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MEET DUE TO OMICRON

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

Late City Vol.31 Issue 352
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Row over delimitation body adding 6 seats to Jammu

Draft proposes 1 more Assembly seat to Kashmir

RAJESH KUMAR/MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

In its first draft report—Paper I-1, the Delimitation Commission for Jammu & Kashmir has proposed six additional seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir valley after considering demographic changes in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The draft report has triggered strong protests from the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party, the People's Conference and the Jammu Kashmir Apni Party. They have accused the commission of allowing the "political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations".

If the proposal goes through, the total seats in Jammu will increase to 43 from the existing 37 and in the Kashmir valley from 46 to 47. Of the total seats, the commission has proposed nine for the Scheduled Tribes and seven for the Scheduled Castes.

Apart from the 90 seats where the boundaries have



been freshly demarcated, the 24 seats in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir remain unchanged.

Earlier at a meeting with five associate members, the Delimitation Commission headed by (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai, shared the draft report of the redrawing of boundaries of the Jammu & Kashmir and sought their comments/suggestions by December 31, 2021.

The meeting was held at Ashok Hotel on Monday, and attended by associate members, Jugal Kishore and Dr Jitendra Singh of the BJP and three MPs from the National Conference — Farooq Abdullah, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone. This is the first time the NC attended the delimitation commission meeting. Senior Deputy

Election Commissioner Chandra Bhushan Kumar gave a detailed presentation to the members explaining that the Delimitation panel has categorised all 20 districts in three broad categories A, B and C.

The commission gave a margin of +/- 10 per cent of average population per Assembly Constituency (AC), while proposing allocation of the constituencies to the districts.

The commission has also, for some districts, proposed carving out of an additional constituency to balance the representation for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their inhospitable conditions on the international border.

Continued on Page 2

They have done a good job. There was no objection from any side. Now the Delimitation Commission has proposed to increase the seats to 90. They have followed objective parameters on the basis of population, accessibility, topography and terrain of individual districts. I don't feel anyone would be dissatisfied with it. No political party can find fault with it
BJP MP AND UNION MINISTER
JITENDRA SINGH

Misrepresenting and distorting the facts with malicious intention! Very misleading statement. We have clearly expressed our resentment over the draft of the Delimitation Commission, the biased process of seat sharing. NC will not be a signatory to this report. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The commission has been created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious and regional lines. The real game plan is to install a Government in JK which will legitimise the illegal and unconstitutional decisions of August 2019
PDP PRESIDENT MEHBOOBA MUFTI

They reek of bias. What a shock for those who believe in democracy
PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE CHIEF
SAJJAD LONE

Spooked by Omicron fear, Sensex ends 4-month-low

Indian investors lose ₹6.7L crore; stocks world over nosedive

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The fear of surging Omicron cases across the world catching up with India in the weeks ahead spooked the stock market with relentless selling by both domestic and foreign investors. The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 1,700 points before it recovered marginally. At the end of the day, Sensex shed 1,189.73 points or 2.90 per cent to end at 55,822.01 — its lowest since August 23 this year.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty tanked 371 points or 2.18 per cent to end at 16,614.20.

The same gloom-and-doom story was witnessed all over the world. Markets in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with heavy losses, and stock exchanges in Europe opened deep in the red.

The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies tumbled by ₹6.79 lakh crore to stand at ₹2,52,57,581.05 crore. This means investors lost 6.7 lakh crore in a single day.

Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, sinking 5.20 per cent, followed by IndusInd



A health worker administers a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a beneficiary during a mobile vaccination drive amid fear of spread of a new variant of Covid, in Bengaluru, on Monday PTI

Bank, SBI, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank and NTPC. Only HUL and Dr Reddy's managed to close in the green, climbing up to 1.70 per cent.

According to experts, exploding Covid-19 cases, sustained selling by foreign institutional investors and slowing growth momentum in the developed economies have spooked world markets.

"India has been undergoing a phase of consolidation in the last two months. Currently, selloff is due to rapid rise in FIIs selling triggered by hawkish world central banks' policy, cautious view on Indian market due to high valuation compared to peers and drop in retail inflows," news agency PTI quoted Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, as saying.

Continued on Page 2

No evidence Omicron causes lower severity than Delta: UK Study

New Delhi: Close on the heels of the WHO warning that Omicron variants are doubling every 1.5 to 3 days in places with community transmission, a UK study has said that there is "no evidence" that the hyper mutated strain has a lower severity than the Delta strain. The study by researchers from Imperial College London also found that the new variant of coronavirus largely evades immunity from past infection or two vaccine doses.

It estimates that the risk of reinfection with the Omicron variant is 5.4 times greater than that of the Delta variant. This implies that the protection against reinfection by Omicron afforded by past infection may be as low as 19 per cent, the researchers said.

"The study finds no evidence of Omicron having lower severity than Delta, judged by either the proportion of people testing positive who report symptoms, or by the proportion of cases seeking hospital

care after infection," the authors of the study said.

"However, hospitalisation data remains very limited at this time," they added. The yet-to-be-published study used data for all PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases in England who had taken a Covid-19 test between November 29 and December 11, 2021. Continued on Page 2

Covid vax can be tweaked for Omicron: Guleria

New Delhi: The Covid-19 vaccines can be "tweaked" to provide protection against new variants of the virus, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, Director Dr Randeep Guleria has said. His remarks have come in the wake of concerns over the new Omicron variant of Covid-19.

Pananma expose: Aishwarya grilled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was on Monday questioned for six hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe into the Panama Papers expose about linking several prominent personalities in India with companies in tax havens.

The actor appeared before the ED office and was questioned in a case linked to the 2016 Panama Papers global tax leaks case.

The statement of 48-year-old daughter-in-law of superstar Amitabh Bachchan and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan was recorded under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), officials said.

After the grilling, the former Miss World was ushered into a white car from the back door of the ED's office at Jam Nagar House just after 7 pm.



Amid her daughter-in-law's questioning, Jaya Bachchan on Monday lashed out at the ruling BJP in the Rajya Sabha with a "curse" that it will face bad days soon. Participating in the debate on the NDPS (Amendment) Bill, Jaya chose to raise the issue of the 12 suspended Opposition members and said Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the chair, himself used to protest in the Well of the House. This evoked a sharp reaction from BJP members.

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LS passes Bill to link electoral roll data with Aadhaar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to link electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem after a brief debate amid continuous protest by Opposition members over various issues, including the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, piloted by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, was passed by a voice vote. The Government rejected demands by some Opposition MPs to refer it to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny.

Rijiju said various proposals which are part of the Bill have already been suggested and recommended by the Standing Committee on Law and Personnel. The Minister further said the Bill will cleanse



the election system and eliminate multiple entries. He further said the Government wanted a full debate on the Bill but could not do so because of the uproar in the House.

Rijiju said the Bill, which is gender-neutral and has four qualifying dates for entry into an electoral roll, is in consonance with the Supreme Court's ruling. Supriya Sule of the NCP wondered why this important Bill was being pushed in a tearing hurry by the Government.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

S-DELHI TEMPLE TO BE DEMOLISHED, SAYS HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Delhi Government to remove an illegally constructed temple put up on public land in South Delhi, noting that no religious activity was going on there.

'BHAGWAT GITA CAN BE ALLOWED IN SCHOOLS'

New Delhi: State governments can allow the teaching of the Bhagwat Gita to school students if they want, the Government told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

COUPLE TIE KNOT BY CONSTITUTION'S OATH

Berhampur: A couple in Odisha's Ganjam district have tied the knot by taking their marriage oath on the Constitution instead of following the traditional Hindu rituals.

122 STUDENTS OF IITS, IIMS KILLED SELF IN 7YRS

New Delhi: 122 students of IITs, IIMs, Central Universities and other Centrally funded higher educational institutions killed themselves in 2014-21, the Lok Sabha was informed.

Step up shrines' security: Centre to Punjab after sacrilege incidents

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Alarmed over two incidents of attempted sacrilege within 24 hours in Punjab, the Central Government has issued an alert to the State Government, while hinting at more similar incidents. The Centre has asked the State authorities to enhance security of all religious places or shrines, including gurdwaras and deras.

Notably, two unidentified men were beaten to death in Amritsar and Kapurthala after they allegedly attempted to commit sacrilege.

The Centre has issued instructions to the State Government to increase security measures and closely monitor the situation at all religious shrines in the State to avoid such incidents.

It has been learnt that the religious places could be targeted to vitiate the atmosphere in the State, ahead of the polls scheduled to be held early next



Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee president Harjinder Singh Dhani addresses a press conference over the sacrilege incident at Golden temple, in Amritsar on Monday. A man was beaten to death on Saturday after he allegedly attempted to commit a 'sacrilegious' act inside the historic temple PTI

year. The Union Home Ministry has asked the State Government to increase the security of all gurdwaras, deras, temples, and all religious places in Punjab, warning that anti-national elements may try to incite religious sentiments in Punjab in the run up to elections. The Centre is apprehending that attempts would be made to disturb Punjab's atmosphere by using religious places. "Punjab's religious harmony can be disturbed by incidents like sacrilege." After the Centre's input, the State Government has become alert.

Continued on Page 2

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

States can teach Gita in schools: Min

New Delhi: State Governments can allow the teaching of the Bhagvad Gita to school students if they want, the Government told Lok Sabha on Monday.

Replying to members' questions in the Lower House, Union Minister for Education Annapurna Devi said that State Governments can also make provisions for the teaching of the Bhojpuri language in schools if they want.

She added that under the new education policy, the education of children in regional languages has been made compulsory. "Education comes in the concurrent list of (the Constitution). If the states

want, they can add Bhagvad Gita in the curriculum.

"Under the CBSE (central board of secondary school education) pattern, Bhagvad Gita is already taught in various classes. If states want they can add Bhagvad Gita," the minister told the House during the Question Hour.

She was replying to the question from BJP's North Mumbai MP Gopal Shetty. The BJP member wanted to know from the government if it is considering bringing provisions for the teaching of Bhagvad Gita to school students across the country.

While asking his question, Shetty also suggested that the

Congress members read Bhagvad Gita "so that they get the wisdom to do good work".

Congress members were at that time protesting in the House over Lakhimpur Khairi violence and demanding the sacking of Union Minister for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra as his son Ashish Mishra is one of the accused arrested in the case.

"Some contents from the Bhagvad Gita are already there for the students of classes Class 6, 7 and 8. Bhagvad Gita is taught," the minister said in her reply.

In response to a written question in Lok Sabha, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

informed that Bhagvad Gita is also incorporated in the syllabus for the UGC-NET examination for the Yoga subject.

"The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced a course of Indian Traditional Knowledge System in 2018 in the model curriculum of UG Engineering courses, which has taken some aspect of Shrimad Bhagvad Gita," Pradhan said.

In a separate question in Lok Sabha, BJP member Nishikant Dubey sought to know from the government if it was considering giving recognition to Bhojpuri or making the language part of the school curriculum for students of

classes 1-12 and the higher education institutions as well.

He said people from Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been demanding it for a long time.

"Under the new education policy, education of children in Indian language and regional languages has been made compulsory. States can teach (school) children in Bhojpuri. States can implement the new education policy and teach (Bhojpuri) in Class 1 to 12," the minister of state for education replied.

The minister said the Union government issues advisories to the state governments from time to time "If the state

governments want, they can comply with them and make provisions for teaching (Bhojpuri) to students of Classes 1 to 12," she added.

Meanwhile, in a written response, Pradhan said, "As per information received from the State of Bihar, Bhojpuri language has not been discontinued from the school curriculum.

As per the Bihar State Curriculum 2008, textbooks for classes 1 to 12 in Bhojpuri have been developed and uploaded on DIKSHA platform. Further, the state government has the policy to promote regional languages for primary education". **PTI**

16 kg of stolen gold found buried in TN graveyard

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's Vellore police have recovered 16 kg of gold stolen from a jewellery showroom in the city which was buried in a graveyard.

On December 15, CCTV visuals revealed a masked man entering the prominent jewellery shop in Vellore town and decamping with 16 kg of gold.

Police constituted a special investigation team and nabbed a person who is suspected to have committed the theft. He is from Anaicut in Vellore. However, police refused to divulge the details of the burglar.

On interrogation, it was revealed that the gold stolen from the jewellery showroom

was buried in a graveyard some 40 km away from Vellore at Odukathur.

IANS



Row over delimitation body adding 6 seats...

From Page 1
Bhushan further explained that in the Union Territory, since last delimitation, number of districts has increased from 12 to 20 and number of tehsils from 52 to 207.

The population density in the districts of the Union Territory varies from 29 persons per square km in Kishtwar to 3,436 persons per square km in Srinagar.

Mainstream political parties in Kashmir valley have strongly rejected the draft report and claimed it only served political interests of Bharatiya Janata Party.

The National Conference vice president and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was among the first to react on his twitter time line. Omar said, "The draft recommendation

of the J&K delimitation commission is unacceptable. Instead of adopting a scientific approach it seems it has adopted a 'political approach'."

Posting a series of tweets Omar wrote, "The draft recommendation of the J&K delimitation commission is unacceptable. The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with 6 going to Jammu & only 1 to Kashmir is not justified by the data of the 2011 census. It is deeply disappointing that the commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations rather than the data which should have been its only consideration. Contrary to the promised 'scientific approach' it's a political approach."

MOS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, who attended the meeting in his capacity as BJP MP from Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary seat, backed the commission's report. "The commission has come out with a document that is objectively prepared. All associated members regardless of parties appreciated work done by Delimitation Commission. NC members were also satisfied by parameters followed by the Commission," Dr Singh said while speaking to a Delhi based news agency.

In a swift response, the twitter handle of the JKNC posted a tweet saying Dr Singh gave a misleading statement. "Misrepresenting and distorting the facts with malicious intention! Very misleading

statement. We have clearly expressed our resentment over the draft of the Delimitation Commission, the biased process of seat sharing. The party will NOT be a signatory to this report."

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Chief of Peoples Democratic Party also reacted on her twitter time line saying, "My apprehensions about the Delimitation Commission were not misplaced. They want to pitch people against each other by ignoring the population census & proposing 6 seats for one region & only one for Kashmir."

Mehbooba said, "This commission has been created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious & regional lines. The real game plan is to install

a Government in J&K which will legitimise the illegal & unconstitutional decisions of August 2019."

Another Kashmir-based APNI party said the recommendations were not acceptable to us. "J&K Apni Party rejects the proposal of the delimitation commission. This is outrightly unacceptable to us. Apni Party demands a fair delimitation exercise without any bias, taking population and districts as the base. We strongly demand the GoI to intervene," it said.

Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference in a tweet said, "The recommendations of the delimitation commission are totally unacceptable. They reek of bias. What a shock for those who believe in democracy."

Step up shrines' security: Centre to Punjab...

From Page 1

Orders have been issued for installation of CCTV cameras and deployment of security personnel at all the religious places across Punjab," a senior police official told The Pioneer.

Meanwhile, Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, reacting to the alleged sacrilege attempt at the Golden Temple in Amritsar and another at Kapurthala gurudwara, has demanded public execution for those accused of desecrating religious texts.

Sidhu, addressing a rally in Malerkotla on Sunday, said that conspiracies are being hatched to disturb peace in the State ahead of Assembly polls, scheduled to be held early next year. He added that "deliberate and malicious acts", intended to outrage religious feelings, should be dealt with deterrent

punishment.

"Conspiracy going on to disrupt Punjab's peace. Wherever sacrilege takes place, be it of Quran Sharif or Bhagavad Gita or Guru Granth Sahib, they (guilty) should be hanged in public and given the biggest Constitutional punishment," he said.

As several politicians, cutting across party lines, have condemned the sacrilege attempts in harsher possible words, Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi condemned the lynching. Singhvi, also a renowned advocate, has asked the State Government to initiate strict action against those who took law in their own hands.

"Sacrilege is horrendous but lynching in a civilized country is no less horrendous. I request the authorities to take strict action against all who took law into their own

hand and make an example out of them," tweeted Singhvi.

Responding to Singhvi, Akal Takht Jathedar, n his Facebook page, stated, "We want to tell you that Sikh code of conduct, Sikh religious places, Sikh history and Guru Granth Sahib Ji were attacked to hurt Sikh sentiments after 1947 and instead of punishing them, efforts to save accused under Government shelter has hurt Sikhs psychologically."

"More important question is that why did it come to the point where Sangat had to kill? When rule of law fails in providing justice by punishing those who committed sacrilege, then what should Sikhs do with their wounded hearts? What should victims of 1984 genocide, counting their last breaths while waiting for the justice, do? @DrAMSinghvi should explain," said Akal Takht Jathedar.

Spooked by...

From Page 1

"We feel that we are reaching the last phase of this consolidation in terms of price correction. Some pockets have become fair, however the overall market is still trading at the upper-hand which will continue to affect the performance of broad market, in the short-term," he added.

Ajit Mishra, VP-Research, Religare Broking, said markets reacted to the news of a sharp jump in the Covid cases globally, which may result in lockdowns. "Though the situation is under control domestically at

present, any impact on the global economic recovery would dent our prospects too. Besides, the continuous outflow of the foreign fund was also weighing on the sentiment. We reiterate our cautious view on markets and suggest focusing more on risk management," he noted.

All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE realty, oil and gas, metal, bankex and energy indices falling up to 4.74 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices lost as much as 3.42 per cent.

Global equities spiralled lower after surging Omicron cases raised the prospects of

fresh lockdowns ahead of Christmas and New Year holidays. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude tumbled 3.51 per cent to USD 70.94 per barrel.

However, the rupee notched up gains for a third straight session on Monday, rising further by 16 paise to settle at 75.90 against the US dollar as easing crude oil prices revived an otherwise lackluster sentiment.

Foreign institutional investors continued to offload shares in the capital market on Friday, as they sold equities worth ₹2,069.90 crore, exchange data showed.

LS passes Bill to link electoral roll data with Aadhaar

From Page 1

This is no way to pass legislation and there should be a proper debate and discussion on this, said NK Premchandran of the RSP. Others who opposed the Bill included Ritesh Pandey (BSP), Kalyan Banerjee (TMC), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) and E T Mohammed Basheer.

The Bill seeks to allow electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters "for the purpose of establishing the identity". It also

seeks to allow the electoral registration officers to ask for Aadhaar numbers from "persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in the electoral roll, and to identify registration of the name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency".

At the same time, the amendment Bill makes it clear that "no application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll shall be denied and no

entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for the inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed". Such people will be allowed to furnish other alternative documents as may be prescribed.

According to the Bill circulated to Lok Sabha members ahead of its introduction, various sections of the Representation of the People Act will be amended.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states

whole year to register as voters.

Amendment to Section 20 of the RP Act, 1950 and Section 60 of the RP Act, 1951 will allow the elections to become gender-neutral for service voters.

The amendment will also help replace the word "wife" with the word "spouse" making the statutes "gender-neutral". An Armyman's wife is entitled to be enrolled as a service voter, but a woman Army officer's husband is not, according to provisions in the electoral law. With "wife" being replaced by the term "spouse", this will change.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
B-844 E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-15/2021-22 Memo No - 1797 Dt. 15.12.2021

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Building work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work	:	Building Work
2. No of Work	:	1 No
3. Tender Cost	:	Rs. 10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	:	A Class and Special Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website	:	From 10.00 AM of Dt. 21.12.2021 to 05.00 PM of Dt. 04.01.2022
6. Last Date of receipt of tender	:	Dt.04.01.2022 up to 5.00 PM
7. Date of opening of Bid	:	Dt. 05.01.2022 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
OIPR-34127/11/0024/2122

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
B-838 E-mail: id-sectorb_2006@yahoo.co.in
Tel/Fax: - 0671-2301571/2302751

Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 30/2021-22.

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road & Building works as mentioned below.

2. No. of work	:	05 Nos.
3. Nature of work	:	Road & Building works.
4. Class of contractor	:	'B', 'A', Special & Super Class.
5. Tender paper cost	:	Rs.10000/- (online)
6. Available of bid documents in the web site	:	From 24.12.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 07.01.2022
7. Date of opening of bid	:	Dt.10.01.2022 at 11.00 Hours.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/-P.K.Pradhan
Chief Construction Engineer
Cuttack(R&B)Circle
OIPR-34012/11/0043/2122

DELHI JAL BOARD (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III
G.T ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032
E-mail id: eenelli.ee@gmail.com Ph No.22596645
PRESS Short NIT No. 56(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to Tender/ Rs.	Tender Fee (in Rs).	EMD (in Rs).	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement procurement
1.	Engagement of additional Contractual Labour for maintenance of water distribution network in AC-67 Babarpur in NE-III Tender I.D No 2021_DJB_213046_1	Item Rate	500/- Rs.	EMD Exempted	18.12.2021	28.12.2021
2.	Engagement of additional Contractual Labour for maintenance of sewerage system in AC-67 Babarpur in NE-III Tender I.D No 2021_DJB_213046_2	Item Rate	500/- Rs.	EMD Exempted	18.12.2021	28.12.2021

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

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Pananma...

