

OPINION 6

INDIA'S BID TO REGAIN
GROUND IN SRI LANKA

MONEY 9

WPI INFLATION SPIKES
TO 14.23% IN NOV

AVENUES 10

ARCHITECTURE
IS EVER-EVOLVING

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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NO OFFICIAL
REQUEST FOR
BREAK: BCCI
12 SPORT

RTPCR pre-booking must to fly to India

Onus on airlines to pre-book test for fliers from at-risk nations in advance

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

All international passengers arriving from "at risk" countries would have to go for mandatory pre-booked RT-PCR tests at six airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad — from the mid-night of December 19-20.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, those passengers who have not pre-booked their RT-PCR tests will not be barred from boarding their flights but it will be the responsibility of the airlines to book tests for such passengers.

Accordingly, the Ministry has asked the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to issue an advisory to all airlines to check mandatory pre-booking of their passengers before boarding the flight.

"In case any passenger is having any difficulty in pre-booking, they may not be denied boarding but it would be the responsibility of the airlines to identify and accompany such passengers to the registration counter at the airport for testing," Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation said in an office memorandum issued on Tuesday.

As per the Health Ministry,

on the list of "at risk" countries are European nations, including the UK, in addition to South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Hong Kong and Israel.

"Air Suvidha portal would be modified to allow the passengers to mandatorily pre-book the RT-PCR test if they are coming from the countries 'at risk' or have visited 'at risk' countries in the last 14 days. Link to the concerned airport website would be provided in 'Air Suvidha' platform which would be displayed to passengers while filling up the self-declaration form," the Ministry said in the memo.

Continued on Page 2

8 more Omicron cases in Mumbai, 4 in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said four more cases of the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, have been detected in Delhi and all have travel history to foreign countries. Meanwhile, Mumbai witnessed 8 Omicron cases on Tuesday.

The Omicron cases have not spread in the community so far and the situation is under control, he added.

From 24 cases four days ago, Omicron, said to be "high-



ly transmissible", crossed 50 mark across India on Tuesday. Maharashtra tops the list with

28 infections followed by Rajasthan (9), Karnataka (3), Gujarat (4), Kerala (1) and

Andhra Pradesh (1), Delhi reported (6) and Chandigarh (1). A total of 53 cases have been reported so far.

"So far, six people have been found Omicron positive in the Capital. One of them has been discharged. All of them had travelled to foreign countries and were transferred to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan hospital from the (Indira Gandhi International) airport," said Jain, adding that the Government is fully prepared to prevent the spread.

Continued on Page 2

Lakhimpur Kheri violence planned conspiracy: SIT

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

In a jolt to Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra "Teni", the Special Investigating Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence has reported that it was a "pre-planned conspiracy causing death".

The SIT has moved a fresh application into the court of the chief judicial magistrate asking to replace lesser charges in the case like causing death by negligence with attempt to murder. Teni had said he would resign if his son was found guilty. The SIT move would put pressure on him and the Government to remove him from the Ministry.

The SIT urged the CJM to replace IPC sections 279 (rash driving/riding), 338 (causing grievous injuries by negligence) and 304A (causing death by a rash and negligent act) with IPC section 307 (attempt to murder) among others in the case related to the October 3 violence, in which four farmers were among those killed.

The SIT also retained IPC sections 302 (murder), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 120B (crimi-



nal conspiracy).

It also recommended promulgation of IPC 326 (voluntarily causing injuries by dangerous weapons), 34 (acts by several persons with common intentions) and sections 3/25/30 of the Arms Act in warrants of the 13 accused.

Union MoS (Home) Ajay Mishra's son, Ashish Mishra, is among the 13 accused have already been arrested in the case and booked for murder. But the SIT was so far probing the case as that of an "accident".

The SIT had on Monday moved an application in a court seeking to invoke four more criminal charges, including the attempt to murder and under the Arms Act, against the 13 accused arrested in the case.

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SII to launch Covid vaccine for 3+ yrs children by June

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), which is working in collaboration with two other companies that are working towards developing the vaccine for children, will launch Covid-19 vaccine for children above 3 years, within the next six months.

Making an announcement to this effect at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) here on Tuesday, SII's CEO Adar Poonawala said, "We have joined the two other companies which are working towards developing the vaccine for children. SII has reached the trial phase of

the vaccine for the children aged above 3 and should be ready within 6 months."

Poonawala announced his company was working towards developing the vaccine booster shot which is more effective to combat Omicron. "On the back of enough data, it is safe to say that booster vaccines are a proven strategy to get antibodies up to a great extent," he said.

Poonawala said globally, the supply of the vaccines had outmatched its demand and to keep up with the momentum, the countries need to come together and form some pacts in order to prepare standard rules for clinical trials and manufacturing of the vaccines.

Continued on Page 2

SC OK's Chardham highway's widening on security concern

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed widening of the strategic Chardham highway project in Uttarakhand taking into consideration the country's security challenges.

The apex court in the exercise of judicial review cannot second guess the infrastructural needs of the armed forces, the bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said. The SC also set up an oversight committee headed by former Justice AK Sikri to report to it directly on the project.

The strategic 900-km Chardham project worth ₹12,000 crore aims to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns — Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.

In its judgment, the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath, clarified that the oversight committee will not undertake a fresh environment assessment. The committee will receive all support from the Ministries of Defence and Road Transport,



the Uttarakhand Government and all district magistrates.

The top court said that there are no malafides in the application filed by the Defence Ministry. The allegation that its application seeks to re-litigate matters or to subvert previous orders of this court are unfounded. As a specialised body of the Government, the Defence Ministry is entitled to decide operational requirements of the armed forces, including infrastructural support needed for facilitating movement of troops, said the court.

"The bonafides of MoD are also evident from the fact that

the issue of security concerns was raised during the discussion of HPC and finds mention in HPC report. This MoD has maintained the need for double lane roads for border security concerns.

"The appellants have referred to a statement made by Chief of Army Staff in 2019 in a media interview regarding the adequacy of infrastructure for troop movement. We do not find it necessary to place reliance on statements made to the media given the consistent stand of the MOD. The security concerns as assessed by MoD may change overtime. The recent past has thrown

Defence Ministry is entitled to decide operational needs of armed forces: Court

serious challenges to national security," the bench said.

The apex court said the armed forces cannot be held down to a statement made during a media interview in 2019 as if it was a decree written in stone. "This court in the exercise of judicial review cannot second guess the infrastructural needs of the armed forces. The submission of the appellants requires the court to interrogate the policy choice of the establishment which is entrusted by law to the defence of the nation. This is impermissible," it said.

If the Army cannot move its missile launchers, heavy machinery up to the northern Indo-China border, then how will it defend it and fight a war if it breaks out, the Centre had said in a poster to the apex court earlier.

Trying to allay the concerns of landslides in Himalayan regions due to the construction of the wider Chardham highway project, the Government had said all necessary steps have been taken to mitigate the disaster.

Continued on Page 2

Opp MPs march against suspension of 12 colleagues, suppression of voice

This is murder of democracy: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha held a protest march from the Gandhi statue in Parliament complex to Vijay Chowk on Tuesday against the "suppression" of their voice and the suspension of their colleagues.

"Wherever the Opposition is trying to raise issues, they are suppressed. The Government does not allow us to raise issues. This is the murder of democracy. We want to raise issues against the Government, but we are not allowed to do so," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a brief interaction with the media.

Pointing out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not come to Parliament, Rahul said, "We have here our suspended members. Parliament is the symbol of democracy of the country and this is the symbol of crushing of the voice of the people of India. They have been suspended for two weeks



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with leaders of other Opposition parties at a protest march demanding revocation of the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs, at Vijay Chowk near Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

now. They are sitting outside and their voice has been crushed. We are not being allowed to discuss important issues."

"This is not the way to run Parliament. The PM does not come to the House. Whenever we want to raise an issue, we are stopped from doing so. This is a very unfortunate killing of democracy that is taking place," he said.

Twelve Opposition MPs were suspended from the Rajya Sabha on November 29 for the entire Winter Session of Parliament for their "unruly" conduct in the previous session in August. The Opposition has described the suspension as "undemocratic and in violation of all the Rules of Procedure" of the Upper House of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Congress pres-

ident Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday met a group of Opposition leaders and held consultations with them to evolve a joint strategy in Parliament. AICC sources said NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, J&K National Conference patron Farooq Abdullah, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and DMK leader T R Bалу were among the leaders who met Sonia at residence.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

DELHI-KATHMANDU BUS SERVICE RESUMES

New Delhi: The Delhi-Kathmandu bus service, suspended for over one and half years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will resume from December 15. Transport officials said on Tuesday. A notification issued on Monday by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) said the Delhi-Kathmandu bus will operate from Ambedkar Bus Terminal at 10 am on December 15, said DTC Deputy Chief General Manager RS Minhas.

'FB, GOOGLE MUST SHARE AD REVENUE FOR NEWS'

New Delhi: Senior BJP leader Sushil Modi on Monday demanded in the Rajya Sabha setting up of an independent regulatory body for big tech giants like Facebook and Google to ensure they share advertisement revenue adequately with traditional media houses for using their content.

Parliament clears Bill to extend tenure of CBI director to 5 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Tuesday passed a Bill to extend the tenure of the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to a maximum of five years from the present two years. The Bill was later passed in the Upper House by a voice vote. The Lok Sabha had already cleared the Bill on December 9, 2021.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh moved "The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021" for consideration in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday amid a walkout by the Opposition over the suspension of their 12 members.

While moving the Bill, Singh said the Government is working to check corruption and to ensure and enhance transparency. In recent years, he said, the nation is facing the triple menace of corruption,



View of the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

black money and international crime that is linked to drug trafficking, terrorism, and criminal offences and all these are a threat to the security and financial structure of the country.

The methodology of crime has changed and is highly sophisticated and structured which makes investigation a far more difficult, he

said, stressing that the Bill will help maintain the pace of the probe.

"These amendments have been brought in also because the financial action task force, which India is a member country, also expects us to improve the resources for financial crime investigation and the international crime," he said.

Continued on Page 2

All food items must have full disclosure of ingredients: HC

Everyone has a right to know what they are consuming, says court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Use of non-vegetarian ingredients and labelling them vegetarian would offend religious and cultural sentiments of strict vegetarians and interfere in their right to freely profess their religion, the Delhi High Court has said.

The court observed that everyone has a right to know what they are consuming and nothing can be offered to them on a platter by resorting to deceit and camouflage.

The high court directed the Centre and FSSAI to ensure that there should be full and complete disclosure of all the ingredients which go into the man-



ufacture of any food article, not only by their code names but also by disclosing whether they originate from plant or animal source or whether they are manufactured in a laboratory, irrespective of their percentage in the food article.

The court's order came while hearing a plea for labelling "all items" used by the public, including home appliances and apparel, as "vegetarian" or "non-vegetarian" on the basis of their ingredients and "items used in manufacturing process".

A bench of justices Vipin Sanghi

and Jasmeet Singh said failure of the authorities in checking such lapses is leading to not only non-compliance of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the Regulations, but also leading to deceit by such food business operators of the public at large, particularly those who wish to profess strict vegetarianism.

"It matters not as to what is the percentage of such like ingredients (which are sourced from animals), which are used in the manufacture of food article.

"Even though their usage may constitute a minuscule percentage, the use of non-vegetarian ingredients would render such food articles non-vegetarian, and would offend the religious and cultural sensibilities/sentiments of strict vegetarians, and would interfere in their right to freely profess, practice and propagate their religion and belief.

Continued on Page 2

Health Min: 55% of population inoculated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In India, 55 per cent of the population has been inoculated, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandviya said even as Covid-19 Task Force chief VK Paul on Tuesday asserted that the foremost priority right now is to make sure that there is universal coverage of the vaccine and no one is left behind. The statements came against the backdrop of rising Omicron cases in India as well in the world.

Addressing an event at the business chamber Confederation of Indian Industry, Dr Paul said that globally there are 3.6 billion people who are not vaccinated. "We need 7.2 billion doses together, and with the current rate of production, it is well within our grasp. "The Niti Aayog member said that there is a potential scenario that our Covid-19 vaccines may become ineffective and India should have vaccine platforms that are 'adaptable quickly' with changing nature of the coron-

avirus variants.

"How soon can we create a vaccine which is using the same platform, but is now targeted to the variant of the day. "...we have to be ready to be able to have a situation where resiliently we are able to modify the vaccines as they require. This may not happen every three months, but this could happen every year perhaps," Dr Paul said.

However, while the Government has been claiming to cover more than half of the population under its Covid-19 immunisation programme, the disability sector is not impressed. Dr Satendra Singh, a physician with disability and an activist said: "None of the official Government circulars mentioned disabled people as vulnerable communities; and our multiple demands to provide at-home vaccination to people with disabilities with high support needs were denied by the Centre, leaving disabled people behind."

Citing the data tabled by the Government in Parliament

recently, he said only a tiny fraction of group's total population of 26.8 million. As per the statistics available by the Union Health Ministry during the ensuing session of Parliament, only 4,018 people with disabilities have received both doses of Covid-19 vaccine till November 28. It added that as per the CoWIN portal, 8,390 people with disabilities received the first dose.

"Until and unless vaccine equity plans involve people with disabilities and researchers with disabilities, we won't be able to flatten the curve," Dr Singh added.

"As per Census 2011, there are 14.9 million men with disabilities, as compared to 11.9 million women in the country. The total number of differently abled people is over 18 million in the rural areas and just 8.1 million enumerated in the urban settings," as per a Government document 'Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in India — A Statistical Profile: 2021.'

India crosses 50-mark Omicron cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From 24 cases four days ago, Omicron, a new Covid variant said to be "highly transmissible", has now crossed 50-mark on Tuesday. Maharashtra tops the list with 28 infections followed by Rajasthan (9), Karnataka (3), Gujarat (4), Kerala (1) and Andhra Pradesh (1). Union Territories — Delhi reported (6) and Chandigarh (1). A total of 53 cases have been reported so far.

As sporadic cases are being registered every day, Lok Sabha members on Tuesday cautioned the Modi Government on the challenges posed by the rising cases of Omicron variant of Covid-19, and asked it to spell out plans for administering booster doses of vaccination.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said India has already reported 41 cases of Omicron variant and the government should begin preparations of every kind to deal with the challenge.

Chowdhury also wanted the government to spell out its plans for vaccination of children and adolescents, noting that European Union nations have already started giving jobs



to children. Tentacle of Omicron has been spreading in other States also, he said and asked the Government to be alert.

Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy wanted the government to start administering booster doses immediately. "Booster doses for Covid-19 should be started. Because of some differences within the expert committee, booster dose is not being given," Roy said. He added British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has already declared Omicron as an emergency and cases were on the rise in London.

Meanwhile, a yet to be peer-reviewed study by the researchers from the University of Oxford showed that two doses of Pfizer and

AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccines generate lower levels of antibodies against the Omicron variant of coronavirus, suggesting that those previously infected or vaccinated may be at an increased risk of infection.

The researchers, however, noted that there is currently no evidence of increased potential to cause severe disease, hospitalisations or deaths in vaccinated populations.

"Importantly, we have not yet assessed the impact of a 'third dose' booster, which we know significantly increases antibody concentrations, and it is likely that this will lead to improved potency against the Omicron variant," said Matthew Snape, a professor at the University of Oxford and co-author of the study.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh seeks blessings of the mother of a war veteran during a gathering as part of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

भाग 1—क उत्तर प्रदेश गजट, 4 दिसम्बर, 2021 ई० (अग्रहायण 13, 1943 शक संवत्)

1619

NOTIFICATION

September 18, 2021

N0- 1193-Under sub section (1) of section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement act 2013, Whereas of Government of Uttar Pradesh/Collector (For the purpose of Appropriate Government) is satisfied that a total of 3.0420 Hectares of land is required in the village Funderi, pergana Dhanoura, Tehsil Dhanoura, Distt Amroha is required for the public purpose, namely, project MGC Stage-II through Madhya Ganga Canal Construction Division-15 Moradabad (name of requiring body).

2 Social Impact Assessment study was carried out by the State Social Impact Assessment agency and submits its recommendations to the Appropriate Government approved its recommendation on dated.....

3 The summary of the Social Impact Assessment reports as follows"-N.A.

4 A total of families are likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The reason necessitating such displacement is as under:-

.....

Deputy Collector/Assistant Collector Amroha/Dhanoura is appointed administrator for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families.

5 Therefor, The Governor is pleased to notify for general information that the land mentioned in the schedule below is needed for public purpose.

SCHEDULE

DISTRICT	TEHSIL	PARGANA	VILLEGE	PLOT NO.	AREA TO BE ACQUIRED (IN HECT.)
Amroha	Dhanoura	Dhanoura	Funderi	02 mi	0.2155
				03	0.7817
				44	1.0000
				45	0.3360
				106	0.7088
				Total	3.0420

6 The Governor is also pleased to authorise the Collector for the purpose of land acquisition to takes necessary steps to entre upon the survey of land, take levels of any land, dig or sub soil in to the sub oil and do all the acts required for the proper execution of work as provided and specified under section 12 of the Act.

7. Under section 15 of the act any person interested in the land may within (days)..... after the publication of this notification, make an objection to the acquisition of land in the locality in writing to the collector.

8. Under section 11(4) of the act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, specified in the preliminary notification or creat any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification till such time as the proceedings of land acquisition is completed, without prior approval of the Collector.

NOTE: A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector for the purpose of acquisition.

