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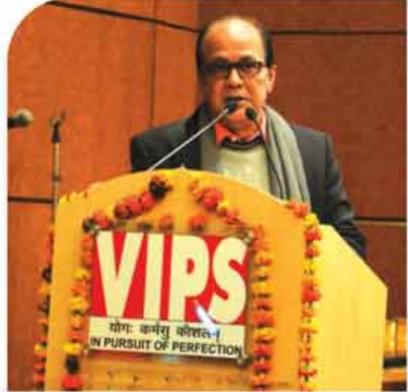
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VIPS CREATES FERVOUR OF AMRIT MAHOTSAV WITH SPANDAN 2021



Vivekananda School of Journalism and Mass Communication (VSJMC), under the aegis of VIPS (GGSIPU), New Delhi is not just the largest media school in the country by also a sector leader when it comes to training at the graduate level. The hands-on drill reflects best during its annual Event Management exercise *Spandan*, which in the past three years has involved a large number of students to create a mega fest with no involvement of any vendor from outside. If the effort is of the students and faculty, the equipment is part of the teaching-learning infrastructure.

This year Spandan was held on 29 and 30 November in hybrid mode. The theme was *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Celebrating 75 years of Independence*. And it took off with opening event of *Media Panchayat* with a very thought-provoking discussion on crisis of credibility being faced by Indian Media with Khurram Raza, Editor, *Qaumi Awaz*, Subhas Setia, formerly All India Radio and Vandana Singh, Editor, *The Federal* as the panelists and Professor Sidharth Mishra, media veteran and Chairperson, VSJMC as moderator. The opening remarks were made by Prof Charulata Singh, Dean, VSJMC.

Next on the agenda was a photography exhibition dedicated to the memory of Danish Siddiqui, who died in the line of action in Afghanistan. Followed by RJ hunt with VSJMC alumni Pankit Narang (*Radio Mirchi*) flooring the students with his interaction. Next on the line was a Master Class on Public Relations by Samir Kapur of the ad-factors. The day ended on a high note of dance

and music with musical show *Sanskriti* entwined with audio visual presentation of 12 Indian artists who have been our cultural ambassador. Runa Chaudhury, daughter-in-law of sitar maestro Debu Chaudhury and wife of Prateek Chaudhury was felicitated by VIPS chairman Dr SC Vats.

On day two, *Cinephile*, the annual film festival was made livewire by an online session by film-maker Tushar Tyagi and offline address by film journalism veteran Syed Mohammed Irfan aka Irfan, who made such in-depth delineation of what has made his show *Gulfagoo* have such a long uninterrupted run. During the course of two-days there were several competitive events and extension programmes in association with NGOs.

The organising team of students was mentored by Dr Manoj K Singh, Dr Praveen K Singh, Dr Ramesh K Sharma, Dr Sunil Mishra and Mr Shambhu Sahu. The two-day fiesta touched a crescendo with staging of the Grand Finale show — *Sham-e-Sipahi*, dedicated to three military leaders — Major Somanth Sharma (Kashmir, 1948), Maj Gen Abhaya K Gupta (Mumbai, 2008) and Air Marshal C Hari Kumar (Balakot, 2019). The dramatization of the three major events of our nation's history left one and all enthralled.

Spandan 2021 allowed experiencing normalcy, instilling creativity, competitive high, excitement, and happiness to every participant even in such unpredictable times. And this all was made possible with the unstinted support of the Vice-Chairman of VIPS, Suneet Vats, an alumnus of CBS and Wharton.



VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Accredited Grade "A" by NAAC, Recognized under Section 2(f) of UGC, Affiliated to GGSIPU, Recognized by Bar Council of India, Approved BY AICTE/NBA, ISO 9001:2015
AU- Block, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Delhi, 110034

@VIPS_Delhi @DelhiVIPS @delhivips | WEBSITE: www.vips.edu

City Govt reduces RT-PCR charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government reduced the RT-PCR test charges to ₹3,500 from ₹3,900. The revised prices are applicable from Thursday. The decision comes after the Centre implemented international travel guidelines on Wednesday making it mandatory for passengers coming from "high risk" countries to undergo Covid test.

Notably, it takes around 90 minutes to get the test report of the Rapid PCR as compared with 4-5 hours in the RT-PCR which costs ₹500 in the capital. According to the Delhi Airport officials, about 80 per of the passengers are opting for Rapid PCR over RT-PCR because of it being quick.

"Total 1,013 passengers from 4 'at risk' flights successfully completed arrival formalities due to availability of Rapid PCR Test along with RTPCR Test. 792 passengers decided to take Rapid PCR Test and 221 passengers opted for RT-PCR Test," Delhi Airport tweeted.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain also



said that RT-PCR of every traveller coming from abroad is mandatory at the airport. This is in view of the new Omicron variant.

He also mentioned that 4 travellers have been admitted to LNJP Hospital due to testing positive for Covid-19.

He said, "RT-PCR of every traveller coming from abroad is mandatory at the airport, in view of #Omicron. 4 Covid positive travellers have been admitted to LNJP Hospital and 4 suspected are being examined. Their samples have been sent for genome sequencing"

AAP lost credibility to stay in power: Delhi Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the AAP Government has lost all the credibility and moral authority to stay in power as it failed to address the deteriorating air quality in the Capital.

Kumar demanded Kejriwal's resignation forthwith after the apex court gave him 24 hours to tackle the air pollution or else the court will appoint an expert to oversee the Arvind Government's functioning.

Addressing the media, Kumar said that a campaign like "Red Lights On, Gaadi Off" was only intended to get CM Arvind some cheap publicity, by endangering the health of around 2,500 marshals posted at nearly 100 traffic signals across the city and not to control pollution.

The Congress president said that the smog towers set up at Connaught Place and Anand Vihar, at enormous cost to the exchequer are big scams as they have served no purpose in checking air pollution. He said that it was surprising that while Government employees have been allowed to work from home, schools have been

reopened to put the health of the children at risk.

Kumar said that Kejriwal sold false dreams of making Delhi like "London, Paris and Singapore", but he has definitely succeeded in making Delhi the worst polluted city in the world with polluted water, Yamuna river, broken and dusty roads, clogged sewers and drains which create water-logging of streets after the first hint of rains, the worst spread of vector-borne diseases like dengue, highest unemployment rate, and the poor people living in insanitary conditions at JJ clusters and unauthorized colonies in the absence of lack of civic facilities.

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress vice-president Jaikishan also attacked the AAP Government saying that Kejriwal, eyeing on civic election, handed over a check of Rs 1 crore to a Corona worrier but ignored many others who are still awaiting relief from the government.

He said that many employees of even Government's departments in Delhi have lost their lives while serving on duty during the Corona period but they have not received any relief from the AAP Government.



Journalists held a march to Parliament from the Press Club of India to protest against the restrictions on the entry of the media into Parliament and the Press Gallery, in New Delhi on Thursday

NDMC holds meet to sort out traders' issues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the aim to resolve the issues of the market traders association of New Delhi areas, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) organised an open house session on Thursday and discussed the issues, grievances and matters related to Civic Services in a transparent manner.

NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay along with the senior officers of the civil, electrical engineering, public health and security department attended an open house session to resolve the issues, grievances and matters related to civic services in a transparent manner.

Upadhyay issued directions on the spot to the concerned department officers to sort out the issues in the time bound manner. He said that we are making a new work culture in the NDMC area in resolving the citizen-centric issues of market traders associations, resident's welfare associations and employees in a transparent manner at every stage.

"Every problem faced by the citizens of the New Delhi area will be addressed at any level and every time with the concerned department," he added.

489 liquor brands registered under new Excise Policy, Govt tells HC

New Delhi: The AAP Government on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that 489 liquor brands have been registered under its Excise Policy 2021-22 and MRP has been fixed for 428 of them. The Delhi government told Justice Rekha Palli, who was hearing pleas by several retail liquor traders against the levy of licence fees, that an overwhelming number of brands have been registered under the policy now and there is no reason why coercive action can't be taken against those vendors who are in default of payment.

"Petitioners say (that) one of their prayers is that don't charge us because many brands have not registered, MRP is not fixed... Overwhelming (number of) brands have registered. You can keep getting brands over the

time," senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Delhi government, said.

The petitioners are successful bidders for licences for operation of retail liquor vendors and seek to declare the decision of the Delhi government to levy licence fees with effect from November 1, 2021 as illegal. "I'm not trying to say these people can get away," stated the judge who listed the matter for hearing on December 7 after noticing that a document filed by the Delhi government was not on record. The court added that in the meantime, the interim assurance given by the Delhi government, also represented by senior advocate Rahul Mehra, that no coercive action would be taken in relation to non-payment of licence fees would continue.

UPSIDA कार्यालय बरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक, विद्युत खण्ड-द्वितीय
 २०१० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण,
 टैकीएस सिटी, गाजियाबाद, E-Mail-ed2@upsidc.com

अत्याकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	निविदा का प्रकार	कार्य की लागत रु (लाख में)
1.	Annual Maintenance Contract of Street light and high mast lighting system at IA. Talanagri Housing and CDF Aligarh Distt Aligarh.	अत्याकालीन	34.85
2.	Annual Maintenance Contract of Street light at IA. Masuri Gulawathi Road Distt. Hapur.	अत्याकालीन	27.55
3.	Annual Maintenance Contract of Street light and high mast lighting system at IA. Surajpur B&C & Surajpur Housing and Distt. Gautambudh Nagar	अत्याकालीन	41.70
4.	Replacing under ground 11 kv power network system of failed factory and dismantling of old 11 kv line falling over plot no. F-1 to F-2 at EPIP Kasna.	अत्याकालीन	20.66

निविदा विधिक 03.12.2021 को 11:00 बजे से विधिक 10.12.2021 को 11:00 बजे तक अत्याकालीन की जा सकती है, जिसे विधिक 10.12.2021 को 12:00 बजे तक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यमों से निविदा रखनी है। निविदा रखने की अंतिम तिथि 13.12.2021 को 17:00 बजे तक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यमों से अत्याकालीन रूप से अत्याकालीन में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटीएचडी सहित कर जोड़ना चाहिए। अलग से कोई कर देना नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु समस्त 'विद्युत' लागत विनियम २०१० समान, लागतको 'क' श्रेणी, अद्यतनित मासिक-नगरीय अर्थशास्त्र बोर्ड, अत्याकालीन को Consider नहीं किया जाएगा। निविदा रखने की अंतिम तिथि 13.12.2021 को 17:00 बजे तक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यमों से अत्याकालीन रूप से अत्याकालीन में जमा की जा सकती है।

बिधिक प्रबन्धक
 २०१० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, गाजियाबाद

1ST DAY OF IIT-DELHI PLACEMENTS At least 60 offers of over ₹1 crore package made to students

New Delhi: Around 60 offers made to students at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on first day of the placement drive are above ₹1 crore, according to sources.

Over 350 national and international organizations offering above 750 job profiles across multiple sectors have already registered for hiring students as of now, they said.

According to officials, there has been over 45 per cent increase in the number of offers received by the campus and over 35 per cent increase in the indicative compensation offered by companies visiting on Thursdays in comparison to last year.

"IIT Delhi students bagged over 400 placement offers including pre-placement offers (PPOs) highest in past 5 years by the end of the first day of the placement season on December 1. Many students have also bagged multiple placement offers. "Around 180 PPOs have been received as of now and 7 students have opted for deferred placements facility of the institute. Deferred placements facility is available to students who wish to set up a start-up post their graduation," the institute said in a statement. The students choosing the deferred placement option can avail placement services once within 2 years after availing this option up to 2023-24. Anishya Obhrai Madan, Head, Office of Career Services, IIT Delhi said, "We are confident that given the new ways of recruiting and our scheduling paradigm; companies will be able to make good hiring decisions. We look forward to this positive hiring trend continuing for the rest of the season."

DDC holds talks with women entrepreneurs on 'Dilli Bazaar' web portal

New Delhi: The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) on Thursday held a consultation meeting with women entrepreneurs of the city to ensure their inclusion in the upcoming 'Dilli Bazaar' web portal. The entrepreneurs welcomed the Arvind Kejriwal government's decision to set up the portal and gave several practical inputs for it, an official statement said.

Many entrepreneurs and representatives of women's trade or market associations from the jewellery, apparels and garment industry, fashion designers, boutique and salon owners, make-up artists and others participated in the consultation. They gave several practical suggestions and deliberated on ways to increase the participation of women in the upcoming 'Dilli Bazaar' portal.

City recorded highest-ever power demand in Nov: BSES

New Delhi: At 3831 MW, Delhi's peak power demand in last November was the highest ever in this month, discoms officials said on Thursday. However, BSES authorities said that they are fully geared up to ensure adequate power availability during the winter season.

According to officials of power distribution companies, in 2020 city's peak power demand in November was 3769 MW while in November 2019 it was 3631 MW.

"At 3831 MW, the peak power demand in November 2021 is more than the peak power demand recorded in November in both 2019 and 2020. In fact, the peak power demand in November 2021 is the highest ever peak power demand recorded in November



in the National Capital," a discom official said requesting anonymity.

The official added that the peak power demand in November 2021 was higher on 15 corresponding days of November 2020 and 16 such days of November 2019.

"Translated into percentage terms, Delhi's peak power demand in November 2021 was higher on 50% of the cor-

responding days of November 2020 and 53% of the corresponding days of November 2019," the official added.

Officials said that Delhi's peak power demand had been increasingly pipping the power demand in both 2019 and 2020.

Officials also predicted that in December this year the city can witness 5,400 MW peak power demand surpassing the peak winter demand of both 2019 and 2020.

Last year, December's peak power demand was 5021 MW while in 2019 it peaked at 5343 MW.

Officials said that the trend has been the same for October too.

The peak power demand in October 2021 was 5338 MW,

while it was 4769 MW in October 2020 and 4553 MW in 2019.

Moreover, the peak power demand of October 2021 (5388) surpassed the peak power demand of October 2020 (4769MW) on 8 occasions, officials said. "BSES discoms are using avenues like 'Banking', 'Reserve Shutdown', 'Power Exchange' and ensuring sufficient 'Spinning Reserves' to dispose of surplus power as well as ensuring reliable power supply.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

HC expresses displeasure over Delhi Police transferring case to Ghaziabad

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has expressed its displeasure over Delhi Police registering a zero FIR in a case of alleged sexual assault and then transferring the investigation to Ghaziabad, saying it is unfortunate when institutions meant to protect life and liberty are "quick to shirk their responsibilities" which weakens the trust of common citizens.

Justice Subramonium Prasad said since one of the incidents of alleged forceful sexual assault had taken place within the vicinity of GTB Enclave police station here in east Delhi, it was sufficient for an FIR to be registered in the national capital and directed that the investigation be called back from Indrapuram police station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. This Court finds it unfortunate that institutions that are supposed to protect the life and liberty of common citizens are quick to shirk their responsibilities.

Delton Cables Limited
 CIN: L31300DL1964PLC004255
 Regd. Office: "Delton House", 4801, Bharat Ram Road, 24, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110 002.
 Phones: 11-23273905-07, Email: dd@deltoncables.com
 Website: www.deltoncables.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificate(s) issued by the Company are stated to have been lost or misplaced and the registered holder thereof has applied for the issue of duplicate share certificate(s).

Sl No.	Name of Shareholder	Folio No.	Share Certificate No.	Share No.	No. of shares	Distinctive No.
1.	Krishan Prakash Gupta	K000993	6321	50	679226 - 679275	
			6322	50	679276 - 679325	

Any person who has claim in respect to the said share certificate(s) should lodge their claim with all supporting documents with the company at its registered office at Delton House, 4801, Bharat Ram Road, 24, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110002. If no valid claim is received within 15 days of publication of this notice, the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s).

For Delton Cables Limited
 Vikas Rawat
 Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
 Date: December 02, 2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (THROUGH E-TENDERING)
 Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-939 Dated: 02.12.2021

Name of work with its location	Provision of Display of Train Status & Audio Visual Display at Stations for Passengers.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 35,07,300/- only
Tender Document Fee (₹)	₹ 0/- only.
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 0/- only.

Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for upload the tender/ closing of tender: Tender uploading /closing date & time- 27.12.2021 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

28212021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public that Mrs. Resu Sabharwal W/o Mr. Kamal Sabharwal R/o 175, Pocket-E, Mayapuri Vihar Phase-II, New Delhi is the allottee of Residential plot bearing No. 283, Block-B, Sector-82, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. The aforesaid property has been sold by way of GPA. The GPA was executed & registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Rishikesh, Dehradun in favour of Mr. Sanjeev Chopra S/o Mr. S.P. Chopra, R/o M-5, Hans Apartments, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032 & an unregistered agreement to sell has been executed in favour of Mr. Vivek Vidyasagar Mittal S/o Mr. Raj Kumar Mittal R/o B-164, Yojna Vihar, Delhi. The GPA Holder (Mr. Sanjeev Chopra) is transferring the aforesaid property to Mr. Vivek Vidyasagar Mittal S/o Mr. Raj Kumar Mittal R/o B-164, Yojna Vihar, Delhi. If anybody has any objection they may file objection within 30 days from the date of public notice in the office of Noida Authority.