From Page 1

"I don't want to thank you because I don't know whether I should remember when you used to walk into the Well shouting...Or today when you are sitting in the chair," she said

when called to speak on the Bill. Objecting to her remarks, Rakesh Sinha (BJP) said she was casting aspersions on the chair.

But Jaya continued her speech and lamented that at a time when the country is facing several important issues, the House has allocated 3-4 hours

for a debate on rectifying a "clerical error" in the Bill.

Amid the din, she alleged that personal remarks were made against her and sought protection from the chair. "I expect you to take action on the comment he made on me and my career. You want to be fair. You are sitting on the chair, you don't belong to any party, sir," she said. "How can they make personal remarks in the House...Aap logon kay burayey din aayengay (your bad days will come soon), I curse you," she said. The remarks claimed by Jaya as "personal" could not be heard in the noise.

Kalita repeatedly urged Jaya to confine herself to the Bill being debated. She responded by saying efforts were being made to stifle the voice of Opposition members. Kalita said the chair would go through the records and remove unparliamentary remarks, if any.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
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2. Approx. cost of work	32,03,088
3. Quantity	300 Sets
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	18.01.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
5. Date of Time of Opening of tender document	18.01.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note : (I) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) Website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in E-tender system. (II) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (III) No manual offers are acceptable.
NIT No. -47215176 Date : 16.12.2021 2981/21

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कार्यालय जिला परिषद्, चतरा
(अतिअल्पकालिक पुनर्र्णविदा आमंत्रण सूचना)
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या -- 44/2021-22

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी : 1429 / 22.11.21

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण की राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
01	Heritage Pilgrimage & Tourism Development (Iunit) At-Saradhu, Block-Tandwa.	16178524	324000	10000	06 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 24 / 12 / 2021
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय - 27.12.2021 से 01.01.2022 के अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. जिला परिषद्, चतरा में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 03.01.2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- जिला परिषद्, चतरा।
6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -04.01.2022 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद्, चतरा।
8. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 8800869950 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
9. निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक / बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैंकर्स चेक जो जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद्, चतरा के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला अभियंता,
जिला परिषद्, चतरा
PR 259814 District(21-22)#D

No evidence Omicron causes lower severity than Delta...

From Page 1

The research included people identified as having Omicron infection due to an S gene target failure (SGTF), as well as people with genotype data that confirmed Omicron infection.

Overall, 196,463 people without S gene target failure - those likely to be infected with another variant -- and 11,329 cases with it were included in the analysis, as well as 122,063 Delta and 1,846 Omicron cases in the genotype analysis.

The results suggest that the proportion of Omicron among all Covid cases was doubling every two days up to December 11, the researchers said. They estimate that the reproduction number (R) -- the number of cases directly caused by an infected individual -- of Omicron was above 3 over the period studied. "This study provides further evidence of the very substantial extent to which Omicron can evade prior immunity given by infection or vaccination," said Neil Ferguson, a professor at Imperial College London.

Just a few days ago, scientists at the University of Hong Kong had pointed out that the Omicron variant multiplies about 70 times faster inside human respiratory tract tissue than the Delta variant does. The variant also reaches higher levels in the tissue, compared to delta, 48 hours after infection.

The study also found that the new variant grew 10 times slower in lung tissue, which the authors said could be an indicator of lower disease severity.

fallen to 19 per cent against an Omicron infection, according to the researchers.

They found a significantly increased risk of developing a symptomatic Omicron case compared to Delta for those who were two or more weeks past their second vaccine dose, and two or more weeks past their booster dose for AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines.

"Depending on the estimates used for vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection from the Delta variant, this translates into vaccine effectiveness estimates against symptomatic Omicron infection of between 0 per cent and 20 per cent after two doses, and between 55 per cent and 80 per cent after a booster dose," the researchers added.

The Omicron variant of the coronavirus has been detected in 89 countries, and Covid-19 cases involving the variant are doubling every 1.5 to 3 days in places with community transmission and not just infections acquired abroad, the WHO said Saturday.

Controlling for vaccine status, age, sex, ethnicity, asymptomatic status, region and specimen date, Omicron was associated with a 5.40-fold higher risk of reinfection compared with Delta, the study found.

The reinfection risk estimated in the current study suggests this protection has

CM for booster dose as cases rise

To ascertain whether cases Delta or Omicron variant, all positive cases to be sent for genome sequencing in Delhi, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said all new positive cases of coronavirus being reported in the city will be sent for genome sequencing even as he appealed to the Centre to allow booster dose for health workers and others.

After his meeting with Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Kejriwal said there is no need to panic in view of the Omicron variant. "For the last few days Covid-19 cases have been increasing in the city. Yesterday (Sunday), it was over 100. We do not know what type

of Covid cases are these, normal or the Omicron variant. So, to ascertain this we have now decided to send the samples of all the positive cases for genome sequencing," he added.

A meeting of the DDMA was held under the chairmanship of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal to discuss the Covid situation in respect of the Omicron variant. "We assessed the impact and problems posed by the variant with experts. The experts have informed us that the Omicron variant spreads rapidly but is very mild in nature. One might get fever and other mild symptoms, the need for



hospitalisation is very low overall and the chances of death are very low as well."

"After discussion with experts we have come to the conclusion that this time home isolation would be needed at large. We have thus decided to further enhance and bolster

our home isolation program. Apart from this we have decided to get genome sequencing of each positive Covid test done to determine what variant is spreading among the patients at present. The number of positive cases kept coming on the lower side but yesterday we saw

over 100 positive tests till now only the people coming to the airport were being tested for the variants. This will help everyone know what variants are on the rise if Covid cases are spreading in Delhi," he added urging people to follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

Cabinet OK's proposal to set up teachers' university

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet Monday approved a proposal to establish 'Delhi Teachers University'. The Delhi Teachers University bill 2021 will be placed before the Legislative Assembly in the upcoming assembly session.

The campus will be set up at Bakkarwala village.

Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal gave green nod to the proposal terming it a revolution in the education sector, he said, "Delhi government will prepare new-generation teachers."

The Teachers' University, as name suggests, will offer four years integrated teacher education programme like - BA-Bed, BSc-Bed," CM Kejriwal



said, "The University will operate as a multidisciplinary academic center that brings together varied stakeholders. The admissions to the new university will start in the academic session of 2022-23."

Interestingly, students will be attached with Delhi Government Schools for the entire duration of their course to get hands-on experience. "This will help students gain

excellent practical knowledge in addition to theoretical knowledge," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme said.

The University will consolidate a range of efforts while aiming at provisioning excellent quality of public education for the people of the city.

The University is envisaged to align with and also bring together the reforms that have been initiated in the public school education in Delhi.

"These reforms range across the various aspects of public school education including infrastructure renewal, curriculum and learning outcomes related reforms, and mentor teacher programme for on-site teacher support, among several others," Kejriwal added after the Cabinet meeting.

HC orders demolition of temple built illegally in Defense Colony

New Delhi: The Delhi Government received extensive instruction by the High Court to remove an illegally constructed temple, put up on public land in South Delhi, noting that no religious activity was going on there.

Once the Supreme Court had already directed that no unauthorized construction will be permitted in the name of temple or gurdwara, there is no question why the encroachment be not removed expeditiously so that it is not misused, the high court said.

Justice Rekha Palli directed the Delhi government to remove within 10 days the encroachment which is illegal

ly constructed by someone in front of a property in South Delhi's Defense Colony area and asked Delhi Police to provide assistance in this.

The court remarked, "The whole city is taken for a ride for so many years... When the Supreme Court and high court find encroachment, where is the question of religious committee? Where does it (LG note) say the court cannot order demolition of illegal structure?"

To this the counsel for Delhi government said the court can order demolition but if the agencies have to take a decision, they have to first take permission from the religious committee.

The court also asked the SHO of the concerned police station to ensure that the idols put inside the illegal structure are placed in a nearby temple so that sanctity of the idols is preserved and sentiments of Hindus should be respected.

The high court allowed the petition seeking removal of encroachment, in the form of an illegally constructed temple, in front of a property in the area.

During the hearing, advocate Anupam Srivastava, appearing for Delhi government and police, said that a proposal would be again sent to the religious committee head-

ed by the Lieutenant Governor to recommend demolition of illegal structures, for seeking consent to demolish the structure.

The court perused a note by the Lieutenant Governor and said it nowhere says that no demolition should take place if it is contrary to the orders passed by a competent court.

"Now the respondent cannot take shelter that the matters to be sent to the religious committee as it is a religious structure. I may note that the unauthorized structure is not being used as a religious structure as there is no priest and no offering given there," the judge said.

PTI



Resident doctors protesting outside Ministry of Health at Nirman Bhavan against delay in NEET PG 2021 counselling, in New Delhi on Monday

Cabinet extends distribution of free ration for six months

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the Delhi Government has decided to extend the distribution of free ration in the city for six months till May 31, 2022.

The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting on Monday.

"We have started distributing free ration ever since the outbreak of coronavirus. The time period of this scheme has ended, so this is being extended by six months. The Cabinet today decided that free ration distribution will continue till May 31 next year," Kejriwal said.

It may be noted that the scheme ended on November 30.

The Delhi government distributes free ration to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

The city has over 2,000 fair price shops, 17.77 lakh ration card holders and around 72.78 lakh beneficiaries.

Free ration is given over and above subsidised grains distributed to them through ration shops. The PMGKAY was launched in March last year to ameliorate distress caused by COVID-19.

Initially, the scheme was launched for April-June last year, but was later extended to November 30.

In November this year, Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey had said that the Centre had no proposal to extend distribution of free ration through the PMGKAY beyond November 30.

Man pays ₹50 lakh ransom to rescue abducted son

New Delhi: A man has rescued his abducted son in the national Capital after paying a ransom of ₹50 lakh to the kidnappers.

According to a Delhi Police official, the incident took place on December 17, when the vic-

tim, identified as Kinshuk Agarwal, a resident of Shalimar Bagh, had gone to Ghazipur Phool Mandi by his car along with two of his employees.

At the Ghazipur Mandi, one unidentified man accosted

the victim and forcibly entered his car.

As per the complaint lodged by the father of Kinshuk Agarwal, the kidnapper demanded a ransom of Rs 1 crore for the safe return of the

victim.

"The amount was later settled at Rs 50 lakh," the police said.

The complainant father then paid the said amount of Rs 50 lakh to the abductors of his

son and got him safely rescued. The exchange of money between him and the victim was undertaken in Ashok Vihar area.

As Kinshuk was safely rescued, the cops then reached his

house and got his statement recorded.

The police informed that they have registered a case under sections 364A (Kidnapping or abduction for ransom) and 506 (Punishment

for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act. "Currently an investigation is under progress," the official added.

IANS

Naidu: India should become Vishwaguru once again

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI / NOIDA

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu emphasised that India should once again become a knowledge giver to the world. Recalling India's position as Vishwaguru and knowledge giver in the past, Naidu said with the passage of time we lost our moorings and heritage and some of us developed a colonial mindset. "We have to get back to our roots, take inspiration from our heritage and legacy and work for creating a strong, prosperous, harmonious and happy India," Naidu said at the Convocation address of the Amity University last Friday.

A Press note issued by the V-P Secretariat mentioned that the ceremony was with a difference where Naidu was joined by his spouse Usha Naidu sitting among the audience and cheered as their granddaughter, Immani Sushma Choudhary received a degree and an award. Sushma Choudhary was conferred with



"Shri Baljit Shastri Award for Best in Human and Traditional Values". The award is given to students who display best in human and traditional values such as honesty, integrity, respect for others, caring attitude and respect for heritage and culture.

The Vice President said that he and Usha Naidu came to the convocation as grandparents and guardians and not as the second citizen of India and spouse of the Vice President. During his brief address to the gathering, Naidu expressed his happiness over

his granddaughter winning an award and said that he was there to enjoy the convocation ceremony.

Complimenting the visionary leadership of Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, the Founder President of Amity, the Vice President said that over the years Amity University with campuses in India and other countries has built a formidable reputation for itself as an academic center of excellence in multiple disciplines.

Describing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 as a visionary document, Naidu suggested it would bring about a sea change in the educational scene in India. He urged colleges and universities to implement NEP in letter and spirit to make education a holistic, value-based, and liberating learning experience. Naidu urged students to dream high and soar higher working tirelessly to achieve their aspirations. "Knowledge not only in terms of enlightenment, but also providing wisdom," Naidu highlighted.

HC dismisses plea seeking possession of Red Fort by 'Mughal family member'

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea in which a woman claiming to be the widow of the great-grandson of Bahadur Shah Zafar II from the Mughal dynasty sought possession of the Red Fort in the national Capital.

According to the plea, their family property was taken away by the British East India Company following the first War of Independence in 1857, after which the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled from the country and possession of the Red Fort was



taken away from the Mughals. The petitioner sought possession of the Red Fort or adequate compensation from 1857 till date for 'illegal possession' by

the government or any other relief deemed fit.

A bench of Justice Rekha Palli while hearing the matter said, "My history is very weak, but you claim injustice was done to you by the British East India Company in 1857. Why is there a delay of over 150 years? What were you doing for all these years?"

It was also noted by the court that there was no document to support the claim that the petitioner was related to the last Mughal emperor. "You have not filed any inheritance chart.

Everyone knows Bahadur Shah Zafar was exiled by the British, but if his heirs did not file any plea can she do it," Justice Palli asked. Advocate Vivek More, who appeared for the petitioner, argued that Begum was an illiterate woman. However, the court rejected the petition saying merely because the petitioner is an illiterate woman there is no reason why, if the petitioner's predecessors were aggrieved by any action of the East India Company, no steps were taken in this regard at the relevant time or soon thereafter.

IANS

3 doctors sacked over death of children at city hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said the city Government has terminated the services of three doctors over the death of three children at the Kalawati Saran Hospital due to an adverse drug reaction a few days ago.

He said the Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident and the guilty would not be spared.

"Three children died at the Kalawati Saran Hospital due to an adverse drug reaction a few days ago. As soon as we got to know about it, we terminated the services of three doctors and ordered an inquiry. We have also complained about the

incident to the Delhi Medical Council," Jain said.

According to the order signed by Dr Nuta Mundeja, DGHs, Delhi government, the committee will report in seven days on the matter.

With reference to the letter No. A.12034/39/2021-ME dated 07.12.2021 received from Directorate General or Health Services, Government



of India regarding report of Dextromethorphan Poisoning admitted at Kalawati Saran

Children Hospital, New Delhi, following Committee is hereby constituted to conduct an enquiry in the matter: Dr. Geeta, CDMO (SE) Chairperson, Dr. Anjum Bhotiya, Nodal Officer/AAMC(SW) Member, Dr. Indu Sama, ACDMO (E) Member, Dr. Anshul Mudgil, MO, CPA Convener," the order said.

As air quality improves, CAQM lifts construction ban in Delhi-NCR

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas on Monday lifted ban on construction and demolition (C&D) activities in NCR and the ban on entry of petrol and diesel trucks into Delhi with immediate effect, mentioning an improvement in air quality over the past few days.

In its order, the Commission said construction and demolition activities can resume immediately, however each site needed to follow the norms and guidelines laid down by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"All construction and demolition sites in Delhi and the NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh with a plot size of more than 500sqm will, however, also have to register themselves on a 'web portal' developed by the state governments for online monitoring by agencies. For Rajasthan and Haryana, where the web portal is yet to be commissioned, the registration process will need to be done latest by January 20, 2022."

"Air quality in Delhi has improved from the 'very poor' category and has been in the 'poor' category consistently for the last three days. The meteorological and weather forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) indicates continuation of this favourable



trend of wind speed and climatic conditions to facilitate dispersion of pollutants from the region," said the CAQM in its order.

"Construction and demolition activities will also now be permitted, with immediate effect, subject to persons and agencies undertaking C&D activities strictly complying with directions and orders for

dust control norms issued by the commission from time to time as well as those under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules and various CPCB guidelines in this regard," said the order.

Meanwhile, just few hours after the CAQM decision, Delhi government also announced that it is lifting the ban on construction-demolition

activity inside Delhi and allows the entry trucks coming from outside.

Gopal Rai, state Environment Minister said If anti-dust norms are not followed on the sites, strict action will be taken against them, the site can also be sealed. "Anti-dust campaign, anti-open burning campaign, water sprinkling and PUC checking drives will continue in Delhi. Night Patrol will now monitor construction sites for violations of the 14-point guidelines," Rai added urging Delhi people to report violations via the Green Delhi App; will take the fight against pollution forward together.

He said air quality is now improving and colleges and schools for class 6 and above reopened after CAQM's direc-

tions.

Addressing the trend of air pollution levels in Delhi, Rai said, "The pollution levels in Delhi had increased to a great extent post Diwali, reaching a very severe AQI of 500 which lasted for around a week. Keeping the serious pollution situation in mind, all construction and demolition works were banned in Delhi, and only activities of national importance were allowed to continue. All trucks that were entering Delhi, barring the essential services, were also banned. Schools, colleges, and other institutions were temporarily shut as well. Now we can see improvement in Delhi's air quality and the AQI has not reached hazardous levels in the last ten days."

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Applications are also invited for Junior Research Fellowship, IRG and Teacher's Training Program for the year 2022-2023. For Detailed Information and online application process, please access our website www.ladytatatrust.org

Program Officer

24 DESI TEJAS FIGHTERS INDUCTED

As modernisation plan for air force

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to the IAF fighter aircraft fleet, 24 indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) have been inducted into the service. The total cost of these jets is more than Rs 6,000 crore and the IAF plans to have a total of 123 Tejas in the coming years, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday.

In one of biggest deals to procure indigenously manufactured weapons, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January this year, cleared the contract worth over Rs 47,000 crore for 83 Tejas jets. They will be manufactured by the public sector



aerospace conglomerate Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Giving details about the modernisation plans, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday the Tejas in not being inducted as a replacement of MIG-21 fighter aircraft, but as a part of modernisation of IAF.

He said amount spent so far on the manufacture of 24 LCA Tejas delivered till 30.09.2021 is Rs 6,653 crore. Considering the contract with

1,202 Crore. "This deal would be a game changer for self reliance in the Indian defence manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had then said on Twitter. The indigenous content of the LCA-Tejas was 50 per cent in the MK1A variant and it would be enhanced to 60 per cent by the end of the programme.

The MK-1A will have over 40 modifications over the MK1 variant, including some major ones like an Electronic Warfare system, Advanced Electronically Scanned Array (AESAs) radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles and a network warfare system comprising Software Defined Radio (SDR).

The Cabinet also approved infrastructure development by the IAF under the project to enable them handle repairs or servicing at their base depot so that the turnaround time would

get reduced for mission critical systems and lead to increased availability of aircraft for operational exploitation, the defence ministry had said.

"This would enable the IAF to sustain the fleet more efficiently and effectively due to availability of repair infrastructure at respective bases," it added. The first LCA MK-1A is expected to roll out from 2023-24 onwards, from which the HAL plans to ramp up the production rate to 16 aircraft a year. While a second line had been set up, production on both lines has been kept at eight aircraft a year to keep the assembly running due to limited orders.

The HAL is outsourcing significant work share to the private industry as it has more than 550 vendors for the LCA, which includes five companies manufacturing the structures.

Omicron tally touches 161

Govt assures RS members that situation being monitored daily

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As India's Omicron tally touched 161, the Government on Monday assured the Rajya Sabha members that the situation is being monitored daily and in case the variant spreads, sufficient arrangements are in place such as enough buffer stock of important medicines.

Meanwhile, health experts said the general perception that Omicron is "mild" should not be taken at face value. Keeping the finger crossed, they warned that cases might shoot up fast by mid January next year with those having immune-compromised health to be the worst sufferers.

Amid Omicron scare, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday while addressing the Rajya Sabha, said, "As of now,



India has 161 Omicron cases. We're monitoring the situation daily with experts. With our experience during the 1st & 2nd waves, to ensure that we don't face problems when variant spreads, we've arranged a buffer stock of important medicines."

Omicron cases have been detected in: Maharashtra (54), Delhi (28), Rajasthan (17) and Karnataka (19), Telangana (20), Gujarat (11), Kerala (15), Andhra Pradesh (1), Chandigarh (1), Tamil Nadu (1) and West Bengal (4).

In view of rising Covid-19 cases in the United Kingdom, India should prepare itself for any eventuality, said All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director Dr Randeep Guleria. "We should prepare and hope that things are not as bad as in the United Kingdom. We need more data on Omicron. Whenever there is a surge in cases in other parts of the world, we need to monitor it closely and be prepared for any eventuality. It is better to stay prepared than to get caught off-guard," Guleria told a news channel.

Echoing similar sentiments, Chairman, Fortis CDOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi Dr Anoop Misra dismissed the notion that Omicron is mild. "Those who say Omicron is a mild infection are wrong. It could be severe in some, elderly, long standing diabetes, heart and lung diseases, and those who are immunosuppressed. It has already caused hospitalisation and deaths in people. Double mask up. All precautions, more!" tweeted

Dr Misra.