(Sd.) ILLEGIBLE

State Government Collector, Amroha

UP- 171565 Date 13.12.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट
www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING,
UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
DURGAPAL GARDEN NEAR SINTHIYA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL,
PILIKOTHI ROAD, BARI MUKHANI HALDWANI, DISTT- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter no. 1817/Nivida/Anubandh-Ranikhet/78 Dated: 13-12-2021

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF MULTISTOREY PARKING AT ALMORA, DISTT - ALMORA.
2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 665.43 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 13.12.2021 (17.00 hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 04.01.2022 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 06.01.2022 (11.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi Niwas, Durgapal Garden, Pilikothi, Haldwani.
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 20.12.2021 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal **www.uktenders.gov.in**

GENERAL MANAGER

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING,
UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
DURGAPAL GARDEN NEAR SINTHIYA SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL,
PILIKOTHI ROAD, BARI MUKHANI HALDWANI, DISTT- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter no. 1819/Nivida/Anubandh-Ranikhet/79 Dated: 13-12-2021

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED BUILDING FOR G.I.C. KAPKOT, DISTT - BAGESHWAR
2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 185.89 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 12 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 13.12.2021 (17.00 hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 28.12.2021 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 30.12.2021 (11.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi Niwas, Durgapal Garden, Pilikothi, Haldwani.
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 17.12.2021 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal **www.uktenders.gov.in**

GENERAL MANAGER

RTPCR pre-booking must to fly to India

From Page 1
To stabilise the system and to ensure that the passengers would not have any problem in pre-booking, payment, etc, it may be implemented in six metro cities, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad in the first phase," the Ministry said in the memo. A majority of international passengers coming from "at risk" countries

Parliament clears Bill to extend tenure of CBI director to 5 years

From Page 1
In India, the tenure of the director CBI was fixed for two years. "I think, contrary to the popular impression that has gone to certain quarters, the amendment does not seek to increase the tenure rather it seeks to put an embargo on the tenure of five years. The existing law under the DSP Act provides for tenure not more than two years," Singh said. The Government is suggesting a tenure of not more than five years, making it more institutionalised and streamlined and democratised, Singh added.
During his speech, Singh was interrupted by the Opposition members, who were protesting against the suspension of 12 members.
Earlier, the Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs V Muralaeeharan proposed for a joint debate on The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and The Central Vigilance Commission

choose the expensive rapid RT-PCR test whose report comes within 90 minutes, while the cheaper regular RT-PCR test report can take up to six hours.
The rapid PCR test costs Rs 1,580 at Kozhikode airport, while the rates at Mumbai and Hyderabad airports are 2.5 times at Rs 3,900. At Delhi Airport, the rapid PCR test costs Rs 3,500 while a normal RT-PCR test costs Rs 500. According to an official, the price for normal RT-PCR is decided by the Government but that of rapid PCR tests is decided by the diagnostic laboratory.

(Amendment) Bill, 2021.
However, it was opposed by several members following which Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh decided to take them separately. Days before the Winter Session of Parliament, the Government had last month issued two ordinances extending the tenures of the chief of the CBI and ED and has now brought Bills to replace them.
Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress) asked the Chair to revoke the suspension and allow the 12 suspended members to participate in the debate.
He was also supported by other Opposition leaders including DMK's Tiruchi Siva. However, it was not allowed following which most of the Opposition members walked out of the Upper House.
Initiating the debate, DP Vats of the BJP praised the Government's performance in tackling corruption and said India's world ranking has also improved in this regard.
Amar Patnaik of BJD, M Thambidurai of AIADMK and Ram Nath Thakur of JD(U) also spoke.

Delhi sees 4...

From Page 1
Currently, 35 Covid patients and 3 suspected cases are admitted to the LNJP Hospital.
He said, "All necessary steps are being taken to stop the spread of the new Omicron variant. The Delhi Government is keeping a sharp eye on the new cases and contact tracing is being done for the patients that are infected with the omicron

SC OK's Chardham highway's widening on security concern

From Page 1
It added that landslides have happened in various parts of the country and not specifically due to road construction.
The court was hearing the Centre's plea seeking modification of the September 8, 2020 order, which had asked the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to follow the 2018 circular stipulating a carriageway width of 5.5 metre on the ambitious highway project which goes up to the border with China.
In its application, the MoD had said it seeks modification of the order and directions that the national highways from Rishikesh to Mana, from Rishikesh to Gangotri, and from Tanakpur to Pithoragarh may be developed to two-lane configuration.

Opp MPs march against suspension...

From Page 1
The meeting took place in the midst of leaders of various Opposition parties taking out a protest march in support of their demand for revoking the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs.
Sources said more such meetings of top Opposition leaders would be held in the next few days, in a bid to bring all Opposition forces together. Opposition parties have been protesting the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs and are holding protests, seeking the revocation of their suspensions. Former Congress chief Rahul and leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge were also part of Tuesday's meeting with the Congress president.
According to sources, Sonia had invited Uddhav Thackeray and DMK chief MK Stalin. Both deputed their leaders -- Raut and Baalu -- respectively. These meetings are coming at the backdrop of Trinamool Congress distancing itself from making into a joint front involving the Congress. The differences were more visible on Tuesday during the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha when the other Opposition members were in the Well protesting. TMC participated and raised certain issues when M Venkaiah Naidu was on the Chair.

Lakhimpur Kheri violence ...

From Page 1
Senior prosecution officer (SPO) SP Yadav on Tuesday said, "Chief Investigator of the SIT Vidyaram Diwakar, probing Tikunia violence, moved an application in the court of C/JM Chinta Ram stating the probe and evidence gathered so far established that the violence leading to the death of five people and injuries to several others was not an act of negligence or carelessness."
"The chief investigator stated in his application that the act was a pre-planned conspiracy, causing death, owing to which the earlier IPC sections in the FIR namely sections 279, 338 and 304A were dropped and IPC sections 307, 326, 34 and sections 3/25/30 of the Arms Act were added," Yadav said.
He further said the chief investigating officer urged the court to rectify the warrants of the 13 accused who are in judicial custody.
On October 3, a convoy of three SUVs, including

SII to launch ...

From Page 1
"Multilateral organisations and policy makers should be able to identify and isolate the new mutations and find out the efficacy of vaccines against it, in a time bound manner," he said. Poonawala's announcement should be seen in the context of the statement made by him earlier that Covavax -- which is a version of the Covid-19 vaccine Novavax manufactured by US firm Novavax Inc - would be mass produced by SII mainly for both adults and those below 18 years. He had earlier announced that Covavax for kids would be launched in the first quarter of 2022. The SII CEO said that with over a billion-dollar investment having gone into developing and manufacturing the Covid-19 vaccine, "the journey so far has given us several key lessons owing to the rapidly changing situation in accordance with the mutating virus".
Commending the Centre's role in tackling the challenges posed by the pandemic in the last two years, SII CEO said: "Given the manner in which we dealt with the pandemic, India is now better prepared to deal with such catastrophe. Hopefully the worst is behind us all. The Government of India has been working towards creating an effective healthcare system and has made enough provision for hospital beds and oxygen."

a Qatar Airways flight on December 2. He stayed in Johannesburg in South Africa for a week and had mild symptoms.
Under the Centre's new norms, RT-PCR tests are mandatory for passengers arriving from the "at-risk" countries and they can only leave the airport only after the results come.
Also, two per cent of the passengers arriving on flights from other countries are being tested randomly.

Mahindra Thar belonging to MoS Ajay Mishra, ran over a group of farmers protesting at Tikonia crossing, killing four of them and a journalist, and leaving nearly half-a-dozen others injured. Two BJP leaders and a driver of Thar were lynched in the subsequent violence. Two FIRs were lodged in this connection.
The UP government had formed a nine-member SIT to investigate both the cases. The SIT was later reconstituted by the Supreme Court, which stressed that 'in investigating cases like this, justice must not only be done but also be seen and perceived to be done', and appointed retired Punjab and Haryana High Court judge, Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, to monitor the probe in the case.
The special investigators, while investigating the violence, had identified and arrested 13 people in FIR number 219, including Minister's son Ashish Mishra, Sumit Jaiswal, Ankit Das and others, while in FIR number 220, four people were identified and arrested. All the accused are presently in judicial custody.

All food items must have full disclosure of ingredients: HC

From Page 1
Every person has a right to know as to what he/she is consuming, and nothing can be offered to the person on a platter by resort to deceit, or camouflage," the bench said.
The high court also directed the food business operators to ensure full and strict compliance of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations on the basis that the use of any ingredient -- in whatever measure or percentage, which is sourced from animals, would render the food article as non-vegetarian. "We may observe that failure on the part of the food business operators to comply with the above requirements would expose themselves to, inter alia, class action for violation of the fundamental rights of the consuming public and invite punitive damages, apart from prosecution," the bench said.
The court directed FSSAI to verify claims made by the food business operators and the connivance or failure on the authorities' part or its officers to perform their duties shall expose them to claims by the aggrieved parties and prosecution under the law.

Delhi Govt forms panel to probe Bhalswa landfill fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government on Tuesday constituted a committee of three members to investigate Bhalswa landfill fire.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai informed that the committee has been directed to look into all possible reasons behind the fire and submit a detailed report on this within two days. Based on this report, the department will take appropriate action to ensure such instances do not occur in future.

The committee will be headed by DK Singh (Senior Environmental Engineer), the members are Dr. Chetna (Senior Scientific Officer) and Rajiv Sharma (Environmental Engineer).

Rai added, "We have also directed the department to take all necessary steps. It was discovered that due to the fire at the Bhalswa landfill site, piles of garbage were spilled everywhere around the site and the smoke made the air barely breathable for the people



around. Reportedly, many such unfortunate instances of fires have taken place in the past, but the North MCD has not taken any action to prevent them.

Burning of garbage significantly contributes to the pollution levels, and the amount of smoke it generates is harmful enough to cause serious problems

even in healthy individuals. Hence, a committee has been constituted by the Kejriwal Government to investigate the matter to deal with this matter at the earliest. Based on the committee's report, further action will be taken. It is noteworthy that the fire broke out at the Bhalswa landfill site on December 11."

Kejriwal promises ₹1,000 per month to all women if AAP wins in U'khand polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/UTTARAKHAND

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will provide every woman one thousand rupees every month after forming the government in Uttarakhand, party National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said while announcing his fourth guarantee on Tuesday.

Kejriwal said said every women in the family above 18 will get the aid after AAP voted to power in the state. "Out of Uttarakhand's budget of 55 thousand crore rupees, about 11 thousand crore rupees goes into the pockets of the leaders, he alleged.

"We will stop the loot and the money that these leaders sent to the Swiss Bank will now go into the pockets of women," he said.

The AAP Convenor stated that he is the only one who gives electricity, education and water for free and now he is going a step ahead to give thousand rupees to each woman. He announced that this time women will take the onus of choosing the government in Uttarakhand and decide

Kejriwal concluded by saying that the people in Uttarakhand have given opportunities to the BJP and Congress for 20 years, now they should give a chance to the AAP for just five years, and reject them if they do not deliver

who to vote for.

Kejriwal concluded by saying that the people in Uttarakhand have given opportunities to BJP and Congress for 20 years, now they should give a chance to the AAP for just five years, and reject them if they do not deliver.

Speaking about his guarantees for the people of Uttarakhand, the AAP Convenor said, "Till now, I have announced three guarantees for Uttarakhand. First was regarding electricity: We know that despite Uttarakhand being a prime electricity generating state, the people face power cuts that last 7-8 hours. On the other hand, Delhi buys its electricity from external sources, from states like

Uttarakhand – yet we are able to provide free and uninterrupted electricity. Similarly, we guaranteed that we will provide free 24x7 electricity in Uttarakhand as well once we come to power," he added.

"The second guarantee was to ensure jobs for the many capable minds facing unemployment in the state. Due to the lack of jobs, they feel compelled to leave their homes and settle in our states and countries," he added.

Talking about the third guarantee, he said "The third guarantee we gave was one of free Tirth Yatra for the elderly. Everyone knows the age-old tale of Shravan Kumar, the ideal son who ensured to take his parents to make pilgrimage. So a free pilgrimage or Tirth Yatra scheme is already running in Delhi, where the Delhi Government facilitates these tours for people free of cost and includes sacred sites such as Dwarka, Shirdi, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura, Vrindavan, Ajmer Sharif, and so on. It has already been implemented in Delhi, and the same will be done here in Uttarakhand."

CM misleading U'khand people on jobs: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of misleading the people in Uttarakhand by claiming that his Government has provided 10 lakh jobs to the unemployed of Delhi.

Citing an RTI reply, Congress Delhi unit president Anil Kumar said that only 440 jobs has been generated in the last seven years. He asked what happened to the eight lakh jobs Arvind had promised in his election manifesto to the youth of Delhi that he would generate in five years?

Kumar said that Kejriwal has been touring Assembly poll-bound States like Uttarakhand and promising everything free, including unemployment allowance to youth and Rs 1000 monthly pension to women but the same is not implemented in Delhi.

He demanded the AAP Government to first fulfill the 10-point guarantee he promised to Delhiites.

refundable amount of only ₹25 can be charged as admission registration fee. The purchase of prospectus of the school by the parents shall be optional," a senior DoE official said.

Schools were asked to notify their number of seats and the admission criteria by Tuesday.

The DoE has directed that the number of seats at the entry levels shall not be less than the highest number of seats in entry-level classes during the last three years - 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

"Schools shall develop and adopt criteria for admission which shall be fair, reasonable, well defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent."

"No school shall adopt a criterion abolished by the department including charging a capitation fees or donations. Pre-schools or montessori schools run by registered societies or Trusts as branches of recognised unaided schools will have to follow single admission process for their pre-school and main school considering them as one institution," the official said.

As per the notified schedule, the first list of selected children will be put up on February 4, followed by a second list on February 21 and a subsequent list for admission, if any, on March 15. The entire admission process will conclude on March 31

A monitoring cell is being constituted in each district under the chairmanship of the deputy director concerned, who shall ensure that each private school uploads the criteria and their points on the online module and further, ensure that the school shall not adopt those criteria which were abolished by the department and upheld by the Delhi High Court.

"We welcome the decision of the government for starting the nursery admission process from tomorrow. Parents must be given a fair opportunity to choose the best school as per the needs of their child. Moreover, preschool education lays the foundation which aims at holistic development of a child's physical, social, emotional, cognitive and creative needs. It will be a sigh of relief to

parents as schools will be able to provide a congenial environment to children to explore, learn and grow when physically present in the school," said Sumedha Goel, director of The Shri Ram Wonder Years, Rohini.

"Till the time schools are closed, learning process of the children will continue to be in online mode. With the new Omicron Covid-19 variant, cases are rising each day, and it has triggered concerns nationwide. Keeping the same in mind, it is imperative for parents to get children enrolled so as to bridge the learning gaps due to schools being closed," she added.

Veena Goel, principal of Apeejay School, Pitampura said, "We are all excited and with renewed zest and vigour, we wait for the new pre-nursery batch. We are already planning ahead with blended learning at the top of the pedestal. We are creating an ecosystem for an appropriate amalgamation of activities beautifully woven at home and in school along with maintaining a strong parent-school partnership". **PTI**

DJB to treat Haryana sewage to save river



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) will treat 95 Million gallons per day (mgd) of sewage water coming from Haryana to prevent the Yamuna from getting polluted, DJB Chairman Satyendar Jain said on Tuesday.

Jain inspected the Badshahpur drain near Najafgarh on Tuesday and said that Delhi Government has decided to treat this 95 MGD of sewage coming from Haryana via Badshahpur drain through in-situ technology. "This technology will be able to filter and treat the water in the drains themselves. This will also save the cost of making new STPs and the sewage water falling into the Yamuna can also be treated with this technology," he added.

The Yamuna receives 155 MGD (million gallons per day) of sewage from neighbouring states, which includes two large drains from Haryana.

"The Najafgarh drain carries 95 MGD of sewage water coming from Haryana through Badshahpur drain which further mixes into the Yamuna. The sewage water and industrial effluents coming from neighbouring States, if stopped from falling into the Yamuna, will be a huge step towards cleaning the Yamuna River. However, neighbouring states dump sewage from their areas without treatment, resulting in the water from the drains flowing directly into the Yamuna," he said.

"The Kejriwal Government has taken the initiative to clean the sewage coming from other states as well. Although this work belongs to those neighbouring states only, we believe that the Yamuna River belongs to the country and not to any state, so the Delhi government has decided to treat all kinds of sewage that falls into the Yamuna," he added.

As per the estimates, the DJB is supplying 940 MGD of water against the demand of 1140 MGD of water. To augment the water supply, the DJB is also working on other aspects like construction of state-of-the-art wells, rejuvenation of lakes through ground-water recharge, installation of ammonia treatment plants etc.

Delhi emerging as EV capital of India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites are opting for electric vehicles (EV) as EV sales have been registered six times higher in the Capital than in the rest of the country. According to the Transport Department, EV accounted for the second most bought type of vehicles in the September-November quarter accounting for nine percent of the vehicles sold while the national average rests at only 1.6 percent.

As per EV database with Delhi government, 9, 540 EVs sold in Delhi last quarter. As the sale rapidly goes up each month, the city government has set a target for EVs to account for 25 percent of sales by 2024.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to share the news and wrote, "I'm glad Delhi is emerging as the EV capital of India with a 9%



share of EVs. Delhi is doing everything possible to reduce its contribution to pollution."

Interestingly, in September and November 2021, EV sales were 9.2 percent while in October it was 8.2% of the total sale.

It is important to note here that in the previous quarter Electric

Vehicles have emerged as the second most bought vehicles in Delhi after Petrol-run vehicles. While the sales of CNG vehicles have stayed put at 7% falling from 9.7% in September to 6.5% in November.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "Delhi's progressive electric vehicle policy has turned out

to be a huge success. Electric Vehicle sales are gaining popularity day by day in Delhi. It is because of the CM's vision that the Delhi Government has been able to introduce such magnificent reforms in governance."

A total of 9,540 electric vehicles were sold in Delhi from September to November. Of this, September saw the sales of 2,873 EVs, while 3,275 EVs were sold in October and 3,392 in November. EVs have risen to the second position in sales figures after petrol vehicles which took the first place at 82,626. At the same time, Electric Vehicles surpassed popular choices like Diesel and CNG by a significant margin. 7,820 CNG vehicles and 2,688 vehicles were sold in the quarter. In the hybrid category 3,918 Petrol+CNG vehicles were sold while 1,429 Petrol + Other Hybrid variants were sold.

