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# Farmers to take final call today on ending protest

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Centre has conveyed to farmer unions that the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) will have representations from the SKM, Government officials, and representatives of States. Besides, the Government has agreed to drop all police cases against farmers — this includes stubble burning complains and cases filed by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police after withdrawal of protests.

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

On the withdrawal of cases against farmers, Rajewal said, "We are also against the condition set by the Government that farm unions should lift the protest for the withdrawal of fake cases against farmers. We won't accept any such precondition."

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

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

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

# Lal topiwalas like red alert for UP: Modi

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

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modi said his Government stopped misuse of urea, and issued soil health cards to farmers so that they know which type of fertiliser is needed. The PM said his Government also took steps to hike urea production by reviving closed fertiliser plants.

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

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

*Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

### DJ, WRESTLER HELD FOR ARMS TRAFFICKING

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

### SERVICES AT DELHI'S 3 CENTRE-RUN HOSPS HIT

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

### UP: 3 KIDS BURNT TO DEATH DURING SLEEP

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

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

# SP, RLD stitch alliance for UP Assembly polls

## In joint rally with Jayant, Akhilesh attacks BJP

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Continued on Page 2*

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

While the air quality in Delhi is not improving despite the several measures taken by both Centre and Delhi Government, the CAQM has enforced strict actions against the industries. "The commission believes that there is an urgent need to take further preventive measures, as a matter of extreme emergency and abundant caution," it added.

Earlier, CAQM directed Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to audit inspect the industries which are already connected to PNG supply and ensure that those industries are not using any other polluting fuels like coal and maintain strict vigil to prevent the use of unapproved fuels in the NCR, through the enforcement agencies concerned and take stringent action, in the case of the defaulting units.

*Continued on Page 2*

# SC rejects NIA plea against bail to Sudha in Elgar case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Bharadwaj was arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case in August 2018 under the provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The activist lawyer was accused of hatching conspiracy to overthrow the Union Government, was entitled to bail and its denial would be in breach of her fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the High Court had said.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The Madras HC despite holding that SRT did not have a valid authorization from DGCA to carry out engine maintenance during the currency of the agreement rejected the company's defence and ordered winding up of the company and directed the official liquidator to take over the assets of the company," SpiceJet noted.

However, on the same day, the Madras High Court issued another order wherein it stayed its previous order and gave SpiceJet "a period of three weeks, subject to the condition that the company deposits the amount equivalent to $5 million within two weeks."

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

*Continued on Page 2*

# Lok Sabha debates HC, SC Judges Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Initiating the debate, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor referred to the delay in disposal of cases and the manner in which bails were given in certain cases.

Tharoor said a large number of Habeas Corpus petitions are pending before the Jammu & Kashmir High Court. He pointed out that according to the law, the cases of Habeas Corpus have to be disposed of in 15 days whereas some courts are taking as long as 252.5 days on average. In contrast, Tharoor said, "Many commentators have contrasted with the urgency with which Bombay High Court dealt with a writ of a certain editor of a television channel which claims to deliver news that the nation allegedly wants to know."

Pointing to a case on the constitutional validity of demonetisation, Tharoor said, a three-judge bench ordered constitution of the larger bench which is yet to be constituted.

When he mentioned some pending cases including, Bhima Koregaon case and Sohrabuddin Sheikh and Ishrat Jahan case, BJP's Nishkant Dubey raised point of order to which A Raja, who presiding the House, asked Tharoor not to mention cases which are pending before various courts.

While introducing the bill for passage, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said it has a very limited provision and it pertains to a pension of retired judges.

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

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

According to the Bill, in 2009 the two laws were amended to provide that every retired judge or after his death, the family, as the case may be, will be entitled to an additional quantum of pension or family pension.

Accordingly, the additional quantum of pension to retired judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court is being sanctioned on completing the age of 80 years, 85 years, 90 years, 95 years and 100 years, as the case may be.

However, in a writ petition filed by a retired high court judge Virendra Dutt Gyani, the Gauhati High Court in the order of March 15, 2018, had held that benefit of additional quantum of pension under the High Court Judges Act in the first slab would be available to a retired judge from the first day of his 80th year.

"Subsequently, the High Court of Madhya Pradesh also, vide its order dated December 3, 2020, passed in writ petitions filed by the Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Court of India, has directed respondent Union of India to construe the word 'from' as it appears on the slab under section 16B of the 1958 Act and section 17B of the 1954 Act as the first day of entering the minimum age of the slab -- 80,85,90,95 and 100 years -- along with other consequential benefits to the petitioners," the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill reads.

# Resume iron ore mines closed for 5 yrs: Goa sarpanches to PM

## Modi to visit State on State Liberation Day on Dec 19

PNS ■ PANAJI/NEW DELHI

Ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week to Goa on the occasion of State Liberation Day on December 19, the Sarpanches of Goa have appealed to the PM to save their livelihood by resuming iron ore mines that have been closed for five years. More than 20 Sarpanches of Goa's mining belt have apprised the PM that five lakh people in Goa were fully dependent on mining for their livelihood but mining is completely closed since 2018 and with covid already affecting tourism of the State, about a lakh families are directly or indirectly dependent on mining.

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

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

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

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

The signatories include Village Panchayat Rivona, Village Panchayat Bhati, Village Panchayat Seldem, Village Panchayat Kardi.

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

# I-T finds ₹500 cr unaccounted transactions in Gujarat raid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the case of the first group, seized documents and other incriminating materials gathered during the searches have revealed that, the assessee had been actively involved in systematically suppressing sales by manipulating their books of accounts.

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

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

Evidence relating to the unaccounted purchases of gold have also been gathered. Besides, the assessee group is found to be debiting inflated making charges of jewellery. In addition, unaccounted rental receipts and the unaccounted scrap sales aggregating to Rs 7 crore have also been detected, it said.The searches on the two groups have led to a seizure of cash of Rs 10 crore and jewellery/ bullion worth about Rs 6 crore.

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

JK-PRI-PROTEST

# PRI members protest 'high-handedness' of officers in Kishtwar

**Jammu:** Dozens of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members on Tuesday staged a demonstration against alleged high-handedness of officers in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The protesters led by District Development Council (DDC) chairperson

Pooja Thakur assembled outside the office of Deputy Commissioner and staged a peaceful sit-in to highlight their various demands including sanctioning of new works, the officials said.

Thakur alleged that the officers are not cooperating with the PRI members and are not honoring their portfolios.

"We are elected by the people and are answerable to them but the officers are not listening to us when we raise any public issue with them," she said.

She said the protest was not meant to seek any personal concession.

"We are habitual of working without protocol… when the government utilized crores of rupees for strengthening the grass-root level democracy, it is the duty of the administration to listen to us and address the public issues."

**Pooja Thakur assembled outside the office of Deputy Commissioner and staged a peaceful sit-in to highlight their various demands including sanctioning of new works, the officials said**

Thakur said the Kishtwar deputy commissioner visited them and took note of their issues.

"He assured us that the issues pertaining to the local administration will be resolved forthwith, while the issues which need approval at the highest level would be forwarded to the Lt Governor and Chief Secretary," she said.

However, she threatened to intensify the agitation if their issues were not resolved in a time-bound manner. *PTI*

## Over 129 crore Covid vaccine doses administered in India so far: Govt

**New Delhi:** The cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 129 crore on Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry said. Over 66 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Tuesday till 7 pm, it said.

According to the ministry, the daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late in the night.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions. *PTI*

# Active Covid-19 infections drop below 8K in TN

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu on Tuesday added 710 new Covid-19 infections including two returnees from West Bengal, pushing the tally to 27,31,945, while the death toll rose to 36,549 with 10 more fatalities.Recoveries eclipsed new infections with 731 people getting discharged in the last 24 hours, aggregating to 26,87,414 leaving 7,982 active infections, a medical bulletin said.

A total of 1,00,393 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, pushing the cumulative number of specimens examined to 5,49,85,621.

Chennai and Coimbatore accounted for the majority of new infections with 126 and 122 cases, respectively, while the remaining were scattered across other districts.

As many as 23 districts reported new Covid-19 infections below 10, while Ariyalur, Pudukottai and Virudhunagar clocked zero new cases each, the bulletin said.

Meanwhile, Minister for Medical and Family Welfare Ma Subramanian said the government's new scheme 'Nammai Kaakum 48' to help the injured in road accidents would be launched by Chief Minister M K Stalin at the Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research on December 18.

About 610 hospitals of which 205 government-run facilities while 405 private have been roped in, he said. The scheme would cover the injured people whichever district or state they may hail from, he said. *PTI*

# Lal...

From Page 1

The newly built fertiliser plant will be operated by the Hindustan Urvarak Rasayan Limited (HURL).

The Gorakhpur AIIMS, built at a cost of Rs 1,011 crore, will benefit not only the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh but also a huge population of Bihar, Jharkhand and Nepal with its world-class health facilities, officials said.

Similarly, the regional medical research centre set up at a cost of ₹36 crore will facilitate the test and research of vector-borne diseases, they added.

The high-tech lab will decrease the dependency of the area on big cities for tests related to vector-borne diseases.

# Air quality panel orders...

From Page 1

After chairing the meeting with the representatives of these States on August , 2021, the commission also asked them to prepare an implementable action plan by clearly specifying definite time lines for switching over of all identified industries units to PNG, where infrastructure and supply of gas are already available and to develop a time bound comprehensive action plan, in consultation with the authorized entities to supply gas in the industrial areas falling within the specified Geographical areas of NCR districts, for ensuring PNG and infrastructure supply in the remaining industrial areas.

CAQM deputed Flying Squads are going on field visits and rigorously inspecting different sites contributing to deteriorating air quality of Delhi-NCR and reporting their compliance of the directions to the CAQM.

# Pay $5 mn in 2 weeks...

From Page 1

The carrier further said it has a good case on merits and was hopeful of having favourable outcome in the appeal.

SpiceJet reported a net loss of Rs 934.8 crore and Rs 998.3 crore in 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively.

It had reported a net loss of Rs 729 crore for the quarter ending June 2021 as its flight operations were affected due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. *PTI*

# SP, RLD...

From Page 1

"The BJP is privatising the assets of the people and benefitting the corporate sector thus depriving the youth of the jobs in PSUs. The PM had promised that people in slippers will travel in planes, but with the cost of petrol and diesel so high, people cannot even travel in cars and bikes," said the SP chief.

Jayant slammed the Yogi Adityanath Government for the recent leak of competitive examination question paper and subsequent cancellation of the teacher's eligibility. He said because of such incidents youngsters are not getting jobs. The BJP will get a befitting reply from the people in the UP Assembly polls next year as they have understood its politics of hatred.

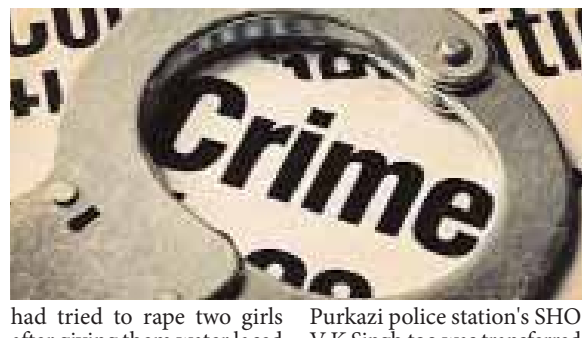
Talking about the alliance, Jayant said, '' The BJP talks of ''hatred' and 'our Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath starts with Aurangzeb and ends with the Kairana exodus."

The RLD leader said, ''Babaji becomes angry very fast. You have never seen him smiling. He smiles only when he is with 'bacchde' (calves). I ask you, people, to free him so that he can play with his calves for 24 hours. He cannot handle Government files." Hailing the farmers' agitation, Jayant said, ''I appreciate farmers for winning a big battle and forcing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, probably for the first time, to bow before them."

He was referring to the repeal of three Central farm laws that had triggered a year of protests.

The SP and RLD had earlier entered into an alliance for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, with little dividend. The leaders of the two parties, however, remained on cordial terms and decided to continue the alliance for 2022 UP Assembly elections.

# School manager held for trying to rape minor girl student, sent to jail




**Muzaffarnagar:**A school manager arrested for allegedly trying to rape a minor girl after taking her to another school in the Purkazi area of the district, was on Tuesday remanded to judicial custody. Special Judge Sanjiv Kumar Tiwari, heading a special court set up under the provisions of the POCSO Act, remanded the arrested school manager Yogesh Chouhan to judicial custody till December 21. While Chouhan was arrested, the police are on the lookout for another school manager Arjun. The two school managers had taken a batch of 17 girl students for practical examination to another school, where they had to stay overnight, Muzaffarnagar's Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav said. During the night stay at another school, the managers had tried to rape two girls after giving them water laced with some stupefying substance, police said. The incident came to light when the girls returned home and narrated their woes to their parents, who reported the matter to the Purkazi police station, which, however, did not take up the matter promptly. The two school managers, however, were booked following the intervention of local BJP MLA Pramod Utwal. Purkazi police station's SHO V K Singh too was transferred to the police lines for alleged dereliction of his duty in the matter. The two school managers were booked under sections 328 (for causing hurt by poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the Indian Penal Code and sections 7 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Govt. of Jharkhand
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
Road Divison , Seraikella-Kharsawan

Short-Term e-Procurement Notice
(2nd Call)

Tender Reference No. RCD/SERAIKELLA/17
Date :- 06.12.2021

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of the work | Improvement of Riding Quality/Strengthening Work of Ukri (MDR-158)Akarshini Gondpur (On MDR 144) Road (Total Length 14.986 Km.)Road for the year 2021-22 |
| 2. | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | **Rs.8,06,99,934.00 (Rupees Eight CroreSix lakh Ninety Nine thousand NinehundredThirty four only)** |
| 3. | Time of Completion | 05 (Five) months |
| 4. | Last Date /Time for receipt of bids | 17.12.2021(12.00Noon) |
| 5. | Date of Publication of Tender on website | 08.12.2021 (2.30 P M) |
| 6. | Name & Address of office Inviting tender | O/o Executive Engineer , Road Construction Department , Road Division , Seraikella -Kharsawan |
| 7. | Contact no. of Procurement Officer | 8809347906 |
| 8. | Helpline number of e -Procurement cell | 0651 -2401010 |

Further details can be seen on website
http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
RCD , Road Division Seraikella-Kharsawan

PR258708 (Road)21-22*D

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to run the following Express Trains with revised composition and enhanced passenger carrying capacity as under :-

REVISED COMPOSITION OF TRAINS

| Train No. & Name | Existing Composition | Revised Composition | Date w.e.f. (Originating Station) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22167/22168 Singrauli - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Singrauli Superfast Express (Weekly) | IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van & Disabled Friendly-2, Sleeper-8, 3 Tier AC-2, 1st AC Cum 2 Tier AC-1, Second Class-6= **19 coaches** | IInd Class Cum Luggage and Brake Van & Disabled Friendly-2, **Sleeper-10**, 3 Tier AC-2, 1st AC Cum 2 Tier AC-1, Second Class-6= **21 coaches** | With immediate effect |

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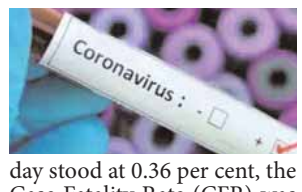
# 299 new Covid-19 cases, six deaths reported in Karnataka




**Bengaluru:** Karnataka logged 299 fresh COVID-19 cases and six deaths on Tuesday, taking the total number of infections to 29,98,699 and the toll to 38,243. The day also saw 260 discharges, taking the total number of recoveries in the state so far to 29,53,327, a health department bulletin said. Bengaluru Urban continued to head the list of cases (215), as the city saw 97 discharges and three deaths. The total number of active cases in the state is now 7,100. While the positivity rate for the day stood at 0.36 per cent, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 2.00 per cent. Out of six deaths reported on Tuesday, three were from Bengaluru Urban and one each from Dakshina Kannada, Dharwad and Mysuru. Among the districts where the new cases were reported, Bengaluru Urban accounted for 215, Dakshina Kannada 14, Kodagu 12, Mysuru 11, followed by others. Bengaluru Urban district topped the list of positive cases, with a total of 12,57,875, followed by Mysuru 1,79,948 and Tumakuru 1,21,165. Among discharges too, Bengaluru Urban was on top with 12,36,229, followed by Mysuru 1,77,277 and Tumakuru 1,19,877. Cumulatively a total of 5,39,96,839 samples have been tested in the state so far, out of which 81,194 were done on Tuesday alone. *PTI*

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RESIDENT DOCTORS' STIR

# Services at city's 3 Centre-run hospitals hit

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

The protest was called by the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA).

