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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



Yogi has ended reign of bahubalis, asserts Modi

PM hails positive changes in UP, slams misuse of nation's resources by earlier Govts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday once again targeted Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and expressed outrage over the misuse of the country's resources, money and time during the regime of the past Governments.

The thrust of the PM's speech at the inauguration of the Saryu Nahar Rashtriya project was two fold: Damning the past Governments and showcase Yogi Adityanath's BJP regime as an example of positive change that has ended the reign of "bahubalis".

Claiming that the "difference is clear" before the people between the previous Governments in Uttar Pradesh and the present efficient rule of Yogi, the PM said no criminal can dare to enter UP now.

Without taking the name of any political party, the PM continued his tirade against the Opposition and blamed them



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur on Saturday PTI

for delaying the projects leading to escalation of costs and problems for the aam aadmi.

Addressing a big public meeting here on Saturday after inaugurating the ₹9,800 crore project in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Yogi, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and several other Union and State Ministers, the PM claimed that this project will widely benefit the small and marginal farmers who has two hectare of land.

Hitting out at the previous Governments in UP, Modi said, "Those who were in the Government earlier used to get

illegal occupation of the land here. But today such a mafia was being fined and bulldozers were going on their illegal properties."

"Those who were in the Government earlier used to promote the bahubalis. But today Yogi's Government is engaged in empowering the poor, downtrodden, backward and tribals. That's why the people of UP say — the difference is clear," he said.

Modi further said, "Those who were in the Government earlier used to give protection to the mafia. But today Yogi's Government is busy cleaning up the mafias."

The PM said utilising the water of the country's rivers, adequate water reaching the farmers' fields, and it is one of the top priorities of the Government. The completion of the Saryu Canal National Project is proof that when the thinking is honest, the work is also strong, he added.

"When work on this project started, its cost was less than ₹100 crore. But today it has been completed after spending about ₹10,000 crore. The country has already paid 100 times more for the negligence of the Governments," he said.

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Farmers ride back home with victory, memories to cherish

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers on Saturday brought the curtain down on their historic protests and began their journey home from Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders in Delhi after dismantling their tents and other structures, taking with them a victory to cherish and memories of one of the most successful sieges in the modern history of farmers' protests along Delhi's borders.

Because of the large convoy of tractor trolleys and other vehicles, traffic jams were witnessed at many places on Delhi-Haryana national highway and other roads. An aircraft showered flower petals on the farmers as they reached the Shambhu border (Punjab-Haryana border). The aircraft was arranged by a non-resident Indian (NRI).

In the midst of packing up and dismantling the protest sites, the farmers danced, performed "ardas" (prayers) and "havan", and held langar. In videos and photos, farmers were seen dancing, waving green and white flags as they rode tractors and jeeps.

Tractors bedecked with colourful lights rolled out of the protest sites blaring songs of victory while the elderly flaunted their colourful turbans and danced with youngsters.

Till evening, less than a quarter of the protesters were



Farmers celebrate before leaving Singhu border after their year-long agitation against the contentious farm reform laws, in New Delhi on Saturday Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

left at the Singhu border. Similarly, at the Ghazipur border, the process of dismantling shelters was in full swing, but the protesting farmers said the site will be completely vacated by December 15 only.

Tractors decorated with flowers and colourful lights and sporting the national flag and farmer bodies' flags were playing Punjabi victory and patriotic songs while frequent chants of "Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri

Akal" rent the air. Tractor trolleys were carrying cots, mattresses, utensils and other belongings that the farmers had carried with them during the agitation.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday, "There is no substitute for patience, courage and unity. Only with brotherhood and unity can the country move forward. This unity of the farmers was their biggest

strength. My salute to the strong will and vitality of the farmers who are returning home from today after their historic victory."

The headquarters of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) at Singhu border wore a deserted look on Saturday as the farmers protesting the farm laws began their journey home following a successful culmination of their year-long sit-in.

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Chopper-fired anti-tank missile, rocket launcher tested successfully

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to sustain the tempo of self-reliance in niche technology, Indian scientists on Saturday conducted rocket launchers and helicopter-fired anti-tank missiles tests successfully.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out these tests at Pokharan ranges in Rajasthan.

Giving details of the Pinaka rocket launcher, officials said the test included the extended range of the rockets, area denial munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuses. The Pinaka-ER multi barrel rocket launcher system.

The system is jointly designed by laboratories of the DRDO, Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune, and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

The DRDO, along with the Army, conducted a series of performance evaluation trials of these industry-produced rockets at field firing ranges during the last three days. In these trials, enhanced range Pinaka rockets were test-fired



The Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher system being successfully tested at Pokharan range PTI

at different ranges with various warhead capabilities.

All the trial objectives were met satisfactorily. 24 rockets were fired for different ranges and warhead capabilities to meet the objectives of accuracy and consistency. With this, the initial phase of technology absorption of Pinaka-ER by the industry partner has successfully been completed, making the industry partner ready for series production of the rocket system.

The Pinaka-ER is the upgraded version of the earlier Pinaka version which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been designed in the light of emerging requirements with advanced technologies enhancing the range.

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Punjab moves SC against extension of BSF jurisdiction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Punjab Government has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's decision that expanded the BSF's jurisdiction to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a larger 50-km stretch from the international border in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab, as compared to the earlier 15 km.

The State Government, in its plea, has said the extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) encroaches upon the constitutional jurisdiction of the states.

"It is submitted that the notification dated October 11, 2021 is ultra-vires the Constitution as it defeats the purpose of Entry 1 and 2 of List-II of Schedule 7 of the Constitution of India and encroaches upon plaintiff's plenary authority to legislate on issues which relate to or are necessary for the maintenance of public order and internal peace," the Punjab Government has said.

The Union Home Ministry had issued a notification in this



context on October 11, amending a July, 2014 enabling provision for the BSF personnel and officers while they operate in the border areas.

While in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, the BSF jurisdiction was enhanced from 15 km to 50 km, in Gujarat, which shares its border with Pakistan, the limit has been reduced from 80 km to 50 km, while in Rajasthan, it has been kept unchanged at 50 km.

The issue courted controversy as Opposition-ruled Punjab and West Bengal denounced the move and the respective State Assemblies moved resolutions against this decision of the Union Government.

CAPSULE

OVER 70 FEARED DEAD IN KENTUCKY TORNADOES

Mayfield (US): At least 70 people were feared dead in Kentucky after tornadoes and severe weather tore through multiple states and caused catastrophic damage. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a news conference Saturday that the death toll may exceed 100.

DELHI SEES SEASON'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE

New Delhi: The national Capital recorded its lowest temperature of the season at 8.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday morning, one notch below the average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The air quality (AQI) in the national Capital at 8 am stood at 302, which falls in the very poor category.

Maradona's watch stolen in Dubai found in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Football legend Diego Maradona's watch, allegedly stolen in Dubai, was recovered from Assam's Sivasagar district on Saturday morning, following which a person was arrested, police said.

The accused person was working as a security guard at a company in Dubai in UAE that was storing the belongings of the late Argentinian footballer, they said.

The accused is suspected to be involved in the theft of a safe in which the limited edition Hublot watch was also kept,



Director General of Police Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said.

After working for a few days at the company, the accused returned to Assam in

August, taking leave stating that his father was unwell, he said.

The Assam Police swung into action after the Dubai Police reached out to India with information about the accused, the officer said. Subsequently, the accused was arrested from his residence at 4 am and the watch was recovered, he said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was an operation involving international coordination between the police forces of the two countries.

Further legal action was being taken against the accused, he added.

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PM: Gen Rawat's death big loss to patriotic Indians

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the passing away of India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat was a great loss for every patriot Indian. "General Bipin Rawat ji was as brave as he was working hard to make the country's forces self-reliant and the whole country has been witness to it," he said.

Addressing a public meeting in Balrampur on Saturday, Modi admitted that the country was passing through pain on the death of the chief of defence staff.

"But we will neither stop our pace nor progress. Campaign to make the country's armies self-reliant and strengthen coordination between the three armed forces will continue," he added.

The prime minister said wherever General Rawat was,



he would see his India moving forward with new resolutions. "The work of increasing the security of the country's borders and its infrastructure will be speeded up," he added.

Specially mentioning Group Captain Varun Singh, who is fighting for his life after getting critically injured in the chopper crash along with the chief of defence staff, the prime minister said, "The doctors are working hard to save the life of Group Captain Varun Singh ji, a son of UP, a resident of Deoria. I pray to Maa Pateshwari to save his life."

He said, "The entire nation is with the family of Varun Singh ji today, along with the families of the heroes we have lost."

Gehlot pays tribute to General Rawat, military officers killed in crash

Jaipur: Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot on Saturday paid tribute to India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, who died in a helicopter accident by observing a two-minute silence on Jawan Jyoti.

Tributes were paid to his wife Smt. Madhulika Rawat and other officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces. Chief Minister killed military He also laid a wreath in front of the photographs of the officers and soldiers. Shri Gehlot said that the whole country is shocked by this accident. deep down all got hurt. In this hour of grief, the whole country is the late General Rawat and with the families of other military officers-soldiers. God bless his soul. May the bereaved families bear this loss. Give strength

On this occasion, members of the State Council of Ministers, other public representatives, army personnel

The officers-soldiers and state government officials-employees also paying tribute by observing a minute's silence.

Dhanipur airport to start operation soon as AM, SM appointed by Govt

PNS ■ ALIGARH

The most awaited Aligarh's Dhanipur airport to start operating soon as the Accountable Manager and Safety Manager have been deployed at Dhanipur Airport from the government level. In such a situation, there is a possibility of getting a license from DGCA for flying soon. The process of licensing was stuck due to their appointment. At present, City Magistrate Pradeep Verma has been made Accountable Manager on the instructions of the government. At the same time, SP City has got the responsibility of Safety Manager. Now the airport will be operated under the joint supervision of these two officers.

Under the UDAN scheme, the central government is developing airports in Aligarh,

Azamgarh, Shravasti, Chitrakoot, Sonbhadra in UP. This process started in 2016. However, the construction work gained momentum after the BJP government came to the state in 2017. The responsibility of construction work from the government level was given to the State Construction Corporation. Under this, the airport premises were increased. The runway was extended. Tower, parking lot and terminal building were constructed. An amount of about 70 crores has been spent on its expansion. Two months back, the Rajkiya Nirman Nigam has also completed the construction work.

After the completion of the construction work, the state government has applied to the DGCA to start flying from Dhanipur airport. In the first phase, the flight of 20 seater

plane is to start from Aligarh to Lucknow. However, objections were raised from DGCA on the government's application recently. In this, earlier instructions were given to deploy Accountable Manager and Safety Manager for airport operations.

On this, instructions have been given to the Aligarh administration from the government level for this.

Now on the instructions of the government, both the officers have been deployed at Dhanipur airport. In this, the responsibility of accountable manager has been given to City Magistrate Pradeep Verma.

At the same time, the work of Safety Manager will be handled by SP City. Both the officers will operate the airport as per the instructions of the Airport Authority.

CPM all set to organise triennial State convention in Jan-Feb-2022

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI



The CPI(M) in Kerala is busy organizing the triennial State convention which will be held in Kannur in January-February 2022. As the run-up to the State convention, party meetings are being held across the branch, local, area and district levels in all the 14 districts.

The well organized meetings discuss all global and international issues ranging from the victory of the party's stance in the 2020 US presidential election that saw the defeat of right winger Donald Trump and the results of the recently held German Chancellor election.

The meetings are like carnivals for the party faithful who are in a celebratory mood this time because of the Left Democratic Front returning to power in Kerala in the 2021 assembly election. There is no shortage of food and drinks during these meetings as all requirements and needs of the delegates are taken care of by the party leadership, of course with generous contributions by businessmen, contractors and shopkeepers.

The feasts and banners dotting the cities, towns and villages in the State offer a kaleidoscopic view of leaders dear to the CPI(M) leadership. While in areas where the minorities are larger in numbers, posters of Yasser Arafat, the late Palestine Liberation Organisation leader stares down at the population, areas with Hindu population are decorated with larger-than-life size posters of Swamy Vivekananda, Chattampi Swamy and Mannathu Padmanabhan. The choice of the latter has political analysts like Jayasankar in splits as Padmanabhan was the leader of the famous Liberation Struggle of 1959 that resulted in the overthrowing of the EMS Nambudirippadu-led Communist Government in the State by the Centre under article 356 of the Constitution.

"Till his last breath, Padmanabhan, founder of the Nair Service Society, was a strong critic of the Communists. But it is surprising that the party has decided to project Mannathu Padmanabhan as their man," said Hari Kartha, commentator and columnist.

Yogi has ended reign of...

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He said there is a thinking that no one cared for the Government money and it was misutilised which became the biggest obstacle in the balanced and all-round development of the country. This thinking also suspended the Saryu canal project, for decades as work on this started about 50 years ago and today its work is completed.

Claiming that it was a big achievement of the double engine government, PM said works of 50 years were completed in just 5 years time in the Saryu Canal project which is proof of the efficiency of a double engine Government.

He also mentioned about the recent approval of the Kane-Betwa link project for which the government will spend Rs 45,000 crores. The PM on the occasion also appealed to the farmers to join a programme on natural farming to be held on December 16 next. Talking about the corona period's challenges, he said "During the corona period, we have tried sincerely that no poor should sleep hungry. Right now, the campaign for free ration being provided under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana has been extended beyond Holi."

He said the government has already spent Rs 2.60 lakh crores in distribution of free foodgrains in the country. Mentioning about the importance of Balrampur, the PM said whenever we'll speak of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the contribution of Maharaja Pateshwari Prasad Singh of Balrampur princely State (erstwhile) will be mentioned. People in Balrampur are connoisseurs as they gave 2 Bharat Ratna in the form of Nanaji Deshmukh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Yogi in his speech said, "17 out of the 18 irrigation projects in the State have been completed, with which UP's 9 districts' almost 15 lakh hectare land has now found a great way for irrigation, to double the income of farmers. "We launched projects of Rs 10,000 crores on December 7 in Gorakhpur and inaugurated 9 medical colleges in Siddharthnagar and an international airport in Kushinagar. Saryu Nahar National Project was approved in 1972, the year I was born. I grew up but it never got completed."

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also addressed the meeting while UP Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh welcomed the guests.

'Kerala varsities packed with political nominees'

All decision taken by these political appointees: Gov KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Arif Mohammed Khan, Governor of Kerala, has said that Universities in Kerala are packed with political nominees and non-academics and all academic decisions are being taken by these appointees. The Governor, in a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sent on December 8 has bemoaned the state of affairs in the institutions of higher learning (Universities) in Kerala because of too much politics.

The State's First Citizen was upset over the Kerala Government's adamant stance in extending the tenure of Gopinath Ravindran, vice

chancellor of Kannur University. Though Ravindran, a CPI(M) fellow traveller, had completed his tenure and was superannuated, the Chief Minister was firm in his decision to go ahead with extending the services of his comrade.

Similarly, the Kerala Government's decision to do away with the search panel to zero in the names of candidates for the post of Vice Chancellor of the Sree Sankara Sanskrit University was questioned by Arif Mohammed Khan.

The Governor is believed to have written to the chief minister taken aback by the kind of pressure the latter was exerting on the former to do things which the governor said were not fair and right. "It would be better if you assume the position of the Chancellor by amending University Acts to carry out your political objectives without any dependence on the

Governor. I am always ready to sign an ordinance to transfer the owners of the chancellor to the chief minister since it has become impossible to protect the Universities from the baneful continuous political interference and erosion of their autonomy," said the Governor who has become popular figure thanks to his pro-active approach.

Arif Mohammed Khan, who maintained a transparent and non-controversial tie with the CPI(M)-ruled Kerala Government, which is always on an aggressive mood against the Centre, said that he was pressurised to execute steps that violated the prescribed rules and procedures.

Posts of assistant professors and associate professors in various universities in the State have been filled with wives/sisters and other close relatives of ministers, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and

other CPI(M) heavyweights. A forum constituted to ensure academic excellence and autonomy of the State's University had approached the Governor highlighting the discrepancies and gross violations of procedures in appointments in the State's Universities.

The Governor concludes his letter by stating that he has been a mute witness to the goings on in the Universities and it has become difficult to go forward like this. He also said that universities in the State are in a state of disarray and the political interference caused the downfall in standards. The vernacular newspapers in the State were full of news about the role played by the State Committee of the CPI(M) in the appointment of vice chancellor of Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (KUFOS), Kochi.

Farmers..

From Page 1

The SKM HQ, housed in a godown of tiles along the highway blockaded by the protesting farmers in Haryana's Kundli, served as a nerve centre for their movement, hosting countless meetings and press conferences. The iron gate of the humble structure where SKM volunteers used to screen visitors was opened in complete silence in the morning, with the farmers busy dismantling their tents and other structures and packing their things up.

Two farmers from Punjab's Muktsar district were killed when the tractor-trailer was hit by a truck in Haryana's Hisar while they were

returning home from a protest site near the Delhi's Tikri border. Police said one farmer was seriously injured in the accident at Hisar's Dhandoor village.

Many locals, including shopkeepers who suffered due to the blocking of roads, were also feeling a sense of relief. Small-time scrap dealers at Singhu border had a field day with a huge quantity of bamboo poles, tarpaulin sheets, plastic and wood pieces, left behind at the protest site.

According to videos posted at social media, people gathered at many places on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala and Delhi-Hisar national highways as well as other routes, welcoming and honouring the farmers with garlands, ladoos, barfi and other sweets.

Villagers and others who supported the farmers' agitation carrying farmer bodies' flags showered petals on peasants as they assembled on the roadside of the highways to welcome them.

Youths and women performed Punjab's folk dance "bhanga" to the beats of "dhol". At Khanauri near Punjab, villagers burst firecrackers amid a celebratory mood. Preparations to welcome farmers have been made at different toll plazas and other places along the national highways.

Chopper-fired anti-tank missile...

From Page 1

The ADM variants of ammunition designed by the ARDE, Pune, for Pinaka and manufactured by the industry partners under technology transfer were successfully carried out at Pokhran field firing ranges. These trials are part of performance evaluation under technology absorption.

The indigenously-developed proximity fuses for Pinaka rockets have also been tested. The ARDE, Pune, has developed different fuses for Pinaka rocket for different types of applications. After design validation trials, dynamic performance evaluations of these fuses have been evaluated with flight testing. Consistency in performance of fuses has been established in consecutive flight trials.

In the second test, the DRDO and the IAF flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed helicopter launched Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran ranges.

The test was successful in meeting all its mission objectives. The release mechanism, advanced guidance and tracking algorithms, all avionics with integrated software, performed satisfactorily, and tracking systems monitored all mission events. The weapon can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 km.

The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries. This is the third in the series of indigenous stand-off weapons to be tested in recent times after long-range bomb and smart anti-airfield weapon for strengthening the arsenal of IAF.

Akhilesh calls BJP 'kainchijivi'; Modi says he may have cut ribbon in 'childhood' Lucknow/Balrampur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Samajwadi Party chief on Saturday traded barbs over the Saryu canal project, with the opposition leader calling the BJP government "kainchijivi" and the PM saying he might have cut its ribbon in "childhood".