AAP accuses MCDs of failing to deliver, BJP refutes charge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused the BJP-ruled municipal Corporations of 'failing' to construct even 10 out of 100 parking complexes promised in its manifesto ten years ago. However, Delhi BJP refuted the charges, saying that the AAP leaders kept busy creating confusion among people, anticipating defeat in upcoming municipal elections.

AAP Chief Spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said that BJP promised 27 parking lots in South MCD alone but built only two parking lots, one of which collapsed a year later. Bhardwaj said that parking for about one crore vehicles needed in Delhi as per its population and even High Court and Supreme Court have reprimanded MCD several times over the issue.

Responding to the allegations, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that leveling baseless allegations on MCDs has become a regular game of Saurabh Bhardwaj and other AAP leaders.

Kapoor said that car parking charges collected by MCDs deposited in their ESCROW funds but they can not suffice the funds needed for the construction of car parking and therefore these projects are being completed on 'Public Private Partnership' model.

Operation Milap

Delhi Police reunites 9 children with parents in 1 week

New Delhi: Under 'Operation Milap', the Delhi Police has rescued and reunited nine children with their parents in several States in the last one week, officials said on Tuesday.

Police teams visited Apna Ghar Ashram in Paharganj, Prayas Children Home in Jahangirpuri and Katyayani Balika Ashram in Jhandewalan in the last 10 days. They checked children's record with the available police data of missing or kidnapped kids, developed information and also spoke to the children residing there, a senior police officer said.

During one such conversation, a 13-year-old child appeared nervous. He revealed his mother's name and her mobile phone number. Police contacted the woman, who identified her son on the basis of description and reached the anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) office of north-west district from Buxar in Bihar along with her brother, the officer said.

"The children were also counselled with the help of an NGO and during the counselling, some boys shared information about their residence. In the process, six children, aged between 11 and 17 years, from Apna Ghar Ashram were reunited with their parents in Madhya Pradesh, UP, Delhi and Bihar. A 13-year-old child from Katyayani Balika Ashram was reunited with her parents in Delhi," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said.

Two minors from Prayas Children Home were reunited with their parents in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, police added.

PTI



Birds perch on a tree during a cold and foggy morning, in Gurugram on Tuesday

PTI

PARL PANEL QUESTIONS IT MINISTRY OFFICIALS

Staff quizzed on hacking of Modi’s Twitter handle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, has questioned top officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) about the hacking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Twitter handle and the Pegasus issue.

The Committee summoned top officials of MeitY on the subject of safeguarding citizens’ rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on women security in the digital space.

According to sources, when members of the panel questioned MeitY officials about the hacking of Prime Minister Modi’s Twitter handle, the officials appeared clueless about the issue and stated what was already available in the public domain.

During the proceedings, the committee’s chairman Tharoor also questioned the alleged hacking of the phone



Twitter handle associated with the prime minister has been compromised. In September 2020, the handle of his personal website was hacked and even then tweets promoting bitcoin, seen to be linked to a scam, were posted from @narendramodi_in



using spyware Pegasus, to which the officials replied that the matter was under consideration, sources said.

“When Tharoor sought their cooperation, officials simply ducked the question by saying that they have nothing to say on Pegasus,” a source claimed. Modi’s Twitter handle was briefly hacked on Sunday and a tweet claiming that India has “officially adopted bitcoin as legal tender” was put out from it. The Prime Minister’s Office later said the account was immediately secured after the matter was escalated to Twitter.

According to sources, when members of the panel questioned MeitY officials about the hacking of Prime Minister Modi’s Twitter handle, the officials appeared clueless about the issue and stated what was already available in the public domain

This is not the first time that a Twitter handle associated with the prime minister has been compromised. In September 2020, the handle of his personal website was hacked and even then tweets promoting bitcoin, seen to be linked to a scam, were posted from @narendramodi_in

This is not the first time that a Twitter handle associated with the prime minister has been compromised. In September 2020, the handle of his personal website was hacked and even then tweets promoting bitcoin, seen to be linked to a scam, were posted from @narendramodi_in. Modi’s accounts are not alone in being targeted by hackers for pushing bitcoin, a cryptocurrency, as handles of several noted public personalities, including Barack Obama and Bill Gates besides those from fields like entertainment, have been targeted in the past.

Ministry: 123 arrested for misuse of credentials under PM-KISAN scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that as many as 123 persons have been arrested so far this year for the misuse of credentials of block and district officials to approve the application of ineligible farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN).

“Some district officials have also been arrested along with the contractual workers, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. Under the PM-KISANeligible marginal farmers are electronically given Rs 6,000 annually in three equal instalments.

Out of 123 persons arrested as of December 8, 2021, the Minister said eight were Government officials, 40 were contractual employees, 23 were owners of the computer centre, and 52 were brokers and individuals.

“As on December 8, 2021, a total of 123 persons have been arrested for the misuse of credentials of block/district officials to approve the application of ineligible farmers under PM-KISAN Scheme,” he said.



Of the total number of persons arrested, eight officials were from the Agriculture Department of Tamil Nadu, including one official from Tiruvallur district, three officials from Vellore district, three officials from Villupuram district and one from Salem district, he added.

Tomar added the Tamil Nadu Government has filed FIR in 16 districts under provisions made in Section 409, 120, 468, 171 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 43 and 66 of the IT Act. However, the enquiry conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government is under process, and the trial has not yet started, he added.

In Tamil Nadu, Tomar said Rs 182.8 crore has been recovered from ineligible beneficiaries, including the income tax payees under the PM-KISAN scheme.

Economic revival uncertain due to Govt’s short-sighted policies, Covid: Tharoor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic combined with the Government’s “short-sighted” policy decisions has ushered in a period of “uncertainty” for the economic revival of India, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The country is witnessing “a crisis” amid the pandemic but its foundation has been laid by the Government with its 2016 decision of demonetising Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes, he charged, while initiating a debate on the second batch of supplementary demand for grants for 2021-22.

“Our nation’s economy continues to battle the significant forces of disruption that were set in motion by the

Covid-19 pandemic and which can trace their way back in our country to the disaster of demonetisation,” Tharoor said.

“While we all applaud the heroic efforts of our health workers, nurses, doctors and others in the medical fraternity, the truth is the virus combined with the short-sighted policy decisions of this government has ushered in a period of uncertainty for the economic revival of the country,” he said. “We have been seeing crises everywhere we look. The foundations of the economy have been laid low ever since demonetisation,” the Congress leader added.

Tharoor lashed out at the government over the budgetary allocations proposed in the Union Budget presented in February this year and said the

The country is witnessing “a crisis” amid the pandemic but its foundation has been laid by the Government with its 2016 decision of demonetising Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes, he charged, while initiating a debate on the second batch of supplementary demand for grants for 2021-22

Government, with its supplementary demands for grants, has continued with its “usual combination” of “high rhetoric, grand ambition, exaggerated numbers and unrealistic targets, all diluted with underwhelming allocations to crucial sectors”. The supplementary

demand for grants “clearly” indicates “a gross miscalculation” on the part of the government on expected expenditure, he charged, adding that “in doing so, it insults Parliament and undermines its control over the budget”.

“The current cash outgo clearly shows the government will be unable to stick to its own claimed targets of capping the fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent of the GDP. They are going to exceed that,” he said.

The gap between the expected revenue and expected expenditure is likely to “widen further” because disinvestment has not progressed the way the government had predicted, Tharoor said. “They have repeatedly failed to meet their disinvestment targets,” he charged.

He noted that a “significant component” of those demands for grants reflected Rs 6,257 crore for Air India Holding Assets Company Limited, which carries the burden of the majority of the debt the carrier was under. “In other words, if the people think by privatising Air India the burden of a loss-making airline is off the hands of taxpayers, they better think again because we are going to be carrying that burden for a long time to come,” the Congress MP said. The government remains liable for nearly Rs 46,000 crore of the accumulated debt and that, therefore, has been passed on to taxpayers, he said and took a swipe at the Government noting, “Achche Din (good days) are going to be a wild coming, no question about it, if it comes at all.”

Rajnath: India must develop missiles to maintain credible deterrence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RAJNATHSPEAKS

“We should, therefore, strengthen ourselves and be ready to deal with any kind of situation

“We have to obtain those technologies too that are with just a few countries right now

“In order to maintain a minimum credible deterrence, we have to immediately think about hypersonic cruise missile development. It will be a revolutionary step in our defence sector and we all have to put our efforts into it

“The integration and modernisation is not just happening by the efforts of the Government

be ensured that India is a leader when it comes to defence technologies. “We have to obtain those technologies too that are with just a few countries right now,” the Minister noted.

Ballistic missile defence systems are getting more and more robust with the passage of time, Rajnath said.

“In order to maintain a minimum credible deterrence, we have to immediately think about hypersonic cruise missile development. It will be a revolutionary step in our defence sector and we all have to put our efforts into it,” he said.

The various weapon platforms designed and developed by the DRDO and handed over to the armed forces have bolstered the security architecture of India, he said.

The Minister said the crucial role played by ever changing technology has added a new dimension to the modern battlefield and termed it as amazing and unprecedented. In such a time, defence technologies with India will have to catch up with the future, he said. Rajnath said he wanted to assure the people of the country that the modernisation and the integration of the armed forces will continue as usual.

“The integration and modernisation is not just happening by the efforts of the government. This is also happening because of the meeting of minds of our armed forces,” he said.

The Government has already taken various measures to boost self-reliance in defence sector, Rajnath said.



Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh hands over the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to Armed Forces and other security agencies at an event in New Delhi on Tuesday

HATE SPEECH, FAKE NEWS IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Sushil calls for regulatory mechanism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over hate speech and fake news in social media, senior BJP leader Sushil Modi on Tuesday called for a regulatory mechanism to put a check.

Demanding an independent regulatory body for big technology entities like Facebook and Google, he also said they should share advertisement revenue adequately with traditional media houses for using their content.

The BJP leader also cited the recent hacking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Twitter account and claimed



that a cryptocurrency lobby group was behind the incident.

Making these assertions in the Rajya Sabha during Zero Hour, he said the regulatory body should also ensure that such entities allocate adequate budget for content moderation activities to check hate speeches and fake news.

Modi said Google and Facebook together take away around 75 per cent of the total digital advertising market in India.

Even though the Zero Hour was marred by din raised by the Opposition later leading to adjournment, Sushil Modi said Rs 9,326 crore goes to Facebook and Rs 13,887 crore to Google, which adds to Rs 23,213 crore, from digital advertisement in India.

“They earn a share higher than the combined revenue of the top 10 listed traditional media companies (which stands) at Rs 8,396 crore,” he said. He also said that Facebook sends 90 per cent of its gross advertisement revenue to its global subsidiary and Google India pays 87 per cent to its parent entity.

Don’t run your offices from LS: Speaker to Ministers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who has been stressing on maintaining dignity, discipline and decorum during the House proceedings, on Tuesday expressed his unhappiness at Ministers interacting with members over various issues inside the House and sought them “not to run” their offices from the House.

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Giriraj Singh was seen interacting with a member, who had come to his seat to discuss some issue after the conclusion of the Question Hour in the House.

The Speaker intervened and made it clear that the House is not the place for such



interactions.

“Honourable members, Ministers should not hold their offices from here. Ministers should ask the members to meet them in office”, Birla said. Birla asked the members to maintain the decorum of the House.

Members of political parties, including those from the Opposition, often go across to the seats of different Ministers to raise certain issues related to their Ministries even when the House proceedings are under-

way.

Birla also pulled up Union Minister Kailash Choudhary for continuing with his reply to a question even after he had announced that the Question Hour was over. “Minister, the Speaker has made the announcement, sit down... You are continuing to speak even when I have said the Question Hour is over,” he said.

Speaker has also been asking members to make their questions short and specific without prefacing them with elaborate background information.

The attempt is to prevent members from making ‘speeches’ during the question and zero- hour and allow maximum number of members to make their point in the House.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-11
ROOM NO. 101, JAL SADAN SHIV MANDIR MARG,
LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024
e-mail:- acem11.djb@gmail.com Ph. 011-29810956

"Stop Corona : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hygiene"
Press N.I.T. No. 21(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-Procurement solution)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-Procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old damaged water line 350 mm dia 250 mm dia at D-15 to T-1 & D-19/1 to B-9/2 Dutta press Okhla Phase-II at Tughlakabad Constituency under EE (M)-52	30,50,574/-	2021_DJB_212462_2 09.12.2021	22.12.2021 up to 3.00 pm

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 798 (2021-22)

Sd/-
(Arif Hussain)
AEE(T/M)-11

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below- mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Dilip Jain/ Alok Jain/ Ashok Kumar Jain/ Divya Jain/ LBAGR0004107724	House Built Over Plot No K.A/121, Karmyogi Phase I Part B Mauja Navada Tehsil & District Mathura Uttar Pradesh/ December 10, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 6,21,460/-	Mathura, Delhi

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

Date : December 15, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
No. PHQ/15/GPC/5571-1/2021

Bhopal, Dated 09/12/2021

"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"

Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for Road Safety Fund on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgcp/app>

S. No	Item	Qty.	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	Automated Liquid Handling System	02	2,40,000	10000

- Cost of tender document (Trader Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgcp/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgcp/app>
- Critical Date Sheet:**

Published Date	10/12/2021 Time 14:00 AM
Bid Document Download Start Date	10/12/2021 Time 16:00 AM
Pre Bid Meeting Date	13/12/2021 Time 12:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	20/12/2021 Time 11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	29/12/2021 Time 14:30 PM
Bid Opening Date	31/12/2021 Time 16:30 PM
- Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum, amendment.
- Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

(Sanjeev Nanchan)
A.I.G. (Provisioning)
For: Director General of Police

G-20246/21
दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392,
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Company is processing for issuance of duplicate Share Certificates in pursuance of intimation about the loss of shares certificates having the following particulars:-

S. No.	Name of the Shareholders	Folio No.	No. of Shares	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1.	SUBHASH	S009794	260 260	166172-77 233772-77	14480521-0780 21826621-6880

Public is cautioned against purchasing or otherwise dealing with the above mentioned share certificates. A Duplicate thereof will be issued to the shareholders, unless any objection is received by the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 13.12.2021

For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Head-Legal & Company Secretary

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/ charged to **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.** [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the **Constructive possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on **17.01.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.** (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs.1,32,65,121/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Two Lakh Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty One only)** pending towards Loan Account No. **HHLDM00398208** by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **08.12.2021** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **09.12.2021** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **JITENDER SINGH (PROPRIETOR, JAKHAR AUTOMOBILES) AND NAVITA JAKHAR**. The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be **Rs. 2,51,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty One Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 25,10,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ten Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.,** Account No. **32180585427** with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at **CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra)**, before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)
BUILT-UP FREEHOLD PROPERTY/ PLOT NO. 391, BUILT ON LAND MEASURING 70 SQ. MTRS. IN BLOCK – AG SITUATED IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF SHALIMAR BAGH RESIDENTIAL SCHEME, NEW DELHI – 110088, FROM BOTTOM TO TOP WITH ITS ROOF RIGHTS UPTO SKY, WITH THE FREE HOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDER THE SAID PROPERTY AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:-
NORTH : 5 MTR. PATH
EAST : 9 MTR. WIDE ROAD
SOUTH : SERVICE LANE
WEST : PLOT NO. 390

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to telink provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and www.auctionfocus.in.
Date : 08.12.2021
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Modi prays to Ganga during polls, then vanishes: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after blowing the election bugle in Goa, Bengal Chief Ministeron Tuesday launched a frontal attack against Prime Minister NarendraModi and the BJP for playing the religion card before elections before vanishing for the next five years.

In an apparent reference to the Prime Minister's inauguration of the refurbished Kashi Vishwanath temple and Corridor Banerjee told a rally in Goa that she was not among people who do nothing for the entire term only to surface with conch shells during the elections.

"We saw Modi ji worshipping the Ganga and taking a holi dip there ... one has every right to do so ... but it is strange to notice that he does so only during the elections ... like he would go to meditate in the mountains of Uttarakhand ahead of the polls ... he even acts a priest sometimes ... but I want to ask what do you do

the entire year ... where do you disappear after the elections," Banerjee said attacking the Uttar Pradesh Government for hiding facts on pandemic and disposing of corpses in the holi river.

"Here we are seeing Modi ji worshipping the Ganga and taking holi dips in Varanasi and there the BJP Government in UP polluted the Ganga for a full year during the corona times by disposing off dead bodies in the holi river," the Bengal Chief Minister said.

Attacking the BJP for raising her Bengali origins Banerjee said "They are saying that I have come to Goa despite being a Bengali ... but my question is if people from Gujarat can come to Goa why can those from Bengal not come here ... Did we ask whether Mahatma Gandhi was a Bengali or a Goan or anything ... this is because he was a national leader and a national leader has to take everyone together."

Iterating once again that



she had not come to Goa to become the Chief Minister she said "Goa will be run by the Goans and not be Gujarat or Delhi," reminding how the BJP had not come to power in the coastal State by people's mandate.

"The BJP did not come to power in Goa with people's mandate but it purchased power here in Goa," she said.

Earlier Banerjee said that the BJP was out there to divide the country promising to stop the saffron party from doing so. "The BJP is trying to divide the

KMC polls: Cover booths with CCTVs, HC tells SEC

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed the State Election Commission to arrange for CCTV cameras to monitor the Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections.

Hearing a plea from the Opposition BJP which also complained that its candidates were not being allowed to campaign by the TMC goons the Court ordered that all the booths and the strong rooms should be covered by the CCTV cameras.

There are more than 4,500 booths in Kolkata. The BJP has also filed a petition seeking deployment of central forces during the elections. The hearing is likely to be taken up on Wednesday.

BJP State president Sukanto Majumdar welcomed the Court decision saying "this will stop manipulation of EVMs to some extent," adding we will now seek a direction for the SEC to preserve all the CCTV footages after the elections.

