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International flights won't resume

Omicron scare
puts off Dec 15
resumption plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

The DGCA also referred to its circular issued on November

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

The Pioneer had earlier reported that resumption of scheduled international flights was likely to be delayed from December 15 as planned earlier.

The USA, Canada, the European Union, Israel, China

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

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

OMICRON EFFECT

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

Contagious Omicron may displace Delta, says S African expert

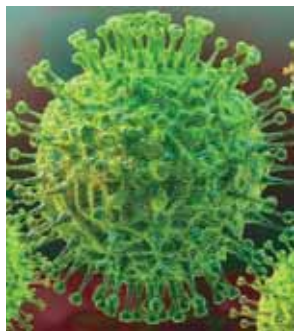
Johannesburg: The Omicron coronavirus variant detected in southern Africa could be the most likely candidate to displace the highly contagious Delta variant, the director of South Africa's communicable disease institute said on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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Amid Omicron scare, 6 fliers Covid-19 +ve

11 international flights landed at various airports in the country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CAPSULE

ADMK TWEAKS BYLAWS TO SHUT DOOR ON SASIKALA

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

CRIME RATE IN DELHI DROPS BY 16.8% IN 2020

New Delhi: Delhi witnessed a 16.8-per cent dip in incidents of crime in 2020 as compared to 2019, according to the NCRB, the Government informed Parliament on Wednesday.

JeM's IED EXPERT AMONG 2 ULTRAS KILLED IN J&K

Srinagar: Terrorist commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) Yasir Parray and a foreign ultra were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of J&K on Wednesday, police said. The encounter took place at Qasbayar area of the south Kashmir district.

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The Minister ordered the Delhi Pollution Control



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

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

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Army to now don new combat uniform

Made of durable fabric with digital pattern to give better camouflage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

As regards the new combat

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

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

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



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

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

Defeating BJP sans Congress a hollow dream: Venugopal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"There is no UPA now," Mamata said soon after her meet with Pawar.

"Everybody knows the reality of Indian politics. Thinking that without Congress anybody can defeat BJP is merely a dream," Venugopal said when asked a response on the TMC comments.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2



officials said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIGHER EDUCATION

55% drop in No. of students going abroad, RS told

New Delhi: The number of students going abroad for higher education has dropped by over 55 per cent between 2019 and 2020, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was replying to a written question in the Rajya Sabha.

"While 5,88,931 students went abroad for higher education in 2019, only 2,61,406 students had gone in 2020," Pradhan said citing the data from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) informed Parliament that it has been taking several steps to provide better higher education opportunities to students.

"Research and teaching collaborations and faculty or student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will

be facilitated, and relevant mutually beneficial MoUs with foreign countries will be signed," the minister said in the written response.

The minister further said that, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government encourages high performing Indian universities to set up campuses in other countries, and similarly, selected universities from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

"A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India," he said.

PTI

Govt didn't allow question on LAC stand-offs, says Swamy

New Delhi: Even as the stand-offs persist at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last one and half years, Rajya Sabha member and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Wednesday claimed he was not allowed to ask a question on the issue on the pretext of national interest. Making this claim, he said the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has disallowed his question on whether the Chinese have crossed the LAC in Ladakh.

"It is hilarious if not tragic for Rajya Sabha Secretariat to inform me today that my Question whether the Chinese have crossed the LAC in Ladakh, cannot be allowed," because of national interest' !!!," Swamy said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had during an all-party meeting on the issue last year stated that no one had entered India or has occupied its territory. A senior official of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "The secretariat goes by the recommendation of the ministry concerned if sensitive issues are involved."

PNS

Rahul: Will stand in Gandhian style before dictatorship

New Delhi: Backing Opposition protest against the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said they will not bow before "dictatorship" and continue to agitate in Gandhian style.

He said this while sharing a picture of opposition protesting outside Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the parliament complex. Opposition MPs have unitedly protested the suspension of Rajya Sabha members for their "unruly" behaviour on the last day of the previous session (Monsoon Session).

"They they have termed the suspension "wrong and undemocratic and against the rules and precedents of the house".

"We will stand in Gandhian style before the dictatorship. And, we will not bend," he said in a Facebook post, using the hashtag "#NoFear" and shared a picture of the protesting opposition MPs.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu has said he was not considering Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's appeal of revoking the action as the suspended MPs have not shown any remorse, but on the contrary, justified their acts.

Rahul Gandhi also attacked the government over inflation and rise in the prices of cooking gas. He said this after the price of a commercial LPG cylinder rose by Rs 101 on the first day of December.

PTI

Online class connectivity troubled by scarcity amid plenty: Ex-ISRO chairman

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It is easy to the Government of India to offer free and trouble-free on-line connectivity to all school and college students in the country with the transponders remaining unused as on date, according to G Madhavan Nair, former chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation.

Madhavan Nair is credited with the launching of EDUSAT (Educational Satellite) during his tenure as the ISRO boss. "These satellites as well as the GSAT-6 communication satellite which is operational now are capable of providing more than 50 different channels for educational programmes virtually free of cost to all corners of India, Nair told *The Pioneer*.

"Nearly 90 per cent capacity of GSAT 6 which is operational is lying vacant. The decision makers and policy makers refuse to look at it as Sage Viswamitra did to Sakunthala because GSAT 6 is linked to the notorious and fictitious Deva Scam which rocked the country for some time," said the former ISRO chairman, a launch vehicle specialist.

He said the Centre should seriously consider launching two more satellites of the GSAT-6 genre. "This would help us in increasing the connectivity as well as coverage, two issues that haunt the on-line classes. This could be done at a budget less than Rs 1500 crore," he said. The advantage with satellites of this genre is that the end user need not depend on towers and optic fibre cables because the smart phones would be able to pick up data signals straight from the satellites.

A major shortcoming of on-lines classes faced by students in Kerala and Tamil Nadu is poor connectivity due to shortage of towers.

5 CPI(M) leaders held in connection with 2019 murder of Cong workers

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Nearly three years after the murder of Kripesh and Sarat Lal, two local leaders of the Indian National Congress in Kasaragod district, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday arrested five CPI(M) activists in connection with the case. Raju (CPI-M branch secretary), Surendran, Sashta Madhu, Hari Prasad and Reji Varghese were arrested by the CBI team lead by deputy superintendent Ananthakrishnan on Wednesday afternoon. Kripesh and Sarat Lal were waylaid and murdered by unidentified persons on 2019 February 17 at Periya in Kasaragod. Though the local police which investigated the case had arrested two CPI(M) activists, there was a public outcry against the investigation and the Pinarayi Vijayan led Government had transferred the probe to the Crime Branch of the State Police.

Some more persons were arrested by the Crime Branch

and a charge sheet was submitted in the Hosdurg Court on 2019 May 20. But the local population was not satisfied by the Crime Branch Police and there were allegations that the latter was trying to subvert the case by arresting fake persons to save the real murderers. The Kerala High Court which heard the petition filed by the parents of the deceased quashed the charge sheet filed by the Crime Branch and ordered the transfer of the case to the CBI. Though the Kerala Government had questioned the single bench order, the division bench upheld the order transferring the case to the CBI.

But the Kerala Government approached the Supreme Court demanding the quashing of the Kerala High Court verdict. By a strange coincidence, the CBI arrested all the five accused on the first anniversary of the Supreme Court verdict. All the accused are being transported to Kochi to be presented before the Special CBI Court by Thursday morning.

Pakistani terrorist, IED expert neutralised in Pulwama

PNS ■ JAMMU

A foreign terrorist from Pakistan along with a local IED expert, belonging to Jaish-e- Mohammad terrorist outfit, were both neutralised by the joint team of security forces in the close vicinity of Qasbayar village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday morning.

The Pakistani terrorist identified by the Jammu and Kashmir police as Furkan alias Ali Bhai was a ruthless category "A+" terrorist. He has been active in the area since 26 Jun 2020.

Police claimed, " Ali Bhai was sent into Kashmir to radicalise youth and incite them to take up arms to commit atrocities on innocent locals and prominent businessmen".

The second terrorist, Yassir Ah Parrey, a resident of Qasbayar, Pulwama, was a notorious category "B" terrorist who had joined JeM on 20 Jun 19. According to the police records, Parray was known to be associated with various Pakistani terrorists and acting as a guide for bringing them into Kashmir. He was a known associate of Pakistani terrorist Abu Saifullah alias Lambu, who had planned the Pulwama convoy attack on CRPF. He had orchestrated attacks on the Security forces using an improvised explosive device at Aihral on 17 Jun 2019.

According to a Srinagar based Defence spokesman, "the joint operation was launched by the security forces late wednesday night after receiving intelligence inputs about

Man sets self, two kids ablaze after row with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dispute between a couple in Gorakhpur took a shocking turn when the man burnt alive his two kids before setting himself on fire to end their lives on Wednesday morning.

The local police led by Superintendent of Police (City North) Manoj Kumar Awasthi rushed to the spot but by then all three were charred and could not be rescued.

A case was registered and the bodies were sent for autopsy.

The brother of the victim filed a complaint in which he held the man's wife responsible for the incident.

As per reports, Madan Kanaujia (36) of Sarai hamlet of Gida in Gorakhpur used to live with his wife, daughter Annapurana (7) and son Sheshnath (5). For the last few months, Madan and his wife used to have frequent issues over household work which often snowballed into loud confrontations. A few days back, the wife left for her parent's house and despite repeated attempts by Madan, she refused to return.

Madan's brother, Mohan Kanaujia told the police that his brother slipped into depression due to the behaviour of his wife. He said that after getting fed up with his wife, Madan opened the gas cylinder, locked himself and both children in the room and set fire on Wednesday morning.

As the house caught fire, some neighbours saw thick smoke billowing out and raised an alarm. They also tried to enter the house to rescue the inmates but the door had been locked from inside so no one could enter.

Vacancies in consumer courts: SC asks States to be careful or Chief Secys may be summoned

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rued that it was doing the work which was not supposed to be done by it and asked the states to take steps to fill up vacancies in the Districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions as per its orders or be "careful in future" as their chief secretaries may be summoned.