Sanjeev Chopra

PUBLIC NOTICE

Plot No. 59, Sector-57, Phase-IV, I.E. Kundli, measuring 1012.50 sq. meter was allotted by the Corporation to Sh. Jagtar Singh (Now deceased) Partner of M/s. Filtech Fertilizer, R/o, A-25, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, vide re-allocment letter dated 27.03.2014. The Corporation has been informed that the original allottee Sh. Jagtar Singh had expired on 28.04.2021. The legal heirs of the deceased allottee Sh. Jagtar Singh (Name) Smt. Sukhpal Kaur (Wife), Sh. Iqbal Singh (Son) & Smt. Harpreet Kaur (daughter) have approached the Corporation for transfer of plot/share of Late Sh. Jagtar Singh in the plot in question in favour of Sh. Iqbal Singh-50% & Smt. Sukhpal Kaur-50% partners of existing firm M/s. Filtech Fertilizer in this regard. The Corporation is in process of considering their request & transferring the said plot in favour of Sh. Iqbal Singh-50% & Smt. Sukhpal Kaur-50% partners of existing firm M/s. Filtech Fertilizer. Through this public notice it is hereby informed that any person having reservation/objection to said transfer may file his/her objection in writing before the undersigned along with an affidavit within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no response is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that no body has any objection to transfer of the said share in the plot in the Corporation shall go ahead with transfer of plot in favour of Sh. Iqbal Singh-50% & Smt. Sukhpal Kaur-50% partners of existing firm M/s. Filtech Fertilizer, Estate Manager

For and behalf of Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
 Branch Office Ind. Estate, Kundli, Ph. 0130-2370846.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL
Water Work Department
 Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal
 Ph. No. 0755-2701669 E-mail: pmjnbmc@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online tenders are being invited for the following work from the appropriated firm that Registered in the office of Madhya Pradesh (Central Registration Cell). The tender documents can be obtained online on the website https://mptenders.gov.in as per the Key Dates in the Notice published on the above website and detailed information can also be seen on website https://mptenders.gov.in

Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website https://mptenders.gov.in

S. No.	NIT No./ Call No.	Tender ID	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Bid Submission End Date
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	7.
11.	98	2021_UAD_160547_2	Survey, Designing Drawing, Providing laying, testing, and commissioning of 400 mm dia DI-K9 pipe line with necessary fitting, including road restoration work From 2MGD Filter plant to One tree hill GSR Sant Hiraadram Nagar Under Zone 01, Bhopal. Estimate based on C.S.R. - MPUADD Water supply Sewerage and tube well Works, 2021	15860641.00	79303.00	15-Dec-2021 06:00 PM

City Engineer (H)
 Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

T.N.879/021/022

OPINION 6
INDIAN POLITICS HAS
NO PLACE FOR FASCISM

WORLD 8
US DEFENCE CHIEF SLAMS CHINA'S
DRIVE FOR HYPERSONIC WEAPONS

SPORT 11
SINDHU JOINS LAKSHYA
INTO KNOCKOUTS

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the pioneer

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**BIG CHUNKY
PANDEY FAN:
MALAIKA
10 VIVACITY**

OMICRON ENTERS INDIA

S African traveller found +ve; Bengaluru doc with no travel history positive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 Omicron variant has reached India with two cases detected in Karnataka, while samples of six people who flew into Delhi from "at-risk" countries and tested positive have been sent to the National Centre for Disease Control for genome sequencing to ascertain if they have the new variant.

Of the two persons who tested positive for Omicron in Karnataka, one has already left for his hometown in South Africa. The 66-year-old man, who had arrived in India on November 20 and tested positive for Covid-19, reportedly took a flight to Dubai seven days later. He had been vaccinated with both doses of the coronavirus vaccine.

The other infected person is a 46-year-old fully vaccinated doctor from Bengaluru, who has no travel history but developed fever and body ache on November 21.

Five contacts of the doctor have turned out to be Covid positive, Karnataka announced

on Thursday.

Health Ministry said that contact tracing is being done and there is no need to panic.

Joint Secretary of the Union Home Ministry Lav Agarwal told reporters here at a press conference that both cases have been identified in Karnataka. "No severe symptoms of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 reported so far," Agarwal said.

"All Omicron-related cases are found to have mild symptoms so far. In all such cases in the country and across the world so far, no severe symptoms have been noted. WHO has said that its emerging evidence is being studied," he added.

This is in line with data emerging from other countries that while Omicron is found to be more transmissible, the patients have mild symptoms, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, six people who flew into Delhi from "at-risk" countries have been admitted to LNJP after four of them tested positive for Covid-19 and two "showed symptoms".



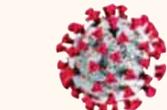
Passengers arrive from Singapore at Indira Gandhi International Airport, amid the Covid-19 pandemic in New Delhi on Thursday

Travel details of the passenger (who has tested positive and left the country) as released by the Bengaluru Municipal Corporation

1 Travelled from South Africa on 20/11/2021 with a negative report from South Africa and he was screened and tested at KIA Bangalore.

2 Upon his arrival, he checked into a hotel on 20/11/2021 and the test reports were POSITIVE

3 The UPI-IC doctor visited the hotel for Physical Triage and found him asymptomatic. He was advised to self-isolate at the hotel



4 On 22/11/2021, his test samples were collected and sent for Genomic Sequencing through BEMP

5 The patient took a self-investigation at a private lab on 23/11/2021. The report was

NEGATIVE

6 There were 24 primary contacts all are asymptomatic, tested and all reported negative.

7 On 22/11/2021 and 23/11/2021, UPHC team collected samples from 240 secondary contacts, all tested negative.

8 The above person checked out on 27/11/2021 at 00:12:34 midnight. Took a cab to airport and travelled to Dubai.

Delhi Govt collects over ₹181 cr as fine between April & Nov

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has collected over ₹181 crore as fine between April and November for violating Covid guidelines, according to official data. Nearly 156 enforcement teams with 129 enforcement vehicles are in place in the city. Between November 1 and November 25, 93,583 challans were issued and ₹17,60,99,346 crore imposed as fine with 2,078 FIRs being registered.

6 international travellers test positive at Delhi airport

New Delhi: Six more travellers from "at-risk" countries, including one with travel history to South Africa, tested positive for Covid-19 on arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Thursday, officials said.

Three out of 243 people on an Air France flight that landed at the airport around 12 midnight tested positive for Covid.

S Africa's new Covid-19 cases double in 1 day



A woman selling snacks sits at the Baragwanath taxi rank in Soweto, South Africa, on Thursday

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's new cases of coronavirus doubled in a day, mounting pressure on the Government to review the limitations on public gatherings for unvaccinated people.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases announced on Wednesday evening that the infections for the preceding 24 hours were 8,561, up from 4,373 a day earlier.

Experts pointed out that the projection by leading epidemiologist Dr Salim Abdool Karim on Monday that South Africa was likely to have 10,000 cases daily by Sunday in the fourth wave would be reached by Thursday.

The economic hub of Gauteng province accounts for 72 per cent of the current infections.

As organisers of a number of events continue to either call off or postpone their functions indefinitely, calls are mounting for the Government to review the limitations on public gatherings for unvaccinated people.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced last Sunday that there would be no change to the current lowest Level One of the country's five-level lockdown strategy.

This still allows substantial numbers at both indoor and outdoor gatherings, which needed to be reduced, analysts suggested.

Ramaphosa made the announcement in the wake of the discovery of the new Omicron variant, which has now been discovered in a number of other countries as well.

The president said the decision would be reviewed after a week, with some saying that an increase in lockdown restriction levels is unavoidable despite the risk to the economy which had just started to recover. South African has also been hit with a travel ban by over 20 countries, which Ramaphosa said was an unfair and discriminatory action merely because the country's experts had been first to identify the new variant.

Miffed SC asks Centre, Delhi to list anti-pollution steps within 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday once again castigated Delhi and Central Governments for their failure to take effective measure to control air pollution in the city.

Observing that nothing is happening on ground to control the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Centre and the Delhi Government to come out with suggestions to control pollution within 24 hours.

"You cannot fire bullets from our shoulders," said the apex court saying it would pass orders if Governments are not coming with suggestions.

Stating that "We cannot...infuse creativity in your bureaucracy," the apex court warned it will have to do something extraordinary if the authorities failed to control pollution.

A special bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said it expected serious action on the ground to bring down pollution levels.

"We think that nothing is happening as the pollution level is increasing. We think that we are wasting our time... We are giving you 24 hours. We



An anti-smog gun is used to curb air pollution in New Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

want you to take a hard look at this and come up with a solution with seriousness," said the bench, also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta requested the bench for one more day to respond to the concerns expressed by the court. "Mehta,

we expect serious action if you can't take, then we will take. We are giving you 24 hours," the bench said.

The SC expressed dissatisfaction over the steps taken to control pollution and asked about the powers of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and adjoining

areas to enforce compliance with its directions.

"We are not able to control the pollution in spite of taking measures. You tell us how many members in this commission," the bench asked. Mehta told the bench that there are 16 members in the commission. He then sought time to take instructions.

Delhi shuts schools, colleges, coaching after snub by SC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the Supreme Court snub, the Delhi Government has decided to close all schools, colleges, coaching, libraries and other educational and training institutions in Delhi from December 3 onwards due to very poor air quality.

The AQI approached an almost severe category in many parts of the national Capital.

However, institutions where exams are being conducted will be exempted, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Thursday.

"The Delhi Government has consistently been working according to its action plan to tackle vehicle pollution, dust pollution. But as for the schools, we have decided to close them from Friday. All schools, colleges, educational coaching institutes, skill development & training institutes, other training institutes, libraries (except where exams are being conducted) shall be closed with immediate effect till further review," Rai said.

As for the Central Vista project, Rai said the Central



Government has informed the Supreme Court that the work is of national importance and "We are currently awaiting reports based on which we will proceed".

He said the Delhi Government will further check reports about violation of anti-dust norms at the construction sites as well.

"All construction-demolition work is already suspended in Delhi, trucks from outside Delhi are also banned from entering Delhi," he said.

Maha suspends former Mumbai CP Param Bir

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A fortnight after a Mumbai court declared him as a "proclaimed offender" in an extortion case, the Maharashtra Government suspended most senior IPS officer and Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh from service on Thursday evening, in view of serious offences registered against him and the disciplinary proceedings launched into "certain irregularities and lapses" committed by him, including his unauthorised absence from duty.



came on expected lines, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray gave a go-ahead for Singh's suspension immediately after his return from three weeks hospitalisation.

Singh — who had created a sensation on March 20 this year by alleging that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now

arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering ₹100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai — has been booked for several serious offences registered against him in four different police stations in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district.

Among other things, Singh's suspension order listed the cases registered against him at Marine Drive Police Station in Mumbai, and in Thane district at Bazarpath Police Station, Kalyan, Kopari Police Station and Thane Nagar Police Station, both in Thane city.

Cong-TMC face-off to intensify after Didi poured scorn on UPA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress-TMC face-off is likely to intensify with the grand old party making up its mind to launch an all-out attack on the Mamata Banerjee-led party after the latter questioned the very existence of the UPA.

Mamata's "there is no UPA" remark after her meeting in Mumbai with NCP chief Sharad Pawar, an ally of the Congress in Maharashtra, has not gone down well with the Congress.

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjuna Kharge, said, "Some people are only helping the ruling party at the Centre."

"We have tried to include them in various socio-political issues where the



Congress made its name. The Opposition should not get divided and fight amongst themselves," he said.

The AICC sources said the decision to attack Mamata was taken at a meeting held on Wednesday night. "There were discussions among the top leaders of the Congress late Wednesday night in which it was decided to go all out against Mamata," said the source.

A day after AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said defeating BJP without Congress was only a dream, Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury termed the meeting between Mamata and Pawar as a "pre-meditated conspiracy" to weaken the grand old party and alleged the TMC chief had become "BJP's oxygen supplier."

CAPSULE

INDIA TO GET 9 NUCLEAR REACTORS BY 2024

New Delhi: The nation will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024 and a new nuclear project, the first in northern India, will come up 150 km away from Delhi in Gorakhpur of Haryana, the Government informed the RS.

INDIA SLAMS OHCHR FOR COMMENTS ON J&K

New Delhi: India on Thursday hit out at the UN human rights body for its baseless allegations against it over the arrest of an activist in Jammu & Kashmir, and asserted that the comments betray a complete lack of understanding of the security challenges in the region in view of cross-border terrorism. P4

PM CHAIRS MEETING ON CYCLONE JAWAD

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reviewed the preparedness to deal with the situation arising out of the likely formation of Cyclone Jawad that is expected to hit the North Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coast and directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure that people are safely evacuated.

REBEL AAP MLA NOT TO CONTEST PUNJAB POLL

Chandigarh: Rebel AAP MLA Kanwar Sandhu on Thursday said he will not contest the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls. Sandhu, an MLA from Kharar Assembly constituency in Mohali, was suspended by the AAP in 2018.

CHINA CLEARS BOEING 737 MAX TO FLY AGAIN

Beijing: China's aviation regulator cleared the Boeing 737 Max on Thursday to return to flying with technical upgrades more than two years after the plane was grounded worldwide following two fatal crashes.

India terms UN remark on Khurram arrest in J&K baseless

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to the UN statement regarding the arrest of an activist in Jammu & Kashmir and violation of human rights, India on Thursday said these were "baseless" allegations and the comments "betray" a complete lack of understanding of the security challenges in the

region in view of cross-border terrorism.

Making India's stand clear, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights.

His comments came in response to a statement made by the Spokesperson of the Office of the High

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) over the arrest of Kashmiri rights activist Khurram Parvez.

"We have seen the statement made by the spokesperson of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on specific incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. The statement makes baseless and unfounded allegations against law enforce-

ment authorities and security forces of India," he said.

On Wednesday, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights spokesperson Rupert Colville expressed deep concern over the arrest of Parvez and even called for "prompt, thorough, transparent" investigations into the recent incidents of killings of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are deeply concerned at the arrest of Kashmiri human rights defender Khurram Parvez under Indian counter-terrorism legislation, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)," Colville said in a statement.

Rejecting the comments by the UN official, Bagchi said as a democratic country, with an abiding commitment to promote and protect the

human rights of its citizens, India takes all necessary steps to counter cross-border terrorism.

"It also betrays a complete lack of understanding on the part of the OHCHR of the security challenges faced by India from cross-border terrorism and its impact on the most fundamental human right, 'the right to life' of our citizens including in Jammu

and Kashmir," he said. "Referring to proscribed terrorist organisations as 'armed groups' demonstrates a clear bias on the part of OHCHR," the spokesperson said.

Bagchi said national security legislations, like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) were enacted by Parliament to protect the sovereignty of India

and ensure the security of its citizens.

"The arrest and subsequent detention of the individual referred to in the statement was done entirely as per provisions of law," he said.

"Authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights. All such actions are strictly in accordance with the law," Bagchi said.

Pak should not attach riders to shipping wheat aid to Af: India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After India was allowed to transport humanitarian aid to Afghanistan through the land route in Pakistan, the two countries are still working out the modalities about ferrying the aid including 50,000 tonnes of wheat and life saving medicines.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in November end announced the decision to allow India to transport goods through Attari-Wagh border. However, reports suggest Pakistan is insisting that the wheat from India-Pakistan border in Punjab will be carried to Afghanistan in Pakistani trucks.

However, India has so far maintained this will result in waste of time and money and the two sides are now engaged in working out the finer modalities.

Explaining India's position on the issue, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi also said here on Thursday no conditions should be attached to the shipment of relief materials. At the same time, India continues to be part of discussions on

Afghanistan with various countries in different formats, he said.

Pakistan has linked its decision to allow India to transport the wheat and medicines as humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to the condition that relief materials be moved only by Pakistani trucks. The two sides have been engaged in discussions since last week to find a solution to the impasse in view of the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

India made the proposal for shipping the wheat and medicines to the Afghan people via Pakistani soil on October 7, and received a response from the Pakistan government only on November 24, Bagchi said.

"Since then, we have had discussions with Pakistan on the modalities of this supply. These discussions are ongoing. Let me reiterate our belief that humanitarian assistance should not be subject to conditionalities," he said. The modalities being worked out by the two sides will cover various issues, Bagchi said without going into details.

The Indian side is keen on using its own trucks as it wants

to ensure the relief materials directly reach the Afghan people without being diverted. The Indian side also envisages the aid will be distributed only through the UN, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

Bagchi said the meeting of senior security officials of regional countries, including Iran and Russia, that was hosted by India last month had offered an opportunity for nations with similar perspectives to share views, exchange ideas and "identify from a security perspective what is the way forward" in Afghanistan. "Issues were identified and India continues to be a part of discussions on Afghanistan with various countries in different formats," he added.

India and the world community's expectations regarding Afghanistan are clearly outlined in UN Security Council resolution 2593, he said. This resolution, adopted in August, states that efforts should be made to form an inclusive government in Kabul and that Afghan soil should not be used to plan or execute terrorist attacks against any country

Media persons protest against restrictions on entry into Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Journalists from various media organisations on Thursday held a protest against certain restrictions imposed on the entry of scribes and camera persons into Parliament, alleging the move is a precursor to a "complete ban" on the spot coverage of parliamentary sessions by the media in the coming days.