Mundra Port drug haul case: NIA arrests Afghan national from Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested an Afghan national from the national capital in connection with the Mundra Port Drugs (Heroin) Seizure Case.

The Afghan national Sobhan Aryanfar, 28, was residing at Neb Sarai in South Delhi. The NIA had registered this case on October 6 and this is the eighth arrest in the case.

The NIA had registered the case under various Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and Section 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code, related to seizure of 2,988.21 Kg of narcotic substance (Heroin) seized at Mundra Port, Gujarat involving foreign nationals in procurement and delivery of consignment, the NIA said in a statement.

"During investigation the arrested Afghan national has been found to be involved in

the conspiracy of transporting narcotic drugs concealed in import consignment of 'Semi-processed Talc stones' originating from Afghanistan.

NIA had earlier arrested seven accused persons in this case. Further Investigation in the case continues.

The contraband drug consignment was camouflaged in bags of semi processed talc stones and imported by Aashi Trading Company. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had busted the contraband in September from Mundra port.

On September 13, the DRI detained two containers that

had arrived at Mundra Port from Kandahar in Afghanistan via Bandar Abbas port of Iran.

The declaration accompanying the containers claimed they had "semi-processed talc stones".

However, a thorough examination by DRI had established that the two containers in fact contained 2,988 kg of heroin worth Rs 21,000 crore, which was concealed in "the lower layers" of "jumbo bags" topped with talc stones, an official release had earlier said.

The DRI had arrested eight persons, including five foreign nationals, in connection with the seizure of the drugs.

KPCC initiative to make party cadre intellectually strong

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Congress in Kerala has launched a massive programme to educate district and State-level office bearers of the party in politics, history, literature, arts and fine arts.

This is an initiative by K Sudhakaran, president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee that even senior leaders of the party are ignorant of what is happening in the State as well as the country.

While most of the CPI(M) activists boast of PhD from the party controlled Centre for Development Studies at Thiruvananthapuram, the Congress and other political outfits in the State are not that lucky.

This is reflected in the debates in television news channels where the CPI(M) representatives mesmerize their rivals with arguments and observations gathered from party literature.

Immediately after getting appointed as party's Kerala chief, Sudhakaran asked the leaders and cadre alike to take to reading seriously. "Vichar Vibhag", the propaganda cell of the party which has been in a state of dormant has been acti-

vated by Sudhakaran by appointing Shaiju Kelanlara, a leading intellectual as its chairman.

T J Vinod, MLA and former chief of the Ernakulam District Congress Committee told The Pioneer that the party wants to make people understand the sacrifices made by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi who fought for the country's freedom.

He launched an innovative scheme by which party cadre by paying a monthly instalment of Rs 500/- could get books worth Rs 6,000/-.

"This is being replicated in all 141 assembly constituencies in the State. Our mission is to make the cadre and leaders read great works like My Experiments With Truth by Mahatma Gandhi, Discovery of India and Glimpes of World History by Jawaharlal Nehru and also the classic works authored by the great intellectual of our times Sasi Tharoor," said Shaiju Kelanlara.

Sudhakaran has left instruction with the State and district level leaders to be present in party offices at least for an hour every day and read newspapers, periodicals and

magazines. "The coming days will see Congress deputing articulate spokespersons for TV channel debates to take on the communists," said Shaiju Kelanlara.

Anitha Prakash, municipal councillor, Perumbavoor, who also heads the library council, said that she was confident of making the venture a success. "I am interacting with girl students and requesting them to read the great works by eminent Congress scholars," said Anitha.

Congress in Kerala is devoid of any intellectuals as the entire lot has joined the CPI(M) which does not fail to take care of their needs and requirements.

"It is mandatory on the part of the Marxist cadre to read Deshabhimani, the party organ every morning and they consider the materials published in the paper as the last word on any topic under the sun," said P Rajan, former editor of Mathrubhumi.

The general feeling in Congress camp is that Sudhakaran would make the party intellectually strong and electorally powerful to sweep the 20 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Attack on police bus near Srinagar raises question on whether SOP was followed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A pre-planned terror attack on a police bus in a high security zone of Zewan near Pantha chowk in Srinagar on late Monday evening has raised many question marks whether the Standard Operating procedures (SOP's) as regards 'safe' movement of security personnel were followed or not.

Three cops including an Assistant Sub Inspector of J&K Police were martyred in the 'audacious' terror strike while 11 others were undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh along with IGP, Kashmir Vijay Kumar Tuesday visited the ground zero of the attack site where a police bus was ambushed.

DGP also visited the Army's 92 Base hospital to enquire about the health of police personnel injured in the attack. On the other hand, a former Director General of Police Dr SP Vaid in an interview to a media house asked several pertinent questions while expressing concern over the targeted killings of security personnel in Kashmir valley.

Responding to some of the

straight questions Dr SP Vaid claimed the attack on a police bus in a highly secured zone could have been prevented. He said, "due to the presence of vital security installations in the area large number of security personnel remain deployed there. The attack could have been prevented if a road opening party was present on the ground along with area domination patrol ahead of the movement of security convoy in the evening".

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar told reporters in Srinagar, "It was a planned attack. The terrorists must have done a recce of the area and seen that the bus is coming back every day in routine after getting off duty.

Speaking to reporters at the wreath-laying ceremony for one of the slain cops at District Police Lines Srinagar, Vijay Kumar said, "the attack was carried by a Jaish-e-Mohammad offshoot. "Two foreigners and a local terrorist carried out Zewan attack. One terrorist got injured and his blood trail suggests that the group fled to Pampore and then to the Tral area and we are

tracking them and very soon they will be neutralized".

During his interaction with the officers and jawans at the armed police complex in Zewan the DGP paid rich tributes to the police personnel who attained martyrdom in Monday's terror attack. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of the fallen heroes.

The DGP appreciated the jawans for retaliating the terrorist attack, saying that immediate response avoided what would have been possibly a huge loss. He also complimented the driver for his sensible and quick action during the incident.

He said in the retaliation, one terrorist was reportedly injured and vowed that the perpetrators would be brought to justice very soon.

He directed the force personnel to use protective gear while on duty for personal

safety and take all protection on duty as well as during to and fro travel from the camps to deployment places.

The last rites of all three police personnel were performed in their native villages with full honors. Large number of local residents, senior police and administrative officers attended their final journeys after paying rich tributes to them at the respective police lines.

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Top Pakistani terrorist killed in encounter in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

In a joint operation, Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police on Tuesday eliminated a Pakistan terrorist in Behramgala forest area of Poonch.

The slain terrorist has been identified as Abu Zarara. According to official sources Abu Zarara was pushed inside the Indian territory by his handlers to revive terrorism in South of Pir Panjal region. He was tasked to operate in the Rajouri-Poonch area with an aim to execute a terror strike.

This is the eighth terror-

ist to be eliminated this year. Recently Haji Arif, a dreaded terrorist guide was also eliminated on the LC in the Rajouri sector.

According to a Jammu based Defence spokesman, Lt Col Devender Anand, "the operation was launched in the area late Monday evening. During the wee hours of Tuesday the terrorist attempted to escape the cordon but was neutralized by the security forces". Lt-Col Anand said, One AK-47 Rifle, four magazines and pouches have been recovered from the slain terrorist. The recovered items clearly reveal Pakistan's com-

patibility with this terrorist, he added.

According to official sources, his presence in the area came on the radar of the security forces in August this year. Since then he along with his accomplice was on the run, taking shelter in deep jungles for the past few months, their need for food, clothing & communication (mobile) forced them to contact the civilian population. The security forces were tracking his movement and successfully managed to corner the terrorist on receiving specific input from locals in Behramgala area.

Bribery case: CBI arrests Deputy Chief Engineer of Northeast Frontier Railways

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday apprehended the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Coaching), Northern Frontier Railway (NFR), Guwahati and a private person (bribe giver) in an alleged bribery case of Rs 15 lakh. A case was registered against Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Ranjit Kumar Borah, Director of a Patna-based private company, Sun Shine Devices Private Limited, Chintan Jain, and the firm's employee Niraj Kumar, and other unknown public servants and private persons.

"It was alleged that the public servant while posted earlier as Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction) in NFR had obtained two immovable properties viz. benami flats as alleged illegal gratification from the Director of said private company," the CBI said.

It was alleged that the accused railway official demanded a bribe of Rs 2.10 crore from the private persons in lieu of the two benami flats for extending undue benefits to him in the past and also assured to extend undue favour in future as well. It was also alleged that the private person started transferring the bribe money to the public servant in installments.

The CBI laid a trap and apprehended the public servant and the employee of the accused Director of the private company as soon as the bribe of ₹15 lakh was exchanged between them, it said.

Gujarat pays Covid relief to kin of 22,000 victims through DBT

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat government on Tuesday announced that it has deposited Rs 50,000 relief amount each through direct benefit transfer (DBT) into the bank accounts of around 22,000 persons as per the Supreme Court defined Covid deaths in their families during the pandemic period.

The revenue minister and the official spokesperson of the Gujarat government, Rajendra Trivedi said, "The state government has till date received over 38,000 applications for Covid-19 death relief aid and till now we have released relief money in 22,000 cases through DBT."

"Earlier, as per the definition of Covid deaths by the Gujarat government which was according to the standards set by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 10,093 applications were received for relief. However, after a new definition of Covid deaths by the Supreme Court, the state government has received more applications," added the minister.

The minister, whose department had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court giving details of the compensation claims, said, "The state committee here had decided not to count deaths due to heart

attack or failure of other body organs to be due to Covid-19 and consider them as separate cases."

The then Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani had maintained all along that the government was not counting co-morbid patients among Covid-19 according to the ICMR guidelines.

The revenue minister added that, "The Supreme Court ordered that all deaths within 30 days of patients testing positive for Covid-19 should be considered eligible for Rs 50,000 compensation without considering anything else. This has likely caused the

numbers to rise, is what I understand primarily."

Trivedi claimed Gujarat to be the first state in the country to be disbursing Covid death compensation as per the Apex Court's directive. "We are ahead of all other states in disbursing ex-gratia amount of Rs 50,000 and will ensure that the pandemic victims are paid compensation at the earliest in a simplified manner," he said.

The Opposition Congress has been claiming that 3 lakh people had succumbed to the dreaded virus and that this was borne out by district-wise death figures since March 2020.

IANS

BDL displays products at exhibitions in Hyderabad, Vizag

Hyderabad: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is organising a product exhibition at its Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam units as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

The public sector undertaking is showcasing models of anti-tank guided missiles, surface-to-air missiles, air-to-air missiles, missile launchers and underwater weapons.

The exhibition, which was virtually inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh on Monday, will continue till December 19. It is open from 10 am to 4 pm at Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad, as well as the Visakhapatnam unit for general public.

"This is the first time that BDL is exhibiting a wide range of products at its premises, which are open for the general public," said Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, BDL.

BDL is showcasing its current and futuristic products.

IANS

BSF camel contingent, ITBP 'daredevil' bikers to participate in R-Day celebration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has approved participation of marching contingents of CRPF, CISF, SSB and Delhi Police besides the camel contingent of BSF and Motor Cycle Display of ITBP for participation in Republic Day celebrations in January next year.

In a communication captioned as "Republic Day Parade, 2022- Composition and Parade", the Police Division of the Home Ministry said, "It has been decided that following CAPE contingents will participate in the Republic Day Parade, 2022. BSF Camel Contingent with Band, Delhi Police Marching Contingent with Band, CRPF Marching Contingent with Band, CISF Marching Contingent with Band and SSB Marching Contingent with Band."

"Further, this year, Motor Cycle Display of ITBP is hereby nominated for Republic Day Parade, 2022," it said.

The ITBP's motorcycle contingent is known as Janbaaz and displays an array of daredevilry through motorbikes like lotus formation, yoga performance on bikes and pyramid formation among others.



POST-KAREENA-AMRITA COVID-19 INFECTION

BMC seals 4 celeb buildings in Bandra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant development that came on a day when Mumbai and twin townships of Vasai and Virar in the neighbouring Palghar district recorded eight fresh cases of Omicron, the Birhanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday sealed four buildings at Bandra and Khar in north-west Mumbai after Bollywood actresses Kareena Kapoor and Amrita Arora tested Covid-19.

Bollywood went into a tizzy after the civic administration sealed buildings "Satguru Sharan" where Kareena Kapoor lives, "Sarkar

Heritage" where Amrita Arora has a flat, Karan Johar's Residency Building and Kiran Apartments, where Seema Khan lives.

In addition, the BMC also organised Covid-19 testing camps at these buildings, as a precautionary measure. The BMC's the BMC H-West ward officials sanitised the four buildings.

Kareena and Amrita tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday, within days after they had attended a private party hosted at his home by Karan Johar. The two actresses, who showed mild Covid-19 symptoms on being diagnosed positive for the pandemic, have

quarantined themselves in the flats of their sealed buildings.

Meanwhile, the BMC health officials have traced at least three dozen contacts of the celebrities who attended party at Karan Johar's home on Wednesday. Their swab samples have been sent for tests and the reports are expected.

It is not clear yet whether Seema Khan, wife of actor Sohail Khan, who was among the celebrities that attended Karan Johar's party, has tested positive or otherwise. However, party host Karan Johar has tested negative for Covid-19.

With no let up in the incidence of Covid-19 variant, Mumbai and the twin town-

ships of Vasai-Virar in neighbouring Palghar district have recorded eight fresh cases of Omicron, taking the total number of cases in the 28.

Of the fresh Omicron cases reported on Tuesday, Mumbai recorded a maximum of seven cases, while Vasai-Virar townships registered one case. Of the eight cases, three are women while five are men.

However, none of the eight infected persons has an international travel history. Of them, one had gone to New Delhi, while another had visited Bengaluru.

The eight newly Omicron infected persons are aged between 24 and 41 years. Of

them, three are asymptomatic, while five others are showing mild symptoms. While two of them are in hospital and 6 are at home in isolation. The close contacts of these eight patients are being traced. Of them, seven infected persons have been vaccinated, while the remaining one has not been vaccinated yet".

Of the 28 patients infected by Omicron virus in the state, Mumbai accounts for a maximum of 12, Pimpri Chinchwad comes close second with 10 and Pune Municipal Corporation has recorded two cases. Kalyan Dombivali, Nagpur, Latur and Vasai Virar have registered one case each.


Meanwhile, the authorities said the total number of passengers who arrived at Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur airports since December 1 was 91,320 (13,615 from At-risk countries and rest 77,705 from other countries), while passengers whose RT-PCR tests have been done are 15,621 (13,615 from high-risk countries and 2006 were other countries). Similarly, RT-PCR positive and samples sent for genomic sequencing was 38 (30 at-risk countries and eight from other countries).

Additionally, field surveillance of all international passengers who have arrived since 1st November is underway.

FIRST COLUMN

CURRENT TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE SECTOR

The healthcare industry is revolutionising itself and remains a field of exciting opportunities



HITESH SINGH

Advanced medical technology is a promising premise that has the potential to drive healthcare forward, make it more accessible, improve interoperability, enhance patient experience, and reduce the overall cost of healthcare delivery in the long run by making it more efficient and data driven. Artificial Intelligence will significantly transform how healthcare systems operate, connect with patients, and provide care by increasing the overall efficiency of patient management. AI has introduced the possibility of high performance in correlating the data set and automates diagnosis, and much more. Machine learning (ML) is a subset of AI, encompassing algorithms that can draw new inferences from data sets without requiring human-initiated reprogramming and supervision. The ML-powered applications could be used to go through the large image sets typical in fields such as radiology & cardiology, identifying abnormalities and highlighting areas of interest for doctors to review.



As a result, physicians can save time and possibly avoid burnout, all without compromising on the accuracy of the clinical review process. The advent of video conferencing, wearable devices and easy availability of smartphones has brought telemedicine to the forefront of healthcare delivery services and has made the virtual care possible. Though telemedicine and telehealth services were already in the county since many years but the whole segment took a giant leap forward during the pandemic. Online consultations, remote ICUs, virtual monitoring, and nutritional meal delivery to patient in need, were among the few services which grew rapidly in India In pursuing the next generation of innovative medical devices, many OEMs are forging ahead with impressive developments in miniaturization of technology to deliver unprecedented advances in patient care. The needs for small innovative medical devices are evident. More affordable and portable devices are required to meet burgeoning healthcare demands from a growing, and in many communities, aging population. Home-based primary care is a model that makes use of home care physicians and nurse practitioners, in connection with an interdisciplinary team of professionals, including skilled home health professionals. It is envisioned that the home-based care is the future of healthcare especially for growing aging population in tier-I & tier-II cities of India. "Sanitize everything!" became a mantra in 2020 as COVID-19 overwhelmed our healthcare sector.

However, the need for sanitization has always been critical given that healthcare-acquired infections affect millions of patients each year across the globe. In the future, we expect to see more hospitals adopt sanitizable and rugged mobile devices, gadgets and hand-held scanners that are purpose-built to withstand repeated wipe downs with approved cleaning agents to reduce the spread of infection. As so much of our lives (and work) move online, healthcare tech trends include beefing up cyber security and making sure that healthcare workers have the tools they need to keep sensitive data secure. Also, there is a dire need to continuously monitor for vulnerabilities that pose cybersecurity risks to medical devices safety and patient data confidentiality. Internet of things, commonly known as IoT is already commonplace in our everyday lives and is paving the way for IoMT. Nowadays there are several medical devices for the end consumers which are meant to track and record the fitness and health data to regularly monitor the health status of the individuals. These medical devices have numerous applications and the data compiled by them is then utilized by the healthcare based mobile applications to check the health status of the individual on a day-to-day basis and detecting any abnormalities the moment they occur. The overall healthcare industry is in the process of revolutionizing itself and remains a field of exciting opportunities for many, so stay tuned to witness what's coming-up next.

(The writer is senior strategic marketing head, Fujifilm Sonosite, South Asia. The views expressed are personal.)