The PM inaugurated the Saryu Canal National Project in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur on Saturday, hours after Yadav claimed that it was his government that had competed three-fourth of its work and the BJP only cuts ribbons of projects initiated by them.

"The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh took five years to complete the remaining work of the Saryu Nahar National Project," Akhilesh tweeted in Hindi, hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival to inaugurate the project. "There are basically two types of people in the world, some who really work and some who appropriate others' work. This is the difference between the government of the SP and today's 'kainchijivi' (ribbon cutting) government. That's why in the 2022 elections, the BJP is going to be completely wiped out," Akhilesh said in another tweet.

Later at a rally, the PM without taking Yadav's name said he was waiting that "someone" will claim credit for the project. PTI

No way out except holding talks with Pakistan to end militancy in J&K, says Abdullah

Jammu: Terming the killing of two police personnel by terrorists in the valley a "sad story", National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Saturday said there is no way out except holding talks with Pakistan to end militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also took exception to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's statement that the practice of offering 'namaz' in the open "will not be tolerated" and asked him to provide spaces to Muslims for prayers as the Constitution guarantees religious freedom.

The former J&K chief minister was talking to reporters on the sidelines of a party function here. Reacting to a question about the killing of two policemen by militants in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, Abdullah said, "...you think we are happy that they are killing people? It is a sad story and let the government who are saying everything is hunky dory (speak). Is it hunky dory? Are people safe? Your police personnel are not safe, how is an ordinary man safe?"

The two personnel were killed in a terror attack on a police party in Bandipora district on Friday, evoking widespread condemnation from various political parties. PTI

झारखण्ड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार, आदित्यपुर प्रक्षेत्र, जिला-सरायकेला-खरसाँवा
फोन सं०-0657-2371693 ई-मेल-aiada1972@gmail.com
पत्रांक1327 / एआरदिनांक : 11.12.2021
विभिन्न जिलों के अन्तर्गत भूमि आवंटन के लिए आवेदन करने हेतु आम-सूचना

झारखण्ड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार (आदित्यपुर प्रक्षेत्र) के अधीनस्थ सिद्धम एवं पूर्वी सिद्धम जिला के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न अंचल एवं मौजा में नीचे सूखण्डों की विवरणी वर्णित तालिका में दर्शायी गयी है। उक्त रिक्त सूखण्डों का आवंटन प्राधिकार द्वारा Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु किया जाना है। इन सूखण्डों के आवंटन हेतु Online आवेदन करने की तिथि दिनांक 13.12.2021 से 27.12.2021 तक निर्धारित है। इच्छुक उद्यमी दिनांक 27.12.2021 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक Online आवेदन दे सकते हैं। प्राप्त आवेदनों पर दिनांक 28.12.2021 को होने वाली प्रोजेक्ट क्लियरेंस कमिटी की बैठक में विचार किया जायेगा। निर्धारित अवधि में इच्छुक उद्यमी औद्योगिक इकाईयों की स्थापना हेतु Online आवेदन Single Window System की www.advantage.jharkhand.gov.in पर कर सकते हैं।

आवेदन का अग्रतिथ (Non-Refundable) प्रोसेसिंग / स्कन्दनी शुल्क क्रमशः एक एकड हेतु रु० 10,000.00, एक एकड से तीन एकड, भूमि हेतु रु० 25,000.00 एवं तीन एकड से उपर के भूमि हेतु 50,000.00 रुपये देय है। शुल्क का भुगतान Online किया जायेगा। जियाडा, आदित्यपुर प्रक्षेत्र के क्षेत्राधीन रिक्त सूखण्डों की विवरणी औद्योगिक क्षेत्रवार निम्नांकित है:-

क्रम सं०	औद्योगिक क्षेत्र का नाम (परिचयी सिद्धम)	खाता सं०	सूखण्ड सं०	रकबा (एकड में)	भूमि का रिजर्व मूल्य	अभिमुक्ति
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1	मौजा-वेनपुरखार धाना सं०-520 अंचल-चक्रधरपुर	378	482, 487	2.87	43,47,189.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित
2	मौजा-सियालजोडा धाना सं०-493 अंचल-जगन्नाथपुर	02	1269	3.00	10,09,800.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित

क्रम सं०	औद्योगिक क्षेत्र का नाम (पूर्वी सिद्धम)	खाता सं०	सूखण्ड सं०	रकबा (एकड में)	भूमि का रिजर्व मूल्य	अभिमुक्ति
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1	मौजा-खेजुरडीह धाना सं०-623 अंचल-बहरागोडा	72	15	3.00	50,49,000.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित
2	मौजा-बोकीशोल धाना सं०-1574 अंचल-डुमरिया	366	1988	3.00	13,32,936.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित
3	मौजा-केन्दवनी धाना सं०-144 अंचल-बालमूमगाड	215	361	3.00	22,92,246.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित
4	मौजा-बालीजुडी धाना सं०-1034 अंचल-मुडाबांवा	333	2/अंश	3.00	15,75,288.00	Rice Mill निर्माण हेतु आरक्षित

- भूमि जहाँ है उसका है आधार पर उपलब्ध है।
 - इच्छुक आवेदक उपरोक्त वर्णित भूमि का स्थल अवलोकन Online आवेदन करने के पूर्व स्वयं कर लेंगे। आवेदन के उपरान्त भूमि संबंधी किसी भी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
 - उपयुक्त वर्णित कुल रिजर्व प्राइस में झारखण्ड औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकार विनियमन 2016 के कंडिका 6 में वर्णित विकास एवं अन्य शुल्क को सम्मिलित नहीं किया गया है। सभी प्रकार के कर, रिजर्व प्राइस के अतिरिक्त देय होंगे।
- विस्तृत जानकारी एवं रिक्त सूखण्डों की सूची www.jiada.co.in/ एवं जियाडा, आदित्यपुर प्रक्षेत्र के सूचना पट्ट पर भी उपलब्ध है।
विश्वामाजान
हो-
PR 259058 Industries(21-22)D

Office of Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar
http://pwd.uk.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01334-221407 E-mail: sepharpwduk@gmail.com
Letter No.: 3046/6C-Civil Circle/21 Date: 11/12/2021

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)

The Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item rate tender through E-tendering under Two Bid system. All information will be available from date 17.12.2021 and onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (in Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Strengthening of Vill. Sahdevpur to Patanjali road with DBM and BC in constituency Jwalapur Distt. Haridwar under State Sector.	4.65	5000.00 + 18.00 % GST	12 Months	120 Days	Category 'A' or above for Road work in any State Govt./ Central Govt.

Note:- Submission of following documents in original is essential in above mentioned office upto/before the last date and schedule time of uploading tender by the bidders.

- 1- Cost of tender document as per column 4 shall be attached in the form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Haridwar. Bank draft for Rs. 5000.00 and G.S.T. Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.
- 2- Validity of Tender for 120 Days should be written on Rs 100.00 Non Judicial stamp paper with duly signed and affixed Rs. 1.00 Revenue stamp.
- 3- Earnest Money as per column 3 to be pledged in the name of Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar.
- 4- Copy of Registration.

Superintending Engineer Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

Centre denies Mamta Banerjee permission to visit Nepal

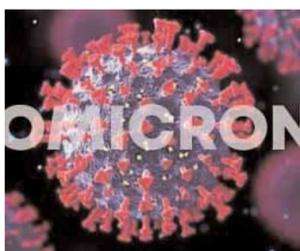
PNS ■ KOLKATA

Leading to a new slugfest between the BJP and Trinamool Congress the Central Government has once again denied permission to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to visit Nepal to attend the Nepal Convention. Attacking the BJP Government TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that a "bankrupt BJP was doing so because "it is afraid of Mamata Banerjee hogging national limelight." Incidentally Banerjee was denied permission to visit Rome to attend a Peace Convention. Earlier she was also not allowed to visit Chicago to deliver a lecture on Swami Vivekananda.

MAN WITH TRAVEL HISTORY TO ZIMBABWE, S AFRICA +VE

2nd Omicron case reported in Capital

New Delhi: A 35-year-old man with travel history to Zimbabwe and South Africa has tested positive for Omicron, becoming the second patient of the new Covid-19 variant in Delhi, sources said on Saturday.



On Sunday, a 37-year-old fully vaccinated man who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania became the first patient of Omicron in the national capital.

He is admitted at the LNJP Hospital and only has weakness, they added. He returned to India from Zimbabwe and had even travelled to South Africa, the sources said, adding that he is fully vaccinated. The man belongs to Andhra Pradesh and was admitted to the hospital on December 5.

The LNJP Hospital has been designated for treatment of patients infected with the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The hospital has 35 patients currently. Till Friday night, there were 31 patients admitted to the hospital while four patients were brought there on Saturday, according to sources.

The patient, a resident of Ranchi, had travelled from Tanzania to Doha and from there to Delhi on a Qatar Airways flight on December 2.

He stayed in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a week. The person has mild symptoms. **PTI**

City records 52 cases, zero Covid-19 death



New Delhi: The national Capital recorded 52 fresh cases in a day with a positivity rate of 0.09 per cent but zero death due to Covid-19, according to data shared by the city health department on Saturday.

The total number of cases reported in Delhi so far stood at 14,41,662. Over 14.16 lakh patients have recovered from the infection.

The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi remained at 25,100. Two deaths due to the coronavirus infection have been recorded in December so far.

Seven Covid-19 deaths were

reported here in November this year, the highest count of fatalities due to the coronavirus infection in the last three months, according to official data.

Delhi had recorded four Covid deaths in October and five in September. The case positivity rate stood at 0.09 per cent on Saturday, according to the health bulletin.

A total of 57,144 tests were conducted a day ago, it said.

On Friday, 41 cases were recorded at a positivity rate of 0.07 per cent, while on Thursday, 55 cases were recorded with a positivity rate of 0.09 per cent. **PTI**

Season's lowest temperature in Capital

New Delhi: The national Capital recorded its lowest temperature of the season at 8.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday morning, one notch below the season's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 23.7 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 281, which falls in the 'poor' category while the air quality in neighbouring Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram were recorded at 264, 218, 192, 221 and 268 respectively.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the government's air quality forecast agency said from December 15, the quality of air is likely to improve due to relatively high wind speeds, but will remain within 'poor' or the lower end of 'very poor' category.

"For the next three days (December 12-14), winds are likely to be low to moderate. Partially cloudy conditions and



moderate mixing layer height are causing moderate vertical mixing which is likely to keep air quality within 'poor' during noon time or 'lower end of very poor' during night and early morning hours for the next three days," SAFAR stated on its portal.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe.

The AQI in the city at 8 am stood at 302. Neighbouring Faridabad (266), Ghaziabad (262), Greater Noida (224), Gurgaon (288) and Noida (254) recorded poor air quality.

The 24-hour average AQI in the national capital on Friday was 314.

The previous lowest temperature of the season in Delhi was recorded on Thursday at 8.4 degrees Celsius.

The weather office has predicted partly cloudy sky along with shallow fog for Sunday morning.

It said the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 24 degrees Celsius and eight degrees Celsius respectively.

Humidity levels oscillated between 95 per cent and 35 per cent on Saturday. **PTI**

As farmers end stir, poor worry about food, lodging

New Delhi: Thirteen-year-old Aryan is now worried about his next meal as thousands of farmers ended their protest and wound up their langars at Delhi's Singhu border.

Like him, there were many who used to get food at the community kitchens set up by farmers and slept in tents pitched by them during the over a year-long protest.

On Saturday morning, a large number of children and local poor, including slum dwellers, had their last breakfast at farmers' langars.

"We used to have our breakfast, lunch and dinner at langars here. This is our last breakfast today at the langar. Now, we have to either cook on our own or look for other options," 13-year-old Aryan, a resident of slums in Kundli, told PTI.

Farmers said they too had developed feelings for local children who used to come to the protest site as they reminded them of their own

sons and grandsons.

"These children became part of our protest as they used to come here for food. They reminded me of my grandsons. It was good to have them here. The Almighty will take care of them now," Satwant Singh from Mohali said.

Dwellers of slums generally work at factories or warehouses in the region.

The homeless who used to live in makeshift tents set up by farmers were concerned about their lodging arrangements.

Monu Kushwaha, 38, from Supaul in Bihar said before farmers came to the Singhu border to protest, he used to sleep on the footpath but that changed after the stir began last year.

"During the farmers' agitation, I used to sleep in one of their tents and have food at langars. All of that will stop now and I will go back to footpaths again," Kushwaha lamented. **PTI**

Yogendra equates farmers' protest sites with Chardham

New Delhi: Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav on Saturday equated the four venues at Delhi's borders, where farmers were protesting for over a year against three agriculture laws of the Centre, with Chardham, four pilgrimage sites for Hindus.

Addressing a gathering at the Ghazipur border, Yadav said this is not a day for speeches, adding that whatever the farmers had said, they have done it.

"Now, we will not speak but books and history will speak. The entire nation will speak. Today is just a day to remember that for the last one year, the meaning of Chardham has changed in our country. People from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu used to come and say that they wanted to do a yatra of four places -- the Singhu border, the

Tikri border, the Ghazipur border and the Shahjahanpur border....

These (protest sites) had become Chardham for the country," he added. Although the protesting farmers will vacate these sites in two-three days, the names of these places will forever be etched in the hearts of people, Yadav said.

He said from now on, whenever the nation recalls the Champaran agitation, it will also recall the "Dilli ka Morcha" and whenever people say the country adopted the Constitution on November 26, they will recall that the farmers had also come to Delhi on November 26.

"When our nation will recall the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, it will also recall the brutal killings of Lakhimpur Kheri.... Whenever the nation will remember the Rezag La battle, it will also recall the

February 28 battle of Ghazipur," Yadav, who was actively involved in the farmers' agitation, said.

He credited Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait for ensuring that the protest does not die down.

Sharing the stage with others at the Ghazipur border, Yadav said this is not a day for displaying ego. Instead, it is a day to remember that this victory is not of those who are on stage or seen on television, but it belongs to those who stayed in tents braving all challenges and also to the crores of people who supported the agitation from their homes, he added.

"When people ask me what have you gained from this and what are you taking back home, I respond saying the farmers of the country have got their lost self-respect back," Yadav said. **PTI**

Delhi court fines man for filing multiple 'frivolous' bail pleas in one year

New Delhi: A Delhi court has imposed a fine on a man for filing 11 bail applications in one year, noting that the pendency of such "frivolous" pleas floods the dockets of the courts and wastes the precious judicial time.

Additional Sessions Judge Ravinder Bedi slapped the accused with a fine of 25,000 in a cheating and conspiracy case after noting that he filed the bail plea for the eleventh time without there being any change in circumstances.

The judge noted that the tenth bail plea of the accused was dismissed on November 29, 2021. The sixth plea, seeking interim bail, was junked with a cost of Rs 10,000, ASJ Bedi said. The accused is in judicial custody since November

27, 2020.

"No changed circumstances have been pointed out by the counsel for the applicant except the incarceration of accused in judicial custody.

The application being the successive bail application cannot be entertained in the absence of any substantial change in the fact situation or in the law," the judge said. She said the successive bail applications without there being any change in circumstances is, in fact, an abuse of the process of law which must be visited with some amount of sanction.

"The pendency of such frivolous applications results in flooding the dockets of the courts besides wasting precious judicial time.



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Focus district-level steps to contain Covid rise: Govt to States

8 districts in 3 States report over 10% positivity rate, while 19 dists in 7 States report 5-10% in last two weeks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday asked the States and Union Territories to maintain a strict watch on the Covid-19 situation with focussed district-level measures for containment of clusters of new cases as it drew their attention towards eight districts reporting over 10 per cent infection positivity rate and at least 19 registering positivity rates between 5 and 10 per cent in the last two weeks.

It said that eight districts in three States—Kerala, Mizoram and Sikkim and at least 19 districts in Kerala, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Manipur, West Bengal and Nagaland have been reporting positivity rates above 10 per cent and between five and 10 per cent respectively in the last two weeks.

In a letter to states and union territories (UTs), Union



Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "Thus, these 27 districts need to be monitored very closely."

He said that in this context, it is imperative for states and UTs to maintain a strict watch on the situation with focussed district level measures for containment of clusters of new Covid-19 cases.

"In case of any district reporting a surge in cases, or rise in positivity rates, intensive action and local containment as per the containment framework must be initiated," Bhushan said.

"The strategic containment interventions in identified areas with test positivity

rate of over 10 per cent or over 60 per cent bed occupancy on either two supported or ICU beds, include night curfews, restricting intermingling of people, prohibition of congregations (social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious, festival-related), curtailment of attendees in marriages and funerals or last rites, etc," he said.

Testing and surveillance interventions include ramping up testing and active case search, testing of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases through rapid antigen tests (RAT) and retesting by RTPCR of symptomatic RAT negative tests, the secretary said.

"Strict adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour at all places and at all times must also be rigorously enforced and aggressively monitored," Bhushan said.

SII proposal for Covishield booster doses rejected

SEC has sought additional data from SII for booster

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) under Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has set aside the application of the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) request seeking approval for booster doses of Covishield to the people, stating that it cannot be recommended without clinical trials.

The SEC was reviewing the

application of the Serum Institute of India (SII) for the booster dose in a meeting that took place on Friday. The panel has sought additional data from the SII before another meeting.

Amid the emergence of the new Covid-19 variant Omicron, the SII had sought approval to administer the booster dose of its Covishield vaccine on the basis of adequate stock of the jab and rising demand for the booster shots.

Prakash Kumar Singh, director, government and regulatory affairs at SII, had at the time cited that the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has already approved the booster dose of AstraZeneca

ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine.

"People of our country, as well as citizens of other countries who have already been fully vaccinated with two doses of Covishield, are also continuously requesting our firm for booster doses," Singh had stated in an application submitted before the DCGI.

Many experts have also recommended a booster dose in India especially after the emergence of the new Covid-19 variant Omicron. But the government has not taken any decision so far. In fact, according to a new UK study, two shots of a COVID-19 vaccine may not be enough against the Omicron variant, and a third dose or a booster shot could prove necessary to prevent the super mutant variant.

The study, released by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), showed that a full two-dose vaccination course was less effective against symptomatic disease with Omicron than with the original strain of COVID-19 or the Delta variant.

On the other hand, a moderate to high vaccine effectiveness of 75 per cent is seen in the early period after a booster dose.

"Early estimates of vaccine effectiveness (VE) against symptomatic infection find a significantly lower VE for Omicron infection compared to Delta infection. Nevertheless, a moderate to high vaccine effectiveness of 70 to 75 per cent is seen in the early period after a booster

dose," the agency said in a statement.

However, India has decided to deliberate the issue with the scientific community before taking any community in this regard as was also indicated by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandviya in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) also conducted a virtual meeting regarding the additional doses of Covid-19 vaccines in India, but the meeting resulted in no consensus over the issue.

A clarification statement released by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) has also said that they have never recommended a booster dose.

India sends 1st tranche of aid to Afghanistan

Medical supplies flown on Saturday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Honouring commitment to provide aid, India on Saturday airlifted medical supplies to Afghanistan. It was the first tranche of humanitarian aid by India since the Taliban took control in August this year.

India is poised to supply more than 50,000 metric tons of wheat besides critical medicines to Afghanistan through the land route via Pakistan. It has allowed Afghan trucks to ferry the consignment from Wagah-Atari border.