The top court, hearing a suo motu case titled 'Inaction of the Governments in appointing President and Members/Staff of Districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and inadequate infrastructure across India', also cautioned states against the possibility of lapse of central funds for developing infrastructure in courts if they fail to give their share into the fund.

"Grant for non-building

and building have to be disbursed in 50:50 ratio. The state-wise status of pending unutilised financial assistance has been placed before us as on September 1. What this annexure reflects is the large part of pending funds is in the category of utilisation certificate (UC).

"This does not portray a very happy situation, the same requires planning by the states so that the funds do not lapse..." a bench comprising justices S K Kaul and M M Sundaresh said.

The top court perused the report and suggestions of amicus curiae and senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and analysed the steps taken by all the states in filling up vacancies in district consumer courts and the state consumer disputes redressal commissions (SCDRCs).

The bench was critical of

Rajasthan and warned the counsel that it would be summoning the state Chief Secretary on the next date of hearing for getting the requisite information.

"Actually, what we are doing is not our job," the bench said, adding that it cannot take the specific issues of each state and they should be communicating with the amicus curiae who in turn will apprise the court through his reports and suggestions.

"What is the position. You are a single state which does not seem to follow the discipline. If you feel that the presence of the Chief Secretary is necessary, then we will call them. We will have no difficulties in summoning the chief secretaries...The states should be careful in future," the bench said and fixed the case for hearing on February 23.

PTI

What UPA?...

From page 1

Replying to a question, Mamata said: "Sharadji is the senior most leader and I have to come to discuss our political strategies".

The TMC leader said that she wanted to meet Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, but could not do so as the latter was not keeping well. "I pray to God that he recovers from his illness fast... He sent his party leaders Sanjay Raut and Aaditya Thackeray to my hotel. We had a good discussion".

Pawar, who earlier while explaining the intent behind the West Bengal Chief Minister meeting him, said: "Her intention is that in today's situation at the national level like-minded forces have to come together and set up a collective leadership platform and provide a strong alternative to the

BJP". She had a positive discussion with all of us".

"The strong alternative means an alternative in which the people of the country have confidence. When such an alternative develops, we will go in that direction," the NCP chief said.

When asked if Congress would be a part of the proposed "strong alternative", Pawar said: "All those opposed to the BJP are welcome to join us. There is no question of excluding anyone".

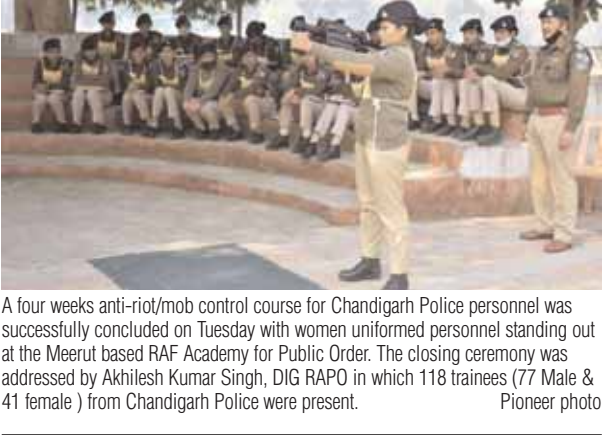
Asked as to who would lead the proposed Opposition front against the BJP, Pawar said: "The question before us is not who will lead the Opposition front, but we are interested in building a strong front that will inspire the confidence of the people. Who will lead the Opposition front to elections and who will all be there in the front is a secondary issue".

Responding to a query linked to Mamta's indirect criticism of the Congress "that it is

necessary for party leaders to remain in the field and not go to foreign countries frequently and that you can defeat the BJP only being in the field", Pawar said: "The kind of victory that Mamata Banerjee scored in West Bengal is the result of the hard work put by her lakhs of Trinamul Congress party colleagues on the field. She has spoken from her personal experience. We welcome it".

Earlier in his preface to the media interaction, Pawar said: "Mamta Banerjee's visit to Mumbai is natural, because West Bengal and Maharashtra have an old association. She just came to review various political issues with us".

"She was also eager to meet and interact with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and myself. Because of ill-health, Thackeray was unable to meet her. From their party, Sanjay Raut and Aaditya Thackeray had a meeting with her. Today, my colleagues and I had a long chat with her".



A four weeks anti-riot/mob control course for Chandigarh Police personnel was successfully concluded on Tuesday with women uniformed personnel standing out at the Meerut based RAF Academy for Public Order. The closing ceremony was addressed by Akhilesh Kumar Singh, DIG RAPO in which 118 trainees (77 Male & 41 female) from Chandigarh Police were present.

Pioneer photo

International flights...

From page 1

After the PM review meeting, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that it would take the final decision on the resumption of international flights in view of global scenario.

The decision to mandatorily test all incoming passengers from these European countries and South African countries has made travel time longer and expensive. Passengers said once the traveller reaches any airport, s/he will have to take the RT-PCR test.

Test result takes around six

hours to be known. The travel time has thus increased from nine hours to 15 hours. Once travellers de-board the plane, they will have to get the test done and wait in the waiting area till the results are out. This is taking five-six hours.

India has air bubble agreements with 28 countries such as the UK, Netherlands, France and Germany. India has placed countries including South Africa, China, the United Kingdom, European countries, Brazil, Botswana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Singapore and Israel under the "at-risk" category.

Contagious Omicron...

From page 1

On Monday, an NICD presentation a flagged a large number of COVID-19 admissions among infants aged under two years as an area of concern. But von Gottberg cautioned against linking that with Omicron just yet.

"It looks like in fact some of those admissions might have started before the emergence of Omicron. We are also seeing that there was an increase in influenza cases just in the last month or so, and so we need to

be really careful to look at the other respiratory infections," she said.

"We are looking at the data very, very carefully, but at the moment I'm not too sure that we can link it definitively to Omicron."

South Africa has been praised for alerting the global scientific community and WHO so quickly to Omicron -- a brave move given the damage that travel restrictions imposed by multiple countries including Britain will do to its important tourism sector.

The country has reported close to 3 million COVID-19 infections during the pandemic and over 89,000 deaths, the most on the African continent.

ESIC Hosp director removed after bodies of Covid victims found rotting in morgue for 16 months

Bengaluru:After two bodies of Covid victims were found rotting at ESIC Hospital here, the Ministry of Labour on Wednesday removed Dr Jeetendra Kumar J M, the director professor and dean of the hospital at Rajajinagar, and appointed Dr Renuka Ramaiah in his place.

According to hospital sources, a 40-year old woman and a man in his early 50s were admitted in Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital with coronavirus in June 2020 and died a few days later in the following month.

Since then, their bodies were kept in the mortuary as the final rites were not performed for unknown reasons.

The family of the victims were misled into believing that the last rites of the bodies

were performed whereas the corpses were left to rot in the morgue for over 16 months.

After a section of the media reported the matter, the family came to know about the callousness of the hospital authorities.

It was only on Sunday that the family came to know that the highly decomposed bodies were lying in the hospital.

The order issued by the ESIC headquarters said, "Dr Jeetendra Kumar J M, Director Professor, General Medicine, Dean, in charge in the ESIC MC&PGMISR, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru is directed to handover the charge to Dr Renuka Ramaiah, Director Professor and report to ESIC Headquarters on December 2 positively in public interest."

PTI

Parl panel expresses displeasure over present way of measuring TRPs

New Delhi:A Parliamentary panel on Wednesday, saying it put a "big question mark" on the objectivity, accuracy and transparency of the system.

In its 27th report on 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage', the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology urged the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) to

identify a solution for a more transparent and accountable system for measuring television rating points (TRPs).

"The committee is not satisfied with the present system of measuring TRP and would like to draw the attention of the ministry to the recent 52 reported episodes of manipulation of TRPs by some TV channels," it said.

PTI

AAP Govt...

From page 1

Rai had received a complaint that while all construction and demolition works have

been banned by the Delhi Government, construction activities are going on at Central Vista project site. "Got repeated calls about Central Vista breaching construction ban; hence conducted an inspection," Rai said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Rishabh Mehra S/o Mr. Rajan Mehra R/o G-8, Sector-39, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201301 and Ms. Riyaana N. Billimoria D/o Mr. Noloshrif F. Billimoria R/o 2323, Race SR, APT # 222, Dhladelphia, USA in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 23-12-2021 in the office of the undersigned.

Marriage Officer
Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Urvasi w/o Sh. Ajay Kumar Verma is owner in respect of Built-Up Third Floor (Front Side) with roof rights of Property No. 119 and 120 area measuring 82 Sq. Yds. (i.e. 68.56 Sq. Mtrs.) out of Khassra No. 270 and 396 situated in the area of village Nawada, Majra/Hastal and the colony known as Laxmi Vihar, Mohan Garden Gali no.7, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. vide registered sale deed dated 22.10.2019 registration No. 21804. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Urvasi w/o Sh. Ajay Kumar Verma along with Mr. Ajay Kumar Verma have approached Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd to take a Loan. If anybody has any charge/ interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.

For Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.
E-MAIL: sgassociatesnl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 9130200837

‘Total paralysis in civic administration’

HIGH COURT SLAMS MCDs ON DOUBLING OF DENGUE CASES

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up the municipal corporations for their failure to control the spread of dengue which has doubled this year in the national capital, saying there is a complete paralysis in civic administration as no one is bothered about the deaths.

The high court said that the authorities have become so populist in their approach that the policies are being made only in populist ways and they are scared of doing anything that will lose them votes.

“If only elections were fought and won or lost on real issues, we would have a different city. It does not work that way. Today they are being fought on what is free,” it said.

“This is a sorry state of affairs in the national capital. It is a disillusion. There is a complete paralysis in civic administration as no one is bothered about the deaths. They do not bother, this is the attitude. The



officials are living with the attitude that since there is a large population, the disease will come and go,” an anguished bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said.

The bench said dengue cases have doubled and if all the officials are working toward one goal, how is it that the numbers have doubled, or is it that the situation is beyond repair.

The court appointed an amicus curiae to assist it in the

mosquito matter, including in diseases like Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya, and sent the case before the Chief Justice which is also dealing with another suo motu petition on the infestation of mosquito breeding in the city.