FORDA president Dr Manish on Tuesday evening said if their demands are not met the resident doctors will hold a protest march to the Union Health Ministry's office at Nirman Bhawan here.

"We are going to hold a meeting of representatives from resident doctors' associations (RDAs) across the country on Wednesday afternoon and then decide accordingly," he said.

Sharing a video clip of Sansad TV, FORDA tweeted in the evening: "Thankful to Hon'ble Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury sir (Leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha) for raising the issue of nationwide agitation of Resident Doctors in Parliament. We hope for an early resolution of the issue."

In the tweet, FORDA put the hashtag 'expedite NEET-PG counselling 2021' and tagged the Twitter handles of the Prime Minister's Office, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and the Health Ministry.

Earlier in the day, AIIMS Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) said its members will wear black ribbons at work in support of the support the cause of the overburdened resident doctors of the country and against the delay in NEET-PG counselling.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to ensure that post-graduate admissions are done on a war footing.

The Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital administration on Monday had issued a circular saying that all residents doctors appointed on ad-hoc "cannot indulge themselves nor participate in any strike activity".

"Non-observance of the rules attracts disciplinary action as deemed fit, including termination. This issue with the approval of Medical Superintendent," the circular warned.

General Secretary of Safdarjung Hospital RDA Dr Anuj Aggarwal said, "We are continuing with the protest because of no concrete action by the Union Health Ministry."

The resident doctors have been waiting patiently for some positive outcomes of the Supreme Court proceedings in the matter. However, there seems no respite to the physi-

cal and mental distress, said Dr Sunil Duchania, the president of RDA at Lady Hardinge Medical College.

"As withdrawal from OPD and all routine services didn't bring any concrete response from the authorities, the resident doctors have withdrawn from all services (routine as well as emergency) from December 6 in support of the nationwide protest called by FORDA," Dr Sunil Duchania said.

The Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum (PMSF), in a statement, said the delay in PG admissions have left them "overworked" and the patients that they treat "underserved".

"Those PG students from current batches who survived their peers in the aftermath of the pandemic have not only suffered immense personal losses but have also lost nearly two years of post-graduate learning which a resident doctor is supposed to acquire during their two to three years of training," it said.

"PMSF will not tolerate any punitive action against resident doctors just for protesting which is their democratic right. PMSF stands resolute with the protesting residents and demands that NEET-PG counselling is conducted immediately."

It also demanded a sincere effort to streamline and strengthen the NEET-PG admission process so that the scenario is not repeated.

The AIIMS RDA said the delay in NEET-PG counselling is depriving Indian citizens of services of around 42,000 doctors who would have otherwise joined at least six months ago.

"Several hospitals are functioning with just two-third capacity of their total resident doctors' strength, compromising with the quality of patient care. As cases of the new variant of coronavirus are increasing exponentially globally, it is prudent that our nation should be prepared for another wave of the pandemic," it said.

The RDA requested the Supreme Court and the Health Ministry to hasten the process of NEET-PG 2021 counselling in public and the nation's interest.

The IMA on Monday expressed concern over the manpower shortage in healthcare amid detection of cases of Omicron variant, and said it is "disastrous to note the postponement of NEET-PG admission in medical colleges".

As the resident doctors boycotted work, Mandaviya met the resident doctors and a FORDA delegation at the RML hospital on Monday.

According to FORDA members, the minister and said he will get the case mentioned in the Supreme Court for an early hearing and appealed to the doctors to call off their protest, but the resident doctors refused.

The Director-General of Health Services visited the Safdarjung Hospital on Monday where he appealed to the resident doctors to call off the protest. In a letter to Mandaviya on December 4, the FORDA had said healthcare institutions across the country are running short of an adequate workforce of resident doctors with no admission in the current academic year yet. ***PTI***

# Wrestler, DJ among 3 men held for arms trafficking; 27 pistols seized

**New Delhi:** A disc jockey and a wrestler were among three men who were arrested on charges of supplying illegal arms to criminals, and 27 semi-automatic pistols were seized from their possession, officials said on Tuesday.

Yogesh Patel alias Nilesh (22), Pankaj Kumar Bhardwaj (20) and Jitendra alias Jittu were arrested in two different operations by the Special Cell unit, they said.

The first operation was executed on December 3 after the New Delhi Range of Special Cell got a tip off about Patel, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, that he would be coming to Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan to deliver illicit arms and ammunition to criminals based in Delhi-NCR.

"Our team led by inspectors Ravinder Kumar Tyagi and Rahul Kumar laid a trap around the specified spot along with the informer. In the evening, when the team spotted Patel in Sarai Kale Khan area, they surrounded him and apprehended him with a bag containing 12 pistols of .32 bore," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said.

He told the police that he was a professional DJ and at a wedding function in 2019, he met an arms trafficker of Damoh, who lured him into supplying illicit firearms to earn easy money.

Patel disclosed that he purchased pistols for ₹8-10,000 per piece and further sold them for ₹25,000 to 30,000 per piece to criminals based in Delhi-NCR, the police said.

The second operation was executed on December 6 after information was received about two arms suppliers who are residents of Uttar Pradesh and are regular suppliers of arms and ammunition for different gangs in Delhi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Rajeev Ranjan Singh said, "Our team got a tip off that the two men would come to Rohini, to supply a large consignment of illegal arms."

"A trap was laid near Helipad T-Point, Rohini, on the road towards Karala, and at 1.25 pm, the two alleged men were spotted in a car. They were apprehended at the spot and were identified as Pankaj Kumar and Jitender. A total of 15 pistols were recovered from them," Singh said.

When Bhardwaj was interrogated, he told the team that he has participated in different wrestling tournaments but due to the Covid pandemic, these events got cancelled. He later came in contact with an acquaintance named Pawan, who was involved in supplying illegal arms.

"Thereafter, Bhardwaj too started supplying illegal weapons in Delhi, Mathura and Aligarh. This time due to a large order for illegal weapons, he had convinced Jitender, who used to work as a driver, to join him. Jitender brought a car and both went to Khargone in Madhya Pradesh to take supply of illegal weapons," Singh said. Bhardwaj was supposed to get ₹20,000 apart from car rent on completion of the work, the police said, adding that further investigation was underway. ***PTI***

# 30 Modern Extraction Wells constructed to ensure uninterrupted water supply in East Delhi

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has constructed 30 'Modern Extraction Wells' at Sonia Vihar to ensure uninterrupted water supply in East Delhi areas. Each well has capacity to supply 1.2 to 1.6 million gallons of water per day.

The system of these new wells is designed in such a way that it will automatically replenish the groundwater during the rainy season, so the extraction of water from the well will not have much effect on the groundwater levels.

Ordinary wells have a diameter of 0.3 meter while these new wells have a diameter of 1-1.5 meters and a depth of 30 meters.

Water Minister and Chairman DJB Satyendar Jain visited the multiple installations of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) at Sonia Vihar on Tuesday.

He said that each new modern extraction well has a capacity to supply 7-8 times more water than the conventional wells.

"The total supply of water will be increased by 25-30 per

cent. The Government has designed and constructed 30 modern extraction wells.

These wells were constructed as part of a pilot project to determine whether the use of modern technology can result in more water augmentation or not. This pilot project was 100 per cent successful and the Delhi Government will now build 70 more such wells in the same premises spread over 150 acres," he said.

Extraction wells are ones from which water is extracted and supplied to water treatment plants, where this water is purified and then delivered to Delhiites.

The modern wells constructed by the DJB are designed in such a way that water gets purified within the well and does not require any additional water treatment plant to treat the raw water.

"The Delhi Government had promised to provide 24x7 piped drinking water to all the households of Delhi and this is a very important step towards turning this promise into reality. These modern wells will help in increasing the availability of water and will drastically increase the quantity of water supplied to the water treatment plants," he added.

# Man kills 3-month-old son after fight with wife, arrested

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Following a quarrel with his wife, a 26-year-old man killed his three-month-old boy allegedly under the influence of alcohol. The incident took place in outer Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy on the night of December 3.

The accused has been identified as Ravi Rai and he has been arrested by the police. Police said that Rai held his child by leg and smashed his head against the wall.

According to Brijendra Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer North, a police control room (PCR) call was received around 10.30 pm on December 3 at Bhalswa Dairy police station informing them that a man had killed his child.

"When police team reached the spot, the child's father Ravi Rai was found under the influence of alcohol and his three months-old child was rushed to BJRM hospital where the doctor declared him brought dead. As per MLC report, the skull of the child was found broken," said the DCP.

"During enquiry, when the neighbours and owner of the flat were examined, they told that both husband and wife had been residing at the place since last one month. They used to engage in quarrel on a daily basis. Rai used to stay in a room with his wife who used to work in AzadPur mandi," said the DCP.

"Neighbours also told our team that on the day of the incident, at the time of quarrel both husband and wife with child were present in the room. All of sudden the woman came out and raised an alarm shouting that her husband killed her child," said the DCP.

# Slight improvement in Capital's air quality

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality improved from very poor to poor on Tuesday as the air quality index (AQI) on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) recorded 235 micrograms per cubic.

According to SAFAR, a unit of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs), PM 10 and 2.5 were recorded 179 and 101 (µgm-3).

SAFAR, in its short range weather forecast, said the AQI indicated the upper end of 'poor' air quality. "For the next four days from December 7 to December 11. "Winds are likely to have moderate increasing ventilation of pollutants. Minimum temperatures are likely to drop gradually leading to a more stable boundary layer during night time that helps accumulation of pollutants. With mostly clear sky conditions during day time, the peak mixing layer height is likely to be moderate about 1.0 - 1.5 km causing moderate vertical mixing of air mass. The net effect is that air

quality for the next four days is likely to improve gradually but within the 'POOR' category," it added.

In health advisory, SAFAR advised sensitive group people to reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. "Take more breaks and do less intense activities. Asthmatics, keep medicine ready if symptoms of coughing or shortness of breath occur.Heart patients, see doctor, if they get palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue," it added further.

# EDMC to introduce policy on granting health trade licences to street food vendors

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) will introduce a policy of granting health trade licenses to street food vendors.

EDMC Commissioner Vikas Anand said that single use plastic and thermacol items will not be allowed to use but only biodegradable disposable items can be used for serving food. "Licensee and other food handlers involved in street food vending will be protected against COVID through vaccination.

Anand said that the licensee and other food handlers suffering from infectious disease shall not be permitted to work. Proper arrangements for collection of waste material will be made by the Licensee as per waste management rules, he said.

The Commissioner further said that with this initiative street vendors will be brought under license network and the corporation will definitely get some revenue as well.

A senior EDMC official said that the east corporation is the first local body among the local bodies of the country to come up with such a policy. Mayor of East Delhi, Shyam Sunder Agarwal has given anticipatory approval to this policy. The Mayor said that the zonal town vending has surveyed and selected street venders and will allot site to them and only after that health trade licence would be issued.

# Gurugram: Conflict between Muslim groups over Friday Namaz in the open

**Gurugram:** In connection with holding Friday Namaz in open places in Gurugram, a conflict between Muslim groups emerged on Tuesday.

Gurugram Muslim Council and Muslim Ekta Manch tendered their memorandum to the deputy commissioner Gurugram against Muslim Rashtriya Manch who on Monday in a meeting with the district administration had decided that Friday prayers will be held at 18 places including six temporary spots.

The representative of Gurugram Muslim Council and Muslim Ekta Manch on Tuesday said they rejected what they claimed was a fraudulent attempt to stop Juma Namaz in open spaces.

The representative of these organisations alleged that they do not trust Muslim Rashtriya Manch or a handful of Maulvis. They alleged that how can they decide to reduce the Juma Namaz site from 37 (as agreed with district administration) to zero.

"Who has given this right to very small fringe and discredited group to represent hundreds of Maulvis and thousands of Muslim community members. This was a fraudulently illegal meeting held secretly and suspiciously," they alleged.

Meanwhile, in a joint press conference of The Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti and Muslim organization on Tuesday said if any Muslim organization or any Muslim leader serving his interests obstructs the Friday prayers offered by the Clerics (Imam), then they will file a complaint with the district administration for the same.

"Now Namaz will not be offered in open the Imam's are ready to offer Namaz in discipline manner by paying the fixed maintenance fee fixed by the administration at 6 temporary places and if any Namaji creates obstacles other than this, then Muslim National Forum and Imam Organization will deal with them," representative of Muslim National Forum and Imam Organization told reporters.

# BJP-ruled MCDs told temples to pay property taxes: AAP

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused the BJP ruled municipal corporations of trying to seal temples of Delhi and forcing them to pay property taxes.

AAP Senior Leader and MLA Atishi alleged that the corporations are trying to extort from the pandit's dakshina thaali too. She added that it was the first time since the rule of Aurangzeb that someone had dared to seek taxes from temples.

"We have been constantly exposing the rampant corruption taking place in the BJP-ruled MCDs. Under the rule of the BJP the functioning of the corporations have been constantly failing and even they failed to pay the salaries of its teachers, workers, doctors and sanitation staffers," she said.

