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# RANVEER FELT

the pioneer

NEW DELHI, MONDAY DECEMBER 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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# AFSPA withdrawal from India braces for 3rd wave; Nagaland: Panel named

Nagaland CS, DGP in committee chaired by MHA's Additional Secretary for NE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has agreed to set up a committee to look into a growing demand by protesters in Nagaland to withdraw the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the State. The decision was taken at a meeting between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nagaland Deputy CM Y Patton, and NPFLP leader TR Zeliang were present in the meeting held in Delhi on December 23

The new committee will be chaired by the Union Home Ministry's Additional Secretary for North East and include the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Nagaland. "The Committee will submit its report within 45 days and withdrawal of Disturbed Area and AFSPA from Nagaland will be based on the recommendations of the



committee," said a statement released by the Nagaland Government on Sunday. The representative of the CRPF will also be in the committee.

On November 20, the Nagaland Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution that demanding Government of India repeal the AFSPA from the region. Moving the resolution, Rio said for the last 20 years the State Government has been recommending that the controversial Act be removed and Nagaland taken off the list of areas declared "disturbed

A court of inquiry will initiate disciplinary proceedings against Army personnel who were directly involved in the killing of 14 civilians in a botched anti-terrorist operation earlier this month. The State Government will provide jobs to the next of kin of the deceased. The Nagaland delegation impressed on the Union Home Minister to replace the Assam Rifles unit in Mon with immediate effect, said the state

During the last weeks, Nagaland saw massive protests to protest against the AFSPA after the killing of civilians by security forces in Mon district on December 4-5

Normal life has remained affected in many parts of Nagaland as tribal bodies and student organisations observed bandh and protest to press for repeal of the AFSPA.

The AFSPA, which was enacted in 1958 by Parliament, grants special powers to the armed forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".

# Mumbai, Delhi see surge

### **Mumbai records** 922 Covid-19 cases, Delhi 290

PNS NEW DELHI

Mumbai and Delhi, the two cities which bore the brunt of the second Covid-19 wave, are once again seeing sharp spike in the number of cases as India braces up for Omicron-driven third wave.

Mumbai on Sunday registered 922 fresh cases of Covid-19, a rise of about 200 infections in 24 hours. The Maharashtra capital also reported two related deaths, pushing the total fatality count to 16,370. A day ago, Mumbai reported 731 cases but no death due to the virus

Mumbai also recorded 27 of the 31 new cases of the highly contagious Omicron variant of the virus registered across the State. Maharashtra is currently the top contributor of the new strain with 141 cases.

According to data made available by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the country's financial capital has 4,295 active coronavirus cases at the moment. Also, 326 patients recovered from the viral disease taking the cumulative recoveries to



Mumbai recorded 27 of the 31 new cases of the highly contagious Omicron variant registered across the State.

Meanwhile, Delhi on Sunday reported 290 new Covid-19 cases and one fatality, while the positivity rate rose to 0.55 per cent, according to data shared by the Delhi

Government's health department. With this, the cumulative tally rose to 14,43,352 while the death toll rose to 25,105. The number of active cases stands at 1,103, of which 583 patients are in home isolation. There has been an uptick in the number of cases in the last few days. amid a threat of the Omicron variant of the virus.

### **Night curfew** in Delhi as +vity 0.5%

The Delhi Government announced on Sunday that night curfew will be imposed in the national Capital from December 27 (Monday). As the positivity rate has crossed 0.5 mark, according to the Delhi Health Covid -19 bul-

The night curfew will start from 11 pm and end at 5 am. The Covid -19 caseload is

increasing in Delhi with 290 fresh Covid -19 cases and one death reported on Sunday.

"It was decided in a highlevel meeting today that a night curfew needs to be reinstated in the city to stop the spread of Covid. This will come into force on Monday night between 11 pm and 5 am," a

Delhi Government official said According to the Graded Response Action Plan, which the Government finalised in July and August this year, a slew of measures is supposed to come in if the positivity rate remains above 0.5 per cent for

two consecutive days.

Continued on Page 2

# Govt won't bring back farm laws, says Tomar

Aday after his comments On farm laws triggered a political storm, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra fied that the Government was not planning to bring back the farm laws that were recently repealed, adding that the Congress is spreading rumours to cover up its own failures.

In a tweet on Sunday, Tomar said the Government had no plans to bring back the laws. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had decided to withdraw the agricultural reform laws to "keep the hon-

our of the farmers" The Minister also mentioned that his statements on this issue made during his address (at an agri event at Nagpur, Maharashtra) has been misinterpreted and said his intention was not that is being

"I had said (at that event) we have taken a step back on the farm laws but the Government will always move ahead to work towards the

**Cong trying to** spread canards, slams Union Agri Minister



any misunderstanding on this issue and the Government has no intention to bring back the farm laws again," Tomar said. He said the Congress is

sowing confusion "to cover up its failures" and "farmers should beware of this". He also said the Swaminathan Committee report that came in 2006 was not implemented by the

ngress Government. While speaking at an event on Friday in Nagpur, Tomar hinted that the farm reforms could be reintroduced drawing sharp criticism from the Opposition. The Congress has accused the Centre of hatching a conspiracy to bring back the three repealed farm laws after the next round of Assembly

polls. Reacting sharply, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the country's Agriculture Minister has "insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's apology to farmers," adding that protests will start again if the Modi Government takes any anti-farmer step.

Congress media incharge R S Surjewala said the party had always suspected the intent of the PM.

On November 19, while apologising to the country, announced his Government will withdraw the three laws, against which farmers were protesting at the borders of the national Capital and other parts of the country for over a year. On November 29, both houses of Parliament passed the farm laws repeal Bill.

### SC: Family members of husband often harassed in matrimonial disputes

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a man and a woman in a dowry harassment case noting that time and the husband are being made accused in matrimonial disputes by making casual refer-

ence to them in the FIR. A bench of justices R Subhash Reddy and Hrishikesh Roy set aside an order of the Allahabad High Court which directed the victim's brother-inlaw and mother-in-law, accused in a dowry death case, to surrender and apply for a grant of

"It is held that a large number of family members are shown in the FIR by casually mentioning their names and the contents do not disclose their active involvement, as such, taking cognisance of the matter against them was not justified. It is further held that taking cognisance in such type of cases results in abuse of judicial process," the bench

The top court said that a perusal of the complaint filed



by the father of the deceased, pursuant to which a crime was registered, does not indicate any specific allegations by dis-closing the involvement of the

accused. "Even in the statement of 2nd respondent (father) recorded by the police and also in the final report, except omnibus and vague allegations, there is no specific allegation against the appellants to show their involvement for the

offences alleged.
"This Court, time and again, has noticed making the family members of the husband as accused by making casual reference to them in matrimonial disputes," the bench said in a recent order.

Continued on Page 2

# Gap between 2nd Covid vaccine shot and booster likely to be 9-12 months

### Govt's move to vaccinate kids termed unscientific

PNS NEW DELHI

The gap between the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine and the third, which is being called a "precaution dose", is likely to be nine to 12 months.

According to officials, the nitty-gritty of the gap for the vaccines currently being used in India's inoculation programme Covishield and Covaxin is being worked out, and a final decision over this will be taken soon.

The gap between the second and the precautionary dose of Covid vaccine is likely to be nine to 12 months with the immunisation division and the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) discussing on these lines," officials

said. Meanwhile, a senior epi-



demiologist at AIIMS who is the principal investigator of Covaxin trials for adults and children at the institute on Sunday termed the Centre's decision to vaccinate children against Covid "unscientific" and said it will not yield any additional benefit.

Dr Sanjay K Rai, a senior epidemiologist at AIIMS, who is also the president of the Indian Public Health Association, said before implementing the decision, data from countries that have already started vaccinating children should be analysed.

"I am a great fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his selfless service to the nation and taking right decisions at right time. But I am completely disappointed with his unsci-

Drop obscene dance in madhuban

entific decision on children vaccination," Rai said in a tweet tagging the Prime Minister's Office.

In a televised address to the nation on Saturday night, Modi announced that vaccination between 15-18 years will start from January 3, while "pre-caution dose" for healthcare and frontline workers would be administered from January 10. The decisions came amid rising Covid cases linked to the Omicron variant of the virus. Modi said the precaution dose will also be available for citizens above 60 years of age and with comorbidities on the advice of their doctor from 10 January

next year as well. Elaborating his viewpoint, Rai said there should be a clear-cut objective of any intervention. The objective is to either prevent coronavirus

infection or severity or death. "But according to whatever knowledge we have about vaccines, they are unable to make a significant dent in the infection. In some countries,

people are getting infected even after taking booster shots. Continued on Page 2

### welfare of the farmers. **CAPSULE**

KATHUA RAPE-MURDER: 2 CONVICTS GET BAIL Jammu/New Delhi: The parents

of an eight-year-old nomad girl, who was brutally raped and murdered in Kathua district of Jammu, are anguished that while their appeal for enhancement of sentence against six people remains unheard, two convicts were released on bail in the

### JESUS CHRIST STATUE RUINED IN AMBALA

Ambala: A statue of Jesus Christ at the entrance gate of a church in Ambala was allegedly vandalised by some unidentified people, police said on Sunday.

### 'I AM 24 'CARAT CONGRESSMAN

Jammu: Ghulam Nabi Azad Sunday ended speculation about his possible exit from the party, calling himself a "24 Carat Congressman"

## Women join Priyanka in *Ladki* hoon, lad sakti hoon campaign

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA

**▼**n a major boost to Congress Ileader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's women-centred "Ladki hoon, lad sakti hoon (I'm a girl and can fight)" campaign in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, thousands of women defied the district administration order and turned up for the marathon organised by the party here on Sunday.

The Congress which shared videos on Twitter and other social media platforms showed large gatherings in Lucknow and Jhansi despite the district authorities denying permission for the marathon citing the rising cases of Omicron strain. In Jhansi, the girls refused to return and the police did not allow them to attacked Chief Minister Yogi



did not have a problem when lakh of students flouted Covid protocols during Government programme where laptops were distributed, then why now," a woman is heard saying in a video posted by the Congress on Twitter. Adityanath on the issue and even staged a demonstration outside Lucknow police commissioners' residence on Saturday night demanding permission for the marathon. However, local adminis-

tration used force and even arrested several Congress leaders, including district president Ved Prakash Singh and others. According to Singh, the marathon will now be held at Ekana Stadium on Tuesday.

To be noted, the Congress has announced a scooty for the first three winners in both the marathons, and those coming fourth to 25th will be presented with a smart phone. The next 100 were to be given fitness bands, while the next 1,000 women were to get medals, the party said.

conscience. Continued on Page 2

### **Desmond Tutu**, anti-apartheid icon of S Africa passes away



Johannesburg: Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning icon, an uncompromising foe of the country's past racist policy of apartheid and a modern-day activist for racial justice and LGBT rights, died Sunday at 90. South Africans, world leaders and people around the globe mourned the death of the man

viewed as the country's moral

### mein..., MP Min warns filmmaker Saregama agrees to change lyrics



Objecting to the "obscene" dance by Bollywood star Sunny Leone in a music video in a song "madhuban mein Radhika naache" from the 1960 film Kohinoor, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has given the star and music composer Saqib Toshi three days to remove the music video.

Mishra — who added Leone to a growing list of brands and artistic content he **Detailed report on P8** deems objectionable and has



has claimed the video that accompanies the song hurts Hindu sentiments. While talking to the media

here on Sunday, he said, "Some people continuously hurt Hindu sentiments... there are temples for Radha... we pray to her. Toshi can make songs concerning his religion, but such songs offend us. I will take legal advice and action will be taken if the video is not taken down in three days."

released by Saregama Music on Wednesday and features Leone dancing to the song — viewed by some as describing the love between Krishna and Radha that has been sung by Kanika Kapoor and Arindam Chakraborty. Later in the day, following Mishra's warning to Leone and the singers of the recently

The song in question was

released music Madhuban, music label Saregama said on Sunday the company will change the lyrics. In light of the recent feedback and respecting the senti-ments of our fellow country-

men, we will be changing the lyrics and the name of the song Madhuban," it said, adding that the new song will replace the old one across all platforms over the next three days.

# Nagaland civilians' killing: **Shah lied in Houses: Cong**

Cong demands his resignation, setting up of enquiry commission

PNS NEW DELHI

Presenting its report on the killing of 14 civilians at Oting village, Mon District of Nagaland, Congress on Sunday accused Home Minister Amit Shah of lying in Parliament as the incident recounted by Shah was vastly different from the

The Congress demanded his immediate resignation and setting up an inquiry commission under a judge of the Gauhati High Court.

Presenting a fact-finding report, party's in-charge for Nagaland Ajoy Kumar said not a single Cabinet Minister of Narendra

Government visited the site of the dreadful incident. "The Home Minister, instead of visiting the spot and conveying his condolences to the people of Nagaland, went to Jaipur to address political rallies and try his hand at destabilising the Ashok Gehlot government.

When he was supposed to go to the east, he went west just to serve his political purpose," Kumar said.

Congress had sent a fourmember team comprising Kumar, Jitendra Singh, Gaurav Gogoi and Anto Antony.He said the government behaviour in response to the December 4 killings is just another example of the step-motherly treatment meted out to the northeastern

Kumar said the Home Minister had told Parliament that when the para-commandos of the Army signalled the vehicle they suspected was carrying the insurgents to stop, it tried to flee. In the ensuing encounter, six of the eight occupants of the vehicle were

A Minister in the Nagaland overnment and State BJP chief have contradicted his statement, he said."The vehicle carrying the miners did not try to flee. In fact, there was no warning from the para commandos," Kumar said. The incident, he said, shows the heavyhanded approach of the Minister who only a few days back was making tall claims of the northeast having returned to peace under the Modi government.

"The Naga peace process is in shambles and people are suffering from the extortion tax imposed by various militant outfits."Kumar said the State government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to families of the

The Centre has not announced or promised any compensation, he said. The Congress has demanded that the families of all deceased should be given Rs 1 crore and those who were injured Rs 10 lakh.

**New Delhi:** The TMC and the AAP are "fracturing" the non-BJP vote in Goa, senior Congress leader Chidambaram said on Sunday and asserted that only his party has the capacity to defeat the

Chidambaram, who is the Congress' senior election observer for the Goa Assembly polls, also said that loyalty to the party and the electorate is the first criterion for selecting candidates for the elections and expressed confidence that when elected, they will remain loyal to both the party as well

as the electorate.

His remarks come days after the party's state working president, Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, resigned as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, reducing the party's strength to two in the 40member House. Lourenco has joined the TMC.

Earlier this month, former Goa chief minister Ravi Naik resigned as Congress MLA. A few months back, ex-CM Luizinho Faleiro had also quit the Congress and joined the

Trinamool Congress (TMC). In an interview with PTI,

TMC, AAP damaging non-BJP votes in Goa: Cong

Chidambaram said the only party that has deep roots in all the 40 constituencies of Goa is the Congress and the people know that it is only the Congress that has the capacity to defeat the BJP despite the latter's "money power and misuse of state power". Asked about the recent

resignations from the Congress with some quitting to join the TMC, including Lourenco, and the Mamata Banerjee-led outfit adopting an aggressive pitch in the state, Chidambaram said it is not for him to comment on the motive or strategy of any party, and stressed that only two Congress MLAs have joined the TMC.

"Ninety nine per cent of Congress workers remain with the Congress. I am not unhappy that Mr Reginaldo Lourenco defected to the TMC. The TMC has taken a losing candidate from our hands and, if it fields him in the election, he will remain a losing candidate, the former Union minister

The Congress workers and the voters of Curtorim constituency are determined to

Chidambaram said.

Asked whether he believes that the TMC is helping the BJP and the Mamata Banerjee-led party along with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were acting as the BJP's B-teams, Chidambaram said, "I do not comment on the motives of any party. In a straight fight between the BJP and the Congress in 2022, the Congress

will emerge as a clear winner."
"The TMC and AAP are fracturing the non-BJP vote. Whether that will benefit the BJP, I cannot say," he said.