They demanded that all restrictions imposed on their entry into Parliament premises and the Press Gallery must "immediately" be lifted, and media persons be allowed to perform their professional duty.

The Editors Guild of India (EGI), Press Association, Indian Women Press Corps (IWPC), Press Club of India (PCI), Working News Cameraman Association and various other organisations of journalists extended their support to the protest. A limited number of scribes, photo-journalists and camera people working with the print and electronic media are being allowed to enter Parliament premises during sessions since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

"This (restriction on the entry of media persons into Parliament) was started in the name of Covid in 2020

but now it has gone too far. I think if it is not protested now, it will become a tradition. Media is going to be kept out in the name of Covid," senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai said, addressing a protest meet of the journalists organised on the premises of the PCI.

He said that a lottery system being followed at present to issue passes to journalists for entry into Parliament is giving "no access" to the scribes working with smaller newspapers. Press Association president Jaishankar Gupta said the issue needs to be seen from "a larger perspective" as it is not just about restrictions on the number of journalists entering the Parliament premises during the sessions.

PCI president Umakant Lakhera said that he had raised the issue with the authorities, requesting them to lift all restrictions on the entry of media persons into Parliament but all went in vein. "Democracy cannot function without media," he said.

"If the Government can allow the opening of cinema halls, malls, tourism, and other things, why is there a restriction on the media's entry into Parliament? It is not sending out a good message. Pandemic is a concern but issues can be resolved," IWPC president Vineeta Pandey said.

60% Central Vista work finished, ₹340.58 cr utilised: Govt to LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that nearly 60 per cent work of Central Vista Avenue and 35 per cent work of the new Parliament Building has been completed till now. The Ministry said that Rs 340.58 crore has so far been utilised out of the Rs 971 crore estimated for the construction of the new Parliament building.

The government, however, has planned to hold the 2022 Republic Day parade on the newly-developed Rajpath that comes under the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project.

In a written reply to a question by Congress MP Manish Tewari, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kausal Kishore said ss for the redevelopment of Central Vista Avenue, 60 per cent of the work had been completed till now at the cost of Rs 190.76 crore against an estimated Rs 608 crore. Resources are being mobilised and site preparation is in progress with regard to the plan to construct common Central Secretariat buildings 1,2 and 3 and the Vice President's residence.

The minister of State, Kausal Kishore informed that while Rs 7.85 crore had been spent on the work related to the common Central Secretariat buildings 1,2 and 3 (estimated cost Rs 3690 crore), Rs 15 crore had been spent so far on the project related to the new Vice President's

residence against the estimated cost Rs 208.48 crore.

At the inaugural ceremony of two office complexes for the employees of the Defence Ministry and the armed forces here on September 16, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said the Winter Session of Parliament next year would take place in the new Parliament building.

Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the event, he had said, "I would like to assure you that the redevelopment work of Central Vista Avenue will be completed in two-and-a-half months, where the Republic Day parade will be held."

The redevelopment project of the Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the three-kilometer-long Rajpath from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, a new prime minister's residence and prime minister's office, and a new Vice President's enclave. In his written reply to Tewari, Kishore said Rs 1,289 crore has been allocated for the development/redevelopment works of Central Vista in the ongoing financial year.

The minister said these works have provided direct livelihood opportunities to more than 10,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers on site and off site and generated more than 24.12 lakh man days of employment.

Modi Govt has been cutting MNREGA budget day by day, alleges Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Thursday alleged that the Modi Government has been cutting the MNREGA budget day by day, with the intention that the poor should not stand on their feet, and are unable to live with dignity.

The budget 2020-21 budget of Rs 1.10 Lakh crore has now been reduced to Rs 83,000 crore, the party alleged at a Press conference addressed by senior party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Randeep Surjewala.

"During the pandemic, when people were returning from all over the country back to their homes and villages, they needed work, which was not available while the money under NREGA was reduced. In the past, when I raised the issues of NREGA as a Leader of Opposition in the Lower House, the Prime Minister mocked the opposition benches and said that NREGA will not be stopped because it is a living example of their failures. Yet, this same scheme was useful to so many people. But today they are bent on eliminating it," said Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

Kharge termed the move to allegedly do away with the NREGA as an attempt to "enslave" the poor and take away their self-respect and dignity. He said that those who work under this scheme are mainly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Kharge said the rural employment scheme started by the Congress-led UPA government achieved a lot of developmental work and employment through this act.

Surjewala termed the Modi government "fascist" and supported the protest by journalists who are being debarred from covering the Parliament. Surjewala said that the voices of farmers, youth, parliament and its members, and now journalists, is not being heard in the country.

"This is the first time in 75 years that our journalists had to protest, which is a shameful thing... we condemn this act by the government in the strongest terms. The Government should wake up," he said.

Varun raps Yogi Govt over unemployment, paper leak, scandal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his offensive against the Yogi Government in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, the BJP member of Parliament Varun Gandhi on Thursday attacked "joblessness", "paper leak" and "scandal in the State."

Varun, the Pilibhit Lok Sabha MP from UP, pointed to a paper leak in the teacher's exam saying the youth who was hit by the "joblessness" has now been hit by the "paper-leak scandal" in UP.

"Pahle sarkari naukri hi nahin this phir kuch mauki aye to paper leak ho...", tweeted the BJP MP in Hindi.

Similarly, he said "even if youth appeared in the exams then for years results are not out or annulled due to some scandal...", he said.

"...1.5 crore youths who appeared in Railway Group D exams are waiting for results for last two years...", Varun sought to point out in his tweet.

Further, the MP who has been attacking the Modi government on a variety of issues directly or discreetly maintained that the same situation prevailed on the recruitment of youths in the army.

Making it clear that he is out of sync with the policies of the Modi government, Varun had earlier echoed farmers demanding legal guarantees on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in their produce.

Raising his lone 'dissenting voice' in the party, the BJP member of Parliament Varun Gandhi had said farmers would continue to be "exploited" in 'mandis' till there is no legal guarantee for the MSP of crops.

Varun also said that farmers in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including in his own constituency Pilibhit, had put their agriculture produce on fire. "This is a matter of shame for the entire UP" which, he had said has also become an issue across the country. Eom

BJP which is aiming to have second go in UP which is to to polls in less than three months has yet not reacted officially to Varun's increasing attack on the government.

I-T dept raids on realtor group in Mumbai yield ₹100 cr unaccounted cash transactions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Searches by the Income Tax Department against a real estate group in Mumbai has yielded unaccounted cash transactions of ₹100 crore and the group did not deduct tax at source to the tune of ₹300 crore. Likewise, the IT department identified unaccounted income of ₹400 crore of a Pune-based dairy firm.

The IT Department initiated search and seizure operations on a real estate group, engaged in the construction of residential and commercial projects, in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai Region. The group is mainly carrying out development of slum rehabilitation

projects. The search action covered around 30 premises, the IT department said.

"The search action unearthed various methods of tax evasion adopted by the group. Several documentary and digital evidences have been found and seized demonstrating receipt of cash to the tune of Rs 100 crore, as part of consideration on sale of flats, which is not accounted for in the regular books of account," it said.

The fact of receipt of on-money on such transactions is also corroborated in the statements recorded during the search proceedings. The modus operandi adopted by the group includes issuing of promissory

notes equivalent to the on-money component to the customers and these promissory notes are destroyed after registration of the flat, it said.

Incriminating evidence regarding unaccounted cash payments made not only to the original tenants of the slums for vacating the dwelling unit but also to some other persons for facilitating vacation of the properties by slum dwellers has been found and seized. Further evidence suggesting irregularities and violation of guidelines of Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) have also been detected, it further said.

"The preliminary analysis of evidence revealed that the group has acquired a control-

ling stake in a company by paying consideration in cash. Defaults on compliances to the provisions of tax deduction at source have also been found. The assessee group did not deduct tax at source on certain payments claimed by it which aggregate to more than Rs 300 crore," it said, adding unaccounted cash exceeding Rs. 6 crore has been seized during the searches.

The Department's searches against a leading group of Pune, engaged in dairy farming and milk products at more than 30 premises spread in six cities several incriminating documents and evidence of tax evasion have been found and seized.

"The preliminary analysis of this evidence clearly shows evasion of taxable income by adopting various malpractices such as claim of bogus purchases, unaccounted cash sales, cash loan transactions and their repayment, unexplained cash credits, etc. Instances of incorrect claim of loss on account of sale or death of livestock, etc. have also been noticed, it said.

The searches led to the seizure of unaccounted cash and unexplained jewellery of about Rs 2.50 crore while some bank lockers are yet to be operated. The search action, so far, has led to the detection of unaccounted income of more than Rs 400 crore, it added.

RS Chairman urges members to hold talks, let House do its 'mandated job'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Rajya Sabha witnessing din for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu urged the agitating members to talk to the Treasury Benches to break the impasse. He, however, rejected the demand for revoking suspension of 12 MPs and said "disapproval of undemocratic conduct in the House cannot be decided as undemocratic."

Naidu's assertion came as the Opposition described the suspension of the 12 MPs on Monday as "undemocratic and in violation of the rules" of the house. The Chairman also reiterated he had followed all the rules before taking action against the concerned MPs for their "unruly conduct." They also did not show any remorse after the suspension, Naidu lamented adding the house had seen 11 suspensions in the past with the first one in 1962.

Even as he made these observations, the Opposition members continued to shout slogans and came into the well of the house. Naidu appealed to them to let the proceedings go smoothly but the agitated members did not relent. He adjourned the house for about 50 minutes in the pre-lunch session. The Opposition later walked out during the Question Hour.

He said some of the leaders and Rajya Sabha members "in their wisdom, chose to describe the suspension of 12 members as undemocratic."

"I have struggled to understand if there was any justification in that kind of a narrative being propagated but could not." This was not the first time that such a suspension has happened.

Starting in 1962 till 2010, members were suspended on 11 occasions in furtherance to motions moved by the governments of the day. "Were all of them undemocratic? If so, why was it resorted to so many times?" Naidu asked.

Responding to the Opposition charge of his action being undemocratic, Naidu said "not even a word is being said about the reasons given for the suspension, the disdainful conduct of some members during the last session, which I have categorically called as 'acts of sacrilege' on the last day of the last session", he said.

As opposition members, including from Congress, kept protesting, Naidu said the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) clearly provide for the suspension of members for disrupting the proceedings of the House and for misconduct lowering its dignity, under Rules 255 and 256.

The reasons for the latest suspensions were in the public domain and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi gave the reasons while moving the Motion for suspension on the first day of this session, he said.

"Unfortunately, a message is sought to be sent out that 'sacrilege' of the House is democratic but action against such sacrilege is undemocratic. I am sure people of the country would not buy these new norms of democracy," Naidu said.

He also pointed out there were suspensions in the past and some of them were revoked prematurely because the errant members regretted their acts of misconduct in the House.



media reports of categorical refusals to express any regret for the acts of misconduct during the last session that led to this round of suspensions. Then what is the way forward?"

"You don't want to regret your misconduct but insist on revoking the decision of this House taken as per due procedure laid under the Rules of the House. Does this amount to upholding the principles of democracy?" Naidu said. "It is human to err and it is also human to make amendments. One cannot refuse to amend and insist on glossing over the wrongdoings."

"Suspensions, either in the past or now, are only the expression of disapproval of the acts of misconduct of some

members by the House. Disapproval of undemocratic conduct in the House can't be decided as undemocratic, for sure," he added.

Naidu urged both the treasury and opposition benches to resolve the impasse. "I urge both the sides of this august House please talk it out and then find a way to do the mandated job of this house. This is my appeal to the entire House," he said.

However, the protest by opposition parties continued with Congress MPs insisting that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge be allowed to speak. Naidu did not agree, saying Kharge has already spoken on the matter.

'India will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is keen to promote nuclear energy and India will have nine nuclear reactors by 2024, Minister of State for personnel, public grievances and pensions Jitendra Singh said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

He also said the present government has also decided to have reactors in different parts of the country and a nuclear plant will come up in Haryana about 150 kms from the national capital. Earlier, the plants were located in south and some other parts of the country.

"By 2024 you will have nine nuclear reactors plus 12 new additional ones which were approved during the Covid times with a capacity of 9000 MW. Five new sites are also being identified," in different parts of the country, he said during the Question Hour.

Asked whether the government is thinking of phasing out nuclear power plants on account of safety, the minister said, "We have not only increased the number but are also trying to make a pan-India generation project."

The Minister said that nuclear energy will soon emerge as one of the most

important sources of alternative or clean energy for the increasing power demand of the country. As far as the cost is concerned, though it varies from plant to plant and on the age of the plant, Singh said on an average it comes to about Rs 3 per unit and while the Kudankulam plant has about Rs 4 per unit and Tarapur has lesser cost. But in the times to come, with more plants the cost would reduce, he said.

On the expansion of Kudankulam nuclear plant, the Minister also said that "hopefully in 2021, we plan to start the construction of unit 5 and unit 6 as well."

UP ELECTIONS AND POLITICS Shah praises Yogi Govt, invokes Kairana exodus

Saharanpur: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday accused the previous State Governments of conspiring to sell off cooperative sugar mills and targeted them for failing to control criminals, alluding also to the "exodus" of Hindus from another western UP town a few years back.

With the next assembly elections just months away, the BJP leader praised the Yogi Adityanath Government, saying it has ensured the rapid clearing of the backlog of payments to sugarcane farmers.

Apart from Punjab and Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh -- on which Shah is focusing his campaign -- contributed the most to the protest over the recently repealed farm laws. Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait hails from this region.

Shah was addressing a rally here after laying the foundation stone for the Maa Shakumbhari Devi university.

He also referred to the ongoing construction of the



Ram temple in Ayodhya, the enactment of a law against instant triple talaq and the abrogation of special status under Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir, giving the credit for them to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah hit out at Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav over law and order, comparing crime statistics during his term as chief minister with those under Adityanath's BJP government.

"From which spectacles does Akhilesh ji see," he asked, and also claimed there was a "mafia raj" under Yadav and criminals "felicited".

Without naming Shamli's

Kairana town or elaborating on the details, the home minister said when he came to Saharanpur itself ahead of the 2017 polls, people asked him what the party intended to do about the "palayan" (exodus, migration).

"I told them that people who are making them flee themselves flee from Uttar Pradesh if a Bharatiya Janata Party government comes to power," Shah said.

In the run-up to the last assembly elections, the BJP had claimed that several Hindu families left Kairana after facing threats from criminals - an allegation contested by others. Adityanath had also invoked the alleged exodus during his recent visit to that town recently.

"There was a time when riots used to happen here, youths were killed and there used to be curfew for days. There was a tendency to file one-sided cases. Now, due to the BJP government, there are no riots," Shah said.

Mayawati: BJP playing communal card to ward off its impending defeat

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Thursday cautioned the people to be wary of "Hindu-Muslim politics" of the Bharatiya Janata Party, saying it was the "last tactic" of the ruling party to ward off its impending defeat in the forthcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

The former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh made this remark while reacting to Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's statement that preparations are on (for a temple) in Mathura as construction of temples in Ayodhya and Kashi is underway.

"The statement given by UP Deputy Chief Minister Maurya ahead of the upcoming assembly elections that temple construction is going on in Ayodhya and Kashi and now there are preparations for Mathura, reinforces the general perception of BJP's defeat. People should beware of this akhira hatkande (last tactic) that is Hindu-Muslim politics," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi.

Assembly polls are due in UP early next year. The construction of grand temples is on in Ayodhya and Kashi, and preparations are on for one in Mathura (Ayodhya Kashi bhavya mandir nirmaan jaari hai Mathura ki tayari hai), Maurya had said in a tweet on Wednesday.

SP Govt to work for all communities, castes, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav made it clear that his party's Government in future would work for all castes and communities without any discrimination.

Addressing a huge public rally during his Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra in Lalitpur, the former Chief Minister of UP said, "You will find a new Samajwadi Party government in 2022 and it will work for all of you without any bias. The present Bharatiya Janata Party regime is only trying to create confusion in the minds of people that the SP works for only one caste. If my party comes to power in the state, it will carry out a caste based census and ensure that all castes get their share as per their population. The SP government will also reveal the conspiracy hatched by the BJP in denying a caste census."

Claiming that the people of the state had made up their minds to oust the BJP from Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh said the countdown for BJP had started. Alleging that the ruling BJP was a party which was only inaugurating the works and projects conceptualised and initiated by other parties, Yadav said that the BJP regime had pushed the state into backwardness.

Fight like farmers to get your rights: Priyanka

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary and p-party's UP in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra exhorted the people of the State to take a lesson from the farmers on how they fought unitedly, forcing the Central Government to bow before them.