As regards the medical supplies flown on Saturday, Ministry of External Affairs said here the consignment was

sent on a return flight that had brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans to Delhi from Kabul on Friday.

The Ministry said medicines will be handed over to the World Health Organisation (WHO) representatives in Kabul.

"In view of the challenging humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Government of India has dispatched humanitarian assistance consisting of medical supplies on the return flight today," the Ministry said.

"These medicines will be handed over to the representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Kabul and will be administered at the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital, Kabul," it said in a statement.

India has been pitching for providing unimpeded humanitarian aid to

Afghanistan to address the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the country.

At the same time, India has been calling for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul while insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

India has already announced that it will send 50,000 tonnes of wheat and medicines to Afghanistan by road transport through Pakistan. India and Pakistan are now finalising the modalities for transportation of the consignments.

The Ministry also said the special flight from Kabul to Delhi, chartered by India, brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans on Friday. "The flight brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans, including members of Afghan minority community.

The minority community members carried with them two 'Swaroops of Guru Granth Sahib' and some ancient Hindu manuscripts," it said.

The people were brought under India's 'Operation Devi Shakti' which was launched to evacuate Indians as well as Afghans from Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul on August 15.

"Under 'Operation Devi Shakti', a total of 669 people have now been evacuated from Afghanistan. This comprises 448 Indians and 206 Afghans, which includes members of the Afghan Hindu and Sikh minority community," officials said. As many as 565 people including 438 Indians were evacuated from Afghanistan in the month of August.

India has been concerned over the recent developments in Afghanistan.

It hosted a regional dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10 that was attended by National Security Advisors (NSAs) of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The participating countries vowed to work towards ensuring that Afghanistan does not become a safe haven for global terrorism and called for the formation of an "open and truly inclusive" government in Kabul with representation from all sections of Afghan society.

A declaration released at the end of the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan said Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts and that officials lent strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan.

Bodies of five more personnel killed in helicopter crash identified

Mortal remains transported to home towns for last rites

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the enquiry headed by an Air Marshal commenced to find out the cause of the helicopter crash in which Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika and 11 others were killed commenced, the bodies of five more personnel were identified. Their mortal remains were transported to their home towns for final rites on Saturday.

Given the nature of mishap in which the bodies were

severely burnt, the authorities managed to identify the bodies of General Rawat, his wife and his staff officer Brigadier L S Lidder on Thursday. All three were cremated on Friday. The process of identifying the other bodies through DNA was on.

Giving details here on Saturday, sources said efforts to "positively identify" remaining mortal remains are continuing, they said.

The armed forces personnel whose bodies were identified in the last few hours are Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) Pradeep, Wing Commander P S Chauhan, Junior Warrant Officer Rana Pratap Das, Lance Naik B Sai Teja and Lance Naik Vivek Kumar. The mortal remains of the five personnel

were released to close family members on Saturday, they said.

The bodies were taken to the home towns of the five personnel by air for last rites with appropriate military honour, the officials said.

The unidentified bodies were kept in the mortuary of the Army Base Hospital, Delhi Cantonment.

The Army and the Air Force carried out the identification of the bodies keeping in mind the sensitivities and emotional well-being of the family members. The personnel whose bodies are yet to be identified are Lt Col Harjinder Singh, Squadron Leader K Singh, Havildar Satpal, Naik Gursewak Singh and Naik Jitender Kumar.

Cong top brass to address 'Mehangai Hatao' rally in Rajasthan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Congress is looking forward to a grand 'Mehangai Hatao Rally' on price rise and inflation at Jaipur on Sunday to be addressed by top party leaders, including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi and may be a virtual address by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The rally was earlier to be held in Delhi, but due to denial of permission, it is now being organised in Jaipur.

Rajasthan AICC incharge Ajay Maken said that Rahul and Priyanka will participate in the "national rally" along with chief ministers and former chief ministers of other states. However, if Sonia will be

unable to make it for physical presence then she will make a virtual address as is scheduled for Manmohan Singh.

Holding a rally amid the Omicron threat, Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra assured all COVID-19 protocols will be followed, adding that chairs have been arranged, masks will be provided, and temperatures will be checked.

Addressing a press conference in Jaipur to share details of the rally, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala denounced the NDA government for its policies and decision saying they have "led to rising inflation" in the country. Further, he alleged that every decision of the Narendra Modi government is "anti-people".

"Every decision of the Modi government is anti-people. Small and medium industries collapsed. Neither Naxalism and terrorism ended nor black currency was eliminated. Unemployment rate in the country is 10 per cent. Defeat Modi and BJP to get rid of rising inflation," Surjewala said.

The rally is aimed at highlighting inflation and its impact on the common man and it will also mark the conclusion of the grand old party's ongoing two-week long 'Jana Jagran Abhiyan' against inflation under the Modi government.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and other leaders visited the venue at the Vidhyadhar Nagar stadium on Saturday to take stock of the preparations.

Resolve public grievances Properly: House panel to Ministries/depts

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to dispose of public grievances hurriedly, some Government departments and Ministries don't take adequate steps to resolve them, they follow easier routes like the suggestion to approach another department or asking people to file it again online. The fact has come out in a recent Parliamentary standing committee report on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, headed by MP Sushil Kumar Modi in which the panel has asked the Ministries/Departments to strictly comply with the instructions and to give valid reasons while disposing of public grievances.

"...Grievances are increasingly being disposed of by some departments or organisations simply with the suggestion to approach another agency, sometimes a subordinate office. In some cases, the grievance is

YEAR	RECEIPTS	DISPOSAL	RATE %
2016	1483165	1229428	82.89%
2017	1866121	1772668	94.99%
2018	1577500	1498519	94.99%
2019	1735438	1495898	86.19%

being re-sent to the agency against which the complaint is made and in some others, the online grievances are being disposed with the advice to take the grievance to the portal of the agency or some complaint committee," the report said.

The Committee has observed that many grievances received on Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), are related to State governments. "Some

Looking at the data, it was disclosed that Cpgrams received grievances in lakhs and a majority of them are disposed of by the departments. Disposal rate of public grievances has been nearly 90 % between the years 2016 and 2019. Like in the year 2019, total number of receipts was 1735438 and the disposal was 1495898 with the disposal rate of nearly 86 %.

The Committee observed that many grievances received on CPGRAMS are related to State governments. Some grievances revealed that in several of these cases, the petitioner was asked to approach the State government and the grievance was disposed rather than forwarded. There was no redressal," it said.

There is CPGRAMS, an online portal available to public 24x7 to lodge their grievances against the authorities. The CPGRAMS interlinks 87 Central Ministries/Departments and 37 States/

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has instructed the ministries and departments to give valid reasons for closure of grievances. But, the panel report observed, "in many cases this is not being done. The Committee impresses upon the Ministries/Departments to strictly comply with the instructions issued by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances from time to time in respect of grievance redressal," said the report.

CPGRAMS also facilitates tracking grievances through a system generated unique registration number. The system enables Ministries/Departments to take appropriate action and upload the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the system which can be viewed by the citizens online with the help of the unique registration number.

ED conducts raids on four premises of PFI leaders, office bearers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches at four premises related to leaders/office bearers of radical Popular Front of India (PFI) in Kerala and unearthed organized money laundering activities of the outfit.

Searches were conducted at the residential premises of Shafeeq Payeth, a PFI and SDPI member at Peringathur in Kannur; the residential premises of Abdul Razak BP, PFI Divisional President of Perumpadappu at Malappuram; residential premises of Ashraf M K alias Tamar Ashraf alias Ashraf Khader, a PFI leader at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam and the office premises of Munnar Villa Vista Project at Mankulam in Munnar. The ED said in a statement.

"Despite attempts by PFI to disrupt the search operations, the ED officers, assisted by a sizeable contingent of CRPF conducted the search operations successfully and seized incriminating documents, digital devices and evidence related to

foreign funding and acquisition of properties abroad during the search operation," it said.

The seized documents also indicate the money laundering activities of PFI through various projects in Kerala including the Munnar Villa Vista project which is being built by the PFI leaders to launder proceeds of crime generated in India and abroad, it said.

Acquisition of foreign properties by PFI leaders, including a bar and restaurant in Abu Dhabi, has come to the notice of the Directorate, which is under investigation.

CBI arrests CGST supritendent for taking ₹8K bribe

The CBI has arrested a Superintendent of CGST, Amaravati Division, Vijayawada while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000 from a complainant for giving Registration Certificate for his shop.

PM to address programme on deposit insurance at Vigyan Bhawan

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the function on "Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment up to Rs 5 Lakh" on Sunday here in Vigyan Bhawan.

Union Finance Minister, Minister of state of Finance and RBI Governor will also be present on the occasion.

Deposit insurance covers all deposits such as savings, fixed, current, recurring deposits and others in all commercial banks, functioning in India. Besides, Deposits in State, Central and Primary cooperative banks, functioning in States and Union Territories are also covered.

In a major reform, Bank deposit insurance cover was enhanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.

With deposit insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per depositor per bank, the number of fully protected accounts at end of previous financial year constituted 98.1% of the total number of accounts, as against the international benchmark of 80%.

Meta to hire contact, grievance officer to comply with IT rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having had their share of Hrun-ins with the Government, Meta, formerly known as Facebook, and its messaging platform WhatsApp are hiring for the roles of nodal contact and grievance officer as well as chief compliance officer as mandated under India's IT rules for large social media companies. Meta has put up advertisements for these positions on LinkedIn over the course of the past few days.

This person will coordinate with law enforcement agencies in India, including facilitating timely responses to valid legal requests under applicable law and our policies, and will also oversee the company's acknowledgement, redressal and response to user complaints and grievances, the post said.

The new IT rules, which came into effect in May this year, mandate that significant social media intermediaries (those with other 50 lakh users)

appoint a grievance officer, nodal officer and a chief compliance officer. These personnel are required to be resident in India.

Meta (formerly Facebook) counts India among its biggest markets for its family of apps. According to data cited by the Indian government earlier this year, there are 53 crore WhatsApp users, 41 crore Facebook subscribers and 21 crore Instagram account holders in the country.

As per the new IT rules, all intermediaries have to prominently publish on their website, app or both, the name of the grievance officer and his/her contact details as well as the mechanism by which a user or a victim may make a complaint. The grievance officer will have to acknowledge the complaint within 24 hours and dispose of such complaint within a period of 15 days from the date of its receipt, and receive and acknowledge any order, notice or direction issued by the authorities.

SJM urges Agri Ministry to ban use of glyphosate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) on Saturday urged the Ministry of Agriculture to ban the use of Glyphosate, which had been declared carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A petition with 201609 signatures of people favouring a complete ban on the weedicide has been submitted to Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday.

"Glyphosate is blatantly being used for illegally grown Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton (HT soya was also reported from Gujarat) and this has been going on for years with the full knowledge of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee and State Governments, but it continues unabated and with open defiance of the law of the land," the SJM said in its petition.

"In fact, the government order in July 2020 stating that "No person shall use Glyphosate except through Pest Control

Operators (PCOs)" may end up endorsing the use of Glyphosate by promoting a proliferation of PCOs. The said order is meaningless and will be impossible to implement based on experience with inability to control other illegal practices like illegal HT crops with which glyphosate is presently being used. Given the meaningless order and incapability to implement, it will result in increased damage to consumer health, farmer interests, farm workers livelihoods and ecology," the SJM said in its petition.

"There are more than one lakh cases pending against Monsanto/Bayer company for damages by the users of its Glyphosate based herbicide after they (the litigants) developed ten different types of cancer including non Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL)," it said.

The delegation told the minister that although this weedicide is allowed to be used in tea gardens, Kerala state which is a major tea growing state has asked for a ban on Glyphosate, West Bengal, again a tea growing state has restrict-

ed Glyphosate use to only six tea growing districts and several other states including Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have moved towards banning of Glyphosate due to their concerns for consumers, farmers and environment.

Glyphosate is reportedly being used both for weed control as well as to desiccate crops prior to harvesting and there is strong opposition to it on both these grounds as glyphosate and its adjuvants are absorbed by the plant and consumed by humans, with serious health consequences. Glyphosate is a known carcinogen and endocrine disruptor and is linked with several serious illnesses.

Glyphosate contaminates soil and water, results in the destruction of useful plant species which are the food of the poor who eat uncultivated greens (so called weeds) growing in, or alongside the main crop, and reduces the population of beneficial insects which are vital for securing long term crop yields as pollinators and pest controllers..

UK could face major Omicron wave from January next year: New analysis

London: The UK may face a "giant wave" of Omicron infections from January next year if restrictions on social gatherings are not imposed, a new scientific analysis warned on Saturday. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) model lays out all the possible scenarios given the rate at which the infections are currently increasing in England, with uncertainty remaining on the numbers that would ultimately need hospitalisation due to the virus. It comes at a time when the UK recorded another jump in Omicron cases on Friday, with 448 new infections, taking the total to 1,265. "Based on what we're seeing we can expect there to be a large wave of Omicron in the UK," mentioned Dr Nick Davies, one of many researchers behind the LSHTM modelling. The research assumed

Omicron is much less extreme than earlier variants among the many vaccinated and subsequently hospitalisations might not be too excessive. However, it famous that individuals being contaminated is presently doubling each 2.4 days in England, regardless of the area having excessive ranges of vaccination. This signifies Omicron is ready to overhaul Delta because the dominant variant within the nation by the tip of this yr. "In our most optimistic situation, the affect of Omicron within the early part of 2022 could be decreased with delicate management measures akin to working from dwelling, Dr Rosanna Barnard, one of many researchers of the evaluation, instructed the BBC. However, our most pessimistic situation means that we could need to endure extra stringent restrictions to make sure the NHS just isn't overwhelmed.

Mask-wearing, social distancing and booster jabs are very important, however might not be sufficient, she mentioned. The new analysis has been printed on-line however has not been by means of the formal technique of being reviewed by different scientists. On Friday, face coverings grew to become obligatory in most indoor venues in England, together with theatres, cinemas, locations of worship, museums and indoor sport stadiums, underneath measures to sort out the Omicron variant. From Monday, the work from dwelling the place doable steering kicks in as a part of the federal government's Plan B set of measures to attempt to gradual the unfold of the brand new variant. From subsequent week, COVID-19 vaccine certificates will turn into obligatory for entry to most venues. **AP**

2 travellers from UK, airport worker test 'preliminary +ve' for Omicron: Singapore

Singapore: Singapore has reported two travellers from the UK and a frontline worker at the Changi Airport as "preliminarily positive" for the Omicron variant of Covid-19. The local "preliminarily positive" Omicron case is a 38-year-old man who works as a passenger service staff member at the departure gates at Changi Airport Terminal 3, the health ministry said late Friday night. The two visitors had travelled to Singapore from the United Kingdom via the vaccinated travel lane (VTL) on December 8, it said. All the three cases were fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, the Channel News Asia reported, quoting the health ministry. The travellers from the UK are a 30-year-old woman and a 28-year-old man. **PTI**

Taiwan records first omicron case in traveller from Africa

Taipei: Taiwan has recorded its first case of the omicron variant in a passenger who recently travelled to the southern African country of Eswatini, health officials said Saturday. The passenger, a Taiwanese woman in her 30s who returned on December 8, is now in quarantine in hospital, according to the Central Epidemic Command Center, which is in charge of the island's pandemic response. Passengers who sat near her on the plane have tested negative so far. Taiwan reported 10 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, all of which were identified in travelers entering from abroad. The self-ruling island has a strict two-week quarantine on arrival and has sealed its borders off to all but residents and citizens, with few exceptions. **AP**

Dozens feared dead as tornadoes, storms strike US States

MAYFIELD, Ky: Dozens were feared dead Saturday after tornadoes and severe weather caused catastrophic damage across multiple states, tearing through a candle factory in Kentucky, an Amazon facility in Illinois and a nursing home in Arkansas.



Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said about 110 people were in the factory in Mayfield when the tornado hit. "We believe our death toll from this event will exceed 50 Kentuckians and probably end up 70 to 100," he said at a news conference Saturday. "It's very hard, really tough, and we're praying for each and every one of those families." Kentucky State Police Trooper Sarah Burgess said search and rescue teams are still going through the rubble but don't yet have a number for how many have died. "We just can't confirm a number right now because we are still out there working, and we have so many agencies involved in helping us," Burgess said. She said rescue crews are using heavy equipment to move rubble at the candle factory in western Kentucky. Coroners have been called to the scene and bodies have

been recovered, but she didn't know how many. She said it could take a day and potentially longer to remove all the rubble. President Joe Biden tweeted Saturday that he was briefed on the situation and pledged the affected states would "have what they need as the search for survivors and damage assessments continue." Parsons-Perez, an employee at the factory, was trapped under 5 feet (about 1.5 meters) of debris for at least two hours until rescuers managed to free her. In an interview with "TODAY," she said it was the "absolutely the most terrifying" event she had ever experienced. "I did not think I was going to make it at all." Just before the tornado struck, the building's lights flickered. She felt a gust of wind, her ears started "popping" and then, "Boom. Everything came down on us." People started screaming, and she heard Hispanic workers praying in Spanish. Among those who helped rescue the trapped workers were inmates from the nearby Graves County Jail, she said. "They could have used that moment to try to run away or anything, but they did not. They were there, helping us," she said. Elsewhere in Graves County, the landscape was a scene of devastation with uprooted trees, downed utility poles, a store destroyed and homes severely damaged. **AP**

Pentagon considering Covid-19 booster mandate for troops

Washington: The Pentagon said Friday that there are "active discussions" within the department about making the Covid-19 vaccine booster shots mandatory for service members, even as thousands refuse or seek exemptions from the initial shot requirement. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said there have been no final decisions on the matter, but added that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin "absolutely encourages people, if they can and if they qualify, to get the booster. But right now there is no requirement for it." The defense department in August announced that it would begin requiring all members of the military — including National Guard and Reserves — to get the Covid vaccine. The military services set out specific guidelines on the mandate, set their own deadlines and laid out the repercussions for those who refused and were not granted a medical, religious or administrative exemption. **AP**

France pushes vaccination campaign as virus cases increase

Paris: Authorities in France want to accelerate vaccinations against the coronavirus before Christmas as infections surge and more people with Covid-19 seek medical attention. People can celebrate Christmas normally, but we must respect the rules...and get vaccinated, French Prime Minister Jean Castex told public radio outlet France Blue during an interview in the Alsace region late Friday. France has registered a daily average of more than 44,000 new cases over the last week, a 36% increase from the previous week, according to the latest government figures. Weekly hospitalisations of people with COVID-19 went up 1,120, a 41% rise. The government on Monday closed nightclubs until Jan.6 and tightened social distancing measures in closed spaces and outdoors. **AP**

China slams Biden's Summit, says US using democracy as 'weapon of mass destruction'