Flood policies that do not wash away

A long-term disaster management policy is essential for minimising the impact of floods in terms of loss of both human and physical capital

In the past few months, the country has faced various natural disasters such as cyclones and floods coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic. On the one hand, where the Government of India is striving to curb the spread of Covid-19 infection and revive the economic activity, natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, on the other hand, are adding to the fiscal burden of the government while also posing severe health hazards to the population. Recently, post-monsoon floods in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and other southern states have wreaked havoc on human life and property, which has become a persistent problem in the states.

Nearly after six years, heavy rains led by the north-eastern monsoon have hit the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, causing disastrous floods and claiming 18 lives across the state as per the local officials. At the same time, several parts of Andhra Pradesh have been hammered by heavy rainfall and flooding, resulting in loss of property, including crops, and causing 34 deaths. As per the preliminary reports from affected districts, the flooding with heavy rain has caused damage to nearly 1500 houses, and the estimated crop loss is to be around Rs. 3000 crore spreading over 8 lakh hectares of agricultural and horticulture crops across the state of Andhra Pradesh forcing about 58,000 people to evacuate.

According to a Central Water Commission (CWC) report, floods in Tamil Nadu have cost the state around ₹27,326 crores between 1953 and 2017. Of this, the damage to public infrastructure stood at ₹24,061 crores, followed by crop damage of ₹3,120 crore and houses at ₹145 crores. During this period, 3,705 people were killed, 56 million people were affected, 2.32-million-hectare crop areas were devastated, and 5.49 million houses were damaged. Every year, the loss to Tamil Nadu due to floods is around ₹635 crores, and the state witnesses 81 deaths with a crop loss of ₹94.54 crore.

Natural disasters such as floods, drought, lightning, cyclone, hailstorms, and landslides are recurring phenomena in Tamil Nadu. Due to its unique geo-climatic conditions, the state is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters due to its unique geo-climatic conditions and has witnessed a rise in natural disaster frequencies, damages, and fatalities. Moreover, a high degree of socioeconomic vulnerability, inadequate mitigation measures, rapid urbanization, and high dependency on the agricultural sector have further accentuated the damages caused due to natural disasters. Apart from natural factors like incessant and heavy rainfall during the monsoon, man-made factors have also contributed to increased damage due to floods in Tamil Nadu and across the county. Unplanned development, encroachments into riparian zones, failure of flood control systems,



APART FROM TAMIL NADU AND ANDHRA PRADESH, FLOODS ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER STATES IN INDIA. BASED ON DAMAGES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES AND POPULATION AFFECTED AND KILLED, INDIA IS THE SECOND MOST FLOOD-AFFECTED NATION OF THE WORLD AFTER CHINA

(Sahoo is an OES officer and teaches Economics at Vikram Deb Autonomous College, Jeyapore, Odisha. Parida is an Assistant Professor in Economics at FLAME University, Pune. Goel is an Assistant Professor in Economics at GGS Indraprastha University, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



poor drainage facilities, deforestation, and unplanned reservoir operations are worsening flood damages. As a result, urban floods could be manifested as a man-made tragedy.

The capital of Tamil Nadu, Chennai has experienced catastrophic floods in 1943, 1976, 1985, 1998, 2002, 2005, and 2015 due to heavy rains associated with the cyclonic activity. The 2015 South India floods resulted from heavy rainfall generated by the annual northeast monsoon in November-December 2015 that affected the Coromandel Coast region of the South Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. As per the CWC report, the December 2015 floods in the city and its suburban areas claimed 421 lives and affected 3.04 million populations. Moreover, 0.38 million hectares of crop were devastated, and 3.01 million houses were damaged, leading to total damage of ₹25,913 crore. It caused massive damage to public and private property and brought the city to a standstill for several days.

Apart from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, floods also adversely affect other states in India. Based on damages of public and private properties and population affected and killed, India is the second most flood-affected nation of the world after China (Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT)). According to the CWC report, 107 535 people were killed due to floods, and 2,088 million people were affected over the period 1953-2017. During this period, damage due to floods, including crops, houses, and public infrastructure, stood ₹3,78,247 crores, damage to crop ₹1,11,225 crores, damage to

public infrastructure 2,12,060 crores and damage to house ₹53,774 crores. In addition, every year, the country lost around 0.46% of GDP due to floods and damage to crops around 0.18% of GDP (Parida et al., 2021). Flood impact also increases fiscal pressure of the state Government through government disaster management activities.

Moreover, frequent floods adversely affect the employment opportunities in the rural agricultural sector, increasing poverty, rural inequality, and food shortage due to crop damage and income loss. Similarly, urban flooding has become a common threat for city residents due to poor town planning and a lack of investment in infrastructure. Rapid urbanization, arbitrary encroachment of waterways in cities and towns, poor drainage facilities, and illegal constructions have led to growing urban flooding. Besides this, poor waste management is annoying the hassle through blockading drains and canals while ill-planned road projects are slicing off flood flows.

To mitigate the impact of floods, adequate disaster adaptation measures and better disaster management policies are essential in the flood-prone areas. First, greater spending by district disaster management authority on rehabilitation and evacuation during flood disasters would help to mitigate flood fatalities. Second, improved flood warning systems, particularly in coastal districts, and accurate forecasting of rainfall and floods might allow for timely measures and constrain disaster impacts. Third, pre-flood measures like developing disaster-resilient infrastructures, such as construction and maintenance of river

embankment, canals, roads, bridges, river connectivity, and construction of multi-purpose shelters in low-lying areas, may help mitigate flood fatalities.

Finally, as the problem of urban flooding is becoming more severe, and losses are escalating each year, the issue of urban flooding requires exclusive attention with appropriate implementation of the NDMA guidelines on Urban Flooding 2010. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification issued in 1991, subsequently revised in 2011 and 2019, intended to address coastal zone management issues. However, it has not been able to regulate development in coastal areas over the years. Therefore, strict implementation of the CRZ norms in coastal cities is the need of the hour.

Also, the Government should create a massive community awareness campaign regarding the impacts of natural disasters, their causes, and mitigation measures. In addition, Government should also undertake district-wise flood inundation mapping using advanced techniques and ensure better coordination among all departments or agencies in evicting encroachments along with waterways and inside water bodies. Overall, a long-term disaster management policy is essential for minimizing the flood impact in terms of loss of both human and physical capital. The time to effectively implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30 focuses on reducing disaster risk with the state in the primary role and shared responsibility with other stakeholders, including the local government and the private sector. The aim is to protect the development gains from the risk of the disaster.



Democracy and decorum in Parliament

Parliament needs to function effectively on framing Bills, budget scrutiny and holding the Government accountable. But that is not the focus today



KALYANI SHANKAR

Former President Pranab Mukherjee, as leader of the House, vexed with the unruly behaviour of the Opposition observed that only three 'Ds'—Discussion, Debate, and Dissent—have a place in Parliament and not the 'fourth 'D' — Disruptions. Unfortunately, both the houses today are only indulging in the "disruptions". As it is, the Covid had curtailed the sessions last and this year, and disruptions have further impacted Parliament's functioning.

Since 1952, MPs had followed broadly rules and regulations laid down for the members. However, due to various reasons, indiscipline, noisy scenes, rushing to the well of the House and shouting slogans have become the norms of the day now.

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

Whichever party is in Opposition (now Congress and TMC) seems to believe that disruption and not debate is perhaps the best way to focus on the issues they consider important.

Historically, there was a degree of homogeneity in the House in the fifties, and there were many eminent Parliamentarians then. Gradually, other parties also began to grow while Congress shrank leading to a coalition politics in the eighties. Records show that a member at one point in time even ended his speech by commenting: "We have the arguments. You have votes."

Parliament needs to function effectively on framing bills, budget scrutiny, and holding the government



accountable. Sadly, that is not the focus today.

Democracy demands that Parliament scrutinize the government's decisions, but settling political scores on the floor of the House makes lawmakers fail in their duty to discuss and debate bills. Parliament gets adjourned many times in a day. The opposition parties want to paralyze the Parliament and reduce the ruling party's ability to pass crucial bills. The government, too, wants to get the bills passed amidst din and

noise.

Over the years, there has been a decline in the sittings of Parliament. Some think that Parliament should sit for more days. Both Houses sit for an average of 67 days annually.

For instance, take the case of Rajya Sabha. The work of the House of Elders has been adversely affected since the session began on November 29, with the Opposition working up over the suspension of 12 of its members. The Chairman of Rajya Sabha, M.Venkiah Naidu, suspended 12 opposition members for the entire session following their unruly behaviour. For the present, the standoff continues with the opposition staging a protest near the Gandhi statue in Parliament House demanding revoking the suspension.

Indeed, the House can punish the erring MPs. It could be a warning, reprimand, withdrawal from the House, suspension from the service of the House, imprisonment and expulsion from the House. Rules also prescribe the punishment for violating them, which is left to the Chair's discretion.

A galaxy of political leaders, including then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sonia Gandhi, and others attended a one-day conference in 2001 to discuss discipline and decorum of MPs. They all agreed on improving the functioning of Parliament.

Sadly, MPs have failed in their duties. It costs the exchequer ₹2.5 lakh per minute to

conduct a parliament session, resulting in a loss of Rs 1.5 crore for every wasted hour. The taxpayer's money is going up in smoke.

There are many suggestions to improve the functioning of Parliament. The first is that the leaders of various political parties should take a lead in this regard. Secondly, the members should be cautioned against irresponsible behaviour in the house. Thirdly, fresh guidelines could be formed with the help of all political parties. Fourthly, the government should have a dialogue with the opposition to avoid any misunderstanding of the government's policies. Both sides should show flexibility and accommodate each other. Presently, neither the government nor the opposi-

tion is interested in this option. It is for the Government to run the business of the house.

One can also think of the British pattern where the Parliament meets over 100 days in a year. The opposition parties get 20 days to decide the agenda for discussion in Parliament. Decisions passed on opposition days are not binding on the government, but give an opportunity to opposing parties to raise issues.

Ultimately it is the politics which is the villain of the situation and there is need for both the treasury benches and the opposition to make sure that the three Ds — discussion, debate and dissent — should be the goal of both the opposition as well as the ruling party to ensure the success of democracy in India.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY CAN STAY IN VARANASI NOT JUST FOR ONE MONTH, BUT EVEN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LAST DAYS IN VARANASI. —SAMA JWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



THE LANGUAGE USED BY AKHILESH YADAV SHOWS HIS MINDSET. IT ALSO SHOWS THE LEVEL OF ANXIETY PREVALENT IN THE SAMAJWADI PARTY. —UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR

In a speech outlining US approach to the Indo-Pacific, Blinken said Washington would work with allies and partners to "defend rules-based order" and countries should have the right to "choose their own path".

"That's why there is so much concern—from Northeast Asia to Southeast Asia and from Mekong River to Pacific Islands -- about Beijing's aggressive actions," "Claiming open seas as their own. Distorting open markets through subsidies to its state-run companies. Denying exports or revoking deals for countries whose policies it does not agree with."

5 Indian brands in top 100 global powers of luxury goods list

New Delhi: Five Indian brands are in the top 100 global powers of luxury goods list with Tata group firm Titan moving up three places to rank 22nd and being among the 20 fastest-growing luxury goods companies, according to a Deloitte report.

Four other homegrown brands, Kalyan Jewellers, Joyalukkas, PC Jewellers, and Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Ltd, have been ranked 37th, 46th, 57th, and 92nd, respectively, in the Deloitte Global 2021 edition of Global Powers of Luxury Goods.

In India, the trend remained consistent similar to previous years with the gems and jewellery category dominating the latest edition featuring the five brands, Deloitte said in a statement.

Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri Ltd is a first-time entrant to the list of the top 100

luxury goods companies that generated USD 252 billion in revenues globally, it added.

"Indian jewellery retailers have always been resilient. With increased vaccination and a decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, the festive season saw a strong demand compared with the past year. The Indian brands banked on their strengths and weaved in online solutions that complemented their growth strategy," Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP Partner and Consumer Industry Leader Porus Doctor said.

The top 10 luxury brands list mainly featured leading players from the EMEA (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa) region. These players are LVMH Moët Hennessy-Louis Vuitton SE, Kering SA, Capri Holdings, Compagnie Financière Richemont, L'Oréal Luxe, Chanel Limited, Essilor

Luxottica, and Hermes International spread across the luxury genre, Deloitte said.

As per the report, about 14 vertically integrated jewellery retailers from India and China featured in the top 100 list. "Sophisticated e-commerce ecosystems and partnerships allowed these luxury companies to keep the control they require over their brands' digital marketing and pricing as well as their purchasing relationships with clients, at an affordable cost," it said adding in the past one year luxury e-commerce went past the tipping point to become a vital part of the omni-channel distribution strategy.

More than 80 per cent companies in the top 100 reported lower luxury goods sales in FY2020 (January-December 2020 period), reflecting the adverse impact of Covid-19, the report said. **PTI**

RBI brings NBFCs on par with banks in new PCA framework

Mumbai: To further strengthen the supervision on non-banking entities (NBFCs), the Reserve Bank on Tuesday issued revised guidelines on a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for such companies, excluding government-owned ones, effective from October 1, 2022, on the lines of what it had introduced for banks in 2002.

The RBI came up with stricter supervisory norms under the PCA framework for banks after their bad loans mounted and balance-sheets bled badly. This involved restricting them from fresh lending, brand opening and, hiring, among others.

The RBI said the revised PCA framework is also applicable to all deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), all non-deposit taking NBFCs in the middle, upper and top layers, including investment and credit companies, core investment companies, infrastructure debt funds, infrastructure finance

companies and microfinance institutions.

However, it has excluded NBFCs not accepting/not intending to accept public funds, primary dealers and housing finance companies along with government-owned ones.

Being put under the PCA framework means restrictions on dividend distribution/remittance of profits; promoters/shareholders to infuse equity and reduction in leverage; restrictions on issue of guarantees or taking on other contingent liabilities on behalf of group companies, the RBI said.

Special supervisory actions will be taken in matters regarding breach in strategy, governance, core capital, credit risk, market risk, HR, and profitability, it added.

The mandatory curbs also include restrictions on branch expansion, capital expenditure (other than for technological upgrade within board approved limits) and curbs on reduction in variable operating costs. **PTI**

Govt creating unique IDs of farmers enrolled under agri-schemes: Tomar in LS

New Delhi: The Government is in the process of creating unique identification (ID) of farmers who have availed agricultural schemes, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed Parliament on Tuesday.

"The unique identifier of the farmer will link the farmer profile with all the agricultural schemes, which have been availed by the farmer," Tomar said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

Highlighting the advantages of creating unique ID and its benefit for the farmers, the minister said it would help in provisioning the farmer's verification through e-Know Your Farmer (e-KYF) which would eliminate the need for re-submitting physical documents to different departments for availing benefits under different schemes.

It will also provide access to field-based and customised advisories as well as ease the process of accessing the damage to crops due to extreme weather condition, he said. **PTI**

Sensex slips for third day on inflation, Omicron woes; ITC top laggard

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex continued its downward trajectory for the third consecutive session on Tuesday as spiking inflation and global concerns over the Omicron variant sapped risk appetite.

A weakening rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, traders said.

The 30-share benchmark declined 166.33 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 58,117.09. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 43.35 points or 0.25 per cent to 17,324.90.

ITC was the top loser on the Sensex chart, shedding 2.73 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finserv. On the other hand, PowerGrid, Dr Reddy's, Nestle India, Axis

Govt earned over ₹8 lakh cr from taxes on petrol, diesel in last 3 fiscals: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre earned nearly ₹ 8.02 lakh crore from taxes on petrol and diesel during the last three fiscal years, of which more than ₹ 3.71 lakh crore was collected in FY21 alone, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament on Tuesday.

The minister was responding to queries on the hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel during last three years and the details of the revenue earned through various taxes on these fuels.

The excise duty on petrol rose from ₹ 19.48 per litre as on October 5, 2018 to ₹ 27.90 a litre as on November 4, 2021. The duty on diesel rose from ₹ 15.33 a litre to ₹ 21.80 during the same period, Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Within this period, the excise on petrol fell from ₹ 19.48 per litre as of October 5, 2018 to ₹ 17.98 as

of July 6, 2019; while excise on diesel reduced from ₹ 15.33 to ₹ 13.83 during the same reference period.

The excise duties on petrol and diesel were on a rising trajectory till February 2, 2021, to ₹ 32.98 and ₹ 31.83 respectively, before falling a tad and then declining further to ₹ 27.90 a litre (petrol) and ₹ 21.80 (diesel) as on November 4, 2021.

"The central excise duties, including cesses collected from petrol and diesel, during the last three years are: ₹ 2,10,282 crore in 2018-19; ₹ 2,19,750 crore in 2019-20 and ₹ 3,71,908 crore in 2020-21," Sitharaman said.

Just before Diwali this year on November 4, the government slashed the excise duties on petrol and diesel by ₹ 5 and ₹ 10 a litre, respectively. This was followed by several states announcing a cut in the value added tax (VAT) on the two fuels. **PTI**

Rupee drops by 10 paise to close at 75.88 against dollar on inflation concerns

Mumbai: The rupee on Tuesday declined by 10 paise to close at an 18-month low level of 75.88 against the US dollar due to persistent foreign fund outflows and concerns over inflation.

Muted domestic equities and the dollar demand from corporates also weighed on the local unit, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 75.94 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit witnessed an intraday low of 75.95 and a high of 75.83 against the US dollar. **PTI**

Centre says 12,576 posts were vacant in agri-varsities till July 2021

New Delhi: The Government on Tuesday informed Parliament that 12,576 posts were vacant in agricultural universities till July this year against the sanctioned positions of 33,686.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, said as agriculture, including agricultural education, is a state subject, filling up of the vacant positions in State Agriculture Universities (SAUs)

fall under the purview of respective state governments.

However, time-to-time accreditation is carried out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board, wherein it is stressed upon to fill the vacant positions for the award of accreditation, he said.