The AAP leader further said that the East MCD has sent notices to several temples, asking to pay house tax otherwise it will be sealed.

"At present there are two very contrasting Governments running in Delhi. The first is the honest State Government of Kejriwal. They collect taxes with full integrity and spend it on the welfare of the people of the state. It is the Kejriwal Government that has been able to double the budget of Delhi in just five years. The CM sends the elderly of the state on pilgrimage on the other hand there is the BJP ruled MCD who asks for votes in the name of Lord Shri Ram but is threatening temples to pay taxes," she added.

# HC asks Delhi Govt to inspect liquor shop site opened in residential area

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Tuesday directed the Delhi Government to conduct a fresh inspection of a site in the Tri Nagar area where residents have been seeking shifting of a liquor shop opened recently.

Justice Rekha Palli, who issued notice and sought response from the Delhi government and Department of Excise, was assured by the counsel for the residents that since they have approached the court, they will immediately call off 'dharna' at the spot.

"Keeping in view the nature of grievance raised in the petition, respondents 1 and 2 (Delhi Government and Department of Excise) are directed to carry out fresh inspection of the site and file a report," the court said and listed the plea for further hearing on December 13.

Delhi Government and Department of Excise were represented through standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi and lawyer Arun Panwar. The court also permitted one of the petitioners to be associated with the inspection and he will be informed about the date and time.

The plea, filed through advocate S P Sharma, said a liquor shop has been opened at the main road of Kanhaiya Nagar in Tri Nagar, adjacent to the residence of one of the petitioners while other petitioners are also living in the same locality. ***PTI***

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee members during their Sansad Gherao protest against spiralling prices, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# Sena: There is no alternative without Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a dampener to TMC chief Mamata Banerjee effort to pro-up a non-Congress Opposition front to take on the BJP, the Shiv Sena on Monday said there can't be such alternative without the Congress.

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

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

The Congress sources said the Shiv Sena leader is likely to meet Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday and later he will also call on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. Shiv Sena and Congress along with NCP is in a coalition Government in Maharashtra.

"There has been a long talk with Rahul Gandhi ji, the conversation that took place is political in nature. Everything is fine. But whatever discussion took place, it will be first conveyed to our leader Uddhav Thackeray ji. Only then can we say something in the media. But it is certain that Shiv Sena believes that there should be a united opposition," Raut said after meeting Rahul.

Raut said during the meeting with Rahul Gandhi, what TMC leader Mamata Banerjee said on the opposition was also discussed. "Rahul Gandhi is to visit Mumbai this month end and then a meeting with Uddhav Thackeray will be proposed," Raut said.

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

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

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

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

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

# No business in RS for 2nd day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

As Mandaviya introduced the Bills, repeated requests from Deputy Chairman Harivansh to maintain order went unheeded and the Opposition members continued to raise slogans against the Government. With the Opposition unrelenting, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the House for the day.

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

Later in the day as the Opposition tried to raise their issues again, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said only the listed business will be allowed to be discussed and no other matter would be taken up. When he allowed Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge to speak, the latter took exception to Labour and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's interruption, terming it "undemocratic", and compared it to the suspension of the 12 MPS.

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

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

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

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

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

# IIT scientist, IMA predict severe 3rd wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The IMA said taking precautionary measures is key to combating the challenge while IIT scientist, Manindra Agarwal predicted the third wave of coronavirus could hit the peak by February with cases likely to be reaching up to 1-1.5 lakh a day in the country.

Agarwal who is involved in the mathematical projection of trajectory of Covid-19, however said the third wave will be milder than the second wave. He said in the new forecast, the new Omicron variant has been factored in.

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

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

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

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

"It looks like although the new variant has shown high transmissibility, its severity is not like the one seen in the Delta variant," Agarwal said.

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

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

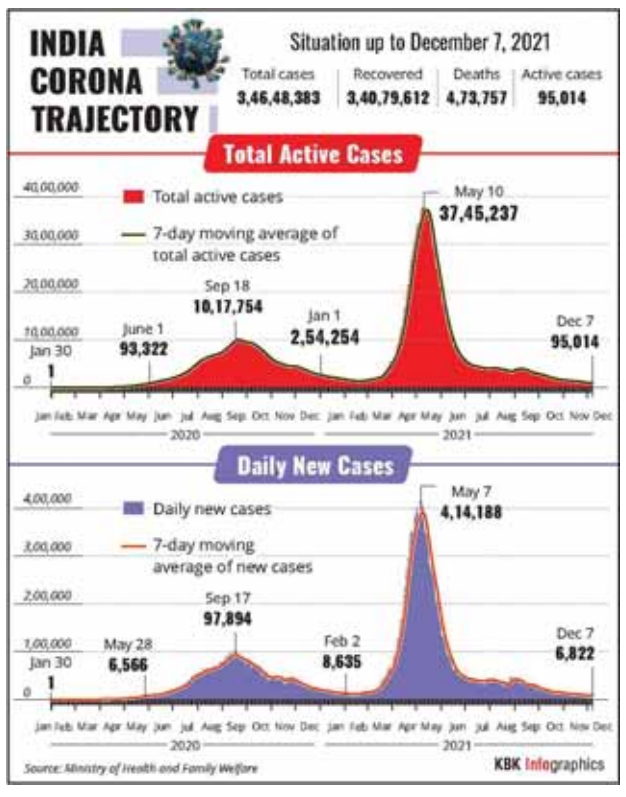
IMA's warning comes at a time when cases of Omicron have multiplied in the country in less than a week. It is said to be the most heavily mutated strain of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Early data suggests it spreads fast but the illness may be mild.

The IMA demanded the inoculation of people in the 12-18 age group — a proposal that has been pending for long. It further called for the administration of booster doses to healthcare and frontline workers in view of the Omicron threat.

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

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

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




# Plasma therapy receives thumbs down from WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Once much sought after treatment for patients suffering from Covid-19, convalescent plasma therapy has received thumbs down from the World Health Organization (WHO). The method of using the blood of people who have recovered from disease to heal others is known as convalescent plasma therapy.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States has awarded emergency approval for convalescent plasma therapy with high antibody levels to treat Covid-19 in 2020. It was supposed to be used for those who were unwell with Covid-19 and had an underlying health problem.

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

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

an ICMR trial of 400 patients last year, known as the PLACID trial, found no significant benefit from plasma therapy. The ICMR dropped the plasma therapy without citing any significant benefit for Covid-19 treatment.

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

Despite its original promise, recent research reveals that it does not increase survival or reduce the need for mechanical ventilation, and it is costly and time-consuming to administer, according to a WHO Guideline Development Group of international specialists writing in The British Medical Journal (BMJ).

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

# Rule for int'l flyers: Health status mandatory before boarding flight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said he has issued an action plan for better crowd management at airports across the country which includes expanding RT-PCR test services and ramping up forex counters. Passengers have been complaining on social media of crowding and chaos at major international airports in the country since December 1, when a new set of travel rules were imposed amid concerns over the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

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

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

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

No.SSA/ST/Procurement/Spl-Bag/355/2021/7722 Date :03.12.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of bag for supply of Special Bag.

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

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

Janasanyog /CF/2257/21

Sd/-Mission Director, SSA,Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

# Decision on inoculation among kids, booster dose for adults postponed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"The issue of administering an additional dose of Covid-19 to immunocompromised and immunosuppressed individuals and vaccination of children against Covid-19 were deliberated upon in the meeting of NTAGI," sources said, as per an agency.

Those who come under the immunocompromised and immunosuppressed categories are cancer patients on therapy, transplants patients and AIDS patients.

An additional dose of a vaccine is different from a booster dose. While a booster dose is given after a pre-defined period when the antibody levels are presumed to have declined since primary vaccination, additional shot is given to immunocompromised and immunosuppressed individuals when the primary inoculation does not provide adequate protection from the disease.

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

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

**punjab national bank**
...Together for the better

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

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). **The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.**

**SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS**

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sr. No. | Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & address of the borrower/guarantor | Description of the immovable properties mortgaged / Owner's Name (Mortgagor of the property(ies) | E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 F) Outstanding Amount as on _____ G) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive | A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (last date of deposit NA) C) Bid increase amount | Date/ Time of E-Auction | Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors |
| 1. | INDUSTRIAL AREA, JALANDHAR **Borrower(s): 1. M/s R S International,** Plot No. 71, Leather Complex, Kapurthala Road, Jalandhar, **2. M/s Kanti Lodge Pvt. Ltd.,** 46 Amrit Nagar New Delhi, **3. Smt. Poonam Viraliya** W/o Sh. Vinay Kumar, **4. Sh. Khushal Viraliya** S/o Vinod Kumar, **5. Sh. Vinod kumar** S/o Raghuvir Singh, **6. Sh. Vinay Kumar** S/o Sh. Raghuvir Singh, **7. Sh. Raghuvir Singh** (252/3A Shivlokpuri, Kankar Khera, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh). | Residential Plot no ½ A RTD No.6807 dated 28-05-2011 in the name of M/s Kanti Lodge Private Limited through its Directors Mr Vinay Kumar and Raghuvir Singh situated at Mauza Rithani, Pargana, Old Merrut Delhi National Highway, Tehsil and Distt. Merrut . Bounded as East- Ahata of others, West- rasta aam, North –Property of Others, South – Ahata of others, Land measuring 2365.38 Sq. meters bearing Khasra No. 1034 min,1035 min,1037 min. **Property ID PUNB0242XRSI** | **Demand Notice Dt 11.10.2018 Outstanding Amount as on 30.09.2018 is Rs. 4,81,91,668.69** (Rupees Four Crore Eighty One Lakh Ninty One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight And Sixty Nine Paise Only) plus further interest & other charges until payment in full **Possession Date u/s 13(4) 24.12.2018, Physical Possession** | A) Rs. 4,25,30,000 (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Five Lacs Thirty Thousand Only) B) Rs. 43,00,000.00 (Rs. Forty Three Lac Only) C) Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) | 24.12.2021 01:00 PM TO 02:00 PM | NIL |

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1).** The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 2).** The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. **3).** The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 24.12.2021** as per time given above in column No. 6 **4)** For detailed term and conditions of the sale, **please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com**

**STATUTORY 15 SALE NOTICE UNDER RULES OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

**DATE: 07.12.2021** **PLACE: JALANDHAR** **AUTHORISED OFFICER (PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, SECURED CREDITOR)**

# Tri-Services' tactical drill held in Kashmir

## To validate joint capability to insert troops behind enemy lines

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

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

The complete drill was planned and executed by the Chinar Corps in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley. Top brass of the Chinar corps witnessed the complete drill as it showcased their capabilities to carry out successful operations in high altitude areas incorporating all facets of cobtemporay and modern battlefields in synergy with Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

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

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

Col Musavi said, "this was a tri-service exercise undertaken in Kashmir with the Indian Air Force, Navy & Army. The exercise was planned to validate the joint capability to insert the task force tactically behind enemy lines in an intense air defence and electronic warfare operating environment".

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

Earlier, a similar drill was conducted by the Indian army along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh to practise airborne landing to hone its rapid response capabilities. The drill was conducted to familiarise the troops with the rugged area and harsh winters in the cold desert region.

# Sasikala calls on Rajinikanth

## Wanted to check on actor's health: Shunted ADMK general secretary

**PNS ■ KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

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

A statement released by Sasikala said that she called on Rajinikanth to enquire about his health and it was a courtesy visit. This is Sasikala's first visit to Poes Garden since she returned to Chennai after serving a four year jail term in Bangalore in connection with the Disproportionate Asset Case. She was staying earlier in Veda Nilayam, the private bungalow owned by late Jayalalithaa, in Poes Garden and Rajinikath was a neighbour.

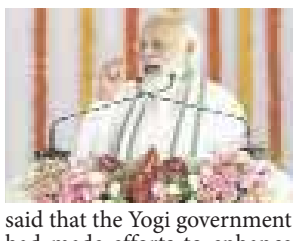
Veda Nilayam was taken over by the Tamil Nadu Government during the tenure of Edappadi Palaniswamy as chief minister with the announcement that it would be converted into a memorial for Jayalalithaa. But the Madras High Court in a verdict delivered last month had quashed the government decision and ordered the transfer of the palatial house to Deepa and Deepak, niece and nephew of late Jayalalithaa. The former chief minister died intestate and various courts in the State are hearing petitions filed by her relations pleading with the courts to declare them as her legal heirs.

Sasikala's visit to Rajinikanths is seen as a move by her to win friends and influence people, according to Kolahala Srenivaas. "On Monday, the AIADMK announced that O Panneerselvam and Edappadi Palaniswamy have been elected as the coordinator and joint coordinator respectively of the party, shutting the doors once and for ever at Sasikala," said Srenivaas, chief editor of Kolahala TV."Sasikala is a closed chapter as far as the AIADMK is concerned. We do not have anything to do with her," said former minister D Jayakumar immediately after the announcement of the election of OPS and EPS duo as the leaders of the party. There are reports that some of the senior leaders in the AIADMK had demanded during the meeting held on Monday that Sasikala should be brought back to the party. Though Sasikala claims herself to be the AIADMK general secretary, she has not been allowed anywhere near the party headquarters making her the only party chief in the country who does not have an office of her own.

# PM lauds Yogi for development in Uttar Pradesh

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

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**



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

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

The prime minister further said that the Yogi government had made efforts to enhance the facilities in the state.

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

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

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

# *Modi hai to mumkin hai*, says Adityanath

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

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

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

"In 2016, the prime minister had laid the foundation stone of this fertiliser factory in Gorakhpur, which has become functional today. Today's inauguration (of the fertiliser factory) is like a dream come true for the people in eastern Uttar Pradesh which was impossible during the regimes of other parties. Five governments were formed in the state in the last 30 years, but only the Bharatiya Janata Party regime had the courage to start this fertiliser factory in Gorakhpur," he said.

The chief minister maintained that the Gorakhpur fertiliser factory was shut down in 1990 and for the next 24 years, no government showed interest in reviving it.

"In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the fertiliser plant at Gorakhpur, which will be four times bigger than the earlier plant which was shut down in 1991," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Didi links Nagaland killings to BSF excesses

## Says BJP usurping States' power

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday linked the Central decision to provide extra jurisdiction to the Border Security Forces and Nagaland firing case saying that was how the BJP Government was trying to usurp the powers of the States.

Speaking at an administrative meeting in Karnajora in North Bengal the Chief Minister asked her own bureaucrats at the district level to keep a vigil on the "intrusion" and "activities" of the BSF that "often perpetrate cruelties on the poor villagers."

Speaking to the senior district officials she said "you all should keep an eye on the BSF's activities in the area … they often torture the local people which they are not authorized to do … I am telling particularly the BDOs and the Circle Inspectors to inspect the areas whenever there is an intrusion by the BSF men … do bring things on record as they are not authorized to act beyond a limit of 15 km."