On whether the Congress would announce a chief ministerial face ahead of polls, Chidambaram pointed out that he has said that after all the Congress candidates are announced, in consultation with them, "we will take a call whether it is desirable to announce a CM candidate before the election". That option is open, he added.

Talking about the poll preparations and the Congress' standing in Goa, he said the Congress' slide took place in 2017 and 2019 when its elected MLAs defected to the BJP.

The BJP government in

Goa is a government "of defectors, by defectors and for defectors", Chidambaram alleged.

The BJP has ruled for 10 years and ruined Goa, especially its economy, environment and ethos, he said.

"There is an overwhelming desire for change. The only party that has deep roots in all the 40 constituencies of Goa is the Congress.

The people know that it is only the Congress that has the capacity to defeat the BJP despite the latter's money power and misuse of state power. We hope to do well in elections, the 2022 Chidambaram said.

Asked about the possibility of an exodus of party's elected leaders following the elections, he said, "Nothing of that sort will happen.

We have placed the responsibility of suggesting names of potential candidates on the Block Congress Committees and the Block workers. We have asked them to recommend names based on loyalty, integrity, acceptability to the Congress workers and winnability among the electorate."

Loyalty to the party and the

"We will pick a candidate from among the names suggested by the Block Congress Committee of the constituency. We are confident that our candidates, when elected, will remain loyal to the party and

the electorate," he said. On the possibility of alliances, Chidambaram said, "I have found that, in Goa, it is a practice among political parties to talk to each other right up to

the elections — and even after the elections!" "Our Goa PCC leaders have responded to suggestions for talks from other parties including the Goa Forward

Party. There are opportunities, risks and bumps. The AICC leadership will take the final decisions," he said.

The Congress had released its first list of eight candidates for the upcoming assembly elections in Goa last week, fielding former chief minister Digamber Kamat from the Margao constituency.

The Congress this week also named Pratapsingh Rane, 82, as the party's candidate from Goa's Poriem assembly seat.

sakti hain' and protested against

# Need to bring back Covid curbs in Kolkata: Experts Women...

Kolkata: A day after the city saw huge crowds of mid-night revellers thronging the eastern metropolis's busy Park Street to celebrate Christmas, health experts and doctors cautioned the state government against allowing more such gatherings especially during the New Year festivities, pointing to the rising number of Covid cases in the country and emergent threat from a more virulent Omicron strain.

Experts pointed out that the state authorities which had earned kudos for managing crowds during Durga Puja two months back, should not have relaxed their guard during the Christmas festival which is also a popular festive occasion given the fact that people are suffering from "Covid fatigue" and were likely to dispel with safety norms.

Virologists and public health experts felt an urgent clampdown is needed to avoid a repeat of such mass gatherings with Covid inappropriate behaviour during the New Year

"It seems the administration failed last night. There has to be a strict approach given that there are expectations of a surge in COVID cases especially with the advent of the Omicron variant. We expected the government as well as common people to be more respon-Sanjib Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor of Burdwan Medical

College, who has been handling

COVID cases told PTI. Such revelry, throwing Covid safety protocols to the winds, would give a big push to the number of daily Covid-19 infections, he believed. India reported some 6,987 fresh Covid cases on Saturday with West Bengal accounting for 552 cases.

Beliaghata ID hospital Principal Dr Anima Haldar also held the government and the police administration responsible for letting people gather in such large number on Christmas night in Park Street.

"The government must should have adopted a stricter attitude. The Delhi state government has successfully done so, we could have easily replicated that," Dr Halder said.

The state government has

relaxed night curfew restrictions for nine days during the Christmas and New Year festive season. Not only did large crowds surge through the central business district of Park Street, most clubs and hotels

entertainments.

Observers said the state government's move to relax curfew norms which had forbidden travel after 11 pm was "good for business" but "bad for public health" as the number of gatherings were bound to go up given the fact that people living through two years of strictly enforced Covid norms were suffering from "Covid fatigue"

and wished to socialise

"The euphoria witnessed at Park Street by gathering of crowd during Christmas night can have far flung repercussion. We all know gatherings with Covid19 inappropriate behavior causes surge of cases," Dr had full houses during Subhrojyoti Bhowmick MD Christmas lunches and evening (Pharmacology) of Peerless

Hospital said.

One of Kolkata's top rheumatologist Dr Syamasis Bandyopadhyay, however, blamed people who seemed to believe the danger from the pandemic has ended.

"Celebration should be coupled with wisdom ... You cannot expect everything from the government. If such a large number of people start gathering what the police administration can do, he said. **PTI** the politically crucial state,

From page 1

Congress' campaign this year has seen growing prominence for women-centric efforts as the assembly elections approach in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress, which has been reduced to a virtual nonplayer in the past few elections in the state, has been focusing on gender equality in the state where multiple crimes against women have been reported in the last few years.

Some of these cases -including the gangrape of a Dalit woman in Hathras, and the case in Unnao -- made headlines and provoked outrage across the country. The BJP has also launched a number of schemes for women in

while Samajwadi Party has also tried to highlight its initiatives for women during the regimes of both Akhilesh Yadav and his father and party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Meanwhile, a group of girls that were attending a marathoncum-rally of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi at Jhansi shocked Party leaders and chanted Modi-Modi and Yogi-Yogi. Several videos of the girls raising slogans favouring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Congress's rally went viral on social media platforms. Sources said that Congress workers misbehaved with the girls that led to the chants of Modi-Yogi at the

rally.
"These pictures are of Priyanka Gandhi's Marathon in Jhansi! When Congressmen misbehaved with them, the girls told them 'Ladki hain lad

Congress by raising slogans Modi-Modi, Yogi-Yogi." Notably, "Ladki hun lad sakti hun (I am a girl, I can fight)" is a political slogan Priyanka Gandhi is using in her UP campaign. It is noteworthy that a BJP leader shared a video where the girls were seen being trashed. She wrote, "On one hand, @priyankagandhi Ji, you raise slogans of women empowerment, and on the other hand, your workers beat up girls in your program!! Very shameful incident!!" A man could be seen snatching some bands from the girls in the video. Apparently, tens of thousands of girls were called to participate in the 'Ladki Hoon Lad Sakti Hoon' marathon where Congress workers reportedly misbehaved with the participants who chanted Modi and Yogi slogans.



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G-20647/21

पहला डोज़ रक्षा-दूसरा डोज़ पूर्ण सुरक्षा

उप् संचालक उद्योग कृते उद्योग आयुक्त

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, ड्रेनेज मण्डल, गाजियाबाद

### सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ०प्र०, विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना सख्या-07 / एस.ई. / 2021-22

महामहिमराज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविद (https://etender.up.nic.in)सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश मे वर्गीकृत श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 06.01.2022 को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की प्री– क्वालिफिकेशन / टेक्निकल बिड अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, ड्रेनेज मण्डल गाजियाबाद के कार्यालय में मुख्य अभियन्ता (यमुना) ओखल द्वारा गठित समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा दिनांक 06.01.2022 को अपरान्ह 3:30 बजे खोली जाऐगी, इसके अगले कार्यदिवस में, यदि इस सम्बन्ध मे कोई आपत्ति हो तो, इस कार्यालय में आपत्ति प्राप्त की जायेंगी। प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन / टेक्निकल बिड मे क्वालिफाईंड पाये गये ठेकेदारों की ही फाईनेन्शियल बिड खोली जायेगी। कार्यालय बन्द होन अथवा अवकाश होने की दशा में यह निविदा अगले कार्यदिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी। अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा

दिनांक 31.12.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 06.01.2022 को अपरान्ह. 3:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड

की जा सकती है। कार्य का विवरण निम्नवत् है :–							
新0	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (बिना जी. एस.टी. लाख रू०)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रू०)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	सम्बन्धित खण्डीय कार्यालय का नाम	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य + जी.एस.टी. (रू०)	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
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	जनपद गौतमबुद्धनगर में ग्राम—गुलावली एवं याकूतपुर के निकट यमुना नदी के बाये किनारे पर हिण्डन— यमुना दोआव बन्ध के किमी 25.800से किमी. 25.900 के मध्य कटाव निरोधक कार्य (01 नग स्टोन स्टड एवं 02 नग परवयूपाईन स्टड के निर्माण का कार्य)।	130.00	2.60	04 माह	अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सिंचाई निर्माण खण्ड गाजियाबाद	800+144 =₹0 944	"ए" एवं उच्च तर

विस्तृत अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना का विवरण एवं नियम व शर्तें उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की वेबसाईट (http://:upgovt.up.nic/infotech) तथा सिंचाई विभाग की वेबसाईट की(http://:www.idup.gov.in) पर उपलब है। ये निविदा सूचना परियोजना की स्वीकृति एवं धनावंटन की प्रत्याशा में की जा रही है। इसे बिना किसी पू सूचना के निरस्त किया जा सकता है, इसके लिए किसी प्रकार का कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

www.upgov.nic.in उ०प्र० 172885 दिनांक 25.12.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।



People ride boats in the Yamuna river as seagulls fly near them at Yamuna Ghat in New Delhi on Sunday

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI **DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHILD PROTECTION UNIT** 1st FLOOR. ISBT BUILDING. KASHMERE GATE **DELHI-110006** 

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRPERSONS AND MEMBERS OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS SOCIAL WORKER of JUVENILE JUSTICE **BOARDS IN NCT OF DELHI.** 

Department of Women and Child Development published an advertisement on dated 27.07.2021 to fill up vacancies in Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards, against which applications were received. In due course of time more vacancies have arisen. The Department is also in the process of constituting new Child Welfare Committee and new Juvenile Justice Boards

Thus, Online Applications are invited for the Honorary posts of 03 Chairpersons and 17 Members of Child Welfare Committee as per Section 27 of Juvenile Justice Act. 2015 and Rules 15 (3) and 10 Member Social Workers of Juvenile Justice Boards as per Section 4 of Juvenile Justice Act and Rule 4, 5 & Rule 88 of Juvenile Justice Model Rules. 2016 in NCT of Delhi, to fill up existing vacancies and

The applications shall be accepted w.e.f 27.12.2021 to 10.01.2022 After scrutiny the list of shortlisted candidates with relevant expenence suited for the said positions shall be displayed on the website of the Department with schedule of interview Applicants are advised to refer to the Department's website <u>www.wcddel.in</u> for detailed terms of reference/ eligibility criteria and refer to link as given in Department's website for applying online. Candidates are also advised to see the Department's Website/ Notice Board on regular basis for any other update in this regard while the

Note:- No other mode of applications except online shall be entertained by the Department. The Department also reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of vacancies at any

The applicants who have applied for the post of Chairperson/Members of Child Welfare Committees and Member Social Workers of Juvenile Justice Boards against previous advertisement of Department dated 27.07.2021 need not apply again. Any change in update in status may be communicated through separate mail sent to scpsdelhi@gmail.com.

DIP/Shabdarth/0522/21-22

Special Secretary cum Director (WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT)

### SC: Family members of husband...

From Page 1

The apex court said though there is an allegation of causing injuries, there are no other external injuries noticed the single ante-mortem injury i.E. Ligature mark around the neck, and the cause of death is shown as asphyxia.

"Having regard to the case of the appellants and the material placed on record, we are of the considered view that except vague and bald allegations against the appellants, there are no specific allegations disclosing the involvement of the appellants to pros-

ecute them for the offences alleged," the bench said.

The father of the deceased had lodged a complaint on July 25, 2018 at police station Kotwali in Gorakhpur that husband, brother-in-law, sister-inlaw and mother-in-law of her younger daughter continuously used to demand a four-wheeler vehicle and Rs 10 lakh

in cash as dowry It is alleged that as the said demands were not met, they used to beat his daughter and threatened to kill

It is, further, alleged that ten all the accused with a common intention had severely beaten up his daughter and threatened to kill, if the demands of the dowry of cash and car

On July 24, 2018 at about 8 PM, the accused with a common intention beat his daughter, killed her by putting a noose around her neck and

## Gap between 2nd Covid...

"Also, 50,000 breakthrough infections are being reported per day in the UK. So this proves that vaccination is not preventing coronavirus infection but vaccines are effective in preventing severity and death," Rai said.

He said mortality due to Covid-19 in susceptible populations is around 1.5 per cent, which means 15,000 deaths per million population. "Through vaccination, we can prevent 80-90 per cent of these deaths, which means that 13,000 to 14,000 deaths per million (population) can be prevented," he added.

Serious adverse events following immunisation are between 10 to 15 per million population, Rai said.

So, if you do the risk and benefit analysis in adults, it is a huge benefit," he said. In the case of children, he said, the severity of infection is very low and according to data available in the public domain, only two deaths per million population have been reported.

"In this section (children), 15,000 (people) are not dying and keeping in mind the adverse effects also, if you do the risk and benefit analysis, then the risk is more than the benefits based on the available data," Rai explained.

### **Night curfew in** Delhi as +vity...

From Page 1

Apprehensions are also that if Monday's positivity rate also remains above 0.5 per cent, measures under yellow alert can be implemented aiming to contain spread of the virus.

Under this, shops in markets and malls dealing with non-essential goods and services will be allowed to open as per the odd-even formula from 10 am to 8 pm, while one weekly market will be allowed per municipal zone at half the vendor capacity.

Restaurants can operate at 50 per cent capacity from 8 am to 10 pm, bars from 12-10 pm, also at 50 per cent capacity. Delhi Metro and buses will be allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity. Delhi Government offices can call 100 per cent grade I officers, while private firms will be allowed to call 50 per cent of staff between 9 am and 5 pm.

Besides this, cinemas, banquet

halls, auditoriums, spas, gyms and entertainment parks, gyms and yoga centres will also be shut. There will be a complete ban on social/entertainment/religious/political/festival-related gatherings. Sports complexes, stadiums (except national/international sports events), entertainment parks will be shut.

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# **DU** to charge more from students as grants dry

University has decided to increase the annual university development fee charged from students in view of reduction in capital grants by the UGC, according to official documents.

This move will lead to a steep hike in fee of students, a section of teachers said.

The university development fee (UDF) is a component of the annual fees charged from stu-

The varsity had constituted a university development fund committee to consider allocation of funds for various activities like construction of new buildings and procurement of laboratory

At present, the university is receiving only ₹ 600 per student per year as UDF contribution which was implemented from the academic year 2012-13," the panel said.

Keeping in view the fund requirement as well as government mandate for self sufficiency and reduction of capital grants by UGC (University Grants Commission) as well as for creation of ICT (information and communications) enabled infrastructure, the UDF amount should be revised to ₹900 per



student per year," it said.

The committee's recommendations were accepted in the varsity's Executive Council meeting held on December 17 despite dissent by a few members. The committee, comprising former pro-vice chancellor PC Joshi and registrar Vikas Gupta, said that the UGC is not releasing sufficient capital grant to the university for laboratory equipment and other equipment for the last three to four years, and in the current financial year allocated ₹1.25 crore.

With this very small amount, the university is not able to purchase even a single laboratory equipment for departments. The departments are regularly pursuing for providing funds for replacement/purchase of laboratory equipment for academic and other research activities," the

sive deliberations approved for allocation of an amount of ₹ 52 crore for purchase/replacement of laboratory equipment of different departments, after exhausting all available resources. The vice chancellor may be requested to constitute a committee for allocation of funds," it said.

Executive Council member Seema Das said, "Earlier this development fund as collected by students, was treated by the university as emergency fund. As in every household, some amount of money is never touched and kept for difficult times, this UDF has been like

Now, "forcing" the university to draw from UDF for infrastructure and development will make the things difficult for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, economically weaker section students, Das said. "This will force steep hike in students fees," executive council member Rajesh Jha, a political science professor, and former Executive Council member, said this move is like the university

is "testing waters" for implementing a fee hike. **PTI** 

### Teenager jumps to death in East Delhi



**STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

A<sup>15</sup>-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by jumping off sixth floor of the building in east Delhi. Police said that no suicide note was found from the spot and police teams are investigating the incident to ascertain the reason.