The bench also agreed with the counsel for South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) that people in the society do not listen unless there is deterrence and said it was not the court’s job to increase the challan amount

that was currently ₹500.

“Please understand that the number of people who have been caught with Dengue and the number of fatalities this year is unprecedented.

It is not like Covid-19 that is for the first time. How is it that despite having science and technology and machines and manpower this problem cannot be addressed? Since 2013, there have been orders passed by this court, yet it is not under control,” the bench said.

The bench questioned the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) over open drains in the area and asked “when are you going to cover your drains? It is so difficult to even go to that area as the stench is unbearable”, “Either we put up our hands up and say nothing can be done. What has to happen has to happen. People are left to fend for themselves. But if anything has to be done, it has to be done in a proper manner,” the bench said.

When SDMC counsel and

its deputy health officer said that the reason for the high number of dengue cases this year was because of unprecedented rains, the bench said if the rainfall has increased then the authorities should have correspondingly increased the manpower and machines.

The counsel said several resident welfare associations (RWA) were not cooperating with the authorities when they visit there for fogging and to keep a tab on mosquito breeding.

He urged the court that directions be passed to restrain RWAs from stopping MCD officials and increase the fine amount from Rs 500 to 10,000 which would be a deterrent.

The bench said there has to be a plan and there cannot be a knee-jerk reaction.

“You would be failing in your duty if the numbers do not go down. We would be failing in our duty if we do not do anything. If the numbers go down, everything makes sense,” it said.

JAMIA VIOLENCE

Notice issued on Sharjeel Imam’s bail plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice on the bail application filed by JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a sedition case in connection with the 2019 violence in Jamia Nagar in the national Capital.

A Bench of Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar issued a notice to the prosecution and sought to file a reply on the bail plea. The court will hear the matter further on February 11, 2022.

His counsel, Ahmad Ibrahim has challenged an earlier trial court order which had dismissed his bail application. The case relates to FIR 242 registered at PS Crime Branch, New Friends Colony.

On October 22, a court here had refused to entertain his plea. While dismissing the plea, Saket Court Additional Sessions Judge Anuj Aggarwal had stated that the tone and tenor of incendiary speech



tend to have a debilitating effect upon public tranquility, peace, and harmony.

As per the prosecution, “On December 15, 2019, at about 11.15 a.m., information regarding a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) by the students and residents of Jamia Nagar was received at the concerned police station. It was reported that the students would march towards Parliament. At around 2.20 p.m., a large gathering of about 2,500 people armed with lathis is assembled near Escort

Hospital, Sarai Julena Chowk. At about 3.22 p.m., despite the warning, the mob consisting of around 3,000 to 3,500 people started advancing towards Sarai Julena Village and Sujana Mahindra Road. When the mob tried to cross the barricades placed by the police at Surya Hotel for marching towards Parliament, they were stopped from marching ahead,” the FIR read.

At least three DTC buses were set on fire in the Bharat Nagar area of the city on December 15, 2019, after the demonstration against the CAA turned violent in the area. Various cases have been registered against Sharjeel Imam, a JNU scholar and activist, including alleged inflammatory speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13, 2019, and at Aligarh Muslim University on December 16, 2019. He has been in judicial custody since January 2020.

Upgrade STPs, biogas plants in 12-15 months: Jain to officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a key meeting with its department officials on Wednesday, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) chairman Satyendar Jain instructed to upgrade all STPs within a span of 12-15 months using state-of-the-art technology and to introduce a new tariff to supply treated water from STP aiming to use less ground-water.

“In the new method of upgradation, existing plants will be revived according to the latest standards without additional civil work, without tree cutting and with minimal effect to the neighbourhood,” he said.

He added, ₹5,000 per acre per month would be charged from the beneficiaries apart from one-time fixed cost of ₹10,000 per acre that will be paid as an infrastructure charge.

According to the Jal Board, biogas plants, which treat sludge and produce biogas,



will also be upgraded to handle all multiple types of solid waste such as sludge from STP, septage from septic tank, cow dung from dairies and Municipal Solid Waste especially from mandis and nearby societies/colonies.

At present, these STPs only treat sludge coming from sewage.

Jain in the meeting said, “It is the responsibility of the MCD to handle these waste types but the DJB will lead this initiative to clean waste in

order to reduce the burden on existing landfill sites and which in turn is a very important step to clean Delhi.”

The DJB currently has biogas plants capacity to handle around 400 tonnes per day capacity, out of which 240 MGD is functional.

The AAP Minister directed officials to make the complete capacity functional within one year.

Jain instructed the officials to upgrade its 20 biogas plants also.

In the meeting, it was decided that the DJB will supply treated STP water to farmhouses and institutions in areas like Satbari, Sultanpur and Jaunpur, etc which are currently extracting groundwater for horticultural needs. It is expected that more than 15 million gallons per day of water would be supplied to farmhouses so that tubewells could be closed and precious groundwater will be saved.

PICTALK



CPM leaders protest against the Central Government over the rising inflation, in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer Photo

Youth arrested for threatening waiter with gun at wedding

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 27-year-old man for allegedly threatening a waiter and firing a shot in the air after he refused to serve him food at a wedding function in outer Delhi’s Mundka. The incident took place late Monday night at a resort during a wedding function, police said. The accused has been identified as Manish, a resident of Dichau Kalan village near Najafgarh area. Chirag Khurana, the owner of the resort, said the night of the wedding, one of his waiters named Bittu told him that there was a man outside with a firearm threatening to shoot him if food is not served to him. The waiter also said that the man fired a shot in the air. The person, identified later as Manish, was overpowered by Khurana and his staff, police

said. An illegal country-made firearm with two live cartridges and a used cartridge were recovered from him, they said.

A case was registered against the accused under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and other sections of Arms Act, police said. Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district said that during interrogation the accused told police he had come to attend his cousin’s wedding and after having drinks with his other friends, he felt hungry and asked a waiter for food but he refused.

“That made him angry and he sought to threaten him with a pistol and fired a shot in the air. The accused revealed he purchased the weapon from a man in his village. The matter is being investigated,” said the DCP.

DASS staff protest at Governor’s office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Delhi Subordinate Services (DASS) cadre employees have protested at the Lieutenant Governor’s office, demanding SN Sahai committee recommendations to de-link the post of Grade-I (DASS) officer of Delhi from the feeder grade of DANICS and reduce the post of Entry Grade of DANICS proportionately so that Grade-I DASS officers of Delhi may get 3 fixed promotion in their service on the pattern of CSS cadre. The also wanted two new regular promotional posts in grade pay of Rs. 6600/- and Rs. 7600/- (in-situ) be created within the DASS cadre as per the recommendation of the Sahai Committee.

In a memorandum to the LG office, the DASS cadre officials said that Grade-I officers, has not been restructured since the last 54 years from its inception in 1967 which is gross violation of guidelines issued vide DoPT OM dated 14.12.2010 and Cabinet Secretary’s order dated 24.06.2021. These guidelines mandate that every organized cadre must be reviewed after every 5 years.

DASS cadre officials said that Lieutenant Governor did not meet them and they have submitted their plea to his office.

“The Pay Commission has established the pay parity between Grade-I (Das) officer and a section officer of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) cadre.

Due to regular cadre restructuring of CSS cadre, their officers are getting minimum 4 promotions upto 10000 (insitu) scale while Grade-I (DASS) cadre officers are getting only one promotion in their entire service,” it said.

Group of people attack woman, daughter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 38 year-old woman and her daughter were allegedly attacked by a group of four people, including two women in northwest Delhi’s Shalimar Bagh area.

In her First Information Report (FIR), the victim, who runs an NGO, alleged that the attackers were sent by an AAP MLA and another man. She also alleged that the accused robbed her gold chain and ring, and molested her.

The entire series of events was caught on a CCTV camera and one of the footages which surfaced on social media showed that just after the woman parked her car, her daughter, who stepped out of the vehicle, was physically assaulted by the accused women.

When the mother rushed out to rescue her, two men started punching, kicking and

beating up the woman with sticks in the parking area of her residential colony.

The footage further showed that the accused fled the spot when the woman started screaming for help while lying down next to her car. Based on the CCTV footage, the attackers were identified as Neha and Megha, both 20 years of age. Police said they have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on November 19. Based on her complaint, police said an FIR has been registered under Indian Penal Code sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

Two held for stabbing youth

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested two persons for allegedly stabbing to death a 26-year-old man over personal enmity in west Delhi’s Raghuraj Nagar area. The incident took place on Tuesday around 10 pm, police said.

The arrested duo have been identified as Shahlam alias Channa (24) and Ladla alias Faran (20), both also residents of TC Camp in Raghuraj Nagar.

According to Urvija Goel, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West district, an information was received at Rajouri Garden Police Station from Guru Govind Singh Hospital regarding a patient Dablu Singh, a resident of TC Camp in Raghuraj Nagar, who was stabbed by some persons.

“Police reached the hospital, but till then he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital where he died,” said the DCP.

Delhi reports 39 fresh Covid-19 cases, no fatality

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 39 fresh Covid-19 cases at a positivity rate of 0.07 per cent, while no death was recorded due to the infection, according to data shared by the health department on Wednesday.

With the fresh cases, the infection tally has increased to 14,40,973, while over 14.15 lakh people have recovered from the disease, it said.

The death toll stands at 25,098, the Delhi health department’s data stated. It said 59,507 tests were conducted the previous day. The number of active cases stand at 286, of which 136 are in home isolation.



Memorandum on minority rights submitted to Gurugram admin

Gurugram: Several organisations came together and tendered a memorandum on minority rights to the Governor of Haryana through Duty Magistrate, Darpan Kamboj amid ongoing conflict over Namaz in public places in Gurugram on Wednesday.

These organisations include Loktantrik Manch, Nagrik Ekta Manch, Janwadi Mahila Samiti, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Sarva Karamchari Sangh and others.

On Wednesday, these groups protested the whole day long and later submitted a memorandum.

According to the memorandum, these representatives alleged that BJP and RRS related organisations are continuously harassing minority communities and disrupting Friday Namaz in Gurugram.