He also pointed out that just wearing a N95 mask is not enough. "Three conditions for maximum protection such as 'tightfit' of mask is a must (many have loose fit), other person near you must have a tight fit n95 disposable masks and keep distance," the leading diabetologist further tweeted as he called for booster shots, for at least for vulnerable and medical and frontline workers.

Dr Pankaj Solanki, surgeon from Dharamveer Solanki Hospital, Delhi too warned that Omicron cases may spike by mid-January next year and if not oxygen, shortage of human resources in the health-care sector may adversely hit services.

"Even if we say the disease has mild symptoms, there's no doubt that the rising number and the force of infection will put pressure on hospitals. Those with poor immunity and co-morbidities like diabetes will have to be extra cautious."

Dr Solanki suggested that it's high time that the Government works on capping of medicines to be needed for management of the new variants and virus associated infections such as mucormycosis. Dr Neha Panda, Consultant Infectious Diseases, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram made it clear that to keep the Omicron variant at bay, there is a need of JAB (vaccine) CAB (Covid appropriate behavior) and MAB (monoclonal antibodies). She also suggested that Sotrovimab, a monoclonal antibody, could be a game changer.

Parliament OK's NDPS (Amendment) Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed a Bill to rectify errors that had crept into the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), with Rajya Sabha giving its nod to it on Monday. The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill-2021 was passed by Lok Sabha on December 13. The Government also referred two Bills - Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill and the Mediation Bill - for scrutiny by parliamentary panels amid the Opposition's allegations of inadequate consultations in the law-making process.

Moving the NDPS Bill in the Upper House for its consideration and passage, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said it replaces the ordinance which was promulgated in September this year as Parliament was not in Session then. The Rajya Sabha passed

the Bill by a voice vote.

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill and the Mediation Bill were referred to a Joint Committee and the Standing Committee on Law & Justice respectively.

Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav moved the motion to refer the Biodiversity Bill to the Joint Committee with 21 members of Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha. Congress Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla protesting the decision to refer the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill to a Joint Committee instead of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

"I don't wish to say more on the motivations of the Government to bypass the Standing Committee and refer the contentious bill to a Select

Committee. The motivations are obvious. All I wish to say is that the move is a deliberate insult to the Standing Committee. The fact that I am its Chairman doesn't matter. What is more important is the dignity of the Standing Committee itself," Ramesh had said in the letter dated December 17, 2021.

The Joint Committee is expected to submit its report to the House by the last day of the next session.

The Bill seeks to relax certain rules in the Biodiversity Act 2002 in order to fast track research and patenting as well as empower local communities to be able to utilise resources, particularly of medicinal value, such as seeds.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Satya Pal Singh Baghel introduced the Mediation Bill, 2021. It was referred to the standing committee on law and justice for scrutiny.

Bharat Biotech seeks nod for phase 3 clinical trial for booster dose of intranasal vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Monday submitted its phase 3 clinical trial application to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for its booster dose of intranasal vaccine - BBV154, which is an intranasal replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus SARS-CoV-2 vectored vaccine.

According to a news agency, Bharat Biotech has submitted phase 3 clinical trial application to DCGI for its booster dose of their intranasal Covid vaccine that can be given to Covaxin and Covishield vaccinated people.

The development comes nearly a month after the biotech company completed Phase II trial of intranasal Covid vaccine.

Stating that it will be a sig-



nificant step forward, Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director had said, "It's going to be a lot of new science, which even the Western world is not aware of, and that's the reason we are keeping details confidential. The nasal vaccine can stop virus transmission."

According to experts, the intramuscular vaccine administration through injection does produce antibodies, but there is still a risk of transmission, which can be eliminated through the intranasal method.

The regulatory approval for Phase II clinical trials of the nasal vaccine candidate was granted to the company in August 2021 after successful results of the Phase I trials, which was conducted on 400 healthy individuals aged between 18 and 20 years. In Phase II, about 650 volunteers participated in trials conducted in 10 centres across the country.

The vaccine maker is working on a cocktail approach of administering two doses of two different vaccines using a combination of intramuscular and nasal in an 'innovative' approach.



Opposition MPs protest in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Monday

Employ women to meet requirements, VK Singh tells security industry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, and Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh has called upon the private security industry to employ women to meet the growing requirements of security industry in the country.

Addressing the Security Leadership Summit-2021 organised the Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) in Delhi, Gen Singh said the Indian private security industry needs to evolve itself by employing more women and maximising use of technology in order to survive and excel.

In times to come it will be difficult to provide security and ensure safety without the use of technology.

Similarly, the need for security is growing across sectors, and here women can play a major role in providing security to various businesses and industry including markets, saloons, highways schools and institutions and companies etc.

Their role and involvement is key to the growth of the private security industry, Gen VK Singh added.

BJP will face bad days: Jaya's curse after Aish grilling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Upset over alleged "personal" remarks made against her, Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan on Monday lashed out at the ruling BJP in Rajya Sabha with a "curse" that it will face bad days soon. An agitated Bachchan also told the chair that he should be fair and alleged that an attempt was being made to stifle the voice of Opposition.

Participating in the debate on NDPS (Amendment) Bill, Bachchan chose to raise the issue of the 12 suspended Opposition members and said Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the chair, himself used to protest in the Well of the House. This evoked a sharp reaction from BJP members.

"I don't want to thank you because I don't know whether I should remember when you used to walk into the Well shouting...Or today when you are sitting in the chair," she said when called to speak on the Bill. Objecting to her remarks, Rakesh Sinha (BJP) said she was casting aspersions on the chair.

But Bachchan continued her speech and lamented that at a time when the country is facing several important issues, the House has allocated 3-4 hours for a debate on rectifying a "clerical error" in the Bill.

Amid the din, she alleged that personal remarks were made against her and sought protection from the chair. "I expect you to take action on the comment he made on me and my career. You want to be fair. You are sitting on



the chair, you don't belong to any party, sir," she said.

"How can they make personal remarks in the House...Aap logon kay buray din aayengay (Your bad days will come soon), I curse you," she said. The remarks claimed by Bachchan as "personal" could not be heard in the noise.

Leaders of the BJP and the SP have been attacking each other as the crucial elections in Uttar Pradesh are due early

next year. Bachchan's outburst came on a day her daughter-in-law and actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a case linked to the 2016 'Panama Papers' global tax leaks case.

Her statement was being recorded under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), official sources said. The SP has accused the Centre of targeting its leaders due to political vendetta, a charge denied by the BJP.

Kalita repeatedly urged Bachchan to confine herself to the Bill being debated. She responded by saying that efforts were being made to stifle the voice of opposition members. Kalita said that the chair would go through the records and remove unparliamentary remarks, if any.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/O Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: about 50-55 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Build: Normal, Wearing: Black coloured jacket and black coloured pant, was found dead on 14.12.2021 from Kela Ghat Road, Near Ambedkar School, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.23-A, u/s 174 Cr.PC dated 14.12.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.



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

SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 23968730

DP/1824/N/2021

Cold wave continues to grip North India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions continue to grip in North and Northwest India for the fourth consecutive day on Monday.

There would not be any respite from the severe cold wave for the next two days in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. As people are shivering from the severe cold wave, many netizens have flooded social media with memes and weather updates. #Coldwave has been trending on Twitter with several memes.

In its bulletin on Monday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said cold wave conditions are very likely to continue in northwest India over the next two days and abate thereafter. "Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely to continue in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during the next 24 hours and cold wave conditions are very likely at isolated pockets for the subsequent 24 hours," the IMD said.

Rajasthan's Churu and Sikar recorded minus 2.6 degree Celsius each. Cold wave conditions will continue over central and east India for the next three days and relief is likely thereafter, it added. In the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to 4 degrees Celsius. A cold wave is also declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal.

A severe cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from normal is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions are very likely over parts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Jharkhand till Wednesday afternoon and over Jammu, Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal till Tuesday afternoon and are very likely to abate thereafter.

A cold wave is also predicted in parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha till Thursday afternoon, the IMD said. "Cold day to severe cold day conditions (are) very likely at some places over Madhya Pradesh and cold day conditions in isolated pockets over West Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours," the bulletin stated.

When the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal, it is said to be a cold day. "Under the influence of two Western Disturbances in



A boatman warms his hands near anchored boats at the banks of Dal lake on a cold day in Srinagar on Monday

quick succession, the first from December 22 and second from

December 24, light to moderate rainfall and snowfall is like-

ly over western Himalayan region from December 22 to 25. Light isolated rainfall is also likely over Punjab on December 24," the bulletin read.

Dense fog is predicted in the morning hours in parts of Punjab and Haryana from December 23 to December 25 and over western Rajasthan on December 24 and 25. According to the IMD, when visibility is between 0 to 50 metres it is very dense fog, 51 and 200 metres is dense, 201 and 500 metres is moderate, and 501 and 1,000 metres is shallow.

Severe cold wave conditions continue in Valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Severe cold wave conditions continued in the Valley regions too for the fifth consecutive days and many waterbodies including waterfalls, lakes, streams and even taps had frozen as the harshest 40-day period of winter, locally

known as 'Chillai Kalan', beginning from Tuesday (December 21) in the Kashmir Valley.

Kashmir's winter pans out in three stages starting with a 40-day intense period from December 21 (locally called Chillai Kalan) followed by 20 more days which are less intense (Chillai Khurd) and then 10

days of mild cold (Chille Bache). Chillai-Kalan is the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir that begins December 21 and ends on January 31. Chillai Kalan is a Persian term which means "major cold" while the intense cold conditions are known as 'Jaada' in north and east India.

Delimitation guided by BJP's political agenda: NC, PDP, PC

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Valley-based mainstream political parties on Monday expressed dismay over the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission in Jammu & Kashmir, alleging that it seems the exercise was carried out in furtherance of the BJP's political agenda.

The Delimitation Commission, set up to redraw the assembly seats of the Union Territory, is learnt to have proposed six additional seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir Valley in its 'Paper 1' discussed with its five associate members on Monday.

"The draft recommenda-

tion of the J&K delimitation commission is unacceptable. The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with 6 going to Jammu & only 1 to Kashmir is not justified by the data of the 2011 census," National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said in a series of tweets.

He said the commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of BJP to dictate its recommendations.

"It is deeply disappointing that the commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations rather than the data which should have been its only consideration. Contrary to

the promised "scientific approach" it's a political approach," Abdullah said.

People's Conference (PC) chairman Sajad Gani Lone said the recommendations "reek of bias".

"The recommendations of the delimitation commission are totally unacceptable. They reek of bias. What a shock for those who believe in democracy," Lone said in a tweet.

PDP spokesman Suhail Bukhari said the reported recommendations of the commission vindicated the apprehension of his party that the exercise was carried out in

furtherance of the BJP agenda.

"PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has from day one maintained that this Commission has been set for fulfilling the political agenda of the BJP. We have heard that the commission has recommended increasing six seats in Jammu region and one in the Valley. It cannot be justified in any manner," Bukhari said.

He said the PDP and people of Jammu and Kashmir will not accept these recommendations and fight them tooth and nail.

The commission's associate members- five Lok

Won't be signatory to DC draft report, says NC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Conference will not be signatory to the draft report of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu & Kashmir in its present form, a spokesperson said on Monday after the panel proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu region and

one for Kashmir.

It also proposed reserving 16 constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai, held its second meeting here on Monday.

Hours after the meeting,

which proposed giving more additional seats to Jammu division than Kashmir, the party also termed "malicious" Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh's reported comments in the media that the NC was "satisfied" with the way the commission had completed its report.

"Misrepresenting and dis-

torting the facts with malicious intention! Very misleading statement.

"We have clearly expressed our resentment over the draft of the Delimitation Commission, the biased process of seat sharing. The party will NOT be a signatory to this report," the party said on its official Twitter handle.

Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir- attended the meeting on Monday. They have been asked to respond to the proposal by the end of this month.

Union minister Jitendra Singh and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah were among those who attended the meeting.

Sources said nine seats

have been proposed for STs and seven for SCs in Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first time that seats have been proposed for STs in the UT, they said.

The Delimitation

Commission is headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai. Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra is an ex-officio member of the panel.

Attempt to divide people of this country, says Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an apparent reference to arch rival BJP's alleged divisive politics, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said political pollution had engulfed India with attempts being made by some people to divide the people of the country.

"We are witnessing that a political pollution that has engulfed the country... this is to be avoided at any cost... there is an attempt to divide the people of this country... for this we have to remain united... if we remain united then only can fight this attempt to divide the people we do not want division... we want peace... we are for peaceful coexistence," the Chief Minister said in an inaugural programme ahead of the Christmas celebration in central Kolkata.

Banerjee's statement is seen as a message aimed at the people of Goa where the Trinamool Congress has launched itself in a big way ahead of the next year's Assembly elections.

Banerjee's statement was promptly challenged by the State BJP which alleged that it was the TMC which was trying to divide Bengal along political lines by placating a particular section of the people ignoring the majority section.

"Mamata Banerjee's divisive politics is well known in Bengal... Not only that she introduced the politics of communal appeasement in the State but during her regime



political hooliganism has been democratised... what the Left and the Congress did in pockets her party has been doing all over the State to win elections... she has unleashed a reign of terror in Bengal," party leader Sayantan Basu said alleging how the ruling TMC rigged the Sunday's Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections with the help of the police.

All the Opposition parties the BJP, Left and Congress on Monday demonstrated at various places demanding repelling even as the Left and BJP filed a petition in Calcutta High Court on the issue. The matter is scheduled to be heard on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the State Election Commission made a massive security bandobast ahead of Tuesday's counting. "A three-tier security layer has been put in place in all the counting centres," an SEC official said.

Modi Govt not allowing debate on important issues in House: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the Government of not allowing a discussion on important issues and said the Union Government is responsible to run Parliament and not the Opposition. "They are attacking democracy. There is a non-stop attack on democracy and that is why we are fighting here," Rahul Gandhi said in a media interaction in the Parliament premises.

He said the Narendra Modi Government was not allowing any debate on price rise, Ladakh, minimum support price (MSP) and Lakhimpur Kheri violence among other issues. He also had given a notice for an adjournment motion to discuss the issue of the "statehood and inclusion of Ladakh in Schedule VI of Constitution".

However, the issue couldn't be taken up as the Lok Sabha witnessed multiple adjournments over the Opposition's demand to sack Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni because of his alleged involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

"It is clear, we want the Government to remove its Minister and allow a discussion on the Lakhimpur Kheri issue. The Government is not allowing it," he said. When pointed out that the government is blaming the Opposition for not allowing the House to function, Rahul hit back by reminding of



the Government's responsibility. "It is the responsibility of the Government to bring the House in order and run it and not of the Opposition. It is the responsibility of the Government to run Parliament. It is also the Government's responsibility to allow a debate," he said.

Talking about his adjournment motion on statehood for Ladakh, Rahul said, "I want to tell all people of Ladakh. Don't be afraid. Whatever is yours, you will get." Later, in a tweet, he said.

"What kind of Government is this that it does not know how to handle Parliament? They cannot stop our voice in raising issues like price rise, Lakhimpur, MSP, Ladakh, Pegasus and suspended MPs. If you have the courage, allow the discussion to take place." Ladakh was made a Union Territory in 2019 after the Centre stripped Jammu & Kashmir of its special status and split the State into two Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Lok Sabha clears 2nd batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday cleared the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants authorising the Government to spend an additional Rs 3.73 lakh crore during the current fiscal amid protest by the Opposition over

various issues.

The extra spending include infusing over Rs 62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India, Rs 58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy, Rs 53,123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and Rs 22,039 crore

to rural development ministry for transfer to National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund.

Replying to a discussion on the demands, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assured the House that the Government would take action to moderate prices of edible oil and other essential items.

Bengal Govt seeks Pegasus Commission records from Didi

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A step that could further spark tensions between Nabanna (State Secretariat) and the Raj Bhavan Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday sought form Chief Minister all the records of proceedings related to the setting up of the Justice Lokur Commission of enquiry into the alleged Pegasus snoopgate case.

In doing so the Governor who has no love lost with the State Government invoked Article 167 of the Constitution which requires the Chief Minister to furnish all the information to the Governor on demand.

Earlier the Supreme Court had in an order stopped the State Commission to go ahead with inquiry as the Apex Court had already directed an investigation into the matter.

In a letter to the Chief Minister the Governor reportedly claimed that his opinion on the matter had not been taken regardless of the fact that related transactions spoke about "formation of opinion by the Governor".

In tweet the Governor said "Constrained to invoke Article 167 of the Constitution to seek... all record and proceedings leading to Enquiry Commission" into the Pegasus issue.

"It emanates from the penultimate and last para of Notification dated 26.07.2021 that pro-

IN DOING SO THE GOVERNOR WHO HAS NO LOVE LOST WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT INVOKED ARTICLE 167 OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH REQUIRES THE CHIEF MINISTER TO FURNISH ALL THE INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNOR ON DEMAND

visions of sub-sections (2) to (5) of Section 5A of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 have been made applicable to the proceedings of Pegasus Inquiry Commission, premised on the 'opinion of the Governor', Dhankhar said.

The State Government had earlier instituted a Commission of enquiry. Former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur and former Calcutta High Court chief justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya were the panel members.

The Chief Minister had earlier openly attacked the BJP Government for spying on the opposition politicians and some bureaucrats.

"I have plastered the camera of my phone and I have advised my Ministers and bureaucrats to avoid talking important matters over telephone as they have unleashed Pegasus into our lives... this is another way of bulldozing the democracy... even my election consultant Prashant Kishore was not spared and he confirmed that his phone was also tapped... no one is safe in India ruled by the BJP," Banerjee had said.



Uttar Pradesh Police completed two-week 'Riot Drill' and Public Order Management Training' at RAF Academy for Public Order (RAPO) Meerut. The closing ceremony was addressed by Rajeev Sabharwal, ADG Meerut Zone in the presence of Akhilesh Kumar Singh, DIGP RAPO, Prabhakar Chaudhary, SSP Meerut. 65 trainees (55 male and 10 female) of UP Police participated

Yogi: Previous Govts reduced UP to poverty, BJP Govt ensuring its growth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Slamming the previous regimes in Uttar Pradesh for their "casteist, narrow-minded and dynastic mentality" and "politics of appeasement", Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the state was reduced to poverty and remained underdeveloped because of these parties being in power.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the 'new' UP has progressed on the path of development. Today, not only faith is being respected here, but also, the poor are being uplifted. Now, the government is not backing rioters and criminals but is running bulldozers on them," Yogi said while dedicating development projects worth Rs 1,100 crore in the presence of Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari in Jaunpur on Monday.

People displaced for building high speed rail in Kerala threaten to commit suicide

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The much publicised Semi High Speed Rail (popularly known as Sky Rail) project of the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government has run into rough weather as many persons whose land and houses are being acquired for implementing the 529.45 km long track declared their intention to commit suicide.

Jayakumar, a former employee of the public sector Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, his wife and teenage daughter poured petrol over their bodies in a bid to immolate themselves at Kollam on Monday. The incident took place when government staff went to their house to install the survey stone, an indication that the land is being acquired by the Government for developmental works. "I am already broken financially because of the Government's refusal to pay my salary arrears and pension

benefits. The reason being given is that the treasury does not have funds. How come that a government which is incapable of reimbursing my salary and pension arrears running into a few lakh rupees would implement this project costing Rs 65,000 crore," asked Jayakumar.

He said the KSRTC workers have not been paid salaries for the last many months. "I do not have any other sources of income and the only option before me and my family is to take our own lives," said Jayakumar while pouring petrol over himself and other family members. The timely intervention of the police and media persons made them to give up the suicide bid.

Jayakumar was not an isolated threat. Thomas, a Gulf-returnee who had toiled in West Asia for 27 years had invested all his savings in constructing a house in his native village in Alappuzha. The Government

officials dropped in on Monday morning to inform him about their plans to take over the newly built house. "I have invested my entire savings in constructing this house. If the Government takes over this house, me and my family would commit suicide as we have no other sources of income," said a sobbing Thomas.

The Kerala Government is yet to come out with the Environmental Impact Analysis as well as a rehabilitation package for those who would be displaced by the project. The State administration has been put into defense with the disclosures made by Alok Kumar Verma, former Chief Engineer of Indian Railway who headed the team that prepared the Detailed Project Report. "The DPR prepared by us have been diluted and distorted to suit the convenience of the people in high places. This project is not feasible or viable," said Varma.

RSS workers held for murder of SDPI secy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Rajendra Prasad and Rathish, reportedly RSS activists, have been arrested on Monday by the Alappuzha Police in connection with Saturday's murder of C K Shaan, secretary of the Social Democratic Party of India, an Islamic extremist outfit. This was disclosed by Vijay Sakhare, additional director general of police while speaking to reporters in the evening.

A car used by the killers of Shaan was taken into custody by the police from a suburb in Alappuzha. Forensic experts were pressed into service and they have identified finger prints of the accused.