Police said that the deceased is a resident of Delhi's CWG village area. According to Priyanka Kashyap, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, the incident took place around 8.30 PM on Saturday when his parents were at Mayur Vihar mar-

"The boy was alone at home and he allegedly jumped off from the sixth floor of the building. He was taken to Max Hospital by the neighbours where after treatment he was declared dead," said the DCP.

"The spot was inspected by the Crime Team and experts from Forensic Science Laboratory team. So far no foul play is suspected and further enquiry is on," the DCP added.

### Over 21,900 doses of Covid vaccine administered to inmates of 3 jails

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

he Delhi Prison authority on Sunday said I that more than 21,900 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered to the inmates of three jails, Mandoli, Tihar and Rohini jails, in the national capital so far.

According to data shared by the prison official, 21,970 doses -- 15,152 first dose and 6818 second dose -- have been administered by Saturday.

"As on Saturday, 10,707 Tihar jail inmates were given the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine and 4,352 were given the second dose. In Rohini jail, 1,793 inmates -- 1,381 first dose and 412 second dose -- were administered the vaccine, while in Mandoli jail, 3,064 inmates got their first, and 2,054 second dose," the data stated.

The prisons department launched a Covid vaccination drive for inmates over 45 years of age on March 18, while the inoculation of inmates in the 18-44-age group began on May 18. The prison officials had said that over 4,000 inmates were released from the three jails this year.

'The officials had started the process of releasing inmates from the second week of May. Around 3,800 under-trial prisoners were released on interim bail and around 840 convicts were released on emergency parole from the prisons," they had said.



Last year, around 5,500 under-trial prisoners and 1,184 convicts were released on interim bail and emergency parole from these jails during the virus-induced lock-

Amid escalating concerns over the Omicron variant, Delhi prisons authorities had said they are ramping up anti-coronavirus measures and have decided to raise awareness about vaccines among inmates and isolate those showing symptoms of an Influenza-like illness

According to the latest official order, all staff of the three Delhi prisons -- Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini -- have been directed to emphasise to inmates the need to get vaccinated and to do so as quickly as possible.

Prisons in Delhi are often very crowded, making them a potential hotspot for the spread of the virus. During the previous wave of coronavirus, the Supreme Court had allowed jails authorities across the country to take steps to decongest prisons including by releasing inmates on parole.

### Cong raps AAP over toxic air, Omicron spread

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar expressed shock over the "apathy' of the AAP ruled Delhi Government for being ignorant in dealing with the possible Covid-19 outbreak. The Congress Delhi unit president said that with the National Capital choking in toxic air, Delhi Chief Minister has been keeping quiet, without taking emergency steps to tackle the issue.

Kumar said that an air emergency, coupled with the fast spread of the Omicron variant of Covid, make a deadly cocktail for the health of children, asthmatic and heart patients in particular, but Kejriwal who has run out of excuses like stubble-burning, cracker-bursting etc for Delhi becoming a gas chamber, has now gone into

Kumar said that despite strictures by the Supreme Court, the National Green Tribunal and experts, Kejriwal has not addressed the pollution problem, though he makes tall promises in other States, for political gains.

He further accused Kejriwal of squandering hundreds of crores in his "pointless" 'Yudh' against air pollution without bothering to tackle vehicular and dust pollutants generated within Delhi. He asked what purpose the smog towers at Connaught Place and Anand Vihar served if air pollution hovers at severe levels in Delhi?

Meanwhile, attacking on the AAP ruled Delhi Government for "ignoring" the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi Congress vice- president Jai Kishan on Sunday said that the apathy of the Kejriwal government in dealing with the approaching disaster may again create havoc in the city if corrective measures are not taken to contain it in time.

At the time, the city is grappling with the surge in Covid-19 cases, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is touring election bound states and promising anything to seek support, Jai Kishan said.

Addressing the people at a function, Jaikishan said that if Kejriwal has done nothing to develop the city but he keeps making tall claims while visiting other states for electoral

### 20th year of ops: Delhi Metro exhibition shows rare pics of first piling work

**New Delhi:** Rare images of the very first piling work done in the national Capital for building Delhi Metro and old newspaper clippings are among the archival documents put up on display as part of a permanent exhibition at the Kashmere Gate station of the network.

The exhibition -- 'Tracing Delhi Metro's Journey' -- has been launched to mark the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation entering into the 20th year of its operations, officials said.

The DMRC had begun its commercial operations on December 25, 2002, a day after then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had inaugurated its first stretch spanning 8.2 kilometre from Shahdara to Tis Hazari, with just six stations, on the

The DMRC network's current span is nearly 392 km with 286 stations (including the Noida-Greater Noida Metro and Rapid Metro,

A day after the inauguration of the first-ever corridor, the rush was so "massive" that authorities had to issue "paper tickets" to handle the flow of passengers, officials had told PTI earlier.

The introduction of the state-of-theart rapid transit system was such a novel mode of transport in the city then that many people believed it was only there temporarily and the DMRC had to issue newspapers advertisements that it was "here to stay", they had said.

This journey of nearly two decades of operations has been captured in a exhibition, mounted at the very location from where the then prime minister had inaugurated the Delhi's first ever metro corridor back in December 2002, a senior offi-

The Red Line itself has now extended on both sides, to Rithala in Delhi and New Bus Stand (Shaheed Sthal) in Ghaziabad.

The plaque unveiled during the Delhi Metro's first inauguration event is placed right there (at the exhibition venue). The DMRC is promoting the location as a selfie-point too where people can come and become a part of the urban history of the city," a spokesperson of DMRC said. PTI City Govt to ask aggregators to completely switch to electric vehicles port department said, "It will be done in

New Delhi: The Delhi Government is going to ask e-commerce companies, food delivery services and cab aggregators to completely switch to electric vehicles, and petrol pumps to not give fuel to vehicles without a pollution-under-check (PUC) certificate, officials said.

Vehicle emissions account for around 38 per cent of the city's air pollution.

The government is going to take two majors steps to check vehicular pollution -- we will ask all aggregators including Zomato, Swiggy, Ola, Uber etc. To completely switch to electric vehicles. These services account for 30 per cent of the registered vehicles in Delhi," an official told PTI.

"We are also considering directing dealers and petrol pumps not to supply fuel to vehicles without PUC certificate," he said.

Directions under the Environment (Protection) Act in this regard are expected to be issued this week. Asked if a deadline will be given to aggregators to

switch to EVs, a senior official in the trans-

phased manner. We will soon publish the draft guidelines." The Delhi Electric Vehicles policy --

introduced in August 2020 – aims at increasing the EV share in total vehicle sales to 25 percent by 2024. Flipkart (by 2030) and Fedex (by 2040) have established worldwide targets for converting their last-mile delivery fleets to electric vehicles, while DHL has set a 60 per cent electrification target for its fleet.

In October, the city government launched a massive drive to check PUC certificates and deployed around 500 teams at petrol pumps for this purpose.

Under the Section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993, vehicle owners not having a valid PUC can be fined up to ₹10,000, or imprisoned for up to six months or both. The owners are required to get test their vehicles tested to ascertain if they meet emission standards for pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, carbon dioxide.







# हरियाणा कौशल रोज़गार निगम (रोज़गार का नया मंच)



प्रथम चरण में ऐसे सभी व्यक्ति, जो हरियाणा के किसी भी सरकारी विभाग, निगम, बोर्ड, विश्वविद्यालय व अन्य सरकारी संस्थान आदि में पहले कभी अनुबंध आधार पर कार्यरत थे परंतु आज कार्यरत नहीं हैं, के लिए रोज़गार पाने का सुनहरा अवसर

निगम के पोर्टल पर ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण करें http://hkrnl.itiharyana.gov.in



पंजीकरण के लिए परिवार पहचान पत्र (PPP), सम्बन्धित विभाग से जारी अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र होना अनिवार्य



# Vax milestone shows trust of every Indian in system, scientists: PM

SELF-AWARENESS, SELF-DISCIPLINE ARE COUNTRY'S STRENGTHS IN FIGHTING AGAINST THIS VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS, SAYS MODI

mid the fear of the spread And the Omicron variant of coronavirus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the vaccination milestone shows trust of every Indian in the system and scientists and that "awareness and self-discipline" are the country's strengths in fighting against the novel variant.

Addressing the nation on the 84th episode and the last of this year of his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat", the Prime Minister said the country is well-prepared for the new variant of the virus and Indian scientists are working on the mutating virus.

"We also have to keep in mind that a new variant of coronavirus has already knocked at the door. Our scientists are continuously study-



ing this new Omicron variant. They are getting new data every day, their suggestions are being

In a situation like this, Modi said, "Self-awareness and self-discipline are the country's

variant of coronavirus. It is this very collective strength of ours that will defeat Covid; with this very sense of responsibili-



ty, we have to enter into 2022." Modi touched a range of issues and praised a number of inspiring people working hard to make the society and the country better "away from glare of media" and publicity.

Modi said it is the strength of the people; it is because of "everyone's effort' that India could fight "the biggest pan-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi touched a range of issues and praised a number of inspiring people working hard to make the society and the country better "away from glare of media" and

Modi said it is the strength of the people; it is because of "everyone's effort' that India could fight "the biggest pandemic in a

Modi paid tribute to Indian Air Force pilot Varun Singh, who succumbed to his injuries earlier this month

demic in a 100 years."

"Crossing the 140 million vaccine dose mark is an achievement of each and every Indian. This shows the trust of every Indian in the system: shows trust in science and in scientists; and is also a testament to the willpower of we Indians who are fulfilling our responsibilities towards the society," he said.

"Our experience of the last two years is that our own effort as a citizen is very important to defeat this global pandemic. Our scientists are continuous-

ly studying this new Omicron variant. They are getting new data everyday their suggestions are being worked upon?

Modi paid tribute to Indian Air Force pilot Varun Singh, who succumbed to his injuries earlier this month.

"In the battle of Mahabharata, Bhagwan Shri Krishna expressed to Arjuna — 'Nabhah Śprisham Deeptam' i.e. touch the sky with pride. This is also the motto of the Indian Air Force. Many lives engaged in the service of Maa

Health Ministry

Bharati soar over these heights of the sky with pride every day; they teach us a lot. Such was the life of Group Captain Varun Singh who was flying the helicopter that fell prey to a mishap this month in Tamil Nadu," the Prime Minister said and quoted his letter to the children where he asked them to never be daunted by failures.

"Varun did not boast of his valour; instead he referred to his failures. He talked about how he converted his shortcomings into abilities. At one place in this letter he has written "You may be mediocre in school but it is by no means a measure of things to come in life. Find your calling — it could be art, music, graphic design, literature, etc. Whatever you work towards, be dedicated, do your best. Never go to bed, thinking, I could have put-

## Report: More than half of Parl Sessions in 20 yrs adjourned before scheduled date

More than half of Parliament Sessions in the past 20 years were adjourned before the scheduled date of closure, with the Rajya Sabha losing 108 sittings, research by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has shown.

Since the Budget Session of 2020, all the five Parliament Sessions were cut short due to Covid-19 pandemic and one due to elections in some states though not specifically stated.

Rajya Secretariat undertook a study of the Sessions after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu wanted a fact-sheet on the trend of early adjournments.

The recently concluded Winter Session of Parliament was adjourned sine die, a day before the schedule with the Government citing that it has completed the legislative busi-

Sources said the study revealed that 32 of the 63 sessions, since the Monsoon Session of 2001 (193rd Session), were adjourned before schedule. While 25 ses-



sions (40 per cent) ran a full course, six sessions (9 per cent) concluded beyond the sched-

Over the 63 Sessions, Rajya Sabha has lost a total of 108 sittings - 7.42 per cent of the total scheduled sittings — over the last 20 years due to early adjournments. With the House meeting

beyond the schedule for a total of 23 sittings in six sessions, the net loss in sittings was 85 or 6 per cent of the total scheduled sittings of 1,455 over 20 years.

In the last seven years since 2014, when Narendra Modi assumed power, 25 sessions were held and 14 of them fell short of the schedule account-

Three of them were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the total scheduled sittings of 507 during this period, the House lost a total of 39 sittings or 7.69 per cent of total scheduled sittings. Rajya Sabha sat for an

extra eight sittings during the 249th session.

Since 2014, sources said the analysis suggested that Rajya Sabha loses a net of about 7 per cent of the total sittings due to premature adjournments of the House and the reasons included disruptions, agreement among parties, government's proposals, elections and the pandemic.

### Modi must follow clear vax policy, says Cong

A ccusing the Centre of being "ignorant" to the threat posed by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, the Congress on Sunday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must follow a clear vaccination policy, provide jabs for children between 5 and 15 years and spell out the roadmap to combat the pandemic.

The Congress also took a swipe at Prime Minister Modi over political rallies, saying while in Uttar Pradesh gatherings at weddings are being limited to 200, the PM is holding rallies wherein lakhs participate.

The Opposition's attack at the Centre over its handling of the pandemic came a day after the PM announced that vaccination against Covid-19 for children between 15 and 18 years will start from January 3, while "precaution dose" for healthcare and frontline workers would be administered from January 10.

Reacting to the announcement, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Centre has "accepted my suggestion" to allow the administration of booster doses of Covid-19 vac-



cine and asserted that the protection of vaccines and booster shots has to be provided to every citizen of the country.

At the AICC Press conference, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that the Modi Government has "failed India" during the pandemic.

"Modi ji failed the migrant workers during the first and second corona wave, Modi ji failed the poor during the first and second wave when he failed to put a single paisa in the hands of the poor when the whole world was doing it, Modi ji failed the small and medium businesses when he virtually left them to fend for themselves," he charged.

Ciitng surveys, Surjewala said "mismanagement" of the coronavirus pandemic led to death of nearly 40 lakh Indians.



"The tepid response on Omicron virus bordering on the directionless drift is even more alarming now. The entire policy paralysis of the Modi Government in dealing with coronavirus, including Omicron is marred by failure of leadership, rudderless response and planless preparation," Surjewala charged.

He also accused the Prime Minister of shifting the buck on to the states while shouldering 'zero responsibility". Attacking the PM over his address to the nation on Saturday, the Congress leader said despite the "lofty announcement and the accolades that he was trying to earn yesterday", the harsh reality is otherwise. "The harsh reality is — 47.95 crore adults over 18 years of age are yet to be administered 59.40 crore doses,"

# to meet Election Commission today

### RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

T op officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will meet the Election Commission on Monday to take stock of the Covid situation and increasing cases of Omicron variant against the backdrop of the Allahabad High Court observations to postpone the upcoming Assembly polls. Besides there are number

of meetings also scheduled in the Health Ministry with the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) — to finalise which vaccine will be used a booster dose and what will be the ideal gap between the last dose and the precautionary dose for the

elderly people Sources said Union Health Secretary will attend a meeting with the EC officials on the present situation of the Covid-19 and the rising cases of Omicron variants in the country especially poll-bound States — Uttar Pradesh and Punjab against the backdrop of the Allahabad High Court observations to postpone the upcoming Assembly of the Omicron variant.

The meeting assumes significant as the chorus to postpone the upcoming Assembly polls got louder after the Allahabad High Court has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the EC to immediately ban rallies and public meetings of political parties, and consider postponing the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election owing to rising cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

A high-level team comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey, along with other senior officers of the Commission will visit to Uttar Pradesh to review the preparations for the assembly elections in meetings with State Government officers

The meeting assumes significant as chorus to postpone upcoming Assembly polls got louder after Allahabad High Court requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the EC to immediately ban rallies and public meetings of political parties

on December 28, 29 and 30 The EC team will also hold meetings with all stakeholders, including officials and political parties to take their view points.

Besides, officials of NTAGI and NEGVAC will meet to chalk out the plan on how to roll out the vaccination drive for teenagers and precaution doses for the elderly and front line workers. NŤAGI and NEGVAC will take crucial decisions like which vaccine will be used a booster dose and what will be the ideal gap between the last dose and the precautionary dose for the elderly people. The Health Ministry officials will further apprise the Prime Minister Office about the preparations for the launch.