RRS related organisations are deliberately disturbing communal harmony in Gurugram and disrupting Friday Namaz on several locations in Gurugram to gain



political mileage and even suggesting that minority people should go to Pakistan, according to the memorandum.

“In 2018 the administration and police department had designated few locations for open Namaz but now the administration has withdrawn permissions of few locations and now the Friday Namaz are being offered at 20 places only. Now those people who offered their space for Friday prayers are being targeted in

Gurugram which is harmful to society,” Altaf Ahmad, the co-founder of Gurugram Muslim Council said in the memorandum.

The members also alleged that on July 4, a Mahapanchayat was also organised by the RSS related organisation in the Pataudi block of Gurugram where openly minority community was targeted but despite complaints, no action was taken against the organisers.

Allot a common symbol to Chandra Shekhar Aazad’s party for Assembly polls

DELHI HC TELLS EC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Wednesday asked the Election Commission to allot a common election symbol to Chandra Shekhar Aazad’s political party for the upcoming assembly elections in five States.

Justice Prateek Jalan directed the EC to facilitate the process after it said that it had no objection to granting a common symbol to the Bhim Army chief for his ‘Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram)’ as long as

a common symbol is available in all five states and the already allotted common symbol for three states is surrendered.

“The Commission will inform the petitioner of the symbols which are available in each of the five States and the petitioner may opt for any of those and it may be allotted to him.

The Election Commission is directed to facilitate this process,” said the judge who was hearing Aazad’s petition seeking a common election symbol for his political outfit.

“Make sure that he gets a common symbol, whatever it is... Whatever you find is avail-

able in all five states, give it to him,” the court told the EC.

“Tell your client no fussing about which symbol it is,” the judge told the counsel for the petitioner.

The petitioner’s lawyer said that in terms of an earlier order asking him to approach the EC for the grant of a common symbol, applications were made by him but no action was taken by the authorities.

Advocate Sidhant Kumar, representing the EC, stated that pursuant to the applications, the petitioner has been allotted a common symbol ‘helicopter’ for three states - Punjab, Goa and Manipur.

Man arrested for killing father over monetary dispute

Gurugram: A 35-year-old man who killed his father over a monetary dispute here has been arrested, the police said on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Krishan Chand Dudgea, 70, a resident of Arjun Nagar in Gurugram. The accused, Neeraj alias Nani, confessed to the police that he committed the crime after his father refused to give him money. Neeraj was arrested by a police team of New Colony police station led by Inspector Rajesh Kumar from Khandas Mandi on Wednesday. The

police have also recovered scissors used in the crime. “The accused was a habitual drinker and used to fight with the victim frequently. The father-son had a heated argument over money and in a fit of rage, Neeraj attacked his father with a scissor and fled,” Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (crime) said. Based on the complaint submitted by the deceased’s elder son Ajay Kumar, a case was registered under Section 302 (murder) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

DDC holds consultations with over 40 market associations of Delhi

NEW DELHI: The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC), Delhi government’s think tank, organised wide-ranging consultations with representatives of Delhi market and trade bodies Wednesday to seek their partnership and inputs in formulating ‘Dilli Bazaar’ web portal.

Over 40 trade/market association representatives from various areas like Chandni Chowk, Bhagirath Palace, Sadar Bazar, Khari Baoli, Naya Bazar, Mori Gate, Chawri Bazar, Connaught Place, Lajpat Nagar, Karol Bagh, Sarojini

Nagar, Khan Market, Rajouri Garden, Kamla Nagar, Palika Bazar, Rohini, Pitampura, Laxmi Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar etc. discussed the role of market bodies in setting up the upcoming portal and ways to coordinate with Delhi government for the same.

Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, DDC Delhi said, “During lockdown, while physical retail stores suffered losses, e-commerce gained 150% in revenue and Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities have also seen a huge surge in the demand for digital payments.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

During zero hour, Congress members Manish

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

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

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

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

Lok Sabha passes Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

undertake the procedure," he said.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

According to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi will lay the foundation stone of 11 development projects, including the government's ambitious project -- the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun).

Further, multiple animal passes are being built in the

Ganeshpur-Dehradun section for avoiding animal-vehicle collisions. The economic corridor will also have arrangements for rainwater harvesting at intervals of 500m and over 400 water recharge points.

A greenfield alignment project from the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, connecting Halgoa, Saharanpur to Bhadrabad, Haridwar, will be constructed at a cost of over ₹2,000 crore. It will provide seamless connectivity and reduce travel time from Delhi to Haridwar as well.

The Haridwar Ring Road Project from Manoharpur to Kangri, will be built at a cost of over ₹1,600 crore, will give a respite to residents from traffic congestion in Haridwar city, especially during peak tourist season, and also improve connectivity with the Kumaon zone.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

According to the IMD, the country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall and 168 of very heavy rainfall in November, the highest in the month in five years. The IMD recorded 11 extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) events in the month, equalling the number reported last year.

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data. It was mainly because of five low-pressure systems over the Andaman Sea in November compared to 2.4 on an average in November. The northeast monsoon was also in its active phase last month. To put things in perspective, the number of heavy rainfall events this November was more than the total such events in the last four years -- 247 in 2020; 116 in 2019; 135 in 2018 and 139 in 2017. The Met office also said peninsular India gauged 160 per cent more rainfall -- 232.7 mm against the average of 89.5 mm -- in November, the highest in the month since 1901.

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

Covid-19 survivors could suffer health effects for years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

This is for the first time that any study has found that Covid can cause severe symptoms and death for vulnerable people, particularly those with underlying health conditions. So far, studies have been highlighting that some people may experience long Covid, signs and symptoms that last for a few weeks or months after infection. Symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath can linger for months after the infection has passed.

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

"We conducted a previous study that showed that patients with severe Covid-19 who recovered were at significant-

ly greater risk of being hospitalised in the subsequent six months," said ProfArch Mainous of the University of Florida, the lead author of the study. "This new study extended that to investigate mortality risk over the next 12 months."

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

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

Government Of Jharkhand

Urban Development Department

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD MADHUPUR

Notice Inviting Tender

E-Tender Reference no-UDD/MMC/04/2021-22

Date :-

Sl. No	Name of work	BOQ Amount cost (Rs.)	Earnest Moneyor Bid security (Rs.)	Cost of tender paper (Rs.)	Class of contractor eligibility	Time of Completion	Name of the concerned office
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of marriage hall at panahkola under Madhupur nagar Parishad, district-Deoghar	Rs. 31931800	Rs. 319318	Rs. 10000 /- (Non-Refundable)	Class 1 only	18 Months	Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Madhupur

Sl. No.	1	2
1.	Tender Inviting Office Name	MADHUPUR NAGAR PARISHAD
2.	Date of Publication of Tender in newspaper	06.12.2021
3.	Date/Time for receiving of Bid online	07.12.2021 to 15.12.2021 (10 :00 am to 6:00 pm)
4.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	17.12.2021 after 3:00 pm
5.	Date of receiving hard copy of Earnest money & Cost of Tender Paper	16.12.2021 up to 3:00 pm
7.	Only E-Tender will be accepted further details can be seen on Website-	http://jharkhandtender.gov.in

Note:- Helpline no- 7368005128

PR 258216 Deoghar (21-22)_D

Executive officer
Nagar Parishad Madhupur

PUBLIC NOTICE				
ICICI Bank				
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak 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 is 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.	Samanvay Rathore/ Rajendra Kumar Rathore, House No 60A Kalpana Apartment Sector 5 Vaishali, Ghaziabad - 200010/ LBJOD00004590270	South Part Of, Plot No 78 Sector C Shiv Gauri Apartment Vaishali Township Dali Baicircle, Jodhpur - 342001	July 7, 2021/ Rs. 3,07,569.00/-	31/01/ 2021
2.	Samanvay Rathore/ Rajendra Kumar Rathore, House No 60A Kalpana Apartment Sector 5 Vaishali, Ghaziabad - 200010/ LBJOD00004590253	South Part of, Plot No 78 Sector C Shiv Gauri Apartment, Vaishali Township, Dali Bai Circle, Jodhpur- 342001	July 13, 2021/ Rs. 25,57,454.00/-	30/07/ 2018
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.				
Date : December 02, 2021 Place: Ghaziabad			Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited	

FORM NO. RSC – 4 (Pursuant to Rule 3(3)) Before the National Company Law Tribunal Bench at New Delhi C. P. No 184/66/ND/2021	
In the matter of: Section 52 read with Section 66 and other applicable provisions of the companies Act, 2013 read with rule 2(1) of the National Company Law Tribunal (Procedure for reduction of share capital of Company) Rules, 2016; And	
In the matter of: S V Creditline Limited (CIN: U1290DL1996PLC081376) incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act 1956 having its registered office at, 815, 8 th Floor, Hemkunt Chamber, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Petitioner Company	
Publication of Notice	
Notice may be taken that a Petition was presented to the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench, on 15 th day of May, 2021 for confirming the reduction of the share capital of the Petitioner Company by utilizing an amount of Rs. 615,005,465 out of an amount of Rs. 619,120,513 that is standing to the credit of the securities premium account as on 31 st day of March, 2020 for writing off accumulated losses to the tune of Rs. 615,005,465 as on March 31, 2020 by crediting a corresponding amount to the Profit and Loss Account of the Petitioner Company.	
The notices to individual creditors have been issued. The list of creditors prepared on the 30 th day of April, 2021 by the Petitioner Company is available at the registered office of the Petitioner Company for inspection on all working days during 11 AM to 4 PM between Monday to Friday (days when the inspection would be available) for a period of three months from the date of this notice.	
If any creditor of the Petitioner Company has any objection to the Petition or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent along with supporting documents and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorised Representative if any, to the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench within a period of three months from the date of receipt of this notice and a copy of such representations and objections be simultaneously served upon the undersigned or at the registered office of the Petitioner Company.	
If no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above Petition to reduce the share capital by adjustment of the securities premium account of the Petitioner Company, be treated as correct.	
It may also be noted that said Petition was admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench vide its order dated 16 th day of November, 2021 and a hearing has been fixed for Monday, 10 th day of January, 2022 on which the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench shall hear the Petition. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing he should make a request along with his objections, if any.	
For S V Creditline Limited Sd/- Mahender Gupta Chief Financial Officer	
Place : Gurugram Date : December 01, 2021	

ADMK thwarts Sasikala’s entry bid

Bylaws effectively closes party door

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

While amendments made in 2017 bestowed all the pow-



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

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

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

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

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

eligible to vote to elect the party leadership.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subsequently, Palaniswami had rejected her claims and ruled out scope for her return. Later, Panneerselvam had said the party leadership would hold discussions and take a decision on re-admitting her. This was however opposed immediately by leaders like

Jayakumar and Munusamy.