Slamming the Centre for the Nagaland firing where 14 people died after the security forces fired at them Banerjee said "you all have seen what has happened in Nagaland … we cannot allow that to happen inBengal … The BSF should seek the permission of the local officials and the police administration before they enter their area as law and order is a State subject and they have no jurisdiction there … if they try to intrude into the area the local BDO and the IC will immediatelyvisit the area and do inspection."

The Chief Minister is on a three-day administrative tour of parts of North and central Bengal. She is currently visiting South Dinajpur,North Dinajpur and Malda, from where she will travel southwards to Murshidabad and Nadia before reaching back to Kolkata.

# Bombay HC berates Nawab Malik for contempt of court

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday asked Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik as to why contempt of court notice should not be issued against him for breaching his own assurance to the court that he would refrain from making statements against Dhyandev Wankhede, father of NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede, and his family members.

After taking cognisance of a complaint that the minister had breached his assurance to the court, a HC bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and Milind Jadhav directed Malik to file an affidavit as to why a contempt of court notice should not be issued against him for deliberately breaching his assurance to the court.

The HC bench directed Malik to file an affidavit before the next date of hearing which has been fixed for December 10.

The direction to Malik came after petitioner Dhyandev Wankhede – who has filed a Rs 1.25 crore defamation suit against the NCP leader – brought to the notice of the court that the minister had given interviews during which he allegedly continued with his tirade against the Wankhede family.

It may be recalled that Malik had on November 25 given an undertaking to the high court that he would refrain from making any defamatory statements till the interim application filed in Wankhede's defamation suit was re-heard by a single-judge of the High Court. Bringing to the HC bench's notice of the breach, Wankhede's senior Advocate Birendra Saraf filed an affidavit showing the instances where Malik made defamatory statements after the order of November 25.

# BMC denies irregularities in coastal road project as BJP seeks answers on CAG report

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Hours after the Opposition BJP demanded answers from the Maharashtra Government and the civic administration over the findings in the latest Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday dismissed as "baseless and incorrect" all allegations that were irregularities in the prestigious ₹12,700 crore prestigious Mumbai Coastal Road Project.

"All allegations about fraud and irregularities in the Coastal Road Project are baseless. No fraud or irregularities have been committed in the Coastal Road Project undertaken by the BMC. The allegations circulating in this regard are baseless and incorrect," the BMC stated in a statement issued here on Tuesday evening.

Earlier in the afternoon, senior Mumbai BJP leader Asish Shelar demanded answers from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, State Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal and the ruling Shiv Sena in the BMC about the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the project. Among other things, Shelar demanded a clarification from the BMC over the CAG finding that Rs 295 crore had been given illegally to contractors and consultants.

The CAG has, among other things, questioned the BMC over a sharp increase in construction cost of the Mumbai Coastal Road Project (MCRP) from Rs 252 crore per kilometer in 2011 to Rs 1274 crore in 2018, a 405% rise. It has also raised questions over separate expenditure amounting to Rs 200 crore in an inspection report between April 2016 and March 2020. The total expenditure in the latter part amounted to Rs 2100 crore, of which Rs 200 crore has been called into question.

Being developed by the Shiv Sena-ruled BMC and State-run Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) in four packages, the coastal road will connect Marine Lines in south Mumbai with Kandivli in north Mumbai. Along the 29.2 km stretch, the coastal road will have tunnels, bridges, interchanges, elevated stretches and roads on reclaimed land, along with pedestrian underpasses and foot over bridges (FoBs).

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE (WEST)**

Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi- 110027

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

(U/S 3G (3 & 4) Of NH Act 1956)

Whereas, by the notification (reproduced here with), of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways S.O. No. 4916 (E) dated 01.12.2021 published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3D of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared to acquire the land in village Neelwal specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-344N on the stretch of the land from KM 0+000 to 7+000 KM, in the district West in the state of Delhi.

Therefore, it is hereby informed to all the interested persons in the above said land to state the nature of their respective interests in the land, the amount and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to NH Act, 1956 as per sub section 3 & 4 of section 3G of National Highways Act, 1956 and are required to appear in person or by legal practitioner referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3G, before the competent authority from date of publish of this public notice till **23.12.2021** between **02:00 PM to 05:00 PM** in the office of the Competent Authority under NH Act 1956 **Additional District Magistrate (West), District, Plot no.3, Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi- 110027**

**Sd/-**
**CA under NH Act 1956 Competent Authority**

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी० एल०- 33004/99 REGD.NO.D.L.-33004/99

सत्यमेव जयते

**भारत का राजपत्र**
**The Gazette of India**

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-01122021-231518
CG-DL-E-01122021-231518
असाधारण
**EXTRAORDINARY**
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-Section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

सं. 4545] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिसम्बर 1, 2021/अग्रहायण 10, 1943
No. 4545] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021/ AGRAHAYANA 10, 1943

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**
**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 1st December, 2021

**S.O. 4916(E).**- Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. 3572(E) dated 02th September 2021, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH344N on the stretch of land from Km 0 to Km 7 in the district of WEST in the state of DELHI.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Times of India" and "Dainik Jagran" both dated 09th September 2021; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH344N in the stretch of land from Km. 0 to Km. 7 in the district of WEST in the state of DELHI.

**State: DELHI** **District: WEST**

| Sr. No. | Survey Number | Type of Land | Nature of Land | Area in Hectare | Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| **Taluk: Punjabi Bagh** | | | | | |
| **Village: Neelwal** | | | | | |
| 1 | 38//14min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0185 | Harish, Bijendra, Sonu Ss/o Puran Singh 38//14 min |
| 2 | 38//15/2 min | Private | Agriculture | 0.1096 | Harish, Bijendra, Sonu Ss/o Puran Singh 38//15/2 min |
| 3 | 39//16min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0198 | Roshan Lal S/o Lajje Ram 6/10 bhag, Surat Singh S/o Lajeram 1/10 bhag, Naresh Kumar, Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj, Jay Prakash Ss/o Hukam Chand sambhag 1/10 Bhag, Jeevan Lal S/o Lajeram 1/10 bhag, Anup Singh S/o Lajejaram 1/10 bhag, Gramvasi 39//16 min |
| 4 | 39//17min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0379 | Kamaljeet Khosla S/o Premchand Khosla R/o 13/19 Punjabi Bagh Delhi 39//17 min |
| 5 | 39//18/2min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0169 | Dev Kissan Khosla S/o Premchand Khosla R/o 13/19 Punjabi Bagh Delhi 39//18/2 min |
| 6 | 39//20min | Private | Agriculture | 0.027 | Balwan Singh, Ramchandra, Jaikaran, Santram Ishwar Singh, Ajit Singh Ss/o Prabhu sambhag 1/1 bhag Gramvasi 39//20 min |
| 7 | 40//18/1min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0156 | Bhagirath Lal S/o Harde Ram, 1/6 Bhag, Dharmendra Kumar, Pawan Kumar Ss/o Ravi Prakash sabhag 1/6 Bhag, Gyan Prakash, Ghanshyam Ss/o Desharam sambhag 1/3 bhag, Sushil Kumar son Krishna Kaum Brahmin 1/3 bhag Gramvasi 40//18/1 min |
| 8 | 40//18/3min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0021 | Wazir Singh, Lakhmi Chand Ss/o Rati Ram division 1/3 bhag, Gaurav (minor) S/o Dilbag Singh 1/6 bhag, Jai Vir Singh, Jasvir Singh Baljit Singh Ss/o Chandra Bhan division ½ bhag, Gramvasi 40//18/3 min |
| 9 | 48//10min | Government (Gram Sabha) | Non Agriculture | 0.0126 | Gramsabha Kable Kast 48//10 min |
| 10 | 48//12min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0236 | Rajender Singh, Gopiram, Dharmpal sons of Khazan Singh ½ bhag, Dharamvir Singh, Mahendra Singh Chetram, Krishan Kumar Ss/o Lal Chand sambhag 4/5 bhag, Gramvasi, Smt. Meenashi Girdhar wife of Sanjay Girdhar, Kiran Girdhar wife of Sunil Kumr R/o H. No. 699A Navada Bazar Najafgarh New Delhi, sambhag 1/10 Bhag 48//12 min |
| 11 | 48//13min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0379 | Rajender Singh, Gopiram, Dharmpal sons of Khazan Singh ½ bhag, Dharamvir Singh, Mahendra Singh Chetram, Krishan Kumar Ss/o Lal Chand sambhag 4/5 bhag, Gramvasi, Smt. Meenashi Girdhar wife of Sanjay Girdhar, Kiran Girdhar wife of Sunil Kumr R/o H. No. 699A Navada Bazar Najafgarh New Delhi, sambhag 1/10 Bhag 48//13 min |
| 12 | 48//14min | Government (Gram Sabha) | Non Agriculture | 0.0034 | Gramsabha Kable Kast 48//14 min |
| 13 | 48//17/1min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0674 | M/s Trophy Estateum Pvt. Ltd., Resi. Office. 15 Orangzeb Road New Delhi, Signatchery Mr. Amulya Kumar Sharma Relationships 1/1 bhag 48//17/1 min |
| 14 | 48//17/2min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0042 | Jogendra, Sunil, Jaiveer sons, Bala, Poonam daughters Raj Singh sambhag 48//17/2 min |
| 15 | 48//18min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0379 | Jogendra, Sunil, Jaiveer sons, Bala, Poonam daughters Raj Singh sambhag 48//18 min |
| 16 | 48//1min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0126 | M/s Super Plastic Coats Pvt. Ltd., Relationships, Add.: Central Market West Punjabi Bagh Delhi, Director Praveen Bansal 48//1 min |
| 17 | 48//24min | Private | Agriculture | 0.2108 | M/s Trophy Estateum Pvt. Ltd., Resi. Office. 15 Orangzeb Road New Delhi, Signatchery Mr. Amulya Kumar Sharma Relationships 1/1 bhag 48//24 min |
| 18 | 48//25min | Government (Gram Sabha) | Non Agriculture | 0.0169 | Gramsabha Kable Kast 48//25 min |
| 19 | 48//9min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0126 | Rajender Singh, Gopiram, Dharmpal sons of Khazan Singh ½ bhag, Dharamvir Singh, Mahendra Singh Chetram, Krishan Kumar Ss/o Lal Chand sambhag 4/5 bhag, Gramvasi, Smt. Meenashi Girdhar wife of Sanjay Girdhar, Kiran Girdhar wife of Sunil Kumr R/o H. No. 699A Navada Bazar Najafgarh New Delhi, sambhag 1/10 Bhag 48//9 min |
| 20 | 49//5/2min | Private | Agriculture | 0.0114 | Jeet Singh, Sanjay S/o Mehar Singh urf Dayanand Sambhag Gramvasi 49//5/2 min |
| 21 | 51//4 min | Government (Gram Sabha) | Non agriculture | 0.0084 | Gramsabha Kable Kast 51//4 min |
| | | | **TOTAL** | **0.7071** | |

[F. No. PIU/UER-II/01/05/3D]
**RAJESH GUPTA, Director**

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Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Balancing act

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

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

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

## PICTALK

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

# Dam it!

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

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

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

# Propaganda around China's 'infallibility'

BHOPINDER **SINGH**

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

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

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

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

Now, the hardly curious case of former No 1 women's tennis doubles player, Peng Shuai, follows the exact same path. Her crime: Calling out the bluff of so-called discipline, propriety and morality within the top ranks of the CCP by accusing former Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Expectedly, Chinese social media platform Weibo took down Peng Shuai's post and discussions about her sudden disappearance were heavily censored within the controlled realm of Chinese media, and her physical whereabouts remained unconvincingly scanty. Following a concerted effort by the World Tennis Association (WTA), the Chinese Tennis Association issued perfunctory assurances that Peng Shuai was safe and "not under any physical threat". In a throwback to Ja Ma's carefully calibrated 'reappearances' that raised a lot more questions than it addressed, Peng Shuai too has started making what is increasingly getting dubbed as 'hostage videos'. For an internationally active player, there has been an inexplicable curb on access and ability to reach out to her with strangely incommunicado and stage-managed 'sightings', dished out as means of meaningless reassurances of normalcy. Unfortunately, and embarrassingly so for the Chinese, the WTA Tour has suspended its tournaments in China and upped the ante, exactly what the Chinese were seeking to avoid, in their quest to suppress the truth and the accompanying outcry. Crucially, this specific disappearance (unlike countless others) could further sully the Chinese perceptions, weak as they are in the COVID era, to derail the Winter Olympics which are due in a couple of months.

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

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

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

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE PANDEMIC IS PERHAPS INVINCIBLE

Sir — No country, no community, no individual is safe until everyone across the world is safe. The emergence of a new Coronavirus variant has once again brought the spotlight on how unprecedented the pandemic is and how precarious the situation we're all in. We may have come to think that the pandemic is over, but the virus is still with us. As we speak, scientists across the world are scrambling to gather more data on the Omicron variant to understand how dangerous it is in terms of transmission and severity, and whether the currently available vaccines will be effective against it. The World Health Organisation has designated Omicron — the B.1.1.529 lineage of Sars-Cov-2 — as a variant of concern, leading to fears of another global surge in cases.

Dozens of countries have imposed travel bans from South African nations, where the Omicron variant was first identified. Others have imposed stricter measures to curb the spread of the Omicron variant. As on date, at least 38 countries have confirmed Omicron cases. Meanwhile, a number of countries have started booster vaccinations as a preventive measure against the new strain. But the question is: As long as vaccine inequity is not addressed, can the world think of defeating the Coronavirus pandemic and restoring normalcy?

**Gautam SR** | *Bhopal*

### KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE

Sir — Russian President Vladimir Putin's India visit should bolster bilateral ties between the two countries. Foreign policy is a matter of costs and benefits; no two nations are permanent foes. New Delhi, of course, is not on a slippery slope as far as its military and trade ties with Moscow are concerned. An old and traditional connection cannot go haywire just like that, and that was exemplified in no uncertain terms by Putin's India visit. The 2+2 meeting between the defence and foreign ministers of both the countries was held in a conducive atmosphere. India holds 2+2 ministerial meetings with the United States, Japan and Australia and, thus, Russia became the fourth country to be accorded that importance. President Putin hailing India as a "great power" should do wonders for healthy bilateral relations.

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

**Ganapathi Bhat** | *Akola*

### THE BJP SHOULD LEARN TO BE HUMBLE

Sir — There is little doubt that the repeal of the three contentious farm laws that were hastily passed in September last year is a victory for the farming community, and the triumph justly connotes the popular saying, "Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy." However, the about turn made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is nothing but a sheer political opportunism with an eye on the forth-coming assembly elections in the key States of UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand, and as well in the wake of the BJP's recent dismal performance in bypolls.