But police is yet to make any breakthrough in nabbing the murderers of Ranjith Sreenivasan, the 45 year old secretary of OBC Morchacha, a tributary organization of the BJP, who was hacked to death

in the early hours of Sunday.

The BJP, accusing the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government for favoring the SDPI and the Popular Front of India, boycotted the all-party peace meet convened by the State administration on Monday evening. The party's Kerala president K Surendran, who is an accused in hawala transaction and electoral malpractices, said the Kerala Government and Police were hand in glove in protecting the killers of Sreenivasan.

Earlier, Nithyananda Rai, the union minister of state for home, said in Alappuzha that there has been a total breakdown in law and order in the State. "The Kerala government is protecting the killers of Ranjith Sreenivasan. Though many RSS activists have been killed in the recent past, the police is yet to arrest the accused," said Rai while speaking to reporters.

Raj Govt has implemented many welfare schemes: Ashok Gehlot

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said in the last three years, the State Government has implemented many welfare schemes, giving top priority to education, health and social security, so that the deprived, backward and needy sections can be connected with the main stream of development, and make the life of the common man easier. It has been our endeavor that every child should get quality education, every person should get best medical facilities and every family should get social security. Our Government has been successful in fulfilling this objective.

On the successful completion of three years of the State Government, Gehlot on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development works through video conference at the Chief Minister's residence.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN
Phone No. 0135 - 2607292, 2708100 Fax No. 0135 - 2708109 Web site : www.siidcul.com

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF COMMERCIAL PLOT AT INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PANTNAGAR

SIIDCUL invites bids from interested bidders for allotment of Commercial plot admeasuring area 73210 sqm for setting up Commercial Mall/Multi-purpose Business Centre at Integrated Industrial Estate Pantnagar. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in from **22.12.2021 to 03.01.2022**. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website www.uktenders.gov.in on/ before mentioned due date i.e 03rd January, 2022 and time 14:00 hrs.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

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SELECTION OF DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING PARTNER FOR PROPOSED SIIDCUL IIE HARIDWAR PHASE II AND PHARMA CITY PHASE II, CHHARBA, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND.

SIIDCUL invites separate online bids from interested bidders for selection as Development & Marketing Partner for taking up development and subsequent marketing of proposed SIIDCUL IIE Haridwar Phase II and Pharma City Phase II, Chharba, District Dehradun on approximate 101 Acre and 73 Acres respectively as per details described in the bid document. Detailed Bid Documents/RFP can be downloaded from website www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in from **22.12.2021 at 04.00 PM**. Any corrigendum regarding the above bids shall only be published in above websites only. Interested bidders can only submit the bids with required enclosures/ documents on e-tendering website www.uktenders.gov.in on/ before mentioned due date i.e. **03.01.2022** and time 14:00 hrs.

NIT No : 73/SIIDCUL/2021 IIE Haridwar Phase II Area - 101 Acre.	NIT No : 74/SIIDCUL/2021 Pharma City Phase II (Chharba) Area - 73 Acre.
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MANAGING DIRECTOR

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GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF COMMERCIAL PLOT IN INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HARIDWAR

State Infrastructure & Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. (SIIDCUL) invites bids from interested bidders online for allotment of Commercial Plot C1, Sector-2, Area 7360 Sqmtr at IIE Haridwar on "as is where is basis" as per details described in the bid document. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in from **22.12.2021 to 03.01.2022**. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website www.uktenders.gov.in on/ before mentioned due date i.e 03rd January, 2022 and time 14:00 hrs.

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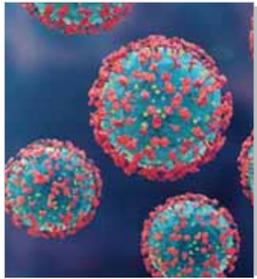
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mutant ninja

Complacency will cost us dear; we must learn our Omicron lessons from the global classroom

The Omicron variant of the virus is surging across the world. The United Kingdom is reporting over 80,000 cases a day, including 12,000 Omicron infections. The United States is experiencing the fourth wave already. In India, the figure has crossed 100. It may look small, but the rate of growth is rapid. Doctors say of the 22 patients diagnosed with Omicron in Delhi so far, 10 have been discharged from hospitals. That provides little relief because most fresh positive cases are not genome sequenced; we do not know if Omicron is causing the infection. Several other States have also reported Omicron cases. There is some anxiety in the country on what the future portends. What we know about Omicron as of date gives us no reassurance. It is highly transmissible, affects both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, and can slice through immunity systems. These three factors are enough to launch a third wave in India. That Omicron is not attacking the respiratory system like the Delta variant is no consolation because a wave will anyway lead to hospitalisation and resultant chaos. There may not be that many deaths like the last time, though. Screening and testing have increased in public places and transport hubs and COVID medical centres are being reopened in some cities, including in Delhi. The anxiety of the authorities is not translating into caution because people are quite blasé about wearing masks or using sanitisers.



Crowding at marketplaces is routine. Travel has increased, both domestic and international. One hopes the Government and the people are not harbouring a false hope that since Omicron is not deadly and the symptoms largely mild, a wave, even if it comes, will pass without causing harm. Election rallies and New Year arrangements are blissfully on. Year-end celebrations are being cancelled elsewhere and European countries are putting the UK in the high-risk travel category; that means passengers arriving from the UK must compulsorily complete a 14-day quarantine. India, however, is yet to take a call on restricting air travel or tightening restrictions for high-risk travellers. With the bitter experience gained from the first two waves, the Government should be acting much more decisively this time. It should begin by re-introducing certain restrictions, banning crowd events and introducing hotel quarantine for incoming foreigners. Only vaccinated people must be allowed to use public transport and visit public places. While discouraging crowds, the step would prod the growing number of vaccine complacent to take their second jabs. Western countries have introduced booster shots and Omicron is thriving despite them; that should tell us how woeful our story might be. Omicron spreads 5.5 times faster than Delta and doubles every 1.5-3 days; that means the infections will be in millions if the wave attacks us. At our current pace of vaccination, all adults may not get the jabs by next March. The Government must not think of postponing a booster shot till then.

PICTALK



A Santa Claus's statue being installed at the entrance of St Basilica Church, at Shivaji Nagar in Bengaluru

Train to nowhere

Despite overt warning by experts, the CPI(M) is bent upon materialising the Sky Line rail project

More than 75 years after George Orwell wrote *Animal Farm*, a satirical novel based on the goings-on in a proletarian republic shows the socialists and communists rule as per the great author's script. Their guiding principle remains the same; 'we are always right and others are wrong'. The CPI(M)-led Kerala Government's obsession with the 529.45-km Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram Semi High Speed Rail Project (popular as Sky Line rail) underscores the *Animal Farm* mindset. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan says the new project would bring down the commute between the State's northern and southern ends from the current 12 hours to less than four hours. The project will cost ₹63,940 crore as per the detailed project report and requires 1,383 hectare land. Of this, 1,200 hectare is with private individuals; the project would evict 35,000 people from their homes. The Government has no answer to the queries regarding the rehabilitation of those displaced. E Sreedharan, who is an authority on massive infrastructure projects and the master brain behind the country's Metro Rail, has made his opposition known to this project. He says it is not viable or feasible in Kerala.

The question is whether there are enough commuters in the State who would be able to make use of this mode of transport on a daily basis. The CPI(M) was in the forefront of agitations against the bullet train project connecting Ahmedabad to Mumbai despite the fact that it is one of the most crowded passenger segments. All up-and-down services between the cities are filled to capacity, according to the Railways Ministry. Kerala is among the most ecologically fragile States, as has been proved by the frequent deluges caused by rains and landslips. The forest cover in the State (which was 35 per cent in the 1970s) has depleted to just 13 per cent due to massive deforestation and mining. The Government is yet to prepare an environment impact analysis. Alope Kumar Varma, former chief engineer of Indian Railways who led the team that prepared the DPR, says the report has been manipulated to suit the convenience of the Comrades. NK Premachandran, MP and former Minister, says the existing rail route could be modernised without acquiring additional land and heavy investment. Sreedharan echoes the view. The expansion should not be accompanied by destruction and demolition.

Secularism inherent in the Indian ethos



PRAFULL GORADIA

Barring a section of Muslims, most minorities in India — including Jews, Christians, Parsis, Buddhists and Sikhs — harbour no complaints

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's epochal visit to his constituency Varanasi on December 13, noises have been raised in the media that the "spirit of secularism has been violated". Article 15 of India's Constitution insists on equality of all citizens regardless of gender or religion, permitting no discrimination; yet Articles 25 to 30 grant special privileges to the minorities. There is thus discrimination between the majority religion and the minority faiths. The Constitution itself allows violation of its Articles; it doesn't stop at permitting Muslims to practice their Sharia (personal law) but also prescribes what is allowed to Muslim men and Muslim women. The former can have at a time four spouses but the latter are allowed only one husband. Why?

Think of the hundreds of crores of rupees spent on the erstwhile Hajj subsidy. Ironically, the Muslim leadership itself did not want it since its distribution was a powerful lever of influence. No one contested its abolition when it happened. The *Quran* does not encourage Hajj done with others' money, as it remains no longer sacred.

Secularism is a European concept. Until the French Revolution in 1789, there were three houses of the French National Assembly; the Lords, the Commons and the Bishops and other clergy. The Roman Catholic Church had considerable influence on the running of the country. Plus, Christianity provided the monarch with the ideology of reigning until nationalism came to the fore. That is why liberals pressed and strove for separating the State from the Church. In India, the Church did not influence the running of the State which, in any case, was ruled by Britain's civil Government until 1947. The Bible's *Old Testament* makes it clear that to God belongs what is His and to Caesar, who is the earthly ruler, what is rightly his. Secularism or the separation of Church from State therefore stands on a firm and ancient foundation of the Christian faith.



In India, there are several religions and each had its own prescription. Christianity never commanded a large constituency. Islam is a comprehensive prescription of how to live, including the nature of the State. Qaid-e-Azam MA Jinnah declared that Islam and Hinduism are so different that they cannot coexist in one country. They are two separate nations and therefore have to separate. That happened in 1947 without an exchange of population, which disappointed most members of the Muslim League. Pakistan was to be the homeland of Muslims; the Aligarh elite even went to the extent of calling their new homeland the 'New Medina'. After the abolishment of the Caliphate by Turkey's Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1924 and exiling the Caliph, Pakistan dreamt of producing a caliph. Muslims in India formed the Khilafat Committee to pressure the British to reinstate



HINDUISM IS A FAITH MORE THAN A RELIGION. IT EXPECTS THE HINDU TO ADHERE TO KARMA WITH ITS REACTIONS, EQUAL AND OPPOSITE. THIS CORE BELIEF IS AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO PHYSICS

the Caliph. Gandhi even became the president of this committee although Jinnah shunned it.

Under the proposal of exchange of population, most Muslims in India were to migrate to Pakistan, while non-Muslims were to migrate to India. Such an idea was implemented by the League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations. In 1923, Christians in Turkey were made to move to Greece while Muslims residing in Greece were to cross into Turkey. The scheme was executed diligently and without bloodshed. Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, wrote *India Divided*, where he suggested that the Muslims who could not move could stay back in India as aliens with visas issued by the Indian Government. Jinnah had readily endorsed this proposal, but strangely Gandhi propagated that Partition had been a 'territorial' division and not a religious one. He iterated this to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur on January 29, 1948.

The point is that most Muslims had voted for the League in the 1945-46 elections. The party, led exclusively by Jinnah, had a single-point manifesto — Pakistan. On August 14 and 15, 1947, when Pakistan and Hindustan were separated, the sovereignty and the Islamic flag had moved to Karachi en route the future Islamabad. With regard to the rights of other minorities like Christians, Parsis and Jews, India has no problems. Christian activities do occasionally cause tension on the issue of the conversion of poor Hindus, but this is periodical. Buddhists and Sikhs have no complaints on religious grounds.

Hinduism is a faith more than a religion. It expects the Hindu to adhere to karma with its reactions, equal and opposite. This core belief is as close as possible to physics. Even God, wherever He is, does not interfere in deciding the *bhagya* or fate of any individual. Each individual's karma is believed to be determined on the scale of his expected dharma.

A priest has a duty different from a soldier, a cook from a washerman, a king from a subject and so on. Every other consideration is left to the discretion of the individual. In fact, there are Hindus who are agnostic and even atheist. Karma is each according to an individual and Hindus mostly unite only under a calamitous provocation. Hindu faith has no real connection with running of the State: Hinduism is, thus, toleration personified. A discussion on secularism should be peripheral and mostly unnecessary in India after Partition.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SO-CALLED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Sir — A section of the Indian population is dead against the "crossing of limit" of freedom of expression. May I know what is the geographical location of that boundary, breach of which automatically draws the accusation of "crossing the limit" of free speech? It seems that the boundary lies in the mindset of "nationalists", i.e., till their sentiments "do not get hurt". And just when their ethos and beliefs get "assaulted", we have crossed the limit of our freedom of expression.

Are we living in a democratic country or under fascist regime that criticism against any political leader, party philosophy or Government policy are getting termed as "sedition" and stringent penalties are demanded for the "anti-nationalists"? Just visit the civilised democratic countries of the West and see the limitless freedom of expression guaranteed for their citizens there. Only if they resort to arms or provoke people to indulge in violence do the authorities take legal measures. It is simply bizarre to notice how these "patriots" do not find it an insult to the nation when the human rights of innumerable Indians get religiously and mercilessly trampled under marauding feet of the vested interests of their favorite political parties and leaders.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

IDENTIFY AND SACK THE TAINTED LEADERS

Sir — The Congress party's allegation that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his family members grabbed around 18 acres of Government land earmarked for the landless is absolutely appalling and cogent. In a corresponding incident, the report that families of two former Chief Ministers of Punjab have illegally possessed approximately 900 acres of Government land worth ₹1.5 lakh crore is yet another scam in the country. Both the events undeniably corroborate that political mandarins with absolute power never hesitate to abuse their position/influence and unassailable authority for personal benefits.

The disclosure that CM Himanta Biswa Sarma was in the Congress while

Need to increase opportunities, too



There has been a mixed reaction to the proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years since its approval by the Union Cabinet. The way I see it, extending the marriageable age of women by another two years is unwarranted. Its prescription as the panacea for the women's problems is unlikely to achieve the desired effect. The stated objective of the Bill is women's welfare. But then, the so-called reform cannot substitute substantive measures like access to education, food and

health care and opportunities to unlock their potential needed women's empowerment.

It is unlikely to act as a deterrent against child marriages since it does not change the way things are; it does not alter the circumstances in which they occur. There is no physiological basis for increasing the age for marriage. There is no evidence to suggest that the extended period of three years improves preparedness for pregnancy and reproductive health. In countries where the age of marriage for women is as low as 16 years, anemia and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) are negligibly low. Delaying marriage for three years cannot remedy women's underrepresentation in the country's workforce. The root causes for the high level of employment among women must be identified and addressed if the human resources of the country's half the population are to be harnessed for the country's economy to grow phenomenally.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

committing the fraud and the party exposed him as a liar for corruption charges. However, on his joining the BJP, the saffron party made him 'clean' despite there was a solid taint of corruption on him. After all, people never expect genuine justice from these blemished political bigwigs for conspicuous reasons and hence their expulsion from the pivotal positions is crucially imperative. An apex level probe in the issue is irrefutably vital to divulge all those involved in the chicanery in the broad interest of the country.

Thomas KM | Muvattupuzha

NEED TO INSTIL TOGETHERNESS

Sir — The International Human Solidarity Day is observed every year on December 20 to raise awareness on the importance of solidarity, especially in the global arena. Solidarity means an awareness of shared interests and creating a sense of unity in societies. As per the

United Nations, the day is marked to celebrate unity in diversity that is present across the globe. The day reminds people across the world about the need for unity and serves as a reminder to Governments to respect their commitment to international agreements and raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity.

This year's focus is primarily on the eradication of poverty and promoting human and social development in developing countries. It is our responsibility to remind the importance of the day to every citizen and to spread awareness among people of their duties and how unity works to make a better world with happiness. In order to create a prosperous and cohesive environment, we should learn to show solidarity on an individual level, too.

Nitesh Mandwariya | Neemuch

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Women should be able to decide their own priorities, make their own life and be able to fight against all exploitation.

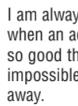


Congress general secretary —Priyanka Gandhi Vadra



The State of Israel joins the international effort to vaccinate populations that do not have access to vaccines.

Israel Foreign Minister —Yair Lapid



I am always inspired when an actor is just so good that it is impossible to look away.

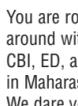


Actor —Samantha Ruth Prabhu



I am going through some unpleasant moments but I trust that I will improve little by little.

Spanish tennis player —Rafael Nadal



You are roaming around with the CBI, ED, and NCB in Maharashtra. We dare you to keep them away and then fight us.



Shiv Sena leader —Sanjay Raut



FIRST COLUMN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BILL: A RAY OF HOPE

The Bill provides for immediate relief to the victim within 30 days of filing of the FIR



JAGJIT SINGH CHHABRA

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime affecting a large number of people across the globe, including India. It is a multi-billion-industry which transcends national boundaries. Until recently, trafficking was not subjected to any precise definition. Early legislation which addressed the issue were found ineffective. It was only in 2013, subsequent to the Nirbhaya incident, for the first time, trafficking was included as an offence in the Indian Penal Code. Yet, the penal provisions relating to trafficking were found inadequate. With a view to give teeth to the existing legal regime, a new bill has been mooted — the draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill 2021. It is a comprehensive legislation that brings into its ambit all forms of human trafficking. The Bill has a victim-centric approach. The focus is on protection and rehabilitation of the victims, which is essential, and was conspicuously missing from the existing laws. It includes 23 forms of aggra-



vated form of trafficking. The prosecution under these offences has been made timely and efficient by the designated courts and special public prosecutors, victim witness protection and protection of the identity of victims through in camera trial and video conferencing facilities. Punishment for aggravated form of trafficking in persons is rigorous imprisonment for a term of ten years that may extend to life along with a fine up to ₹10 lakh. The proposed legislation creates a single line of accountable institutions that brings together the existing sporadic interventions that aim to address trafficking. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been made the national investigating and coordinating agency responsible for prevention and combating of trafficking as well as for investigation, prosecution and coordination in cases of trafficking.

The Bill institutionalises preventive and will address core causes that increase vulnerability to trafficking. It will enforce attachment and forfeiture of property and freeze bank accounts where the funds have been utilized to facilitate trafficking. By hitting at its economics, the Bill handicaps the organised trafficking networks. The "presumption of offences" implies that when the victims are women, children and physically and mentally disabled persons, the traffickers will be presumed to have committed the crime and the onus will be on the offenders to prove their innocence. This is reversal of the general principle of criminal law that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. The Bill provides for 'protection homes' and 'rehabilitation homes' for short-term and long-term rehabilitation of victims. The rehabilitation is to begin immediately once the FIR is registered. This provision is a great relief for the victims. The Bill also provides for immediate relief to the victim within 30 days of filing of the FIR. The National Anti-Trafficking Committee will facilitate and ensure implementation of all provisions of this legislation in coordination with the concerned agencies. State and District Anti-Trafficking Committees will ensure overall implementation of the law within the states and districts. The proposed bill is a laudable step by the policy makers. It was long overdue. It gives us a new ray of hope once it is passed in the present form. The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) has been for a long time in forefront among the CSOs, who had been demanding a comprehensive law dealing with all aspects of human trafficking. The proposed bill aims at plugging the loopholes in the existing legal regime and provides for robust mechanism for effectively dealing with the evil of trafficking. If all stake holders including law enforcement agencies put their heads together, no one can hinder us from achieving the ideals of our constitution, i.e., securing justice, liberty, fraternity and assuring the dignity of the individual.

(The writer is an Advocate, Supreme Court of India. The views expressed are personal.)

Fiscal splurge has continued unabated

There has been no major event or budget announcement that could qualify as 'far-reaching structural reform with unanticipated fiscal implications'



UTTAM GUPTA

Even as the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepares for the next budget, it is time to take stock of the fiscal scenario.

During 2019-20, the revised estimate (RE) of fiscal deficit (FD) was 3.8 percent of GDP against the budget estimate (BE) of 3.3 percent. In her speech on the Union Budget for 2020-21, she had justified this in terms of the recommendation of the NK Singh Committee on review of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 which permits breach of the target in case of "far-reaching structural reforms with unanticipated fiscal implications." For 2020-21, she had set FD at 3.5 percent as against 3.0 percent as stipulated under the FRBM Act. Here also, she had justified the deviation in terms of the "unanticipated fiscal implications".

In these two years, there was no major event or development or Budget announcement that could qualify as 'far-reaching structural reforms with unanticipated fiscal implications'. So, the justification offered was not credible.