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

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

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

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

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

UP TET PAPER LEAK

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

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

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



people.

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

It is learned that Gaurav and two youths accompanying him were picked up from the Melrose bypass area. From here, the STF has gone to

Meerut, Baghpat, Shamli and Mathura with all three. It is learned that the team had come to Gonda on Monday night in search of a basic teacher named Nirdosh. On Tuesday night also, news of the team being in search of some other comrades of Gaurav in Aligarh district and surrounding area has been received. Officially, neither the STF has given any information nor the district police has any news.

The search for teacher is going on in Aligarh and Mathura. It has now been learned from the sources that Gaurav’s connections are being traced to Yogendra of Khair Narayanpur, who is the kingpin of Police Bharti Solver Gang, as both belong to the same area. It is hoped that with the help of Gaurav, Yogendra and his associates can be nabbed.

UP ELECTIONS AND POLITICS

Furore over ‘Krishna Janmabhoomi next’ remark by Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJP regime spreading hatred, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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



Lalitpur and address a public rally.

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

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

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

The Rath Yatra is considered a lucky charm by the Samajwadi Party as in 2012, Akhilesh had taken out a Yatra and the party was voted to power.

Decorated with pictures of party patron and former chief minister of UP Mulayam Singh Yadav, party MP Mohammad Azam Khan, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, and state party president Naresh Uttam Patel and embossed with the slogan ‘Bado Ka Haath, Yuva Ka Saath’ (the older generation blesses the new) the bus is ferrying the SP chief across the state during the Rath Yatra.

Govt announces subsidised houses for LIG employees, advocates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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



New Delhi: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists, the Government has informed the Rajya Sabha, underlining that it had issued an advisory to State Governments in 2017 to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of mediapersons.

Responding to a question, Minister of State for Rajya Sabha Nityanand Rai said ‘police’ and ‘public order’ are state subjects under the seventh schedule of the Constitution. The state governments are responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies, he said.

“The National Crime

Records Bureau does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists,” he said.

He said the ministry of home affairs has issued advisories to states and Union Territories from time to time to maintain law and order and ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is punished promptly as per law. “An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to the states/UTs on October 20, 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of mediapersons,” he said.

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

PTI

ELGAR PARISHAD-BHIMA KOREGAON CASE

Bombay HC grants default bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Bharadwaj is the first



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

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

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

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

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

In their order, the two Judges noted: “On the touchstone of the guarantee of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, in our view, all the requisite conditions to release the applicant-Sudha Bharadwaj on default bail stood fully satisfied”.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describing how “Mamata Banerjee’s minority communal purposes helping the cause of the BJP’s majority communalism,” another senior Left leadersaid.

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

PTI ■ BHADERWAH/JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Open approach

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

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

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



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

Humour hurts

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

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

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

Who really murders democracy in India?

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

of a state.

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DAY NOT FOR POLLUTION

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

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

Tarun Patidar | Ujjain

CARRYING FAITH ON GROWTH

Sir —The 8.4 per cent growth compares well with the 7.4 per cent fall that the GDP saw last year in the same quarter, the peak period of the pandemic-induced lockdown. The first quarter of this year, however, had seen a 20.1 per cent growth, which puts the number for the first half at 13.7 per cent. With this being the fourth consecutive quarter of growth, the indications are that the economy has found its feet after the pandemic-induced contraction. Employment-intensive sectors like hospitality and construction seeing an uptick is also positive news.

Economists, however, see several issues in this growth story. A key one is that it is Government investments that are the main drivers of growth rather than private consumption. Rising infla-

An era passes away



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

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

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

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

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

Mr Jayanthi | Mumbai

UNWARRANTED SUSPENSION OF THE MPS

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

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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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

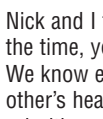


Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



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

US President — Joe Biden



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

Actor — Priyanka Chopra



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

Former Indian batsman — Parthiv Patel

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




Congress leader — Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

FASHION DESIGN AND E-LEARNING

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



ARCHANA SURANA

While the world is struggling with a health pandemic, an economic depression, and a global social justice movement, Bill Cunningham's quote — "Fashion is the armour to survive the reality of everyday life" — became the inspiration to the fashion and design fraternity. From adjusting to the new normal to navigating through it and bringing creativity to reality, the fashion industry has set trends yet again. In the modern world, creativity has never been just about classroom learning. Now, with the 'anything anywhere' approach of the digital world, fashion design learning has stepped into a transformative revolution. When FHCM's couture week 2020 went digital, the fashion industry was in awe. FHCM stands for *Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode* that brings together fashion brands that foster creation and international development. However, with Gucci partnering with the art auction house Christie's on NFT video "ARIA", the industry realised that we had just scratched the surface of technology. Fashion design institutes have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to innovate old-fashioned teaching methods and adapt to the fast-moving digital world. Being a student-centric process enables the learner to customise the procedures and processes based on her needs. With digital platforms for aspiring designers to learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format and accelerated personalisation in digital tools to customise one's virtual studio, it has never been a better time to flow along with creativity. The importance of exploring global perspectives through international fashion shows, exhibitions, webinars that reflect the global context in fashion education and industry cannot be emphasised enough. The design education colleges have been quick on the uptake and started organising virtual events and platform during the lockdown in 2020 where they allow the students to showcase their learnings and creations. These institutes also use social media platform like Facebook Live where students presented their work online.

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

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

Village secretariats of AP: Doorstep welfare



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The special story in the magazine also



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

people are getting total benefits from the new system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

—BJP NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH



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

—TMC LEADER
SOUGATA ROY

Role of universities in fostering entrepreneurship

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

Entrepreneurship is extremely important for any economy, for its ability to make a significant impact on citizens and nations as a whole. Great entrepreneurs can change the way we live and work, by creating jobs and wealth, with changes varying between social impact to immense innovations. But can entrepreneurship be taught? The answer to this age-old debate is both yes and no. Since education is essential to enhance the thinking abilities and as entrepreneurship ecosystem is developed by the interplay of actors like universities, government and entrepreneurs themselves, universities become the hotbed of fostering the required entrepreneurial environment. An early introduction and exposure to entrepreneurship and innovation is more likely to sow the seeds of entrepreneurial careers for students at a future juncture. Cities which are ranked highly for their entrepreneurial activities also boast promoting entrepreneurial education and culture. To take an example, Silicon Valley is known for entrepreneurship and is also the home to more than 10 universities, including Stanford and UC Berkeley.

There are three ways in which universities can take advantage of their position to further entrepreneurship. As universities are places of higher education, attracting workforce who wants to lead a better life, they can transform themselves into breeding grounds for budding entrepreneurs. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship to the economic development and job creation, universities can impart entrepreneurial skills and knowledge by updating existing programs and developing new courses. Going forward, interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in a controlled environment in the university setting. Creation of industry linkages to provide internships to students with



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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

local companies will further enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ GENEVA

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

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

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

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



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

detected in South Africa and Botswana. WHO said the variant has now been reported in a "limited number" of countries

— though it has spread widely, into four of the WHO's six regions.

As of Sunday, more than

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

Slovakia may give cash to some who get vaccine

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

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

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

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

AP ■ OXFORD TOWNSHIP

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

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

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

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

Deputies rushed to the school around lunch time as more than 100 calls flooded

911 dispatchers with reports of a shooter. They arrested the student in a hallway within minutes of their arrival. He put his hands in the air as deputies approached, Bouchard said.

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

Russia warns US diplomats will have to leave by Jan 31

Moscow: Russia warned on Wednesday that a number of US diplomats will have to leave Russia before the end of next month, the latest salvo in a diplomatic tug-of-war between Moscow and Washington.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said those US Embassy personnel who would have spent more than three years in Russia would have to leave Russia by Jan 31.

She said the Russian demand mirrors US actions that would make 55 Russian diplomats to leave. "We see the American demand as an expulsion and will respond in kind," Zakharova said. AP

Taliban urges US to release frozen funds in Doha talks

AFP ■ DOHA, QATAR

The Taliban renewed its call for the United States to release billions of dollars in frozen funds after two days of talks in Doha as aid-dependent Afghanistan grapples with economic crisis.

The Afghans also called for an end to blacklists and sanctions in meetings led by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Tom West, the US special representative for Afghanistan.

It was the second round of talks between the two sides in Qatar since the US ended its 20-year occupation of

Afghanistan and the headline Islamists rapidly returned to power.

"The two delegations discussed political, economic, human, health, education and security issues as well as providing necessary banking and cash facilities," tweeted Afghan foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi.

"The Afghan delegation assured the US side of security and urged that Afghanistan's frozen money should be released unconditionally, blacklists and sanctions must end and human issues be separated from political ones."