"Like the farmers, you should be united to get your rights and make the people's representatives more responsible for their works. The farmers' agitation against the three farm laws has added a new dimension to people's rights in the country. It is, however, unfortunate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has refused to take cognisance of the deaths of over 700 farmers during the protest and has yet to take action against Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, who conspired in the killing of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri. People should teach this government a lesson for ignoring them and the vote should be entirely cast on development rather than on caste or communal basis. The people should have the power in their own hand then only their rights will be protected and the required



development in their area will be done," Priyanka said while speaking at a 'Pratigya Rally' attended by a huge crowd in Moradabad on Thursday.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and senior UP Congress leaders were also present in the rally at Moradabad, which happens to be the native place of Priyanka Vadra's husband and in-laws.

The top Congress leader said that sugarcane farmers were yet to get Rs 4,000 crore against their dues.

"The prime minister can purchase a new aircraft for Rs 8,000 crore and a new Parliament can be constructed at a cost of Rs 24,000 crore, but Rs 4,000 crore of the farmers cannot be paid by this Bharatiya Janata Party government," she said.

Delhi Metro failed to achieve ridership target of 2019-20

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro has failed to achieve the ridership target as projected in the detailed project reports (DPR) under Phase I, II and III. The total ridership of the entire Delhi Metro network (Phase-I, II and III) in the year 2019-20 was estimated as 53.47 lakh but the actual ridership was 27.79 lakh only 51.97 per cent of projected ridership.

"In case of Phase-III specifically, as against the projected ridership of 20.89 lakh in 2019-20 from initially sanctioned four corridors, the actual ridership was only 4.38 lakh, which is 79.02 per cent lower than projected ridership as per detailed project report. Similarly, in case of NCR/other extension, the actual ridership on these corridors was 15.12 per cent to 87.63 per cent lower than projected ridership," the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) said in a performance audit report on Implementation of Phase-III Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System by the DMRC. The report was presented in Parliament on Thursday.

The report said there were deficiencies in operation and maintenance and shortfall in achievement of planned benefits after commercial operation and Delhi Metro did not prepare line-wise operational profit/loss statements and not claiming operational losses, if any from the respective State Governments till March 2020.

"As per the DPRs of Phase-III and NCR extensions, the total ridership of entire Delhi Metro network (Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III) after completion of the project in the year 2016 was estimated as 43.79 lakh (53.47 lakh in 2019-20). Whereas, after completion

of entire Phase-III and NCR extensions, except for a small portion of Dwarka-Dhansa Bus Stand (1.2 km), the actual ridership of DMRC was 27.79 lakh (2019-20) only i.e., 51.97 per cent of projected ridership," the CAG said in its report.

The ridership of Dwarka-Najafgarh (Line-9) section was 11,972 (November 2019) after its opening in October 2019 whereas the ridership in the existing Dwarka Mor and Dwarka station reduced by 11,074 from September to November 2019 indicating that only 898 new passengers (0.92 per cent as per DPR projected

ridership of 97,070) were added after incurring an estimated expenditure of Rs 1,065 crore and recurring significant operation and maintenance expenditure.

Similarly, after the opening of Mundka-Bahdurgarh section in June 2018 and actual ridership was 17,304, there was a reduction of 5,762 in ridership of existing Mundka station during May and July 2018. Thus, only 11,542 new passengers (i.e., 10.93 per cent of projected ridership of 1,05,600) were added after incurring an estimated expenditure of Rs 1,991 crore.

Bengal BJP moves SC seeking Central forces for KMC polls

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal unit of the BJP has moved the Supreme Court seeking directions for the State Election Commission to deploy Central forces in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Backing its plea the BJP is likely to furnish evidences of rampant violence in the State post Assembly elections apart from citing adverse observations made by the National Human Rights Commission, State BJP chief Sukanto

Majumdar on Thursday said.

"Our demand is justified on the grounds that the State witnessed massive violence after the Assembly elections when thousands of our workers and leaders had to flee their houses and dozens of our men were murdered and hundreds of houses were put on fire ... their fault was that they had campaigned for the BJP ... We had approached the SEC seeking deployment of central forces but our appeal fell on deaf ears," said Majumdar

adding "like the BJP most other opposition parties are of the view that no free and fair elections will be possible in Bengal without the deployment of central forces."

State Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari too attacked the SEC saying "the Commission is acting like a party office of the Trinamool Congress ... by its action it seems that the Commission is taking directions from the TMC as though its officers are members of the Trinamool Congress."

"Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision."- Steve Wonder

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Delhi Government Salutes the Indomitable Spirit of Persons with Disabilities

On the occasion of
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3rd December, 2021

Delhi Government's Welfare schemes for Persons with Disabilities:-

- Financial Assistance Scheme to persons with disabilities to the tune of Rs 2500/- per month to beneficiaries. The number of cases covered under the scheme increased from 101750 to 111858 in the year 2021-22.
- Six residential homes for persons with Intellectual disabilities.
- A new Halfway Home opened for women at Dwarka in the year 2021.
- Seven special schools for children with disabilities.
- One hostel for college going visually challenged male students at Kingsway Camp.
- Sports Talent getting nurtured amongst Young Persons with Disabilities in Homes/Institutions in collaboration with Special Olympics Bharat for competing in international sports events.

For Grievance redressal and facilitation call at the office of Commissioner Disability (011-23216002/6003/6004 (10.00 A.M to 5.00PM on Mon-Friday) and Disability Cell, Department Of Social Welfare (011-23724493)(09.30 A.M to 6.00PM on Mon-Friday)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE Govt. of NCT of Delhi





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PAPER WITH PASSION

Opposition dubiety

The Opposition can't fight the BJP with a front of regional forces, a national alternative is must

Should Sharad Pawar of the NCP be the chairman of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)? It was a loaded question. It was addressed to West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee. The impetuous leader's answer was dismissive. "Kya UPA hai? Abhi UPA nahi hai." (What UPA? There is no UPA) That was interpreted to mean that she was questioning the relevance of the UPA and, by extension, of the Congress. The interpretation took on a life of its own, with speculations rife that Mamata was battling for non-Congress Opposition unity to take on the BJP in 2024. Could it be that Mamata was dismissive of Pawar's ability to be UPA chief? Nothing is known about what Mamata and Pawar talked about in Mumbai other than the latter reiterating the need for like-minded parties to come together against the BJP. Interestingly, it was a meeting of two formidable, former Congress leaders conversing about 2024. Mamata left Congress in 1997 and Pawar followed two years later.

A lot is happening in the extended Congress world if one includes Mamata and Pawar and the so-called dissident G-23 leaders. It kindles memories of yore when there was an umbrella Janata Party which eventually split so many times that when Opposition leaders meet somewhere, it is more of a reunion of the erstwhile Janata Party alumni. Today, the stakes are becoming higher in the Congress. The relevance of the party, rather than the UPA, is in question. There is a discernible movement within

the party to challenge the first family. If the Congress does not do well in the coming Assembly elections, at least in Punjab and Uttarakhand, another round of dissent is expected. Despite her overt reaction about the UPA, Mamata knows the basic structure of national politics: The Opposition has to come up with a national alternative to the BJP for 2024. It cannot fight the BJP with a front of regional forces. These forces need to have a national umbrella with a face attached to it. There is some wishful speculation that if current UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi is thinking of retiring, would she prefer a regional leader with a national presence to succeed her, leaving Rahul Gandhi free to steer Congress as party president. Such speculation implies the inability of Congress to secure over 100 seats on its own in 2024. As of date, the Opposition has its fingers crossed because they are waiting for the Congress to complete its organisational elections. That will end the suspense about the next Congress president and whether the president will also be the UPA chairperson. Meanwhile, there is an argument begging for resolution: If the regional forces say Congress is no match for the BJP and should, therefore, play second fiddle to them, the Congress can turn around to say the anti-BJP regional forces are present around the Hindi heartland but not in it. How the Samajwadi Party fares in the UP elections will determine the shape of this argument.

PICTALK



The Indian Navy personnel display their skills during the Navy Week 2021, at the Gateway of India, in Mumbai

New school

Online classes would enhance the quality of education and will likely become mainstream

Wars, mishaps, disasters and pandemics are unfortunate events though they remain beyond our control. But there is one factor that unifies them. All so called apocalypse have resulted in the world becoming more progressive and advanced than what it was before the destruction. The two World Wars saw a quantum jump in the field of science and technology while natural disasters resulted in the society becoming more vigilant against the recurrence of such phenomenon. If a person who died fighting the Second World War returned to earth by a providential act, he would remain wonderstruck for months seeing the changes in the lives of human beings. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. Even as science came out with vaccines and treatment protocol, the lockdowns brought in some irreversible changes in our lifestyles. Working from home and online classes are the spin off of the pandemic. Thanks to the connectivity, offices and classrooms have come to our doorsteps. It's interesting to note that the developments have been assimilated by a majority of the end users. Gone are the days when one used to worry about commuting to workplaces and back.

An interesting development is the ease with which school and college students have switched to online classes. Provided they have a smartphone at their disposal, the students could interact with teachers who could address them from their homes. An interaction with parents of students brought in interesting information. Sindhu Vishnuprasad, a mother of three children based in Kochi says she was ignorant about the potential of the internet and smartphones till the pandemic struck. No more tension to wake up the children to make them ready to go to school and college in the early morning; they have their own convenient timings now, said the homemaker. Dr BM Hegde, renowned cardiologist and educationist, who was honored with Padma Vibhushan recently, said the online classes are destined to raise the quality of education in the country. He said the teachers should work out a schedule to help the students with their practical classes in laboratories. Graduate and post graduate programmes in arts, humanities and law could be completely brought under online classes. Teachers have an equally positive approach to the online mode of education. Doomsayers claim that it would affect the personality of children. But they forget that classrooms and parents are the best counsellors.

Indian politics has no place for fascism



PRAFULL GORADIA

So much for fascism and its smaller as well as grander (Spanish, and German) variations. But what is its ugly connection with Indian politics?

Speech with knowledge is a sermon and without knowledge is a pulpit. Leaders in Indian politics frequently use the word 'fascism' to abuse an Opposition party or its members without the slightest idea of what the word fascism means or signifies. To them it is an abusive alternative of despot. Benito Mussolini, who initiated the fascist movement in March 1919, at Milan and founded the party called Partito Nazionale Fascista in November 1921, is farfetched to have been abusive. Or, does the very word 'fascist' connote political derogation? Perhaps it does to at least some members of the Indian intelligentsia. This is reason enough to recapitulate what fascism really means.

The word 'fascio' means a bundle or a bunch implying unity. The movement was in response to the corruption, unemployment and the virtual economic collapse in Italy after World War I. The socio-economic conditions appeared to be ripe for a communist revolution and fascism was a nationalist answer to preempt such a take-over. Marxism was looked upon as depicting 'class conflict'. Capitalism still carried the stigma of 'class exploitation' and was, therefore, a non-starter as a popular programme. To be effective, the answer had to be something that would prove attractive to the peasants, workers as well as their unions and generally acceptable to all classes of people. This was discovered in 'class collaboration' as represented by fascism.

Prof Alfredo Rocco, the Minister of Justice in the Mussolini cabinet, set forth the gist of this new ideology in the course of a speech at Perugia in 1925. According to him, the society does not exist for the individual, but the individual for the society. Economic progress is a social interest and all classes of people should collaborate to maximise production. The interests of the employers and the employed are identical. To ensure that this is practiced, there must be a system of State discipline over class conflicts. Strikes and lockouts were illegal and punishable by heavy fines and other punishments.



Wherever possible, the employers and workers in each industry, trade or profession were organised together in syndical associations. Where it was not possible to form such syndicates, the unions and the employers' associations remained but cooperated to form guilds to coordinate and ensure cordiality. If collective bargaining could not end satisfactorily, the disputes were referred to law courts assisted by professional experts. This is how class collaboration was conceptualised by the Fascist Party.

In practice, the economy was toned up by rearmament and expenditure on public works. Soldiers were recruited in large numbers and so were workers in factories to produce arms. This would bring profits to the bourgeoisie who could then pay the proletariat well. Urban prosperity would increase demand for agricultural produce. What was left of the under-employed youth was absorbed by the armed forces. The promise to the whole nation were frequent attempts at foreign conquests which would bring booty.

Another example of the practice of fascism or class collaboration, albeit on a much more limited scale, was in Spain under General Franco.



INDIA IS NOT EUROPE NOR DO WE HAVE CLASS STRATIFICATIONS, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS DID TRY TO INTRODUCE THEM. SOCIALISM IS ON ITS DEATHBED, AND THERE IS NO FEAR OF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER

Neither the Italian nor the Spanish experience is widely known in India. However, what the members of the intelligentsia are familiar with are the exploits of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party whose full name was National Socialist German Workers' Party. It was founded by Adolf Hitler and his six comrades in Munich in 1920. The economic deprivation in Germany was much greater than that witnessed in Italy, mainly due to reparation payments under the Treaty of Versailles 1919 after World War I. The country paid an exorbitant price for its defeat in World War I. The runaway inflation as well as the world depression ignited by the crash in share prices on the Wall Street in New York in 1929 made matters worse for Germany. It was widely believed that the charismatic quality of Hitler and his programme of class collaboration more or less on the lines of Mussolini's Italian ideology although, on a far grander scale, saved the country from utter collapse and a communist takeover in the 1930s.

Unlike the Italian and Spanish examples, the Nazi Party proposed to exclude Jews from German life. They alleged that the Jewish leadership had

betrayed the State during World War I and were, to a large extent, responsible for the dire German defeat. In their bid to exterminate the Jews, not only from Germany but also from the rest of Europe, the Nazis were estimated to have killed six million Jews by 1945. While General Franco confined himself to Spain, Benito Mussolini did attempt foreign conquests of Albania and Ethiopia but his plans were nowhere as grandiose as Adolf Hitler's. Which is why he is well-known not only in India but all over the world. Japan was another country, although a monarchy, that practiced class collaboration especially in the 1930s and 1940s.

So much for fascism and its smaller as well as grander (Spanish, and German) variations. But what is its ugly connection with politics in India? India is not Europe nor do we have class stratifications although communist trade unions did try to introduce them. The nineteen-nineties are not the thirties. Socialism is on its deathbed, and there is no fear of a communist takeover.

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

MAKING JOKES ON RELIGION IS NOT FUNNY

Sir — On the face of it, making others laugh in these acrimonious times actually passes for an art notwithstanding, the comedian fraternity should never forget that ours is a religion-dominant nation despite being a democracy and, hence, our comedians better keep off the religion while attempting at raising a laugh among their audiences. Why should one choose-deliberately or challengingly-any subject they already know will stoke up a religious controversy, instead of making people amuse, smile and laugh?

One cannot afford to lacerate any community's religious sentiments in the name of the 'Freedom of Expression and Speech'. These bloomers see commission only because the perpetrators are well aware that controversies sell faster and, in turn, benefit them economically, besides fetching popularity as well. As regards the professional aspect of the comedy, there are a large number of subjects and objects other than religion that can be sincerely tapped for keeping people in good humour. Simultaneously, this will simply be like making an omelette without breaking eggs — leaving people amused as well as keeping our age-old traditions of communal harmony that has earned our country the 'Unity in diversity' epithet across the globe, intact!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

TAKE OFF THOSE BLINKERED GLASSES

Sir — People are entitled to have their own opinion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a true democrat, but to consider the 'mann ki baat' as something resembling direct democracy is taking credulity a little too far. To believe that the questions asked to PM Modi in the 'mann ki baat' are spontaneous and not rehearsed is something which even a hard core BJP supporter finds hard to believe.

Regarding disruptions in Parliament, one must remember the times when the BJP leaders did so when in Opposition. This, however, does not

Didi's overambitious power play



The statement by Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee that 'there is no UPA now' is reflective of her trait to say what is politically convenient for her. To the best of our knowledge, the UPA is very much there and it has not been disbanded yet. The accuracy of her claim that the TMC fights the BJP more strongly than the Congress is not beyond question. The BJP won't be exact-

ly displeased with the Congress being dropped from a united front against it. Mamata's plan to defeat the BJP without the Congress is a little overambitious; it is no better than a pipe dream, given the reality of Indian politics.

If wishes were horses, beggars might ride. Mamata has to be realistic about the formation of a strong national front against the BJP. The TMC's attempt to expand its footprint is understandable. But it should be at the cost of the party that she wants to 'wipe out of the country to save democracy' and not at the cost of another secular party. Poaching Congress leaders does not advance the cause of secularism. Weakening the Congress seems to be the idea (or game plan?) of Prashant Kishor, a poll strategist whose commitment to secularism cannot be said to be abiding. Saving the country from the BJP is what matters. Who becomes the Prime Minister is just a secondary consideration.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

justify the behaviour of the Opposition members and it is imperative that normal working commences and prevails. For many, anything and everything that PM Modi does is a masterstroke. Imposing the farm laws first and repealing them later are both being praised. Perhaps it's time for the likes of such people to take off their blinkered glasses.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

MESSI REPEATS THE HISTORY HE CREATED

Sir — Soccer legend Lionel Messi has won the Ballon d'Or, football's most prestigious award, for a record-stretching seventh time, which puts him ahead of his eternal rival Cristiano Ronaldo in all-time standings. The award reaffirms the fact that Messi is unquestionably the king of modern era's football. Perhaps what separates Messi from other greats is that he has an inher-

ent advantage over every other player, thanks to his superior technical ability which gives him an immediate edge because he can manipulate the ball in ways that others simply cannot.