Beijing: China on Saturday accused the US of using democracy as a weapon of mass destruction to "stoke divisions and confrontation" as it slammed the Summit for Democracy organised by the Biden administration, which Beijing portrays as a new front being formed by America to isolate it to halt its rise. The two-day summit attended by over 100 world

leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, concluded on Friday with a call to evaluate progress in safeguarding fair elections, protecting human rights and fighting corruption. While the US omitted China and Russia from the list of invitees, Beijing was furious over the invitation to the self-governing island Taiwan, which China said is a blatant violation

of the 'One China' policy that considers Taipei as the integral part of the Chinese mainland. A final message I want to impart as we close out this Summit for Democracy is that we know how hard the work is going to be ahead of us. But we also know we are up to the challenge, Biden said, wrapping up the summit. Biden said the two-day virtual gathering has demon-

strated that the democratic world is everywhere. He said autocracies can never extinguish the embers of liberty that burns in the hearts of people around the world, in every portion of the world. "We're committed to working with all who share those values, to shape the rules of the road that are going to govern our progress in the 21st century," Biden said. **PTI**

Erdogan: Social media a 'threat to democracy'

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described social media on Saturday as one of the main threats to democracy. Erdogan's government plans to pursue legislation to criminalize spreading fake news and disinformation online, but critics say the proposed changes would tighten restrictions on free speech. "Social media, which was described as a symbol of freedom when it first appeared, has turned into one of the main sources of threat to today's democracy," Erdogan said in a video message to a government-organized communications conference in Istanbul. He added: "We try to protect our people, especially the vulnerable sections of our society, against lies and disinformation without violating our citizens' right to receive accurate and impartial information." Turkey passed a law last year requiring social media platforms that have more than 1 million users to maintain a legal representative and store data in the country. Major social media companies, including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, have since established offices in Turkey. The new legislation would make the dissemination of "disinformation" and "fake news" criminal offenses punishable by up to five years in prison, according to pro-government media reports. **AP**

Bangladesh summons US envoy over sanctions against law enforcement officials

Dhaka: Bangladesh Foreign Secretary on Saturday summoned the US Ambassador to express Dhakas disappointment over the sanctions imposed by Washington on seven present and former officials of the elite anti-crime unit Rapid Action Battalion RAB, allegedly over human rights abuses and extra-judicial killings. On Friday, Benazir Ahmed, now a General Inspector of Police and a former Director General of RAB, and six other officials were designated by the US Department of Treasury under the Global

Magnitsky sanctions programme in connection with human rights abuse. "Today, on International Human Rights Day, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is designating 15 individuals and 10 entities for their connection to human rights abuse and repression in several countries around the globe, pursuant to multiple sanctions authorities," a US Treasury press release said on Friday. In a simultaneous announcement, the US State Department barred Ahmed, and another former RAB offi-

cial Lieutenant Colonel Miftah Uddin Ahmed, from travelling to the United States. "The Foreign Secretary (Masud Bin Momen) met US Ambassador Earl Miller and expressed the Bangladesh government's disappointment over the decision taken unilaterally by the US administration without any prior consultation," a foreign ministry statement said. "Human rights violations and abuses were reported to be committed by 'wayward elements within law enforcement agencies in many countries, including in the US. But that would not justify singling out

the high officials of any law enforcement agency for targeted sanctions," the statement said. Momen lamented that the issues cited for imposing the designated sanctions remain under active discussions, including under the framework of the regular institutional dialogues between the two countries, and the US decision came without prior intimation. Sources said that the sanction meant that the seven law enforcement officials could get their property in the United States, if any, confiscated. **PTI**

Nepal PM Deuba files papers for presidency of Nepali Congress

Kathmandu: Six top Nepali Congress leaders, including incumbent president Sher Bahadur Deuba, filed nomination papers for the party's senior-most position on Saturday. The Nepali Congress' 14th General Convention was inaugurated at the Bhrikuti Mandap in the capital on Friday, a highly anticipated four-day meet convened by the ruling party to elect the 134-member

Central Working Committee and 13 office-bearers, including the party president. Seventy-five year old Nepal Prime Minister Deuba's party presidency is being challenged by five other contestants, including Prakash Man Singh, son of the Supreme Commander of the 1990 People's Movement, Ganesh Man Singh. Other candidates include former Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi

and Parliamentarian Shekhar Koirala. At closing time for filing nominations (5.00 PM), the number of applicants for the post of party president were six, sources said. Six aspirants filed nomination papers for two vacant positions of vice presidents. Sujata Koirala, daughter of former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, filed nomination for the post from Man Singh's team. **PTI**

UK seeks unity at G7 meeting over Russia's 'malign behaviour'

Liverpool: Top diplomats from the Group of Seven industrialised nations gathered beside the River Mersey in Liverpool, with host country Britain seeking "a show of unity against global aggressors" amid a crisis over Russia's intentions towards Ukraine. The UK is seeking elusive consensus from the wealthy nations' club in response to what it calls "malign behaviour" by Russia, and over tensions with China and Iran.

As a Salvation Army band played Christmas carols, British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss greeted US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other G-7 counterparts with fist bumps in the rotunda of the modernist Museum of Liverpool at the start of the two-day talks. "We need to defend ourselves against the growing threats from hostile actors," Truss said as she opened the meeting of foreign ministers from the UK, the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. "And we need to come together strongly to stand up to aggressors who are seeking to limit the bounds of freedom and democracy." **AP**

Islamic State figure pleads guilty to aiding terrorist group

Alexandria: A Canadian citizen who traveled to Syria to join the Islamic State group nearly a decade ago pleaded guilty Friday to serving as one of the organization's more prominent English-language propagandists. Mohammed Khalifa, 38, pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization, resulting in death, at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III accepted the plea. According to court records, Khalifa left Canada for Syria in 2013 after being inspired by the lectures of Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. cleric who later became a leading figure in al Qaeda. Prosecutors said Khalifa narrated two notorious Islamic State propaganda videos — "Flames of War" in 2014 and "Flames of War II" in 2017 — designed to recruit Westerners to join the Islamic State or to kill Westerners as part of an international holy war campaign. Khalifa also fought on the battlefield, according to prosecutors. He was captured by Syrian Defense Forces in 2019 and held overseas until he was brought to Virginia earlier this year to face charges. According to an FBI affidavit, Khalifa told FBI agents he expected to be sent to an Islamic State training camp when he joined the organization in late 2013. **AP**

Thousand in Oregon face eviction as lawmakers scramble Portland

PORTLAND: Inside Musonda Mwango's Portland apartment are details of his life that have transformed the property into a home. His guitars hang in the corner where he composes music, Christmas decorations adorn the walls, and pictures of his three children — who live with him — are proudly displayed. But as days tick by and bills stack up, Mwango is part of the growing number of households at risk of eviction in Oregon, even as he awaits aid from the state. "We are going into winter, and in a period of celebration," the 36-year-old father said in late November. "And yet you also have this thing at the back of your mind that this place, that we call home, might not actually be our home much longer." In Oregon, where a long-standing housing crisis has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, tenants on the brink of eviction are losing the safety nets that kept them housed. Despite an overwhelming need, the statewide rental assistance program stopped taking new applications after all federal funds had been requested and committed to renters. **AP**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male has been found dead at H.No. 175, 4th Floor, Humayunpur, New Delhi on 11.12.2021 at around 7.45 AM. In this regard a DD No. 24A Dated 11.12.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Unknown, **Height:** 5'7" Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Unknown.

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

S.H.O
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345

DP/958/SW/2021

चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
33वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह

अधिसूचना

चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ का 33वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह बुधवार, दिनांक 22 दिसम्बर 2021 को होना सुनिश्चित हुआ है। दीक्षान्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता माननीय कुलाधिपति एवं श्री राज्यपाल उमरा, श्रीमती आनंदी बेन पटेल जी करेंगी। समारोह के विशिष्ट अतिथि उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय उपमुख्यमंत्री एवं उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री डॉ० दिनेश शर्मा जी तथा मुख्य अतिथि प्रो० नागेश कुमार, निदेशक तथा मुख्य अधिशासक, औद्योगिक विकास अख्ययन संस्थान (आईएसओआईडी), नई दिल्ली होंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह में पदक, प्रमाण पत्र एवं विभिन्न प्रकार की उपार्थियाँ प्रदान की जायेंगी। समारोह का कार्यक्रम तथा अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.ccsuniversity.ac.in पर सम्बन्धितों के सूचनार्थ अपलोड किया गया है।

कुलसचिव

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Email: cos@nerrailnet.gov.in, Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in, Fax No.: 0551-2200721

Tender Notice No.- 15, Date 10-12-2021

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.e-reps.gov.in

Item No.	Tender Number	Due on	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
01	22201457C	05-01-22	Polymer buffer spring etc.	ICF	2042 Sets	₹ 204920/-
02	22201116C	05-01-22	Air brake pipes with socket etc.	RDSO	578 Sets	₹ 157310/-
03	22201116B	06-01-22	Air brake pipes etc.	RDSO	366 Sets	₹ 101660/-
04	22211511	07-01-22	S.S. Dustbin assembly etc.	3742 Nos	₹ 66790/-
05	22211491	07-01-22	Flex lab cable length etc	RDSO	43 Nos.	₹ 72730/-
06	22211838	10-01-22	Kit of air spring etc.	RDSO	30 Sets.	₹ 120360/-
07	22190950F	10-01-22	Foot step arrangement etc.	2551 Sets	₹ 153060/-
08	22211643	11-01-22	Kit for air cleaner etc.	62 Set	₹ 87980/-
09	22211914	14-01-22	Standardized brake disc etc.	RDSO	180 Nos.	₹ 249480/-

CPRO/S-85 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 0979484955
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U49101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Procurement Tender Notice Date: 10.12.2021

RO No. 966
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakpathar (D.Dun), invites e-tenders for following works:
Tender No. PDD-10/2021-22: Supply of LT XLPE Cable of different sizes. Estimated cost: Rs. 15,18,500/- + GST extra.
Date of availability of tender on e-portal: 09.12.2021
Last date of receipt of bid on portal: 31.12.2021 (up to 16.00 Hrs.)
Last date for submission of hard copy of bid: 01.01.2022(01.00 PM).
For eligibility criteria and full further details, kindly visit our web site. Tenders can only be downloaded from our website www.uttarakhandjaldiyut.com.

Executive Engineer
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found dead Near Corner of Gali No.-4, Block No.-2, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. dated 04.12.2021. In this regard a vide DD No. 19A, dated 04.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi. The Dead body has been Preserved for 72 hrs. Mortuary of LHMC Hospital New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:**Unkonwn, **R/o:**Unkonwn, **Age:** About 45 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Dark, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:**Red-Black Colour Jacket, Yellow Colour Pant.

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

SHO
P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25751048, 8750870432

DP/1137/CD/2021

India to be among a few economies to rebound strongly: Finmin report

New Delhi: India will be among only a few economies in the world to rebound strongly from Covid-19 induced economic contraction of 2020-21, a Finance Ministry report said assuaging that the Omicron variant's impact on the economy will be less severe due to rapid vaccination.

Real GDP in Q2 of FY2021-22 has grown by 8.4 per cent YoY, recovering more than 100 per cent of the pre-pandemic output in the corresponding quarter of FY2019-20, said the monthly Economic Review prepared by the Finance Ministry.

"India is among the few countries that have recorded four consecutive quarters of growth amid Covid-19 (Q3, Q4 of FY21 and Q1, Q2 of FY22) reflecting the resilience of the Indian economy. The recovery was driven by a revival in services, full-recovery in manufacturing and sustained growth in agriculture sectors," it said.

The recovery suggests kick-starting of the investment cycle, supported by surging vaccination coverage and efficient economic management activating the macro and micro drivers of growth, the report said.

India's economic recovery is expected to gain further strength in the remaining quarters of the financial year, as evident from 19 among 22 High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in September, October and November of 2021 crossing their pre-pandemic levels in the corresponding months of 2019, it said.

"Yet, Omicron, a new variant of Covid-19



may pose a fresh risk to the ongoing global recovery. However, preliminary evidence suggests that the Omicron variant is expected to be less severe and more so with increasing pace of vaccination in India," the Finance Ministry said.

Observing that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to considerable human and economic costs setting countries back on their developmental goals, the latest review said, the year 2021 is thus a "catch-up" year for the global economy including India, trying to recover the pre-pandemic output level of 2019.

India has not only caught up with its pre-pandemic output of Q2, but is also expected to do so for the full year, it said, adding, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its December statement has maintained the growth forecast of 9.5 per cent during FY 2021-22, implying a full recovery and a 1.6 per cent growth over pre-pandemic GDP level of FY 2019-20. **PTI**

Edible oil prices down ₹8-10 per kg in last 30 days; may fall further: Industry

New Delhi: Edible oil prices declined by ₹8-10 per kg in last one month mainly on the back of lower import duties and may fall by ₹3-4 per kg in coming months on higher domestic output of oilseeds and bearish trend in global markets, according to industry body SEA.

"The last few months have been harrowing for the Indian edible oil consumer largely on account of very high international prices of all oils viz palm, soya and sunflower," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) President Atul Chaturvedi said in a statement.

SEA had advised its members before Diwali to reduce prices to the maximum extent possible, he said, adding that the Centre also reduced import duties on edible oils.

"We are happy to confirm all these actions have resulted in edible oil prices coming down by around ₹8-10 per kg in the last 30 days," Chaturvedi said. SEA said its members have been responding promptly in the past in passing on the benefit of lower prices to the consumers.

"With likelihood of lower import duties, our members have agreed to pass on the reduced cost to our consumers as seasons greetings. We feel the



prices would be reduced by around ₹3-4 per kg in foreseeable future by our members. This should provide relief to our edible oil consumers during festive season," the SEA president said. With a large soyabean crop of around 120 lakh tonne and groundnut crop in excess of 80 lakh tonne, Chaturvedi said the edible oil prices would now remain in check.

"The icing on the cake is that high mustard seed prices have elicited a massive supply side response from the farmers and they have planted an all-time high mustard crop in about 77.62 lakh hectares. This figure is higher by almost 30 per cent and has the potential of increasing domestic mustard oil availability by 8 to 10 lakh tonnes in coming year," he added.

Chaturvedi said the global trend of edible oil prices is "rel-

atively bearish and we feel prices would continue to move downward."

According to SEA, India's dependence on import of edible oils is nearly 65 per cent of the total consumption of about 22-22.5 million tonne. The country imports 13-15 million tonne to bridge the gap between demand and domestic supply.

For the last two marketing years (November to October), due to the pandemic, import has reduced to nearly 13 million tonne.

"In 2019-20 the import dropped to 13.2 million tonne valued about Rs 71,600 crore. In 2020-21, India imported similar quantity but import bill jumped by 63 per cent and touched an alarming level of Rs 1.17 lakh crore due to hike in international prices of edible oils," SEA said last month. **PTI**

Mobile internet enabling inclusive growth: Nobel laureate economist



Kolkata: Nobel prize winning economist Michael Spence said that mobile internet is enabling inclusive growth and opening up employment opportunities.

Speaking at a webinar organised by National Stock Exchange (NSE) and New York University (NYU) Stern Business School on Friday night, Spence said that in recent times there had been unusual rapid expansion in digital transactions due to access to mobile internet in India.

Describing mobile internet as a "quasi public good", Spence said "opening up of the digital space has thrown up employment opportunities in IT areas".

According to him, the key parameters for expansion of mobile internet have been due to decline in cost of equipment,

cost of data and increase in speed. Spence said mobile payments systems generate huge data while artificial intelligence and machine learning have the potential to close information gaps in the markets.

He said penetration of mobile will continue by spreading the internet eco-system.

The economist said internet has a great impact on improving the healthcare and education sectors of the country and India is at the frontier of many aspects of a digital economy and it is just a start.

Mobile internet has also led to a huge investment by the private sector and generates social returns. Spence also said that India has a big advantage of a big market which gives scale to companies. **PTI**

Meta, WhatsApp scout for chief compliance officer, nodal contact and grievance officer in India

New Delhi: Meta (formerly Facebook) and WhatsApp are scouting for candidates for the roles of nodal contact and grievance officer as well as chief compliance officer — positions that have been mandated under India's IT rules for large social media companies.

These positions are being advertised on LinkedIn, and have been posted over the course of the past few days. The new IT rules, which came into effect in May this year, mandate that significant social media intermediaries (those with over 50 lakh users) appoint a grievance officer, nodal officer and a chief compliance officer. These personnel are required to be resident in India.

At that time, WhatsApp had named Paresh B Lal as its grievance officer for India on its website, while Facebook had named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India on its website. While Facebook's page names Priya as the grievance officer, WhatsApp's website shows Varun Lamba as the grievance officer.

When contacted, Meta and WhatsApp in an e-mailed statement said, "We have appointed officers as per the requirements of the Intermediary Guidelines Rules. We are actively engaged in a continued dialogue with the government on the new IT rules and we remain committed to keeping our users safe on our platform."

They further said: "We reserve the right to seek new candidates as needed because the officers are critical roles and include the recruitment of uniquely qualified personnel to lead these responsibilities". **PTI**

UAE-based Lulu Group to invest ₹2,000 crore in Gujarat

Dubai: UAE-based retail giant Lulu Group will invest ₹2,000 crore in Gujarat to set up a modern shopping mall which will create employment opportunities for over 5,000 people, the company announced here on Saturday.

The announcement was made after Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel met NRI businessman and Lulu Group Chairman and Managing Director Yusuf Ali MA in Dubai.

Patel led a delegation in the UAE this week to promote the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit to be held in January 2022, and make a strong pitch to global investors to capitalise on the state's ease of doing business.

To fast-track the projects, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary on behalf of the Gujarat Government and Yusuf Ali, the Lulu Group said in a press release.

According to the MoU, Lulu Group will set up a world-class shopping mall between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, which will create employment opportunities for more than 5,000 people.

Working on job opportunities for 17 lakh artisans, craftsmen through 'Hunar Haat': Govt

Surat: In over last five years, 'Hunar Haat' provided employment opportunities to more than seven lakh indigenous artisans and craftsmen, and the target is to take this number to 17 lakh in the next two years, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

Addressing the media ahead of a 10-day Hunar Haat --the Centre's initiative to promote India's traditional crafts, cuisine and culture -- to be organised here in Gujarat beginning Sunday, Naqvi said this initiative has helped craftsmen to connect to their traditional, ancestral skills and generate employment.

"More than seven lakh artisans and craftsmen have been provided employment and employment opportunities through the organisation of Hunar Haat in different parts of the country. Our effort is to increase this number to 17 lakh in the coming two years," Naqvi

said. "Hunar Haat" is a successful and meaningful campaign to provide opportunities to artisans and craftsmen from different parts of the country for the protection, preservation and promotion of their traditional and ancestral heritage, the Union minister said.

"Governor of Gujarat Acharya Devvrat will inaugurate the Hunar Haat in Surat tomorrow where more than 600 artisans, craftsmen from more than 30 states and Union Territories are participating. Union ministers, MPs, Gujarat ministers, MLAs and other dignitaries will also remain present," he said.

The 34th "Hunar Haat" will see a display of hand-made indigenous products, traditional dishes, various cultural and musical programmes of renowned artists where more than 600 artisans from 30 states and UTs will participate, he said. **PTI**

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

London: India has been re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council after elections were held at its Assembly in London for the 2022-23 biennium.

India's election falls under the Category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The newly elected Council will meet formally at the conclusion of the 32nd Assembly for the IMO's 126th session on Wednesday, when it will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for the next biennium.

"India is re-elected to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council," the High Commission of India in London said in a Twitter statement following the election on Friday.