Polish Prime Minister urges vaccinations as deaths rise

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

Mateusz Morawiecki's appeal on

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

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

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

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Indian Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer S&D Division Ist UEED Srinagar invites online e-bids in 2 cover system from Registered Electro-Mechanical Contractors or SSI Unit Holders for the following work.
S.No 1. Name of work :- Providing, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electro Mechanical Equipments at IPS # 05 Jogi Lanker under Sewerage Scheme "Sewerage Network of Sore Spots in Khanyar"
Cost of work (Rs. In lacs) :- 25.46, **Cost of T/dcc. (In rupees) :-** 1500/= **Time of operation & maintenance :-** 1 Month, **Class of Contract :-** Registered Firms / Agencies
IMPORTANT DATES
1.Date of publishing :- 30.11.2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- 30-11-2021 to 21-12-2021 up-to 5:00 PM
3. Bid submission Start Date :- 30-11-2021 from 5:00 PM
4. Bid submission End Date :- 21-12-2021 up-to 4:00 PM
5. Date & time of opening of bids (online) :- 22-12-2021 at 11:00 AM or any other convenient date.
Tender Receiving Authority:- Executive Engineer S&D Division Ist Sulaiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar
Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&D Division Ist Srinagar

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Yudhveer Singh/ Gurpreet Kaur/ LBNOD0002312278	Flat No. 2204, Tower A1, 22nd Floor, Rudra Palace Heights Noida Extension Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 29, 2021	March 19, 2021 / Rs.20,39,314/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Somashri Shahi/ Alok Kumar/ LBGUR00002436557	Flat No B 106, FF Plot No 6/GH-4 Sec 6,aditya Garden City Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ November 29, 2021	March 24, 2021 / Rs.16,38,043/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)
e- Procurement Tender Notice
1st Call

Durg, Dated: 22.11.2021

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

Tender System & NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
289/87558	B.T. Renewal of Kodiya Sagni Road & 03 Other Roads Length 8.50 Km. Under Sub Div. No 02 Durg	150.02
290/87559	B.T. Renewal of Madiyapur-Purda Road & 02 Other Roads Length 9.20 Km. Under Sub Div. No 02 Durg	162.36
291/87565	B.T. Renewal of Aouri-Dhamna-Basin Road & 04 Other Roads Length 9.70 Km. Under Sub Div. Patan	178.58
292/87566	B.T. Renewal of Purai Umarpoti Road & 02 Other Roads Length 4.80 Km. Under Sub Div. No. 01 Durg	148.55
293/87567	B.T. Renewal of Siloda-Khapri Road & 01 Other Roads Length 6.30 Km. Under Sub Div. No. 01 Durg	119.13
294/87568	B.T. Renewal of Nandghat Malda Mau Bilkul Road Length Km. 1 to 4, 5,11,12,13, 14,15 = 10.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	184.10
295/87569	B.T. Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Siltara Road Length Km. 7,9,10,12 = 4.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	136.08
296/87570	B.T. Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Siltara Road Length Km. 13,14,18,19 = 4.00 Km. Under Division Bemetara	136.08
297/87571	B.T. Renewal On Murhia To Sahaspur Road Length-2.85 Km Under Sub Division Dongargarh	49.99
298/87572	B.T. Renewal Work In Various K.M. On (1) Gandai to Pandariya Road 1.60 K.M. (2) Suradabri to Mainhar Road 2.80 K.M. (3) Mudiya Approach Road length 1.90 km & (4) Khairagarh Town Approach Road length 3.00 km Under Sub Division Chhuikhadan & Khairagarh Sub Division	155.56
299/87573	B.T. Renewal Work Gabdi-Khurdul Road & other 3 Roads Total Length = 7.90 km. Under Gunderdehi	129.41
300/87574	B.T. RENEWAL OF SIKOSA-DANIYA ROAD (VR) IN = 2.80 Km (Actual Length 2.85 km), PHUNDA-CHARBHATA (VR) IN KM 4.90 (TOTAL LENGTH 7.70KM)	127.97

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/24/2021-22/W-3 Dated :- 01.12.2021
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

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

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

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Chemist & Metallurgist, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender(Tender Notice No.- MCF-MTL-WC-X-RAY Date:- 29/11/2021) based on single packet system online through Indian railway portal www.ireps.gov.in for following work:- Description of work. Design, layout & construction of X-ray chamber, the mandatory training of operator and approval of radiography facility from AERB in a turnkey project. Approx. Value (₹) 49,30,000.00 EMD (₹) nil- Cost of Tender document - (₹) 2,000.00, Quantity of work- 1 Work (As per e-tender document) Work completion period:- 150 Working Days • E-Tender submitted through online up to 15:15 hrs. on 22/12/2021. Manual offer will not be considered. • E-Tender shall be opened on 22/12/2021 at 15:30 hrs. through online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. • Detailed Tender E-Notice and Terms & Conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Chemist & Metallurgist.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 04 Dated- 29.11.2021

01	48/ET/2021-22 Dated: 20.11.2021	Tender No. 04211373	Existing Value 3157	Modified Value 2657	Due date may be read as 06.12.2021 instead of 29.11.2021
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Website Address: www.ireps.gov.in & www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

Short Term Tender Notice Dt. 01-12-2021
Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :-
Tender No. : 11/SPH/2021-22
Name of work : Construction of Community Centre near Purnagiri Temple at Chaurapani, Lohiahead, Khatima, Dist. U.S.Nagar.
Estimated cost : Rs. 9,56,868/- GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website : From 17:00 Hrs. of 01.12.2021
Last date for submission of tender : Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 16.12.2021.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity" Executive Engineer(M&G)

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

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

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

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Chamoli & Tehri for 07 number of Packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs.16.03 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 02.12.2021.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmsgsyndertendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.
The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 09.12.2021 01:00 PM.
For further details please log on to www.pmsgsyndertendersuk.gov.in
Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun.

*Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

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

TENDER NOTICE

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

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

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

SAVE ELECTRICITY

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

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

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

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accept for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No., Tender No., Due Date, Description and Quantity.
S. No. 1. 10211308A (22.12.2021), Spring Part No. 16160113, 8600 Nos. **S. No. 2.** 10211376 (23.12.2021), PIN (Clutch Drive Asm) Part No. 16210580, 9164 Nos. **S. No. 3.** 10211281 (23.12.2021), Pump and Motors Assembly Part No. 16241526, 10 Nos. **S. No. 4.** 10211291 (23.12.2021), Wave Spring Part No. 16160174, 319 Nos. **S. No. 5.** 03211016 (24.12.2021), Component of General Argp, P L No. 29470092, 60 set. **S. No. 6.** 09191057A (24.12.2021), RELAY (GGT), to PL No. 1818004, 56 Nos. **S. No. 7.** 06211195 (21.12.2021), MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER (VCB) WITH ITS CONNECTOR and 05% extra flexible reinforced rubber 27' long air hose pipe I/D 5/16" with 3/8" BSP. Female coupling fitting at both end as manufacturing spares. specn: CLW/ES/C-47/I to PL No. 2971106 Qty. 335 Sets. The details of above Tenders are available on www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.
Corrigendum - S. No. 8. Bid No. E-41 Tender No. : 02211542 Misc. Hardware kit for LAS Part No. 29408489 due on 16.12.2021 Revision 1: Details of Correction: Existing Quantity : 99 Set. Revised Quantity : 152 Set. S. No. 9. Bid No. 41 Tender No. : 07210069A Due Date : 06.12.2021 PL No. : 29170217 Description : Impregnated Compressed Laminates Corrigendum for Quantity : 313 Set. Corrigendum Notice - S. No. 10. Tender No. : 05215137B Bid No. 42 Existing due date : 10.12.2021 Revised due date : 06.12.2021. S. No. 11. Tender No. : 06211077 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 297 Set. Revised Quantity : 363 Set Existing due Date : 29.11.2021 Revised due Date : 08.12.2021. S. No. 12. Tender No. : 06211078 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 246 Set Revised Quantity : 317 Set Existing due Date : 29.11.2021 Revised due Date : 08.12.2021. S. No. 13. Tender No. : 06211760 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 319 Set Revised Quantity : 377 Set Existing due Date : 30.11.2021 Revised due Date : 09.12.2021. S. No. 14. Bid Inv. No. E-43 Tender No. : 08210102 PL No. : 1. 29070041 Existing Qty. : 152 Sets Revised Qty. : 166 Sets. PL No. : 2. 29230378 Existing Qty. : 137 Sets Revised Qty. : 170 Sets. S. No. 15. Tender No. : 06211749 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 258 Set Revised Quantity : 316 Set Existing due Date : 26.11.2021 Revised due Date : 07.12.2021. S. No. 16. Tender No. : 06211748 Bid No. E-41/2021-22 Rev. : 01 Existing Quantity : 293 Set Revised Quantity : 351 Set Existing due Date : 26.11.2021 Revised due Date : 07.12.2021. All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged. SMM/Imp-I PRO/BLW/S-49

f t w i b l w v a r a n a s i Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

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

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

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, e-tender is invited from various Govt. Approved Registered Dealing Agencies/Suppliers for supply of **Neem Based Vermi Compost Manure with Trichoderma** as per the details given in the BOQ:-
The NIT consisting of complete information, eligibility, criteria, specification Book of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from J&K State e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in/ www.dirflorikmr.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.11.2021 from 01:00 PM to 20.12.2021 up to 02:00 PM
2. Bid submission Start Date	30.11.2021 from 02:00 PM
3. Bid submission End Date	20.12.2021 up to 02:00 PM
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders	22.12.2021 at 02:00 PM

In case of any eventuality, the tender opening date will be considered the next working date.
No. DIPPK-13937/21 Dated: - 01-12-2021
Sd/- Accounts Officer (Member secretary)

GLOBE TROTTER

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

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

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

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

Nov GST mop up at ₹1.31 lakh crore

SECOND HIGHEST SINCE ROLL OUT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

CGST refers to Central

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Citing a report by the

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Commercial LPG cylinders hiked by ₹100

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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


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

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

India.

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

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



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

Notice No.: 008/GeM/PS/FO/21-22 Dated : 01-12-2021

Custom bid on GeM Portal are invited under 02 e-bid systems (technical & financial) for the Purchase of Equipment for Diff. Departments & PICU (Covid) from the OEM and their or their authorized Indian agents for diff. departments items and OEM for PICU item on the terms and conditions as per custom bid document. Short details can be viewed at kgmu.org & detailed will be available on GeM portal. (Finance Officer)

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that HARGOBIND GARG who is in the process to avail the loan against the property bearing Nagar Palika Property LT No. 05157568/701, Area Measuring 1 Kanal, Part of Mtu. No. 107, Kila No. 33/1, Situated at Village Taudu, Distt. Nooh owned by him vide Sale Deed dated 14.10.2021 (Doc No. 1764 read with Initial No. 18850)

Whereas he has lost one of the original previous title deed i.e. Sale Deed dated 27/7/90 in favour of Saraswati Devi in lieu of that she has also lodged an FIR on dated 29/11/2021. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to be waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan for purchase of the said Property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.