For the Argentine super star, life turned a full circle at a very young age of 13 when he was offered the chance to train at FC Barcelona's youth academy, La Masia. Had not Messi grabbed that opportunity gleefully with both hands, today we would not be witnessing the world's greatest footballer in the modern era, whose name and fame have reached dizzying heights. But more than anything else, winning the Copa America for Argentina in July this year must rank as the biggest moment so far in Messi's glittering football career.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

SOUND BITE

The Congress' leadership is not the divine right of an individual, especially when the party has lost repeatedly in the last 10 years.



Poll strategist —Prashant Kishor

Without clear norms for the responsible use of space, we stand the risk of threats to national and global security.



US Vice President —Kamala Harris

There is no better feeling than to wake up everyday and give back to the sport, allowing it to enable and empower young girls.



Former Indian athlete —Anju Bobby George

Songwriting is the greatest joy that I have in my life. It's my favourite element of what I do.



Singer —Miley Cyrus

India is a Hindu majority country. Any Hindu facing trouble outside India is welcome to the country.



Assam Chief Minister —Himanta Biswa Sarma

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

FOSTERING RELATIONS WITH SAARC MEMBERS

It's time for SAARC nations to start pushing common concerns impacting their citizens



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The last month of the year is always a tricky time for world affairs, more so for India, which chooses to keep normal work schedule in terms of Parliament in session and government officials sending out new policy notifications while the Western world is more on a holiday mode. Now there is an additional risk of the world suddenly coming to a screeching halt with the rise of new COVID variant Omicron. One of the first casualties has been the WTO ministerial conference which was supposed to be held till December 3, but has now been postponed. India had a bunch of issues to push during the ministerial, one of which is pushing for patents waiver on vaccines which would make them cheaper and increase their availability for poorer nations. What experts today agree about the new variant is the need for global vaccination. After all, the African nations from where the first cases of the new variant were detected, are also ones with the lowest vaccination rates. This means India will have to keep working on its bilaterals, and



mini multilaterals while keeping an eye for a WTO kind of a multi-lateral platform. India should watch out for its geopolitical reference and influence in Southeast Asia, where it is the largest country. The SAARC is more or less a defunct organization primarily due to the constant tug of war between India and Pakistan. Meanwhile, India's long-term allies like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal are being increasingly wooed by China. The economic might of China together with its entrapping Belt and Road initiative is too alluring a bait to be missed by a nation looking to quickly improve wealth for its citizens. The recent examples have been Pakistan and Sri Lanka both of whom had to accept money from China due to the worsening domestic economic situation.

That leaves us with what SAARC can do in the emerging situation and how it can be a catalyst for increasing India's influence in the region. It would be worthwhile to remember that one of the core pillars of regional cooperation amongst SAARC nations, as agreed upon in Dhaka convention in 1983, is in the area of healthcare and pandemic mitigation. News reports emerging from SAARC countries since 2020 are examples of how leaders across the region paid little or no attention towards healthcare. India is one of the largest vaccine manufacturers in the world, yet its immediate neighborhood has got first tranches of vaccines from China. One of the key reasons for this failure of cooperation on vaccines among SAARC members is the speed with which the deadlier second wave hit India and its neighborhood, leaving little room for sharing healthcare facilities, and expertise amongst allies. The second reason being this part of world is one of the most densely populated with huge proximity between humans, making all efforts towards isolation of virus virtually impossible. However, the time has come for India to steer towards closer relations with and between SAARC members, as they emerge from one of the worst periods in human history. Earlier in the year, a SAARC membership meeting was scheduled to be held in New York in September. However, differences over the placement of chair toppled the cart. Pakistan wanted the Taliban as a representative of Afghanistan to participate in the meeting, but later agreed to place a symbolic chair due to restrictions on Taliban leaders to travel to the US. Except for Pakistan, no other SAARC member seeks recognition of the new Taliban dispensation. It is time for SAARC nations to start pushing common concerns impacting their citizens.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Implementing climate change essentials in time



ALOK RANJAN

To achieve the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 per cent of pre-industrial level, carbon dioxide emissions need to be 45 per cent below 2010 level by 2030

The COP26 has concluded with a final resolution that has been hailed by some and considered not enough by others. However, the deliberations did bring out the crucial impact that greenhouse gas emissions are having on our planet and that nobody is immune to the effects of this. For at least a month, the attention of the entire world was focused on the likely temperature rise over the pre industrial era and its impact on climate change and correspondingly on livelihood and the future of our planet. It is clear that climate change is a reality which cannot be brushed under the carpet because it has already started impacting human lives and threatens a potentially disastrous future.

There was a lot of debate about countries committing themselves to a net zero target on a particular date in the future. Many countries like the Nordic countries were talking about reaching net zero before 2050 and there was pressure on India to also promise net zero by 2050. This was raising issues of development versus environment for a growing economy like India. It was pointed out that per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in India is far below than that which is prevailing in the developed economies. The issue of climate equity was raised. Was it not imperative on the developed countries to contribute more significantly to reduction of greenhouse gases as they were responsible for the same to a larger extent?

The developed countries were pointing towards India and China by saying that these countries are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases and, hence, it is obligatory for them to take steps for mitigation of emission of greenhouse gases.

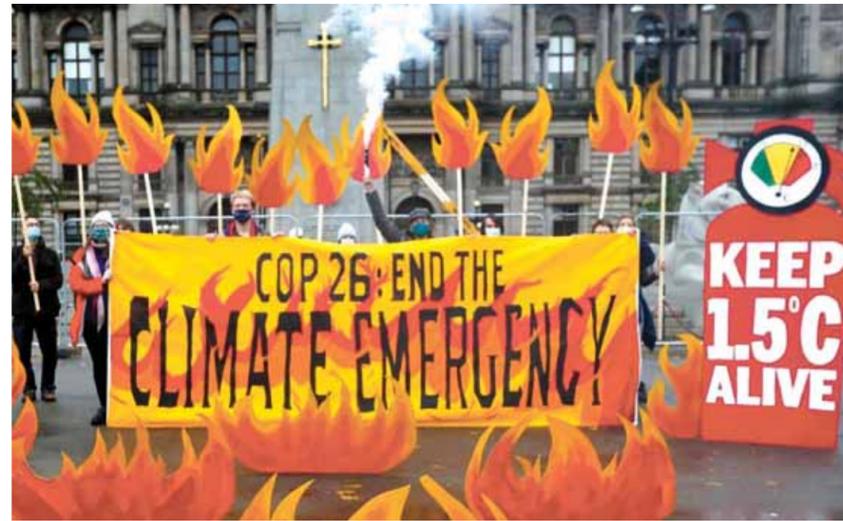
India took the lead. It pointed out that it has been honoring its commitments made in the nationally determined contributions (NDC) after the Paris agreement. The Prime Minister in his speech outlined a very positive action plan for the future of India. He promised that India would seek to attain net zero by 2070. India also assured that by 2030 the installed renewable energy capacity would be raised to a level of 500 GW and that 50 per cent of the country's electricity requirement would be met from renewable sources.

We also projected reducing cumulative carbon emissions by 1 billion tones between 2020 and 2030 and reducing carbon intensity of GDP by 45 per cent compared to 2005 level. The rest of the countries also came out with their commitments but the experience has been that in the absence of an enforcement mechanism the promises made by various countries have not been honored in practice. A classic example has been that the promised climate finance by the



INDIA WOULD HAVE TO STRIVE HARD TO ACHIEVE ITS COP26 GOALS. INDIA IS A DEVELOPING ECONOMY AND ITS FOCUS HAS TO BE ON PROVIDING HIGHER PER CAPITA INCOME AND BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE TO ITS CITIZENS. AT THE SAME TIME, INDIA IS A RESPONSIBLE NATION AWARE OF ITS GLOBAL COMMITMENTS AND ITS ROLE IN SAVING THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



developed nations to the extent of \$100 billion every year by 2020 is yet to be realized. Climate change mitigation and adaptation would only be possible with accountability on the concerned nations and there should be a sense of credibility to their pronouncements.

As it is, it has been reported, that if all NDCs are implemented then the greenhouse gases level in 2030 would be 15.9 per cent above 2000 level. In order to achieve the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 per cent of pre industrial level, scientists have calculated carbon dioxide emissions need to be 45 per cent below 2010 level by 2030. Climate change is definitely a serious affair which needs much more than pious intentions to mitigate.

India would also have to strive hard to achieve the goals it has identified for itself in COP 26. India is a developing economy and its focus has to be on providing higher per capita income and better quality of life to its citizens. At the same time India is a responsible nation aware of its global commitments and its role in saving the future of humanity. Sustainable development is the key word. India has to create an enabling environment to attract global investments. It has to invest in infrastructure to make this happen.

The energy sector requires serious reforms of the discoms. We need to strengthen our grid infrastructure and massively increase battery storage capacity to usher in clean energy. All this would require a huge skilled

work force which requires investment in education and re-skilling. The focus on renewable energy would have a geographic element also as it is the western and southern states which would become the main provider of renewable energy but eastern India where the coal belt exists would see job losses. India would need a plan taking all aspects into account for ensuring a "just" energy transition. All this would raise questions about the sustainability of renewable energy generation goals.

All the options have social costs. Nuclear energy has the social cost of possible radiation while hydro-electric projects have huge environmental issues of rehabilitation and relocation. Even solar and wind energy have a problem of requiring enormous amount of land. Even otherwise Indian declaration implies that fossil fuels will continue to contribute 50 per cent of the energy requirement leading to increased emissions.

India would be required to prepare a detailed strategy and action plan to ensure that it fulfills its commitments. All this cannot be done at the Central Government level and the States would have to be fully involved. In fact, a culture of carbon neutrality will have to be built in all projects. I recently attended a conference on climate change where they claimed that the conference was carbon neutral as they have planted trees in a designated area to set off all the carbon emissions created by the conference. This is

the approach which will have to be followed. Every event and every project will have to aim for carbon neutrality. This requires a high degree of awareness and consciousness in all sections of the society. Implementation is not going to be easy. Even today we see that Delhi and NCR are facing a high level of air pollution due to stubble burning, vehicle emissions and other factors and the Supreme Court has lamented that despite this problem occurring every year in winter the Center and State Governments have not been able to sit down together to resolve it. Then recently we saw on the TV screens the frothing waters of the river Yamuna in Delhi have become unfit for human use. If these problems have not been tackled for years, then one wonders how the promises made regarding climate change mitigation would be met.

A high-level monitoring committee will have to be setup to monitor on regular basis and policy making will have to be dovetailed to the commitments made regarding greenhouse gas mitigation. Policy makers have an unenviable task before them as they also have to see that development is not adversely impacted and the poor of the country are not made to carry the burden. In a similar vein, at the international level also, a monitoring and enforcement mechanism would need to be evolved. Climate change cannot be ignored but it requires urgent and concrete action for mitigation and adaptation.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

PUNJAB BELONGS TO PUNJABIS, YOU (AAP) DO NOT CREATE DISRUPTIONS HERE. THESE KAALAE ANGREJ WANT TO RULE THE STATE.
—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI



CHANNI SAHAB SAID KEJRIWAL IS KAALA (BLACK). I MAY BE BLACK BUT MY INTENTIONS ARE FAIR.
—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Haryana reserves 75 per cent jobs for locals; impractical step

The theory of providing jobs to locals is nothing but favouritism and regionalism. Instead of nurturing talent, it will encourage a quota system based on domicile

The Haryana Government has informed that the Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020, will be implemented in the state from January 15, 2022. The act will pave the way for a 75 per cent reservation for local candidates in private jobs in the state.



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Haryana has the highest unemployment rate in the country, at 26.4 per cent according to CMIE data for February. The national rate is 6.9 per cent. When there is huge unemployment, it may create restlessness among the population and the government may have to tackle the serious issue that is brewing up.

The GDP of Haryana is ₹8.31 lakh crore (2019-20).

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

The GDP per capita position is a reasonable fifth nationally. When there is economic growth, it must translate into job creation also. If that is not happening, then the reasons should be analysed, instead of making a quick fix by job reservation for locals that will be counterproductive.

The theory of providing jobs to local people is nothing but favouritism and regionalism. Instead of nurturing talent and capability, it will encourage quota system based on domicile. Such recruitment will result in poor execution by the work force and the companies employing them will find it difficult to survive in a competitive world.

The country is one and the country is divided into different states for convenience of



administration only. Just as free mobility of all physical resources is essential, human resource should also be freely employable anywhere in the country. The recruiting companies will always look for proper talent and skills for any job locally. Only when it is not available or when it is not competitive, the company will look elsewhere. Restricting the companies to recruit only local people will cripple the functioning of the company. Companies may migrate to other states which will be

counterproductive for the state.

Article 16(1) of the Constitution states that there shall be equal opportunity for the citizens in the matter of employment or appointment to any office under the State. Article 16(2) lays down the grounds on which the citizens should not be discriminated against for the purpose of employment or appointment to any office under the State.

However, Article 16(3) provides an exception to these laws. It states that parliament may make any laws prescribing a requirement for any particular place of residence within the state or union territory in which the public office or employment may be in.

In the case of Pradeep Jain

vs Union of India, the Supreme Court found the policies of reserving jobs for sons of the soil as violative of the Constitution and said as follows: "...every citizen has a right to move freely throughout the territory of India and to reside and settle in any part of India... it is difficult to see how a citizen having his permanent home in Tamil Nadu or speaking Tamil language can be regarded as an outsider in Uttar Pradesh... To regard him as an outsider would be to deny him his constitutional rights and to de-recognise the essential unity and integrity of the country by treating it as if it were a mere conglomeration of independent States".

Job reservation for locals should not be confused with affirmative action which

comes under Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution. They allow the State to make special provisions for reservation of admissions in higher academic places and appointments, for those communities which are socially, educationally backwards classes or are from scheduled castes or scheduled tribes and in the opinion of the state are not adequately represented in the services under the state.

The initiative to reserve jobs for locals may backfire. It is reported that the start-up community based in Haryana, particularly Gurugram, has been unnerved by the new law. As per a survey of Xpheno, around 11,000 employees are working in Gurugram's unicorns and soonicorns. Half of them may

not be locals with salaries of Rs.50,000 per month. The new dispensation will make the existing entrepreneurs to leave Gurugram and migrate to Delhi or Noida in UP. Future entrepreneurs may even go for Bengaluru to establish new ventures. Instead of addressing the problem of unemployment, the new law will drive away industries and thus create more unemployment in the state.

Instead of reserving jobs for local population, the government must ensure skill development and industry ready work force, which will automatically make them employable. This will also encourage new companies to migrate to the state when they are assured about talented and skilled workforce.

Omicron and delta spell return of unpopular restrictions

AP ■ PARIS
Greeks who are over age 60 and refuse coronavirus vaccinations could be hit with monthly fines of more than one-quarter of their pensions — a get-tough policy that the country's politicians say will cost votes but save lives.
In Israel, potential carriers of the new omicron variant could be tracked by the nation's

domestic security agency in seeming defiance of a Supreme Court ruling from the last go-round.
Weekly protests in the Netherlands over the country's 5 pm lockdown and other new restrictions have descended into violence, despite what appears to be overwhelming acceptance of the rules.
With the delta variant of COVID-19 pushing up cases in

Europe and growing fears over the omicron variant, governments around the world are weighing new measures for populations tired of hearing about restrictions and vaccines.
It's a thorny calculus made more difficult by the prospect of backlash, increased social divisions and, for many politicians, the fear of being voted out of office.



Negative Covid test 1 day before travel: Tough US rules from next week

Washington: Biden has brought steady leadership after the chaotic Donald Trump years, but the mutating coronavirus continues to defy him, helping drive his approval ratings deep underwater.

In a speech from the National Institutes of Health research center outside Washington, Biden is set to list a raft of actions designed to tamp down Covid-19 during the winter as the latest Omicron variant spreads worldwide. The first US case was detected on Wednesday. Top of the list will be an announcement that toughened rules on testing for travelers will take effect within days, a senior administration official said.

Biden will "announce that we are further strengthening our testing requirements so that starting early next week, all international travelers will be required to test negative within one day of their departure to the United States," the official told reporters. This will apply to all travelers, both US and foreign, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated, the official said.

For domestic travelers, Biden will announce he is extending a mask mandate on airplanes, trains and other public transport through mid-March. **PTI**

UK approves new Covid treatment, may work against Omicron variant

London: The UK's medicines regulator on Thursday approved a new antibody treatment against Covid-19, which it believes will also be effective against new variants such as Omicron.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said Xevudy or sotrovimab is for people with mild to moderate Covid-19 who are at high risk of developing severe disease. Developed by GSK and Vir Biotechnology, sotrovimab is a single monoclonal antibody and the drug works by binding to the spike protein on the outside of the COVID-19 virus. This in turn prevents the virus from attaching to and entering human cells, so that it cannot replicate in the body.

"I am pleased to say that we now have another safe and effective COVID-19 treatment, Xevudy (sotrovimab), for those at risk of developing severe illness," said Dr June Raine, MHRA Chief Executive.