The impact of Covid-19 on the receipts and expenditure of the Centre started unfolding from April 2020, no doubt met the criteria set by the Committee. In fact, considering the gravity of the pandemic, the slippage was bound to be higher than the permissible threshold of 0.5 percent. But the FD as per RE in the budget for 2021-22 presented on February 1, 2021 turned out to be 9.8 percent — almost three times the BE; though, the actual was slightly lower at 9.5 percent, (courtesy, higher tax collection during February and March, 2021 than what was assumed in arriving at the RE).

The unusually high slippage of 6 percent which in absolute terms works out to about ₹1150,000 crore cannot be attributed entirely to the pandemic. A close scrutiny of the facts reveals that a sizeable chunk was merely a cover up for the 'mismanagement' and 'slippages' of the past as well during 2020-21.

Look at fertilizer subsidy. The BE for 2020-21 was ₹70,000 crore.

Against this, the RE as reported in the budget for 2021-22 was ₹134,000 crore. The slippage of ₹64,000 crore is entirely on account of the unpaid subsidy dues from the previous year. Even as this amount was presented as an integral part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (ABA) stimulus package, the fact remains that this had nothing to do with measures to mitigate the consequences of Covid.

Consider food subsidy. The BE for 2020-21 was ₹116,000 crore. Together with borrowings of ₹137,000 crore by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) was supposed to fund a total requirement of ₹253,000 crore. The actual expenditure on food subsidy was ₹252,000 crore implying deviation of ₹409,000 crore from the BE. Against this, the Covid-19 related bur-



AT THE START OF ITS FIRST TERM, THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAD SET FISCAL CONSOLIDATION AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF ITS ECONOMIC POLICY. THEREAFTER, IT WAS AIMING AT A FD OF 3 PER CENT IN 2018-19. LATER, THIS GOAL WAS SHIFTED TO 2020-21. YET, THAT YEAR SAW A DEFICIT OF 9.5 PER CENT. EVEN AS THE CURRENT YEAR IS EXPECTED TO END WITH AN FD OF AROUND 6.5 PER CENT, THE 3 PER CENT TARGET IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

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



den was only ₹134,000 crore being expenses on distributing free ration under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

The balance Rs 275,000 crore was used to pay off the loans taken by the FCI from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) in the past to finance unpaid subsidy dues from the Centre besides funding from the budget Rs 137,000 crore.

Consider the power sector. Couched under ABA, Sitharaman also sanctioned ₹90,000 crore (the amount was subsequently raised to Rs 130,000 crore) to be given to power distribution companies (discoms) enable the latter clear their pending dues to independent power producers (IPPs) besides PSUs such as NTPC. This was a cover for the ailing discoms - a legacy problem caused by subsidized (or even free) power supply and theft in most of the states besides inflated payments under power purchase agreements (PPAs).

For 2021-22, FM has set FD at 6.8 percent of GDP or Rs 1500,000 crore in absolute terms. This is a deviation of 3.8 percent as against 0.5 percent permitted by the FRBM committee. Herein also, a good chunk cannot be related to Covid. In fertilizers, against budget provision of ₹80,000 crore, the actual subsidy payment is projected to be ₹143,000 crore - even higher than the outgo during 2020-21.

The hike is primarily due to steep increase in their global prices (current urea price at close to \$1000 a ton is thrice last years' level

while di-ammonium phosphate or DAP price at \$700-800 a tonis almost double). This money has only gone towards adding to the profits of companies in exporting countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, etc.

The budget allocation for food subsidy during 2021-22 is put at Rs 243,000 crore. Against this, the actual outgo is expected to be about ₹330,000 crore. This includes ₹147,000 crore towards distribution of free ration under PMGKAY initially during May-November, 2021 further extended till March 31, 2022. When seen in the backdrop of fast economic recovery, extension of the scheme particularly during the second half of the year, is inexplicable.

In the power sector, despite the ₹130,000 crore life-line given last year, discoms continue to be in the red even as they currently owe about ₹100,000 crore to IPPs/PSUs. It is therefore not surprising that the Government would release funds to the beleaguered discoms-albeit under the 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRB-SD) (launched last year, though its stated objective was 'to reduce their losses and improve efficiency', in reality, the intent is to cover up their financial weakness) — before the year ends.

In the run up to the Budget for 2022-23, available indications point towards the Government continuing with fiscal splurge. The key areas where substantial increase in spending is likely are: Food subsidy courtesy Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreeing

to the farmers' demand for 'legal guarantee for MSP' and increase in procurement by state agencies besides hike in MSP, PM-Kisan due to expansion in the scope of the scheme to cover sharecroppers, launch of a national level scheme to provide cooked food to the poor in both the urban and rural areas at ₹10 a plate, and courtesy prodding by the Supreme Court

The Government has already sought to legitimize fiscal profligacy by drastically altering the trajectory of fiscal consolidation. Thus, in the budget for 2021-22, the FM had targeted FD of 4.5 percent during 2025-26 against a 2.5 percent threshold, the FRBM committee wanted to be achieved during 2022-23 and 3 percent (plus 0.5 percent for unanticipated events) during 2020-21 as per the amendment to FRBM Act made vide the Finance Bill 2018-19.

At the start of its first term, the Modi Government had set fiscal consolidation as a major objective of its economic policy. Thereafter, it was aiming at FD of 3 percent in 2018-19. Later, this goal was shifted to 2020-21. Yet, that year saw a deficit of 9.5 percent. Even as the current year is expected to end with FD of around 6.5 percent, the 3 percent target is nowhere in sight for the next five years.

For now, nobody knows as to when the Government will return to fiscal discipline. Even if it wants to, it will remain a distant dream unless it carries out long-pending expenditure reforms, especially major subsidies.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

COME AND SIT WITH ME FOR A DEBATE OR CALL ME TO DELHI. IF I GET DEFEATED, I WILL LEAVE POLITICS.
—PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



I ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE GIVEN BY NAVJOT SIDHU. HE SHOULD CHOOSE THE PLACE AND TIME FOR THE DEBATE.
—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Need a new, decentralised look at agriculture

The country should rather begin a new discussion on agriculture and crops, creating diverse food grain habits and sustaining ecology

In West Bengal not long ago, the Left Front government had a huge majority. Yet it had to eat a humble pie when farmers in Nandigram and Singur put paid to its industrialization plans. Maybe the state government's plans were good, but it became immaterial in the face of farmers protesting acquisition. The situation is no different now. The Union Government said the three farm laws were for the benefit of farmers. A section of the farmers remained unconvinced. Finally, almost one year after their sit-in, they got what they wanted.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Where does the real power lie? Not in the government with its elaborate security setup. Not in Parliament where laws are made. Not in

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

the Supreme Court which can unmake laws. Real power lies only with the people. That is what the year-long farmer's agitation suggests.

This should make popular governments change their tack. The NDA government took the correct decision to junk the Land Acquisition Act and now, the farm laws. Those in power anywhere have to accept that if the beneficiaries are not satisfied such decisions cannot be implemented.

Former deputy chairman of NITI Aayog, Arvind Panagariya, says an important aspect that crops up is the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on subsidies. India so far escaped with a peace clause for violating them. He indicates that the demand for MSP, which



WTO does not accept, may lead to a difficult global situation, apart from the fact that MSP would entail an extra payment of ₹1.5 trillion. He also stresses that the proposed massive transfers under MSP would bypass not only the urban poor but also the rural poor.

Any solution? Yes, either reform WTO or rethink on MSP. Or maybe listen to another former NITI Aayog deputy chairman, Raghuram Rajan, on a TV discussion on December 8. He emphasized that despite some good points

in farm laws, agriculture-needing reforms, India is so vast that decentralisation is essential. There could not be one solution for the entire country. India cannot be like China. He says, India's strengths were democracy and debate. China became a manufacturing superpower following its system of authoritarian rule. "It would be difficult to emulate the Chinese path."

Rajan gives the easy prescription. Governance should not resort to adamance and electoral numbers are never enough to roughshod the sentiments that may not look palatable to the ruling parties. The governments in the past also had to eat humble pies. The most glaring example was the rise of NT Rama Rao in 1980s against a despotic

Indira Gandhi.

It should not be forgotten that even rich nations give farm subsidy and WTO ignores it.

In the present context, the cases went for judicial review but the court did not resolve the issue. Rightfully the popular government has taken the required decision. The government need not be apprehensive of the WTO or international bodies. If it could keep the environmental COP26 at bay for several decades, it can do so for farm issues too.

The country should rather begin a new discussion on agriculture, crops, creating diverse food grain habits and sustaining ecology. Today's MSP issue is complex as farmer needs higher income.

All the same the companies could not be allowed to have ways that bolster their profit at the cost the people's interests.

India has to ponder whether it can put income inequality as high as it was under British colonial away from public discussion. The top 10 percent accounts for 57.1 percent of the income now. The top 10 percent earns 20 times, according to the World Inequality report 2022.

Despite a pan-India sentiment, it should not be forgotten that Nandigram or Singur or various long farmers' marches in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other places did not become national economic issues. It needs to be seen if the MSP issue would rule the roost post-UP

elections. In fact, this calls for diversification of farm products and less dependence on mono or select cropping that may have led to this difficult situation post-Green revolution.

The debate is now on reintroducing diversity in food habits. In 1881, it was a nation of 220 million people eating millets and other food grains. It has changed to eating a 1.3 billion rice-and-wheat eating behemoth riding the Green Revolution. India has not taken advantage of its strength of diversity of food items and agriculture depended on local ecology-led consumption.

The farmers' stir should encourage the government to create a farmer-dominated agriculture where no outsider needs to fix the MSP.

UK medics warn of looming breaking point as Omicron spreads

AP ■ LONDON
Britain's main nurses' union warned Monday that exhaustion and surging coronavirus cases among medical staff are pushing them to breaking point, adding to pressure on the government for new restrictions to bring down record-high infection numbers driven by the omicron variant.

Patricia Marquis, England director for the Royal College of Nursing union, said the situation over the next few weeks looked "very bleak," as growing absences from sickness and self-isolation hit hospitals struggling to clear a backlog of postponed procedures and treat normal winter sicknesses alongside coronavirus cases.

"In many places they're already under immense stress and pressure, and so they are starting to go off sick themselves with COVID, but also mental and physical exhaustion," she told the BBC.

"So, staff are looking forward now thinking, 'Oh my goodness, what is coming?'" Having repeatedly promised that there will be no repeat of last year's lockdown-marred Christmas, Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces an agonizing choice: wreck the holiday plans of millions or face a tidal wave of cases and dis-

ruption. Many governments in Europe and the U.S. face similar dilemmas about how hard to come down on omicron, which appears more transmissible than the previous delta variant that itself led to surges in many parts of the world. Early evidence suggests omicron may also produce less serious illness — though scientists caution it is too soon to say — and that it could better evade vaccine protection, even if it generally causes fewer serious cases, omicron could still overwhelm health systems because of the sheer number of infections.

But many political leaders are reluctant to impose the stiff measures they resorted to earlier in the pandemic — often because they promised their people that vaccines would offer a way out of such restrictions and it may be politically untenable to impose them again.

In US, the prospect of a winter chilled by a wave of coronavirus infections is a severe reversal from the optimism projected by President Joe Biden some 10 months ago, when he suggested that the country would essentially be back to normal by this Christmas. France is desperately trying to avoid a new lockdown that would hurt the economy and cloud President Emmanuel Macron's expected re-election campaign.

Israel to ban travel to US, Canada over Omicron variant

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli ministers on Monday agreed to ban travel to United States, Canada and eight other countries amid the rapid, global spread of omicron variant. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's office announced the decision following a Cabinet vote.

The rare move to red-list US comes amid rising coronavirus infections in Israel and marks a change to pandemic practices between two nations with close diplomatic relations. The US will join a growing list of European countries and other destinations to which Israelis are barred from traveling, and from which returning travelers must remain in quarantine.

A parliamentary committee is expected to give measure final approval. Once authorized, the travel ban will take effect at midnight Wednesday morning. Israel has seen a surge in new cases of more infectious coronavirus variant in recent weeks, and began

closing its borders and restricting travel in late November. Foreign nationals are not allowed to enter, and all Israelis arriving from overseas are required to quarantine — including people who are vaccinated.

Other countries that were approved to be added to the travel ban starting Wednesday are Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey. Israel rolled out a world-leading vaccination campaign early this year, and more than 4.1 million of Israel's 9.3 million people have received a third dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

In a prime-time address on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett urged parents to vaccinate their children, declaring that country's "fifth wave" of coronavirus infections had begun. As of Sunday, Israel's Health Ministry has reported 175 cases of new variant. Israel has recorded at least 8,232 deaths from coronavirus since the start of pandemic.

Holiday season lights bright spot amid pandemic resurgence

AP ■ CUMBERLAND, MAINE

The holiday season is shining brightly during pandemic as businesses pour money into extravagant light shows to spread cheer.

From Maine to California, more lights shows have launched during pandemic, and they're more elaborate than ever, with sparkly spectacles that comedic character Clark Griswold from "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" could only dream about.

"They're exploding because people are looking for something to do. That has been a boom for this business," said Wayne Wheeler, whose Wisconsin-based company, Reinders Inc., imports bulk lights and other gear used in the professionally produced shows.

Lighting displays are a time-honored tradition in the holidays, and people often drive around various neighborhoods to check out colorful lights. The commercial operations take it to another level.

Fauci warns Omicron Covid variant 'raging through the world'

AL JAZEERA: Top US pandemic adviser Anthony Fauci has warned of a bleak winter ahead as the Omicron coronavirus variant spurs a new wave of infections globally, sparking restrictions and concerns over hospital capacity.

"One thing that's very clear ... is [Omicron's] extraordinary capability of spreading," Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told broadcaster NBC News on Sunday.

"It is just ... raging through the world." Since it was first reported in southern Africa in November, Omicron has been identified in dozens of countries, prompting many to reimpose travel restrictions and other measures in an attempt to slow outbreaks.

Despite some preliminary indications Omicron is not more severe than the Delta variant — currently, still the dominant strain — the heavily mutated Omicron has been shown in early data to have

some resistance to vaccines and higher transmissibility. Fauci also cautioned against too much optimism over Omicron's severity, noting that in South Africa, while the hospitalisation-to-case ratio is lower than with Delta, this could be due to underlying immunity from widespread previous infections.

"No matter how you look at it," he said, "when you have so many, many infections, even if it is less severe, that overcomes this slight to moderate diminution in severity."

Our hospitals, if things look like they're looking now in the next week or two, are going to be very stressed," particularly in areas of the country with low levels of vaccination, Fauci said.

On Sunday, US senators Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker each said separately on Twitter that they had tested positive for COVID-19 despite being vaccinated and boosted, and were experiencing mild symptoms. **AGENCIES**

Pak Army chief urges for joint int'l efforts to avoid impending humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday urged for joint international efforts to avoid impending humanitarian crisis in war-torn Afghanistan. Gen Bajwa made remarks during a meeting with US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West, who called on him at army headquarters in Rawalpindi.

During meeting, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation opportunities in context were discussed, according to a statement issued by army. Gen Bajwa said that "world and region cannot afford an unstable Afghanistan, stressing upon need for global convergence to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe," it added.

Afghanistan's economy is facing a major crisis after Taliban seized power in Kabul in mid-August, amid a chaotic US and NATO troops withdrawal from war-hit country. Following headline Islamists assuming power in Afghanistan, the international community froze billions of dollars' worth of assets abroad and stopped all funding to country.

375 dead, 56 missing after typhoon slams Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

The death toll from the strongest typhoon to batter the Philippines this year climbed to 375, with more than 50 others still missing and several central provinces struggling with downed communications and power outages and pleading for food and water, officials said Monday.

At its strongest, Typhoon Rai packed sustained winds of 195 kilometers (121 miles) per hour with gusts of up to 270 kph (168 mph) before blowing into the South China Sea on Friday.

At least 375 people were killed, 56 were missing and 500 were injured, according to the national police. The toll may still increase because several towns and villages remained out of reach due to downed communications and power outages, although massive cleanup and repair efforts were

underway. Many were killed by falling trees and collapsing walls, flash floods and landslides. A 57-year-old man was found dead hanging from a tree branch and a woman was blown away and died in Negros Occidental province, police said.

Governor Arlene Bag-ao of Dinagat Islands, among the southeastern provinces first hit by the typhoon, said Rai's ferocity on her island province of more than 130,000 people was worse than that of Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful and deadliest typhoons on record which devastated the central Philippines in November 2013 but did not inflict any casualties in Dinagat. "If it was like being in a washing machine before, this time there was like a huge monster that smashed itself everywhere, grabbed anything like trees and tin roofs and then hurled them everywhere,"

Bag-ao said by telephone. "The wind was swirling north to south to east and west repeatedly for six hours. Some tin roof sheets were blown away and then were tossed back."

At least 14 villagers died and more than 100 others were injured by flying roofs, debris and glass shards and were treated in makeshift surgery rooms in damaged hospitals in Dinagat, Bag-ao said.

Many more would have died if thousands of residents had not been evacuated from high-risk villages. Dinagat and several other typhoon-hit provinces remained without electricity and communications and many residents needed construction materials, food and water. Bag-ao and other provincial officials traveled to nearby regions that had cellphone signals to seek aid and coordinate recovery efforts with the national government.

Pro-Beijing candidates sweep victories at Hong Kong polls

AP ■ HONG KONG

Pro-Beijing candidates dominated Hong Kong's legislative elections, beating out moderates and independents in the city's first public poll after Beijing passed a resolution to amend the city's election laws.

Candidates loyal to Beijing won a majority of the seats in Sunday's election after laws were changed to ensure that only pro-Beijing "patriots" could run the city.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said during a news conference Monday she was "satisfied" with the election despite a 30.2% voter turnout — the lowest since British handed Hong Kong over to China in 1997. She said that number of registered voters reached 92.5%, a record high compared to 2012 and 2016 elections, when around 70% of voters had registered. "For registered voters, deciding whether they want to exercise their voting rights in a

particular election is entirely a matter for themselves," she said. "In this election, 1.35 million voters cast their votes. They did not just return candidates of their choice to LegCo, and I think it was also because of their support for improved electoral system," said Lam, referring to city's Legislative Council.

Under new laws, the number of directly elected lawmakers was reduced from 35 to 20, even as legislature was expanded from 70 to 90 seats. Most of lawmakers were appointed by largely pro-Beijing bodies, ensuring that they make up majority of legislature.

All candidates were also vetted by a largely pro-Beijing committee before they could be nominated. Lam said that even if there was a high turnout rate based on "poor politics," such as political polarization during period of political strife in 2019, that is "not something we should be glad to have."

Gunmen kill 47 in attacks in Nigeria's troubled north

AP ■ LAGOS, NIGERIA

Nigerian security forces are searching for armed gangs who killed 47 people in attacks in recent days in rural areas of country's northwest, the latest killings in troubled region. The attacks took place in the northwest Kaduna state which neighbors Nigeria's capital city, Abuja, Kaduna commissioner for security Samuel Aruwan confirmed.

No group has claimed responsibility for attacks but they are suspected to be by the gangs of bandits who have killed at least 2,500 people in the northwest and central states so far in 2021, according to statistics collated by US Council on Foreign Relations. The attacks have escalated in past three months so the death toll for entire year is expected to increase. The armed groups mostly consist of young men from Fulani ethnic group.

Myanmar court postpones latest Aung San Suu Kyi verdict

AP ■ BANGKOK

A Myanmar court on Monday postponed to Dec. 27 the issuing of verdicts in the latest of a series of cases against the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, a legal official knowledgeable about the case said.

The postponed verdict from the court in the capital, Naypyitaw, is for second among multiple cases brought against the 76-year-old Nobel laureate since the army seized power on Feb. 1, ousting her elected government and arresting top members of her National League for Democracy party.

No reason was given for postponement, according to a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by authorities, who have restricted release of information about Suu Kyi's trials. She is accused of importing and possessing walkie-talkies with-

out following official procedures. The radios that are focus of the case were seized from the entrance gate of her residence and barracks of her bodyguards during a search on Feb. 1, the day she was arrested. The charge under Export-Import Law of having improperly imported walkie-talkies was first filed against her and served as the initial justification for her continued detention. The charge of illegally possessing the radios was filed following month.

Suu Kyi's lawyers argued that the radios were not in her personal possession and were legitimately used to help provide for her security, but court declined to dismiss charges against her. Suu Kyi on Dec. 6 was convicted on two other charges, incitement and breaching COVID-19 restrictions, for which she was sentenced to a total of four year's imprisonment.