For the filling up of vacancies related to Mumbai-based Central Institute of Fisheries Education, which is a deemed university of ICAR, the central government has already taken necessary steps, he added. **PTI**

Sebi sets up panel for suggestions on solutions to detect early market anomalies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said it has constituted an advisory committee for guiding it to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies.

The Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALERTS) will be headed by Sebi's ex-whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch, a release said. It would also comprise of experts from various technology domains as members.

The terms of reference

of the committee include recommending future roadmaps and improvements in the various on-going technology projects and guiding Sebi in designing and framing requirements for the various in-house systems.

Besides, it would also guide the regulator from a domain perspective in finding appropriate technology solutions. In addition, the committee has also been constituted "to guide SEBI from a domain perspective, in ascertaining the adequacy of SupTech / RegTech tools envisaged / proposed to be used in-house for improving its capabilities," the release said.

Jio tops 4G download speed chart, Voda Idea in upload speed in Nov: Trai

New Delhi: Reliance Jio retained its top position with the highest average data download speed of 24.1 megabit per second among 4G service providers in November, according to the latest data published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Vodafone Idea (VIL) and Bharti Airtel network also recorded a rise in average 4G download speed during the month.

Jio network recorded around 10 per cent rise in average 4G data download speed while speed on VIL and Airtel network increased 8.9 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively compared to the previous month. VIL maintained its leadership in terms of 4G data upload speed in October. The company's network recorded an upload speed of 8 mbps, the highest in the last five months.

The download speed helps consumers to access content from the internet, while upload speed helps them send data or share pictures or videos with their contacts. **PTI**

TO WHOM SO EVERY MAY CONCERN
I, Sandeep Sethi (Mob no 9872911221)W/o S. Gagandeep Singh Sethi R/O 26 B, Kennedy Avenue, Amritsar want to purchase plot no 153 admeasuring 312.5 sq yards bearing khasra no 43/13/1 situated at DR Enclave village Heir, Amritsar 143001 (Punjab) From Mrs Meeta Singh W/O Late S Gurbachan Singh Saharan R/O 29 Surya Niketan, Delhi 110092. In case anyone has any objection in this regard please inform me on the above said address and sub registrar office 2 and 3 Amritsar within 15 days .

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our clients Mr. Barinder Paul Singh Seehra, Ms. Meenu Channa, Ms. Reenu Negi & Mrs. Surinder Seethra a who are the owners of Residential Apartment Bearing No. B-85, on 8th Floor, Super area measuring 950 Sq.ft., on 8th Floor, Tower-B, Residential Group Housing Complex at "BAL MUKAND-Residency", Noor Nagar, Rajnagar, NH-56, Pargana, Tehsil, Dist. Ghazabad U.P. The property belonged to Mrs. Surinder Seethra along with Mr. Sohan Singh Seethra by virtue of Sale Deed dated 22.12.2015 executed by Mrs Navratna Electronics Pvt. Ltd. & Mrs Vishwa Baidoon Pvt. Ltd. After demise of Mr. Sohan Singh Seethra on 15.02.2021, my clients inherited the said property by way of succession. Now, they intends to sell the said property. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my clients shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Md. Khairul Hussain (Advocate)
Ch.No. 214, 2nd Floor, Delhi High Court
New Delhi-110001, Mob.-8810391672

(Public Notice)
NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. Saroj Bala(hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor/ Borrower) is intending to purchase the title document Ground Floor/Second Floor/without Roof Rights, "Said Floor" Property Bearing No. 143 B, Area measuring 100.96 sq. yds, Out of Khata No. 29/3, Block-I, Situated in the area of Village Khayla, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018(hereinafter referred to as "M/s. Paragana Pvt. Ltd.") who is the owner of above/said said property by way of Off/In/Assignment Deed dated 20.09.2021and Now, Mr. Gopender Gang and Mrs. Saroj Bala(hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor/ Borrower) have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or Clients in any manner whatsoever. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property please contact us within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhish Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 207, 9th Floor, GD-TL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9812828636 (M).

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one old male person was found dead infront of Swami Medical store near Durga Mandir main road Bhola Nath Nagar Shahdara Delhi. dated 12.12.2021. In this DD No. 22A, dated 12.12.2021 has been registered at **P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name:** Unkonwn, **S/o:** Unkonwn, **R/o:** Unkonwn, **Age:** About 70 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Hair:** Normal-Small Grey, **Wearing:** White Color Kurta & Black Jacket, Multi Colour Chader. 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. Farsh Bazar, Delhi Ph. : 011-22303670, 7065036028 DP/647/SHD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female, (depicted in the photo), **Named:** Munni Khatoon, **W/o:** Mohd Israel, **R/o:** F-236 Kamla Nehru Camp, Kirti Nagar, Delhi **Aged:** 41 years, has been missing since 02.12.2021 from the area of P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi. In this regard, a **DD No. 43A, Dated 03.12.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:

Height: 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Long & Black, **Wearing:** Red Colour Suit, Salwar, Red Colour Chunni, and Hawai Chappal.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform **SHO, P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641.**

S.H.O P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-25190462, 25438719 DP/654/WD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Named:** Savita @ Gaddu, **D/o:** Lt. Sh. Shiv Parsad, **R/o:** H.No. 72, Pul Parhlad Pur, Delhi, **Age:** About 30 Years, **Height:** 4'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Eye:** Black, **Hair:** Normal, **Wearing:** Gulabi Suit and Salwar and Green Chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 04.08.2015 from the area of P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 784/15, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 04.08.2015**, has been registered at **P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/ kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped lady please inform to the following:-
Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph: 011-23011334 DP/961/SW/2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ajay Anand, S/o Deo Kant Deen, R/o:** Flat No. 40, Cat, LIG, 4th Floor, Ashoka Paharia, Faiz Road, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 15187/2017 U/s 138 NI Act**, registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Ajay Anand** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajay Anand** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ajay Anand** accused of **CC No. 15187/2017 U/s 138 NI Act**, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.01.2022** at 10:00 a.m..


By Order Ms Isha Singh Metropolitan Magistrate-03, (Central District), Room No. 202, 2nd Floor, Court Building Annex-II, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/1130/CD/2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice							
S N	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased	Tender Document Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (In Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc
1	Comprehensive AMC of Digital Electronic Exchange (Tadiran Make) DRMF office, Baroda house & Railway Board for three years.	₹ 3643581.96 only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-c Northern Railway 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRMF office, New Delhi 110055	₹ Nil only	₹ Nil only	Tender Uploading/ Closing date & time 05.01.2022 15:00 hrs.	See the N.R.ly. website www.irps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T Branch, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRMF office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055

Tender No. : 558-Sig/16/Tel/AMC/577/2021-22 Dated : 14.12.2021 2929/2021

Serving Customers With A Smile



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Gautam Malik (Borrower), Puneet Malik (Co Borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00001295071, LBDEL00001295075	H 307, Third Floor, Dda Flat, With Scooter Garage On Ground Floor, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi (110028), Area 708 Sq Fts	Rs. 8,62,346/- as on December 4, 2021,	Rs. 62,00,000/- Rs. 6,20,000/-	December 24, 2021, From 11:00 am to 01:00 PM	January 06, 2022 From 12:00 Noon Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website ([URL Link- https://disposalhub.com](https://disposalhub.com)) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 05, 2022** before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **January 05, 2022** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 05, 2022** before **05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 8126013708** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augoe Asset Management Pvt Ltd.** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: December 15, 2021 Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

People are working from home and there is need for more and more meaningful spaces. Hence, architecture has found its sweet spot in the demand segment. From an individual bungalow to giant international airports, the opportunities lie in various sectors, says PARAG V SINGAL



ARCHITECTURE IS EVER-EVOLVING

The profession of architecture is as long as humanity itself. The origin and evolution of architecture perhaps date back to primitive times when the first humans started living in a cave and built it as per their family size, anthropometry, and other needs of that time. Believe it or not, the fundamental construction technique of post and lintel developed back in the prehistoric era. The bottom line is, architecture has been here since the start of humanity and will be here till the end of it. It is ever-evolving, reflecting the mood of the times.

If we factor out unfortunate events like The Great Depression or more recently, the COVID pandemic, the global graph of development has always been upward on a broader horizon, and hopefully it'll continue to be that way. And since the past few decades, India's contribution to this graph has been increasing leaps and bounds. From being considered a sleeping giant to one of the fastest-growing economies, India has become the focal point of the global growth story.

Real estate, being one of the largest contributors to this growth, still has a lot of untapped territories to fulfill the ever-increasing demand in the market. The Reasons? A

rapid increase in the population, urbanization, and buying capacity of the people of India. This is where the role of an architect finds its center stage. With the increasing demand for more and more meaningful spaces, Architecture has found its sweet spot in the demand segment. From an individual bungalow to giant international airports, the opportunity lies in various scales.

Examining the rapid expansion of infrastructure and the urgent need to develop meaningful spaces, India has come a long way from Kutcha houses and Havelis to conventional residential dwellings and skyscrapers. Addressing the increase in population and urbanization, the government of India has been actively making long-term policies. "Housing for all" is one such ambitious mission of the government under which, the government of India intends to provide affordable houses to the urban poor with a target of providing 2 crore houses by 2022. This provides a huge opportunity for the private players to contribute.

Another such scheme worth mentioning is Smart City Mission under which, the government is looking to boost core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment, and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'. Many consul-

ants have already begun to contribute towards this noble mission of improving the urban infrastructure. Apart from these two major reforms, there are a few more policy changes and initiatives by the government to boost the infrastructure at both micro and macro levels. Directly or indirectly, all this will in turn boost the opportunity in the field of architecture, planning, and even interior designing. This brings us to the fact that there are diverse opportunities within the field of architecture that puts different talents to use.

While architecture remains the core field, one can explore their forte and specialize in subsidiary branches like planning, urban design, and interior design. Since each of these streams needs a different skill set to be acquired, various colleges across the country offer different curriculums to acquire these specialized skills be it at the Bachelors level or at Masters level. All of them carry a different set of opportunities eventually and work experience that can be explored and mastered as per one's knack.

Talking about opportunities, the rightfully changed stance towards sustainable and green design has made people realize the need for green design. The climate crisis has exposed the short-sighted planning of the cities and habitats in

which we are currently living. The world is staring down the barrel due to its high carbon footprint, and it has realized the importance of sustainable development. Architects have a starring role in fighting climate change since unfortunately; the construction industry is one of the major contributors to global warming. But as rightly said, in every challenge lies an opportunity.

Sustainable architecture is a fast emerging academic program that is being taken up on a massive front across various universities and there are many academicians' and practicing notable architects who are spearheading the fight against climate change by their sustainable approach.

The profession has so much diversity to offer that if you have a flair for management, you can opt to specialize in construction management and overlook the administrative part of the project rather than being directly involved in the design. Having a rich history and heritage, India has uncountable monuments which need to be conserved. There are many organizations that are working towards the conservation of this rich heritage of India. Apart from these, the growing demand for architectural photographers and journalists has opened the doors of untapped opportunities on a different tangent.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

— Cesar Chavez

M.SC. IN LIFE SCIENCES AT BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY

Admissions OPEN

The Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), Israel is now inviting applications for the Spring 2022 session.

The programme is led by BGU's department of Life Sciences and Faculty of Natural Sciences. The course enables students in tackling questions related to protein science, microbiology, development, physiology, neurobiology, genomics, structural biology, ecology and other fields.

It M.Sc. in Life Sciences offers a Thesis (research) track and requires two years of full-time study. Outstanding students may join the combined M.Sc.-Ph.D. track during the 2nd year of their M.Sc. studies.

Admission Cycle: Applications now being accepted for Spring 2022

Course dates: Spring semester dates: February 27 th, 2022- June 24th, 2022

Application deadline: Rolling admission

Tuition: Tuition is approximately \$ 5,000 (US) per year

Scholarship: Outstanding students may be eligible for scholarships, which cover tuition fees and provide living expenses

MSC AUTONOMOUS ROBOTIC INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications starting in mid-September 2022.

It is designed to provide a wide-ranging background in autonomous technologies that can be applied in a variety of disciplines.

Eligibility: First-class or second-class honours degree (or international equivalent)

Fee: £23,050 for international students for 22/23

Scholarship: a range of scholarships starting from £3450 will be available for this programme

LSEF-UMass Scholarship 2022 worth ₹ 20 lakh each to 15 students

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The Lakshmipat Singhania Education Foundation's (LSEF) and University of Massachusetts-Amherst (UMass) have once again come up with the much-awaited LSEF-UMass Scholarship 2022. This time LSEF-UMass is providing scholarship of ₹ 20 lakh each to 15 students for MS (Data Analytics and Computational Social Science), MS (Applied Economics), and Master of Public Policy programmes from UMass Amherst, a public university in the US.

Students in this programme undertake two years of post-graduate studies, with the first year at the host institution in India — JK

Transforming education through franchising

COVID-19 pandemic has caused unexpected disruptions in the education system. Partnership with aspiring edupreneurs can assist in nation building by creating qualified human capital says, ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYA

India has one of the largest education systems in the world, with its robust strength of 1.5 million schools catering to 250 million students who are estimated to increase to 300 million by 2030, as per the latest figures by FICCI. This projected demand and the accompanying transformation in education can be met and achieved through the school franchising model.

School franchising, simply defined, is the model in which a reputed school brand enters into a partnership with aspiring edupreneurs or budding schools to expand the reach of education, to build up the brand, and also assist in nation building by creating qualified human capital. Like any business venture, it has its share of risks and opportunities. These risks and benefits can be best understood by studying the franchise model, researching the market, and doing due diligence on the ground.

Starting a franchise school in India under a brand name requires fulfilment of certain imperatives. There are stipulations pertaining to land acreage, initial investments, total investments, and other contractual nitty gritty that the franchiser and the franchisee can mutually agree upon. The level of risk in this business model depends a lot on the probity and long-term commitment of the franchiser and franchisee. Unrealistic expectations regarding capex, opex recovery and breakeven period can jeopardize the partnership. Market upheavals — such as the one triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic — can cause unexpected disruptions in the education system. Likewise, a sudden spurt in competition may require a realignment of the projected growth targets

and capital recovery. But by and large, the benefits of school franchising far outweigh the risks.

Opportunities and benefits of school franchising

A great part of transforming the education landscape of India involves materializing the aspirations of the investors who want to start a new school, but don't possess the knowledge or expertise for a successful launch, smooth operations, for achieving the academic rigour and meeting profitability target at the same time.

It is a successful business model for aspiring edupreneurs

A franchisor with an established brand, reputation and legacy in the field of education brings along a host of benefits that include 360-degree support to the franchisee — from construction of the building and school launch to its periodic growth over the years. This support usually includes:

- ♦ Design oversight and architectural support
- ♦ Financial projection and school planning
- ♦ Identifying and recruiting high quality human resources
- ♦ Marketing, branding and communication
- ♦ Curriculum design and implementation
- ♦ Sharing detailed process manual
- ♦ IT and auxiliary support
- ♦ Quality check, audit and review process
- ♦ Regular training and upskilling of teachers
- ♦ Assistance in CBSE affiliation

It is a means to meet literacy targets and achieve universal education



Anirban Bhattacharya
Associate Vice-President, Partner Schools, Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Schools

Just a cursory look at India's literacy rates gives us the magnitude of the task that is cut out for the education sector in the years and decades ahead. The country's literacy rate stands at 74 per cent presently (compared to the global 86.3%). The female literacy rate of 64 per cent paints a still dismal picture. Given the number of new dropouts during the pandemic and declining financial ability of the poor section of the population to afford school education due to income loss, the education sector has to do a lot in terms of increasing the scale, affordability and accessibility of quality education. School franchising addresses all these areas in the following ways:

- ♦ It takes education to the remote parts of the country and makes it accessible to all
- ♦ Association with a reputed brand brings quality to the education delivered in the school
- ♦ The franchise model effectively ends up cutting down the costs for the franchisee and thereby mitigates the risk of running into losses. The benefit eventually passes down to the end-user in terms of better affordability

Future of Indian Education – School Franchising To Drive The Growth

FICCI's Envisioning India 2030 report states that India's education system, despite all the growth in 75 years, remains inadequate in terms of physical resources and human resources. There is a need to enhance the scale and capacity if the country is to capitalize on its population dividend. Instances of poor infrastructure, teacher absenteeism, inadequate quality checks, low teacher-student ratio, poor learning outcomes are observed in government schools in tier 2 and tier 3 cities where private capital still hasn't made inroads.

The school franchise model brings in the adherence to quality that can, at times, even match the global standards of education. Top education brands are introducing new pedagogical practices like Design Thinking, Social Emotional Learning, Computational Thinking, Media Literacy, Digital Literacy and Finance Literacy in the curriculum of their partner schools.

These initiatives are fully aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 which will be instrumental in shaping the future of Indian education in the decades to come.

Time to grab internship opportunities

The job market in India took a massive hit with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, leaving students uncertain about their future. Fresh college graduates were filled with anxiety amid the pandemic when pay cuts, layoffs, closure of many businesses and companies made headlines.

However, the festive season finally seems like light at the end of this very long tunnel as markets opened up and sales thrive amid signs of a weakening COVID-19. The hiring activity, which was reduced by 15 per cent in April 2021 as per reports by Naukri.com, is gradually catching up pace. The clear reason for this is that companies hire interns and employees in their core teams with an increase in their ad spends and sales during festive season.

The festive season is at its peak from September to December in India and drives robust hiring across sectors like E-commerce, automobiles, BFSI (Banking, financial services, and insurance), real estate, hospitality, food, and retail. This makes the festive season an ideal time for students to apply for internships and jobs.

While the country seems to recover from a long pandemic phase, consumer brands are pulling up to capture consumer sentiments to boost sales and profits. Also, brands have sought to engage in 'revenge spending' knowing the pent-up demand



from end-consumers that the pandemic had created. This makes this festive season a perfect opportunity for students to look for internships and gradually secure a job in the market.