"This is yet another therapeutic that has been shown to be effective at protecting those most vulnerable to COVID-19, and signals another significant step forward in our fight against this devastating disease," she said. **PTI**

Nepal alert against possible spread of Omicron variant in Sudurpaschim

Kathmandu: Nepal's Sudurpaschim province bordering India has launched preventive measures against the possible spread of the 'Omicron' variant of Covid-19.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the new variant poses a very high risk globally, declaring it as the 'variant of concern'.

Sudurpaschim Health Directorate said surveillance has been enhanced along India-Nepal border points in the province taking into consideration the high risk posed by COVID-19 latest strain classified as B.1.1.529.

"The risk from the new variant prevails high in the province as it shares the border with India," the Directorate said.

If the new variant is spread in neighbouring India, Sudurpaschim will have high risk, it said, adding health desks have been set up along the border points. Gaddachauki, Srinagar, Jhulaghat, and Pulghat remain as the major points along the India-Nepal border in the province and people's movement via these points is relatively higher than other entry points. **PTI**

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India

Presentation Ceremony of National Awards, 2020
in the field of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
3rd December, 2021 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

by
Ram Nath Kovind
Hon'ble President of India

Special Guests
Dr. Virendra Kumar
Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India

Ramdas Athawale **A. Narayanaswamy** **Pratima Bhoumik**
Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India

Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Hearty congratulations to 49 National Awardees, 2020 in individual category and 10 in Institutional categories in the field of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

- **Scholarship Scheme**
- **Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme**
- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**
- **Under the Umbrella Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) :-**
 - Support for creation of barrier free environment
 - National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Training
 - Unique Disability Identification (UDID) project
 - Accessible India Campaign
 - Awareness Generation

Follow us on : @socialpwds www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in www.socialjustice.nic.in

davp 38117/11/0040/2122

"I know the frustration that we all feel with this omicron variant, the sense of exhaustion that we could be going through this all over again," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tuesday, two days after the government announced that masks would be mandatory again in stores and on public transportation and required all visitors from abroad to undergo a COVID-19 test and quarantine.

"We're trying to take a balanced and proportioned approach."
New restrictions, or variations on the old ones, are cropping up around the world, especially in Europe, where leaders are at pains to explain what looks like a failed promise: that mass vaccinations would mean an end to widely loathed limitations.

"People need normality. They need families, they need to see people, obviously safely, socially distancing, but I really think, this Christmas now, people have had enough," said Belinda Storey, who runs a stall at a Christmas market in Nottingham, England. **PTI**

US defense chief slams China's drive for hypersonic weapons

Seoul: America's defense chief rebuked China on Thursday, vowing to confront its potential military threats in Asia and warning that its pursuit of hypersonic weapons intended to evade US missile defenses "increases tensions in the region."

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's stern comments after annual security talks with South Korea, a top US ally, are a window into one of the Biden administration's top foreign policy worries: How should Washington and its partners contain a Chinese military that is strengthening — both in sheer firepower and in confidence — as it pursues an end of American dominance in Asia? China sees much of Asia as its natural sphere of influence.

But many in the region warn of a pattern of Chinese interference, accompanied by moves to acquire the weapons needed to dominate its rivals.

Austin's comments were directed at China's July test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting Earth before reentering the atmosphere and



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, left, bumps elbows with South Korean Defense Minister Suh Wook in Seoul, South Korea on Dec 2, 2021 **AP**

gliding on a maneuverable path to its target.

Experts say the weapons system is clearly designed to evade US missile defenses, although China insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile.

"We have concerns about the military capabilities that the PRC continues to pursue, and the pursuit of those capabilities increases tensions in the region," Austin said about the hypersonic weapons test, using the abbreviation for the People's Republic of China, the country's official name.

"We'll continue to maintain the capabilities to defend and deter against a range of potential threats from the PRC to ourselves and to our allies," he said.

The Pentagon released on Monday the results of a global posture review that calls for additional cooperation with allies to deter "potential Chinese military aggression and threats from North Korea."

Last month, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the United States is also working on hypersonic weapons. **PTI**

Bangladeshi court sentences 13 to death, 19 to life term for lynching 6 students

Dhaka: A Bangladeshi court on Thursday sentenced 13 people to death and 19 others to life imprisonment for lynching six students suspecting them of being robbers on the outskirts of the Capital ten years ago.

"They will be hanged by neck until they are dead," Dhaka 2nd Additional District and Session Judge Ismat Jahan ruled. The judge said that those given the death penalty would have to pay Taka 20,000 each.

Nineteen others were given life in prison. They were also slapped with a fine of Tk10,000 each. A total of 60 people had been accused of the killings. Names of three people were dropped from the charge sheet as they died during the trial.

Prosecution lawyers said 40 out of the 57 defendants were in jail and one was on bail while the rest were tried as fugitives.

The judge acquitted 25 of them. Seven friends, who were studying at different schools and colleges of Dhaka, took a trip to Amin Bazar Bridge under Savar police station on the outskirts of Dhaka on July 18, 2011, the night of Shab-e-Barat festival. **PTI**

Rights group says Myanmar forces purposely killed protesters



Bangkok: The killing of at least 65 protesters in Myanmar's biggest city on March 14 this year was planned and premeditated, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice, a rights watchdog said in a report released on Thursday.

Human Rights Watch accused security forces of deliberately encircling and using lethal force against crowds in Yangon's working class neighbourhood of Hlaing Tharyar that were demonstrating against the military's February 1 seizure of power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Soldiers and police armed with military assault rifles fired on trapped protesters and on those trying to assist the wounded, killing at least 65 protesters and bystanders," said the New York-based organization.

The military-installed government, which imposed martial law in the area after the violence, has described the protesters as "rioters" who burned down garment factories and blocked firefighters. Human Rights Watch said no action is known to have been taken against any members of the security forces. No government official was immediately available for comment.

Human Rights Watch's Myanmar researcher Manny Maung told The Associated Press the security forces' actions "constitute the crime against humanity of murder." "Ultimately, the responsibility lies in the command structure, and whoever was responsible for ordering the crackdown and implementing the crackdown is responsible," she said. In her opinion, that would be the Yangon regional military commander and the city's police chief.

"It's necessary to make sure that such figures are made aware that they can be tried and held to account at a later time," she said.

Human Rights Watch said it based its findings on interviews with six witnesses and analyses of 13 videos and 31 photographs of the violence posted on social media.

"We can prove, through testimonies and digital forensics, that in videos posted by security forces, and images that show security forces pointing their weapons — assault rifles and automatic weapons — against civilians, that this was planned and coordinated," Manny Maung said.

The report mentions a video posted on TikTok by a police officer that shows riot police preparing to advance on protesters. **AP**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (उधम सिंह नगर)
Phone Fax : 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdsun@gmail.com

पत्रांक-3829/23 एम-04/2021 दिनांक 02.12.2021

निविदा सूक्ति-पत्र सूचना

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 3606/23 एम-04/2021 दिनांक 18.11.2021 द्वारा निर्माण खण्ड, लोन्निवो खेतीमा से सम्बन्धित राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (टू-बिड सिस्टम) के माध्यम से मा० मुख्यमंत्री घोषणा एवं केन्द्रीय विशेष सहायता योजना के अन्तर्गत 06 कार्यों की आमंत्रित निविदा जो पोर्टल <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 26.11.2021 से उपलब्ध होनी है, अपरिहार्य कारणवश उक्त निविदा, निविदा पोर्टल <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर निम्नानुसार उपलब्ध होगी

(1) निविदा साईट पर उपलब्ध होने की तिथि-	दिनांक 04.12.2021 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे से।
(2) प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि-	दिनांक 07.12.2021 पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे।
(3) निविदा डाउनलोड करने की तिथि-	दिनांक 04.12.2021 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे से।
(4) निविदा अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि-	दिनांक 08.12.2021 पूर्वान्ह 10.00 बजे से।
(5) निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि-	दिनांक 17.12.2021 अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक।
(6) निविदा खोलने की तिथि-	दिनांक 17.12.2021 अपरान्ह 03.30 बजे।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी। (महिपाल सिंह रावत), अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(An Enterprise of DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
20-22, Zamroodpur Comm. Centre, Kailash Colony
Extn., N.Delhi-48 Tel: 011-29240401-07
Email: seed-funding@nrdc.in

Applications invited for Seed Funding for Start-ups

Applications are invited under NRDC-Seed funding programme 2021-22 from Start-ups and early stage growth focused innovative companies (mainly engaged in development and commercialization of new products or new applications of existing products or new technologies or processes) being incubated in incubators in any State/Central Government supported institutions. The last date of receipt of Duly filled in applications with required documents is 21 Dec 2021 by 5 PM. For more details please visit NRDC website: www.nrdcindia.com
davp36206/11/0010/2122

Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh

Letter No. : 7527/984 C-03/2021 Dated : 01/12/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)
Short Term E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 09-12-2021 & onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Renewal work with SBDC of pithoragarh Jhulaghat motor road in km 6,7,8,13,10 to 16 and 19 to 22 under Annual Maintanance (Length 11.00 km)	4.00	5000.00 + 18% GST	45 Days	6 Months	Category 'A' and Above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India / Govt. Undertaking

J&K POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO P/S Nagrota vide communication No. 1334/5-1/PSN dated 12.11.2021, intimated that accused namely Haq Nawaz S/O Mohd Sultan R/O Tipri Banzwa, Tehsil Thatri, District Doda A/P Khanpur, Tehsil Nagrota, Jammu is evading his arrest in case FIR No. 388/2021 U/S 376/363/366/365 IPC, 3/4 POCSO Act of P/S Nagrota, Jammu since the commission of crime.

It is therefore requested that Hue and Cry Notice of above mentioned accused is being published for the information of Police establishments / Public in general having any clue related to the whereabouts / present location of above named accused, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-

Name : Haq Nawaz S/O Mohd Sultan
Address : Tipri Banzwa, Tehsil Thatri, Doda, A/P Khanpur, Tehsil Nagrota, Jammu
Age : About 26 years
Height : 5' 5"
Build : Lean
Complexion : Wheatish
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP Rural Jammu : 0191-2605949
5. SDPO Nagrota : 0191-2673666
6. Landline of P/S Nagrota : 0191-2673025

No: DIP/J-9820/21 Dated: 02.12.2021

Sd/- For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu

Sensex soars 777 pts; Nifty ends above 17,400

Sebi asks stock brokers to disclose investors charter, compliant data on websites

Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 777 points on Thursday, tracking gains in index majors HDFC twins, Infosys and TCS despite largely negative cues from global peers.



The Union government's fiscal deficit of 36.3 per cent of budget estimates in October, is better owing to improved revenue collection, he noted.

On the global front, Fed Chair's remarks stating a possibility of a faster end to the bond-buying programme and interest rate hike along with the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant in the US, triggered a fresh global sell-off.

Gold slips ₹280 on muted global trends

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Thursday declined by ₹280 to ₹46,657 per 10 gram in line with a decline in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at ₹46,937 per 10 gram.

Silver, however, jumped ₹212 to ₹61,337 per kilogram from ₹61,125 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,775 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.33 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.28 per cent down at USD 1,775 per ounce on Thursday. A firm dollar has kept bullion prices lower," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. PTI

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday asked stock brokers to disclose investors charter as well as data pertaining to complaints they received on their websites.

The new guidelines will come into effect from January 1, 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

In order to facilitate investor awareness about several activities which an investor deals with such as opening of account, KYC and in-person verification, process for dematerialisation and complaint resolution, Sebi, in consultation with the market participants, has prepared an investor charter for stock brokers.

This charter specified about rights of investors, various activities of stock brokers with timelines, dos and don'ts for investors and grievance redressal mechanism.

In this regard, exchanges have been directed to advise stock brokers to bring the

investor charter for stock brokers to the notice of their clients -- existing as well as new ones -- through disclosing the investor charter on their respective websites, making them available at prominent places in the office, provide a copy of the charter as a part of account opening kit to the clients, through e-mails or letters etc.

Additionally, in a bid to bring about transparency in the investor grievance redressal mechanism, Sebi has asked brokers to disclose on their respective websites, the data on complaints received against them and redressal thereof.

The data needs to be disclosed latest by 7th of succeeding month, Sebi said.

In addition, the regulator has also prescribed a format for disclosing data of complaints on their websites.

Under the disclosure, brokers will have to disclose about complaints received during the month, those carried forward from previous month, com-

plaints pending for more than three months, complaints resolved and average time taken in resolution of a complaint, among others.

Earlier, Sebi had asked depositories, Registrar and share transfer agents (RTAs) and merchant bankers to disclose on their websites, the investor charter for a bunch of categories.

Besides, it had directed exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations to disclose on their websites, the data on complaints received against them and redressal thereof.

This came after Sebi regulator came out with investor charter in November. This charter includes the rights and responsibilities of investors, and dos and don'ts of investing in the securities market.

The charter is aimed at protecting the "interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner".

Rupee slips 12 paise to 75.03 per US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee on Thursday slipped 12 paise to close at 75.03 against the US dollar, weighed by uncertainties over the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 75.06 and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.90 and a low of 75.07 against the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled at 75.03, down 12 paise over its previous close of 74.91.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent up at 96.03. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 2.99 per cent to USD 70.45 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 776.50 points or 1.35 per cent higher at 58,461.29, while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 234.75 points or 1.37 per cent to 17,401.65.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹2,765.84 crore, as per exchange data.

On the macro-economic front, India's merchandise exports rose 26.49 per cent year-on-year to USD 29.88 billion in November on better performance by key sectors, while the trade deficit hit a record high of USD 23.27 billion as imports of crude oil and gold spiked.

"Rupee depreciated against US dollar following weakness in Asian currencies and worries over higher trade deficit numbers," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell's recent hawkish comment on accelerating its taper bond purchases has surprised markets, Parmar added.

Wary of EU's Global Gateway to rival BRI, China says they can complement each other

Beijing: Playing down the likely challenge from the European Union's ambitious USD 340 billion Global Gateway infrastructure programme to its BRI, a wary China on Thursday extended a guarded response, saying the two initiatives can complement each other to enhance global connectivity.

On Wednesday, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unveiled the EU's long-awaited infrastructure drive, which officials said will offer a "true alternative" to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The plan, known as the Global Gateway, promises to mobilise up to USD 340 billion between 2021 and 2027 for modern infrastructure projects outside the EU, covering items such as fibre optic cables, clean transport corridors and clean power transmission.

"China welcomes all initiatives that help developing countries improve infrastructure and promote common development," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said in a media briefing while reacting to the EU's Global Gateway project.

"We also believe that different initiatives should not replace or exclude each other. Instead, we advocate inclusiveness,

communication and coordination for greater synergy", he noted.

"China and the EU have much in common in the overall direction of connectivity. There is every reason for us to complement each other and jointly enhance the connectivity between countries and global sustainable development", he explained.

Defending the BRI, Wang said that cooperation under the initiative has delivered tangible benefits to people in participating countries.

"Going forward, we will continue to strengthen cooperation with all BRI partners and work for steady progress in various sectors", he said.

This is the second rival connectivity project to compete with China's multi-billion BRI.

US President Joe Biden has unveiled his global infrastructure the Build Back Better World (B3W) at the G7 summit in June this year with the goal of creating "a values-driven, high-standard, and transparent infrastructure partnership" to help finance projects in developing countries.

While the EU's proposal does not mention China by name, von der Leyen left little doubt that Beijing was in her thoughts during the press conference in Brussels.

SBI join hands with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers

New Delhi: Country's largest lender SBI has joined hands with Adani Capital as a co-lending partner to provide loans to farmers in the country.

State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a master agreement with Adani Capital Private Ltd (Adani Capital), the NBFC arm of Adani Group, for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops, SBI said in a release on Thursday.

SBI said, this partnership will enable it to target farmer customers in the interior hinterland of the country looking for adoption of farm mechanization to enhance productivity of crops. "SBI is actively looking at co-lending opportunities with multiple NBFCs for financing farm mechanisation, warehouse receipt finance, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) etc, for enhancing credit flow to double the farmers' income," it stated.

Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said this partnership shall help SBI to expand customer base as well as connect with the underserved farming segment of the country and further contribute towards the growth of India's farm economy.

"We will continue to work with more NBFCs in order to reach out to maximum customers in far-flung areas and provide last-mile banking services," Khara said.

Indian firms took incentive-based measures to attract, retain talent during pandemic: Study

Mumbai: Most Indian organisations have taken progressive incentive-based measures to attract and retain talent during the pandemic, says a study.

According to a recent Mercer India study - 'Leveraging Incentives for Competitive Advantage', as many as 97 per cent companies have an active short-term incentive plan for in-year performance recognition.

The study conducted earlier this fiscal by Mercer India, covered 41 organisations, representing over 3,00,000 employ-

ees pan-India, and included corporates spanning the consumer, chemicals, life sciences, IT services and Internet-based or e-commerce industries.

With changing work dynamics and employee expectations, the respondents believe it is imperative that the human resources team structure the short-term and long-term incentive plans to ensure that the incentives were aspirational, sizeable, and fair and simple, while also being achievable.

