kolkata

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

This year's I-League season will kick off on December 26 in Kolkata with a match between TRAU FC of Manipur and All India Football Federation's developmental side Indian Arrows.

The matches will be played across three venues -- Mohun Bagan Ground in Kolkata, Kalyni Stadium and Naihati Stadium.

With three new entrants - Sreenidi Deccan FC of And