"India's delegation to IMO

extends heartfelt thanks to all fellow member states, looks forward to working with all for the achievement of our common goals," it said.

The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the organisation. Between sessions of the Assembly, the Council performs the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention.

China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the UK and the US were elected to the Council under the Category of 10 States with the "largest interest in providing international shipping services".

Meanwhile, another 20 states not elected under the two categories were elected to the

Council to ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world as having "special interests in maritime transport or navigation". The 20 countries in the list are Bahamas, Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and Vanuatu.

The 32nd Assembly of IMO is currently meeting at the IMO headquarters in London between December 6 and 15. All 175 member states and three associate members are entitled to attend the Assembly, which is the IMO's highest governing body. The intergovernmental organisations with which agreements of cooperation have been concluded and international non-governmental organisations in consultative status with IMO are also invited to attend. **PTI**

Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
 Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 8454/ Nivida-01/2021 Dated : 10/12/2021
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-TENDER)
E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through Short Term E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 13/12/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Construction Division PWD Almora Strengthening & Improvement work in Km. 40 to 51 of Karnaprayag (Shimli)-Gwaldam - Bageshwar- Chaukori- Thal-Munshyari- Jauljivi Motor Road (SH-11) (Someshwar Kausani Prabhag) under CRIF.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 21.20 Lakh	60 Days	18 Months	Category "A" & above (Road Works)
2	Construction Division PWD Almora C/O 36M. Span Steel Girder Bridge near Naikane Village Over Sai River in Someshwar Constituency under CM.Ghoshna 145/2020	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.16 Lakh	60 Days	15 Months	Class "B" & Higher in Bridge Work
3	Provincial Division PWD Almora Construction of 60 m span steel girder motor bridge over Kosi River in Km. 02 of Almora Senar Chan Motor Road in Almora Constituency District Almora under C.M Announcement No 748/2012.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 6.60 Lakh	60 Days	18 Months	Category "A" & above Bridge Works
4	Provincial Division PWD Almora Construction work of Govindpur to Dangikhol-Titarmuchi-Darella Motor Road in District Almora under Someshwar Constituency in CM Ghoshna 216/2021. Length- 3.00 Km. + 18 Mtr. Span bridge) (Anticipation of Sanction)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.08 Lakh	60 Days	9 Months	Category "B" & above (Road & Bridge Works)

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd. JAIPUR.
 No. NIT/2021-22/17027-43 Dated: 10.12.2021

निविदा सूचना / 2021-22
 निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए कोट/पट्टा संकाय के अधिकाधिक किस्मों द्वारा प्रतियोगी एवं अनुभवी संवेद्यकों को निविदा पत्र में ई-प्रोसेसिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Remaining work in Residential Quarters of Judicial Officer at Sirahi.	208.08 Lakh	ई-246/21-22
SITC of LAN, CCTV, Digital Communication & Fire Detection Works in Medical College, Sri Ganganagar. UBN:RRC2122WSOB00472	292.80 Lakh	292.80
SITC of LAN, CCTV, Digital Communication & Fire Detection Works in Medical College, Chittorgarh. UBN:RRC2122WSOB00473	292.79 Lakh	292.80
Construction of Indoor Sport Complex and Auditorium Building at Sheikawati University, Khatola, Sikar. UBN:RRC2122WLOB0470	3475.00 Lakh	ई-249/21-22
Remaining work of Construction of Judicial Court Complex Building, Amer. UBN:RRC2122WLOB0463	1369.08 Lakh	1369.08

ऑनलाइन निविदा पत्र प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 09.12.2021 प्रातः 09:00 बजे से 28.12.2021 सां. 06:00 बजे तक।
 निविदा में शामिल सभी निविदा पत्र का निम्न वेबसाइट <http://proc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.nic.in> पर <http://roads.rajjasthan.gov.in/proc> पर दूना या नूना १। प्रत्येक निविदा की अपने निविदा पत्रकार के नाम से वेबसाइट <http://proc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर निविदा करवाना आवश्यक है।

साधारणतः

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name "PUNJAB LOKHIT PARTY (BIRMI)". The Office of the party is located at Village Bhagwanpura, Dehlon Road, Ludhiana Punjab-141120. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951-Names/addresses of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: **President:** Malkit Mamath S/o Charan Dass R/ 146 Sector 35-A, Chandigarh - 160022. **General Secretary:** Nitin Sharma S/o Sukhpal Sharma R/o # B29C/00632 Kabir Nagar, Daba Road, Ludhiana Pin - 141003. **Treasurer:** Hitesh Riyat Permanent address A-1/153, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058. If anyone has any objection to the registration of "PUNJAB LOKHIT PARTY (BIRMI)" they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the secretary (Political Party) Election commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 with in 30 day of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Harish Chand Sehgal S/o Late Sh. R.N Sehgal R/o T.C-2B/27, Garden Estate, M.G Road, Near Gurudronacharya Metro Station Gurgaon Haryana-122002 was having commercial property in our project Vatika First India Place, Unit no. ATM-2A admeasuring 238.9 sq.ft. which his legal heirs (Rajni Sehgal, Nandini Sehgal and Saksham Sehgal) requested the company to be transfer to his wife Mrs. Rajni Sehgal, his daughter Ms. Nandini Sehgal and his son Mr. Saksham Sehgal. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited
 Unit No A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83, Gurgaon, Haryana 122012
 Contact : 09555830930

Office of the Executive Engineer
 Provincial Division, P.W.D., Hapur
 Letter no- 1972/3A Date- 26.11.2021

Short term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites online bids through e-tendering from the registered contractors of UP PWD (Contractor Category "A, B, C and D" as per applicable) for work and Building registration is mandatory for the work on sr. no. 06. The bid document may be uploaded from dated 15.12.2021 to 21.12.2021 up to 2:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on date 21.12.2021 at 03:00 PM. by the Committee in the office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Hapur. Date of financial bid will be informed separately to the technically qualified contractors. In case of holiday or office closed the technical bid/financial bids will be opened on next working day in the same manner.

S. No.	Dist- rict	Name of Work	Esti- mated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Time of Comp- letion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	HAPUR	Special repair on Saina to Muradpur road	16.70	-	300 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut
2	HAPUR	Special repair with P.C. and C.C. on Mahmoodpur to Sanvi road in financial year 2021-22	13.70	-	225 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut
3	HAPUR	Special repair on Pipalab and road Aabadi portion.	13.00	-	225 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut
4	HAPUR	Special repair on Jadina Minner road to Kherra Kharakpur road.	16.10	-	300 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut
5	HAPUR	Special repair on Retowall and Kalyanpur wall Madhya link road.	12.60	-	225 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut
6	HAPUR	Work of maintenance of unresidence building under PD, PWD Hapur	5.00	-	150 + 500 + GST@ 18%	01 Month	PD, PWD, Hapur	BSR-Circle, PWD, Bul- andshahar	MZ, PWD, Meerut

1- G.O. No. 480 / 3017-7-2021, Dated 12/04/2021, it is mandatory for the bidder to provide bid security declaration & tender document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only
 2- All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by CA of last 5 Years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of E-Tender uploaded on <http://tender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya Software before last date and time of submission of Tender.
 3- Bidder has to upload required documents as per Government order No. 879(1)/ 23-7-2020 P.W. Anubhag-7 Lucknow Dt. 25.08.2020 for "Prahar Application" in Chanakya Software by access- ing hyperlink available for Tendering Process. UR for Prahar is <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahar/>
 4- Terms and other conditions related to bid available on <http://tender.up.nic.in>

Assistant Engineer P.D., PWD, Hapur Executive Engineer P.D., PWD Hapur

UP 171152 Date 10.12.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division, Sgr.

Gist of e-Tender.
NIT No: -PHE/GWDS 59 of 12/2021, Dated: - 12-2021

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S.No 1. Name of work :- Construction Of 03 No. 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells at NHO Masood Ah. Mir at Shehlpora, Near Orchard of Nisar Ah. And Others at Nade Add Issoo & Horticulture related Jamia Masjid at Guswaniwoder at Barariangan-A Near land of Mushtaq Ah Khan.

No. of Hand Pump Wells :- 03 No. **Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :-** Rs. 9.00 Lacs, **Cost of Tender Document :-** Rs. 300/- **Time of completion :-** 15 Days, **Class of Contract :-** Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells, **Technical Sanction :-** PHE/GWD/68 of 12/2021, **Programme :-** (CAPEX-BDC Grants Alternative Works).

S.No 2. Name of work :- Construction Of 02 No. 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells at Mulshulla Block Beerwah District Budgam

No. of Hand Pump Wells :- 02 No. **Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :-** Rs. 6.00 Lacs, **Cost of Tender Document :-** Rs. 200/- **Time of completion :-** 10 Days, **Class of Contract :-** Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells, **Technical Sanction :-** PHE/GWD/67 of 12/2021, **Programme :-** (District CAPEX-PRI Grants).

AA Accorded vide Order No. 448-DDCA of 2021, Dated: 18-11-2021
AA Accorded vide Order No. 278-DDCB of 2021, Dated: 04-12-2021.

Critical Dates / Information.

1. **Publishing Date :-** 09-12-2021 (02.00 PM)
 2. **Period of Downloading of Bids :-** 09-12-2021 (02.00 P.M) to 18-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
 3. **Period of Submission of bids :-** 09-12-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 18-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
 4. **Date of opening of Tender. :-** 20-12-2021 at (02:00 P.M)
 5. **Tender Receiving Authority:** Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir- 190011.
 6. **Document Cost : Non-Refundable** in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to **Account Head 0215** in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Sadder Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
 7. **Bid Validity Period: 180 Days**
 8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in
 9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Sgr.

No. DIPK-14646/21 Dated: 11-12-2021

AUSTRALIA BEATS ENGLAND BY 9 WICKETS TO OPEN ASHES SERIES

AP ■ BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

A new era of Australian cricket with fast bowler Pat Cummins leading the team and Alex Carey behind the stumps started with a familiar result for an Ashes test at the Gabba.

Australia won the series opener by nine wickets on Saturday with 1 1/2 days to spare after Nathan Lyon picked up his 400th test wicket and quickly added three more to dismantle England's bid to save the first test.

England resumed Day 4 at 220-2 and Lyon struck in the fourth over, triggering a collapse that netted eight wickets for 77 runs as the visiting team finished the match in a similar vein to how it started.

After restricting England's second innings to 297, the Australians needed just 20 runs to clinch the match.

They did it in 5.1 overs, for the loss of only makeshift opener Alex Carey (9), with Marcus Harris (9 not out) hitting a boundary to finish off.

Australia hasn't lost a test against England at the Gabba since 1986, and hasn't lost an Ashes test on home soil since



2010-11. Lyon triggered England's demise when he dismissed Dawid Malan to end a 162-run third-wicket stand. With that, he joined retired legspinner Shane Warne (708) and retired paceman Glenn McGrath (563) as the only Australians to surpass the 400-wicket barrier in test cricket.

The 34-year-old off-spinner finished with 4-91 for the innings. Carey, as well as moving up the order to open in the second innings because of David Warner's forced relegation for not fielding on Day 3, took a record eight catches for a wicketkeeper on test debut. Cummins was elevated to

the captaincy — the first fast bowler since the 1950s to get the job — when Tim Paine quit last month following reports he'd been investigated four years by Cricket Australia for sending an inappropriate text message to a work colleague in Tasmania. Carey replaced Paine behind the stumps.

MOST WICKETS BY SPINNERS IN TESTS:

Bowler	M	I	Balls	Runs	Wkts	AVG	S/R	5WI	10WM	Best
Muthiah Muralidaran (SL)	133	230	44039	18180	800	22.72	55.04	67	22	9-51
Shane Warne (Australia)	145	273	40705	17995	708	25.41	57.49	37	10	8-71
Anil Kumble (India)	132	236	40850	18355	619	29.65	65.99	35	8	10-74
Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka)	93	170	25993	12157	433	28.07	60.03	34	9	9-127
Ravichandran Ashwin (Ind)	81	152	22288	10303	427	24.12	52.19	30	7	7-59
Harbhajan Singh (India)	103	190	28580	13537	417	32.46	68.53	25	5	8-84
Nathan Lyon (Australia)	101	193	25948	12928	403	32.07	64.38	18	3	8-50

FAISAL FEATURES

"Exceptionally proud," Cummins said of the start, noting the big contributions from Lyon, Carey and Travis Head, who cemented his place in the batting lineup with 152 in Australia's first innings total of 425. After being dismissed for 147 in the first innings and surrendering a 278-run first-innings deficit, England revived some hope of challenging in the first test when Malan and Joe Root defied the attack for almost two full sessions on Friday. But the defiance didn't extend long into Day 4, with Malan (82 from 195 balls) getting an inside edge from Lyon to Marnus Labuschagne at bat-pad. Lyon took his 399th wicket in January and had to wait

almost 11 months for No. 400 because the Australians didn't play another test in 2021 until this week.

Root added only three runs to his overnight score, making it to 89 — his highest score in an Ashes test Down Under — before his 165-ball knock ended when he was caught behind off allrounder Cameron Green.

Lyon dismissed Ollie Pope in the next over and, after Cummins squared up Ben Stokes (14) and Josh Hazlewood had Jos Buttler (23) caught behind, returned to collect two late wickets.

Lyon removed Ollie Robinson (8), inexplicably reverse sweeping to point, and

bowled Mark Wood (6) before Green had Chris Woakes (16) caught behind to finish off England's innings.

Some critics questioned Root's decision to bat first after winning the toss in dark, overcast conditions on Day 1, and the selection panel's call to omit veteran pace bowlers Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad from the XI.

"We have to be brave. We have to look to do things differently to previous tours," he said. "The toss, it was the right decision, we just didn't play well enough in the first innings."

"You can't question the guys who were out there... (we) created so many chances, we just weren't good enough to

take them." A power outage at the broadcast compound cut the TV feed for at least 15 minutes on Saturday, and created another round of technology issues for the match officials.

On Day 1, the TV umpire wasn't able to access ball-by-ball replays to review front-foot no-balls — and there were 12 that went uncalled in the first session. On Days 2 and 3, the technology used to register "snicks" — light contact between bat and ball — wasn't available in the Decision Review System, either.

Root said it had no real impact on the players on the field, but could understand if it was frustrating for fans.

Raut's fifer hands Odisha 3rd straight win

PTI ■ THANE

Leg-spinner Abhishek Raut picked up a fifer, his career-best figures, to help Odisha beat Vidharbha by six wickets in a Group A match of the Vijay Hazare One-Day Nationals here on Saturday.

Electing to field, Raut spun the web around opposition batters, registering figures of 5 for 36 to restrict Vidharbha to a below-par 148.

Skipper Subhanshu Senapati (71 not out) and Anurag Sarangi (52) then struck a fifty each to guide Odisha home in 42 overs with four wickets in hand.

Besides Raut, pacer Debabrata Pradhan picked up three wickets for 13 runs from his seven overs.

This was Odisha's third win on the trot after victories over Andhra (by 63 runs) and Gujarat (by 3 wickets).

In another Group A match in Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh defeated Gujarat by 97 runs to register their second consecutive win. Sent into bat, Prasanth Chopra (73), Amit Kumar (72) and skipper Rishi Dhawan (57) hit fine half-centuries to help HP pile up a commanding 310 for nine. Chintan Gaja picked up four wickets for Gujarat giving away 71 runs.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Gaikwad's ton goes in vain as Maha loses to Kerala by 4 wickets

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Unstoppable Ruturaj Gaikwad churned out a third century on the trot but the Maharashtra skipper's effort went in vain as they went down to Kerala by four wickets in their group D clash of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, here on Saturday.

Continuing his blistering form, the Maharashtra opener slammed 124 from 129 balls to help Maharashtra recover from some early jitters when they lost two wickets for 22 inside six overs. Gaikwad hit nine fours and three sixes and got out to debutant seamer Suresh Vishweshar in the 46th over while trying to step up the run-rate. It cost them dear as Maharashtra managed just 42 runs in the final-five to notch a below-par 291/8 in the stipulated 50 overs.

On Gaikwad's day, it was Kerala seamer M D Nidheesh who stole the show with a stunning 5/49 including the vital breakthrough of the dangerous Rahul Tripahi, who fell one run shy of century.

The Maharashtra vice-captain took 108 for his 99 and looked elegant with slamming 11 fours as he along with his skipper put on an entertaining 195-run stand for the third wicket to rebuild their innings.

Nidheesh also dismissed



the in-form Naushad Shaikh for five, while the debutant Suresh took the prized scalp of Gaikwad as Maharashtra failed to break free in the death overs to remain under the 300-mark.

In reply, Kerala had a jittery start to be reduced to 4/35 in 10.3 overs but Vishnu Vinod held composure and led the chase with a 82-ball unbeaten 100 (8x4, 2x6).

He got a fine support from Sjomon Joseph gave a fine company with 71 not out from 70 balls (4x4, 4x6). The duo put on an undefeatable 174-run stand to steer the team home in 48.5 overs.

Gaikwad now has 414 runs to his name in three innings at an insane average of 207 to make his case even stronger for the upcoming South Africa ODI series.

TN trounces Bengal for 3rd straight win, Karnataka downs Mumbai

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Tamil Nadu continued their winning run as they thrashed Bengal by 146 runs in a Elite Group B match in the Vijay Hazare Trophy tournament here on Saturday.

Sent into bat, Tamil Nadu piled up 295 for 8 in 50 overs, riding on half-centuries from the consistent B Indrajith (64), Dinesh Karthik (87) and J Kousik (50) and then bowled out the opponents for 149 in 39.1 overs for their third consecutive victory.

From 22 for 2 and 55 for 3 in the 18th over, the Tamil Nadu batters went on the overdrive with the experienced Karthik leading the charge, first in the company of Indrajith and then Kousik.

Indrajith and Karthik shared a 105-run stand for the fourth wicket before the veteran stumper-batter added 74 runs for the fifth wicket.

The last 13 overs yielded 135 runs as the Tamil Nadu batters went berserk, especially Kousik and M Shahrulkh Khan (32 off 12). In reply, Bengal was never in the hunt and kept losing wickets at regular intervals with medium-pace R Silambarasan picking up four wickets including that of opener Shreevats Goswami (1).

PV Sindhu eyes title defence at World Championships

PTI ■ HUELVA

India's two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will look to bring her best to the fore on the big stage when she begins her title defence at the BWF World Championships beginning here on Sunday.

Sindhu has been in impressive form as she claimed her second silver medal at the season-ending World Tour Finals after three successive semifinals finishes at French Open, Indonesia Masters and Indonesia Open.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad will now look to cap the season with a successful defence of her maiden World championship title, which she had claimed two years ago in Basel, Switzerland.

Congratulations! You have successfully cast your vote

Login to view result The tournament has lost a lot of sheen with the withdrawals of the entire Indonesian contingent and other elite players such as two-time winner Kento Momota.

The women's singles field also has been left depleted after the withdrawal of three-time champion Carolina Marin and 2017 winner Nozomi Okuhara.

It will also be the first time in her career that London Olympics bronze medalist and 2015 silver medalist Saina



Nehwal will miss the World Championships due to multiple injuries.

While Sindhu will fancy her chances, retaining the title will still be much easier said than done as she still has to face the likes of ninth seeded Thai Pornpawee Chochuwong, top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei and Korea's teen sensation An Seyoung.