Foundation Stone laid for PowerGrid Vishram Sadan

Delhi: K. Sreekanth, CMD, POWERGRID & Prof. (Dr.) Abani Kanta Mishra, Principal & Dean, MKCG laid the foundation stone for the Vishram Sadan being built under CSR initiative of POWERGRID at a cost of ₹15 crore in the presence of Shri Alok, ED, Odisha Projects.

MKCG, Berhampur caters to medical needs of about 5,000 patients on daily basis coming from eight districts in Odisha, and nearby areas. This 200-bedded POWERGRID Vishram Sadan will be constructed inside the campus and will mitigate hardships faced by patients and their attendants.

US jobless claims rise by 28,000 to still-low 222,000

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week even though the US job market has been rebounding from last year's coronavirus recession.

Jobless claims climbed by 28,000 to 222,000 from the previous week's pandemic low 194,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell below 239,000, a pandemic low. Since topping 900,000 in early January, the weekly applications — a proxy for layoffs — have been falling more or less steadily.

Overall, 2 million Americans were receiving traditional jobless benefits the week that ended Nov. 20, down by 107,000 from the week before.

SC junks plea seeking review of judgment upholding Arbitral Award to Anil Ambani Group

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) seeking review of its judgement which upheld the 2017 arbitration award of around ₹4,600 crore in favour of Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary, Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL), enforceable against it. A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat said no case for review is made out.

"We have gone through the Review petitions and the connected papers filed therewith. In our opinion, no case for review of order is made out. The review petitions are dismissed. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of," the bench in its November 23 order said. The apex court on September 9 had upheld the 2017 arbitration award enforceable against DMRC and said there was a disturbing tendency of courts setting aside arbitral awards.

Govt appoints AK Tiwari as Member in PNGRB

New Delhi: Anjani Kumar Tiwari on Thursday assumed the charge as Member, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). Before joining Member, PNGRB, Tiwari worked in GAIL (India) Limited and as Director (Finance). He held the position of Director in GAIL Gas Ltd., Green Gas Ltd., Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd, GAIL (USA) Inc., and GAIL Global (USA) LNG LLC.

Institute of Cost Accounts of India.

He was involved in transformation of finance function to align with the overall company strategy and make revolutionary changes into financial function, associated processes, internal controls and financial reporting.

He was involved in finalization of GAIL Strategy 2030 which focused on diversification and growth of Natural Gas Sector as well as Renewables. He spearheaded and guided the Company towards Succession planning and Capability Building, Safe & Sustain operations.

He played a pivotal role for GAIL digital initiatives to derive maximum value for its product lines.

Cloud-native, self-serve SaaS service platform

New Delhi: With the aim to transform the customer service experience of the businesses, Bangalore-Mumbai and US-based software company Wolken Software launched its self-serve SaaS customer service solution Wolken Care for small and medium businesses. Rohan Joshi, co-founder & CEO, Wolken Software, said, "The out-of-the-box, configurable and scalable enterprise-class service desk solution can shift the paradigm for organizations looking for innovative areas that can improve their revenue and improve employee efficiency."

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. -934 **Dated: 02.12.2021**

Short Term Tender Inviting Notice

For and on behalf of UJVN Limited, Office of the Executive Engineer, PCM(GV), Mayapur, Haridwar invites sealed & separate tender from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

Tender Notice Reference:
NIT No. - 21/2021-22/EE/PCM(GV)/Mayapur-Special M&R Work of Sainik Rest House at Kotdwara.

Estimated Value of Tender:- ₹ 15,24,700.68 only.

Date of availability of bid document on website:- 02.12.2021 from 17:00 Hrs.

Last Date for Submission of Tender:- 17.12.2021 upto 14:00 Hrs.

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our website. The tender can be downloaded from our website i.e. www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

Executive Engineer, PCM (GV)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड,
राजनांदगाव (छ.ग.)**

E-mail- eeraaj-phe-cg@nic.in

// ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट //
// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहाम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रथम-ए में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेट्रोफिटिंग/एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत जिला राजनांदगाव के विभिन्न विकासखंडों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में **UPVC/HDPPE** पाई लाईन जोड़ने विज्ञान, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार सुधार कार्य, स्वीच रूम, उच्चस्तरीय जलागार के चारों ओर बाउंड्रीवॉल निर्माण, सलमसिंबल पंप का प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य, विद्युत विभाग (CSPDCL) से इलेक्ट्रिक कनेक्शन, इलेक्ट्रोक्लोरीनेटर स्थापना, क्लोरीनेटर रूम, घरों एवं शासकीय संस्थानों में कार्यरत नल कनेक्शन प्रदाय आदि एवं अन्य समस्त कार्य, (संपूर्ण कार्य सामग्री सहित, संलग्न शेड्यूल अनुसार) की मुहब्बत निविदाएं दिनांक 29.11.2021 से ऑन लाईन पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त कार्य के निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 08.12.2021 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है तथा निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक 20.12.2021 (शाम 5:30 बजे) तक है।

क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक	विकासखंड	ग्राम/योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (₹. लाख में)
1	270	87810	सोहरगांव सिगापुर (सुदूर आमंत्रण)	27.31
2	271	87812	राजनांदगाव मंत्रसरा (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	78.54
3	272	87814	सोहरगढ़ मोतीपुर, खिआरी (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	114.35
4	273	87815	छुरिया अमोली, खुशीटिकुल, चानो, धनगांव (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	
5	274	87816	हैदलकोठे, गदगापुर, जोशीमती, मुंजालकला (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	132.48
6	275	87817	छुरिया पांगरीकला-पांगरीखुर्द (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	66.80
7	276	87818	सुईखदान गोलाखंड, बंगमरा (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	122.16
8	277	87819	सुईखदान मणसखंड, बुद्धसागर (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	103.66

उपरोक्तानुसार कार्य ग्रामिण क्षेत्रों से संबंधित है अतः उल्लेखित कार्य निविदाये वर्तमान में लागू नगरीय निकाय चुनाव की आदर्श आचार संहिता के अंतर्गत नहीं आते।

हरसा / -
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
राजनांदगाव (छ.ग.)

R.O.No - 65505/11
R.O. Date - 01/12/2021

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.

29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN
Phone No. 0135-2607922, 2708100 Fax No. 0135-2708109 Web site: www.siidcul.com

NIT No : 70/SIIDCUL/2021

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF COMMERCIAL PLOT IN INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HARIDWAR & SIDC, BAHADURABAD

State Infrastructure & Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. (SIIDCUL) invites bids from interested bidders online for allotment of Commercial Plot C1, Sector-2 Area 7360 Sqmtr IIE Haridwar on "as is where is basis" as per details described in the bid document. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in from 04.12.2021 to 20.12.2021. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website www.uktenders.gov.in on/before mentioned due date i.e. 20th December, 2021 and time 14:00 hrs.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Goldee D/o: Om Prakash, R/o H.No. 2661-62, near Choti Chopal, Main Bazar Shadipur, Ranjit Nagar, Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Maroon colour Sweater, Green colour Suit, Black Pajami and Blue & Pink colour Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing from her house since 22.11.2021 at 09:30 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 430/21 U/S 363 IPC, dated 22.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Ranjit Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform to the following.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Ranjit Nagar,**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Delhi**
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/1114/CD/2021 Ph: 011-25874008, 8750870436**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	6-S/006/Tender/2021-22/RCKN/SNP
Name of work and its location	Tender for "Painting of Interior, Exterior & touch up interior and exterior work as well as Scrapping, Cleaning and Painting of under frame items of LHB type coaches at RCKN/SNP for a period six months"
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 17,00,972/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Nine Hundred Seventy Two only)
Earnest Money	NIL
Completion period of work	Six months of date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 10.00 hrs on 21.12.2021 Opening of Tender at 10.30 hrs.
Website particulars complete board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 6-S/006/Tender/2021-22/RCKN/SNP Dated: 29.11.2021 2818/2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Farida, D/o Md. Habib Ansari, R/O Raj Ghat power house, bela gaon, Daryaganj, Delhi. Age : 20 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion-Sallow, Built-Thin, Face-Oval, Wearing-White colour suit & salwar and sleeper in Feet has been reported missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi, since 17.11.2021 in this regard DD No. 89A dated 17.11.2021 has been registered at P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi**
Fax : 011-23011334 **DP/1113/CD/2021 Ph. : 011-23279331, 23274683, 8750870421**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 35 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Built: Medium, was wearing Blue Jacket, was found in Drowsy State and disoriented condition on dated 24.11.2021. He was admitted in SGM Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi and where he died during the treatment on 24.11.2021. In this regard a DD No. 56-A, dated 24.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
DP/1198/RD/2021 Ph.: 011-25489080, 8750870322

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Ashok Kumar, S/o Ramjilal, R/o: H.No. 53, Gali No. 02, Shiv Enclave, Faridabad, Haryana has been missing since 08.02.2013 from the area of P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 16-A, dated 01.03.2013 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:**

Name: Ashok Kumar, Age: About 48 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Face: Oval, Wearing: White Lining Shirt, Blue Colour Pant and Hawai Chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/1177/NE/2021 Ph: 011-22137761, 8750870733

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Chetan, S/o Laxman, R/O: E-17/44, Taj colony, new Seelampur, Age: 63 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Sex: Male, Built: Medium, Face: oval, Wearing : White inner and grey nicker was found dead on 27.11.2021 in Rain Basera, Sarai Basti, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 18-A, U/s-174 Cr.PC, dated 27.11.2021 has been lodged at PS: Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person relatives but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.**

SHO
P.S., Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23693611
8750870131



ELEVATED BASICS: NEED OF THE HOUR

AAINA MAHAJAN lists her all-season favourite looks that everyone should invest in

With today's new normal, the basic sense and need of dressing has completely changed. People want to feel more comfortable and yet be trendy. One can make his/her basics look extremely luxe and wear them on repeat by styling them differently each time. If you invest sensibly and on timeless pieces you should go for elevated basics that are of good quality, have great functionality and are effortless.

My top essential would be a classic white shirt, a tailored nude/black blazer and a pair of well-fitted jeans. These are staple pieces one must have in the wardrobe. These classic neutral tones are timeless and can be elevated by teaming them with accessories like sneakers, heels, boots, bags, jewellery and belts depending on the occasion and season. They create a look of minimalist luxury.

Athleisure has become a huge part of today's elevated fashion wardrobe, as it can be worn formally during the night or casually during the day. It serves as a great utility outfit. Once should invest in a nice ribbed co-ord set in neutral colours and fun printed track-sets in comfortable pure fabrics. These are wearable all day and all season.

My personal favourite looks would be:

- ◆ A white cotton crop top with baggy denim jeans, styled with classic black pumps and a belt bag.
- ◆ Another no-brainer is a white shirt with an oversized black blazer and skinny jeans. This can be teamed up with minimalistic classic gold earrings and a chain.
- ◆ The little black dress is the most versatile piece one can own in their closet. It can be worn in



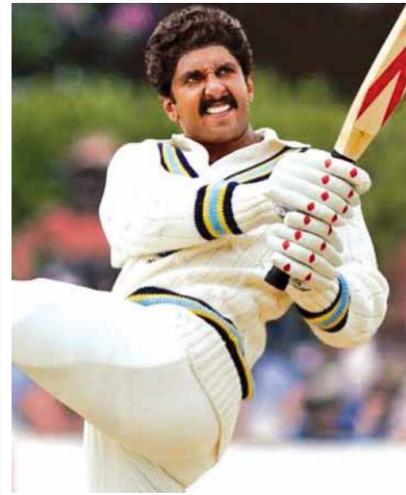
the day or night and can be teamed with sneakers, stilettos or boots depending on the season or occasion.

◆ A white crisp well-fitted shirt can be worn with pants, jeans or a skirt depending on one's mood and occasion. This can also be layered with a blazer, jacket or sweater that makes it versatile and extremely wearable.

◆ A black t-shirt is very versatile and can be teamed with neutral bottoms like denims, black/beige pants. This can also be teamed with fun printed bottoms to add an element.

Elevated basics make fashion more sustainable and you enjoy the pieces more as you get value from them and can keep them in your wardrobe over several years to come as well as play with them in terms of mood and styling. It is better to spend a little more on good quality timeless pieces than splurge on mindless quantities of clothes that are fast fashion, impulsive-bought and not long-lasting. When choosing your pieces,

make sure the fabric is of premium quality, the fit and cut is contemporary depending on your body type, the colour tones are versatile and can be teamed with multiple things.
 (The author is the founder of MellowDrama, a one-stop solution for prêt wear.)



Glorious tribute

Actor RANVEER SINGH has been praised for his portrayal of KAPIL DEV in 83 trailer. By TEAM VIVA

Actor Ranveer Singh is overwhelmed by the global appreciation that the trailer of 83 has been getting since it was released yesterday. Ranveer plays the role of the legendary Indian cricket team captain Kapil Dev, who led the underdog unit to the coveted World Cup glory in 1983 as they beat the mighty West Indies team in the finals at Lord's cricket ground. This was India's maiden World Cup win and it catapulted India as a country to the world stage. Ranveer, who is known for getting into the skin of any character, has wowed everyone as he has truly become Kapil Dev in body and spirit through sheer single-minded prep that saw him visit the former cricket captain's hometown and also stay at his home.

In a heartfelt note posted on his social media, Ranveer says, "Thank you to movie fans all over the country and beyond, our film fraternity, the press... people from all walks of life and generations have appreciated the movie's trailer, and we are filled with gratitude and gladness. This is not just a movie -- it's a glorious tribute to that moment in Indian history that changed it all!"

He adds, "It's about the great achievement of the Indian Cricket Team of 1983 — 'Kapil's Devils'! These men are legends, and it's an honour to be a part of the cinematic telling of their iconic story on the big screen! Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous and loving messages! Kaptaan Kabir Khan, it's everything you dreamed of! Take a bow!"

Directed by Kabir Khan, 83 is set to release on December 24.



Old confessions

MALAIKA ARORA reveals, on the sets of *India's Best Dancer 2*, that she was the biggest fan of CHUNKY PANDEY. By TEAM VIVA



spectacular dance moves to the actors sharing some beautiful memories from their good old days in the 80's, the episode

promises to be a delightful treat to watch for all the Bollywood lovers out there. However, one of the most

interesting moment that will leave everybody startled is when Malaika Arora revealed that while growing up she was the biggest Chunky Pandey fan! So much so that she had the biggest poster of Pandey inside her cupboard and she, along with her younger sister Amrita, used to make blank calls at his house. Well, it doesn't end here. Upon hearing this, judge Terence Lewis confessed how he had the biggest crush on Kothari during his school days and her movie *Love 86* really struck a chord in his heart.

Leaving no stone unturned, host Manish Paul immediately asked Arora and Pandey along with Lewis and Kothari, to recreate the iconic song from the 80's — *Main Se Meena Se*. Needless to say; the actors set the stage on fire with their performance and sizzling chemistry proving that magic of the 80's is evergreen.

(Tune in to *India's Best Dancer Season 2* this weekend at 8 PM only on Sony Entertainment Television.)



Milestone celebration

AISHWARYA KHARE and ROHIT SUCHANTI are ecstatic as *Bhagya Lakshmi* completes 100 episodes. By TEAM VIVA

After several collaborations, Zee ATV and Balaji Telefilms recently presented a story about life, love, karma, and destiny. Set against the backdrop of Mumbai, *Bhagya Lakshmi* follows the journey of Lakshmi, a selfless girl of limited means, who despite her humble background and the curveballs life has thrown at her, always puts others' needs before hers. The show has already impressed the audience courtesy of its intriguing storyline and relatable characters. While viewers have been hooked due to the intriguing twists and turns, they'll be happier to know that the *Bhagya Lakshmi* team recently clocked a big milestone. The show completed 100 episodes and the whole crew is ecstatic about achieving this milestone.

With the show achieving its first milestone, both the lead stars — Aishwarya Khare and Rohit Suchanti have been thanking their fans, cast members and the whole team who have contributed to this success.

Expressing her gratitude, Aishwarya Khare said, "It feels so good to receive so much love from the viewers of *Bhagya Lakshmi* and all our fans. We all are very thankful to our audience for giving so much love and appreciation to the show in such a short time. It feels like it was yesterday when I met everybody and now, we all have turned out to be like a family."

Adding to the excitement, Rohit Suchanti said, "I am overwhelmed with the kind of response *Bhagya Lakshmi* has received. Our entire team has been working diligently and

it feels great to achieve what we've longed for, love and lots of love. I hope they keep showering their blessings in the days to come. We promise to give our best to entertain you throughout this journey. Completing 100 episodes is a great feeling and I hope this is the first of many feats we achieve in the years to come."

While the whole team of *Bhagya Lakshmi* is basking in their success, there's some high voltage drama awaiting in Lakshmi's life.

(Tune into *Bhagya Lakshmi*, every Monday to Friday, at 8:30 pm only on Zee TV.)

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor is sporting a sharp new look these days for his film *Kuttey*, a dark comedy. He has trimmed his hair considerably and is sporting a moustache and a stubble for Vishal Bhardwaj's son, Aasmaan's, directorial debut. Arjun recently uploaded the images of his look from the film and it has been widely well-received.