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

**Ranganathan Sivakumar** | *Chennai*

Send your feedback to:
**letterstopioneer@gmail.com**

## Numbers make all the noise

Despite climbing to the third position in the list of most wicket-takers in Test cricket in India and leading the team to victory innumerable times, Ravichandran Ashwin continues to be criticised and compared. He has done remarkably well as an off-spinner for Indian cricket time and again. Whether it is ODI, T20 or Test cricket, Ashwin adjusts as per the format and situation on ground and plays a pivotal role. He has won the 'Man of the Series' award nine times in his illustrious career. He stands up to the challenge when the chips are down and can perform with the bat as well.

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

**CK Subramaniam** | *Mumbai*

## SOUNDBITE

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

**Delhi Chief Minister**
—Arvind Kejriwal

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

**US President**
—Joe Biden

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

**Actor**
—Arshad Warsi

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

**Former Indian cricketer**
—Irfan Pathan

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

**SP chief**
—Akhilesh Yadav

FIRST COLUMN

## WTO AND COMMON IP FOR COVID VACCINES

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

PK **VASUDEVA**

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

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

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

# Colonial outlook can't fix climate issues now

ASHWANI **MAHAJAN**

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

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

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

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

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

India had said that while the rich countries are responsible for a major part of the emissions, they had not lived up to their promise, made in Copenhagen, to provide $100 billion to the developing and least-developed countries to deal with the environmental crisis. Moreover, given the magnitude of the problem and the efforts needed to deal with the same, even $1 trillion may fall short of the requirement. Unfortunately, there is no reference to the commitment of $100 billion in COP26's final document. Rather, all efforts are being made to put the blame on India for the environmental crisis due to over usage of coal. In the draft of the final document of the Environment Conference of Glasgow (UK), the rich countries included the condition to phase out of coal in the draft declaration, and when India refused to accept the same, a campaign was started in the western media to defame India that it is becoming an obstacle in the way to solution of environmental crisis.

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

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

Whereas the media in the west is trying to portray India as the villain of the environmental crisis for not accepting the condition to phase out coal usage in the final document, countries like the US, Europe and China, who are main culprits, are nowhere close to being held responsible. We need to understand that singling out coal will not serve the purpose. India's argument that other fossil fuels like petroleum and gas are equally responsible for emissions is a logical one. However, since the US and Europe have an advantage in using them (petroleum and gas), there is no mention of reducing emissions from these fossil fuels in the final document, which is downright unfair.

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

Not only this, even today the per capita emission of greenhouse gases in India is only 1.77 metric tons, while in America it is 14.24 metric tons and in England it is 4.85 metric tons, and in China also the per capita emission of greenhouse gases is 7.41 metric tons. The main reason for excessive greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries is wasteful and irresponsible consumption, which is due to their lifestyle. Developed countries today are not ready to concede that the present environmental crisis is due to their stubbornness to not change their lifestyle. The people of these countries and their leadership will have to realize that they have to control their consumption to overcome the current environmental crisis. Whether it is the goal of not allowing the world's temperature to rise more than 1.5 degrees from the pre-industrial level, or the reduction in smoke, the only solution is the control of consumption, for which the developed countries have the main responsibility.

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

## POINT COUNTER POINT

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

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

# The Congress faces a host of challenges before 2024

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

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

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

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

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

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

The third is the shrinking Congress party in many states and even regions. Congress should now aim to build upon the 12-crore voter base instead of embroiling itself in self-made controversies. Of the 186 direct fights between BJP and Congress in 2019, the former won 170 seats, amounting to a 91.4 percent strike rate. It bagged 162 of these seats in the 2014 elections. The Congress, which won 24 of these seats in 2014, has come down to 15. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, where it ruled in the past, Congress won only 10 out of 286 seats. The party has no representation from 20 states. Further, BJP has taken over the opposition space in Odisha, Tripura, and West Bengal, where Congress was traditionally the main opposition. Also, the regional parties continue to put up a much better fight than Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

Last Sunday, Shiv Sena mouthpiece *Saamna*, in its editorial, said that pushing the grand old party away from national politics and creating an Opposition grouping parallel to the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) would only strengthen BJP and "fascist" forces. Though Mamata tried to woo the Sena during her recent visit, Sena does not want to lose its government because Congress is its coalition partner in Maharashtra.

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

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

# Biden to warn Putin of eco pain if he invades Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The eastward expansion of NATO has from the start been a bone of contention not just with Moscow but also in Washington. In 1996, when President Bill Clinton's national security team debated the timing of membership invitations to former Soviet allies Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, Defense Secretary William Perry urged delay to keep Russian relations on track. Perry wrote in his memoir that when he lost the internal debate he considered resigning.

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

It's the latest in a series of accusations that the social media giant fueled misinformation and political violence, outlined in redacted internal documents obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press.The combined legal claims from Rohingya refugees are being filed on behalf of anyone worldwide who survived the violence or had a relative who died from it.

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

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

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

The lawsuits say Facebook's algorithms amplified hate speech against the Rohingya people and that it didn't spend enough money to hire moderators and fact checkers who spoke the local languages or understood the political situation. They also say Facebook failed to shut accounts and pages or take down posts inciting violence or using hate speech directed at the ethnic group.

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

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

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

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

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# UAE BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO TRANSITION TO 4.5 DAY WORK WEEK

## Targets to boost work-life balance

PTI ■ DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates on Tuesday announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting January 1, becoming world's first country to make employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance.

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

Saturdays and Sundays are full-day holidays under new rule. The government said: "Longer weekends to boost productivity and improve work-life balance; starting from 1st of January, 2022." In line with announcement, the government said all Friday sermons and prayers would be held after 1.15 pm henceforth. Further, employees would be offered flexible working hours and work-from-home options on Friday.The government's move is expected to make it come closer to timings of US, UK and Europe, boosting commerce. The new system will first be implemented in all federal government entities; schools, colleges and private institutions are expected to follow suit. The Emirati governments of Dubai and Abu Dhabi have already announced four-and-a-half day workweek.

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

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

# Motorcycle explosion in southern Iraqi city kills at least 4

AP ■ BASRA, IRAQ

A motorcycle rigged with explosives went off in center of Iraq's southern city of Basra on Tuesday, killing at least four people and wounding four others, according to Iraqi security forces. The blast set ablaze two other vehicles and sent a column of black smoke into sky.

The governor of Basra, Asaad al-Idani, told reporters on scene that a motorcycle had exploded, quickly blaming militants from Islamic State group.There was no immediate claim of responsibility for morning attack near a major hospital, which shook residents of city. Iraq's Security Media Cell, an outlet affiliated with country's security forces, said in a statement that four people were killed and four were wounded as a result of the fire in two cars that were near motorcycle.It said forensics teams were at the scene of the blast and that more details would be released on nature of explosion, once investigations were completed. Explosions have been rare in oil-rich, predominantly Shiite Basra region in recent years, particularly since defeat of Sunni militant Islamic State group in 2017.

"Daesh is trying to destabilize security in Basra, but it will not be successful," Al-Idani said after inspecting damage from blast, using Arabic acronym for Islamic State group.

# Whistleblower: As Afghanistan fell, UK abandoned supporters

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

"There were usually over 5,000 unread emails in inbox at any given moment, including many unread emails dating from early in August," he wrote to Foreign Affairs Select Committee, which is investigating Britain's chaotic departure from Afghanistan. "These emails were desperate and urgent. I was struck by many titles including phrases such as 'please save my children.'" Marshall said some of those left behind had been killed by Taliban. One of Marshall's most explosive allegations is a claim that British officials spent time and energy arranging evacuation of almost 200 dogs and cats from a Kabul animal shelter run by Nowzad, a charity founded by former Royal Marine Pen Farthing.

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

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

# China protests US diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics

AP ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

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

He was SpaceX's first flight surgeon, helping to launch the company's first humans to space during NASA's SpaceX Demo-2 mission and building a medical organisation to support the human system during future missions.

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

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson introduced the members of the 2021 astronaut class, the first new class in four years, during a Monday, December 6 event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.


**The Project Manager Construction Unit**
**Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645**

Letter No. 3300 / NIVIDA / 171 Date: 01-12-2021

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. **http://www.uktenders.gov.in,** for the following works-

| Sl. No. | Name of Work | Cost of Work |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Multipurpose Hall cum Guest House for Nagar Panchayat Dwarahat, District - Almora. | 69.29 Lacs. |

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. **http://www.uktenders.gov.in** from 06.12.2021 at 10:00 hrs. to 21.12.2021 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting authority.

**Project Manager**



**SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED**
**CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995**
**Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043;**
**Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com**
**Website: http:www.superiorfinlease.com; Phone No.: +91-9953798335**

**NOTICE**
**(For the attention of Shareholders of Superior Finlease Limited)**

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Members of Superior Finlease Limited is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 03:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") to transact the Business as set out in the Notice of EGM. The Notice of the EGM and remote e-voting details has been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/ RTA/ Depository.

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

1. In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to superiorfinlease@gmail.com .
2. In case shares are held in demat mode, please provide DPID-CLID (16 digit DPID + CLID or 16 digit beneficiary ID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) to superiorfinlease@gmail.com.

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

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

The remote e-voting period will commence on Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 09:00 A.M. and end on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 05:00 P.M. During this period, the Members of the Company holding shares in the physical or electronic form as on the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, December 22, 2021 may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, he / she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast vote again. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. December 22, 2021, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or compliances@skylinerta.com.

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

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

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

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

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

For Superior Finlease Limited
Sd/-
Disha Rani
(Company Secretary)

Date: December 06, 2021
Place: New Delhi



**In the Court of Sh. Shrish Aagawal Administrative Civil Judge-cum-Additional Reant Control (Central) Delhi-110054**

SC.No.-97/2021 N.D.O.H. 29.01.2022

**Smt. Suma @ Suman Vs. The State & Ors.**

To,
Smt. Suma Devi @ Suman W/o Late Sh. Avadh Kishore @ Awadh Kishore Add: L-11-E, Railway Qtr. New Rohtak Road, Sarai Rohilla, Karol Bagh, Central, Delhi-110005

Presently R/o: H.No. 9788, 1st Floor, Sarai Rohilla, Ahata Thakur Dass, (Near Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station), New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi-110005

.....**Petitioner**

**FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT. 1925**

To,
All Concerned

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt arid securities amount of Rs xxx. As per record to be standing in the name of **Late Sh. Awad Kishore @ Avadh Kishore** deceased.

Whereas the 29.01.2022 at 10'o clock in the forenoon has been fixed for hearing or the agiplication notice is hereby givai to this concerned.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 25.11.2021.

Seal
**(Shrish Aggarwal)**
**ACJ/ARC (Central) Delhi**



**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

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

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

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

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

DP/950/SW/2021(Court Matter)



**Metro Railway, Kolkata**
**India's First Metro**

**CORRIGENDUM**

To **Tender No.: 02215208** against E-Procurement **Tender Notice No.: 05/21-22, dt. 08.10.2021.** Due on should be read as **09.12.2021 at 14.00 hrs.** instead of 12.11.2021 at 14.00 hrs.

**Principal Chief Materials Manager**



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Open E-Tender Notice**

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Name of work with its location** | 1. Supply of potable drinking water through tankers at L-xings and colonies under ADEN/ROK. (NIT 28-W-IV-21-22) |
| 2. | **Approx. cost of work** | (1) Rs. 35,43,602.43 |
| 3. | **Earnest money** | Nil |
| 4. | **Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender** | Bidding Start date for work no. Up to 15:00 hrs. on 17.12.2021 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 31.12.2021 |
| 5. | **Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded** | Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** |

**No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 28/W-IV/21-22**
**Date : 07.12.2021** **2865/21**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

No.SSA/Spl.Trng/Procurement05/334/2020/7727 Date: 03.12.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha) , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacture of textile garments and clothing for supply of Dress for learners of RSTC- NRSTC Centre.

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

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

Sd/-Mission Director,
SSA,Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog /CF/2257/21



**Metro Railway, Kolkata**
**India's First Metro**

**CORRIGENDUM-1**

Against **Open Tender Notice No.: S&T/Works/31-2021, dt. 06.12.2021.** File Name should be read as **DETAILBREAKUPOFTENDERSCHEDULE.pdf** instead of DETAILBREAKUPOFTENDERSCHEDULE_2.pdf. The corrigendum can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** which is issued on 06.12.2021.

**Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

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



**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown **S/o** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown **Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Hair & Beard:** Black, **Wearing:** Green black coloured lining t-shirt, half grey coloured jacket, red & white coloured scarf in neck, grey pant and bare feet, Was found in unconscious condition at near Awanti Bai Lodi Statue, Pul Mithai, Azad Market, Delhi and he was admitted in Hindu Rao Hospital vide MLC No. 4481/2021, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead. In this regard a **DD No. 54A dated 02.12.2021 U/S 174 Cr.PC** has been lodged at P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

**SHO**
**P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**
Ph.: 011-23529707
Mob.: 8750870125

DP/1774/N/2021



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice**

| S. N. | Name of Work with its location | App. Cost of the work (in Rs.) | Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased | Tender Document Fee (in Rs.) | Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.) | Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender | Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Annual Repair Contract of Walkie Talkie Sets (1-5 Watts) existing over Delhi Division & Annual Repair Contract of 25 watts V.H.F sets &PSU existing over Delhi Division for three years. | ₹ 2495872.95 only | Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe.-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. | ₹ Nil only | ₹ Nil only | Tender uploading/ Closing date & time 29.12.2021 15.00 hrs. | See the N.Rly. website **www.ireps.gov.in** & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, Annexe.-1, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. |

**Tender No. 558-Sig/16/Tele/AMC/578/2021-22 Dated : 06.12.2021** **2860/2021**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

TRAI TO TELCOS

# Allow port out SMS facility irrespective of tariff offer

**New Delhi:** Sector regulator TRAI on Tuesday directed telecom operators to "immediately" enable port out SMS facility for all mobile users requiring it, irrespective of value of their tariff offer, vouchers, or plans.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) took a strong note of telecom service companies not providing outgoing SMS facility in certain prepaid vouchers.

TRAI said in the recent past it has received complaints from subscribers over their inability to send SMS on short code 1,900 specified for UPC (Unique Porting Code) generation, for availing mobile number portablity facility despite having sufficient balance in their prepaid accounts. "Now therefore the authority...Directs all access service providers to enable, with immediate effect, for all mobile subscribers, both prepaid and postpaid, requesting for a unique porting code, the facility to send SMS on short code 1900, in order to exercise their right to avail porting facility in accordance with the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009...Irrespective of the value of the tariff offer/vouchers," TRAI said in its direction.