Opportunities across sectors in festive season

For retail industry, the festive season in India results in a significant rise in shopping across the domestic market which creates demand for talented workforce that can handle sales at a massive level. So, the retail sector undoubtedly sees opportunities for hiring and recruitment currently.

A recent survey by Manpower Group revealed that among 3000 employers, nearly 64 per cent would be eyeing to expand their recruitment during the last two quarters of this year. There is an increasing shortage of talent as markets bounce back so students can easily leverage this opportunity. Similarly, there is a plethora of opportunities waiting for students and fresh graduates in the E-commerce sector.

The writer is Dr Pankaj Sharma, Director Admissions, JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur

Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week 2021, which celebrated the #SHEstem Season 2 with Insta-Reels Challenge, revealed the winners' names this week. The event was held in collaboration with the Indian government's flagship program, Atal Innovation Mission, Office of Science & innovation & team Sweden,

with support from the Sweden Consulate in Mumbai. #SheStem was started with the vision to create a platform that amplifies the voice of women & their achievements in the field of science & technology, entrepreneurship & innovation from both India and Sweden.

The event, which was held successfully for the second year in a row, centered around discussions over creating

innovative offerings, coupled with creative, diversity and sustainable solutions for the ongoing global problems. The event began with a welcome address by H E Klas Molin, Ambassador of Sweden to India.

Ambassador Klas Molin said, "While there is no dearth of Stem graduates in the country, there definitely is a lot of room for young women to step into the Stem field and contribute significantly towards establishing a more diverse, equitable and progressive society."

We showcase, together with India, our long-term commitment towards launching policies and development initiatives that bring growth to both genders equally. It is what we have been practising and professing for years on a global scale as part of our feminist foreign policy."

Athena 2021 International Conference

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The VIT-AP University in collaboration with Cambridge University Press as knowledge partner organised Athena — An Annual International Conference of VIT-AP School of Social Sciences and Humanities (VISH) virtually for two days.

On December 11, 2021, the programme was inaugurated by Dr Lajwanti Naidu, Assistant Director-Strategy, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority, Government of Andhrapradesh in presence of Dr G Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT. The chief guest during her address



expressed that the need of restructuring careers post-COVID is a challenge for any scale of organisation. She praised that VIT-

AP has taken a commendable step for the future by introducing a programme in humanities BA-MA (Public Services). By teaching sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Psychology, International relations, History, Economics will comprehend the gap. These studies will make students better human beings.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor said that scholars and faculty members from various reputed institutions will be presenting research papers on the theme of Reimagining the Paradigm of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Post-COVID World.

Gear up for JEE 2022

With paper pattern and syllabus likely to remain the same as 2021, aspirants need to have a proper study plan and strategy to ace the exam. FIITJEE expert, RAMESH BATLISH, shares tips and tricks

The JEE Main 2022 is expected to be conducted by The National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to Undergraduate Programs in NITs, IIITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs), etc. in the next academic year (2022-2023) in four phases — February, March, April and May similar to last year. The candidates aspiring to take admission to the undergraduate programmes at IITs for the year 2022 will also have to appear in Paper-1 (for BE/BTech) of JEE (Main)-2022. Based on the performance in Paper-1, top 2.5 lakh candidates would qualify for JEE (Advanced) 2022.

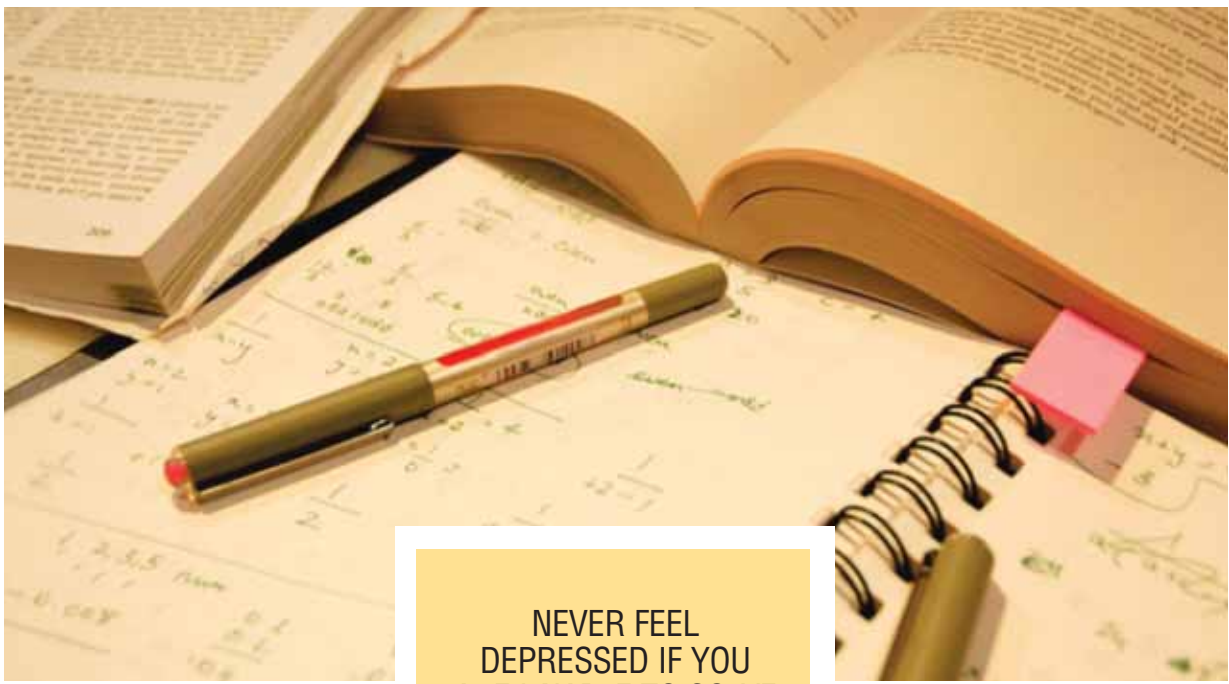
Recently the Organising Committee of JEE Advanced 2023 announced changes in the JEE Advanced syllabi making it more aligned to the existing JEE Main Syllabus and CBSE Board but this would be applicable only from 2023. Aspirants of JEE 2022 need not worry as the paper pattern and syllabus are likely to remain the same as 2021.

HOW TO PREPARE?

- Keep the syllabus of JEE Main & Advanced ready and follow it till the exam.
- Refer the study material from authentic sources required for JEE preparation.
- Prepare a realistic timetable as per the time available
- Remove all unnecessary distractions and make a habit of studying every day at the same time.
- Make notes while studying any chapter, this will lessen your time during revision.
- Do homework/ assignments on time and avoid backlogs.
- Keep revising what you are studying.
- Practice Test Analysis after every Test you take and learn from mistakes.
- Stay disciplined and consistent.
- Keep time to take short breaks while you are preparing.
- You may practice meditation or Yoga for rejuvenation.

THE STRATEGY

- Prepare and follow a daily study schedule covering all three subjects. Do not neglect any subject or give excessive time to one subject.
- First read the theory part and then practice problems. This helps to understand concepts in a better way. If you are not able to solve a problem, read the theo-



NEVER FEEL DEPRESSED IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SOLVE QUESTIONS OF A SPECIFIC TOPIC OR A SUBJECT. PUT ALL YOUR EFFORTS AND HARD WORK TO UNDERSTAND THE THEORY AND RE-ATTEMPT THE PROBLEMS

- ry again and again till you get the feel of the topic.
- Do not leave any topic that you feel unimportant for the exam. Questions in JEE can be asked from any topic in the syllabus.
- If you lack interest in any subject, then first complete easier chapters and solve problems from them to gain the confidence for learning the difficult chapters.
- Study productively for long hours without lapsing concentration. Take small breaks between study sessions to maintain efficiency.
- Time management and your strategy of solving questions is the key to score well in the examination. It can be only achieved by serious dedicated practice and questions solving.
- Include problem solving in your daily study schedule. Have a realistic & specific goal, something like 20 problems a day and increase your difficulty gradually.
- Write notes along with your studies. You can add important points, shortcuts, formulas, reactions, mistakes, etc. Notes will help you in revision.
- Be regular and punctual in attending all your coaching classes (if you are

enrolled in one) and try to maximize this opportunity to resolve all your doubts and queries.

- Avoid backlogs. Whatever is taught in the class, study the same thing from coaching modules after the class. Finish all your homework, assignments, daily practice papers and exercises on time. Don't keep pending work.
- Always remain present for the tests of your coaching institute, no matter what your preparation level is. Analyse your previous tests before giving the next one.

- Learn from your mistakes.
- Keep on revising your learnt topics. The preparation takes a lot of your time. You understand topics, solve problems and old concepts fade away from your mind. For efficient preparation, consistent revision is necessary. It is important to revise important points daily.
- Target small goals to achieve big results. The syllabus looks huge at the start. You need to divide it. Take up one topic at a time and accomplish the goals related to the topic; once that is over, move to the next topic in the syllabus.
- Keep a check on your performance. You need to give tests on a regular basis to check your knowledge, speed, accuracy and time management skills.
- Never feel depressed if you are unable to solve questions of a specific topic or a subject. Put all your efforts and hard work to understand the theory and re-attempt the problems.
- Those students who are not associated to any coaching institute and are lacking confidence for may join a crash course and all India test series to check their preparedness and plug loopholes the preparation.

The writer is Head-FIITJEE, Noida

Study-wise tips

The pattern for the exam remains constant, however, no question has ever been repeated in JEE Advanced exam. As the question paper for the JEE Advanced exam will be divided into three sections Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Majority of students prefer studying from coaching modules for JEE preparation as the coaching study material is prepared specifically for JEE level concepts and questions.

PHYSICS

Important chapters include Mechanics, Fluids, Heat & Thermodynamics, Waves and Sound, Capacitors & Electrostatics, Magnetics, Electromagnetic Induction, Optics and Modern Physics.

However, make sure your concepts are clear in each topic. Solving problems will help you develop concept clarity and improve your confidence level in this subject.

In Physics, solve a problem, then you re-create the problem, re-solve it, change it again, re-solve it again. You will start to notice patterns and you start asking more complicated questions and will be able to answer those. You rinse and repeat until you have a conceptual, quantitative and an intuitive understanding of what's going on.

The more you practice Physics and analyse your mistakes, the better for you. Solve a variety of questions from your coaching modules. The JEE study material will have all the theory and questions as per JEE level.

CHEMISTRY

Important Chapters include Qualitative Analysis, Coordination Chemistry & Chemical Bonding in Inorganic Chemistry, Electrochemistry, Thermodynamics, Chemical Equilibrium in Physical Chemistry and Aldehyde & Ketone, Alkyl & Aryl Halides in Organic Chemistry.

Study all reaction mechanisms and remember all named reactions. Make notes while you study each chapter.

For Physical Chemistry, read from



RAMESH BATLISH
Managing Partner, FIITJEE Limited and Head-FIITJEE, Noida

NCERT and clear concepts at your coaching institute. After you are done with the chapter, write down all important formulae of the chapter in a notebook for quick revision before exams.

Complete NCERT thoroughly for solving questions in Inorganic Chemistry. Make precise notes for each chapter.

MATHEMATICS

Important Chapters include: Quadratic Equations & Expressions, Complex Numbers, Probability, Vectors & 3D Geometry, Matrices in Algebra; Circle, Parabola, Hyperbola in Coordinate Geometry; Functions, Limits, Continuity and Differentiability, Application of Derivatives, Definite Integral in Calculus.

In this subject practice is the key. The questions are of really good quality and will force you to work hard to solve them. The more you study and practice Mathematics, the more it develops your analytical and problem-solving skills.

In JEE, Mathematics questions are sometimes lengthy and the options are also close enough, so one must be careful in calculations and time management. The concepts and formulas should be at your fingertips. It is advisable to develop your own shortcuts if possible.

Most Importantly, believe in your preparation and it is the relative performance which counts on the examination day. Give your best shot and you will ace JEE.

Despite the growing awareness of sustainable fashion amongst the consumers and the fraternity, we still need an industry-wide collaboration to reshape the future of the supply and retail chains of Fashion. Sustainable fashion is not just about what material you use/reuse, but also how a garment/product is made, who made it, what resources were used to produce it, how it was sold, and purchased while considering the impact of its existence on the environment and eventually how will it die/get reused.

Sustainability matters beyond the obvious: It is true that the

above comes with a cost. Even though many people would like to opt for more green and sustainable products, they are less likely to pay extra for this. Therefore, we need to share how sustainable fashion encourages better practices for the industry and promotes longevity of the product, something confronting to the fashion world, which thrives on rapidly making new offerings to users.

Having said this, sustainable fashion is growing tremendously. We now have a huge market for organic, recycled and natural products; followed by fair trade labelled - eco-friendly, animal cruelty-free charitable

MIND IT

brands, and the handmade - human-made products, which speak of the communities benefitting from their manufacture.

We are seeing that increasingly people now buy things because of the reason they are produced; the story of why they exist and who will benefit from their purchase. And this mindset hugely helps the movement of sustainable fashion.

It's not too late: As design educators and practitioners, one needs to reflect. We

need to be confronted with the reality of our landfills and the massive water and power consumption that has gone into producing things that can't be recycled, reused or disposed of. The usage of harmful chemicals to accelerate the growth of our natural fibres, the disposal of the same into our water bodies and natural heritage. Traditionally, we have always been conscious, mindful, frugal and careful as a society with our resources, but this doesn't

translate to our modern avatar.

Systemic thinking and sustainable fashion strategies must be at the core of design. Designers must create meaningfully and should understand the long-term effects of what they create.

Our production processes must minimise water and power consumption; our supply chains must be transparent and traceable; our retail systems need a revamp to include sustainable habits like renting/reusing clothes. End of use methodologies is needed for the circularity of the industry. New material inventions through bio design are the future.

Time to change perspective: As seen in an exhibition in the Fashion for Good museum in Amsterdam; 80% of a garment's impact comes from decisions that designers make on the cut, colour and fabric chosen. Almost 2,700 litres of water is used to produce a single cotton-t-shirt. What average human drinks in three years.

The choice lies with us. Even steps taken in this direction, no matter how small, will be significant in shaping the narrative of consumption for customers and creators of this century.

The writer is Mridu Sahai, founding member, The Design Village



Applications are invited by **School of Law, University of Warwick, UK** from deserving students to apply for its full-tuition Masters International Scholarships programme in the UK. There are up to two awards open for the academic year 2022-2023.

International students can apply.

Eligibility: Masters degree program in the School of Law

If you want to be selected for this application, then make sure you meet all the requirements:

Applicants must be taking admission in a master's degree to study one of their LLM courses starting in October 2022.

Applicants must be from home or overseas.

Supporting documents: Attach pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts and award, a statement, a copy of passport.

Admission requirements: All entrants must hold a bachelor's degree in a required field.

Language requirement: Language requirements vary from one course to another. However, you can provide the certificate of IELTS to prove your proficiency in English.

How to apply: If you want to be enlisted in this educational opportunity, aspirants must take admission in a master's degree at the University of Warwick. After

being enrolled, applicants can apply for this funding award. Application deadline: It is March 31, 2022.

To attract and support international candidates in the UK, **Hartpury College is providing the Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships** for the academic year 2022-2023.

Receive and accept an offer to study a full-time undergraduate and postgraduate degree at Hartpury University

Confirm Hartpury University as your firm choice on UCAS.

Supporting documents: To apply for a scholarship, complete the application form and write a 500-word essay answering the question: 'How will you use your Hartpury qualification to grow the equine, sports, agriculture, or animal industry to create a better future?'

Admission requirements: Applicants must have a previous degree certificate with relevant marks.

Language requirement: All students need to possess a certain level of English language proficiency before studying with them. This is to ensure you will be successful in your studies and during your time in the UK.

How to apply: To be enlisted in the programme, students are advised to enroll in the degree programme and complete the scholarship application form.

Application deadline: it is June 30, 2022.

UI/UX DESIGN AT YELLOW LAMBDA TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2983f2
Deadline: December 22, 2021

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AT HACKACADEMY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8ab7b2
Deadline: December 22, 2021

TEACHING (CODING) AT CAMP K12

Location - Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d30d70
Deadline: December 22, 2021

ML APP DEVELOPMENT AT TINY BANYAN TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3ccf3b
Deadline: December 22, 2021

CONTENT WRITING AT 4 WAY TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/f08dd7
Deadline: December 22, 2021

PYTHON DEVELOPMENT AT EDUGORILLA

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/55cc33
Deadline: December 22, 2021

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIQUE CULTURE

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4f15a6
Deadline: December 20, 2021

IN BRIEF

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY & ADMISSION TEST

The myClassroom has launched mySEAT 2021 — a scholarship eligibility-admission test for students in Classes VIII, IX and X. It provides young aspirants an opportunity to prepare and secure a guaranteed seat in IIT, AIIMS, and top 100

engineering and medical colleges of India. It gives to access to India's top faculty, quality education, and academic rigor for every aspirant, through state-of-the-art technology and digital classrooms right in your city. Prashant Sharma, co-founder-director,

myClassroom said: "By participating in this test, students will get a chance to assess their readiness for upcoming competitive exams, get personalised career counseling from our expert teachers, and also stand a chance to win scholarships and exciting rewards."

The scholarship exams will be held in two stages for each class. For stage I, candidates may take the exam online from December 15 and 25, 2021 or offline on December 19 and 25, 2021 in our smart classrooms across 16 cities. Stage II will consist of a personal interview. Final results will be announced on January 5, 2022. To register: <https://myseat.myclassroom.digital/>.

IAF AND IIT DELHI SIGN AN MOU

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and IIT Delhi have signed an MoU for various developmental projects to support the requirements of

the IAF. The MoU was signed by Air Vice Marshal Samir V Borade VSM, Deputy Senior Maintenance Staff Officer (Dy SMSO),

Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF and Professor MR Ravi, head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Delhi.