Office Of Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Uttrakhand Jal Sansthan
Lane No-1, Tarun Vihar, Mothrowala Road, Dehradun-248001
Phone No/Fax. 0135 2671940, E-mail - eemdujs@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 3708/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 **NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING CORRIGENDUM** Date : 17.12.2021

इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं० 3705/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 date 16-12-2021 से जल जीवन मिशन के कार्य हेतु आमंत्रित ई-निविदाओं की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

The tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows:-

S. No.	Description	Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1	Date of Online Publication	23.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs
2	Document download : Start Date	23.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting : Date	28.12.2021 at 11:00 Hrs
4	Bid Submission : Start date	01.01.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	Bid Submission : End date	04.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
6	Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).	04.01.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	Date of Bid Opening	05.01.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated later

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा के अनुसार यथावत रहेंगे।
"जल संचय-जीवन संचय"
Executive Engineer

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anamika, C/o: Sadiya, R/o: Unmati After Care Program 33-C DDA Flats Bulward Road, Civil Lines, Delhi, Age: 18 Years Above, Height: 5', Complexion: Dark, Built: Thin/Medium, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Eyes: Black, ID Marks: She is Disable child & Not hear and speak properly, Wearing: Pink Colour Suit & Pajama & Blue Colour Shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 30.11.2021 from her house. In this regard **DD No. 04A, Dated 01.12.2021**, has been registered at **P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.****

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

Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-23011334
DP/1763/N/2021

SHO
P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph: 011-23815444, 23810633

OIC nations pledge fund to prevent Afghanistan economic collapse

ALJAZEERA: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has pledged to set up a humanitarian trust fund for Afghanistan as millions face hunger and poverty. The crisis is causing alarm with billions of dollars in aid and assets frozen by the international community after the Taliban takeover of the country in August this year. "Unless action is taken immediately, Afghanistan is heading for chaos," Prime Minister Imran Khan, of Pakistan — which is holding the summit, told a meeting of foreign ministers

from the OIC. "Any government when it can't pay its salaries for its public servants, hospitals, doctors, nurses, any government is going to collapse but chaos suits no one, it certainly does not suit the United States." An OIC resolution released after the meeting said the Islamic Development Bank would lead the effort to free up assistance by the first quarter of 2022. It also urged Afghanistan's rulers to abide by "obligations under international human rights covenants, especially with regards to rights of women, children, youth, elderly and people with special needs". The OIC meet-

ing did not give the new Taliban government any formal international recognition and Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was excluded from official photograph taken during the event. Muttaqi said his government "has the right to be officially recognised". "The current Afghanistan government is cooperating with every foreign organisation," he told reporters, adding that sanctions "must be removed". In a speech to delegates, he said US freezing of assets "is a clear violation of human rights of Afghans, and can be interpreted as enmity with an entire nation". **AGENCIES**

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 (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Nitin Kumar/ Ramesh Chander Dabla/ LBGUR00004221493	Entire third Flor Buildup on Plot No-242, Block-B, Sector-19, Amberhal Dwarka Residential Scheme Dwarka, Delhi/ December 16, 2021	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 29,04,374/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mohammad Usman/ Mohd Nawazish/ Zubeda/ LBDEL00004973902	Flat No 69, Ground Floor, LIG Flat, Sanjay Enclave, Jhangirpuri, Delhi- 110033/ December 15, 2021	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 3,33,820/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Vijay Kumar/ Ashwani Kumar/ LBNOD00001027565/ LBNOD00001066768	Flat No-G-2, Ground Floor, Plot No-43, Block-c, Tha, Surya Nagar Sector 7, Ghaziabad 201010/ December 17, 2021	June 16, 2021/ Rs. 11,43,143/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Deepak Sethi/ Simmi Sethi/ LBDEL00004862169	Flat No Skb 211, Second Floor Shipra Krishna Vista Ahinsa Khand I Indrapuram Ghaziabad/ December 17, 2021	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 10,12,808/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Mukesh Verma/ Ragini Verma/ LBDEL00001360658	Flat No. S-3, Plot No.98, Sec- 11A Vaishali Ghaziabad/ December 17, 2021	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 6,36,542/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Narendra Kumar Singh/ Vinita Singh/ LBGUR00001157168	S-110, 2nd Floor, Kaushambi, S-110, 2nd Floor East Delhi Mall, Kaushambi Ghaziabad/ December 17, 2021	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 8,00,400/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : December 21, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

RE TENDER NOTICE
No.SSA/CW/KGBV-Lumding/264/2020/8059 Dated -17/12/2021

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work from registered contractors [Class- I (A, B & C)] under A. P.W.D. (Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 21/12/2021 (04:30 PM) to 04/01/2022 (2:00 PM)

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALKIA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBI-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1L	Lumding, Jhjai	Rs.1,91,28,900.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs.5000.00

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

Janasanyog/CF/2466/21

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro.No.- 1005 **Corrigendum/ Date Extension Notice- 13** Dated-20.12.2021

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the e-NIT No. NCB/01/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 & NCB/02/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2021-22 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:
Last Date & Time for submission of bids on the portal Upto 17:00 hrs of 27.12.2021
Date & Time of Opening of bids on the portal at 11:00 hrs of 28.12.2021
Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.
Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>".
Executive Engineer (PCM)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

Tender Notice
Office of the (Executive Engineer, Test, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. 02/EE (Test)/MB-II/2021-22
Name of work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR 220V DC (1395 AH) BATTERY BANK AT DHARASU POWER HOUSE, CHINYALISAU,UTTARKASHI
Estimated cost: Rs 24,95,121.96/-, (GST Extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 21.12.2021 at 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of tender: 18.01.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from "www.ujvn.com".
Executive Engineer (Test)
RO No 1010 dt. 20.12.2021
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Banks got ₹13,100 crore from assets sale of defaulters: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that banks have recovered Rs 13,109.17 crore from asset sale of fugitives like Vijay Malya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi. She said this while replying to a discussion on the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants which was approved by the Lok Sabha amid uproar by the Opposition over various issues.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants authorised the government to spend an additional ₹ 3.73 lakh crore during the current fiscal.

The extra spending includes an infusion of over Rs 62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India, ₹ 58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy, ₹ 53,123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and ₹ 22,039 crore to rural development ministry for transfer to the National Rural

Employment Guarantee Fund. Speaking on the banks' recovery from wilful defaulters, she said

that a total of ₹ 13,109.17 crore has been recovered from the asset sales of Vijay Malya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi as of July 2021 as per the information provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The latest recovery was Rs 792 crore from the sale of assets belonging to Malya and others on July 16, 2021, she added.

Responding to various issues, including price rise, raised by the Opposition during the debate, she said the government is taking measures to cool down prices of edible oil and other essential commodities. "We are taking measures through the (Empowered Group of Ministers) for taking care of essential goods. We will attend to the problem of edible oil price and also some of the essential edible items," she said.

"Public sector banks together have effected a recovery

of about ₹ 5.49 lakh crore over the last seven financial years. So, these people who are defaulters, who have fled the country, we have got their money back and put it to the public sector banks and therefore the banks are safer today," she said.

She further said that the depositors' money are safer in public sector banks.

On the states' financial position, the Finance Minister said that the Centre in the first eight months of the fiscal has already transferred 86.4 per cent of what was provided in the full year 2019-20. From the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), "funds are being provided and providing an extra Rs 15,000 crore for emergency COVID-19 response. The financial position of the states is also reflected in the fact that the overall cash balance of states as on November 30, 2021 was Rs 3.08 lakh crore approximately, fairly comfortable positions", she said.

WEF defers Davos Annual Meeting 2022 due to Omicron outbreak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GENEVA

The World Economic Forum on Monday said it has decided to defer its Annual Meeting 2022 in the Swiss Alpine ski resort town of Davos in the light of continued uncertainty over the Omicron outbreak.

The Annual Meeting, which was scheduled to take place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland between January 17-21, 2022, is now planned for early summer.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) held its last Davos summit, attended by top leaders from across the world, in January 2020, just before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, while the 2021 meeting could not take place due to the outbreak.

The Geneva-based entity, which describes itself as an international organisation for public-private cooperation, had first planned to shift the 2021 annual meeting to another location in Switzerland and then to Singapore, before finally

canceling it.

In a statement on deferring the 2022 meeting to early summer, the WEF said participants will instead join a headline series of 'State of the World' sessions bringing together global leaders online to focus on shaping solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

"Current pandemic conditions make it extremely difficult to deliver a global in-person meeting. Preparations have been guided by expert advice and have benefited from the close collaboration of the Swiss government at all levels," it said.

The WEF said despite the meeting's stringent health protocols, the transmissibility of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 and its impact on travel and mobility have made deferral necessary.

"The health and safety of everyone involved in physical meetings -- participants, collaborators and the host community -- have always been the Forum's priority," it said.

"The deferral of the Annual Meeting will not prevent progress through continued digital convening of leaders from business, government and civil society," said Professor Klaus Schwab, founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum.

"Public-private cooperation has moved forward throughout the pandemic and that will continue apace. We look forward to bringing global leaders together in person soon," he added.

Among others, more than 100 leaders from India, including Union Ministers, chief ministers and CEOs, had already been registered for the Davos Annual Meeting 2022, for which 'Working Together, Restoring Trust' was decided as a theme. It was billed as the 'first truly global opportunity for leaders from business, government and civil society to come together again and set the agenda for a sustainable recovery' in a post-pandemic world.

Advertising volumes on TV grow 3 pc in Nov, more brands using the medium: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Advertising volumes on television grew 3 per cent to 156 million seconds in November when compared to the year-ago period, the Broadcast Audience Research Council said on Monday.

However, going by the number of advertisers, the number of brands using the medium to reach out was the highest at 4,669 in November, the body said. "Despite economic challenges that were accelerated with the second wave of COVID-19, legacy advertisers continued to increase spends on TV, and new brands placed faith in the medium to ensure that they were able to stay connected with their TG (target group)," it's head for client partnerships and revenue function, Aditya

Phatak, said. He said there was a double digit growth in languages like Malayalam, Bhojpuri and Telugu, which indicates a growing propensity among brands to use regional languages to further their messaging.

The overall volumes were 31 per cent higher when compared with November 2019, before the onset of pandemic when the economic growth was on a downhill trajectory.

The reporting month recorded 2,911 advertisers peddling their 4,669 brands on the mass medium, it said, adding there was a 14 per cent growth in advertisers and 13 per cent in brands as compared to November 2019. Nearly a fifth of advertisers and brands were new in the month, it added.

Competition Comm clears Tatas acquisition of Air India, two subsidiaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competition Commission has approved Tata Group's proposed acquisition of Air India, Air India Express and AISATS. Talace Pvt Ltd, part of Tata Group, is to acquire 100 per cent stakes in Air India, Air India Express and 50 per cent shareholding in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd

(AISATS)

According to an official release on Monday, Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod for the deal. In October, Talace Pvt Ltd emerged as the winning bidder for Air India with a bid worth Rs 18,000 crore. It will pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

ADB to give \$112 mn to set up skill university

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Manila-headquartered multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a USD 112-million loan to establish a skill university in Assam.

"The Government of India and the ADB signed on December 17 a USD 112-million loan to set up a skill university in Assam that will strengthen industry-aligned and flexible skills education and training system in the state," it said in a statement.

₹ firms up 16p to 75.90 against USD on easing crude prices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee notched up gains for a third straight session on Monday, rising further by 16 paise to settle at 75.90 against the US dollar as easing crude oil prices revived an otherwise lacklustre sentiment.

Massive sell-offs in domestic equities, sustained foreign fund outflows and concerns around Omicron variant of coronavirus were a host of factors restricting rupee gains, forex traders said.

Starting off on a tepid note, the rupee weakened to a low of 76.16 before staging a recovery. It hit the day's high at 75.83

against the dollar, before closing at 75.90, clocking a gain of 16 paise.

Last week, the local unit recorded its fourth weekly decline amid growing concerns over the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

Experts, however, are of the view that as major events of the year are almost done, forex markets may stay calm in the coming week.

Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, rose 0.05 per cent to 96.61.

Sebi bans launch of new derivative contracts of crude palm oil, few other agri commodities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets watchdog Sebi has banned the launch of new derivative contracts of crude palm oil, moong, wheat and few other agricultural commodities with immediate effect amid rising inflation.

With respect to running contracts, no new position will be allowed to be taken and only squaring up of positions will be allowed. The directions will be applicable for one year, Sebi said in a release on Monday.

Launch of new contracts of paddy (non-basmati), wheat, soyabean and its derivatives (its complex), crude palm oil and

moong have been barred till further orders.

The list includes chana, and mustard seeds and its derivatives (its complex). The derivative contracts for these commodities were suspended earlier this year.

Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, said banning derivatives for seven agricultural commodities for one year seems to be a knee jerk reaction to the unrelenting inflation pressure from food items.

National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) said no fresh positions, including intra-day, will

be allowed in respect of futures and options contracts of certain commodities and only squaring up of existing positions will be allowed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned that Mr. Amit S/o Ram Pal R/o Choura Sadatpur, Sec-22, Noida who is the original allottee of property No. A-29, Sec-151, Noida(U.P.) had sold the said property on General power of attorney basis to the following person(s). GPA was executed on in favour of Rajni Singh S/o Sh. Kishan Singh R/o B-44, Sec-50, Noida (U.P.) which is registered & the agreement to sell was not registered or not executed. Because the agreement to sell is not registered or no agreement to sell executed, so it is informed to all concerned that the said property is going to be transferred in favour of Ravi Bansal S/o Mahesh Chand Bansal, R/o F-183A, Road-2, Mangal Bazar Laxmi Nagar & Bipin Babbar & Vishnu Babbar both S/o Pushottam Lal Babbar R/o H-No-76, Guru Angad Nagar Ext. Laxmi Nagar Delhi. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Ravi Bansal

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction Part of Uttar Pradesh)

SUMMONS FOR FILING & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

O.A.No. 1404/2019 Date: 16/12/2021
Summons to defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

Original Application No. 1404 of 2020
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
Mr Shrotriya Adhir & Others ...Defendants

To,
1. Mr Shrotriya Adhir
R/o 150 Green Heights A2Z, Developers Pallav Puram, Roorkee. Road Meerut- 250110
Also At- Flat No.1707, 17th Floor Tower B Gardenia, Plot No.10, Sector 75, Noida 201301

2. Mrs. Shrotriya Preeti
150 Green Heights A2Z, Developers Pallav Puram, Roorkee. Road Meerut- 250110
3. M/s. Futec Shelters Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office R, 19, 3rd, Shakakapur, Laxmi Nagar, Vikas Marg, Delhi 110092
Corporate Office,
Plot No. 9 Sector 75, Noida 201301

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 11/03/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Original Application No. 292of 2020
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
SANJIV KUMAR UPADHYAY & OTHERS ...Defendants

To,
1. SANJIV KUMAR UPADHYAY IND SWIFT LTD, Village Jawahar OFF, NH 21, Derabassi, Mohali, Punjab Mohali-140306.
Also At:
Flat No. PF04, Unnati The Aranya Heights, Tower T1, Sec-119 Podium Floor, Plot No. GH02, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201301

2. MS. RANI UPADHYAY C 3, Rail Vihar Sec- 45, Faridabad-121003.
Also At:
Flat No. PF04, Unnati The Aranya Heights, Tower T1, Sec-119 Podium Floor, Plot No. GH02, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201301

3. M/S UNNATI FORTUNE HOLDINGS LTD. Registered Office at: T-07, LL-02, Common Wealth Games Village, New Delhi-110092
Corporate Office at:
B-117, Sector-67, Noida, U.P.

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 09/03/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Shri Manohar Lal S/o. Lakshmi Chand, Nitiin S/o Late Shri Hans Raj Cont. 8910176160, Email: guptamit25@yahoo.co.in, R/o B-753, New Subji Mandi, Azadpur, Delhi-33. Attorney/ Purchaser of Shop No. B-753, New Subji Mandi Azadpur, Delhi-33 has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like Original allotment cum demand letter, Possession Letter, Site Position & NOC Electronic Conveyance of shop issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 14/05/2018. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact: Deputy Director(CE) A-Block, Vikas Sadar, INA, New Delhi

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-Lumding/264/2020/8058 Dated - 17/12/2021
The tender vide No. SSA/CW/KGBV-Lumding/264/2020/7584 Dated 14/09/2021 to carry out the Construction of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (Class VI to X) (Academic Block Assam type with RCC hostel building (G+2) (KGBV-type-ii), SSA, Assam at Lumding Block under Hojai District is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.
Sd/-Mission Director
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Jansanyog/CF/2463/21

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD)
CORRIGENDUM-1
SUB: E-TENDER NO. 2021IS204 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 10532 MT OF MILD STEEL STRUCTURAL ITEMS THROUGH e-RA METHOD
1. Corrigendum 1 of e-tender No. 2021IS204 has been uploaded in ireps website vide date 20.12.2021
2. Due date of closing of subject tender is extended from 20.12.2021, 15:00 hrs. to 29.12.2021, 15:00 hrs.
3. All other Terms and Condition of e-Tender shall remain unchanged.
(S. K. Tiwari)
Director, Railway Stores (W), Railway Board
No. RS(S)/2021/747/2 Dated: 20.12.2021 2982/21
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE

Invitation for Empanelment of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery

No. Agri/Engg/4972/EM/SMAM/2021-22/192 Dtd.20/12/2021

Applications are invited from Manufacturers of Agricultural Machineries, who are registered in the DBT portal www.agrimachinery.nic.in, for empanelment to facilitate community procurement under different Schemes for the year, 2021-22. Application forms along with Terms & Conditions and list of Agricultural Machinery shall be available in the office of the undersigned from 21/12/2021 and this is also made available in the departmental website www.diragri.assam.gov.in. Last date of submission of applications along with required documents, certificates, test reports etc. is 28/12/2021 up to 3:00pm.

Empanelment Security for an amount of **Rs.50,000.00/-** (Rupees Fifty thousand) only in the form of FD/TDR pledged in favour of the 'Chief Engineer, Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22' and with minimum **3 (three) years validity** shall have to be submitted along with application form.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-Agriculture Assam, Khanapara,Guwahati-22

Janasanayog/DF/2093/21

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy, **Namely: Bholu, S/o: Kalu Soni, R/o: H No. F-993, Mangolpuri, New Delhi Aged: 16 years, has been missing since 19.06.2015. In this regard FIR No. 605/15, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 21.06.2015 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.** His physical description is as under:
Height: 5' Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Hair: Black, Clothing: Yellow colour shirt & blue colour pant. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi at **E-mail: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-230111334, Tele No. : 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229, 23015218 extn. 210**

S.H.O
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.
DP/970/SW/2021. Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: Approx 28/30 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", Built: Thin and Weak, Face: Long, ID Mark: M.S. tattoo on right hand, was wearing brown colour pajama, black and blue jacket, was found dead near middle divider, HC Sen Marg, Chandni Chowk, Delhi in the jurisdiction of P.S. Kotwali, North District, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 11A U/s 174 CrPc, Dated 13.12.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.**

His dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi, Civil Line, Delhi Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
DP/1820/N/2021