The regulator said that the practice of non-provision of the facility of sending MNP related SMS in certain pre paid vouchers/plans is a "contravention" of the provisions of regulations "as it takes away the consumers' right, provided for in the regulations to avail mobile number portability (MNP) facility". ***PTI***

# Sensex surges 887 pts amid global rebound as Omicron fears wane

**Mumbai:** Market benchmarks made an emphatic comeback on Tuesday after a two-session selloff, in tandem with a recovery in global equities as worries over the Omicron variant receded.

According to experts, world markets heaved a sigh of relief after initial studies showed that even though the Omicron strain of COVID-19 is fast spreading, it is largely milder than the Delta variant. Bargain hunting in metal and banking stocks, coupled with a modest recovery in the rupee, further boosted domestic indices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 886.51 points or 1.56 per cent to finish at 57,633.65. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 264.45 points or 1.56 per cent to 17,176.70.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, advancing 3.63 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, SBI, Titan and Bajaj Finance.

Asian Paints was the sole laggard, dipping 0.22 per cent.

\"Domestic bourses staged a recovery... Supported by broad-based buying while healthcare stocks lost ground. Global markets traded with optimism on reports that the Omicron strain may not be as severe as expected.

## Rupee surrenders gains to end flat as rising crude prices weigh

**Mumbai:** The rupee erased all its intra-session gains to end on a flat note at 75.44 against the US dollar on Tuesday as investors took note of rising crude oil prices and sustained foreign capital outflows.

However, a sharp rebound in domestic equities improved investor sentiment, helping in restricting rupee slide.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 75.31 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 75.26 and a low of 75.49 during the day's trade. It finally ended at 75.44 a dollar against the previous close of 75.45 – up 1 paisa against the greenback.

## Gold rises ₹58; silver gains ₹175

**New Delhi:** Gold prices rose by ₹58 to ₹47,039 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday in line with gains in the precious metal in global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹46,981 per 10 gram.

Silver also jumped ₹175 to ₹60,362 per kg from ₹60,187 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,781 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.42 per ounce. "Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading up at USD 1,781 per ounce on Tuesday," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. ***PTI***

# PLI scheme in food processing to go a long way in creating large scale capacity: FMCG cos

**New Delhi:** FMCG majors Nestle India, Parle, Dabur and Britannia on Tuesday said the PLI scheme in food processing will go a long way in creating large scale capacity, creating great Indian brands in international markets besides helping farmers here in the country.

With the government approving their applications for the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme in food processing, the companies said it will also play a key role in promoting job creation.

"The incentive will go a long way in terms of creating large scale capacities. It will help companies, not only, to manufacture on a large scale, have better machinery and plants, and have good products in India, but also be globally competitive and create great Indian brands and international markets," Parle Agro Products Pvt Ltd Senior Category Head Mayank Shah told PTI.

Welcoming the government's step, he said the scheme will also help in terms of "shoring up of volumes for companies and better competitiveness in global markets", besides helping in job creation.

Expressing similar views, Dabur India Ltd CEO Mohit Malhotra said, "The PLI scheme has been crafted to promote domestic manufacturing and would lead to creation of large-scale manufacturing capacity besides promoting job creation in a critical sector like food processing." Likewise, a Britannia Industries spokesperson said, "We firmly believe that this initiative would kick start in a big way, investments and employment generation in the country."

Thanking the government for approval of its PLI scheme application for processed fruits and vegetables, Nestlé India said it has "always believed that the PLI scheme for the food processing sector will help farmers and the food processing industries". ***PTI***

## Instagram launches tool urging teens to take a break

**London:** Instagram on Tuesday launched a feature that urges teenagers to take breaks from the photo-sharing platform and announced other tools aimed at protecting young users from harmful content on the Facebook-owned service.

The previously announced "Take A Break" feature encourages teens to stop scrolling if they have been on the social media platform for a while, Instagram head Adam Mosseri said in a blog post. It rolled out to the U.S., United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia on Tuesday and would reach the rest of the world early next year, he said. ***AP***

## Microsoft launches cybersecurity skilling programme in India

**New Delhi:** Microsoft on Tuesday launched a cybersecurity skilling programme that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022 as part of efforts to address the skills gap and empower India's workforce for a career in digital security.

The programme is designed to give learners hands-on experience in the fundamentals of security, compliance, and identity, a statement said. **PTI**

## International Fire & Security Expo from Thurs

**New Delhi:** The 14th edition the International Fire & Security Exhibition and Conference (IFSEC) India Expo, South Asia's largest security, civil protection and fire safety show by Informa Markets in India, is being organised at Pragati Maidan Hall number 5, New Delhi, from December 9 to December 11.

## Online gifting platform in Kaushambi

**New Delhi:** Winni, a fast growing online gifting and bakery retail chain, has opened its 150th store at Kaushambi, Delhi-NCR. "I am sure that we will be easily achieving our target of opening 5,000 stores worldwide by 2025," said Winni's co-founder & CEO Sujeet Kumar Mishra.

# Various measures taken to protect bona fide commercial decision of banks: FM

**New Delhi:** The Government has taken various measures to protect bona fide commercial decisions of banks to alleviate the fear of any unwarranted hardships to officials or senior executives taking key decisions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday in the Rajya Sabha.

These include amendments to Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act), 1988, requiring prior permission before initiating investigation against a public servant, setting up of Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) for first level of examination of suspected frauds of banks and financial institutions in excess of ₹50 crore, finalisation of Consolidated Staff Accountability Framework etc, she said.

The Government, in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission, has recently finalised a consolidated Staff Accountability Framework for non-performing assets (NPAs) accounts up to ₹50 crore, other than fraud cases, she said.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been advised to suitably revise their respective Staff Accountability Policy and other relevant policies, as required, within this framework with approval of their respective boards, she said.***PTI***

# ₹2,000 notes now 1.75% of total banknotes in circulation; down from 3.27% in March 2018

**New Delhi:** The number of ₹2,000 currency notes in circulation has decreased to 223.3 crore pieces or 1.75 per cent of total notes in circulation (NIC) in November this year, compared to 336.3 crore pieces in March 2018.

Printing of banknotes of particular denomination is decided by the Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public, said Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State in Finance Ministry, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

"As against 3,363 million pieces (mpcs) of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes in circulation on March 31, 2018 constituting 3.27 per cent and 37.26 per cent of NIC in terms of volume and value respectively; 2,233 mpcs were in circulation on November 26, 2021, constituting 1.75 per cent and 15.11 per cent of NIC in terms of volume and value, respectively," he said. ***PTI***

**Sale Notice**

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

| Case Details | Asset Details |
|---|---|
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Vipin Nagpal, SUIT No. 1429-19 | Vehicle No-HR51BF2092, Make & Model - HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD. I-10 Grand, Manu Year-2015 |
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Ata Abbas, CS NO. 3387/18 | Vehicle No- DL1RTB2176, Make & Model- MARUTI WAGON R Lxi, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price: Rs 1,00,000, EMD Amount Rs 10,000, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited Payable At Delhi |
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Subodh Kumar, CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL.30659/2020 | Vehicle No-UP14FT6208, Make & Model- RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price: Rs 1,25,000, EMD Amount Rs 12,500, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited Payable At Delhi |
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Jitendra Chaturvedi, CM (M) 22/2020 | Vehicle No- UP14FT7814, Make & Model- CHEVROLET SAIL UVA LT, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price: Rs 40,000, EMD Amount Rs 4,000, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited Payable At Delhi |
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Meenakshi Singh Kharwar, CS DJ 6476/18 | Vehicle No-UP16ET3403, Make & Model - NISSAN MICRA, Manu Year-2017 |
| ICICI BANK LTD VS Ashish Kumar, CS (COMM) No.1374/2020 | Vehicle No-DL4CAZ1019, Make & Model - HYUNDAI I20 MAGNA + CRDI, Manu Year-2019 |

**Auction Date: 23-December-2021 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**
**Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022.**
**Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)**

**Terms of Sale**

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction and also original DD of EMD wherein applicable.

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

The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085.** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work : • **Tender Notice No.:** MW_ELM_S_8_AMC_4_MAG. • **Tender No. MW/ELM/S/8/AMC-4(MAG)** • **Tender Type :** OPEN. • **Bidding Style :** Single Rate for Tender. • **Cost of Tender Document (Form):** 00.00. • **Earnest Money to be deposited :** 00.00. • **Approximate Value of the Work (Tender Value):** Rupees 97,99,020.00. • **Completion Period of the Work :** 02 (two) years. • **Contract type:** WORKS. • **Contract Category :** Expenditure. • **Expenditure Type :** Capital (WMS). • **Closing Date for Tender Submission: 27/12/2021.** • **Tender Validity Period:** 90 (ninety) days. • Complete Details of Tender can be seen in the Railways Websites **www.ireps.gov.in.**

**PR6-282** **Dy.CME/Plant/CLW/CRJ**

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IN THE COURT OF
MS. SHEETAL CHAUDHARY PRADHAN
ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South-East)
Room No.203, Second Floor,
Saket Courts, New Delhi.
SS- 52/2021

**Anil Khurana**
**S/o Late S. P. Khurana**
**R/o N-49, Greater Kailash-I**
**New Delhi-110048** .....**Petitioner**

**VS.**

**STATE** ..... **Respondent**

Whereas, on application U/s 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by **Anil Khurana** successor of Late **Gargi Khurana** for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

And whereas the said applicant shall come for hearing on **02.02.2022** at **10.00 A.M.**

Therefore, the public at large is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of succession certificate in favour of the said applicant, he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and time.

Given under my hand & seal on **24.11.2021.**

Sd/-
**(Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan)**
**ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East)**

**Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)**

No.SSA/MDM/NABL-Testing/332/2021/7726 Date : 03.12.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for testing of dry and cooked MDM Food .

To participate in this EOI through e-procurement, applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on–line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Janasanyog /CF/2257/21

Sd/- Mission Director
SSA, Assam
cum State Nodal Officer-MDM

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DHOLPUR**

No. 11927-29 Date: 02/12/2021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-59 TO 67**

N.I.T. is invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Municipal Council Dholpur for Various work from Registered Contractor the amount of work is between 50 lacs to 149.90 lacs and UBN No. are has under.

**UBN NO.-**

DLB2122WSOB19877, DLB2122WSRC19879, DLB2122WSRC19880, DLB2122WSRC19881, DLB2122WSRC19883, DLB2122WSRC19886, DLB2122WSOB19888, DLB2122WSRC19889, DLB2122WSRC19890

For detail visit **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**

**Commissioner,**
**Raj.Samwad/C/9186/2021-2022** **Municipal Council, Dholpur**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My clients Shehnaaz wife of Uma Shankar and Eshwari wife of Late Rameshwar Prasad. My clients are purchasing property No.1270/2, Third Floor, Back Side without terrace, Gali No.10, Khasra No.93, an area measuring 52.5 Sq. Yards, out of 105 Sq. Yards, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, from Rakhee Samvedi wife of Santosh saved & in property chain there is no survival member certificate after the death of Khem Chand Takkar & Ram Pyari and if any person has any objection or issue regarding this property 1270/2, Third Floor, Back side area, measuring 52.5 Sq. Yards then raise a claim within 15 days of this publication given below contact details.

**Kamlesh (Advocate)**
**Ch. No. 449, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17**
**Mobile: 9868343355**

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS/PROPOSALS

**Shipra Srishti Apartment Owners Association, 15, Ahinsa Khand 1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014 Invites quotations from companies/ vendors engaged in following services:**

1. Overall facility and maintenance services (including technical services), 2. Housekeeping, 3. Accounting firms for the overall management of day to day accounts, 4. Horticulture and landscape maintenance, 5. Intercom system AMC, 6.Security Services, 7.Garbage Collection, 8. Grocery Store,9. Restaurant (Veg & Non-Veg) & Unisex Salon operations. Quotations are to be submitted to Secretary, Shipra Srishti Apartment Owners Association in sealed envelopes latest by **6 pm on 15th December 2021.** Contact person for Site inspection/queries/clarifications: **Mr. K K Gautam, Secretary, SSAOA, Mob: 9650177221, Email: aoa.srishti@gmail.com**

**CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**
Chola Enter a better life
**Corporate Office:** 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001.
**Branch Office:**1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002**

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needles to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