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



RAIL DISPLAY NETWORK CONTRACT AT RANGIYA
Tender Notice No.: C/78/RNY/RDN/2019, Date: 29-11-2021. E -Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following works. **Name of Work:** Rail Display Network Contract (Rudain) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Video Wall of size 6'x4', Digital screen of size 65", True Color Video Wall of size 18.90'x12.60", LED TV screen of size 49" & 55" at 19 stations namely New Bongaigaon, Rangiya, Barpeta Road, Bijn, Bongaigaon, Dhemraj, Goalpara Town, Gogamukh, Hamtuli, Mirkongselek, Naharlagun, North Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Pathsalga, Rangapara North, Silapathar, Tihi, Tangle & Udalguri Station with scope of display of advertisements along with railway messages in 50:50 Time Slot/Space sharing for 05 (five) years contractual period. **Advised Value :** ₹ 19,72,559/-; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 2,09,500/-; **Tender Document Cost :** ₹5,600/-; **Date and Time of Closing of tender :** 15:00 hrs. on 30-12-2021. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DCM, Rangiya


NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile




ELECTRICAL WORKS
E-Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/MLG/13/2021; Dated: 26-11-2021. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor (s)/firm(s) having valid electrical contractor and supervisor license for the following work:- **SN-1. Tender No. ELC-MLG-06-21-22-DK-RT. Name of work:** Clearing of electrical infringement by shifting, diversion & modification of over head power line and over head track crossing by under ground cable of 33 KV, 11 KV & LT over head power line in between Dhansiri-Zubza section in connection with New BG line project of Dimapur- Kohima new BG line project. **Tender Value:** ₹2,95,88,328/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,95,000/-; **Completion period:** 180 days. **SN-2. Tender No. ELC-MLG-06-20-21-D-K. Name of work:** Electrification on new Camp Office cum rest house building, circulating area & sub-ordinate rest house at Kohima in connection with Dimapur-Kohima new line Project. **Tender Value:** ₹1,55,10,082/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,27,600/-; **Completion period:** 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 22-12-2021 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 22-12-2021. For Details Please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

DY. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON Maligaon

Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"



PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mrs. Sangeeta Makkar, Mr. Pulkit Makkar and Mr. Prateek Makkar had entered into Agreement for purchase of House No. 951-P, measuring 173.33 Sq.Yards, Sector-7C, Faridabad, Haryana from Mr. Gurpreet Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Mohan Singh Sodhi and Original General Power of Attorney dated 23.03.1972 in favour of Mr. Ramesh Chand Mahajan, Smt. Asha Mahajan and Smt. Ravi Rekhi and Original Sale Deed dated 11.08.1972 in favour of Smt. Sudesh Aggarwal and Original Sale Deed dated 05.05.1981 in favour of Shri Gurendra Singh and Original Re-Allotment Letter dated 26.11.1996 in favour of Shri Preet Kumar Singh Sabharwal have been lost/misplaced and my client is mortgaging the said property with LIC Housing Finance Ltd. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall procure that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear. **Karnail Singh, Advocate, K-8, Basement, Jungpura Extension New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363.**



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


GAURAV KUMAR SINGH
(Advocate, Tr.5654/98 Regn. NO. UP-4385/99)
59-D, Pocket-03, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091 Ph.: 981284899



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

RO No. 916 e-Tender Notice Date: 30.11.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Maneri Dam, Maneri, Uttarkashi invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
(1) Tender No. :10/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2021-22
(2) Tender No. :11/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2021-22
(1) Name of work : Annual Routine Maintenance (ARM) of Hydro-Mechanical and Electro-Mechanical equipment of Maneri Dam, Maneri Uttarkashi
(2) Name of work: Annual operation and routine maintenance contract of Sirror Irrigation lift scheme at Heena, Uttarkashi
Estimated cost : (1) ₹26,87,434.00 (excluding taxes) (2) ₹9,44,340.00 (excluding taxes)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 01.12.2021 at 10:00 hrs. Last date of submission of bid on website: 21.12.2021 at 17:00 hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
Executive Engineer (E&M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** S/o Ikram R/o Jhuggi No. 42, Shyam Nagar, Near Pacific Mall, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1003/2020 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajmuddin @ Chinju** accused of FIR No. 1003/2020 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **10.01.2022.**
By Order : Sh. Vinik Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate (West), Room No. 356, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi

DP/648/WD/21

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

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

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



SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Nitin S/o Shyamveer R/o C-74 JJ Colony Raghur Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since **16.11.2021 at about 5:00 PM**. In this regard DD No. **105A** Dated **17.11.2021** has been lodged at **PS Khyala, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.
His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'9" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Red & White colour Tracksuit and Plastic chappal in feet.
Any person having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Khyala, Delhi**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob:** 9599730246, 8750871132
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/645/WD/2021**




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


In this regard a DD No. 42-A Dt. 21.11.2021 has been lodged at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at MAMC Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

S.H.O., PS Darya Ganj, Delhi Ph.: 011-23274683, 23279331



कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बैकुण्ठपुर जिला कोरिया (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्वरेस्ट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
निविदा सूचना टेन्डर सिस्टम कार्य का नाम अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
क्रमांक / दिनांक नम्बर
27 / 25.11.2021 87590 जल जीवन मिशन हर घर नल से जल अंतर्गत रोड्रोसेफिटिंग योजना का कार्य विकासखण्ड - खड़गवा ग्राम सौंस एवं खड़गवा। रु. 381.47 लाख
28 / 25.11.2021 87591 जल जीवन मिशन हर घर नल से जल अंतर्गत रोड्रोसेफिटिंग योजना का कार्य विकासखण्ड - खड़गवा ग्राम कटकोना। रु. 146.12 लाख
उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यो की निविदा दिनांक - 13.12.2021 तक ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की सामान्य शर्तों, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज एवं अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वरेस्ट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
हस्ता /—
कार्यापालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
बैकुण्ठपुर



GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CUM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JORHAT MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, JORHAT (Under Society for Medical Education Jorhat)
No. SMFJ/JMCH/2552/2021/ 14 572
Short Tender Notice (Inviting e-tender)
Sealed bid (two bid systems) affixing cost fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (rupees eight and paise twenty five) only or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) arc invites from the experienced **Authorised Dealer/Distributor/Manufacturer for Supply of Radio Diagnostics and Interventional Items** on date contract basis to Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat-Assam through the online e-procurement system i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in as per following schedule:

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

1. The complete e-tender document may be obtained from the e-tender portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in/> & our official website: <http://jorhatmedicalcollegc.in>.

2. The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>.

3. The Tender shall be submitted online only through the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>. The bidders must be submit a hardcopy of their tender document to the o/o, the Principal cum Chief Superintendent, JMC&H, Jorhat after successful submission of their tender through online on or before 26-12-2021 at 12.00 P.M.

4. The institute reserves the right to reject any/all applications without assigning any reason what so ever.

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



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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sangeeta De (Borrower), Sagorika De, Suranjan De (Co- Borrower) LBDEL00002417814, LBFDB00002417371	Fiat No. T2/1601, 16th Floor, Sunword Arista, GH-01/C, Sector 168, Noida, UP 201301 Area 3500 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 2,31,39,445.8 (as on November 23, 2021)	Rs. 1,32,00,000/- (Rs. 13,20,000/-)	December 10, 2021 From 11:00AM to 1:00 PM	December 24, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

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

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

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

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augoe Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

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

Building partnerships

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

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

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

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



Safety in check

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

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

departments took part.

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

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

In command

VIKAS KUMAR TAKES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) AT DMRC

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

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



Nutrient-rich trade

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Achieving targets

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

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

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

To commemorate this com-

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

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

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

Rising through the ranks

Rakesh Kumar Jain joins as Director of Finance at GAIL

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

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



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

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

Covid-19 relief scheme

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



so on have been provided in the dispensary. This will benefit 60,000 ESI beneficiaries of Rae Bareilly area. In addition, about 15,000 workers will also get cash benefits from the ESIC Branch Office on the first floor.

On this occasion, Rameshwar Teli, Minister of State for Labour and Employment and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, in his address said that

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

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

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

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

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

Tradition, art, craft and culture

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

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

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



products at 137 stalls in the exhibition.

The SARAS Aajeevika Mela showcased the best of its collec-

tion in handloom sarees, dress materials, accessories and organic handicraft products from different states across India.

Master plan in place

DDA conducts BoEH meeting about Delhi-2041

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

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

mit their objections/suggestion orally before the board.

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

Ensuring ease of living

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



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

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

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

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

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

Rising returns

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Curtains drawn

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



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

The Awards for Excellence in Display were presented by the

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

Coir Board won gold medal, the Ministry of Minority Affairs (Hunar Haat) bagged silver, while the Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare were honoured with bronze medals. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Ministry of Cooperation, were commended with special appreciation in the ministries & dept/PSU and PSB and commodity boards.

In the foreign sector, gold medal was conferred to Syed Junaid Alam WLL (Bahrain), while Bangladesh High Commission won the silver, Tillo Hediyeelik Eysa Sanayi (Turkey) received bronze and Silver Palace (Iran) was honoured with special appreciation.

In the private sector, Shyam Tilpatti Udyog, Flora Appliances Pvt Ltd, Wooden Art received gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively, RDM Care (India) Pvt Ltd and Pansari Industries were conferred with the special appreciation.



Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) records production of 42 locomotives in the month of November of FY 21-22. This is the best production figure in any FY. The noteworthy feat was achieved under the leadership Satish Kumar Kashyap, general manager, with his continuous motivation and encouragement to the CLW workforce.

PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

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

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

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

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

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



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

Olympics summit clash. Marin returns from injury straight into the World Championships and she will be playing in an arena named after her. Tai Tzu has also taken sufficient rest as she hasn't played since winning silver at Tokyo 2020.

The other half of the women's singles has two players -- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan and An Seyoung of Korea -- who have swept the prominent World Tour titles since the Olympics.