SUNSTONE EDUVERSITY SHOWS GROWTH

Amidst the ongoing pandemic, while the education industry is raging with an edtech boom, Sunstone Eduversity (offline) showed a stellar growth. While it stood at eight campus partnerships till February 2021. It has gone on to add 16 new

campuses in merely six months — expanding its footprint to a total of 24 campuses as on October 2021. During the pandemic alone, it has launched 20 new campuses and shaped the careers of more than 250 students from its MBA batch of 2019-21.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN LITERARY TRANSLATION

The Ahmedabad University has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi-based JCB Literature Foundation (JCBLF) to groom and mentor interested students in the fast-growing literary translation segment.

The MoU was signed by BM Shah, Registrar, Ahmedabad University and Meghna Verma, Head of Operations, JCBLF.

As part of this, a

diploma in Literary Translation will be offered by the Centre for Learning Futures at Ahmedabad University from 2022-23. Tejaswini Niranjana, Professor of Humanities and Languages, School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University, will be responsible for designing and implementing the course. This course will focus on enhancing the skills of existing translators to

better prepare them for publishing, advertising and editorial industries through workshops, mentored bilingual engagements, and courses covering the history and theory of translation; and through facilitating opportunities for interaction with publishers. This new initiative has generous support from JCBLF through 10 full scholarships for those taking the course.

EDTECH FIRM LAUNCHES INTERNSHIP DRIVE PROGRAMME

The Mindler has launched internship programme for Class XII students across India and the Middle-east. With over 25,000 students expected to participate in the programme. It is the World's Largest Student Internship Drive. The free of cost, student-first initiative will see students from over 1,000 schools in India and over 70 schools from the Middle-east. They will go

through a five-week long virtual internship that will give them the experience of interning with a fast paced growing organisation.

Students will get offer letters, certificates of completion, letters of recommendation, and be eligible to win scholarships worth over ₹25 crore from leading universities during their internship programme.

THIRD DELHI DIGITAL CONCLAVE ORGANISED

The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) hosted its Third Delhi Digital Conclave (DDC) with the theme of Climate Action for a Sustainable Urban Future.

The intent behind DDC is to provide a public platform to think about new technologies, sustainability and climate action to reach our Sustainable Development Goals.

In the inaugural session Professor Ranjan Bose, Director IIIT-Delhi emphasized the role of technology institutions in the climate change adaptation policies. Jasmine Shah, vice-chairperson, Delhi Dialogue Commission, Delhi Government spoke about the challenges that Delhi is facing concerning climate change and related policy formulations.

Shah claimed that 70% of pollution in Delhi is due to outstation sources. He also highlighted the Delhi Government's policies on climate policies and actions. The electric vehicle policy 2020 and the solar project are few of the interventions. Apart from the online event, an art exhibition on the theme of climate change and the future of the planet was also organised.

KOHLI MADE NO OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR BREAK AS OF NOW: BCCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Test captain Virat Kohli has not put in any formal request for a break from the ODI leg of the upcoming South Africa tour, a top BCCI official has asserted.

Kohli will be leading India in a three-Test series starting December 26 in Centurion and the series ends on January 15 in Cape Town with the third and final Test. The three-match ODI series will kick off on January 19.

After vice-captain Rohit Sharma was ruled out due to the recurrence of a left hamstring injury, reports have emerged that Kohli will take a break to spend some time with his young family.

"As of now, Kohli hasn't sent any formal request to skip the ODIs to either BCCI president Sourav Ganguly or secretary Jay Shah. If something is decided at a later date or God forbid, he sustains an injury, then it's a different matter," a senior BCCI official privy to develop-



ments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"As things stand today, he is playing the three ODIs on January 19, 21, 23," he added.

The official also said that all the players' families are also travelling

to South Africa aboard the same charter flight due to the bio-bubble restrictions.

"The skipper is travelling with his family. But yes, if he feels bubble fatigue after the Test series and wants to take a break, he would def-

initely inform the chairman of selectors and secretary (Shah), who is the convenor of the selection committee," the source added.

One reason for the current speculation could be that once India are back home, they will again be inside an extended bubble for three weeks with Sri Lanka coming in for Tests and T20 Internationals.

There were some reports that Kohli might take a break because of his daughter Vamika's first birthday (January 11).

Kohli will be playing his 100th Test match on that day. The ODI series starts on January 19.

Kohli has been an advocate of workload management in bubble life, which he thinks isn't sustainable for long periods of time as it can take a toll on one's mental health.

In the past year, he has been on a paternity break during the 2020-21 Australia series, and during the three T20 Internationals against New Zealand at home.

Sindhu starts with facile win

PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

Defending champion PV Sindhu breezed past Slovakia's Martina Repiska 21-7 21-9 to make a resounding start in the BWF World Championship here on Tuesday.

The fast-rising Lakshya Sen prevailed over 15th seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto 22-20 15-21 21-18 to progress to the pre-quarterfinals along with Kidambi Srikanth rallied to defeat Chinese Li Shi Feng 15-21 21-18 21-17. The 12th seeded Indian's match lasted one hour and nine minutes. In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan 27-25 21-17 in 43 minutes.

World number seven Sindhu took just 24 minutes to beat the unseeded at opponent court number 3 of Palacio de los Deportes Carolina Marin Stadium here.

Seeded sixth in the tournament which she won in 2019 -- when it was last held -- the two-time Olympic-medallist began on a rousing note and raced to a 4-1 lead with her fine play.

Repiska tried to make a come-



back with two points, but the fancied Indian did not let her go ahead, leading 11-4 at the mid-break. She continued her dominance and kept accumulating points to widen the lead, eventually pocketing the first game in only 10 minutes.

The script remained the same in the second game as well, with Sindhu maintaining her firm grip over the proceedings to race to a 6-0 lead in just two minutes.

At midpoint, Sindhu was lead-

ing 11-1 and she completed the formality with a dominant performance.

Sen was made to toil hard for his victory by the Japanese as he took one hour and 22 minutes to emerge winner.

However, the mixed doubles pairing of Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh suffered a straight game defeat to Malaysians Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing, going down 21-8 21-18.

STATES HUSTLE FOR VIJAY HAZARE CUP

Bharat smashes second successive ton in Andhra win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Captain Srikar Bharat's second successive hundred powered Andhra to an 81-run win over Gujarat in their Elite Group A match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Tuesday.

Riding on Bharat's blazing 156 off 138 balls, barely two days after his 161-run knock against Himachal Pradesh, a struggling Andhra managed to post 253 for nine after batting first.

Bharat smashed seven sixes and 16 fours during his knock.

In reply, Gujarat were all out for 172 in 41.3 overs with left-arm spinner Manish Golamur picking 4/30. In another Group A match, skipper Faiz Fazal struck an unbeaten hundred as Vidarbha comfortably beat

Jammu and Kashmir by five wickets. Chasing 234 to win after opting to bowl first, Vidarbha rode on their experienced skipper's 102 off 110 balls to complete the task with as many seven overs to spare at the Bandra Kurla Complex.

The game seemed to have opened up a bit after Vidarbha lost their fourth wicket in the form of Yash Rathod with the score reading 81 for four in the 18th over.

However, by the time the next batter got out, Vidarbha were only four shy of the target, thanks to a match-winning partnership of 149 runs between Fazal and Apoorv Wankhade, who made 79 off 80 balls.

Gaikwad's fourth ton in five matches goes in vain

Ruturaj Gaikwad continued his red hot form to smash his fourth hundred but Maharashtra despite their narrow win over Chandigarh couldn't qualify for the Vijay Hazare knock-out from group D of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Tuesday.

The win however was not enough for Maharashtra, who were unlucky to be eliminated finishing third on net-run rate (+0.104) after they ended with 16 points with Kerala (+0.974) and Madhya Pradesh (+0.485).

Kerala topped group D with a massive five-wicket win over Uttarakhand with 86 balls to spare to advance directly into the quarters where they will face Services at Jaipur on December 22.



Madhya Pradesh on the other hand finished second, ousting Maharashtra with a thrilling three-run win over Chhattisgarh to qualify for the

pre-quarters where they will face Uttar Pradesh at Jaipur on December 19.

Chasing a tall 310 in a do-or-die group D clash, the

Maharashtra skipper led from the front with a blistering 168 from 132 balls.

Services pip Rajasthan to top group E, make quarters

All-rounder Lakhan Singh impressed with both bat and ball to help Services defeat Rajasthan by 16 runs and set up a quarter-final clash with Kerala in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Tuesday.

In a top-of-the-table concluding group E clash, Services notched 232/7 after Rajasthan elected to field at the Jharkhand State Cricket Association Oval ground here.

In reply, Rajasthan were restricted to 216/9 with left arm spinner Rahul Singh doing the maximum damage with his 3/33 from his 10 overs that included

two maidens.

Lakhan (2/54) and Diwesh Pathania (2/36) claimed two apiece as Services topped group E pushing Rajasthan to second spot on head-to-head count after both teams finished on 16 points.

As per rules, Rajasthan will now have to play the pre-quarterfinal where they will face Karnataka at Jaipur on December 19.

Ravi Chauhan top-scored with 61 from 81 balls (5x4, 2x6) while his opening partner Chauhan gave a fine stand with a 68-ball 42 (3x4, 1x6) as they put on a solid 101-run opening partnership in 21.5 overs.

TN loses to Baroda but qualifies for QF

Tamil Nadu had a batting

debacle in their 41-run defeat at the hands of Baroda in their final group B league match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy but that didn't stop them from qualifying for the knock-out stage of the competition.

Defending champion Mumbai stumbled to a fourth defeat in five games to finish with four points after a humiliating 18-run loss to unfancied Pondicherry.

Though Tamil Nadu (12 points) was well beaten by Baroda, its healthy net-run-rate of 1.052 helped the team take the top spot ahead of Karnataka (12 points, NRR 0.789) and Bengal (12 points, NRR 0.235) and Puducherry (12 points, NRR -1.360) after four teams finished equal of points.

BCCI secretary Shah launches HAP Cup for physically disabled players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having played a role in the formation of a committee for the country's differently abled cricketers, BCCI secretary Jay Shah launched the second edition of the HAP Cup, the biggest tournament for the physically challenged in India.

The BCCI formed the committee at its recently-held Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) in Kolkata.

The HAP Cup has been scheduled at the Tau Devilal Cricket Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana from December 28 to 31.

Every year HAP Cup is organised by the Physically Challenged Cricket Association of India (PCCAI) to spread the message of positivity and happiness among the physically challenged players in the country.

ing winners of World Series in 2019 in England have been divided in four teams which will play on round robin basis with the top two teams playing in the finals.

The teams are named after individuals from Australia who played a pivotal role in providing relief to nearly 500 physically disabled players during the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

Harley Medcalf, manager of legendary Australian cricketer Steve Waugh, was one of such individuals who headed this relief campaign for the players.

After forming the committee, Shah told the members of Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI), "History has been created.

The first step has been taken and now a lot of work has to be done for the development of all Divyang players of the country.



1,000 km green ride with Milind Soman

DRITI ATRI ■ NEW DELHI

Milind Soman started his 1,000-km long journey starting from Mumbai to Delhi on a bicycle. The ultimate moto was to raise awareness against air pollution.

The fitness icon reached Delhi where he culminated the 'green ride' — Ek Pahal Swachh Hawa Ki Ore' powered by GAIL (India) Limited. GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Shri Manoj Jain, Director (Marketing) ES Ranganathan, Director (Finance) R K Jain, Chief Vigilance Officer Smt Shubha Naresh Bhambhani and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The journey started on December 3, 2021, from Mumbai and passed through Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana before arriving at New Delhi.

GAIL CMD Shri Manoj Jain said GAIL was always at the forefront of the fight against air pollution.

The company's social media initiative 'Hawa Badlo' which strives to raise awareness against the menace has reached netizens over 100 million times.



"As part of its commitment towards raising awareness for sustainable and environment friendly lifestyle, GAIL partnered with 'Green Ride — Ek Pahal Swachh Hawa Ki Ore' which is an unique initiative by fitness icon Milind Soman to raise awareness and encourage the people of India to do their bit towards cleaner air," Jain said.

"Delighted, Grateful & Exhilarated! This sums up my journey on cycle from Mumbai to Delhi. The GREEN RIDE was an effort to explore and promote healthier modes of transportation," Milind said.

"I hope I was able to create some more awareness about how we are polluting the air we breathe, and efforts we all can make to reduce this pollution! Every small step that we take, like opting for a car pool, planting a tree, choosing to cycle rather than take a car, quitting smoking and so many other small ways, plays a huge role in making our environment healthier for us and all life on the planet.

Will continue to champion for this cause and other important ones through more such initiatives in the future," he added.

Presented by Bank of Baroda and powered by GAIL (India) Limited, Milind Soman interacted with media at various points, met environmentalists, rural students and planted saplings on his route to spread awareness on the issue of clean air.

He also interacted with GAIL employees at various places and discussed issues of health, fitness and environment with them.

MU game postponed as EPL coronavirus cases hit high

AP ■ LONDON

The English Premier League reported its highest weekly coronavirus infections as Manchester United's meeting with Brentford became the second match in three days to be postponed due to outbreaks.

There were 42 cases of COVID-19 in the week to Sunday after 3,805 players and club staff were tested, a

jump on the 12 cases in the previous seven days of testing.

Some United players and staff returned positive tests following the 1-0 win over Norwich on Saturday evening. The Premier League board accepted United's request to postpone Tuesday's scheduled match at Brentford in London less than 24 hours before kickoff.

"The decision was taken



following guidance from medical advisers due to the

exceptional circumstances of an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak within Manchester United's squad," the Premier League said in a statement late Monday.

"First team operations at the club's Carrington Training Complex were closed down today to help control the outbreak and minimize risk of further infection among players and staff. The league wishes a quick recovery to those play-

ers and staff with COVID-19." The first game to be called off this season due to coronavirus cases was Tottenham's trip to Brighton last Sunday due to at least eight players at the north London club contracting COVID-19.

Norwich and Aston Villa have also reported coronavirus cases at their clubs.

They come amid growing concerns in Britain

about the spread of the omicron variant, which has led to the reintroduction of some coronavirus restrictions.

The Premier League has emulated national regulations by asking for face masks to be worn again around clubs, while going further than the government by reintroducing social distancing. The frequency of testing on players and staff will also increase.

SJFI to honour Gavaskar with medal



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) on Tuesday decided to confer the prestigious 'SJFI Medal' to leg-

endary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.

The body took the decision at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati.

Neeraj Chopra, who won India's lone gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was adjudged the SJFI Sportsman of the Year while weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won a silver at the quadrennial extravaganza, was voted as the Sportswoman of the Year, according to a media statement. The Indian men's team that won the hockey bronze in Tokyo - its first hockey medal in 40 years - was declared the Team of the Year.

Misfiring India held to 2-2 draw by fighting Korea

PTI ■ DHAKA

Defending champions and Olympic bronze-medallists India were held to a 2-2 draw by a fighting Korea in their opening match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

Playing their first tournament after the historic Tokyo Olympics campaign, India started brightly and scored in the fourth minute through Lalit Upadhyay before vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty corner in the 18th minute to double their lead.

Trailing 0-2, Korea fought back after the change of ends and scored through Jonghyun Jang in the 41st minute and Sunghyun Kim in the 46th minute to stun the favourites and draw level.

Korea grew in confidence as the match progressed and pressed the



Indian defence hard.

The Manpreet Singh-led side also had numerous chances, including penalty corners, but failed to utilise the opportunities as the match ended in a stalemate.

Jaehyeon Kim in front of the

Korea goal was the difference between the two sides as he produced numerous brilliant saves to help his side steal a point from the game.

The last encounter between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw in the last edition of the tournament.

India will next play hosts Bangladesh on Wednesday.

It did not take long for India to surge ahead through Lalit, who elegantly controlled the ball just outside the circle and dodged past three Korean defenders to slot it into the net past Kim.

While the Indians played their natural game of attacking hockey from the onset, the Koreans preferred to sit back and defend deep and rely mostly on counter-attacks.

India continued their dominance in the second quarter and secured back-to-back penalty corners.

While the first effort from Varun Kumar was brilliantly saved by Korean goalkeeper Kim, Harmanpreet beautifully converted the next attempt to double India's lead in the 18th minute.

Down by two goals, the Koreans tried to force their way back into the game in the remaining minutes of the

second quarter but India defended doggedly.

But the picture was completely different after cross-over as Korea looked more purposeful in their attacks and secured three consecutive penalty corners in the 41st minute and Jang was bang on target with the last try.

Minutes later, Gursahibjit Singh's shot from top of the circle was wide off the target.

The Koreans continued to put pressure on the Indian defence in search of the equaliser and they succeeded in their efforts when

Sunghyun Kim tapped in a drive at the near post from a drive from the left flank.

A shocked India had their chances in the form of three more penalty corners but they failed to cash in on the opportunities to split point with Korea.

Aishwarya Pissay Wins Fifth Straight National Rally Championship

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

TVS Racing factory rider Aishwarya Pissay conquered the windmill farm stages in Kethanur, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday, winning her fifth Indian National Rally Championship in a row. She secured her eighth overall National crown with a dominating performance in the Ladies class at the penultimate of the FMSCI MRF Mogrip Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) for two-wheelers 2021, organised by Coimbatore Auto Sports Club and God Speed Racing.

The 2019 World Cup Baja winner, Aishwarya, won all four stages in the Rally of Coimbatore with a command-

ing lead and garnered 25 points to increase her tally to 125 points from five rallies.

Defending champion Aishwarya has won the INRC two-wheeler title five times now. She met with an accident during the second round of the coveted World Cup title in Jordan earlier this year. After undergoing surgeries on both her wrists, the hard-willed athlete completed her rehab with determination and bounced back quickly to regain her race form and had not lost a race in the National championship since then.

As a warm-up, she also conquered the Rally of Himalayas, a daunting task, which pitted her against numerous competitors.