| Name and Address of the Borrower/s | Loan Amount | Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding | Description of the property/ Secured Asset |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEELD00001890235**<br>**1.KAPTAN SINGH (BORROWER)**<br>H N 19/120 GF Old Rohtas Road Gali 2 Sarai Rohilla Gali No 2 ,newdelhi - 110005<br>**2.PRIYANKA RAKESH @ PRIYANKA SINGH (CO-BORROWER)**<br>112 Vivekanand Puri Sarai Rohilla Delhi, New Delhi-110005<br>**3.M/S KAPTAN SINGH TRADING CO (CO-BORROWER)**<br>H N 19/120 GF Old Rohtas Road Gali 2 Sarai Rohilla Gali No 2 Near, New Delhi - 110035 | **Rs.5000000.00** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.51,00,596.81**<br>(Rupees Fifty One Lakh Five Hundred Ninety Six and Eighty One Paise) | **All that piece and parcel of** land and building being Ground floor (back side portion) without its roof/ terrace rights (said portion) part of property bearing Municipal No.112, built on land admeasuring 53.53 sq. mtrs., or 64 sq. yds., (out of total area 160 sq. yds.) situated in the layout plan of DCM Employees,CHBSL, Vivekanand Puri, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi - 110 007; which is bounded as under;- East: Property No.111, North :Street 15 ft. wide , West: Property No.113, South :Road 60 ft. wide |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEDHE00001038007, X0HEDEF00002032013, X0HEELD00001482052 and HE02DES00000006066.**<br>**1.KRISHAN CHAND JAIN(BORROWER)**<br>**At:** Property No.RZ-16,Gali No.34,Desu Road,Indra Park, Palam Colony, New Delhi,Newdelhi-110045<br>**2.PREM LATA JAIN (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** RZ-16 DESU ROAD INDRA PARK, NEWDELHI - 110045<br>**3.YOGESH KUMAR JAIN (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** RZ- 16, STREET NO-34, INDRA PARK PALAM COLONY ,NEWDELHI - 110045<br>**4.M/S JAI TULSI HARDWARE (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** RZ- 16, G/F, STREET NO-34, INDRA PARK PALAM COLONY ,NEWDELHI - 110045 | **Rs.88,74,633.00** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.76,53,803.60**<br>[Rupees Seventy Six lakh Fifty Three thousand Eight hundred Three and Sixty Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of** land and building bearing NO.RZ-16, Area Measuring 66.6 sq. Yds, Gali No.34 , out of khasra No. 789/625, Situated in Village Nasirpur, Colony known as Indra Park, New Delhi-110045., Which is bounded as under:, East – Rest Portion of property No. RZ - 16, west-Gali 16'ft wide, North- Road 25'ft wide South-Property of Mr. Jain |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEDHE00001273796 , HE02ELD00000004606**<br>**1. RAJNISH KANHYA LAL @RAJNISH (BORROWER)**<br>**2. MRS MITHLESH @MITHLESH (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**3.KANHAIYA LAL (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**4. PAL CHURI BHANDAR (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**Above At:** D-1/29 GALI NO-1 D-BLOCK GAMRI EXTN, NEWDELHI - 110053 | **Rs.34,49,524/-** | **06.12.2021**<br>**Rs.28,80,283.78**<br>[Rupees Twenty eight lakh eighty thousand two hundred eighty three paise Seventy Eight] | **All that piece and parcel of PROPERTY 1:** Shop No.3 area measuring 11.66 sq.yards on ground floor without roof rights, out of total area 19.36sq-yds, out of perporty no.C -102 , out of khasra No.382,Situation at village Ghonda Gujran khadar, ,abadi of Block-C,Gali No.5,Bhajan pura Shahdara,Delhi, which is bounded as under:, EAST -Gallary 6'ft wide, WEST – Shop No.4, NORTH – Shop of lovely Shoes, SOUTH – Gali 18'ft wide<br>**PROPERTY 2 :** Shop No.4 area measuring 7.70 sq-yds,on ground floor without roof rights,out total area 19.36sq-yds, out of perporty no.C - 102 , out of khasra No.382,Situation at village Ghonda Gujran khadar, , abadi of Block-C, Gali No.5,Bhajan pura Shahdara,Delhi, which is bounded as under:, EAST – Shop No.3 WEST – Property of others, NORTH – Shop No.5, SOUTH – Shop No.5, PROPERTY 3 : C-146/1, 1stfloor (with roof rights) C–Block, Gali No.5, Bhajan Pura Shahdara Delhi. |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEDEI00001958166 and X0HEDEI00001958175**<br>**1. SANDEEP GANDOTRA (BORROWER)**<br>**2. NIHARIKA GANDOTRA (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**1 and 2 At:** 62-C MIG FLATS RAJOURI GARDEN , NEWDELHI - 110027<br>**3.SKY HIGH CORPORATION (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** 10277 MANAKPURA KAROL BAGH , NEWDELHI - 110005 | **Rs.13500000/-** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.1,41,17,794. 44** [Rupees One Crore forty One lakh Seventeen thousand Seven hundred Ninety Four and Forty Four Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of PROPERTY 1.**<br>Property bearing no.10277,ward No.XIV, Gali Gyarsi wali, measuring 68 Sq.yds. Situated at Manak Pura near filimistan, Delhi along with roof/terrace rights within the limit of Delhi Muncipal Corporation,west zone Delhi, which is bounded as under:, EAST-Property No.10278, WEST –Road, NORTH – Gali, SOUTH - Property No.10276<br>**PROPERTY 2.**<br>Flate No.62-C,Second Floor DDA-MIG, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEELD00001958083 and X0HEELD00001958212.**<br>**1. VIKRAM SINGH (BORROWER)**<br>**2. BABITA VIKRAM SINGH @ BABITA (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**1 and 2 At:** H.NO.3 NARSINGHPUR GURGAON , HARYANA - 122004<br>**3. VIKRAM SINGH WATER SUPPLIER THROUGH ITS AUTHORISED REPRESENTATION/PROPRIETIORS (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** USYOG VIHAR PHASE VII NEAR SEC-35 NEAR SEC 74A GURGAON , HARYANA - 122001 | **Rs.78,38,203/-** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.81,29,630.92**<br>[Rupees Eight One lakh Twenty Nine thousand Six hundred Thirty and Ninety Two Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of** House No.3, Land admeasuring 422 Sq.Yds comprised in Khewat/Khata No.201 /245, Mu.No.13 Killa No.6 (7-7),killa No.6(7-&7), Kita 1, Rakba 7 kanal 7, Marla ka 9/70 bhag Bakdar 0 karnal 19, Marla Jamabandi 2001-02 Roh. Kila No.1, Vaka Siwana Mauja Village Narsingh Pur, Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana, which is bounded as under:, EAST – 36'ft house of Rambir s/o Shri Ram, WEST - 36'ft house of Tilak, NORTH - 75'ft house of Dharmender and Passage 11'ft, SOUTH - 86'ft house of Jairam vagera |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEDEI00002837515 and X0HEDEI00003060771.**<br>**1. HUKAM SINGH (BORROWER)**<br>**2. VANDANA SAGAR (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**1 and 2 At:** S-221/200 A, VISHNU GARDEN TAGORE GARDEN ,NEWDELHI - 110027<br>**3. HEY MAA ENTERPRISES (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** GROUND FLOOR, F-EXTN 149, RAGHUBIR NAGAR ,NEWDELHI - 110024<br>**4. PUSHPA K (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** WZ-221/200 A, KH NO-23/1/2 BLOCK S, KHYALA,VISHNU GARDEN ,NEWDELHI - 110027 | **Rs.53,63,700/-** | **28.10.2021**<br>**Rs.58,87,109.72**<br>[Rupees Fifty Eight Lac Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Nine and Seventy Two Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of** Property bearing No. WZ-221/200A, built on Plot No. WZ-221/200A, area measuring 50 sq. yds., in Block-S, out of Khasra No. 23/1/2, situated in the area of Vilage Khyala, Delhi State Delhi, colony known as Vishnu Garden, New Delhi. which is bounded as under;- East Road , West Others Property, North Others Property, South Also Others Property |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEDET00003344246 and X0HEDET00003123386**<br>**1. JASVINDER KAUR (BORROWER)**<br>**2. D SANJAY SINGH KUSHWAHA (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**1 and 2 At:** HNO. A- 63,STREET NO 12 INDRA PARK KRISHNA NAGAR ,NEW DELHI - 110051<br>**3. BHAGYA LAKSHMI TEXTILE (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** X/3436 , RAGHUBAR PURA NO.2 GALI NO.1 GANDHI NAGAR ,NEW DELHI - 110031 | **Rs.41,00,000/-** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.47,61,476.90**<br>Rupees Forty seven lakh Sixty one thousand Four hundred seventy Six and Ninety Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of** All that right, title and interest of Entire Second Floor without roof right "said floor" built on Property bearing no. A-63, with one two wheeler parking space on ground floor in Block- A, having area admeasuring 83.61 Sq. Mtrs. i.e. 100 Sq. Yds., comprised in Rect no. 11, Killa no. 17, situated at Gali no. 12 in the abadi of Indra Park in the area of village Khureji Khas, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi; , which is as bounded under:, EAST – other's Property, WEST -Gali 14'ft wide, NORTH -Plot No.64, SOUTH – Plot No. C-18 |
| LOAN ACCOUNT **NO. X0HEELD00001623577.**<br>**1. VIJAY KUMAR (BORROWER)**<br>**2. ANJU BALA (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**3. SHIVAM NAGPAL (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**4. SAHIL NAGPAL (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**All Above At:** B-10 KIRAN GARDEN HANUMAN MANDIR UTTAM NAGAR D K MOHAN GARDEN, NEWDELHI - 110059 | **Rs.40,38,536.00** | **24.11.2021**<br>**Rs.45,43,032.19**<br>[ Rupees Forty Five lakh Forty Three thousand Thirty two and Nineteen Paise] | **All that piece and parcel of** the portion having area measuring 46.1/2 Sq, Yds. Part of Property bearing No.10, out of Khasra No.8/1, Gali No.12, situated in the area of Village Matiala, in the abadi known as Kiran Garden Uttam Nagar. New: Delhi, And bounded as under -: East – Plot No.11, west - Plot No.9, North – Road 30 ft., South – Portion of the Plot |
| **LOAN ACCOUNT NO. X0HEEDL00002593577 and HE02EDL00000001629 .**<br>**1.Yogendra Prasad (BORROWER)**<br>**At:** Plot No.58, Pocket-P-4, NHPC Society, Near Jalvayu Vihar Appt., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201310<br>**Also at :**<br>A-42,2nd Floor,Sec-63,Noida,Uttar Pradesh-201301<br>**Also at**<br>319- E, Saket Colony, Azabpur Kalan, Dehradun-248001<br>**2. Pratima Prasad (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** Plot No.58, Pocket-P-4, NHPC Society, Near Jalvayu Vihar Appt., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201310<br>**Also at**<br>319- E, Saket Colony, Azabpur Kalan, Dehradun -248001<br>**3. Ashwini Kumar (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** Plot No.58, Pocket-P-4, NHPC Society, Near Jalvayu Vihar Appt., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201310<br>**Also at**<br>319- E, Saket Colony, Azabpur Kalan, Dehradun -248001<br>**4. Astin Technology Pvt Ltd (CO-BORROWER)**<br>**At:** Plot No.58, Pocket-P-4, NHPC Society, Near Jalvayu Vihar Appt., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201310<br>**Also at**<br>319- E, Saket Colony, Azabpur Kalan, Dehradun -248001<br>**5. Prasad Agrico Industries Pvt Ltd (CO-BORROWER)**<br>Plot No.58, Pocket-P-4, NHPC Society, Near Jalvayu Vihar Appt., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh – 201310<br>**Also at**<br>319- E, Saket Colony, Azabpur Kalan, Dehradun -248001 | **Rs.7,16,07,673/-** | **17.11.2021**<br>**Rs.7,36,90,835. 90/-** [Rupees Seven Crore Thirty Six Lakh Ninety Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Five and Paisa Ninety Only] | **Property 1 : All that piece and parcel of** the Unit No.58 at NHPC Executives Sahkari Avas Samiti Ltd in Plot No.6, Sector- P-4 having area of 356.730 Sq.Mtrs at Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh<br>**Property 2 :** Property bearing Land Khatauni Khata No.1137 (According to Khatauni 1417 to 1422 Fasli) bearing Khasra No. 561ta (Old Khasra No.319 Min.) area measuring 0.095 Hectare (or 0.235 Acre) (Schedule A) Land Khatauni Khata No.1243 (according to Khatauni 1417 to 1422 Fasli) bearing Khasra No.561 da (Old Khasra No.319 Min.) area Measuring 0.095 Hectare or 950 Sq.Mtrs (or 0.235 Hectare) (Schedule B) & Khatauni Khata No.1138 (according to Khatauni 1417 to 1422 Fasli) bearing Khasra No. 561 gha (Old Khasra No.319 Min.) area measuring 0.154 Hectare or 0.38 Acre (but the inserted area in revenue record is 0.1140 Hectare) (Schedule - C) Situated at Mauza Ajabpur Kalan, Pargana, Central Doon, District Dehradun, Uttarkhand bounded and butted as under :-, East – Land of Shri Subrala Negi, West – 12 ft.Wide Road North – Land of Ranjeet Singh, South – Village Road |

**Date : 08/12/2021 Place Delhi Authorised Officer : Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**

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

# BREAKING HEALTHCARE BARRIERS

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

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

**The scenario so far**

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

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

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

Organisations nowadays are making conscious efforts to highlight their women leaders on platforms like media, conferences, business meetings etc. providing room for their growth. Such initiatives act as a strong communication point in encouraging future generations.

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

**Zahabiya Khorakiwala —Managing Director, Wockhardt Hospitals**

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

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

**Dr V Shanta — Oncologist and Chairperson, Adyar Cancer Institute**

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

**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw—Founder and Chairperson, Biocon Limited**

Anjula Masurkar
Clinical Director of
ENTOD Pharmaceuticals

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

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

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

**Samina Vaziralli — Executive Director, Cipla**

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

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

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

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

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

**— Cesar Chavez**

### MSC ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

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

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

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

**Duration**- 1 year

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

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

### UG/PG AT WUD

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

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

**Apply:** *www.wud.ac.in*

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

## Sommet Education kick-off development plans for India

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

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

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

Through this partnership, worldwide education reference in culinary and pastry arts École Ducasse has now its first campus in India at ISH, and Les Roches, one of the world's leading hospitality business schools, enters in an academic alliance with ISH for its undergraduate and postgraduate hospitality management programmes.

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

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

# IIFT analysis 2021

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

Overall the exam was doable, not very tough but lengthy when compared to the previous years. LR was a little time consuming and lengthy. DI was easy and not too calculation intensive. It was noticed that a data interpretation set was similar to a DI set of CAT 2019. VARC was more fact based which was easy to solve. However, the length of the passages was a challenge. Overall it had 35 questions with 16 questions from RC and 19 questions from verbal ability. Arithmetic rules the roast in the quantitative ability section as expected. The questions were lengthy and time consuming but not difficult. The first few sentences of the questions were just meant to eat up the student's time, hence one had to scout out the right amount of information from the question and solve it as quickly as possible. The GK section was more on the current affairs side including questions related to sports personalities and their professions.

Exam tested students on speed, logic and analytical skills, a sincere student with well-rounded preparation of concepts and a good practice of mocks would make their way to the IIFT.

It was an exam with no twist. Well prepared students should be able to outperform. Logical reasoning section was a little difficult and time consuming, we saw the changes in reading comprehension passages with dominance of fact-based questions. However, ones with the habit of reading a lot of books and essays have nailed it.

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

In the GA section for every correct response, +1.5 is awarded and for every incorrect, -0.5 is deducted.

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

**Feedback from some of the students**

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

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

**Sectional Analysis**

**Overall Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult

**VARC 35 Questions:** Reading comprehension was dominated in the verbal section. There were 2 passages with 5 questions each and 2 passages with 3 questions each.

Verbal ability was overall easy.

**Summary of Questions**

**Reading Comprehension** 16 questions

**Verbal Ability** 19 questions

**Ideal attempts in VARC Section:** 11-13 questions

**DILR:** 30 questions

LR/DI was easy to moderate, lengthy and time consuming. Here the success mantra was the set selection as a few sets were the toughest and time consuming, so the students should first wrap up the easy ones and grab a good base and then move to the trickier ones. Also, as mentioned by one of our students, practicing for CAT gave him a little extra boost for IIFT.

**Summary of Questions**

**Ideal attempts in DILR Section:** 16-19 questions

**Quants 25 Questions:**

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

**General awareness 20 Questions:**

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

**Summary of Questions**

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

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

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

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

The writer is CEO, Director, CATKing

## Social media and growth of cybercrimes

Social media is the fifth pillar of democracy and shouldn't be taken lightly in any means. Many people in past have ignored the power of social media and the heinous crimes that are on a constant upward slope, and have faced repercussions for the same.

Terms like hacking and cyber fraud were relatively new to our dictionary, but their growth is phenomenal. Earlier most of the breaches would happen over the telephone but now the intensity of the crimes have been taken to the next level.

Cyber frauds have found new and convenient ways of getting into your private system, and the internet of things is only making it easier at every stage, any electronic device connected to the internet can be easily tapped and hacked.