The Drug Controller approved the Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine for emergency use authorisation for children in the 12-18 years age group with certain conditions on Saturday. This makes Covaxin the second vaccine cleared for use for children in India. In August, Zydus Cadila's three-dose DNA jab was allowed to be used on adults and children over the age of 12. No vaccine has been approved yet for children below the age of 12 years in India.

According to officials, the studies have shown that it is always better to have a booster dose different from the one that was primarily administered. Covavax, Sputnik V Light, Corbevax are available in India besides Covishield and Covaxin. The final decision would be taken by the expert panel before the roll out the vaccination drive.

# Judges appointing judges a myth: CJI

**PTI** ■ HYDERABAD

The notion that "judges are ■ themselves appointing judges" is a myth as the judiciary is just one of the many players involved in the process of selecting judicial officers, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said on Sunday.

He was delivering the fifth Sri Lavu Venkatewarlu Endowment Lecture on "Indian Judiciary — Challenges of future" at Siddhartha Law College, Vijayawada. He also said in recent times,

physical attacks on judicial officers are on the rise and at times, there are concerted campaigns in the print and social media against judges if parties do not get a favourable order while these attacks appear to be "sponsored and synchronised." There is a need to liberate the institution of public prosecutors. Total independence must be granted to them and to make them answerable only to the Courts, he further said.

"It is nowadays fashionable to reiterate phrases such as 'judges are themselves appointing judges'. I consider this to be one of the widely propagated myths. The fact is the Judiciary is merely one of the many players involved in the process, Justice Ramana said

Recently, Kerala MP John Brittas had reportedly said during a debate in Parliament on The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021 that Judges appointing judges is unheard of anywhere.

"Many authorities are involved, including the Union Ministry, Governments, Governor, High Court Collegia, Intelligence Bureau, and lastly, the topmost executive, who all are designated to examine the suitability of a candidate. I am sad to note that the well-informed also propagate the aforesaid notion. After



all, this narrative suits certain sections," Justice Ramana said. Appreciating the Centre

for its efforts on appointing more judges, he said, some recommendations made by High Courts are yet to be transmitted to the Supreme Court by the Union Law Ministry. It is expected that the Government needs to strictly adhere to the timelines laid down in the Malik Mazhar Case.

The law enforcing agencies, particularly the specialised agencies, need to deal with malicious attacks on judiciary effectively, the CJI said, adding that it was unfortunate that unless the Court interfered and passed orders, the authorities generally do not proceed with the investigation.

'The Governments are expected and duty bound to create a secure environment so that the judges and judicial officers can function fearless-" he said. New media tools have enormous amplifying ability,

but appear to be incapable of

distinguishing between right

and wrong, good and bad and the real and fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases, he further said. He said historically, prosecutors in India have been under the control of the Government. "Hence it is not a surprise that they do not act independently. They do nothing to prevent frivolous and non-deserving cases from reaching the courts. Public Prosecutors automatically oppose bail applications without independently applying

their mind. They attempt to

suppress evidence during trial

which could benefit the

accused," Justice Ramana said.

### Ram Setu not false: Heavy Industries Minister self-reliant. He said that making

T Inion Heavy Industries Pandey on Sunday said Ram Setu is not false, it was the apt work of the engineers of that era. He lamented it was unfortunate as some people question this logic and refuse to accept. He was addressing at the 36th Indian Engineering Congress-Centenary celebrations organ-ised by Institution of of Engineers (India).

Speaking at the 36th Indian Engineering Congress-Centenary Celebrations organised by Institution of Engineers (India), an organisation of India's top engineers, the minister said this was confirmed by the apex organisation of the engineers themselves. "Some people submit affidavits in the court to prove Ram Setu did not exist, whereas Ram Setu has been in existence since ancient times. Pandey said adding engineers have also played an important



role in the construction of the ancient city of Dwarka.

The theme of the convention is "Engineers for Viable Technology and \$ 5 Trillion Economy", with engineers from across the country participating. The event will end on December 28, 2021. Indian Army's Engineer-in-Chief Lieutenant General Harpal Singh was conferred with the Engineering Eminent Personality Award' by the Institution of Engineers (Índia) for his contributions in the field of engineering in the Defence Forces and Border Roads Organisation on the occasion.

'India's engineers have a very proud history. Glad that the engineers are proudly talking about their ancient culture and history. Otherwise, earlier people were hesitant to even

talk about their history," he said. Pandey added engineers have played an important role in the corona period. "Amidst all the difficulties, due to the efforts of the engineers, the country has today reached the second place in the world in the export of PPE kits. Whereas earlier PPE kits were imported. Similarly, there was a crisis of oxygen in the second wave of Corona, the situation was handled within 9-10 days due to the tireless hard work of the engineers," he added.

Calling upon the engineers, the minister asked them to work towards making the country

In an effort to promote mar-

**⊥**itime diplomacy robustly, an

Indian warship is now in

Maputo, Mozambique to

strengthen bilateral ties between

the two countries. The ship's

deployment is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision

of Security and Growth for all

engagement, navy officials said

here on Sunday as part of yet

another deployment undertak-

en by the Navy since May 2020

under Mission SAGAR, Indian

ship Kesari entered Port of

Maputo, Mozambique on Saturday. This is the eighth such

deployment in consonance with

the Prime Ministers vision of

SAGAR and is being conduct-

ed in close coordination with

the Ministry of External Affairs,

and other agencies of the

conducted in solidarity with

India's extended Maritime

These deployments were

Government of India.

Giving details of the present

in the Region (SAGAR).

PNS NEW DELHI

the country a five trillion dollar economy is not just a dream, it everyone has to realise. Speaking on the occasion,

Lt Gen Harpal Singh said that the environment and ecosystem for engineers to perform & excel at this time couldn't have been better as we strive to be a 5 trillion dollar economy. "All infra sectors be it highways, railways, digital, aviation, gas power transmission & renewable energy are PM's focus under a single unified vision.Robust infrastructure is bedrock for economic growth. Engineers have crucial role in success of this initiative," he said.

On this occasion, President of the Institution of Engineers (India) Narendra Singh said that the history of engineers is very old. Engineers have contributed to India's glorious ancient history from Ramayana, Mahabharata to Harappan culture and Mohenjodaro.



Neighbourhood and highlight the importance accorded by India to these special relationships. More than 500 tons of food aid has been shipped by INS Kesari to support the efforts of Mozambique to cope with ongoing drought and concurrent challenges of pandemic.

India also remains committed to supporting the capacity building efforts of the Armed Forces of Mozambique. To this end, INS Kesari is carrying two Fast Interceptor Craft and self defence equipment to be handed over to the Armed Forces of Mozambique.



INS Kesari, a Landing Ship Tank (Large) had undertaken similar mission in May-June 2020 to provide humanitarian and medical assistance to Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, including deployment of Medical Assistance Teams of the Indian Navy in multiple locations. Since May 2020, the Indian

Navy has deployed ships to 15 Friendly Foreign Countries under SAGAR missions. These deployments spanned over 215 days at sea have delivered a cumulative assistance of more than 3,000 MT of food aid, over

MT LMO, Oxygen Concentrators and 20 ISO containers. Whilst undertaking, these

missions Indian ships have traversed a cumulative distance of close to 40,000 nautical miles which is nearly twice the circumference of earth. With a steadfast intent of making such high quantum of humanitarian assistance reach its destination in time, personnel from ships and shore organisations of Indian Navy have invested close to a million man-hours to deliver succour to our friends overseas, officials said.



A woman carries her children through a busy market on a cold day in Srinagar on

# Goons making exodus under Yogi Govt: Shah

### HM says BSP, SP play caste politics instead of development

Kasganj: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said criminals in Uttar Pradesh are making an exodus now, while earlier it was common man who was forced to flee by them.

Shah praised UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his governance saying people were not afraid anymore to send their children to school.

"Earlier, the law and order situation was so bad, people used to hesitate in sending their children to schools. But in five years of Yogi Adityanath government, all goons have made an exodus from UP," he said while addressing a 'Jan Vishwas Yatra' in Kasganj here.

The union minister also accused the BSP and the SP of playing caste politics and not working for development when they governed the state.

Speaking about the recentinaugurated Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi, Shah said the holy site used to wear a "deserted" look, before it was beautified under the watch of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi. On the occasion, the BJP leader also remembered former state chief minister Kalyan Singh saying the victory of the party in 2014, 2017, and 2019 would not have been possible without his advice.

Singh died in Lucknow on August 21 at the age of 89.

He was a prominent backward caste leader and a Hindutva icon. Kasganj district comes under Etah parliamentary constituency and is currently represented in the Lok Sabha by Rajveer Singh, Kalyan Singh's son.
"It was Kalyan Singh, who

first spoke about good governance in Uttar Pradesh. Kalyan Singh was the first to speak about the backward class people in Uttar Pradesh, and it was he who gave rights to the people of the backward castes," Shah said.

He also said it was Kalyan Singh who resigned from his chief minister post within hours of demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992. Speaking on the Ram Temple, he asked those who gathered whether they would vote for the same people who fired at 'kar sevaks'.

The reference was made to the Mulayam Singh government's decision to open fire at kar sevaks who had gathered near the Ramjanmabhoomi site in Ayodhya in 1990.

Shah's tour to Kasganj is part of the campaign which will cover more than 140 constituencies in the poll-bound state, party sources said.

# Cong calls Yogi bulldozernath

**Lucknow:** The Congress on Sunday termed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Aditynath "Bulldozernath", or the lord of bulldozers, while accusing him of crushing the dreams of the girls who wanted to run a marathon organised by the party in Lucknow.

Congress General secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also slammed the UP government, saying girls won't tolerate it and will fight for their rights.

The statements came after the Lucknow authorities did not allow the party to hold the race there. The race was held in

Jhansi on Sunday under the party's "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti hoon" election campaign.

"The destructive government of 'Bulldozernath' tramples upon the dreams of the youth repeatedly. Sometime by question paper leak, some-times by not declaring recruitment and sometimes using

force against them," a Congress tweet said. "This time, the antiwomen bulldozer of Yogi has run over the dreams of brave girls," the party said. The authorities have been using bulldozers on illegal property of criminals and this often referred to by BJP leaders in speeches in the state.

The Congress further said those who took part in the marathon in Jhansi instilled fear in the CM.

"But he does not know that the one whose time has come, no power on this earth can stop #LadkiHoonLadSaktiHoon is echoing in the state. The women power is ready to stake its claim to power," another party tweet said. In a Hindi tweet, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Yogi Adityanathji, you speak against the women by talking about controlling them. It is for this reason that you did not allow girls to participate in the marathon in Lucknow." PTI

### BJP Govt has Terrorist who killed delivered on its promises, says Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a massive road show amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram', 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Modi, Yogi zindabad' as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Jan Vishwas Yatra in Ghaziabad on Saturday.

Hundreds of people along with BJP leaders, including among others Gen VK Singh, MP from Ghaziabad, participated in the road show that started from Kalka Garhi Chowk in the evening amid tight security, braving the cold and demonstrating unflinching solidarity with UP chief minister and his government in Uttar Pradesh.

Scores of people flocked on pavements throughout the road show to greet the chief minister as his cavalcade passed while Yogi Adityanath waved to them, accepting their greetings with a humble, but victorious smile on his face and the safe fron flag of BJP fluttering all along. The chief minister led the road show that concluded at Thakur Dwara.

in J&K's Anantnag

counter strategy to effectively respond to the security chal-Intensifying anti-terrorist

ASI gunned down

Loperations, a joint team of security forces late on Saturday night gunned down one of the main accused behind the killing of ASI Mohammad Ashraf in K Kalan Sirgufwara area of Anantnag.
In the last 48 hours, joint

teams of police & security forces have neutralized 06 terrorists in four successful antiterrorist operations without suffering any collateral damage.

The slain terrorist has been identified as Faheem Bhat resident of Kandipora, Anantnag. According to police, Bhat was affiliated with proscribed terror outfit ISJK and had recently joined the ranks of the ter-

Meanwhile,two policemen were injured on Sunday after terrorists lobbed a grenade on security forces near the Post office in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Following a series of targeted killings of policemen and civilians in the recent weeks over half a dozen high level security review meetings

enge at hand. In the recent meeting in New Delhi the Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla took a thorough review of the security parameters and held

deliberations with top brass of the J&k police, para military forces aimed at strengthening the security grid. In the coming days, as cold wave conditions are expected to intensify coupled with foggy weather conditions the border guarding force and the Indian army would be facing the herculean task of preventing fresh infiltration bids by terrorists camping across the different launching pads to infiltrate inside the

Indian territory.

According to the ground reports, the Indian army is already focusing on long range patrols to plug the possible infiltration routes across Rajouri and Poonch frontiers. Following fresh snowfall inthe North Kashmir district of Kupwara the terrorist handlers prefer pushing infiltrators in

## Ecstasy worth ₹3 crore seized

KOCHI: The unusual increase ical patronage. Kerala has litin the number of cases of drug trafficking reported from different parts of Kerala has become a serious concern to police officials in the State. Methylenedioxymethampheta mine, popularly known as Ecstasy, worth ₹3 crore, was seized from two persons who reached Aluva from Bangalore on Sunday morning. The 'stuff' was meant for New Year Eve festivities, according to the investigation officials.

Drug trafficking and related cases would be the main headache for the police and excise department in Kerala in the new year, according to a serving IPS official in the State. Not a single day passes in Kerala without reports about seizure of narcotics substances. "Things have gone out of control. The State is becoming a transit point as well as big market for narcotics substances," said Rishiraj Singh, who recently retired as additional director general of police and head of the State's Excise Department.

of the police department is the increase in the number of women being arrested in connection with drug trafficking and pushing. The Pioneer had reported about the arrest of a teacher who was working in a high end school for drug trafficking and sales. "On an average, most cases of drug trafficking have women associated with it. The number of women engaged in drug sales and pushing are increasing by the day," said a police official engaged in investigations associated with the drug trafficking.

P C George, seven-time MLA and Kerala Congress leader, said the situation in the State is alarming. "The number of women deployed to carry and sell drugs is a matter of concern. The drugs reach Kerala from West Asian countries and the agents enjoy polit-

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

tiger that strayed into a

ASouth 24 Parganas village

from the neighbouring

Sunderbans have kept both the

administration and the local vil-

lagers awake and anxious for

Department officials led by a

Conservator and aDivisional Forest Officer have failed to

catch the beast despitesur-

rounding the swampy mangrove area --- by the Gorankathi andDonga-jora vil-lages in Kultali block some 45

strayed into the villagewas cap-

tured early this month.

tidal waters with nets

Forest

the past 72 hours or more. Scores of For

erally gone from bad to worse as extremists are ruling the roost," George told The

Saturday evening saw widespread rioting in a suburb in Ernakulam where Guest Workers (the Kerala Government's official term to describe migrant workers from Bengal) attacked policemen and set fire to a police vehicle besides destroying another vehicle. The policemen had gone to the suburb on being informed that Guest Workers were engaged in rioting following day long Christmas celebrations. Though situation has been brought under control, law enforcers are shocked over the rioting unleashed by the migrant workers, hitherto unseen anywhere in the State.

Local residents of Kizhakkambalam where the riot took place told this newspaper that the area has become a haven for drug trafficking and flesh trade. The tentacles of narcotics have spread to edu-Last week saw one of the student unions organizing a rave party in a leading government professional college to welcome new students. "We had psychedelic lights, dance and enough drugs like Ecstasy to welcome the new comers. The show which began at 10 in the morning went up to midnight. This was a novel experience," said a senior student on condition of anonymity.