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Abhishek Wadhwa/ Satya Wadhwa/ LBDEL00004909529/ LBDEL00005335844	Dda SFS, Cat-III Flat No- 85B 1st Floor Block- BW Shalimar Bagh Delhi/ December 14, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 32,40,564/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Bvinder Singh/ Meenu/ Bhagwati Devi/ Malal/ Poonam Singh/ Varsha Gandas/ Satish Kumar/ Virender Singh/ LBDEL00002003545	Dda SFS, Cat III, Flat No.164, First Floor, Sector A, Pocket C, Vasant Kunj, Delhi/ December 14, 2021	August 18, 2021 Rs. 93,78,801/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Prem Kumar Narang/ Rimpi Narang/ LBDEL00002961733/ LBDEL00002962414/ LBDEL00004664237	Property Bearing, 69/3 Block-C Okhla, Industrial area, Phase-II, Delhi 110048/ December 14, 2021	August 31, 2021 Rs. 2,39,90,153/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Prem Kumar Narang/ Rimpi Narang/ LBDEL00002959223	Flat No- J3/ 249, Ground Floor, Janta Category Kalkaji Delhi/ December 14, 2021	August 17, 2021 Rs. 48,35,837/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Prem Kumar Narang/ Rimpi Narang/ LBDEL00002417733	H No A16, Pocket A 8 Basement and Ground Floor Kalka Ji Delhi / December 14, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 75,67,443/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Sameer Chawla/ Ria Chawla/ Sagar Chawla/ Shilpa Chawla/ LBDEL00001814413	493, Block-B, 2nd Floor, Meera Bagh, Delhi/ December 14, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 25,18,557/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Amit Sinsinwal/ Neelam Sinsinwal/ LBDEL00002406217	Flat No- 1202M, 12th Floor Tower- 1, Cloud- 9, Plot No-R-C 1/2, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ December 15, 2021	August 16, 2021 Rs. 12,89,9174/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Ashish Sharma/ LBDEL00000616248	Flat No.G-2, Plot A- 78, Gayatri Apartments, Shalimar Garden Extension-II, Shahibabad, Ghaziabad/ December 15, 2021	August 30,2021 Rs. 1,81,378/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Daya Nand Rai/ Madhubala Rai/ LBDEL00002843351	Flat No.C 204, 2nd Floor, Alaka Nanda Apartment, Rampuri Colony, Ghaziabad/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 5,48,947/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Dharmvir/ Pinki/ LBDEL00004897559	Dda Lig Flat No.1274, 3rd Floor, Sanskriti Apartments, Pocket- GH-1, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 16,87,550/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Dheeraj Monga/ Kirti/ LBDEL00004934815	Dda Lig, Flat No-112F, Block- DB- G- 8, 2nd Floor, Rajouri Garden, Hari Nagar, Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 21,25,072/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Dinesh Chouhan/ Indu/ LBDEL00005063671	Dda Lig, Flat No.763- C Second Floor, Block-JG- 2 Vikas Puri Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs.43,26,628/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Manoj/ Krishan Singh/ LBDEL00005110626/ LBDEL00005158677	Property No.22, Ground Floor, Pocket 16 Sector 24 Rohini Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 47,29,621/-	Delhi/ NCR
14.	Mukitkanta Nayak/ Subhashree Nayak/ LBDEL00002267335	Flat No E01 Ground Floor, Gardena Gateway Plot No.9 Sec 75 Noida/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs.48,13,301/-	Delhi/ NCR
15.	Parveen/ Sajjan Arora/ LBNO00004133251	House Situated at Plot No.38/9, Ground Floor, Sakli, Nagar, Malika Ganj, Delhi-110007/ December 15, 2021	August 16, 2021 Rs. 80,54,669/-	Delhi/ NCR
16.	Praval Jain/ Sangita Jain/ LBDEL00002465840	Flat No.2004, 20th Floor Tower D Aakriti Shantiniketan Plot No GH 01/B Sec 143 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 51,96,127/-	Delhi/ NCR
17.	Rishikesh Chaudhary/ Rishiraj Fitness Gala Pvt Ltd/ Rajshree Chaudhary/ LBGU000003133095	Flat No A2/1626, 16th Floor Tower 04, Purvanchal Royal Park, Plot No GH 04 Sec-137 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh/ December 15, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 57,25,205/-	Delhi/ NCR
18.	Sanjay Kumar/ Sinju Kumari/ LBDEL00005246753	Property No.109, Ground and First Floor, Block H, PKT 1, Sector 16, Rohini, Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 1,92,816/-	Delhi/ NCR
19.	Suresh Suri/ Rakesh Suri/ LBGU00001615500	Plot No. A-7, Janata Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs.9,54,810/-	Delhi/ NCR
20.	Parul Goel/ Indian Embroiders/ Vikalp Goel/ LBDEL00003296851	Flat No.702, Block-B, 7th Floor Divyansh Fabio, Plot No GH- 5A Crossing Republik, Nh-24 Dhundahera, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ December 15, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 54,18,130/-	Delhi/ NCR
21.	Hari Kishan Manak/ Sushila Rani Manak/ LBDEL00001741290	S-90, lind Floor, Vardhman Mall PKT- 10 Lsc, Sec-A-6, Narela Delhi/ December 16, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs.6,42,730/-	Delhi/ NCR
22.	Jatin Anand/ Annapurna Agronics Machinery Pvt Ltd/ Tisha Anand/ LBDEL00001969505	Flat No.604, Hig 6th Floor Along With Garage No.60, Rohini, Block B Sector- 29 Delhi/ December 15, 2021	August 30, 2021 Rs. 43,57,122/-	Delhi/ NCR
23.	Jatin Anand/ Tisha Anand/ LBDEL0000			



COVIDSafety

With the threat of a third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic looming over the country and amid fears that children may be affected the most this time, doctors have called for balancing safety and academics



Dealing with postpartum blues



A woman goes through a tough phase where she not only deals with just baby blues but many other

diseases and mastitis is one of them. DR SHELLY SINGH tells us about its complications, symptoms, risk factors and how to take care

Mastitis is an inflammation of breast tissue which is commonest in breast feeding women and may be associated with infection. This inflammation causes redness, wedge shaped swelling, warmth and breast pain.

It may cause flu-like symptoms too. Fever, chills and rigors are common. Mastitis can also occur in non lactating women and also in men. Sometimes there may be chronic mastitis and occasionally a rare form of cancer called inflammatory cancer may mimic mastitis in older women.

Causes: A blocked milk duct due to incomplete feeding can cause one of the milk ducts to get clogged. Bacteria entering these ducts due to cracked nipples, mostly from the baby's mouth can cause the same.

Risk factors: Previous bouts of mastitis when lactating, wearing too tight a bra, improper nursing techniques, poor nutrition, hygiene and smoking are risk factors.

Signs and symptoms: Pain in the breast, generally on one side, redness, swelling, a breast lump, general malaise or high grade temperature with chills.

Complications: There may be a collection of pus or an abscess that may be caused due to mastitis. This may then require surgical drainage.

Treatment: Most times your doctor can make a diagnosis on a physical examination. If there's pus discharge from the nipple signifying an abscess, it will require a culture of breast milk or nipple discharge.

Antibiotics, painkillers, hot compresses before completely emptying the breast and cold compresses after painful lactation, massaging the breast when feeding or pumping from the affected area towards the nipple are some of the tips in treatment.

Proper latching techniques and continuing to breastfeed even alongside mastitis helps. Breast feeding from the affected side first helps to empty the breast due to stronger suckling.

Proper rest and hydration also helps. Most times it resolves within days to a couple of weeks. If it does not, you must meet your doctor.

The writer is Senior Gynaecologist, Rosewalk Hospital, Panchsheel Park



Deceased donors are saviours

There is a huge need for organ donors in the country. However, there is an imbalance and the key reason is that less than 1 out of every 5 organ transplants are from deceased donors says, DR VIVEK KUTE

Organ transplantation involves the surgical removal of the organ/tissue from one person (the donor) and its placement in another (the recipient). It is often called the 'gift of life' since it saves the lives of the recipients who are affected by organ failure. Depending on the organ being harvested, the potential donor can either be alive or one who has died naturally or in an accident.

However, DDOT is impeded by the lack of awareness amongst the general population as well as the medical community. Also, there is widespread misinformation and hesitancy towards declaring or accepting brain stem death (in which the brain is non-functional and the person cannot regain consciousness or breathe without support).

This is especially important since only a few organs can be harvested from a donor who has died of natural causes, whereas a brain-dead donor can donate up to 8 different organs. Other challenges include the lack of adequate infrastructure (specifically in the government sector), specialised transportation for the organs and a national registry to facilitate data collation and organ allocation. Last but not the least, the prohibitive costs (transplantation costs are two times more in private vs. public sector hospitals) make the procedure inaccessible to the poor.

Improving DDOT awareness and implementation — potential solutions

DDOT can be improved by implementing a robust national policy for declaring brain death and making the donor pledge form legally binding. On the other hand, the potential donor's family can be supported by dedicated grief counselors to make the transition easier. Donors and their families can be honoured or initiatives such as a



Dr Vivek Kute Secretary, Indian society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT) and Councilor, The Transplantation Society (TTS) and Asian Society of Transplantation

tree-planting drive can be conducted in the donor's memory. Social support for cremation rituals can also be provided to acknowledge their contribution and to encourage others to pledge their organs similarly.

Cultural barriers to DDOT can be addressed via Information, Education and Communication (ICE) teams who can reach out to the general population with the help of health workers, social media, religious leaders and key opinion leaders to clear myths and

misconceptions about organ donation. Organ donation pledges can be linked to driving license applications and disseminated by caller tunes.

Medical hurdles in transplant hospitals can be supported by a dedicated transplant procurement manager and a multidisciplinary team who can identify potential donors and proactively recruit them by creating awareness. State-of-the-art donor care can be implemented with the rapid transport of organs to increase their viability. Key features from states with successful DDOT programmes can be enforced across the country. A 'One Nation One Policy' can be instituted for digital organ allocation to ensure a transparent system at the regional, state and national levels. A uniform data collation and management system can be applied to ensure that the right organ reaches the right recipient at the right time.

Making every effort count

Lastly, all stakeholders must be knit together by the government's policy which should aim for developing self-sufficiency in organ transplantation. Each link in the organ transplant chain—the donor, the non-transplant organ retrieval center, integrated organ allocation system, affordable care at transplantation units in hospitals—can be optimised to bridge this life-saving resource gap. This November 27, as our country observes Organ Donation Day, let us pledge to donate our organs to save lives even after we are gone and encourage others to do so too.

For TB elimination Direct Benefit Transfer is crucial

The disease heavily affects the most marginalised groups due to lack of awareness and stigma attached to it

Despite the availability of many schemes, Tuberculosis (TB) is still one of India's most pressing public health crises, with the highest incidence of 2.8 million cases annually, accounting for more than a quarter of the global TB burden. According to the India TB report 2020, around 3 lakh TB cases in India, were either undetected and untreated. TB heavily affects the most marginalised groups due to lack of awareness and stigma attached to the disease.

People with TB face many side-effects like nausea, loss of appetite and fatigue. Due to this, they need to have access to a nutritious diet, as under-nutrition weakens the body's ability to fight the disease. Hence, it is important to increase people's access to nutrition, and basic facilities like transportation for successful treatment.

To ensure this, the Government of India provides targeted benefits to people through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The government subsidy or benefit is transferred directly into the bank account of the beneficiary. There are four DBT schemes currently, namely- Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY), Incentives for private sector providers and informants, treatment supporters honorarium and transport support for TB patients in notified Tribal areas. The objective of the NPY is to provide nutritional support to TB patients during the course of their treatment. An amount of Rs. 500 is paid for each month of treatment.

There are organisations like Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) that are committed and working to increase people's access to these schemes under ongoing projects like Breaking the Barriers (BTB). There are multiple case stories of patients, like Mahesh (name changed) who needed access to nutritious food because of the side-effects faced due to the treatment process, and have found it difficult to access the DBT payment. KHPT's intervention has

assisted patients from vulnerable populations to link their bank accounts for access to these payments under the NPY. In Mahesh's case the team approached the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) team to ensure that Mahesh's bank account was linked to the NPY. Additionally, a free supply of the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) was provided to him, which helped him reduce his out-of-pocket expenses. Today, Mahesh is happy to receive the support, which he uses to buy food, and is on his way to recovery.



TB diagnosis can lead to social stigma which can worsen people's psycho-social health and make them more vulnerable to suffering from the disease. In the absence of support from the community and people around them, the physical, mental and emotional toll faced by them rises significantly. Another example is Rajan (name changed) whose only source of livelihood is agriculture. After being detected with TB, he faced financial constraints. In addition, nobody around him, his neighbours, or his son provided any support. The BTB

INBRIEF

i2u and Fairgaze join hands to distribute sanitary pads

Statistics shared by the National Family Health through their survey conducted in 2015-2016 highlights a major worry for all of us. The alarming statistics state only 36 per cent of women use sanitary pads. This means out of 336 million menstruating women only about 121 million women are using sanitary napkins, locally or commercially produced.

In India, more than 300 million women and girls rely on old clothes/rags. Unavailability of safe menstrual hygiene products like sanitary pads is a huge deterrent in creating period positivity, menstrual health awareness, and propagating hygiene practises.

With the intention to make sanitary pads accessible for women belonging to economically weaker sections of the society, i2u Social Foundation (a CSR support initiative working with NGOs) joined hands with FairGaze (a leading school media) to conduct multiple free sanitary pad distribution drives in the slum areas of Delhi and NCR.

The pad distribution drives were conducted under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme by UNICHRM and several NGOs came forward to help with the distribution. The drives benefited people from the underserved communities, Self Help Groups, daily wage labourers, and women and girls from economically weaker sections of the society.

DOCYARD

DR YPS RANA

Senior Consultant (Urology, Andrology & Renal Transplantation)

BLK- MAX SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL



Lifestyle changes coping Overactive Bladder



Overactive Bladder (OAB) is a condition that's inconvenient, embarrassing and is potentially debilitating but could be managed now. Although this condition can be treated, most patients do not seek treatment or consult doctors. OAB is characterized as a syndrome that causes an abrupt and unstoppable need to urinate.

If left untreated, OAB can negatively impact life by interfering in daily activities such as work, social activities, exercise, and sleep. The incidence of OAB symptoms increases with age. Older patients are less likely to discuss their OAB symptoms with their physician and are more likely to be untreated or undertreated.

To manage OAB, the first step is to make lifestyle changes. Sometimes these changes are called behavioural therapy. OAB can see big improvements by changing their lifestyle and daily routine. Avoiding bladder irritants such as coffee, tea, carbonated beverages and spicy food will also yield a significant symptom control.

Weak pelvic floor muscles may contribute to overactive bladder. Pelvic floor muscle exercise or Kegel exercise help reduce OAB symptoms by improving this muscular control on being able to hold back urine but can take a few weeks to show results. However, this needs consistency.

Both men and women can get OAB. It is an under-reported problem in our country. Therefore, the exact number of cases is not known. However, some studies mention that around 14 per cent men suffer

from OAB whereas around 12 per cent women have some type of urinary incontinence issue.

Older women who have gone through menopause and men who have had prostate problems are more likely to get OAB. People with diseases that affect the brain or spinal cord (nervous system), such as stroke and multiple sclerosis also get OAB. Growing older is a factor, but not all people get OAB as they age. Therefore, it shouldn't be considered as a normal part of aging.

Management of OAB involves an escalatory or stepping up the ladder approach. The basic and vital step revolves around self-management by behavioural and lifestyle changes. The next levels are: pills or oral medicines, progressing further to injections into the bladder wall, electrical stimulation of bladder-related nerves and finally, but very rarely, surgery.

As a further step, doctors might decide that oral medications are necessary to help manage the symptoms. Typically, these medications work by calming the overactivity of the muscle in the bladder wall, thereby reducing both frequency of and unwanted urges to urination. Often oral medications work better when combined with behavioural therapy.

If lifestyle changes and medicine aren't working, there are other treatment options like injections in the bladder or nerve stimulation techniques. In OAB, the nerve signals between bladder and brain, through the spinal cord, do not communicate correctly. Electrical pulses via nerve stimulation help set right these nerve signals to the bladder, so that it can function optimally and improve OAB symptoms. Only in very rare and serious cases is surgery to be used.

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are proven means of reducing severity of both symptoms and complications of OAB. So, don't delay getting help for your condition or discussing your concern with a family member if you suspect he or she may be struggling with OAB symptoms.

WARMFOOD

SPINACH: This leafy green vegetable is regarded as a superfood. It's due to the high nutritional value and low calorie content. This vegetable is also good for your skin, hair, and bones.



Some of the major health advantages of spinach include helping to regulate blood glucose levels, lowering your risk of developing cancer, preventing iron deficiency, and improving bone health.

In order to successfully use body energy, your body requires iron. You can boost your iron absorption by adding vitamin C foods to spinach, such as citrus fruits. Add spinach onto your weight loss diet and this will do you good.

It is believed to include 250 mg of calcium per cup, which can help keep your bones and teeth healthy. In

LEGACY ACROSS GENERATIONS

Kathak exponent PANDIT BIRJU MAHARAJ has tapped into technology to teach the nuances, elements and evolution of the dance tradition, says SAIMI SATTAR

The dance form of Kathak and the person of Pandit Birju Maharaj are synonymous with each other. An exponent of the Lucknow Kalka-Bindadin *gharana* of Kathak in India, he is a descendant of the Maharaj family of dancers, which includes his two uncles, Shambhu and Lachhu Maharaj as well as his father and guru, Achhan Maharaj. He is also a vocalist in Hindustani classical music.

After working along with his uncle, Shambhu Maharaj at Bhartiya Kala Kendra, later the Kathak Kendra, he opened his own dance school, Kalashram in Delhi.

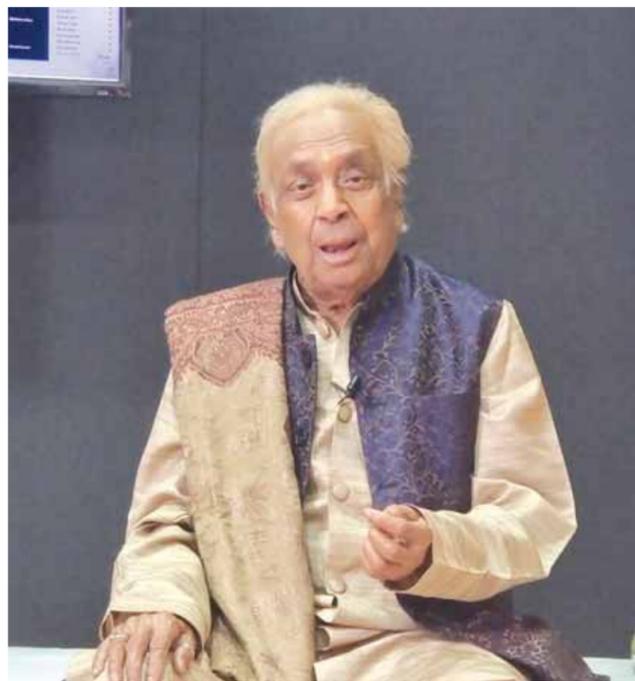
Recently, three generations — Pandit Birju Maharaj, Jain Kishan Maharaj (son), Deepak Maharaj (son), Mamta Maharaj (daughter) and Rajini Maharaj (granddaughter) — came together to perform Kathak along with *tabla* and harmonium in a live YouTube interactive programme across India. Students from across the country joined to be a part of this programme.

◆ **How have performing arts changed during the pandemic?**

Performing arts are one of the biggest sectors to be hit by Covid 19. Concerts of dance and music are dependent on gatherings of people in public places. With lockdowns in place and a restriction on the number of people gathering at venues, this segment has faced a major setback. Artists have suffered a lot during the pandemic as their livelihoods have been impacted by the complete suspension of concerts.

◆ **The guru *shishya* tradition and the devotion to art... Is that tough to find in today's time?**

Yes, it is tough. In our time, guru *shishya parampara* was the only way to learn art forms. *Sadhna*, single-minded and focussed devotion to the art form,



and the guru were the hallmarks of this tradition. Today things are more modernised and people do not have the time to do seven-eight hours of *riyaz*. Earning a livelihood, through art, is a bigger focus than learning the art form itself. That changes everything including the kind of time artists devote to learning and spending time with the guru.

◆ **You've been performing for decades and teaching since 13... What are the changes that you've witnessed?**

Besides what I have mentioned above, everything is now instant. As a result, artists also look at instant gratification and success. We waited years to get our due and to reach our goals. Today there is also more pressure due to social media and the need to stay relevant in a cluttered scenario.



◆ **You've been a part of two films *Shatrang ke Khiladi* and, more recently, *Devdas*... Would you say popular culture can increase the outreach of classical arts?**

Yes! Definitely. Bollywood is the biggest canvas in India and performing arts — such as classical dance forms and music and folk forms — tend to reach a much wider audience if showcased in movies.

◆ **Your message for people who want to pursue classical arts and do not have a background in it?**

It is a long journey and one that requires steadfast devotion, respect and passion. It is not for the faint-hearted or those who are in a hurry to become stars. But once you are into a classical art form, be it dance or music, you will be hooked forever. It is the most relaxing thing in

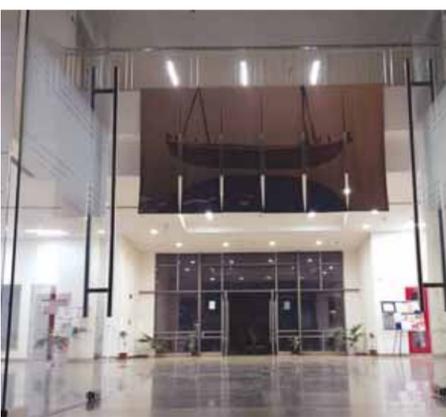
life and can be extremely satisfying to pursue just an art irrespective of success or failure.

◆ **How are your three generations coming together to guide new generations in cultural dance?**

Our *gharana* has always been involved in passing on the tradition and the *talim* (education) we learnt from our predecessors. That is the beauty of art. It spreads and becomes bigger and immortal through sharing. Even our younger generations have disciples and they pass on their knowledge and art to. My children, nephew and grandchildren are all dedicated to passing on the art form to future generations.

◆ **How has Routes2Roots brought your three generations together to guide students across India?**

The organisation has been doing great work in introducing the children of India to Indian classical art forms, be it dance, music, theatre, yoga... I was delighted when they came up with the idea of presenting three generations of our *gharana* to students to educate them on the nuances and elements of our tradition and how it has evolved with generations. Deepak, Ragini and I had a wonderful experience conducting this special master-class online. Although I had my apprehensions about online teaching five years ago when they were starting Virsa, I overcame those when I saw how effective their software has been in conducting two-way classes. It almost makes you forget you are in a virtual class, with children responding to you in real-time and following your instructions. And one cannot deny the massive numbers that can be reached simultaneously through the online platform. It's a great initiative and I am thankful to them for inviting me.