An Seyoung has been in scintillating form as she claimed back-to-back titles at Indonesia Masters, Indonesia Open before grabbing her maiden World Tour Final crown, becoming the first from her country to do so.

Sindhu, who got a bye in the first round, will open against Martina Repiska, whose first-round opponent Ruselli Hartawan also pulled out.

A win will put her face-to-face with Pornpawee Chochuwong, who has defeated the Indian twice in the last two meetings.

If Sindhu can get across the Thai, she is likely to be pitted against Tai Tzu, who has proved to be her nemesis with a head-to-head record of 14-5, including wins in last four meetings.

In men's singles, 12th seeded Kidambi Srikanth, who struggled to get a visa, will face Spain's Pablo Abian in his opener, while Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneth meets Dutch Mark Caljouw.

Former top 10 player HS Prannoy will be up against eighth seed Ng Ka Long Angus and young Lakshya Sen's first-round opponent has also withdrawn.

Mumbai youngster Advay Dhoot making right moves in chess circuit

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai's chess prodigy Advay Dhoot performed creditably in tournaments in the European circuit recently and is currently among the highest rated player in his category in the country.

With impressive performances in Germany and France, the eight-year old Dhoot entered the top four ranking in his category in India in the recently-released World Chess Federation (FIDE) rating.

A third standard student of Dhirubhai Ambani School, Dhoot is one of the youngest rated chess players across the world and currently is the top ranked in Maharashtra with an Elo rating of 1,337, a press release stated. The tournament in Heildelberg, Germany saw participation of 174 players and Dhoot managed wins against players rated over 1,400 Elo rating points and the biggest win was against Bauer Laura Sophie, Germany's second-ranked junior player.

He also did well in tournament in La Bresse, France and scored 4.5 points in nine rounds. Also, Dhoot represented his school at Lichess Lugano in an international event in September 2021 and finished in the top quartile in an open category with no age limit.



There will be a whole new team at RCB: Yuzi

I was not expecting to be dropped from T20 WC, says ace spinner

Yuzvendra Chahal has been an integral part of India's limited overs setup ever since he made his international debut, but in the last few months, the ace spinner has been going through a rough patch.

He was dropped from the T20 World Cup squad announced in September and then, despite a superb show in the second phase of the 2021 IPL, he wasn't retained by his IPL side, the Royal Challengers Bangalore, ahead of the upcoming mega auctions either.

In conversation with DRITI ATRI, YUZVENDRA CHAHAL spoke at length about World Cup heartbreak alongside his plans for the upcoming matches. Excerpts:

What was your reaction when you were dropped from the T20 World Cup squad?

I was completely shocked, and I was not expecting to be dropped when the team was announced for the mega event. I had no clue what the reason behind being dropped from the squad was, nor had I asked anyone about it.

Test	ODI	T20I	IPL
Mat	56	50	114
Inn	55	50	113
Balls	3,013	1,173	2,448
Runs	2,613	1,620	3,097
Wkt	97	64	139
BBI	42 / 6	25 / 6	25 / 6
BBM	42 / 6	25 / 6	25 / 6
Eco	5.2	8.29	7.59
Avg	26.94	25.31	22.28
5W	2	1	0
10W	0	0	0

How did you recover from that period?

It was my wife who really supported me during that tough time. When the team was announced, I was travelling to Dubai for the IPL. For a few days, I was a bit upset about it, but then I had to hold myself together as IPL was around the corner. I had to be prepared for that as well.

The next T20 World Cup is scheduled for 11 months from now? Are you expecting to be a part of it?

11 months is a really long time period. In between, there are going to be so many tournaments. Of course, I want to represent Team India in the T20 World Cup in 2022, but currently I'm more focused on the Vijay Hazare Trophy as I'm re-

resenting Haryana.

You have played under the guidance of both Dravid and Shastri. What is the difference in their coaching styles?

Both the coaches are not really different. Any player was really free to practise their own style. Most importantly, we have our own space in terms of gameplay. But Rahul Dravid is really calm and focused; personally, I can just go and ask for any guidance without giving it a second thought.

Were you expecting to be retained by RCB this year?

The team selectors just called me when they made this decision and told me that these are the three players who are being retained, and we will definitely go for you in the

mega auction. I have not really planned anything yet, but anything can happen in this mega auction.

2 new teams will participate in the upcoming season. Are you looking forward to being part of them?

Every player will want to go back to their own team every year because of comfort. Though I am not thinking about the team selection right now, we are all professional players, and I just want to play and give my best, irrespective of which team I play for.

Virat stepped down from the RCB captaincy. Who do you think is the right man for the job now?

This auction is really big; all the players are going to shuffle. There will be a whole new team at RCB. Let's see who's in and who's out. Then only can we be sure about the captaincy. But no matter who the captain is, Virat Bhaiya is on the ground and is always up for the guidance.

Do you connect more with Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma?

Both of them are pretty different from each other, but the only thing that matters is the game plan.

Both of them give you free will to perform. It is just the different strategy that they adopt; the goal is the same.

Verstappen beats Hamilton for pole ahead of F1 season finale



AP ■ ABU DHABI

Max Verstappen overcame a mistake in qualifying to grab the pole for the Formula One title-deciding Abu Dhabi GP, where he'll try on Sunday to dethrone seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen flat-spotted his tires in the second qualifying group Saturday and seemed to give Hamilton the advantage. But the Dutchman salvaged his mistake with a lap at 1 minute, 22.109-seconds around Yas Marina Circuit to put his Red Bull on top.

Hamilton attempted to bump him from the pole as the

clock wound down on the final qualifying session of the season. But he was 371-seconds slower and will start second in his Mercedes next to his rival.

Lando Norris for McLaren was a surprise third — beating out both Verstappen and Hamilton's teammates. Sergio Perez was fourth for Red Bull, followed by Carlos Sainz of Ferrari and at last Hamilton's outgoing Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in a disappointing sixth. Verstappen and Hamilton head into Sunday's finale tied in the championship standings, the first time the title contenders are even going into the deciding race since 1974.

Hamilton is seeking a record-breaking eighth title to pass Michael Schumacher, while Verstappen will try to become the first Dutch champion.

Hamilton was loudly booed after the session by the sold-out crowd, which was heavily pro-Verstappen and clad in their trademark orange gear.

"We've got a great crowd here, regardless of the boos," said Hamilton. "I couldn't beat that time that he did; he deserved the pole."

The polesitter has won the last six races at Abu Dhabi. Verstappen led all 55 laps in a dominating victory last year.

talktime
SHILPA RAO

The Grammy nominee released her first duet with Darshan Raval. The singer speaks with Shalini Saksena about how the collaboration happened, the secret behind some of her hit songs and upcoming projects

'IT'S NICE TO COLLABORATE WITH DIFFERENT MUSICIANS'



What is Tere Siva Jag Mein about?

Well, the most beautiful thing about this song is the melody itself. There is something in the song that really draws you towards it. It's sung in *raag* Yaman. That's one of my favourite *raags* and I feel that's like a cherry on the cake. The lyrics are so simple and yet so relatable to everyone, so these things attracted me towards this song.

How did the song/collaboration happen?

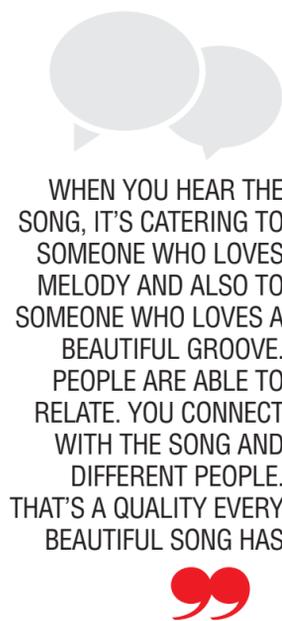
It is so much fun when it's a new song and very different from the stuff I have done before. I love to be in front of the mic and try out new things and put my mind to it. Also, Pritam was keen to try something new this time and I love this quality about him. He pushes you to do even better than what you can think and I think that's what I love about doing these music recordings.

It's your first duet with Darshan Raval. How was the experience?

Darshan has a huge youth fanbase and people really love him. I have heard some of his music before and it was great to jam with him on this one. I really wish him all the best in all the music he does in the future. My best wishes.

How tough is it to sing for different artists?

It is nice and interesting to collaborate with different musicians. It is always a fun thing to do. Trying new things and doing different projects that you have never done



before.

You and Pritam have given so many hits. What's the secret?

Well, it always starts with Pritam having an idea or the vision of the song and in this case he wanted to blend a beautiful melodic structure and into very modern format which is very relatable and he has done it so well. When you hear the song, it's catering to someone who loves melody and also catering to someone who loves a beautiful groove. People are able to relate to these songs. You can connect with the song and different people at the same time. I think that's a quality that every beautiful song has.

What are your upcoming projects?

I have planned lot of collaborations and lot of songs coming on the way. You'll be hearing a lot from me in coming time.

How has Covid impacted your work?

At one side obviously we are not working as we used to. I work in mostly performance-based but again there are times in your life where more than your work a sense of community and safety for your fellow citizens matter. So, I think all the artists have taken that one step back. In times of crisis obviously the farmers are keeping us alive with food and it is the artists job to keep people happy in their minds with art. All the artists are doing the same but yes, I am really happy that things are getting better and I hope things stay like this. We will get back to the stage very soon and I am hoping for that.

CookSmart

Did you know that there are tens of thousands of people who hate to cook? And this has nothing to do with the fact that they don't know how to cook but everything to do with all the work that comes with it. Here are some tips and tricks to make things easy. If you're cooking a recipe that calls for sautéing both onions and garlic, do the onions first. Onions take longer to soften up, while garlic burns easily.



Want to cook eggs? Fill each muffin tray cup with a tablespoon of water. Crack an egg in each cavity. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 13 minutes for the whites to set and yolks runny. Do you ever wonder how restaurants get their sauces so shiny and rich? It's because they finish them with a few pats of cold butter. Try adding a few pats of cold butter at the very end to add richness and shine. To make oven-baked chicken taste fried, add a bit of mayo to the usual egg-bread crumbs coating.

HomeSweetHome



We all want our living room should look something out of a decor magazine or at least close to what some of the pictures in them. But most of us don't have that kind of budget. But did you know that simple changes here and there can make your living space pop and look beautiful? The good part you spend very little.

Start by changing the cushion covers. There are several e-commerce sites from where you can buy them. If your sofa has a design/floral go for solids that are contrasting in colour but belong to the same colour family. Example: If you have a solid maroon colour sofa seater, cushions can be light grey, charcoal, turquoise, golden yellow and amber. You can also go with design cushions with a print sofa. Be careful: choose colours that match and don't over do.

MasterStroke

Beauty winter skincare is known for nourishing hydration and gentle ingredients. Here are few steps one can follow. Always use sunscreen even if there is no sun heat at all. Be careful about choosing products and include those skincare essentials that include ingredients such as Ceramide, Hyaluronic acid, Glycerin, Low pH cleansers, Glycolic acid and Lactic acid. Always wash your face with lukewarm water and not hot because it increases the dryness of the skin. Moisturiser is must even if your skin is oily. Cosrx moisture up pad, cosrx ceramide cream, Klairs watery oil drop, SNP vitaronic ampoule are few KBeauty products one can add from this winters from Limese and Belle Voux store. Do not forget to use sheet masks twice a week for an instant boost of hydration.



— Shiwangi Agarwal, Co-Founder, Belle Voux

NatureTalk



With air quality in several parts of North India between very poor to severe, it is time that we surround ourselves with plants that give our maximum oxygen and prevent several lung diseases. One such plant is Areca Palm.

Although all plants are engineered to take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen, what sets this apart is its ability to also purify the environment it's placed in by removing dangerous chemicals like formaldehyde, xylene and toluene.

For one person, four shoulder high plants is enough. Best place to put them? The living room.

Let's escape the mundane

Are you tired of being cooped up at home and not able to meet friends? Fret not. Participating in virtual escape rooms with them is the perfect answer to your blues, says SHALINI SAKSENA

What if someone were to tell you that you can breakout from your mundane daily activities and have some fun with your friends sitting hundreds of km away? All this and much more is possible with Breakout's escape rooms now.

According to Hareesh Mothi founder, Breakout, who is based out from Bengaluru, the pandemic had a huge impact on the experiences. "One that was most affected was the entertainment industry. We were closed for seven months. We couldn't operate here in Bengaluru. This is when a client called and asked if we had a viable solution to the problem? He said: 'We are working from home and want to do something that is connecting us with friends'. There we started the app-based blogger's escape room," Mothi recalls.

The idea is simple. You log into an online version of the app, there are about eight different puzzles and you have to navigate as a team by discussing. But 15 days into this experience, there were mixed responses.

"We realised that the biggest problem of this experience is that it only entertains only a small segment of the population, which is the young 21-year-old segment. That doesn't represent the rest of the people. Sadly, only 3/10 people were actually participating. Others are just logged in and then spending some time there. Companies are having huge problems with engagement right now. We consulted a US company and built Asia's only live actor's escape room," Mothi says.

After Generation 1, 2 and 3 Mothi came up with 4. Take an example. There are cops who have died under mysterious circumstances. An investigative journalist is trying to figure out what happened. This journalist is tipped to come to an abandoned military war room. She looks up all the



military assets in India and sees that the place is struck off from a list. There is curiosity and she goes to check out that place. When she steps inside someone locks the place. She realises she has 50 minutes before the oxygen runs out. Now the only chance of surviving is for super smart journalists (participants) to step in and help her.

The biggest difference between Generation 3 and 4 is that unlike Gen 3 the person is actually in character inside the room.

The team is connected on Zoom and they have to solve a live mystery with a real person stuck inside the room and everything is live. A nail biter is created.

"There is no danger to the person inside the room. We just create the illusion of danger. The person is trying to survive by taking help. The actor is trained to work in an unbiased environment. There are various scenarios and actors plays in those scenarios. We have four different sce-

narios that need to be finished within 50 minutes. If they don't complete it within the time limit, the video feed gets cut off," Mothi explains.

Of course one can play the game again but most participants feel bad because they couldn't save the agent/detective/actor. "They really get annoyed but come back for seconds to finish the whole story," Mothi says.

The Generation 4 which started in February 2021 has been the most amazing thing that the company has ever done. Their global reach has been completely organic.

"Today we host for 30 countries which are completely organic. We got a call from Google, Canada because their counterpart had this epic experience in India. We hosted a team of 10 from the US just the other day. They said that their experience was unique. Now we are signing with the company for the whole world," Mothi tells you. Unfortunately, for now only

100 people can play at one go in batches of a maximum of 12.

"It was 50 and we are doubling our capacity to 200 soon because we are getting so many requests from 1000 people. We are not able to take those companies on board. But it's a very challenging thing because it has to be precise and there is a lot of training involved. We have well-defined roles and responsibilities like one game master, facilitator, actor. It's very closely monitored — building that excitement and putting the thought process into play. Making it all sound and feel real along with the story narration. How you visualise the whole story is all part of the training. People have found that this event keeps them connected during this disjointed time. The price to play this game? Generation 4 starts at ₹500 plus taxes for Indians, otherwise globally we charge \$15 plus taxes per person," Mothi tells you.

And there are large takers for this

gaming experience. Mondays are busy for everyone so less bookings. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are good days. Thursdays and Fridays they are sold out. Saturdays and Sundays are off.

"Our physical experiences are rated 4.7 stars across all the platforms. We have over 3,000 experiences that are rated. Our virtual experiences are rated 4.9 stars and we have over 4,000 reviews on Google so far. There are advantages and disadvantages in both of these. In a physical experience, you can divide yourselves and communicate with others right back. In a virtual experience that's not possible, but the team stays closer together which solves the problems that the companies are facing right now. So they feel connected with the experience because they feel the same thing at the same time," Mothi says.

There are other experiences as well along with the virtual escape room. "We do something called the codebreaker which is a nice experience with bigger teams with sub-division. We do challenges, group them up and put them in an escape room. We have tangential activities but with the same principles of what we create for escape rooms," Mothi tells you.

Don't want to play virtually? No worries. If you are in Bengaluru, these escape rooms are operational and one can play with them physically as well. "Our physical rooms are open but we will remain virtual as well. This is because 60 per cent of our teams are global. The present pandemic has brought together the teams globally. Different teams from different countries all playing the same experience. Plus the online learning and development is a great team building exercise. The traction, feedback and learning that we are getting only tells us that Generation 4 is here to stay," Mothi says.

AADIL KHAN, who was seen in Disney+Hotstar's Special Ops 1.5, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his journey from an RJ to an actor and working with Kay Kay Menon

How challenging was your role in Special Ops 1.5?

It was challenging in an interesting way. As an actor whatever work that comes to me, I take it as a challenge because it requires me to understand the character, his journey, what is happening with him in the story, understanding the vision of the director and aligning myself with that. It requires a process which is challenging and I enjoy this.

Did you think of turning it down?

Absolutely not; that would have been a disastrous decision on my part. I had seen Part 1; it had come out last year in March and I binged on it. The way it was amazing. I am huge fan of Neeraj sir. He is one of the director's that I always wanted to work with. I was so excited when I was told that I was asked to test for it.

From RJ to an actor, has it been fraught with struggles?

There is no fun in achieving

anything if there is no struggle. Whatever little I have achieved till now and whatever I will in the future, God willing, struggle will always be there. From Bhopal, coming to Mumbai, getting a show to getting into acting, the journey involved hard work but it has been fun.

How did you bag role in Shikara?

There is an interesting story behind this. My mother told me something when I was an RJ. She said: 'Beta whatever you do, do it well. You never know which director is listening. This always stuck in mind whenever I did the show on the radio. This is precisely what happened Indu Sharma used to work with Mukesh Chhabra who was the casting director for *Shikara*. Vidhu (Vinod Chopra) sir was looking for a particular voice who could essay Shiv Kumar Dhar. Indu was going back home, tuned in to my show who called her assistant who Googled my picture. They said I looked

'I have been a huge fan of Neeraj sir'



like a Kashmiri as well. That's how I got on board the project.

How nerve racking was Day 1 of shoot?

Day 1 shoot for *Shikara* was nerve wracking. I prepared one year for the role. Then came rehearsal. By then I was already Shiv Kumar Dhar. It was more

challenging than being nervous.

How was the experience of working with the likes of Neeraj Pandey, Kay Kay Menon?

It was fantastic. Their work speaks for them. Being on the sets with them was a great learning experience. They want others to grow and made sure that wherever I had doubts, they were there for me and sort them out. They took my confusion seriously and addressed them.

What's the best part of playing Maninder Singh?

What I loved foremost was that the role involved action. This is my second project; the first I had no idea about action. So I trained for this role. Neeraj (Pandey) sir got action-director — Cyril Raffaelli; from Ukraine there was Peter. Both trained me.

Also, the way the character has been written is beautiful. The character has many layers and understanding that and doing action was amazing. I fell in love with Maninder. He is a bad boy and it is fun to play a bad boy.