Sunday morning saw two groups of people engaged in pitched battle in the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram as part of their turf war for supremacy in drug trafficking. Earlier this month, the capital city froze while a gang of four members chopped the leg of a history sheeter and threw it in a waste bin kept in the road. The police are yet to arrest the

Bengal tiger keeps admin,

villagers awake for 3 days

can be assumed from the fact

### **Bollywood** star Salman Khan bitten by snake

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a development that has cre-**L**ated a sensation in Bollywood, mega star Salman Khan was bitten by a non-poisonous snake in his bedroom of his farm house located near Panvel in adjoining Raigad district in the small hours of Sunday, ahead of his 56th birthday on Monday.

An informed family source said that Salman, whom a snake bit him on his hand, was rushed immediately to nearby Kamothe hospital in Navi Mumbai, where he was treated and allowed to go on Sunday.

"Salman is doing fine. He is back at his farm house to celebrate his birthday tomorrow," the source said.

The snake bite took place a few hours after the Dabang actor had returned to the farm house hours from a film shoot He experienced some pain in the hand. After he checked the wound, he realised he had been bitten by a snake. Not wanting to take any chances, his family by private hospital at Kamothe where he was there for six

After a thorough examination, doctors attending on the actor found that he had been bitten by a non-poisonous snake. The doctors gave him first-aid along with medicine and allowed him to go home.

Salman was recently seen on the big screen in "Antim: The Final Truth", featuring his brother-in-law, Aayush Sharma in the lead role. His next film Tiger 3, in which he will be seen with Katrina Kaif, is expected to hit the screen in December next

Salman and his family members go to his sprawling 'Arpita Farms', named after the actor's sister, for holidays and long-weekends. Salman's father Salim Khan bought this farm nearly two decades ago.

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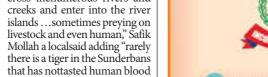
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# "Multiple pug marks show

that no remainsof any animal has been found inside the for prey) in the woods. forested area, forestofficials say warning its hunger can lead it to desperate raids insidethe village where most houses are unprotected with torn sarees used tocurtain open windows and bamboo doors.

On Friday fishermen spotted pugmarks on the banks of the Matla River(the Piyali River flows into the Matla) a branch of the Hooghly. Twowomen, fishing crabs, also noticed the animal but the tiger stillremained untraced.

miles south of Kolkata--- fed by This is the second incident that the hungry tiger has been of a tiger straying around roaming aboutin the jungle often growling at human presence nearby," said the DFOadding the Sunderbans Kultali area inless than a fortnight. Another tiger that had tiger extremely cunning as its

The tiger is hungry which breed is known tobe has been meticulously avoiding the two cages planted (with goatsused "We have thrown nets sur-

rounding several kms of the forest but tigeris still eluding ... it is jumping over the net or slipping beneath itbecause we have seen its pug marks beside the nets," an official saidadding taller nets had been brought to fence the area. "These are the sturdiest

tigers of them all because they

have tosurvive in a tidal country and on saline water ... they often cross thenumerous rivers and .. so we are very tensed and have been keepingindoors."

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Firm resolve

All stakeholders must act in tandem in the nation's fight against Omicron

wo things are needed for the Prime Minister's address to the nation to turn into a rallying call to face an Omicron wave. One, the particulars of the action plan need to be shared with people; and, two, the States and the Centre must be on the same page in so far as a common policy to fight Omicron is concerned. The absence of these two criteria had turned our fightback during the Delta wave chaotic and even self-defeating. The Prime Minister announced the dates for the vaccination of adolescents and a booster dose, renamed as "precaution" dose, for the old with co-morbidities and the healthcare and frontline workers. He also gave details of how prepared the medical setup is to face the next wave. It is now for the Health Ministry to come out with the details to avoid speculation and confusion: Which vaccine will be used for adolescents? Will the "precaution" dose be Covishield or Covaxin or something new? There is a gap of nine days between the announcement and the implementation date of January 3, 2022. Is that enough for handling the massive logistics involved



to reach the doses to all vaccination centres? There is some logic in not announcing the "precaution" dose for the rest of the adult population. Not all of them are yet fully vaccinated and, worse, the problem of the vaccine-hesitant population is yet to be fully resolved. Till then, the question of a third dose does not arise at all.

If what experts say is true that a third dose may have a modicum of strength to confront the Omicron infection, then it is the emerging truth that a booster or "precaution" dose becomes imperative for all. Clarity is needed on this issue

and the Government must plan for the day when all fully vaccinated sections, after six to eight months of the second dose, automatically get the third dose. The COVID task force, in consultation with the States, should ensure that there is uniformity of action. Take the example of the reopening of schools. It has become a yoyo game in the last one month with schools opening and closing, then opening and closing again. The stakeholders are just not on the same page and this is confusing. With Omicron cases now on the rise, the call needs to be taken once again on keeping the schools open because of the increased risk to children. The same is true for the use of public transport, especially the Metro. Crowds in markets are regulated and public gatherings are banned, but the local trains are allowed to be crowded. How logical is that? For the time being, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing is the most effective way to escape infection. The time for announcements and persuasion is over; the authorities must now be seen to be ensuring there is no violation of these measures. The beauty of announcements lies in their implementation.



People shield themselves from a man wearing a 'torito', a harness with fireworks, on Christmas in Guatemala

# **Choppy waters**

The crisis brewing in Uttarakhand Congress seems to have blown over, at least for now

he Congress seems to have made scoring self-goals a habit. Blame it on the party high command or the lack of insight/greed for power of its local leaders, its State units are routinely washing dirty linen in public; earlier in Punjab and now in Uttarakhand. All this, when Assembly elections are just round the corner. Days after an annoyed Harish Rawat virtually raised the banner of revolt against the Congress leadership and took his grievances to Rahul Gandhi, he has been sort of mollified with the promise of being given a "free hand" to fight the election. The grouse and ill tempers reached Delhi after Rawat, miffed over the so-called "inter-



nal bickering" in the State unit, came out openly to say that he was being forced to fight the election with "one hand tied behind my back". As is the party's wont, it's only then that the leadership grew alarmed at the prospect of the Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam and Chhattisgarh situation repeating itself in the Himalayan State. In its bid to iron out the differences, the Congress high command summoned Harish Rawat and other State leaders — including Pritam Singh, Ganesh Godiyal and Kishore Upadhyay — to Delhi for a meeting with the Gandhi scion.

It is believed that some sort of truce has been reached but how long it will last is anybody's guess. Interestingly, the Congress high command while appointing a leader in a State also starts propping up other leaders there, thus making the party's State unit an unstable enterprise. In Uttarakhand, the rift between Rawat and AICC in-charge Devender Yadav can be detrimental to the party's prospects in the poll. It'd divide the cadre vertically down the middle and give enough leverage to the BJP during and after the election. During Rahul's rally in Dehradun last week, Rawat's posters and cutouts were removed from the venue and he was kept out of the seating arrangement on the dais, allegedly at Yadav's instance. Yadav (49), a two-time MLA whose father Mahender was a small-time Congress politician, belongs to a rich family in Delhi and was appointed in charge of Uttarakhand in September 2020. Rawat's insecurity stems from his proximity to CLP leader Pritam Singh as well as working president Ranjeet Rawat. Understandably, Harish Rawat wants to have an edge in matters pertaining to ticket distribution.

# English bhasha, dress becoming world style PRAFULL GORADIA



The urge to copy western outfits and language prevails in several Asian nations, including China & Japan, in order to communicate with the world

resident Joe Biden is not being Russo-savvy when he asks President Putin whether the latter has any intentions of conquering Ukraine. The latter has, with a straight face, denied that there are any plans of an invasion. But there is an attempt to incite pro-Russian elements inside Ukraine to aid and assist a Muscovite takeover of the former republic of the Soviet Union, which went out of the Union in 1991, more or less with 14 other republics. That was when Mikhail Gorbachev was the Russian President. From the Czarist times to 1991, Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire and, since 1917, of the Soviet Union. After leaving the Union, its relations with Moscow were normal but the Kremlin had fears of Ukraine one day joining the European Union or perhaps even the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The current tension between the countries is the result of Kremlin's apprehen-

To go deeper into the national psychology beyond international politics, Russians like to be European and would like to avoid being called Asian. The first big act in this direction was the decision of Czar Peter the Great to build a city which opens to Europe, which was St Petersburg, later called Leningrad and now Petersburg. This was in the year 1703. This desire is one of the emotional reasons for keeping Ukraine under Russian tutelage. Similarly, Russia enjoyed the overlordship over Belorussia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Poland; the last three were quite small and yet Moscow went out to capture these. But for the crises of 1991, they would have continued to be parts of the Soviet Union. The same sentiment did not exist for the six Asian republics, also independent since 1991.

The second factor bugging Moscow is the apprehension that, at some stage, it could lose parts or all of Siberia, which is vast (13 million sq km), rich in Asia. Yet, as Byzantium, no

population. And, of course, its climate is bitterly cold. In 1969, the Soviet Union was forced into a mini-war with China across Ussuri river. Strange as it might seem, the Soviet Union was defeated and lost about 100 islands situated on the rivers Ussuri, Amur and Argun. That mini-war was a historic message that China was a living threat to eastern Russia. Siberia has very few people whereas China across the Ussuri is a region with more people but not enough land area. On the other hand, China is entirely Asian and, therefore, without any European complex.

Uncannily, the Turks suffer from a similar Euro complex. It remained suppressed while the Sultans ruled in Istanbul. Before these Muslim rulers arrived in 1473, a lot of Turkey was called the Byzantium. Without needing any obvious clarification, it was taken to be European and its capital was Constantinople, the city the Sultans renamed Istanbul. By the measures of cartography, only three per cent of Turkish territory is in Europe today; the remaining resources but with a sparse one asked the question



THE JAPANESE

HAVE GONE OVER TO WESTERN DRESSES, FIRST MEN AND THEN WOMEN. AFTER MAO ZEDONG PASSED AWAY, THE CHINESE TOO HAVE TAKEN TO WESTERN CLOTHES. IN LANGUAGE, BOTH THE JAPANESE AND THE CHINESE HAVE ALREADY ADJUSTED, OR ARE ADJUSTING, TO THE whether it was in Europe or Asia. It was a continuation of Greece with the city of Troy, popularised by the enigmatic Helen.

The desire to be European lived on. When after World War I, Mustafa Kemal Pasha, the famous Atatürk, took over as the ruler of Turkey, he exiled the Sultan. He asked his people, both men and women, to wear European clothes and adopt as many western ways as possible. Their future lay in Europe and he exhorted them to look West. In 1928, over only three months, he abolished the Arabic script of the Turkish language and replaced it with Roman alphabets. He also had the Quran converted into these letters. These two measures have endured until now. Atatürk introduced an English model of democratic political system which, under incumbent President Erdogan, is fumbling.

Erdogan tried hard to enable his country to join the Union. European Incidentally, Turkey is a member of NATO since its inception after vvorid vvar II. admitted to the EU. If its

Nevertheless, even

religion is the European objection to Turkey's entry into the club, it's unlikely that the Turks would gain admission to the European Union. For reasons of history, especially its communist past, Russia remains outside

of NATO as well as the EU. The Euro complex extends far beyond Russia and Turkey. It is not only confined to the English language in order to communicate with the rest of the world, but expands much beyond. The Japanese have gone over to western dresses, first men and then women. After Mao Zedong passed away, the Chinese too have taken to western clothes. In language, both the Japanese and the Chinese have already adjusted, or are adjusting, to the European style. But it is undeniable that the western attire and the English language are the preferred options in most countries across the globe, the fact that Europe and Britain are reported to be on a decline in the civilisational context notwithstanding.

(The writer is a wellknown columnist, an autho It was therefore a deep dis- and a former member of the appointment to be not Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

### ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **DEAL WITH CROOKED POLITICOS STRICTLY**

Sir — Like casteism, corruption/cronyism is indeed an affliction inseparably blended with our top politicos/bureaucrats and the reported scam linked with the purchase of land around the Ram temple construction site in Ayodhya indubitably confirms the allegation. The Opposition has conclusively demanded to constitute an SIT under the supervision of the Supreme Court for an unbiased probe in the scandal. Irrefutably, a State level investigation in such a paramount issue will be mere farcical as many of the accused are the top brass of the influential State Government.

As corruption, nepotism is multiplying at tremendous alacrity, the State's complacency in its comprehensive growth in crucial sectors is certainly futile. Similarly, those found guilty in the issue should be punished, ideally by putting them behind the bars apart from recovering the monetary loss suffered by the nation. Therewithal, retention of the convicted Government servants in service after awarding nominal or symbolic punishments is indeed repugnant as people never expect true justice from these blemished officials. Similarly, political leaders found involved in frauds should be banned forever from contesting polls for the best interest of the country

Thomas KM | Muvattupuzha

**VACCINES AND MORE VACCINES** Sir — After a surprise address to the nation on Christmas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi deserves applause for the decision to boost our fight against the prevalent and virulent Omicron. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has reiterated the demand for booster shots for citizens to fight the new variant over and over again. But this time, PM Modi realised the gravity of the situation and did the needful. However, hardly three days ago, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had said that no booster shots were required but PM Narendra Modi announced yesterday that booster shots will be administered. Basically, the PM's announcement shows what the Health Minister and his

### A galactic explorer soars high



he successful launch of the James Webb Space Telescope on Christmas Day from the spaceport at Kourou in French Guiana has marked a significant advance in unmanned space exploration. The massive telescope soared skyward into space with the promise of pushing back the frontiers of science and the boundaries of human knowledge. It will take 29 days to cover 9,30,000 miles from Earth and reach its remote destination. Described as a 'time

machine', a 'keyhole into the past' and a 'new eye in the sky' and dedicated to humanity, Webb is a galactic explorer built to make discoveries that will help scientists unravel the mysteries of the universe

Thousands of astronomers, astrophysicists and engineers have put in a lot of work into making this highly sophisticated telescope. The \$10 billion telescope has a mass of 6,200 kg; it has a light-gathering primary mirror made up of 18 gold-plated beryllium hexagonal segments; it has a huge sun-shield for protection from heat and light; it operates at minus 230 degree Celsius. It is hoped that the telescope will give us a 'better understanding of our universe and our place in it and who we are' as part of the 'eternal search'. As earthlings, we are destined for a voyage of discovery! The new discoveries are bound to be exciting and make us look at the skies in an entirely new light

G David Milton | Maruthancode

so-called group of experts said has absolutely no meaning at all!

PM Modi announced that COVID-19 vaccination for teenagers in the 15-18 age group will start from January 3, while healthcare and frontline workers will be administered a booster — he called it "precaution dose" — from January 10. The announcement came hours after the country's drug regulator granted Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to Covaxin for vaccinating children in the 12-18 age group. Let us fight this war against mutating viruses unitedly with great resolve.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

THE STATESMAN WHO SHAPED INDIA

Sir — Atal Bihari Vajpayee was one of the greatest leaders of Independent India. He was one of the longest serving Members of Parliament. His important role during the Kargil war and Pokhran will never be forgotten. He will always be remembered

as a gifted poet, a visionary statesman and an orator par excellence. He has always tried serving the people of India. He had always come beyond party lines to help his

It is worth observing Good Governance Day on his birthday. Atalji always stood up to his ethics and never played bad cards for the crown. His governance and leadership has given India a new position on the international stage. He took many bold steps during his tenure as Prime Minister to make India a stronger and self-reliant nation. He achieved new heights that only a few did in Independent India. He was loved by all, irrespective of the parties, ideologies and regions. We should bow down to this legendary statesman for his contribution to

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Deba Prasad Nayak | Cuttack

The notion that judge are themselves appointing judges is one of the widely propagated myths.





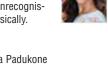
My goal is to stop the bloodshed in the east of Ukraine. It's impossible to imagine security in

**Ukrainian President** 

Europe without ending the war

–Volodymyr Zelenskyy

The life after COVID-19 changed for me because I was completely unrecognisable physically.