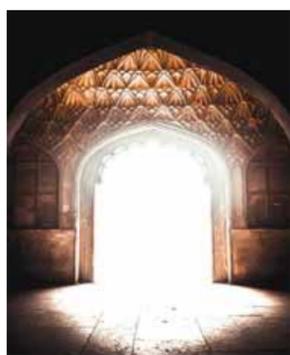
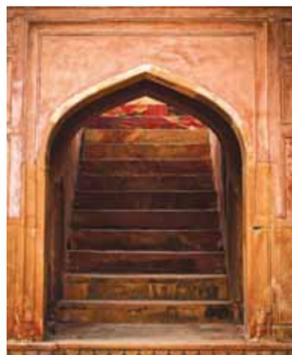
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) hosted its Third Delhi Digital Conclave (DDC) with the theme of Climate Action for a Sustainable Urban Future (DDC'21). Besides an online conclave on the theme, an art exhibition on climate change and the future of the planet was also organised, where local artists, Atul Bhalla, Ravi Aggarwal, Gigi Scaria, presented their work on the larger theme of ecology and environment. An illustrator from Madras, Aaireen Fathima, designed the 'graffiti' wall, wherein the organising team collected the hashtags related to the localised issues of climate action. It was set up at the R&D Building of IIIT-Delhi in collaboration with Aapti Institute, a research institution that studies the intersection between technology and society, in Bengaluru

Sunder Nursery's botanical beauty captures the minds and hearts of those who visit it to find their contemplative moments. In his quest for form, Manoj Arora seeks to unveil a certain elegiac moment of the simple veined vitality of a leaf in a monochromatic mooring of still life.

Arora's images create a well defined photographic aesthetic in which we glimpse an unravelling of a profound beauty of time in the prism of architectural ardour. In the shades and shadows of Delhi's monuments, caught in a time warp of history and memory, he gives us a meditation of form and nature. The Humayun's Tomb serves as an architectural backdrop with vignettes of the past weaving into the nuggets of present-day shadows, corners and crevices. The arched doorway and the stairs present their sonata into a symphony that has lyrical cadences. Colour is his vehicle as much as the luminosity of the moment. Arora has a prism of deeper understanding as he goes beyond to capture, within the mosaic of stone and light, Delhi's architectural monumentality in the limpid pools of luminosity.

REFLECTIVE REVERIE

MANOJ ARORA brings forth the substance and quintessence of Sunder Nursery in his photographs, says UMA NAIR



Within this search, we see an inherent abstraction that is laced with the imagery of an incandescent insignia of an abstract medley. Colour is his ally; it is the vehicle that drives his desire to hone a sumptuous aesthetic. Between Lodhi Garden and Humayun's Tomb, his odyssey is one of resonance in rhythmic realms. In the niches of Delhi's monuments, he encounters a countenance of strong light, hard edges and compelling contrasts. Influenced by the simplicity of Mughal art and the intricate carving of latticework on stone, he seems to revel in the magic of the pure form of things. "The camera should be used for a recording of life, for rendering the very substance and quintessence of the thing itself," said the great modernist Edward Weston. Arora brings alive those words in these six works. To move from the classic to the contemporary, through force of spirit and originality of style, he embraces something rarer, an instinctive minimal classicist with a magical gift for visual rhythm. He makes something insignificant — like an elegant frieze frame — a symbolic statement of the tapestry of time.

What can collectors look forward to?

People have undergone huge shifts in all aspects of their lives over the past two years. The world and its economy are still reeling in the after-effects of the pandemic. The auction market, however, has valiantly stood its ground and continued to stride Forward in the current year.

"The key support levels from the wider community of collectors have been critically important in helping the market endure a less severe contraction. The number of collectors has risen significantly owing to the progressive trajectory of the market. It has also fostered a secured environment for collectors to explore different avenues. Such insights contribute greatly to the overall business strategy of the industry as a whole. As such, we have been expanding our operations and hosting auctions across various segments such as vintage jewellery and silver, timepieces, rare books, vintage and classic cars, memorabilia and collectables," said Siddhanth Shetty, vice president, business strategy and operations, AstaGuru.

Shetty indicates two indicators of healthy market growth which are:

a) Inevitable expansion in auction categories and an increment in the number of lots presented in an auction.

b) Increase in the number of auctions conducted every year.

"Contemporary art is another avidly sought-after segment among buyers. The



standalone auction that we hosted this year in this category was our largest contemporary offering to date, featuring 120 lots. This was followed by our biggest Collectors Choice Auction in November this year. As opposed to an average of 100 lots which we generally feature in this auction format, our November edition featured 160 lots," he said.

"This surge in the number of lots is mainly attributed to the rising interest in modernist works among Collectors," said Shetty and added, "We end the year with Modern Indian Art main-sale, slated for December 27-28 featuring works by Indian Modern masters such as Jehangir Sabavala, Tyeb Mehta and Rameshwar Brooto to name a few. A substantial number of the presented lots will be making their auction debut this month." Over the years, the auction market has consolidated and strengthened its positioning among buyers from around the world. The commu-

nity of patrons and collectors continue to be on the rise with an increased awareness of the domain.

The continual upward progression of the market coupled with a positive buying sentiment has resulted in a strong footing for collectors and auctioneers alike. According to Shetty, it is highly plausible that 2022 will follow suit with bidders keen to acquire artworks with continued fervour and enthusiasm.

This month, a substantial portion of the lots presented will make their auction debut. The auction market's position among international buyers has been strengthened over the years.

With increased knowledge of the auction market, the community of collectors and patrons continues to grow. Both auctioneers and collectors have enjoyed a solid footing due to the steady upward trend of the market.

—IANS

TABLA MASTERCLASS

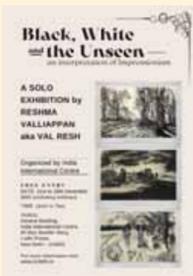
The Pink Lotus Academia, an online and offline tutorial platform focused on Indian classical art forms and yoga, is launching the first edition of the Master Class series with a tabla master class. The day-long class will be conducted by tabla maestro, Yashwant Rajendra Vaishnav at The Pink Lotus Academia. It will cover the basic aspects of Tabla playing, *bol-padhant*, *layakari* and nuances of playing the tabla solo, which will include *gat*, *kayda*, *rela*, *peshkar*, *tukda* and more. The classes will be in a hybrid form, which means they will be available in both online and offline format.

When: December 26, at 10 am IST.
Where: The Pink Lotus Academia, New Delhi and online.



BLACK, WHITE AND THE UNSEEN

An exhibition of charcoal sketches by Reshma Valliappan aka Val Resh which is an interpretation of Impressionism is being organised at IIC.
When: December 22-28
Where: Art Gallery, Kamaldevi Complex



DEVI

An exhibition focusing on the depiction of women as Devi or Goddesses as seen in folk and tribal art of India. On view are Goddesses in Kalighat, Madhubani, Mata ni Pachedi, Pichwai painting traditions; folk art paintings of Assam, Bengal, and Odisha and through the shadow puppets and wooden sculptures of Karnataka. It is curated by Seema Bhalla.

When: Till December 29
Where: Art Gallery, Kamaldevi Complex

SAMUEL BECKETT: SILENCE TO SILENCE

Seán O'Mórdha's documentary, *Samuel Beckett: Silence to Silence* brings together the man's life and work to offer glimpses of how the one flowed into the other. For those who haven't read much about the Nobel Prize winner, the documentary provides illuminating details of his childhood, school days and his war years with the French resistance; for admirers, there are tantalising snatches of his prose, poetry and inimitable plays.

Where: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ffM0TfGCY>



36TH ANNUAL DASTKARI HAAT

Dastkari Haat Samiti returns with the 36th Annual Dastkari Haat, the craft bazaar which is organised every year. At the confluence of artisans and master craftsmen from all parts of India visitors will see a ring of tableware, cooking vessels, table linen, baskets and trays. There will also be talks, demonstrations and workshops. Folk performances from Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat. Some of the crafts people involved in the theme are brass from Orissa, West Bengal; terracotta from Rajasthan; ceramic from UP, Maharashtra and Delhi; wood from West Bengal; baskets from West Bengal, UP, Jharkhand, table mats from West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat; block prints from AP and Rajasthan; ikkat from AP, ajrak printing from Gujarat and more.
When: January 1-15, 2022
Where: Dilli Haat, INA



Australia wins 2nd Ashes test by 275 runs to take 2-0 lead

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australia took a 2-0 lead in the five-test Ashes series on Monday by beating England by 275 runs and all but ensured the century-old urn will remain Down Under.

Set 468 runs to win, England was bowled out for 192 with 21 overs remaining on the final day of play in the day-night test at Adelaide Oval.

Jos Buttler (26) faced 207 deliveries for England before treading on his stumps to be out hit wicket in a losing cause.

"That's the attitude we have to harness through the whole game," England captain Joe Root said.

"The fight and attitude



was great today and we just have to do more of it."

Australia stand-in captain Steve Smith said England "showed some really good resistance and fight."

"We always felt (it would only take) a couple of balls, there was still plenty of time left. We just tried to stay calm," Smith said.

Only one team has come from 2-0 down to win an Ashes series: Don Bradman's Australians in 1936-37. As holders of the Ashes, Australia needs only to draw the next match.

Paceman Jhye Richardson took five wickets as Australia followed its nine-wicket triumph in the first test in Brisbane with another resounding win, its ninth consecutive win in day-night matches.

Meanwhile, Australia has named an unchanged 15-man squad for the remaining three Ashes tests.

Josh Hazlewood missed the Adelaide test because of a side strain. Fast bowler and captain Pat Cummins, a late scratch from the second test because he was a close contact of a COVID-19 case, will rejoin the squad on Thursday.

Hazlewood will need to prove his fitness in the Melbourne Cricket Ground nets to play the Boxing Day test starting Dec. 26. The fourth and fifth tests in Sydney and Hobart, respectively, are in January.

Under-pressure opener Marcus Harris, who averages 22.19 from 12 tests after scores of three and 23 in Adelaide, is expected to remain at the top of the order.



Plan for I-League champion side playing in ISL from 2023 remains intact: AIFF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The I-League champion side will play in the top-tier Indian Super League from 2023 onwards, All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kunal Das said on Monday.

Das said there is no deviation from the road map on Indian football's domestic structure drawn by the AIFF in 2019 after consultation with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

While granting ISL the top-tier status, the AIFF had said the I-League champions (of 2022-23 season) will play in the ISL 2023-24 season on "sporting" merit.

Two years after this, there will be promotion (from I-League to ISL) and relegation (from ISL and I-League) between the two leagues.

"There is a road map which kicks in from the season 2023-24 whereby the winner of the I-League (from 2022-23 season) on sporting merit will play in the ISL. There will be an increase in the number of teams in the ISL," Das said during a virtual press conference. "This will continue for two years and after that there will be clear process of relegation (from ISL to I-League) and promotion (from I-League to ISL). That has been the plan which has been agreed by all the stakeholders -- the ISL and I-League clubs, the AFC and the AIFF."

The I-League champions of 2022-23 playing in the ISL the following season is, however, subject to the club fulfilling the licensing criteria.

Das admitted that there are problems faced by the clubs, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, but all the stakeholders want to follow the road map.

"COVID-19 has been a big setback. There are problems, we realise that. A team like former champions Chennai City is not able to continue to play in I-League. We also know that there are some issues with the SC East Bengal playing in ISL.

"But at this point in time, the road map we have agreed with all the stakeholders remains. We are completely in sync with that plan. There is no reason to deviate from the plan," Das said at the interaction ahead of the I-League, beginning on December 26.

This year's I-League season will kick off in Kolkata with a match between TRAU FC of Manipur and AIFF's developmental side Indian Arrows.

Just like last year, the I-League will be held in a bio-secure environment with strict COVID-19 protocols.

New Zealand to return to Pakistan for 5 ODI, 5 T20 matches

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

New Zealand will make up for this year's abandoned tour of Pakistan by playing 10 white-ball matches in April 2023, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Monday.

New Zealand aborted its limited-overs tour to Pakistan in September due to security fears just before the toss in the first one-day international was due to take place at Rawalpindi. England followed the New Zealand decision by also abandoning its short tour to Pakistan just before the Twenty20 World Cup in October.

New Zealand's tour in April 2023 comprises five ODIs and five Twenty20s. Dates and venues have not been determined.

The PCB also said that New

Zealand will tour Pakistan in December 2022 to play two test matches as part of the World Test Championship and will also play three ODIs which will count towards qualification for the 2023 World Cup in India.

The PCB said the twin tours by New Zealand to Pakistan were finalized after successful negotiations between PCB chairman Ramiz Raja and his New Zealand Cricket counterpart, Martin Snedden.

"I am pleased with the outcomes of our discussions and negotiations, and thank Martin Snedden and his board for their understanding and support," Raja said.

NZC chief executive David White said heads of both cricket boards "had very fruitful and constructive discussions while in Dubai, further strength-



ening the bond between the two organizations."

Pakistan is now set to host Australia, West Indies, England and New Zealand between March 2022 and April 2023 for eight test matches, 14 ODIs and 13 Twenty20s.

International teams had mostly stayed away from Pakistan since an attack by Islamist militants on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in 2009 that killed six policemen and two civilians. That forced Pakistan's national teams to play "home" matches outside the country for more than six years.

Pakistan this month swept West Indies in a three-match T20 series. A three-match ODI series between the same sides was postponed to next June due to a coronavirus outbreak on the West Indies team.

Sindhu, Srikanth and Lakshya to headline India Open 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, reigning world championships runner-up Kidambi Srikanth and bronze winner Lakshya Sen will be the top draw at the 2022 India Open, scheduled from January 11-16 in the national capital.

The USD 400,000 prize money tournament, which will be held without spectators owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, is part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500.

Also headlining the tournament will be newly-crowned world champion Loh Kean Yew along.

Singapore's Yew, who created history in Huelva, Spain recently by becoming the first-ever unseeded player in the open era to win the world championships, will lead the international line-up



at the 2022 BWF season opener. Former world No. 1 Srikanth has been named the top seed in the men's singles category followed by the 2019 world championships bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth. Sen, the youngest Indian male shuttler to clinch a world championships medal, HS Pronnoy, Parupalli Kashyap and Sameer Verma are among the

other Indian participants alongside experienced Tommy Sugiarto from Indonesia.

World No. 7 Sindhu has been given the top seed in women's singles category which includes London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal, who lifted the title in 2015, alongside other young Indian shuttlers, including Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap and Ashmita Chaliha.

While among the top international participating names are world No. 12 Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand and Singapore's Jia Min Yeo.

The star Indian pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will be the key attraction in the men's doubles category. However, they are set to face a stiff competition as the line-up includes the three-time world champion and world No. 2

Indonesian duo of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan alongside another Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto, who are currently ranked eighth in the world.

In the women's doubles, the world No. 9 pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai from Thailand will be among the top names as Ashwini Ponappa and N Sikki Reddy will lead the Indian challenge alongside Gayatri P and Treesa Jolly.

The mixed doubles competition will also witness participation of three Top-20 pairs.

The 11th edition of the tournament, which is all set to make a return after a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be played at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall inside Indira Gandhi Stadium under strict COVID protocols.

Nadal positive for virus after returning from Abu Dhabi



AP ■ MADRID

Rafael Nadal tested positive for the coronavirus after playing in an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi, the Spaniard said Monday.

Nadal wrote on Twitter that the positive result came from a PCR test he took after arriving in Spain.

Nadal said he is enduring "unpleasant moments" but hopes to improve "little by little." He is in isolation at home and every-

one who has been in contact with him was informed of his positive result.

Among those possibly in contact with Nadal was Spain's former monarch, Juan Carlos I, who has been living in the United Arab Emirates since allegations of financial scandals swirled and embarrassed the Spanish royal household last year.

According to Spain's El Mundo newspaper, Nadal and Juan Carlos, who is 83, shared a meal before the player's match on Friday. The paper also published photos of both of them posing together without masks.

Nadal said he had been tested every two days while away and all results had come back negative, with the last one on Saturday.

Nadal said that as a consequence of the positive result he will have to be flexible with his playing schedule. He said he will analyze his upcoming options depending on his condition.

1st National Sports Assembly organised by IMT Ghaziabad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A large number of sports persons representing almost all Olympic Games that India participated so far, assembled at India Habitat Centre to participate in India's 1st National Sports Assembly organised by IMT Ghaziabad on Saturday to discuss revolutionise sports the way it is looked at today and visualised to transform the sports from grassroots level i.e from kindergarten to senior level.

Speaking on the occasion, former hockey player Ashok Kumar, son of legendary Dhyana Chand gave a call for developing sports culture in the country where everyone plays as without this kind of culture.

He said, "We cannot even think of either the welfare of sports or of the sports persons." "So far we have not been able to register huge success at the olympic stage as we have been lagging behind in medal tally despite a promising potential in several Olympic related games. We have a huge population and if sincere efforts are being made, then we deserve better than whatever we have been able to achieve," he further added.

Confident India start as overwhelming favourites against Japan in semifinal

PTI ■ DHAKA

Back to their best after a slow start, defending champions and Olympic bronze-medallist India would start as overwhelming favourites against Asian Games gold winner Japan in the semifinal of the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

The Manpreet Singh-led side's confidence must be sky high as they had thrashed Japan 6-0 in their last round-robin match and come Tuesday, India would definitely fancy another big win



en route to the title clash. Having said that, India will need to guard against complacency as any slip-

up could spoil all their hardwork.

India ended the round-robin stage of the five-nation tournament at the top of the standings with 10 points, ahead of Korea (6), Japan (5), Pakistan (5) and hosts Bangladesh (0).

But the start was far from ideal for India. Playing their first tournament after their historic Tokyo Olympics campaign, the Indians were held 2-2 by South Korea in their lung-opener before turning things around with a resounding 9-0 win over Bangladesh, followed by 3-1 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan and the thrashing

of Japan.

Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh has been a revelation not just at the back but from penalty corners as well, converting two against Japan on Sunday. And, he definitely will pose a big threat for the Japanese.

The Indian midfield is also being held together brilliantly by skipper Manpreet and Hardik Singh.

The forwardline of Dilpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Akashdeep Singh and Shamsher Singh too has shone bright in the tournament so far, scoring some fine field goals.

Indian Deaf Cricket Association thanks BCCI

New Delhi: The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) has thanked the BCCI for forming a committee for the differently-abled cricketers of the country, which has cleared the decks for them to compete under the Board's aegis.

The BCCI Apex Council had decided to recognise the Differently-abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) as the only body to promote cricket among physically challenged, deaf, blind and wheelchair participants in April.

Earlier this month, the Board approved the formation of a Differently-abled Cricket Committee (DACC), comprising Ravikant Chauhan, Sumit Jain, and Mahantesh Kivadasannavar, at its AGM.

Jain, the President of the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), praised the BCCI and in particular its Secretary Jay Shah for the move. **PTI**

Virus-hit Madrid held by Cádiz; record hat trick for Molina

AP ■ BARCELONA

Depleted by coronavirus infections, Real Madrid was held 0-0 at home by Cádiz in the Spanish league to end its 10-game winning streak across all competitions.

Jorge Molina struck three times in Granada's 4-1 win over Mallorca to become the oldest player — at 39 years and 241 days — to score a hat trick in the top five European leagues.

The stalemate against Cádiz leaves Madrid six points clear at the top. It came a day after second-place Sevilla cut into Madrid's lead by beating defending champion Atlético Madrid 2-1.

Carlo Ancelotti was without Luka Modric, Rodrygo, Marco Asensio, Gareth Bale, Marcelo,

and backup goalkeeper Andriy Lunin because of a COVID-19 outbreak. Modric's place in the starting 11 is unquestioned while forwards Rodrygo and Asensio share time in Ancelotti's rotation. Bale and Marcelo, once stars, are rarely used substitutes.

Cádiz, struggling in the relegation zone, frustrated Madrid by aligning nine players in two tight lines in front of its area. When Madrid did manage to work its way through, goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma was there to save the visitors.

"We succeeded in making it an ugly game," said Cádiz coach Álvaro Cervera.

Madrid went no closer than Federico Valverde's long-range strike which was parried by Ledesma midway through the



first half. Ledesma also did well to block Karim Benzema's late free kick.

"When you play against a team that shuts up shop, you need forwards who can go after crosses. And we don't have players like that," Ancelotti said. "I am not saying I don't want

Benzema on my team, I always do of course, but he is not that type of player."

Cádiz had upset Madrid last season when it won 1-0.

Substitute Álvaro Negredo came close to pulling off another surprise when Cádiz finally succeeded in launching a counterattack, only for the veteran striker to roll his strike wide.

The virus outbreak gave Eden Hazard a rare chance to play a complete match for Madrid.

The Belgium forward, who cost Madrid 100 million euros in 2019, hadn't started a match since September, when he was part of the lineup that was embarrassed 2-1 at home by Moldovan side Sheriff in the Champions League.

The former Chelsea star,

who has suffered multiple injuries since moving to Madrid, had a quiet first half. He managed a glancing header that Ledesma saved shortly after the restart.

OLDEST HAT TRICK

Molina is the oldest player to score a league hat trick in the top tiers of Spain, England, Germany, Italy and France, according to Opta.

The striker didn't debut in the first division until he was 29, but he then played long stints with Real Betis and Getafe before joining Granada last season.

"This only gives me even more reason to keep enjoying this sport," Molina said.

"I am motivated to keep going as long as my body holds up."