Sound of music

Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

- Aye Khuda (Parampara Tandon)
- Tere Bina (Sachet Tandon)
- Zikr Tera (Ripan Bhat)
- Karte Hain Baatein (Aksh Royz)
- Dil Passari (Vivek Nambiar)

English Vinglish

- Please Don't Touch (Raye)
- Midnight Sky (Miley Cyrus)
- Break My Heart (Dua Lipa)
- Dreamin' (Josefine)
- Lonely (Joel Corry)

the pioneer agenda

The greater your capacity to love, the greater your capacity to feel the pain
— Jennifer Aniston



Maldives & coral propagation

With its unique marine environment, the Maldives is ideally placed to be a big player in the coral propagation business

2



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Take charge of the self

Identify & acknowledge inherent weaknesses, address them through fresh educative inputs, & expand the vision to come out with one's best

THE NEW MARKETING MANTRA



Post-pandemic climate is brimming with opportunity. By tilting our perspective and analysing the trends, we can best capitalise on the opportunities, writes ZEENAH VILCASSIM

Many of us have seen and experienced more change in the last year and a half than we have in our entire careers or lives for that matter. As human beings we are hardwired to resist change, our brains interpret change as a threat that makes us fear it, fight it, or run away from it. However, when embraced smartly, change can lead to progress, innovation, and growth.

I've come to realise that among the chaos and uncertainty of the past year, there have been incredible learnings and successes that I remind myself to celebrate. Now that we are coming out of the pandemic slowly, we are all experiencing a shift in mindset, which in the future will hopefully prove to be fruitful and effective not just professionally but also personally.

EMBRACING CHANGE SMARTLY IS TO EMBRACE IT WITH EMPATHY

To take care of your business, you must take care of your employees. For most people and companies, there has been a massive shift in strategy, along with business growth the focus also lies in building a healthy and safe work environment with consumer and employee well-being being the priority. In other words, the human element of every business — flexibility, resilience, empathy, trust, collaboration, and transparency should be the key qualities required to create a modern and successful work culture, that reassures employees and consumers that a business is more than just a place of work, but a community that rallies around each other when the chips are down. We moved from being pinned to our office desks to keeping global businesses running from the comforts of our homes overnight, quite literally. This came with both positive and negative aspects to it. On the one hand, many companies were inspired to place an increased level of trust in their employees and further the understanding of their personal lives. On the other hand, it meant people were working and investing longer hours as they physically weren't checking out — like you would when you leave an office. Previously you had offices with gyms so employees could focus on their physical health, but now with the need to isolate, mental health was at risk. Businesses had to evolve the way they saw employee health and well-being. At our workspace, we made our 'primos' (the Spanish word for 'cousin' and how we refer to our colleagues) health and wellbeing top of the agenda. We shifted to an extremely flexible working style that let team members dictate the

best times to conduct meetings and what their preferred mode of communication would be. We also offered our primos, and their families, free access to confidential counseling, an informational service helpline, and an internal emergency helpline. This is something that will now be a permanent offering moving forward. Having more empathy for our primos is something that is here to stay in our company for good and we hope it will only get stronger. An approach such as this can also be adopted as we — globally — aren't completely out of the woods with respect to the pandemic.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO INNOVATE (READ: 'FAIL')

Fearless failures can lead to shining successes. If there's one thing we all had to learn to do, it is to constantly adapt — feeling comfortable in the uncomfortable. The most successful business leaders were quick to realise that their businesses needed to analyse and evaluate their ways of working overnight — and they took the risk to make drastic changes despite the uncertainties. Throughout our 159-year history, we have weathered quite a few storms, which have only motivated us to rebuild even stronger. Resilience and fearlessness are ingrained in our way of operating. Our marketing teams were fearless in their approach to innovating during unprecedented times. As quick thinkers, we moved a music festival that would accommodate 40,000 plus people to a fully immersive digital and AR format, featuring avatars, gaming, and virtual reality experiences. We brought beverage experts to screens across the country who shared their skills and imparted valuable and in-depth knowledge in cocktail building, taste profiles, and food pairings. We had created home delivery kits with on-trade partners to give consumers the feeling of a luxury dine-out whilst dining-in. We connected families and friends across cities with streaming entertainment and virtual celebrations and brought together communities.

All of this, from the comfort and safety of their homes. We explored unusual digital formats and tested creative executions, which helped us remain more connected with our consumers than ever in a physically distanced world. All while, we ensured this was executed seamlessly in line with the brand's ethos.

CONSUMERS ARE THE BEATING HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Our consumers are the centre of everything we do and they above all unlock growth for us as a business — but only when we truly add

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FOR MOST PEOPLE AND COMPANIES, THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE SHIFT IN STRATEGY, ALONG WITH BUSINESS GROWTH THE FOCUS ALSO LIES IN BUILDING A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH CONSUMER AND EMPLOYEE WELLBEING BEING THE PRIORITY
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value to their lives. Virtual celebrations, upskilling, mass digitisation, premiumisation, convenience, live streaming — these were just a few of the changing trends that were witnessed during the lockdown. While many may interpret this as 'putting the consumer first', we must strive to take this further as it is the consumers who guide the way we do business — from the products we introduce to the way we communicate, to the experiences we create, and the works. From the sourcing of ingredients to telling interesting brand stories, to how to make the perfect cocktail, consumers are becoming more and more educated about spirits. We saw that consumers came out of the lockdown stronger but also sharper, many dwelled into their hobbies and some even discovered new interests. Having said that, consumers today are a lot more well-versed with culinary and mixology — which is great because now we can connect with our consumers on a whole new level. We held various virtual sessions during the lockdown with our mixologists to keep the interest and education alive for our consumers. We will only introduce, execute, or create anything if we've listened and learned from our consumers and know it will add value in their lives.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PREMIUMISING

In the last few years, the population of the middle-class segment has grown, giving a rise to consumers with more disposable income. This increase has resulted in the demand for premium products and experiences. Another factor that has contributed to this demand is the rise in consumer knowledge. Consumers now educate themselves to know what to consume and how to consume, they are open to exploring new flavors and categories too. As brands, it is our responsibility not just to educate them but also to be transparent in what we offer, and so this knowledge drives a consumer to be more value driven, wanting to consume premium and buy premium, so much so that home bars now look like luxury back bars with variety. Earlier consumers would spend by stepping out, dining at a restaurant but now consumers have redirected their expenses to buy for the home consumption occasion. With premiumisation setting into the market, we at Bacardi are launching our premium products soon.

MEMORIES TRUMP MERCH

The new generation wants to grow, educate, learn and connect with each other through experiences more than anything else. For them,

moments are more valuable than material possessions. They look at experiences to connect them with others, whether it's a music festival, a celebration, or a unique cocktail. It is no longer about what we own, rather it has shifted to what story we can tell. And this shift has come into play due to a rise in disposable income and an increase in usage of social media. Everyone now wants to share their experience online. Consumers demand an extraordinary experience to shape them further.

CONVENIENCE AS WAY OF LIFE

As we all know, we live in a world where everything is reachable at a click of a button or a tap onto our smartphones. Having said that, consumers demand a hassle-free and quick transaction with brands. Anything that requires too much time or effort drives consumers away. Covid has fueled this consumer behaviour. Convenience is a prerequisite. Nowadays, consumers expect everything to reach them in the comfort and safety of their homes, giving companies like us a great opportunity for home consumption. We want to deliver the best with the simplest consumer journey experience. Whether it's hosting virtual workshops to educate consumers on mixology or just content that keeps them entertained — we make it a point to constantly be in touch with our consumers keeping their convenience in mind. Our take on home entertainment is to uplift celebrations for our consumers in the comfort of their homes.

By tilting our perspective, it is in times like this that human strategy prevails and guides how we do business. And it is with this human strategy in mind (and a little bit of creative rebellion) that our marketing strategies can truly flourish.

Although there is an influx of innovative technology at our fingertips to enhance consumer experiences virtually, it is in times like this that human strategy prevails and guides how we do business. And it is with this human strategy in mind (and a little bit of creative rebellion) that our marketing strategies can truly flourish. With no rulebook at our disposal around what the next "new normal" may be, so we must continue to be agile and work towards aligning our objectives using comprehensive strategies to execute and drive our business growth. The room this leaves for integrating creative strategy with traditional business models is abundant.

The writer is Marketing Director, Bacardi India



THE FIRST RULE OF SUSTAINABILITY IS TO ALIGN WITH NATURAL FORCES, OR AT LEAST NOT TRY TO DEFY THEM
— PAUL HAWKEN

HOW MALDIVES CAN CREATE A NEW INDUSTRY IN CORAL PROPAGATION

With its unique marine environment comprising of thousands of coral reefs, the Maldives is ideally placed to be a big player in the coral propagation business. If we can get coral propagation right, it could become a booming international industry, writes SONU SHIVDASANI, as he suggests ways to garner support



Maldivian coral reefs are in trouble. Almost everywhere you look, the reefs are damaged, degraded or in danger. Recent spikes in sea temperatures, including a devastating 2016 El Niño, ravaged the country's corals. Climate change is making these sea temperature spikes more severe, and more frequent. The prognosis is bleak.

Maldivian reefs do more than just provide a fun place to snorkel: they act as subterranean water-breakers, protecting the islands from erosion; they nourish the beach with new sand; they provide a home for reef fish, which in the case of baitfish, sustains the tuna industry. And then there is the snorkeling.

Tourism began in the Maldives because we became known as a diver's paradise. Even today, tourists still visit because of the coral reefs (30% of tourists told a recent Ministry of Tourism survey they visited specifically to see the country's underwater beauty). Considerable revenue is generated from coral-related tourism, whether it is the dive schools, liveaboards, or the marine biologists who take guests on snorkeling trips. This must generate at least USD 200 million a year of gross national income.

Up to 50% of the world's coral reefs have died in the last 30 years. Scientists predict that if global temperatures rise above 1.5 degree C from pre-industrial times — the temperate ceiling world leaders agreed must not be breached, in the Paris Agreement on climate change — the coral will decline by a further 70-90%. The world is already 1.2 degree C hotter than it was in the pre-industrial era, and we are due to cross the 1.5 degree C threshold by 2030. If temperatures soar past 2 degree C, 99% of the world's coral will die.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE WHERE WE MUST PROACTIVELY RESPOND TO A CRISIS IN ORDER TO THRIVE

The Covid crisis over these past 18 months is a fantastic example of where, thanks to the Government's brilliant policies, we have overcome a catastrophe and thrived. We took precautions, and then borders were reopened with a perfect balance of policy that kept our industry and citizens safe, whilst making the Maldives an attractive tourist destination. Today, arrival numbers are at the same level as they were pre-pandemic. The Maldives has become a Covid recovery success story.

With the global warming crisis, the Maldives has little influence over the actions of the big greenhouse gas emitting countries, like China and America, whose decisions dictate how high the temperature will rise. We can't bet our future on

a wish and a prayer that the big countries decarbonise their economies in time to halt climate change before it wipes out our coral reefs. We need a back-up plan.

That back-up plan is coral cultivation — in particular, developing corals that can better withstand sea temperature rises and other climate impacts, and deploying them at scale across our reefs.

Over the next year at Soneva Fushi, we will cultivate a coral farm comprising of 50,000 new corals (which will ultimately be used to repair the house reef). When finished, this coral farm will be 1 hectare in size — one of the largest coral farms in the world. For the ensuing years, it is our goal to cultivate 1 hectare of coral each year at each of our resorts. This is the scale that is needed in order to have a meaningful impact.

For the past 24 months, we've been studying coral propagation in other countries, with a view to bringing the best methods to the Maldives. What is most striking is how underdeveloped this sector is.

There are few experts, and most of the techniques are either stuck in the science lab, or being deployed at a tiny scale. If our aim is to save the reefs, we need to massively step up our coral propagation efforts. This represents a huge opportunity for the Maldives: to become a global leader in an activity that will likely have considerable future demand.

WHAT ARE THE CORAL PROPAGATION OPTIONS?

Most existing coral propagation activities are small gardens of little consequence, and which tend to rapidly deteriorate at any slight rise of temperatures. Very few organisations have ventured beyond simply that; taking some broken coral, putting it on a structure, and allowing it to grow. These activities ignore the fact that the sea temperatures are rising, bleaching events are becoming more frequent, and the seas are becoming more acidic.

That said, there are a handful of organisations doing promising work. Here in the Maldives, we have a few Mineral Accretion Technology (MAT) projects where electricity is attached to coral to stimulate its growth. The electrolysis of seawater helps coral to grow faster than normal. There have been examples where some corals grew three to five times faster under the influence of MAT compared with two control treatments. The examples in the Maldives have shown that whilst the coral is still attached to the electricity, apart from stimulating more rapid growth, it also has survived recent warm water temperatures of up to 33 degree C. Unfortunately, we only have limited experience of what happens when the coral is detached from

UP TO 50% OF THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS HAVE DIED IN THE LAST 30 YEARS. SCIENTISTS PREDICT THAT IF GLOBAL TEMPERATURES RISE ABOVE 1.5 DEGREE C FROM PRE-INDUSTRIAL TIMES — THE TEMPERATE CEILING WORLD LEADERS AGREED MUST NOT BE BREACHED, IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE — THE CORAL WILL DECLINE BY A FURTHER 70-90%

the electricity, and it is impossible to electrify all the reefs in the country.

There are other promising technologies that focus on trying to create coral that both grow rapidly and tolerates a more challenging environment.

Assisted evolution: This combines five elements: stressing the larvae as well as the adult corals by increasing temperature levels in tanks, and seeing which corals can survive in these hotter conditions.

Other experimental solutions include using environmentally-friendly 3D printing and coating methods to fabricate structures with novel limestone-based material composites and then peptide-based bioorganic adhesives for coral growth and restoration.

In the US, Dr. David Vaughan discovered micro fragmentation, a process of cutting coral into small pieces and growing them under optimal conditions to produce fast-growing corals. Using the process along with something called coral reskinning, Dr. Vaughan claims that giant corals that normally take 25 years to grow, can be grown in 2-5 years.

AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MALDIVES

The Maldives is not the world's only coral nation. There are more than 50 other small island countries that are home to large coral reefs, not to mention huge reef systems in big countries, such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the reefs off the coast of Florida. All of these places, like the Maldives, are desperate to protect their valuable coral reefs.

If we can get coral propagation right, it could become a booming international industry. It has been difficult to develop other industries beyond tourism and fisheries in the Maldives because of geographic limitations. However, with its unique marine environment comprising of thousands of coral reefs, the Maldives is ideally placed to be a big player in the coral propagation business.

The Government should help encourage such an industry to develop, just as governments in other countries provide support to promising industries that have the potential for exponential growth. Germany's renewable energy sector thrived after the German Government's introduction of the Renewables Energy Act in 2000. Today, Germany is a leader in all forms of renewable energy. The Maldives could have an equivalent success in coral propagation.

Here are four-way the Government could support an emerging coral propagation industry in the Maldives:

● **Loans and grants:** The Government could apply for grants for coral propagation, as part of its efforts

to adapt to climate change. Funds are available under the Green Climate Fund, and from development banks, such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The Maldives should ask these organisations to fund the most development of the promising coral technologies, just as they might ask these banks to fund a road or a reclamation project.

● **Reduced taxes:** India allows companies to deduct 50% of the investment they make in a targeted sector from their tax bill. For example, if a company were to invest USD 1 million in a targeted sector in India, the Indian Government would allow them to reduce their tax bill by USD 500,000. The Maldives should consider a similar scheme to attract private investment in coral propagation.

● **Tax holidays for coral propagation businesses:** In many countries, tax holidays are granted to developers investing in a favoured sector. For example, in Thailand, companies developing hotels in certain regions of the country were offered a tax holiday of 10 years. This meant they did not have to pay any corporate tax on any income earned for this initial period.

● **Duty exemptions:** Import duty can be quite high in the Maldives, so duty exemptions are important. The Government has already reduced import duty on things such as solar panels and other renewable energy components, in order to help spur this emerging industry. Likewise, it should reduce to zero import duty on the equipment needed for coral propagation.

Our fate here in the Maldives is not necessarily sealed. There is a chance to avoid the coral reefs from collapsing. The Maldives is blessed with a population of creative, dynamic, and entrepreneurial people. If the Government can support these people, by creating a conducive environment for coral propagation, then we might be able to change our fate.

I suspect that some reading this might consider that I am too optimistic about the potential of the Maldives to be the world leader in coral propagation. However, 30 years ago, when Eva and I started on the first luxury resort in the country, people also thought we were mad and believed luxury tourism would never work. Today, the Maldives is the Silicon Valley of luxury resorts. Maldivian resort hotels are the best on the planet. Likewise, in 30 years' time, the Maldives could be the definite leader in coral propagation.

To quote Margaret Meade: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens could change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The writer is the CEO and Joint Creative Director of Soneva

Rise of sexism in Australian Parliament

The recent cases of rising sexism in the Australian Parliament are uncovering a shocking reality in the top law-making body of the country. The larrikins in the power corridors must be retold that they are shaming the whole nation. At the very outset, we are to admit candidly that women still struggle for their space in public institutions and become victim of male dominance simply because of their gender. Once the much sought-after place of fame, prestige and reverence, the Australian Parliament has now turned into dark corridors of grotesque acts of sex by popularly elected representatives and their other male colleagues. Will the halls of power get back the honour and trust earlier reposed by the commoners, especially the Australian women, has remained a vexed question today in Australia.

The toxic "male culture" prevalent in the Australian Parliament is hitting the headlines around the world. Many say it is a "woman problem" in Australian politics. More than four thousand people work in the Australian Parliament on any given working day. And thousands more work on many other locations around the country to support the work of the Parliamentarians. Making politics a "Boys Club" will herald and construct a purely negative narrative in advanced democracies like Australia. Thus, women rights activists across the country expressed their concern about the prevailing male-dominated environment in public spaces. To them, it is purely a growing "institutional culture" that strongly supports male-bias in politics.

A latest report titled "Set the Standard: Report on the Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces", released by the Australian Human Rights Commission in November 2021, highlights the widespread improper behaviour prevailing inside the Australian Parliament. The report was commissioned by the Australian Government in March this year shortly after a former employee named Brittany Higgins' story of being raped in the Parliament shocked the world. In fact, this happened inside a Minister's

office after a night out with Conservative Liberal Party colleagues in the year 2019. Her allegations are still under judicial scrutiny, and were followed by a litany of complaints of rape and sexual harassment against politicians and their staff members. Higgins, now a visiting fellow at the prestigious Australian National University, welcomed the report released by the Australian Human Rights Commission. She said: "I hope all sides of politics not only commit to but implement these recommendations in full."

The report says one in three people, i.e. 40 per cent women working on the Parliament premises experience sexual harassment. Further, nearly one per cent of more than 1,700 people who participated in the enquiry process told that they had been the victim of attempted or actual sexual assault. This includes 63 per cent of the women parliamentarians of the country. One of the interviewees said, "Aspiring male politicians who thought nothing of in one case picking you up, kissing you on the lips, lifting you up, touching you, pats on the bottom, comments about appearance, you know the usual...the culture allowed it." This shows how male counterparts normally take advantage of the helplessness of woman inside the Parliament.

The report authored by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins has recorded that many have shared memorable experiences of working in the Parliament. But some shared horrific experiences of bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault. These workplaces are not safe environments for many working there. Mostly, these are caused largely because of power imbalances, gender inequality, exclusion, and a lack of accountability. This seven-month long investigation has revealed that such harrowing experiences of women, including the high-profile MPs and other staffers, leave a trail of devastation for individuals, the very working spirit and ethics of parliamentary democracy around the world.