Actor -Deepika Padukone



Being a part of the environment and supporting Virat Kohli along the way is something I'm looking for-

Team India head coach -Rahul Dravid

People of Delhi have realised who actually carries out development works and who

just does lip service

**Union Home Minister** 

—Amit Shah

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## **FIRST COLUMN MORE TAXES TO CHECK HIGH DEFICIT?**

Battery-powered cars may not be an economic solution; petroleum is still the most versatile fuel



SHIVAJI **SARKAR** 

he highest wholesale price inflation in decades at 14.23 per cent may result in high deficit leading to levying of more taxes. The government expenses are certain to rise even if it wants keep the deficit low at least on paper, at around six per cent. The next budget would be interesting to watch as the consultations with agriculture, industry, kisans and financial institutions begins.

Everybody wants to check inflation but the struggle for getting better prices is what contributes to an inflationary trend. The government has also started the process of domestic production of semi-conductors and batteries for the car industry. This is the contrived solution to counter international rise in prices. But it is not sure that steps taken to acquire lithium mines or increase semi-conductor manufacturing or edible oil production would be a solution.



The price rise is heightened by muted factory output at 3.2 per cent. This has led the Asian Development Bank to scale down India's growth estimate to 9.7 per cent, almost close to RBI's 9.5 per cent.

It is the highest since 2005 and surpasses the recent October figure of 12.54 per cent. This is spiked by high prices of petroleum products and gas. The manufacturing prices are also high at 11.92 percent causing a crisis-like situation in the textile sector.

Domestic edible oils have spurred at a fast rate to over 50 per cent in the last one year. Even commonly used mustard oil shot up to ₹214 a litre from around ₹85-90 a litre.

The RBI is concerned about the impact of high toll fees, excise and other charges for the rise in commodity prices. Loss of jobs or cut in wages have also contributed. Food grain prices rose by 4.88 per cent, but were moderated by free food grain doles through the public distribution system. Sustaining the free dole for long is not practically possible but withdrawal also has political implications.

Interestingly, high prices make GDP look brighter. Inflation-engineered high expenses show the growth in "positive" light though in reality it depresses purchasing power and adds to many other woes including contraction of wages a normal for many industries. Inflation naturally adds to the problem. It becomes difficult to afford high prices

The high fuel prices are being countered by encouraging batterypowered cars and being self-sufficient in producing lithium batteries. It aims at saving about ₹2.5 lakh crore in import of crude. But the new effort is capital intensive, expensive and has high prospecting cost. It plans to buy 12 lithium and cobalt mines abroad. The National Aluminium Co Ltd will hold a 40 percent stake in the joint venture called Khanij Bidesh India Ltd, with Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Corp Ltd controlling 30 per cent each. Apparently, it is a wise move but lithium is not widely available. Its mining and processing costs are

Chinese companies control most such mines in Australia. Chile and Argentina. Australian Prime Minister Scot Morrison had discussed about Indian participation in critical metallic sectors. The progress is slow. Lithium production cost is also high and with rising shipping costs, the overall cost becomes oppressive. It would not be easy to produce lithium and lithium-batteries at affordable cost or save on foreign exchange. Secondly, battery-powered cars may not be an economic solution as petroleum, despite its complexities, remains the most versatile fuel.

Lessons must be drawn from the semi-conductor crisis. The problem is about getting the chip essential for manufacturing semi-conductors. Production of scooters, mobikes and three-wheelers are affect-

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

# Another migration Bill in the making



The Government must bring in a Comprehensive Migration Management Bill in consultation with the real stakeholders — the Indian migrants

the need for a Comprehensive Migration Management Act revamping the existing Migration Act 1983 was a long-standing demand of the Indian migrants. However, the draft Migration Bill 2021 is totally disappointing and contrary to the aspirations of the Indian Diaspora. It is appalling to note that the draft is cold-hearted in its outlook towards "Comprehensive Migration Management" and it is regressive than the Migration Act 1983.

Indian Diaspora was aspiring for an Act understanding the changing geopolitical, economic, socio-cultural, and strategic requirements of the present-day migration. The incumbent Act was basically envisaged to control or regulate only one aspect of migration -- the recruitments to the Gulf and the Middle East. Even though this inadequacy of the Act was pointed out at the very inception of the Act, no action was taken to rectify it by the successive governments.

Some patchworks in the form of amendments failed to provide for fair or ethical recruitment from India. The net result was large-scale illegal recruitments, visa trading, ȟuman trafficking, economic drainage, and untold miseries especially to the blue collar, manual, menial, and domestic workers - they all comprise the largest section of Indian migrants. A migrant having to pay a recruitment fee is unethical and leads to forced labor, human trafficking, bonded labor, and slavery. The need for a comprehensive migration management Act fervently started at the time of UPA-I, but their approach was indifference and they never exhibited the needed political will to get it enacted.

India is the highest remittance bene-

factor from its world's largest migrant population. World Bank estimated that India received the world's highest remittance last year worth \$88 billion and it is expected to grow this year in spite of the Coronavirus pandemic. The major portion of Indian remittances was received from Indian emigrants from Gulf and Middle East migration corridors.

xThe draft does not reflect or contain any of the ideals of global Sustainable Development Goals 2030 which recognized migration as one of the major elements of the global development agenda. To achieve the UN SDG 2030 goals, the Global Compact on Migration was passed and the amut of future migration will be shaped and revolve around that. Now the Global Compact on Migration is the international guideline or directive principle of global migration accepted by most nations.

The draft migration bill makes a very passing reference in three places of the tag line of GCM "safe, orderly and regular migration" instead of making it the core guideline for making our emigration bill and policy. India being a signatory to GCM, and as the world has already accepted these principles as the guidelines of their migration policy, we must be at the



AT THE STATE AND UNION TERRITORY LEVEL, THERE COULD BE NODAL MIGRATION MANAGEMENT **MINISTRIES** THAT WILL **COORDINATE WITH** THE CENTRAL MINISTRY ON ALL ASPECTS OF MIGRATION AND RETURNEES. UNDER THE STATE AND UNION TERRITORIES, THEY MUST HAVE DISTRICT-LEVEL OFFICES ATTACHED TO DISTRICT COLLECTOR OFFICES FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED

(The writer is Member, Loka Kerala Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)



objectives and a total restructuring of the present Draft. The very basic element of the new Comprehensive Migration Management Act should focus on implementing all the UN and ILO conventions, treaties, multilateral commitments to migrants' human rights and labor rights. Those that are not yet ratified should be ratified, should be made binding, and be made applicable to the Indian Diaspora across the board which will ensure to a great extent the safety and dignity of Indian migrants abroad. Otherwise, it will be a futile exercise by the Indian parliament and yet another yoke on the Indian migrants.

forefront of the implementation of

these guidelines to get the best ben-

efit for its large migrant population. Bringing in the 23 directive prin-

ciples into the GCM will definite-

ly widen the definitions, scope, and

The Protector of Emigration is a colonial institution and an antimigrant institution that needs to be scrapped altogether as it proved time and again to be a breeding place of institutionalized corruption. In the bill it appears as Bureau of Emigration Administration and all the powers exercised by POE are vested in it with additional powers to penalize, like ordering fines, impounding assets, and suspending passports, etc.

À comprehensive migration management Act is the need of the hour and total restructuring of the institutions, reframing the objectives, mission, and policies hitherto followed by India with a separate ministry (like the scrapped Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs) for looking after the safety, security, and welfare of the migrant Indians abroad. At the base, Pravasi Ministries work as nodal authorities in states and union territories and they will coordinate and manage aspirants and returnees. In short, the draft is totally silent on the role of state governments in migration affairs.

At the State and Union Territory level, there could be nodal migration management ministries that will coordinate with the Central ministry on all aspects of migration and returnees. Under the state and union territories, they must have district-level offices attached to District Collector Offices for the coordination of the migration-related activities, and the base level units should be Taluk or Panchayat level Pravasi Coordination Offices (for states with high concentration of migrants). This structure will bring decentralized democratic and transparent governance of migration. These kinds of structural reform only promote and manage "safe, orderly and regular migra-

A Pravasi Commission with quasi-judicial authority at the Center and in the States and union territories is needed to look into the various issues related to migration pathways. In addition to labor attaches or labour secretaries, welfare attaches, provisions for legal attaches or legal secretaries must also be made in the embassies and missions of 18 ECR countries. Access to justice is a major problem the Indian migrants are facing as the rule of law is inadequate to protect their rights.

For the inclusion of the Migrants in the inclusive democratic developmental process and for the development of policies and management of migration gover-

nance, a quasi-legislative body needs to be constituted under this Act at the Center and State.

It should be comprehensive in

dealing with the issues and challenges of temporary economic migrants, blue-collar and white-collar, students, women, and migrant families. The act should speak about and tackle the unfair recruitments placements and employment, human trafficking, student mobility, women security and welfare, migration governance, remittances, return and reintegration, migration data, etc. A Comprehensive Migration Management Act, (CMMA) only could end the stark exploitation in the migration cycles mainly the recruitment process, at work, return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of the migrants. The proposed bill is conspicu-

ously silent on migrant women, their protection, and welfare. The only clause which talks about women migrants in the draft is clause 8(iv) in chapter three which reads: "Facilitate gender-sensitive programs and activities to assist particular needs of women migrant workers". Detailed and compulsory provisions for ensuring safe migration for women should be included as women constitute more than 40 per cent of our emigrants and are the most vulnerable section among Indian emigrants.

hensive migration legislation for the last 35 years; we can wait for some more months. Our prayers are for Comprehensive Migration Management Bill and hope the Government will revamp the draft with a new one in consultation with the real stakeholders — the Indian Migrants.

We have waited for a compre-

ed because of the chip scarcity.

**ACTIVITIES** 





TOMAR'S STATEMENT HAS ONCE AGAIN EXPOSED THE CENTRE'S CONSPIRACY TO BRING BACK THE THREE ANTI-FARMER LAWS AFTER THE POLLS. —CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY **RANDEEP SURJEWALA** 

Choose your friends, and enemies, wisely

### Joe Biden's advisers are praying that Donald Trump stays alive and out of jail long enough to win the Republican presidential nomination in 2024

¬he right enemy can be a major asset in politics, as Chilean voters have just demonstrated once again. All the opinion polls had the two presidential candidates neck and neck before Sunday's election, but a few days before the vote it came out that the father of far-right candidate José Antonio Kast was a Nazi.

Everybody knew that the elder Kast had fought in Hitler's army as a teenager, but new documents surfaced last week showing that he actually joined the Nazi Party in 1944. People will forgive a lot of things in the young, but a Nazi teenager? And everybody already knew that Kast idolised his father as much as he revered Chile's former dictator, Gustavo Pinochet.



**GWYNNE DYER** 

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is

'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed

are personal.)

So, the left-wing candidate, Gabriel Boric, won the election with a 12% lead. Or more precisely, Kast lost it, because the electorate was reminded exactly where Kast's ideas (and Pinochet's) came from. He was, in fact, the perfect candidate for Boric to beat. In the same spirit, Joe

Biden's advisers are praying that Donald Trump stays alive and out of jail long enough to win the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. President Emmanuel Macron hopes that racist TV pundit Eric Zemmour is his main rival in France's April election. And Britain's Labour Party wants Boris Johnson to remain

prime minister.



because Johnson is a carcrash of a human being.

In the past month and a bit, he has: lost a Conservative member of parliament guilty of lobbying for cash whom he tried and failed to get out of trouble by changing the rules; suffered a landslide defeat in the subsequent by-election to replace that MP in a 'safe' seat that has voted Conservative for 200 years; had to rely on Labour Party votes to get his That may be tricky, latest anti-Covid measures where 99 members of his own

party voted against him. Johnson was known as 'the greased piglet' by a former employer, and a big part of his appeal to the voters was the way he could wriggle out of every scrape he got himself into. His brazen lies and shambolic manner were just part of his charm; he was a lovable 'scamp', not really a

cheat and a liar. His own party never liked or trusted him; it made him leader because he could win elections. But Conservatives are historically ruthless with failed leaders, and now they are having doubts about Johnson's electoral value.

As a former Conservative cabinet minister told 'The Guardian': "The old Boris

through parliament in a vote brand, the old Boris shtick, doesn't work any more. And the consequence of that is a better-than-50% chance he'll be dead [politically speaking] by the end of next year." Cue panic in the Labour Party, which was counting on having Johnson as the enemy in the next election.

Democratic Party strategists in the United States are similarly anxious about Donald Trump's political health. They know that Trump's base will vote for him no matter what he does, but they calculate that the 'floating' voters who were seduced by his shtick last time will have serious reservations after his claims of a stolen election and his role in the

assault on the Capitol. Any other Republican Républicains.

candidate could also count on the votes of Trump's 'base' (except Mike Pence), but they could also expect to draw a lot more of the floating voters. That could deliver a Republican presidential win in 2024, so Donald is definitely the Democrats' preferred Republican candidate (though they must never say so in public). As for Emmanuel

Macron, his preferred opponent in the decisive second round of next April's election is Éric Zemmour, who is so far right that he scares the horses, or, failing that, the perennial neo-fascist-lite candidate Marine Le Pen. Macron's nightmare is having to face Valérie Pécresse, the leader new of

She is reasonable enough to compete with Macron for the centre-right vote, but conservative enough to win the Catholic vote and good enough with the 'immigration dog-whistle to draw some of the racist vote. In one opinion poll this month, she actually beat Macron in the hypothetical second round.

The question is whether she can beat both Le Pen and Zemmour in the first round, and Macron will be praying that she can't. But the assumption in every case, French, American and British, is that populist demagogues are now easier to beat than traditional right-wing politicians.

Maybe that's true, but all three countries are a long way from Chile.

# French virus infections spike over holidays

more than 100,000 virus infections in a single day for the first time since the pandemic struck, and Covid-19 hospitalisations have doubled over the past month as the fast-spreading omicron variant complicates the government's efforts to

stave off a new lockdown. More than 1 person in 100 in the Paris region has tested positive in the past week, according to the regional health service. Most new infections are linked to the omicron variant, which government experts predict will be dominant in France in the coming days.

Meanwhile a surge in delta variant infections in recent months is pushing up hospital admissions. More than 1,000

died over the past week, bringing the overall death toll to more than 122,000.

The government is holding emergency meetings Monday to discuss next steps. Some scientists and educators have urged delaying the post-holiday return to school, or re-imposing a curfew. But the education minister says schools should open as usual January 3, and other government officials are working to avoid measures that would hammer the economic recovery

Instead the government is hoping that stepped-up vaccinations will be enough.

The government is pushing a draft law that would require vaccination to enter all restau-

ple to produce a negative test not vaccinated.

### China reports sudden spike in Covid cases ahead of Winter Olympics

Beijing: China has reported 206 new Covid cases, including 158 domestically transmitted ones, in a sudden spike ahead of the Beijing Winter Olympics which will be held in February next year, the country's health commission said on Sunday.

Of the new local cases of coronavirus, 157 were reported in Shaanxi and one in Guangxi provinces, besides 48 imported cases, the National Health Commission (NHC)

The spike in cases ahead of

the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics has sparked concerns in the country as officials scampered to arrest the spread. Though China has con-

trolled the contagion by drastically limiting international travel, sporadic clusters of cases continued to surface in different parts of the country, putting its "Zero case" policy under

Chinese officials reported case of Omicron on December 13 in Tianjin city followed by a few more cases. However, there is not much information about its spread in the country.

The health officials also reported an outbreak of Delta strain sub-lineage AY.4 in Zhejiang province in the middle of the month which was reportedly brought under control.

## Tougher Covid-19 lockdown rules in force in parts of UK

London: New tougher restrictions have come in force from Sunday in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland under devolved powers in a bid to curb rising coronavirus cases across the United Kingdom.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Cabinet is expected to review the latest data and advice from experts on Monday to decide if further restrictions need to be brought in for England as well. The region is currently under Plan B measures, which call for working from home, compulsory face masks and Covid-19 vaccination certificates for entry to large venues.

Meanwhile in Wales, nightclubs will close from Sunday and a maximum of six people will be allowed to meet in pubs, restaurants and cinemas.

Up to 30 people will be allowed at indoor events, while at outdoor events the limit is 50. In Scotland, social distancing of one metre will now be required at large events and attendance will be limited to 100 people at indoor events where people are standing, or 200 for seated events inside.