Arjun says, "As much as I am missing my long hair, it is part of an actor's journey to let go and begin again and in that milieu, a film like *Kuttey* comes where you have to let go of all inhibitions and really go deep into playing the character."

He adds, "I love my directors' clarity that he wanted me to have a particular look and look like a person that blends in and is in every man. The character really needed that

An actor's journey

Have to let go of all inhibitions, states ARJUN KAPOOR on sporting a new look for his next film, *Kuttey*. By TEAM VIVA



so I am really happy and excited that the look has come together and my director is very happy. Now, I leave the rest to when the film comes out."

Written by Aasmaan and Vishal, *Kuttey* also stars Naseeruddin Shah, Konkona Sen Sharma, Tabu and Radhika Madan. Apart from *Kuttey*, the other films in Arjun's kitty include *Lady Killer with Ajay Bahl* and the yet-untitled Jagan Shakti directorial co-starring John Abraham.

TREND BLAZER



HASHMI TALKS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY

Talking about his 18-year-long journey in Bollywood, EMRAAN HASHMI said, "It's been a learning experience. It's a journey that I have cherished, with highs and lows. Meeting people, working on some fantastic projects was always nice. Ever since I decided to become an actor, it was the best decision."

He added, "I never really wanted to be an actor till a year after my college. I graduated and I think, it was a good accident of moving into a different territory, otherwise, I was gonna go somewhere else entirely."

fairtalk



'Ahan Shetty and I got to know each other before we started shooting. We did workshops and rehearsals for *Tadap* together. And we have a few similarities in our personalities. So, I think it was easy to get along with each other. It was very easy and fun. Luckily, the on-screen chemistry is clearly visible in our songs, too.'

dailytalk



'*Mera Yaar* is a song that will remain the closest to my heart. Not only have I donned four different looks in this fabulous video, but this is the first time I am releasing my own composition. It was a while ago I started working on the song but it was my father who encouraged me to go ahead and complete it. I am super excited to finally release it.'

SELENA GOMEZ ON MENTAL HEALTH

Actress and singer SELENA GOMEZ took to her Instagram to share a video of her upcoming mental health platform, Wondermind. In it, she talked about her struggle with mental health and revealed that doing intense boxing is a way for her to look after her mental health.

Gomez mentioned that she hates working out. She groaned, "It is not fun, but I've been doing intense boxing classes recently, and it has really helped me get a lot of frustration but also just energy out, and it feels so good."



Weather, combination worry for Captain Kohli

CAPTAIN SPEAKS

KOHLI HINTS AT EXTRA PACER CONSIDERING OVERCAST CONDITIONS, DECLARES SAHA 'FIT'

There is a weather change and we have to keep that into account and pick the combination accordingly

At the end of the day, you cannot assume weather conditions will remain like this over the five days

So, we need to see what bowling combination should be picked that can tackle in different conditions. If we reach a common understanding and if everyone agrees, we go in with that combination

WE ARE TALKING TO BCCI TO GET MORE CLARITY, RAHUL BHAI HAS INITIATED CONVERSATIONS: KOHLI ON SA TOUR

You want to seek clarity as soon as possible, so we have spoken to all the senior members of the squad. Obviously Rahul bhai (Dravid) has initiated a conversation within the group, which is very important to know

At the end of the day, we understand, I mean our focus from the Test match will not shift regardless, but also know that you would want to have clarity and you want to be in a situation where you know exactly what's going on



India vs New Zealand
Live from 9:30 am (IST)
STAR SPORTS

TEAMS

INDIA	NEW ZEALAND
Virat Kohli (captain), Shubman Gill, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasidh Krishna	Kane Williamson (captain), Tom Latham, Will Young, Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Tom Blundell (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Ajaz Patel, Will Somerville, Rachin Ravindra, Daryl Mitchell, Mitchell Santner

Nair after a triple ton but one could argue that it came in an inconsequential fifth Test against a tired attack and the team wasn't under any pressure.

While the spotlight is on Ajinkya Rahane for all the wrong reasons after 12 successive failures in 2021, it is unlikely that the man, who was captain in the last match, will be dropped in the very next game due to lack of form. And that too on his home turf.

But every extra chance given to him effectively means that criticism about not sending a strong signal would get

louder. The second cause of concern is Cheteshwar Pujara, who has time and again forgotten that cricket is not merely about survival. Every Test at home or abroad, every bowling

attack — formidable or run of the mill — has been putting him in a spot.

He looked to have a changed mindset briefly in England but in Kanpur, he

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND IN TESTS					
INDIA-NEW ZEALAND AT WANKHEDE STADIUM, MUMBAI:					
Team	P	W	L	D	Success%
India	25	11	7	7	58.00
New Zealand	2	1	1	—	50.00
HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS:					
India:	399	142.5 overs	1976-77		
New Zealand:	298	153.3 overs	1976-77		
LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS:					
India:	145	49.4 overs	1988-89		
New Zealand:	141	80.2 overs	1976-77		
HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES:					
India:	119	Sunil Gavaskar	1976-77		
New Zealand:	104	John Parker	1976-77		
BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS:					
India:	5-27	Bishan Singh Bedi	1976-77		
New Zealand:	6-49	Richard Hadlee	1988-89		
BEST BOWLING IN A TEST MATCH:					
India:	7-98	Bishan Singh Bedi	1976-77		
New Zealand:	10-88	Richard Hadlee	1988-89		

again got himself into a rut. However, when the team travels to South Africa, Kohli knows that he has only one man, who can blunt the new Kookaburra against Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje.

So, Pujara and Rahane backers can rejoice as their favourite players aren't going anywhere for this game unless they are injured. The Kohli baiters would then say that it's not just Rahane who hasn't been scoring for two years, even the Indian skipper hasn't had a three-figure mark against his

name in any form for more than two years now.

And now with Dravid for company, someone famous for taking a middle of the road approach, one can certainly expect that Mayank Agarwal will be disposed off for perhaps being a low hanging fruit.

Shubman Gill scored an attacking fifty in the first innings and despite his not so great defensive technique with a yawning gap between bat and pad, he will be persisted with as he is being looked as a long-term middle-order solution.

Kohli will be a straight

replacement for Agarwal. The question then arises on who will open alongside Gill.

It either has to be Cheteshwar Pujara or wicket-keeper batsman K S Bharat.

Pujara could turn out to be a poor choice given his current form, while Andhra man Bharat has the requisite experience at the first-class level with a highest score of 308.

Bharat replacing Wriddhiman Saha, who has been suffering from stiff neck, could actually save the team management from actually taking tough calls for the match.

For the Kane Williamson-led New Zealand, they missed Wagner badly in Kanpur where his presence could have spelt more trouble for India in the second innings.

The rain and a pitch devoid of sunlight could mean that both pacers and spinners would be in equation.

New Zealand's three-pronged attack could spell trouble for India on a spiced up track and Will Somerville, who played a gutsy knock in Kanpur, might have to sit out.

India may bring in Mohammed Siraj into the equation completely out of rhythm but with turn expected, three spinners may be persisted with.

Test cricket returns to Wankhede after 2016

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The iconic Wankhede Stadium, which has hosted several high-profile matches, including the 2011 ODI World Cup final, will host a Test after almost five years when India take on New Zealand in the second match of the series.

The last Test, which the South Mumbai ground hosted was against England from December 8-12, 2016 against England, which the hosts won by an innings and 36 runs.

The venue has hosted 25 Test matches and India have won 11 of them while losing seven and rest of the seven were drawn games.

The first Test at this ground was played against the West Indies, in January 1975 and the visitors had then thrashed the hosts by 201 runs. India had recorded its

first Test win at the Wankhede against New Zealand in 1976 by 162 runs and Sunil Gavaskar had scored 119 in the first innings.

For the record, the visitors New Zealand last played a Test here in November 1988 and had won that game by 136 runs. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is taking all precautions on its part and is adhering to the Covid-19 protocols laid down by the Maharashtra Government with only 25 per cent spectators allowed on each of the five days.

Last time, when India played here, skipper Virat Kohli has scored a monumental 235, so come Friday it remains to be seen where the skipper, who had taken break for the first test, can score another daddy hundred, which has been missing for past two years.

CSA postpones domestic fixtures due to COVID 19

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Cricket South Africa has postponed a round of domestic games after some of the team members tested COVID-19 positive on arrival, raising fresh concerns for the India tour later this month.

The BCCI will soon take a call on the tour, which is scheduled to begin with the first Test here from December 17.

The detection of new COVID-19 variant Omicron in South Africa has stoked fears around the world and cast a shadow on the India series.

"Cricket South Africa can confirm that all three, Round 4, Division Two CSA 4-Day Domestic Series matches scheduled to take place between 02-05 December have been postponed," the board said in a statement.

"The competition is not being held in a Bio-Secure Environment (BSE) and in the last couple of days, some positive COVID-19 test results have emerged following team pre-arrival testing sessions.

"Activating the precautionary and preventative measures stipulated in the organisation's COVID-19 protocols to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all involved is a top priority for CSA."

The India series, if it takes place, will be held in a strict bio-secure environment.

Indian women go down to Venezuela 1-2 in four-nation football tourney

PTI ■ MANAUS

The Indian women's football team went down 1-2 to Venezuela at the Arena da Amazonia and ended its campaign in the four-nation tournament, where they played higher-ranked teams, including heavyweights Brazil, without a win.

Ranked a place below Venezuela in the FIFA rankings at 57th, India entered their final game of the tour aiming for a positive result. However, that was not to be as the women from Venezuela came out triumphant after falling behind in the first half.

India took an early lead through Grace Dangmei and ended the first half with a one-goal lead.

But the Venezuelans made a fine comeback in the second half and ran out 2-1 winners after Mariana and Barbara scored for the South American side in a hard-fought game.

Mariana, especially, has made a lot of difference in the second half with her speed.

Barbara struck in the 80th minute to put the Venezuelans in lead, which they maintained until the final whistle.

Anju Bobby George wins Woman of Year Award from World Athletics

PTI ■ MONACO

Legendary Indian long jumper Anju Bobby George has been bestowed with the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent in the country and advocating gender equality.

The 44-year-old Anju, the only Indian to have won a medal in the World Championships with a long jump bronze in the 2003 edition, was named for the award in the world body's annual awards night held virtually on Wednesday.

The award is given to recognise a woman who has dedicated her life to the sport of athletics. Anju is the second recipient of the prestigious award, which was started in 2019, after Ethiopia's Derartu Tulu.

Tulu is the first black African woman to become an Olympic champion, with 10,000m gold medals in 1992 Barcelona and 2000 Sydney Games. No woman was named for the award in 2020.

From 2014 to 2018, a similar honour called 'Women in Athletics Award', which recognised outstanding achievements and contributions made to



develop, encouraged and strengthened the participation of women and girls at all levels of the sport, was given. "The former international long jump star from India is still actively involved in the sport. In 2016 she opened a training academy for young girls, which has already helped to produce a world U20 medallist,"

World Athletics said in a release.

"A constant voice for gender equality in her role as Senior Vice President of the Indian Athletics Federation, Bobby George also mentors schoolgirls for future leadership positions within the sport."

One of India's most illustrious track and field athletes, Anju said she was "truly humbled and honoured to be awarded Woman of the Year by World Athletics."

"There is no better feeling than to wake up everyday and give back to the sport, allowing it to enable and empower young girls! Thank you for recognising my efforts," she tweeted.

World Athletics added that her efforts in advancing the sport in India as well as inspiring more women to follow in her footsteps make her "more than a worthy recipient" of this year's award.

"I am really, really happy to learn that this year's Woman of the Year Award is considering my name. As an athlete it was a hard journey but I still believe I could reach the level which I deserve. And now it's my turn to give back to our sport," Anju said in a video uploaded on Twitter by World Athletics.

Madrid beats Athletic Bilbao, increases Spanish league lead



AP ■ MADRID

Shortly after Karim Benzema scored again for Real Madrid, the "Balon d'Or" chants began echoing from the Santiago Bernabeu crowd.

Madrid fans made it clear who they felt deserved the player of the year award that was won by Lionel Messi on Monday.

They had just witnessed another decisive performance by the France striker, who netted a first-half winner that gave Madrid a hard-fought 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish league.

Benzema's league-leading 12th goal allowed Madrid to extend its winning streak to seven matches in all competitions and increase its lead at the top of the league standings.

Benzema finished fourth in the Ballon d'Or vote, upsetting many Madrid fans and some players.

"He deserves it," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "But in the end this is a weird award. They don't look at what happened the entire year. It's tough to win it."

The win extended Madrid's unbeaten streak to 10 matches in all competitions.

"We played well in the first half but they improved in the second and it was tough in the final 15 minutes," Courtois said.

Djokovic wins twice to lead Serbia to Davis Cup semifinals

AP ■ MADRID

After having to play in an empty arena in the group stage, Novak Djokovic relished being in front of Davis Cup fans again.

Djokovic fed off the energetic crowd from the start on Wednesday, leading Serbia into the semifinals with a 2-1 comeback behind win over Kazakhstan at the Madrid Arena.

The top-ranked Djokovic kept Serbia alive in the quarter-final by defeating Alexander Bublik in straight sets in his singles match, then teamed up with Nikola Cacic in the deciding doubles for a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win over Andrey Golubev and Aleksandr Nedovyesov.

Serbia had played its group-stage matches without fans in Austria, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It makes a huge difference," said Djokovic, who was constantly turning to the crowd to celebrate during his matches.

"Fans are one of the reasons why professional tennis exists. Playing in front of the fans is very important. They give us great energy, they give us a lot of motivation to try to play our best on the court."

In Innsbruck we didn't have fans so it was a completely different atmosphere," Serbia reached the last four for the first time since 2017 and will face Croatia, which got past Italy on Monday.

Serbia broke serve at 2-2 and 5-3 in the third set of the doubles to seal its fifth semifinal appearance in the team event.

Serbia made it to the last eight as one of the top two second-place finishers from the six groups. It was second to Germany in a group that also included Austria.

Sindhu joins Lakshya into knockouts



PTI ■ BALI

Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu on Thursday joined compatriot Lakshya Sen into the knockout stage of the BWF World Tour Finals, while Kidambi Srikanth's fate hung in balance after suffering defeat in his second group match, here.

The 26-year-old Sindhu, the only Indian to win the prestigious title in 2018 and a finalist a year before, outplayed Germany's world number 23 Yvonne Li 21-10 21-13 in 31 minutes in her second group A match to ensure a place in the top two.

The reigning world champion will square off against top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand next in her last group match.

Lakshya, who was guaranteed a place in the semifinal after two of his opponents in group A -- Japan's Kento Momota and Denmark's Rasmus Gemke -- pulled out due to injuries, lost 15-21 14-21 to Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen.

Following the loss, the 20-year-old from Almora finished at the second spot in the group.

Earlier, world number 14 Kidambi Srikanth, who had reached the knockout stage in the 2014 edition of the year-ending event, jeopardised his chances of making it to the next stage after going



down 18-21 7-21 to three-time junior world champion Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in his second men's singles group B match. Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki

Reddy too suffered a defeat, going down fighting 19-21 20-22 to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva to bow out of contention.

The Indian duo will face England's Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in their last Group B match.

The top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty handed a walkover to top seeded Indonesian pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo after the former complained of knee pain. The duo will not take further participation in the tournament.

Sindhu looked in good rhythm and played at a good pace, engaging her rival in short rallies and soon jumped to a 5-1 lead before entering the mid-game interval with a six-point advantage.

The Indian took the initiative and produced some good angled returns to trouble her opponent.

Soon Sindhu moved to 10 game points with a precise down-the-line smash and then pocketed the opening game with a deceptive net shot.

After the change of sides, Li produced a better show but Sindhu ensured she had her nose ahead at the interval as she led 11-8.

Sindhu ruled the roost after resumption, unleashing her smashes to gather winners.

The Indian eventually grabbed seven match points when Li went wide and sealed it after her opponent again sent the shuttle long.

For Srikanth, it was his third defeat to Vitidsarn, having lost to him at the Sudirman Cup in September and Asia Team Championships last year.

In Group B, Malaysian second seed Lee Zii Jia is at the top with two points, while Srikanth and Vitidsarn shared a point each after registering one victory and one loss.

While Srikanth will face Lee Zii Jia in his third match, Vitidsarn will meet France's Toma Junior Popov.

The winner will finish in the top 2 and qualify for the knockout stage, and if both win their respective matches, it will boil down to the number of games won and lost.

The fast-rising world number 23 Vitidsarn was rewarded for his industry and immaculate defence as he didn't allow Srikanth to mount his attack. There was never a lack of commitment from Srikanth but his younger rival was way better on the day.



Free pilgrimage for the senior citizens of Delhi

Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana

Flag-off of the first train for the devotees

'Delhi-Ayodhya-Delhi'

3rd December 2021 at 6 P.M.

Venue: Safdarjung Railway Station, Delhi



Chief Guest

Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Hounor

Manish Sisodia

Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

Kailash Gahlot

Revenue Minister, Delhi

In the august presence of

Kamal Bansal

Chairman, Delhi Teerth Yatra Vikas Samiti, Delhi

“ I want to tell every senior citizen of Delhi that this son of yours will make every effort to try and send you on a holy pilgrimage atleast once ”

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