Jenkins concluded that the prevailing situation has made the Parliament a hostile workplace for many employees, especially the young female



staffers. The report has given nearly 28 recommendations. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Morrison said the government would review the recommendations, including the creation of an independent central complaints body, a code of conduct and alcohol policies. Sadly, he did not commit that his government would accept the recommendations.

Notwithstanding what is underway in Australian politics now, one must note that sexual abuse is nothing new in the recent history of the country. Way back in 2012, then Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard accused then Opposition leader Tony Abbott of displaying sexist behaviour towards her. What was shocking was that she was regularly targeted not only for being a woman but also for not being unmarried and not having children. Once in one of her famous speeches she directly targeted Abbott and said, "I will not be lectured about sexism and misogyny by this man; I will not. If he wants to know

what misogyny looks like in modern Australia, he does not need a motion in the House of Representatives, he needs a mirror."

This clearly indicates how socially inappropriate behaviour towards women have penetrated even the highest offices and the top echelons of society. Like Brittany Higgins, there are countless women who suffered sexual assault and rape in Australia. In fact, Attorney General Christian Porter was accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in 1988 and this literally rocked the Australian Parliament only after a fortnight of Higgins' revelations came out in public.

Unfortunately, the Porter's accuser committed suicide in June 2019. According to Australian law, Porter can now no more be dragged to a criminal court for prosecution. Another man named Frank Zumbo, a staffer to Craig Kelly, a Liberal MP, was alleged to have sexually abused nearly six young women. Surprisingly,

one of the accused Anna Hobson, who was just 16-year-old when she joined Zumbo's office as intern, said in an interview in the ABC channel of Australia that young female interns were needed to greet him with kisses and hugs on a regular basis. And she complained that Zumbo inappropriately touched her on many such occasions. Therefore, it has been observed that unwanted advances towards women staffers, colleagues and MPs are commonplace incidents in Australian Parliament.

Probably, large scale participation of women in public institutions is truly unacceptable to their male counterparts. There were large demonstrations across Australia in recent times against rising sexism in the country. Interestingly some of the banners carried by the protesters said: "Patriarchy is the worst pandemic"; "Enough is enough", etc.

It is appalling and disturbing at best. Way back in 2017,

another #Me Too Movement just hit the Australian streets like this. These rallies mainly came out in top cities like Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart. These "March 4 Justice Demonstrations" were really unique. They all flagged the concerns of the country's women in a way it was never done before. The protesters demanded purely independent investigations into all complaints of gendered violence. They also wanted the Morrison Government to fully implement recommendations made in the Australian Human Rights Commission's "National Enquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces 2020".

Besides, they called for immediate action into gendered violence prevention and a nationwide Gender Equality Act. Only two years since then, Higgins came out with her unbelievable revelations that literally shook not only Australia but the entire world. No one knew till then that the

working environment inside the Australian Parliament was so toxic, unsafe and abusive.

Today, Australia has quietly tumbled down the global ranking for women representation in Parliament. On parliamentary gender diversity, Australia has fallen from 15th to the 50th rank in the last 20 years, simply because of the toxic political environment for females accompanied by a slew of allegations of sexist bullying and misogyny within the precincts of the Assembly. The widely published report says that the environment within the Parliament is alcohol-soaked wherein powerful male colleagues blurred lines and crossed boundaries with impunity.

Morrison for now has tried to defend his government's actions on rolling out gender equality measures in public institutions. Good that he has accepted gaps in handling the widespread dissatisfaction of the public over recent outburst on the growing sexist culture in the country. Thus allegations of mistreatment of women in public squares have become an accepted reality across Australia.

In a nutshell, this study has brought home the fact that gender inequality in workplace must be addressed. Besides, the very boisterous nature of the menfolk must be regulated. Because balancing gender gap may take years and generations. But in an advanced democracy like Australia, a frontrunning Commonwealth nation, must pay due respect to their womenfolk. It's all about respecting the other half and sharing office space with dignity. Hope sooner or later, Morrison Government would be bringing stringent legislations to control rambunctious nature of man within the four walls of the Australian Parliament. It is an acid test for him as the general election is approaching the very next year.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

On parliamentary gender diversity, Australia has fallen from 15th to the 50th rank in the last 20 years. A recent report highlights the widespread improper behaviour prevailing inside the Australian Parliament. Hope the Morrison Government would bring stringent legislations to control rambunctious nature of man within the four walls of the Australian Parliament. It is an acid test for him as the general election is approaching the very next year



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Is China squeezing out India from resurgent African market?

Indian companies have been exporting to African continent for over a century, boasting of a \$117 billion bilateral trade. However, we are looking at early disturbing trends with reference to exports by India to the African continent at a time when we are looking forward to resurgence in its economy and per capita income. If we study the signals that portend imminent threats, it can help craft strategies for taking advantage of opportunities or ward off those threats emanating from the changing situation.

First signal. The demand for ceramic tiles in Africa rose to over one billion square metres in 2019, growing 46 per cent, since 2008. However, African production in 2019 amounted to 759 million square metres that is 76 per cent of its total demand.

During 2020, India exported 12.54 per cent of the total tiles imports in Africa, which was \$1.18 billion. However, at the rate Chinese entrepreneurs are setting up ceramic tiles factories in Sub-Sahara Africa, the total Indian imports may go down after a few years, certainly after 2025. At present, 10 Chinese greenfield factories (or possibly 13) are in the pipeline and six have already been commissioned in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana (2 plants).

The ceramic tiles exporters and other stakeholders in India, world's second largest producer and the fourth largest exporter, are unaware or unwilling to take cognisance of this development that soon they will lose the market at a time when the

continental market will boom due to favourable demographic and economic activity indicators.

Nigeria imported 74 million sqm from China in 2014 but it fell to 5 million sqm in 2018, with domestic production expanding rapidly to reach 100 million sqm/year. Kenya, Angola, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda have reached 10 million sqm/year to 30 million sqm/year output because of direct and indirect Chinese investments.

There is no doubt this investment in ceramic tiles will be followed by sanitary ware, another strong export from India.

The attractiveness of the resurgent African market has lured Chinese companies, prospecting tariff free exports to the US and the European Union. China has also entered Saudi Arabia, our largest export market. Two large ceramic tiles factories are under construction at a total cost of \$100 million which will produce 200,000 square metres per day. Possibly, the stiff anti-dumping duties on Indian imports announced by the Saudi Government are pointing towards protecting its nascent ceramic industry.

Another big export from India is pharmaceuticals and there are similar signs emanating from China in this sector also. China's first move has been to build a pharma industrial park in Ethiopia, with its government wanting the country to become the pharmaceutical hub of Africa. Two Chinese companies have built world-class modern billion tablet/capsule



plants in Ethiopia, the first overseas venture. Soon, these companies will petition the government to restrict or ban import of drugs.

Similar moves are also being considered in other countries like Kenya. Two Indian companies Cadila Pharma and Kilitch operate plants in

Ethiopia but these are smaller in comparison to the Chinese investment.

India must ensure that it retains at least 30-40 per cent of the total continental market via indigenous production of commonly used drugs & vaccines and the export of high value products. Indian pharmaceutical companies have been manufacturing products in the continent for decades but have largely concentrated in South Africa. The centre of gravity has now shifted to the Sub-Sahara and the engine of its growth, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania will spearhead this transformation. Indian companies should open a common warehouse, one each on the East & West Coast and enter distribution and retail. The services sector is a strength of India and it will provide depth to our competitiveness. One company is already successfully following this strategy.

Recent events in China have shown that there is no independent private sector in that country and all companies work towards an overall strategy developed by the Chinese government.

A resurgent Africa will grow out of recently signed and implemented Africa Continental Free Trade Area. This will create a borderless continent-wide single trade entity of 1.2 billion people and create scaled up indigenous manufacturing opportunities. In 2015, Africa had just six cities with more than 5 million inhabitants whereas in 2030 it will have 17, including 5 with a popula-

tion of more than 10 million. The process is already under way with 24 million Africans moving to the cities each year.

As Africa develops self-sufficiency in many products by the end of this decade, India must ensure that it is a major partner of manufacturing activities in the continent. This will create a different type of export market which will feed the light manufacturing sector such as intermediate chemicals, including pharmaceutical API, machinery, training, consultancy and professional manpower.

India should also change its aid strategy and focus on "visible" aid such as healthcare facilities, medical & pharmacy colleges, IT infrastructure, African entrepreneurship, etc, which will employ thousands of Africans and improve their skill sets and remain "visible" for decades to come. India cannot compete with China on large infrastructure but with "invisible" projects such as dams, railways and electricity generation, etc. India should help the Africa create more entrepreneurs who can utilise Indian expertise to create wealth in the continent. We must build on this goodwill for the well-being of the people of Africa. It will diversify our exports and as an additional bonus act as a springboard for tariff free exports to the EU and the United States.

(Suhayl Abidi is Consultant, VUCA Studies, Amity University; and Manoj Joshi is Director, Centre for VUCA Studies, Amity University)

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SUHAYL ABIDI



MANOJ JOSHI



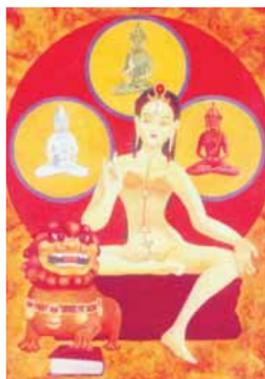
IT IS THROUGH GRATITUDE FOR THE PRESENT MOMENT THAT THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF LIFE OPENS UP — ECKHART TOLLE

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
 You need a little time and quiet to get in touch with your soul and the energies around you. You feel at your best, physically, mentally and emotionally. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas occupy your mind and shine bright. Career-wise, there could be a moment that begs you to bring some changes. You might not be satisfied with your current job; switching to a new job is likely. Good news is that the job you find will be better than the previous one. On the personal front, you can come across some analytical minds. Ensure you are not heading into silly debates. Don't ignore your loved ones. Take some time out and show your concern, let the heart speak louder than the mind.
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
 This week you need to let go of the past and any wrongs that you perceive were done to you. Letting go of your need to be right will go a long way toward helping you feel better. Think positively. You may find yourself exploring ideas and spiritual directions that you never thought would appeal to you. Career-wise, you may be inspired to start a new creative project. You see potential in allowing your creativity to flow. If looking for a job, a suitable job offer matching your profile may surprise you. For those in a committed relationship, the clear message is that the traditional way of handling it will be good for you. If you're feeling suspicious of your partner, make a point to talk about this even if it's difficult.
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



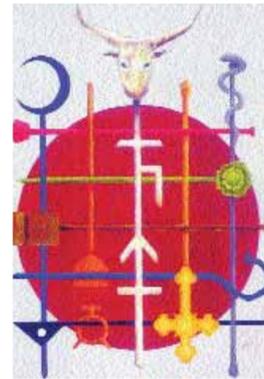
SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
 Your health will be good. There will be a time when you feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. Consider ways on how to maintain good health. You will enjoy peace, joy, and prosperity and are filled with positive energy. Those who have recovered from serious ailments must follow the routine consultation. On the career front, you need to keep a close eye out for any cheating. Make sure you are doing things the right way, and then you'll have nothing to worry about, even if someone is out to get you. In the matter of heart, you are not very vocal about your feelings. If you love someone, express it. Your introvert and individual personality will not help you to get closer to someone you love. Trust your instincts.
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
 This is a great time to consider what you are doing to increase your health and vitality. Plan your routine. Think it through, and come up with a game plan. It may be important now, particularly if you usually attend to your spiritual side in solitude, to reach out to others. On the career front, good news is on the cards. You will get benefits from the choices that you make. An out of the blue opportunity may surprise you. You will take the interview with confidence if you have applied for the job. On the love front, those who are committed, your workload or that of your partner may be interfering with the relationship. Make a point to make time and space for the relationship regardless of your jobs, otherwise, things will suffer.
Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
 Your perception of life will change seeing the positivity around you. Spirituality and things will be moving along well, and you'll feel hopeful about the future. Avoid obsession/passion. On the career front, you want your time and space and spend time in isolation for a while. You feel exhausted, now is the time to rest from some difficult times, perhaps the trauma of losing your job financial and health worries, stress and conflict with your colleagues are overpowering you. This is also not the time to make decisions, particularly when you are at your most vulnerable. On the love front, there is a beginning of love, happiness and compassion. The start of a new relationship will bring a smile to your face.
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
 This week you are likely to enjoy happiness, good health, and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic and will carefully weigh and consider what others ask you now. You might find yourself thinking about a long break. You may look out for ways to pamper and rejuvenate yourself. Connecting to Yoga, meditation cosmic healing learning new interests is on the card. Professionally, things are going very well. Don't take your initial success for granted. Enjoy the success and have a fun time. Business is also likely to be going very well at this time. On the relationship front, you need to analyse whether you are being realistic about love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away. You need to put your anger in check.
Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
 This week you can solve many health problems with your wisdom. With your experience and maturity, you should be able to take hold of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are in place. Any new theory or fashionable trends will not suit you this week. On the career front, you are working far too hard for recognition and money. This is the time to remind yourself of your real value. In terms of relationship, messages of love and affection will come your way. You feel pampered and want to rejuvenate yourself this week. Those who are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common, and who is also very adventuresome, may be about to burst into your life.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
 Running away from reality it does not suit your personality. If you are dealing with a health problem, you need to look for another health care practitioner. If you can do so, look into clinics and treatments outside your local area. Avoid stress. On the career front, share your responsibilities as you may feel overstressed. Share your thoughts with your friends. Looking at the past will help you set the stage for the next phase. You have reviewed your past experiences and have learned from them. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together to form one. On the personal front, true love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all of the good things that most of us hope for concerning love and relationship are easily available for you.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
 This is the time to think along the lines of self-improvement. Plan some creative work; get yourself busy to avoid stress. All those tensions you have been taking in the recent past should be eased off. If you listen to the voice of your body and work accordingly you can come over half of the problems. Career-wise, this is a very good time to start planning long term even if you're very young. Plan to do work methodically. You are likely to get an intriguing business opportunity this week. The investments you made is likely to be returning to you with interest. On the love front, you will face confusion. Think calmly and carefully about what your deal-breakers are in a relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then be honest with your beloved.
Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
 An improvement in your health and vitality is foreseen this week. Those who are dealing with a serious illness, a new healing modality or healer is about to enter your life. This person or situation will be very helpful. Think positively and expect the best. It's important to share your spiritual understandings with others. Your life will deepen immeasurably if you reach out. Career-wise, delegate responsibilities if you are overloaded with work. You may be presented with a dilemma at the workplace which demands action or decision. Analyse all available information before you choose the right path. In love, you may choose to go separate ways. Singles, commitment may be coming your way shortly.
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
 This week you will have to bring some positive changes in your lifestyle and make efforts to improve your health. You need exercise under expert or nutritional guidance. On the professional front, you will receive admiration from superiors and colleagues. The working environment will be friendly, cohesive and that would increase your efficiency. You will win the support of your senior. Promotion/hike in salary is on the cards. You may get benefits by improving your knowledge and skills. On the personal level, you are strong, courageous and establish yourself as a confident person. At home, your domineering attitude could make others irritated, and you may be left alone. This is the time to tame your tongue and bring compassion for the loved one.
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
 This week your physical strength is beyond comparison. Some of you may get an opportunity to work/study overseas. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will embrace you and invite you into their world. Overall, this is a good week. On the career front, you will get success in putting your best foot forward. An enhanced status is on the card. You can take important decisions related to a career as you are very sound and grounded. Your abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal ground, you may meet a romantic person. Some good news, particularly in matters of the heart, is likely to be headed your way soon. Be open to the exploration of your feelings.
Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
 BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Take charge of the self

Life doesn't necessarily move to our asking, and it can't move without facing challenges, as no movement can take place without meeting resistance. Many a times the challenges are grave, difficult to withstand. We are tempted to seek remedial measure. A godman when approached, will advise you to offer prayer to God, as He oversees all actions on our part and accordingly rewards or punishes us. So, He alone could mitigate our sufferings and help us meet even our aspirational urges. A practising pundit will suggest belief driven puja. Ignorant people often get tempted to take a chance believing that good if it works, but even if it doesn't work, at least would do no harm. But how would it work in real terms, arises the question? Going by Ancient Indian philosophic perception, self-caused disturbance at the creative matrix, a formless eternal reality, excited energy streams. Following random mutation of those energies, progressively evolved the manifest world with all its enormity and diversity. The modern scientific perception too almost runs on similar lines. It simply implies that the Creative matrix would be a unified pool of energy in equilibrated state, which set

off the creation chain. And it looks tenable, because energy and matter have been scientifically proved to be interconvertible. Human body, is at subtle level, nothing but an inseparable web of energy patterns sourced to nature. In the process a self-evolved system came into place, which obviously has a primordial-source, the manifest plural world, with lot of intervening dynamisms playing in between at perceptible and even unseen level. All set into a unified organism, where all field players are framed into an interdependent mechanism, have been driving the world individually and collectively. So, all about the living world is nothing but play and interplay of cosmic energies, dispassionately available in equal proportion to all. These energies are not expected to have discriminative abilities like human beings. In fact, the system as such is so made out that human beings are driven by cause-effect chain. So, our destiny indicators are a result of our own doings and undoing that are imprinted in our minds in the form of thought seeds. There remains no scope for any external agency ever over-seeing and administering our life cycle. In this backdrop, it is difficult to digest that



cosmic energies could receive and respond to individual prayers. Nor would a pundit be able to invade our mind space to make any amends. As discussed in the previous three issues, correction if any, in the course of life, could be made through our conscious efforts only. To facilitate making necessary amend, one needs to look within. Identify and acknowledge inherent weaknesses, address them through fresh educative inputs, and expand the vision to come out with one's best. A case in point is that of a college going lad who is otherwise brilliant. He was doing exceedingly well in schools. But the moment, he stepped out of guided home atmosphere to live on his own, he was exposed to the tempting influences of the seeming world. His sense of freedom gaining ground, he began moving like an unbridled horse and with that the inherent limiting tendencies also came into full play. That diluted his potential side substantially. His worried father, looking for some belief driven puja as remedial measure, sought my advice. When I suggested that his son should better take charge of himself and address his inherent weaknesses rather than going for such puja, it was

difficult for him to digest. Let us now look at the astrological pointers to the guy's limiting tendencies. His Taurus *lagna* makes him habitually suspicious, often creating self-doubt. Moon tenanted in a dual sign Pisces, speaks of a vacillating mind engaged in conflicting thoughts. Mercury, the planet identified with intelligence placed adverse to Uranus makes him eccentric and opinionated. All put together doesn't let him remain focused to his priority preferences. The Sun placed adverse to Rahu makes him often dissipate his energies towards unproductive ends. With Mars tenanted in the 4th house placed adverse to Jupiter points to his inflated ego, which binds him to self-assumed beliefs and perceptions, and not open to look beyond for a reality check. Mars placed adverse to Neptune suggests that when faced with difficult situation, he may fall into a guilt trap, and develop inferiority complex. Once he address these weaknesses, the immense potential within will play out unhindered to his advantage. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com