Nozomi Okuhara of Japan whom Sindhu had beaten in the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



We are getting best possible preparation for World Cup: Mithali

Andy Flower steps down from coaching role at Punjab Kings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"We bat as a unit so you can't pinpoint one area. There are times when top order failed and the others performed. As a unit if we look to post a good total then it will help. If we focus on one area like middle order then it becomes too much of a burden for that particular slot."

India finished runners-up in 2017 when not many expected them to but expectations will be high this time.

"There were not enough expectations back then. Now in 2021 players have got experience and got a lot of exposure with the T20 leagues. Overall we have young players but they have got enough exposure. It is just of matter of gelling well as a team.

"Every match will be different there. The quicker we read our opponents the better it will be for us," she added.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assistant coach Andy Flower has parted ways with Punjab Kings and is expected to land a role in one of the new teams ahead of IPL 2022.

Former Zimbabwe captain Flower, who worked as a coach in England for more than a decade and guided the national team there, was hired for his maiden IPL stint ahead of the 2020

season.

"He sent his resignation to the team recently. It has been accepted.

There is a good chance that he goes to one of the new teams (Lucknow or Ahmedabad)," a BCCI official told PTI.

There is a good possibility that the 53-year-old is given a bigger role in his next IPL assignment.

Flower worked alongside head coach Anil Kumble for the past two seasons. The development comes at a time when K L Rahul, Punjab Kings skipper for the past two seasons, is expected to move to the Lucknow franchise.

Punjab wanted to retain Rahul but he did not want to stay.

It remains to be seen if Flower stays as head coach of CPL franchise Saint Lucia Kings, which is owned by same consortium that owns Punjab Kings. Saint Lucia finished runners-up in 2020 and 2021 season.

Injury-plagued Saina pulls out of World Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world no.1 Saina Nehwal will miss the World Championships for the first time in her international career due to multiple injuries that have derailed her season.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist, who has won a silver and bronze besides eight quarterfinal finishes in the World Championships over the years, is recovering from a groin pull and knee injury.

The big event will be held in Huelva, Spain from December 12 to 19. "Saina had to withdraw from World Championship as she is still recovering from the groin and a knee injury. She

won't be able to regain fitness in time to play the tournament," Saina's husband and fellow shuttler Kashyap told PTI.

Returning to action at the Thomas and Uber Cup Final in Aarhus, Denmark in October, Saina had to retire midway in the round-robin match against Spain's Clara Azurmendi due to a groin niggle. She played in Denmark but again withdrew midway into the second game of the first round match at French Open.

"She had a tough groin injury in Uber Cup. She was fine in Denmark but it didn't heal properly and again started paining when she was playing in French Open. It aggravated and became serious," said Kashyap. "She also had a



knee injury in France and had to pull out. She is doing her rehabilitation now. Hopefully, she will be able to get back to training from 10th or 15th of this month."

In a stellar career, Saina has never missed the World Championships since making her debut in the 2006 edition. The 31-year-old from Hyderabad claimed the silver in 2015 when her rampaging run was stopped by Spain's Carolina Marin in the final. She also secured a bronze two years later at Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2018, Saina claimed her second individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and also helped the country win its first mixed team title in the quadrennial event.

'Golden Boy' Neeraj Chopra to launch PM's mission

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra will visit Sanskardham School in Ahmedabad on December 4 and launch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission to spread awareness about balanced diet, fitness and sports.

During his meeting with Tokyo Olympians at his residence on August 16, Modi had urged India's Olympians and Paralympians to visit 75 schools each by the 2023 Independence Day and spread awareness against malnutrition and also play a sport with schoolchild-

ren. On Wednesday, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted to say that javelin thrower Chopra will set in motion the PM's mission.

"PM Sh @narendramodiji gave a clarion call to our Olympians & Paralympians to visit schools and interact with students on the importance of 'santulit aahaar', fitness, sports & more. Starting Dec 4 @Neeraj_chopra1 will be at Sanskardham School in Ahmedabad to launch this mission," Thakur wrote on his Twitter handle. PTI

Germany beats Britain in Davis Cup for 1st semi since 2007

AP ■ INNSBRUCK

Germany came from behind to upset Britain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals after Kevin Krawietz and Tim Pütz won the decisive doubles match.

The German pair defeated British teammates Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) after the best-of-three tie was level following the two singles.

Krawietz and Pütz saved four set points in the tiebreaker before taking the opening set and won the second tiebreaker after winning seven straight points from 5-0 down.

"This is an incredible team achievement," Krawietz said.



"We have a great atmosphere in the team from day one," Daniel Evans had given Britain the lead by beating Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-1, but Jan-

Cup three times but not since 1993. In its first semifinal since 2007, Germany will meet either Sweden or the team from Russia on Saturday. Croatia will face either Serbia or Kazakhstan in the other semifinal.

"We have done everything to win," Struff said. "We hope our journey goes on and the next goal is to win the semifinal."

Britain was seeking its fourth semifinal berth in the last six editions of the tournament. It last won the event in 2015, and it had beaten Germany 2-0 when the teams also met in the quarterfinal two years ago.

"Everyone is gutted, this is a tough day to swallow," Britain

team captain Leon Smith said. "It could have gone either way, but it wasn't to be today. They gave their best effort but sometimes that is not enough, and Germany deserves to go through."

Struff said his win over Norrie was "one of the most important victories of my career. Cam Norrie is a real fighter. I started very well, went 4-1 up, but when you take so many risks, you can expect that more mistakes will come."

The 12th-ranked Norrie failed to serve out the opening set against Struff when leading 6-5, and the Briton missed two set points in the tiebreaker.

Hyderabad kick off December with Jamshedpur challenge



PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Coming off a memorable victory over defending champions Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC will be raring to go when they take on inform Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League game here on Thursday.

The game will be the first of six for Manolo Marquez's men in a hectic December, and inci-

dentally, all of them are scheduled to be played at the same venue.

Currently in fourth position, Owen Coyle's Red Miners are fresh from a 3-1 victory over FC Goa and will be high on confidence going into this game.

HFC head coach Marquez believes his team is ready for the game but also knows that it will not be an easy one for his side.

"For me, Owen Coyle's team are always tough to face. Last season, both games were very equal and ended in a draw," the coach said.

"This season, they have players who are comfortable playing different styles of football and are happy to play with more possession. They also have a similar squad from last season and for me, they will surely fight for the top-4," he added.

In attack, Jamshedpur have Nerijus Valskis and Jordan Murray, both of whom were on the scoresheet in the last game.

Liverpool primed to pile on misery for Everton

AP ■ LONDON

ENGLAND

Arriving with the best attack in the Premier League, Liverpool looks primed to pile on the misery for local rival Everton in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

Everton hasn't won any of its last seven games and the pressure is increasing on manager Rafa Benitez, who is taking on his former club.

Meanwhile, Liverpool great Steve Gerrard could do his old club a big favor by leading Aston Villa, where he has recently taken over as manager, to a win over Manchester City, one of Liverpool's main title contenders. Second-place City is a point ahead of third-place Liverpool and a point behind Chelsea, which is also in action at Watford. Fourth-place West Ham is at home to Brighton, third-to-last Burnley looks for just its second win of the season in a trip to Wolverhampton, and Leicester travels to Southampton.



SPAIN

Spanish league leader Real Madrid can increase its advantage at the top when it hosts Athletic Bilbao

in a match postponed from the ninth round. Madrid is four points clear from both Atlético Madrid and Real Sociedad.

Madrid is unbeaten against Athletic in 12 league matches, with eight wins and four losses.

Eighth-place Athletic hasn't won in five consecutive league matches.

In the Copa del Rey, Sevilla plays at Córdoba, Real Sociedad visits Panadería Pulido and Real Betis plays at CFI Alicante.

ITALY

After losing back-to-back Serie A matches, AC Milan will try to get back on track in the league when it visits relegation-threatened Genoa.

Milan has slipped three points below league leader Napoli, which travels to Sassuolo.

Inter Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip up from the top two and hosts lowly Spezia. The defending champion is third, four points below Napoli. Also fifth-placed Roma visits Bologna.

FRANCE

It's Super Wednesday in Ligue

1 with 10 games in the evening. Leader Paris Saint-Germain will miss an injured Neymar when it hosts third-placed Nice.

PSG will rely on Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi to crack the joint-tightest defense in the league. On a 13-game unbeaten run in all competitions, Rennes can consolidate second place against defending champion Lille.

Expect goals in that game as it features Lille's Jonathan David, the league's top scorer, and Rennes' Gaetan Laborde, the second most prolific scorer.

Marseille can make up ground in the race for Champions League spots with a win at mid-table Nantes.

Lyon will host Reims without spectators after the league sanctioned Lyon for incidents at home on Nov. 21 when Dimitri Payet was hit on the head by a bottle of water thrown from the stands in a game that was abandoned.

Six-time champions Germany, Argentina, France enter Junior Hockey WC semifinals

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Six-time champions Germany and Argentina earned hard-fought wins over Spain and Netherlands respectively, while France cruised past Malaysia to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.

In the first quarterfinal of the day, Germany eked out a narrow 3-1 win over Spain in shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 2-2 in regulation time, before Argentina beat Netherlands 2-1.

In the third quarterfinal, the tournament's surprise package France beat Malaysia 4-0.

Germany took the lead from a penalty stroke through Christopher Kutter in the fifth minute but the lead was shortlived as Ignacio Abajo equalised for Spain from a penalty corner six minutes later.

After two barren quarters, it was Spain who shocked the Germans in

the 59th minute when Eduard de Ignacio-Simo scored a fine field goal to give his side the lead.

There was more drama in store as just at the stroke of the hooter, Germany secured a penalty corner and Masi Pfandt stepped up to take the match into shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, Paul Smith, Michel Struthoff and Hannes Muller found the back of the net, while Matteo Poljaric missed.

Spain were awful from the one-on-one situation as Abajo, Guillermo Fortuno and de Ignaci-Simo missed while only Gerard Clapes scored.

Germany are the most successful team in the history of the Junior World Cup having won the tournament six times.

The Germans won consecutive titles in 2009 and 2013 in New Delhi, which was their last crown. Germany secured the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in 2016 in Lucknow.