In recent years, hackers easily breach into your mobile phones and turn on your camera without your knowledge, it can happen because of a lack of strong passwords and security settings. The hackers can further breach your personal information on the web or use it as a means to blackmail and fetch money from you. Such incidents have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the financial crunch in the overall economies.

Hackers have easily found their way into people's private conversations, and have been bale to use it against them. But, that's only because we as users aren't aware enough.

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

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

The writer is Ajeet Gunwant Parse, Social Media Expert

## SRM NCC Naval Troop inaugurated on Navy Day

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

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

Organised by NCC Dte (TN P & AN) in association with SRMIST. The inauguration was done by Group Commander Gp Capt T Arunachalam in the presence of Officer Commanding Lt Cdr Lalith Kumar CR, SRMIST's Vice Chancellor Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, and Registrar Dr S Ponnusamy.

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

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

## PG Programme in Software Development by Great learning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to a recent NASSCOM report, 3,40,000 is the present demand-supply gap for tech talent in India. This programme aims to bridge the gap and enable freshers and early career professionals with knowledge and skills to become ready for roles like JavaScript Developer, Back-end Developer, Full Stack Engineer, Python Developer and Front-end Engineer, which are amongst the top 15 emerging jobs in India based on a recent study by LinkedIn. The programme will provide dedicated placement assistance with recruitment processes from leading technology companies and also career support in the form of mock interviews with industry experts, resume guidance and dedicated placement drives. Great Learning works with 1200+ leading companies, and conduct over 20,000+ interviews per month among its learner base. Some of the marquee companies that hire for technology talent from Great Learning include Capgemini, Dell, Amazon, Flipkart, Nvidia, HCL, Uber, Intel, KPMG, Cognizant, Deloitte and more.

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

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

# PREP TIPS FOR CA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Be analytical about the future

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

Amit Goyal
Director, TKWs Institute of Banking and Finance

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

## JOB PROFILE

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

## CAREER PATH

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

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

## QUALIFICATION

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

## SKILLS

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

## REMUNERATION

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

# MINDIT

To overcome exams' fear during the present pandemic, you just need to focus over following practices:

**Share your thoughts**

The simple act of talking to someone who cares for you is extremely important. While this covid situation has made this really difficult for all of us to meet in-person. But one can still take a good advantage of social media platforms and can talk via calls and/or messages.

Talk to a close friend or family member about what you're going through. As, reaching out is not a sign of weakness but a way to get rid of depression you may have been going through. In fact, it won't be a burden.

It can be tempting to retreat into your shell when you feel depressed due to covid crisis around you. So, it's good to be as social as you can when you are about to begin your preparations for the CA examination since your mind should be in a relaxed state while preparing for your CA exams.

**Get a chance to move**

It's something that go against protocols that one should follow during covid but still with all the safety measures to be followed in this situation, you can try to help yourself to boost your mood in your examination days.

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

**Reframe negative thoughts**

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

**Find hope and have faith**

We always try to blame nature/life circumstances for how you feel especially in such covid pandemic but there are ways to find ways to cope up with such circumstances like

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

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

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

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

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

**The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its 75 International Undergraduate Merit Scholarships in 2022.** The scholarships are competitive awards worth 50% of the tuition fee for an undergraduate degree programme starting in autumn 2022. The scholarship is available for new international students who meet the eligibility criteria.

You must hold an offer to study at the University of Sheffield before you apply for this scholarship.

**Eligibility:** Your programme must be scheduled to commence at the University of Sheffield in autumn 2022.

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

You must not be a sponsored student. You must enter a degree programme at the University of Sheffield in programme year 1 or year 2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Application deadline:** It is April 30, 2022.

**FLUTTER DEVELOPMENT AT KUDDLE TECHNOLOGY**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/c35abd
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**WEB DEV AT SARATH CHANDRA**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/9df395
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BLUE RIBBON CLOTHING**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a74b48
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**E-COMMERCE SALES & TECH SUPPORT AT INDIAN ROBOTICS SOLUTION**
Location - Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/162090
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT DIGNIFYD DIGITAL SOLUTIONS**
Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹13,000-₹16,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/71bd27
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**WEB DEVELOPMENT AT EPIGROWW**
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6aa7b7
Deadline: December 15, 2021

**GRAPHIC DESIGN AT M-CORE INDUSTRIES**
Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/eec706
Deadline: December 13, 2021

# INBRIEF

## NANOPARTICLES AS PACKAGING DEVELOPED

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

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

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

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

## IIT GUWAHATI SETS A NEW RECORD

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has seen a huge jump in terms of the number of offers made by the end of day two, profiles open, companies' participation, domestic and international packages and total number of international offers.

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

## STUDY ABROAD MBA PROGRAMME

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

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

## 71% OF PARENTS STILL HELP KIDS WITH ACADEMICS

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

- Most parents were hesitant to send students back to physical schools: Over 18 months into the study-from-home model, the tides turned again as schools reopened their gates with the utmost focus on hygiene and safety. The survey has identified that 62% of the Indian parents were hesitant to send their children back to school as many continue to work from home. The finding calls for a greater focus on creating tech-led hybrid classrooms that accommodate students in both physical and virtual formats.
- Parents are more involved in their children's education even as schools reopen: A majority (59%) of students say that their parents are more involved in their education after the viral outbreak. Interestingly, 71% of the students continue to receive academic assistance from their parents even after the commencement of physical classes. Online learning resources have empowered parents by giving them the necessary tools to tutor their children.

The survey also corroborates this idea by revealing that 60% of parents know about online learning platforms. Furthermore, over 46% of parents seek help from such online learning tools.

- Personalisation key to learning: Parents are going the extra mile to ensure that their children thrive in the new educational paradigm. Around 59% of students receive help with studying from private teachers or tutors. A holistic learning model with school, tutors, and online learning platforms ensures that students are able to firmly grasp all concepts, clarify their doubts, and find answers to their curious questions. Online learning platforms are increasingly offering one-on-one mentoring to quench the need for personalised learning that successfully aids student's learning.

## ONLINE TALENT SEARCH EXAM FOR UG ASPIRANTS

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

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

Attractive performance-based fee waivers (up to 100% on CLAT/IPM/BBA/HM 2022-2023 classroom/online courses) will be available for the students.

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

To register: *https://www.time4education.com/local/articlecms/page.php?id=4876*

The TIME has grown into a specialist, multi-location and multi-program training provider run on corporate lines. T.I.M.E. today offers a wide range of programs not only for national and state-level entrance exams like the GATE, CAT, GMAT, GRE, Bank PO, and other competitive exams.

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

# Ashes could revolve around contest between Cummins, Root

- It will be 181st Test match between the two teams in Australia and 352nd overall. Australia have won 95, lost 57 and draw 28 in 180 previous Test matches played against England at home. Overall, Australia have won 146, lost 110 and draw 95 in 341 Test matches played against England
- Australia have won 33, England 32 in 71 Ashes series played between the two teams. The remaining six series ended in a draw. The last series played in England in 2019, were drawn, both teams have won two matches each while one match ended in a draw

**ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA TEST ENCOUNTERS**

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

**HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS**

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

**LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS**

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

**HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES**

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

**BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS**

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

**BEST BOWLING IN A MATCH**

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

**LAST FIVE ASHES SERIES**

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

FAISEL FEATURES

**AP** ■ BRISBANE

One particular contest between bat and ball could shape this Ashes series. Pat Cummins is set to lead the home team, putting a fast bowler's perspective on Australia's test cricket captaincy for the first time since the 1950s. Joe Root is primed to lead England with the bat again in a series he thinks may define his career.

"A bowling captain for Australia and a batting captain for England — two captains going toe to toe will be great," England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler said on the eve of the first test.

Root was already feeling some pressure before it was confirmed that Jimmy Anderson, England's all-time leading test wicket taker, will miss the first test starting Wednesday at the Gabba.

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

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

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

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

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

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

England released a 12-man squad later Tuesday, leaving most speculation over the formation of the bowling attack. Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson were included as specialist pace bowlers, and left-arm spinner Jack Leach was also in the mix. The starting XI will be confirmed at the coin toss.

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

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

He said he plans to rely heavily on his experienced deputy Steve Smith, who was replaced as Australia's test captain by Paine in 2018 after the infamous Sandpapergate scandal in South Africa.

He served a suspension from leadership positions and was the leading batter when Australia retained the Ashes in England in 2019.

"Smithy and I have been really good mates for a long time. When I was 18, I'd sleep on his couch on occasions," Cummins said. "He's a legend of the game. Of course I'll be leaning on him for ideas at times.

"There'll be times when I need a rest — I'll have no problem handing over to him."

Alex Carey was given the wicketkeeper gloves to replace Paine and Travis Head was retained to bat at No. 5.

The Australians haven't played a test since the 2-1 series loss to India in January, while England has played in Sri Lanka and India and hosted New Zealand and India in series.

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

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

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

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

## Hardik undergoing rehab in Mumbai, decides to skip Hazare Trophy

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

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

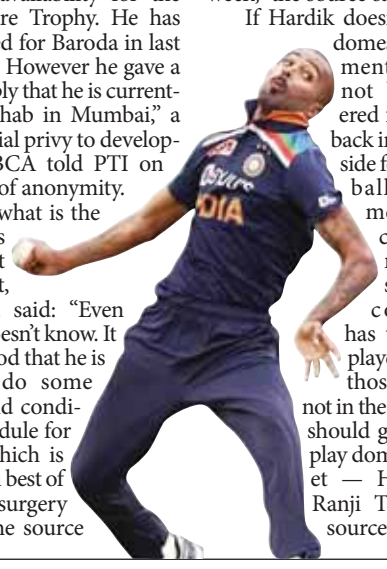
"The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) had sent an e-mail to Hardik enquiring about his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He has rarely played for Baroda in last three years. However he gave a one-line reply that he is currently doing rehab in Mumbai," a senior official privy to developments in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

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

The official informed that Hardik's elder brother Krunal had joined Baroda's pre-Hazare camp for a week after he was instructed by the state board that attending the camp is mandatory for being part of the final squad.

"BCA told Krunal that he can't just land up during tournaments and he has to be a part of the camp. Then he came and trained with the team for a week," the source said.

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



## Chance for youngsters to impress ahead of IPL mega auction

**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

In the opening day's action, defending champions Mumbai will take on Tamil Nadu who would be riding high on the confidence of winning Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy recently. All-rounder Shams Mulani will lead Mumbai in their Elite Group B campaign in Trivandrum. Mulani had also captained the team when they had toured Oman and in absence of senior players, who are on national duty. The team will have formidable left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal along with Arman Jaffer, crisis man Siddhesh Lad and all-rounder Shivam Dube to bank upon, while the bowling attack will be led by experienced Dhawal Kulkarni.

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

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

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

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

## Bangladesh trying to avoid follow-on with one day left

**AP** ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

"Fortunately, there was turn and bounce aplenty. We two spinners bowled in partnership. We will try to get the three wickets tomorrow and force them to bat again and win the game." Bangladesh's last hope to avoid the follow-on was Shakib Al Hasan on 23. Taijul Islam was with him, the tailender yet to score after facing 10 balls.

With the light insufficient to allow any more than just the one over from fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sajid and Nauman bowled relentlessly in a desperate bid to win the rain-hit game.

Rain and bad light have eaten up the majority of the game and just 63.2 overs were possible in the last three days.

Nauman was slightly luckless, ending up without a wicket, but he gave the control that allowed Sajid to rip through the Bangladesh lineup.

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

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

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

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will be seen in a different avatar during next year's Indian Premier League as a key member of the support staff in one of the high-profile franchises. The 41-year-old Harbhajan, who featured in a few matches during the first phase of last IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders, didn't play a game in the UAE leg of the league. Harbhajan is expected to officially announce his retirement from competitive cricket some time next week and after that he will decide on one the offers he has got to be a part of the support staff of at least a couple of franchises.

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

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

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

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

With three new entrants -- Sreenidi Deccan FC of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan United FC and Kenkre FC of Kolhapur -- this season, the number of teams has increased to 13.

All of them, along with the referees, officials and volunteers, will be housed inside bio-secured bubbles in four different hotels across Kolkata.

"The AIFF has been a pioneer in Indian sporting ecosystem in hosting sporting events from inside bio-bubbles, and we are happy to continue providing a safe heaven for players, referees, and everyone else involved in running the league," said AIFF Leagues CEO Sunando Dhar in a release.

"We need to thank all our partners, because the logistical and financial effort to house 13 teams in a bio-bubble for an entire season would not have been possible without their help."

Rajasthan United FC and Kenkre FC have made their way to the I-League by virtue of finishing first and second in the Qualifiers.

As per the tournament format, all the teams will play against each other once in a round-robin format in Phase 1, before being split into two groups in Phase 2 of the league. The top seven teams will make up Group A and the bottom six will make up Group B.

Once the divisions are made after the end of Phase I, the teams of each group will play against each another in a single leg round-robin format. While the teams in Group A will play to determine the champions, those in Group B will be in a relegation battle.

## Ruturaj to lead Maha in Vizay Hazare

**MUMBAI:** Ruturaj Gaikwad will lead a 20-member Maharashtra team in the Vizay Hazare Trophy one-day cricket tournament beginning on Wednesday.

Rahul Tripathi was named Gaikwad's deputy by the selection committee.

Maharashtra have been clubbed with Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh in Elite Group D to be played in Rajkot. They play their first match against Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

**The Squad:**

Ruturaj Gaikwad (capt.), Rahul Tripathi (vice-capt.), Yash Nahar, Naushad Shaikh, Azim Kazi, Ankeet Bawane, Shamshuzama Kazi, Mukesh Choudhary, Pradeep Dadhe, Manoj Ingale, Ashay Palkar, Divyang Hinganekar, Jagdish Zope, Swapnil Fulpagar, Avdhoot Dandekar, Taranjit Singh Dhillon, Siddhesh Veer, Yash Kshirsagar, Pavan Shah, Dhanraj Pardeshi. **PTI**

## Organisers say Novak Djokovic set to play in ATP Cup

**AP** ■ SYDNEY

Novak Djokovic has been named in the Serbian team for January's ATP Cup, an indication that Djokovic could play in the Australian Open a week later despite controversy over his vaccination status.

Organizers on Tuesday said 18 of the world's top 20 players will take part in the 16-country tournament in Sydney from Jan. 1-9, with Djokovic leading top-seeded Serbia. Djokovic hadn't publicly committed to defending his Australian Open title at Melbourne Park or revealed his vaccination status, with a mandate that he needs to be double-vaccinated to play.

While the ATP Cup doesn't have the same entry criteria, his inclusion for the ATP Cup means he now appears likely to chase a 10th title and 21st Grand Slam singles title at Melbourne Park, which would break a tie for major singles wins with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

To play without being vaccinated in Sydney, the New South Wales state government would have to apply for an exemption for Djokovic and the 34-year-old would have to undergo 14 days of quarantine upon arrival.