For outdoor events, the limit is 500 people. From Monday, nightclubs will be forced to close for three weeks, table service will be required in settings where alcohol is being served - and the one-metre rule will apply to hospitality.

Northern Ireland has also shut down nightclubs, while indoor standing events and dancing in hospitality settings will be banned. From Monday, a limit of six people - or 10 people from a single household - will be allowed in indoor hospitality settings. Children will not be counted in the total and weddings or civil partnership celebrations will be exempt.

Coronavirus figures are not being reported over the Christmas and Boxing Day weekend, but Friday saw another high of 122,186 UK cases. PTI

The Authorised Officer

## Desmond Tutu, S Africa's anti-apartheid icon and Nobel laureate, dies at 90

Desmond Tutu, South Africa's anti-apartheid icon who won the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting racial discrimination in the country, died on Sunday. He was 90.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that Tutu passed away in Cape Town in the early hours of Sunday. He was the last surviving South African laure-ate of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Tutu, who previously survived tuberculosis, had undergone a surgery for prostate cancer in 1997. He was also hospitalised several times in recent years for a various ailments.

"The passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is another chapter of bereavement in our nation's farewell to a

Lost a great man: Dalai Lama condoles

death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

South Africans who have bequeathed us a liberated South Africa," Ramaphosa said as he shared condolence with

"Desmond Tutu was a patriot without equal; a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the bib-lical insight that faith without works is dead.

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invinci-bility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around the world,' Ramaphosa said.

the family and friends.

Dharamshala: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Sunday condoled the death of South Africa's anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Émeritus Desmond Tutu and called

him a "true humanitarian". In a letter to Tutu's daughter Mpho Tutu, the Dalai Lama called the Nobel Peace Prize awardee his "respected elder spiritual brother and good friend".

Israel plans to

in occupied

Golan Heights

double settlement

Golan Heights: Israeli Prime

Minister Naftali Bennett said on

Sunday the country intends to

double the amount of settlers

living in the occupied Golan

Heights with a multimillion-

dollar plan meant to further

consolidate Israel's hold on the

territory it captured from Syria

Speaking at a Cabinet session, Bennett said the recogni-

more than five decades ago.

tion by the Trump adminis-

tration of Israeli sovereignty

over the swath of land, and the

Biden administration's indi-

cation that it will not at this

point walk that decision back,

prompted the new investment

is the moment of the Golan

Heights," Bennett said. "After

long and static years in terms

of the scope of settlement, our

goal today is to double settle-

trol over the territory would

complicate any future attempt

to forge peace with Syria, which

Heights in the 1967 Mideast

war and later annexed the ter-

ritory, promoting settlement

and agriculture there as well as

creating a thriving local

tourism industry. The U.S. Was

the first country to recognize

Israel's sovereignty over the

Golan, which the rest of the

international community

PUBLIC NOTICE

peing transferred to the name or smit manisha Agarwal Wio Vivek Agarwal R/o E-102, Parshvnath Majestic, Vaibhav Khand Indrapuram Shipra Sun City, Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.) on the basis of registered will. So all related people is informed that if someone has any objection about transfer of above left, they he submit be objection.

plot, then he submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the

publishing date of this information.

Smt Manisha Agarwal

regards as Israeli-occupied.

claims the Golan Heights. Israel occupied the Golan

Entrenching Israeli con-

ment in the Golan Heights."

"This is our moment. This

in the region.

"Please accept my heartfelt condolences... And convey the same to your mother and other members of your family. I pray for him," the letter to Mpho read. Recalling his association

with Tutu, the Dalai Lama wrote, "As you know, over the years, your father and I enjoyed an enduring friend-

### Tutu for his role in the Truth Reconciliation Commission, where he was often driven to tears as victims of apartheid shared their inhumane treatment at the hands of apartheid-ear security forces.

Then newly-elected president Nelson Mandela had appointed Tutu to lead the Commission in 1995.

### PM Modi expresses grief at Tutu's death

New Delhi: Paying tributes to Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning activist for racial justice and LGBT rights, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that he was a guiding light for countless people globally and nis emphasis on human dignity and equality will be forever remembered. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the death of the 90year-old Tutu earlier in the day.

Modi said, "Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu was a guiding light for countless peoole globally. His emphasis on numan dignity and equality will be forever remembered. I am deeply saddened by his demise, and extend my heartfelt condolences to all his

### Putin to mull options if West refuses guarantees on Ukraine

options if the West fails to meet his push for security guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine.

Earlier this month, Moscow submitted draft security documents demanding that NATO deny membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet countries and roll back Central and Eastern Europe.

Putin has urged the West to move quickly to meet the demands, warning that Moscow will have to take "adequate military-technical measures" if the West continues its "aggressive" course "on the threshold of our home.

Asked to specify what such Moscow's response could be, he said in comments aired by Russian state TV Sunday that "it could be diverse," adding without elaboration that "it will depend on what proposals our military experts submit to

The U.S. And its allies have refused to offer Russia the

Moscow: Russian President kind of guarantee on Ukraine Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that Putin wants, citing NATO's open to any qualifying country. They agreed. However, to launch security talks with Russia next month to discuss its

Putin said the talks with the U.S. Will be held in Geneva. In parallel, negotiations are also set to be held between Russia and NATO and broadits military deployments in er discussions are expected under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In remarks broadcast Sunday, Putin said that Russia submitted the demands in the hope of a constructive answer from the West.

"We didn't do it just to see it blocked ... But for the purpose of reaching a negotiated diplomatic result that would be fixed in legally binding documents " Putin said

He reaffirmed that NATO membership for Ukraine or the deployment of alliance weapons there is a red line for Moscow that it wouldn't allow the West to cross.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My bag got missing on 20.09.21. Two share Certificates of V.I.P. Industries Ltd. were in the bag, the details of 2 certificates are Name of the company - V.I.P. Industries Name of shareholder- Om Prakash Gulati Co. Registered Office-78A MIDC Estate Satpur Nasik-422007 for 500 shares & 5th floor, DGF House, 88C old Prabha devi road, Mumbai Maharastra-400025 For 165 Shares Folio No.- 0014689 & 0041500 Share Certificate No.-1100 & 3395 Distinctive no.-660511 661010 & 2571006-2571170 No. of shares 500 & 165 My Address-Om Prakash Gulati, B7, Gurunanak Pura, Modinagar, District Ghaziabad- 201204.

named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director LAB (H) Janta, D-block, 3rd

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Shah, Cont. 9810305164, Email: mukes Shah, Cont. 9810305104, Email: munesmanned yahoo.com, R/o. H-No.66, DDA Flats, Dasghara (Toda Pur) Delhi, Allottee/ Purchaser of 66, Dasghara [Toda Purl Delhi, Allottee/ Purchaser of 66, Dasghara DDA Flats, Delhi has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like Payment Receipts, Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Letter, Site Possession Letter, Site Possession Letter, Site Dossession Letter issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 14/12/2021. 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

### floor, vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi **UJVN Limited** H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-24800

Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com **Date Extension Notice** Due to unavoidable reasons, the last date of submission and date of opening of NIT no. e 27/UJVNL/EE(M&G)/KPS/ 2021-22 for "Major

Station" is hereby extended as underast date for submission of tender Last date for submission of hard copy Date of opening of tender

"http://uktenders.gov.in"

: 03.01.2022, 15:00 Hrs. 04.01.2022, 16:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY

**APPENDIX IV-A** 

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVEABLE POROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Hongkong And Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd, secured creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 12th Jan 2022, for recovery of ₹3,39,38,523.67/- (Rupees Three Crores Thirty Nine Lacs Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Three and Paise Sixty Seven Only) as on 20th Dec 2021, due to The Hongkong And Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, secured creditor, from Mr. Raja Kaushal and Ms. Parvinder Kaushal. The reserve price will be ₹22,472,100 (Two Crore Twenty Four Lakh Seventy Two Thousand One hundred only) and the earnest money deposit will be ₹22,47,210/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lacs Fourty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ten Only)

**Short Description of Immoveable Property** 

RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT NO. H2D083, LOCATED IN BLOCK 'D' ON 8TH FLOOR, HAVING SUPER AREA 242.44 SQUARE METERS ALONGWITH TWO COVERED PARKING SPACE(S) NO. POD016 & POD017 IN THE MULTISTORY BUILDING NO.'2' IN GROUP HOUSING BUILDING KNOWN AS WESTEND HEIGHTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS DLF CITY (EARLIER KNOWN AS DLF QUTAB ENCLAVE COMPLEX), PHASE-V, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GURGAON

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the website www.bankeauctions.com

Date: 27th December 2021

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E -AUCTION SALE

- The property will be sold on an "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" condition, including and along with unknown encumbrances, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of Property put on auction, approved /sanctioned plan from appropriate statutory authority and claims/rights/dues affecting the Property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The Property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues. It shall be the responsibilities of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the Property before submission of the bid(s). It shall be deemed that the intending bidders have done their own due diligence before submitting the tender.
- 2. E Auction Sale Notice issued by the bank is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids. The same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Bank. Interested bidders are advised to inspect the copies of the title deeds/ Property with the bank and conduct their own independent enquiries / due diligence before submission of bids
- The bidders must hold a valid e mail address and may participate in the e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Bank/ service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash, own power failure etc.
- Notice is hereby given that the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https:// www.bankeauctions.com (E Auction house website) on 12.1.2022 between 11:00 am to 12:00 pm with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 12:00 pm,
- For any details, support, help regarding the procedure of online biding by way of the e-auction, prospective bidders may contact the service provider: Contact Person Vinod Chauhan, Mobile No. 9813887931, Email Id: delhi@c1india.com (contact details of E Auction House with the details of contact person) 6. Interested bidders may inspect the property and / or copy of title documents on 4-Jan- 2022 from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is ₹22472100 (Two Crore Twenty Four Lakh Seventy Two Thousand One hundred only). The intending bidder shall be required to pay an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of ₹2247210 (Rupees Twenty Two Lacs Fourty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ten Only). No interest will be paid on the EMD deposited with the Bank.
- Interested bidder(s) have to get themselves registered on the Web Portal and upload a copy of all the requisite documents i.e. Bidder form, KYC documents etc. At the same time, the intending bidder shall have to make the payment of the EMD amount and upload the EMD Amount Receipt on the portal. The interested bidder(s) are also required to mandatorily submit the physical copy of the said documents uploaded on the portal (inclusive of the EMD receipt) to the HSBC Branch.
- No conditional bid will be accepted. The conditional bids may be treated as invalid. Please note that after submission of the bid/s, no correspondence regarding any change in the bid shall be entertained.
- 10. The e-Auction/bidding of the above Property would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date & Time by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. 11. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of E-Auction process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor.
- 12. The EMD shall be paid by the bidder by payment to the following account of the Bank: A/C Number 010-909968-042 Beneficiary Name: E-Auction EMD Suspense account number, IFSC Code: HSBC 0400002
- 13. Only those bidders who have submitted their bids, not below the reserve price, along with other required documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof etc., and made the payment of the EMD on or before 7th Jan 2022 before 4 pm shall be eligible to participate in the E-auction to be held on 12th Jan 2022
- 14. The bidder(s) shall be entitled to improve their offer/ bid by increasing their bid amount, in multiples of ₹115000 (One Lakh Fifteen Thousand only. The said revised bid can be submitted up to FIVE MINUTES of the e-auction. In case any bidder enhances his bid during the LAST FIVE MINUTES, it is automatically extended for FIVE MINUTES from the closing time and so forth until no further bids/enhancements are received.
- 15. The intending bidder shall be entitled to withdraw from the e-auction up to 24 hours prior to the date of e-auction i.e., on or before 11th Jan 2022 11:00 Am. In such event, the EMD paid by the intending bidder shall be refunded to him.
- 16. However, in the event the intending bidder does not withdraw his bid before the said prescribed time of withdrawal, and does not participate in the e-auction for any reason whatsoever, after the expiry of the prescribed time of withdrawal mentioned hereinabove, the EMD paid by the bidder shall be forfeited and he shall not be entitled to the refund of the EMD.
- 17. In case the intending bidders offer / bid is not successful, the said amount paid / deposited by the bidder towards EMD shall be refunded by the Bank, without any interest. 18. The successful bidder shall deposit a total of 25 % of bid amount (which shall include the EMD amount paid) within 24 Hours of Acceptance of his/her bid. The
- balance 75% of the bid amount shall be paid by the successful bidder on or before the 15 day of the date of auction of the property. In the event the 15th Day is a Sunday or any other bank holiday, then the said balance amount shall be paid on the first business day of the bank immediately following the said bank holiday. 19. In the event of default of payment within the prescribed period as mentioned above, the Bank shall be at liberty to forfeit the Earnest Money Deposit and/or any other deposit made by the purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold
- and the property may be re sold after issuing the fresh sale notice proceed with re-auction of the property without assigning any reasons. 20. The property shall be sold to the successful bidder subject to acceptance of the bid by the Bank. The successful bidder shall in addition to the Bid Amount bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp Duty, Registration Fees, Transfer Fee, Taxes, TDS, etc. as applicable/mandated under the local Laws. The successful bidder shall not be entitled to annul the sale on any ground of whatsoever nature. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be liable and/or responsible
- for any charge / lien / encumbrance, tax or any other dues payable to the Govt. or any other Authority or person, in respect of the property under Sale. 21. In case the sale consideration /purchase price is more than an amount of ₹50 lacs, the same shall attract a TDS of 1% or such rate as may be prescribed by the competent authority. Bank will provide the PAN Card number of the borrower to such bidder for making the payment of TDS. The bank shall only after receipt of the TDS challan execute the final sale certificate and register the same thereafter.
- 22. All Society or land charges, pending dues or any outstanding with the Society, Municipal Corporation, Electricity Charges or any other authorities would be paid and settled solely by the successful bidder. The Bank will not be in any way responsible for the same.
- 23. Offers not accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit or received subsequent to the above-mentioned stipulated date and time would not be considered and wil be returned.
- 24. HSBC Staff/Vendor and their family members are not entitled to apply for Auction Property under any circumstances whatsoever. If the Authorized Officer or the Bank identifies any such application by the said persons, the entire Auction shall be cancelled. Bank shall conduct a fresh auction as per its discretion. 25. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof. In the event the highest
- bidder is disqualified for any reason, then the Authorized Officer shall consider the next highest bid and proceed accordingly as per provisions of law. 26. The sale is subject to the discretion and confirmation by the Bank, Decision of the Authorised Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and
- binding on all the bidders
- 27. On receipt of the sale price in full, the Bank will issue a Sale Certificate in favour of the Purchaser and would hand over the possession of the property to the purchaser on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS. The Sale Certificate will be issued in the form given in Appendix V (for immovable Property) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant (s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s)
- 28. The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
- 29. During e-Auction, if no bid is received within the specified time, the Bank at its discretion may decide to revise opening price / scrap the e-Auction process / proceed with conventional mode of tendering.
- 30. The Bank / service provider for e-Auction shall not have any liability towards bidders for any interruption or delay in access to the site irrespective of the causes. 31. The bidders are required to submit acceptance of the terms & conditions and modalities of e-Auction before participating in the e- Auction.
- 32. The bid once submitted by the successful bidder, cannot be cancelled/withdrawn and the bidder shall be bound to buy the Property at the final bid price. The failure on the part of bidder to comply with any of the terms and conditions of e-Auction, mentioned herein will result in forfeiture of the amount paid by the defaulting bidder.
- 33. The Successful Purchaser / bidder shall not be entitled to appoint any nominee or assignee nor waive any obligations under the terms of this Auction. No persons other than the intending bidders, themselves, or their duly Authorized Representatives, shall be allowed to participate in the auction/sale proceedings. The Authorised Representatives must carry with themselves letters of authority from the principal bidder with necessary documents for identification. Such representative shall be entitled to bid or represent the bidder at the sole discretion of the Bank 34. In case, all the dues together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank are tendered by the above named Borrower one working day prior to the date

of Auction, then the property will not be sold vide the said Auction and all the bids received from the prospective bidders shall be returned to them without any

liability / claim against the Bank. For any further details, you may kindly contact: Rohit Dutt Tyagi - Rohit.tyagi@hsbc.co.in

Dated: 27th December 2021

The Authorised Officer

This is to inform you that Sh. Kalu Ram S/o Shń Kishan Lal R/o Village- Mangroli, Pargana - Dankaur, Tehsii and Distt. G.B. Nagar U.P. has a plot in Noida whose No. is Plot No SH-095, Sector-145, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P) Area 156 Sq.mtr is registered at sub registrar office 2nd in Bahi No. 3, Jild No. 532, at page no. from 53–62 on 01.11. 2013 at serial no 2217. So above plot is being transferred to the name of Smt Manisha Agarwal W/o Vivek Agarwal R/o E-102. etter No: 1031

repairing and overhauling of 32 rotor poles of Unit B of Kulhal Power

: 01.01.2022, 15:00 Hrs.

Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulha

## Sensex weathers highs, hiccups to deliver a blockbuster 2021

New Delhi: As if wanting to be an antidote to the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian stock market adorned carnival robes in 2021 with a tsunami of liquidity unleashed by global central banks coupled with supportive domestic policies and the world's largest vaccination drive sparking off a world-beating rally on Dalal Street, despite bouts of uneasiness over fizzy

valuations. While the wider economy shuttled between recovery and relapse, dictated by multiple mutations of the virus, equity market benchmarks appeared headed in just one direction -- skywards.

The dizzying upward

journey has added a whopping ₹72 lakh crore during 2021 to investors' wealth, measured as the cumulative value of all listed shares in the country, tak-

ing it to nearly ₹260 lakh crore. The BSE Sensex made history this year by breaching the 50,000-mark for the first time ever, and went on to scale the 60,000 level within the next seven months. It closed at its lifetime high of 61,765.59 on October 18

Despite the year-end gyrations due to the Omicron threat, the 30-share benchmark has posted returns of nearly 20 per cent so far this year, eclipsing most of its glob-

the most expensive large market in the world, trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 27.11.

This means investors are paying ₹27.11 for every rupee of future earnings of the 30 Sensex firms, compared to its previous 20-year average of 19.80. But, the Indian market is not the only one witnessing such exuberance.

Global central banks, led by the US Federal Reserve, have pumped in trillions of dollars into the financial markets since the onset of the pandemic to boost liquidity and prop up

The US Fed has been buying bonds worth USD 120 tered economy. The Reserve Bank has kept

astounding

liquidity has induced what

experts have termed the 'every-

thing bubble' -- an across-

the-board increase in asset

prices, be it stocks, real estate

or commodities, not to men-

tion more exotic instruments

like crypto-currencies and non-

spirit of the pandemic-bat-

fungible tokens (NFTs).

trillion.

one-and-a-half years, nearly low of 4 per cent since May last doubling its balance sheet to an year, while reiterating its commitment to maintaining an accommodative stance as long This unprecedented sea of

as required. The Centre unleashed a slew of big bang reforms, including production-linked incentive schemes for multiple sectors, a ₹ 100 lakh-crore PM Gati Shakti Master Plan for infrastructure development and an ambitious asset monetisation pipeline, among various other measures.

Back home, the govern-ment and the RBI worked in All this played out amid a tandem to reignite the animal colossal vaccination drive which enabled the reopening of the economy after the shock of

### India Inc raises over ₹9-lakh crore through equity, debt issuances in 2021

have mopped up more than ₹ 9 lakh crore through equity and debt routes in 2021 to meet their renewed thirst for business expansion in a buoyant stock market brimming with liquidity and helped by recovering macroeconomic indicators after pandemic-ravaged first few months. Unless the still-evolving Omicron situation plays spoilsport, the next year is expected to be much more robust in terms of fund-raising activities and there seems to be no dearth of funds, experts said. "The banks have been sitting on surplus liq-COVID-19 lockdowns. *PTI* | uidity for quite a while and there

should be enough appetite for quality borrowers, said Ricky Kirpalani, Lead Sponsor, First Water Capital Fund. In the year passing by, fund mobilisation through debt markets has fallen sharply, while the equity fund raising has been robust and the stock market bull-run with liquidity all-around has resulted in record fund-raising through initial public offerings (IPOs). Despite the plunge in fund mobilisation through the debt route, it continued to contribute a lion's share to the overall fund-raising activity in

Debt fund-raising has

slowed because of long-term economic disruptions during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic, followed by a prolonged impact of the ravaging second wave, said Sandeep Bhardwaj, CEO, Retail, IIFL Securities. Out of the cumulative Rs 9.01 lakh crore garnered till mid-December this year, funds totalling ₹ 5.53 lakh crore were mopped up from the debt mar-ket, ₹ 2.1 lakh crore came from the equity market, ₹30,840 crore through REITs and InvITs and ₹ 1.06 lakh crore via the overseas route, data compiled by analytics major Prime Database

The Authorised Officer

### Japan keen to work with Haryana on climate change,

environmental issues

New Delhi: Japan has shown a keen interest to provide technical support and collaborate with the Haryana government on climate change and environmental issues. Secretary, Environment, Embassy of Japan, Yuki Yoshida, along with Harvana officials, on Sunday visited Aravalli mountains at Bhondsi in Gurgaon to explore the potential of setting up a center of excellence related to cli mate change, waste management, e-vehicles, air pollution, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, desertification and

other allied areas. Advisor to Haryana chief minister for Foreign Cooperation Department Pawan Chaudhary and Managing Director and exrepresentative, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Dr Vivek Saxena discussed the potential areas of partnership and collaboration.

During the visit, senior official of Climate Change Division Technical German Cooperation, an international cooperation agency, Ashwin assured cooperation for technical and financial assistance from Germany on environmental issues, said the Haryana government statement.

New Delhi: The GST regime

will see a host of tax rate and

into effect from January 1,

services provided through

them by way of passenger

transport or restaurant ser-

inverted duty structure in

footwear and textile sectors

would come into effect from

Saturday wherein all footwear,

irrespective of prices, will

attract GST at 12 per cent

while all textile products,

except cotton, including ready-

made garments will have 12 per

port services provided by auto

rickshaw drivers through offline/ manual mode would

continue to be exempt, such

services when provided

through any e-commerce platform would become taxable

effective January 1, 2022, at 5

that would come into effect

include e-commerce opera-

tors, such as Swiggy and

Zomato, being made liable to

collect and deposit GST with

the government on restaurant

The procedural changes

While the passenger trans-

Also, the correction in

vices.

cent GST.

per cent rate.

including liability on e-com- vices.

Host of changes in GST law to

procedural changes coming also be required to issue

come into effect from Jan 1

### Banking sector to see significant reforms in 2022; privatisation, IDBI Bank disinvestment on agenda

tor is set to witness significant reforms in the coming year with privatisation of public sector banks and strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank on the agenda of the government for

All said, the emerging coronavirus situation, especially in the wake of the Omicron variant, might pose headwinds in the pace of reforms.

Going by the numbers, the banking sector has done reasonably well in 2021, notwithstanding the impact of the second wave of the pandemic. Pursuant to the government's 4Rs strategy of Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalisation and Reforms, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the banking sector have declined to ₹8,35,051 crore as on March 31, 2021.

As per the Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2021, macro-stress tests, on the basis of regression modelling, indicate that the Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks, under the baseline scenario, may increase from 7.48 per cent in March 2021 to 9.80 per cent by March 2022.

The net profit of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) surged to ₹14,012 crore in the first quar-

services supplied through them

from January 1. They would

invoices in respect of such ser-

tax burden on the end con-

sumer as currently restaurants

are collecting and depositing

GST. Only, the compliance of

deposit and invoice raising has

now been shifted to food deliv-

ernment estimates showed that

tax loss to exchequer due to

alleged underreporting by food

delivery aggregators is Rs 2,000

liable for GST deposit would

measures which would come

into effect from the new year

include mandatory Aadhaar authentication for claiming

GST refund, blocking of the facility of GSTR-1 filing in

cases where the business has

not paid taxes and filed GSTR-

3B in the immediate previous

filing of return for outward

supplies or GSTR-1 in case a

business fails to file GSTR-3B

of preceding two months.PTI

Currently, the law restricts

over the past two years.

curb tax evasion.

The move comes after gov-

Making these platforms

The other anti-evasion

ery platforms.

New Delhi: The banking sec- ter and further rose to ₹17,132 crore in the second quarter ended September 2021. The combined profit (₹ 31,114 crore) of the first half of the current fiscal is close to the total profit earned (₹31,820 crore) in the entire previous financial year (2020-21).

Similarly, private sector banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank also posted healthy profit with reduction in Improved finanbad loans. cial health coupled with new Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) policy have prepared a strong ground for the privatisation of public sector banks, a long pending financial sector

Many government functionaries have compared the new PSE policy akin to the landmark reforms carried out since 1991.

Unveiling the PSE policy in Budget 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that barring four strategic areas, PSEs in other sectors will be divested. sectors are atomic energy, space and defence; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services in nonstrategic sectors.

Sunny days await

economic recovery

hopes energise cos

New Delhi: Better days are

panies are projecting a positive

outlook on business revenue

riding high on post pandemic

economic recovery and there is

also an increasing buzz about

newer opportunities as well as

better pay packages for profes-

over the new Omicron variant

of the coronavirus, corporates

believe the rebound of the job

market could be the harbinger

of good days ahead, unless an

intense third wave derails the

the country hard in early 2020,

adversely impacted the job

market, both formal and infor-

mal segments, in most sectors

While the aftermath of the pan-

demic-induced disruptions

have not fully ebbed, the over-

all employment scenario is

looking more positive

reason to believe that the days

of complete shutdown are

behind us. Everyone, be it

ernment bodies, have realised

that a fine balance between lives and livelihoods will have

to be struck," Balasubramanian A, Business Head (consumer

and healthcare) at TeamLease

in full swing and companies are

optimistic about their recruit-

ment plans aided by robust

economic growth, rise in con-

sumption levels and expanding

vaccination coverage.

The back-to-office trend is

Services, said.

employees, employers or gov-

"Omicron or not, we have

The pandemic, which hit

economic recovery.

Notwithstanding the fears

job seekers as

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD.

**APPENDIX IV-A** SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVEABLE POROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Hongkong And Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd, secured creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 12th Jan 2022, for recovery of ₹19,74,603.09/- (Rupees Ninteen Lac Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Three and Nine paisa Only) as on 20th Dec2021, due to The Hongkong And Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, secured creditor, from Mr. Kailash Chandra Nahak and Ms. Sujata Nayak. The reserve price will be ₹ 10,84,800 (Rupees Ten Lac Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Only) and the earnest money deposit will be ₹ 108480/-(Rupees One Lac Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only)

Short Description of Immoveable Property

DDA BUILT UP FREE HOLD LIG FLAT BEARING NO. 52, 1ST FLOOR, POCKET-C, BLOCK-A, LOKNAYAK PURAM BAKKARWALA, NEW DELHI- 110041

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the website www.bankeauctions.com

Date: 27th December 2021 Place: Delhi

### TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E -AUCTION SALE

- 1. The property will be sold on an "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" condition, including and along with unknown encumbrances, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of Property put on auction, approved /sanctioned plan from appropriate statutory authority and claims/rights/dues affecting the Property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The Property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues. It shall be the responsibilities of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the Property before submission of the bid(s). It shall be deemed that the intending bidders have done their own due diligence before submitting the tender.
- 2. E Auction Sale Notice issued by the bank is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids. The same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Bank. Interested bidders are advised to inspect the copies of the title deeds/ Property with the bank and conduct their own independent enquiries / due diligence before submission of bids.
- 3. The bidders must hold a valid e mail address and may participate in the e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Bank/ service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash, own power failure etc. Notice is hereby given that the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website
- https:// www.bankeauctions.com (E Auction house website) on 12.1.2022 between 1:00 PM to 2:00 pm with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 2:00 pm, For any details, support, help regarding the procedure of online biding by way of the e-auction, prospective bidders may contact the service provider: Contact Person
- Vinod Chauhan, Mobile No. 9813887931, Email Id : delhi@c1india.com (contact details of E Auction House with the details of contact person)
- 6. Interested bidders may inspect the property and / or copy of title documents on 3-Jan-2022 from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is ₹1084800 (Rupees Ten Lac Eighty Four Thousand Eight hundred only). The intending bidder shall be required to pay an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of ₹108480 (Rupees One Lac Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only). No interest will be paid on the EMD
- Interested bidder(s) have to get themselves registered on the Web Portal and upload a copy of all the requisite documents i.e. Bidder form, KYC documents etc. At the same time, the intending bidder shall have to make the payment of the EMD amount and upload the EMD Amount Receipt on the portal. The interested bidder(s) are also required to mandatorily submit the physical copy of the said documents uploaded on the portal (inclusive of the EMD receipt) to the HSBC Branch. 9. No conditional bid will be accepted. The conditional bids may be treated as invalid. Please note that after submission of the bid/s, no correspondence regarding any
- change in the bid shall be entertained.
- 10. The e-Auction/bidding of the above Property would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date & Time by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. 11. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of E-Auction process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder and a
- communication to that effect will be issued which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor. 12. The EMD shall be paid by the bidder by payment to the following account of the Bank: A/C Number - 010-909968-042 Beneficiary Name: - E-Auction EMD Suspense
- account number, IFSC Code: HSBC 0400002 Only those bidders who have submitted their bids, not below the reserve price, along with other required documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof etc., and made the payment of the EMD on or before 7th Jan 2022 before 4 pm shall be eligible to participate in the E-auction to be held on 12th Jan 2022 1:00 Pm
- 14. The bidder(s) shall be entitled to improve their offer/ bid by increasing their bid amount, in multiples of ₹7000 ( Seven Thousand only). The said revised bid can be submitted up to FIVE MINUTES of the e-auction. In case any bidder enhances his bid during the LAST FIVE MINUTES, it is automatically extended for FIVE MINUTES from the closing time and so forth until no further bids/enhancements are received.
- 15. The intending bidder shall be entitled to withdraw from the e-auction up to 24 hours prior to the date of e-auction i.e., on or before 11th Jan 2022 1:00 Pm. In such event, the EMD paid by the intending bidder shall be refunded to him.
- 16. However, in the event the intending bidder does not withdraw his bid before the said prescribed time of withdrawal, and does not participate in the e-auction for any reason whatsoever, after the expiry of the prescribed time of withdrawal mentioned hereinabove, the EMD paid by the bidder shall be forfeited and he shall not be entitled to the refund of the EMD.
- 17. In case the intending bidders offer / bid is not successful, the said amount paid / deposited by the bidder towards EMD shall be refunded by the Bank, without any interest.
- 18. The successful bidder shall deposit a total of 25 % of bid amount (which shall include the EMD amount paid) within 24 Hours of Acceptance of his/her bid. The balance 75% of the bid amount shall be paid by the successful bidder on or before the 15 day of the date of auction of the property. In the event the 15th Day is a Sunday or any other bank holiday, then the said balance amount shall be paid on the first business day of the bank immediately following the said bank holiday.
- 19. In the event of default of payment within the prescribed period as mentioned above, the Bank shall be at liberty to forfeit the Earnest Money Deposit and/or any other deposit made by the purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold and the property may be re sold after issuing the fresh sale notice proceed with re-auction of the property without assigning any reasons.
- 20. The property shall be sold to the successful bidder subject to acceptance of the bid by the Bank. The successful bidder shall in addition to the Bid Amount bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp Duty, Registration Fees, Transfer Fee, Taxes, TDS, etc. as applicable/mandated under the local Laws, The successful bidder shall not be entitled to annul the sale on any ground of whatsoever nature. The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be liable and/or responsible for any charge / lien / encumbrance, tax or any other dues payable to the Govt. or any other Authority or person, in respect of the property under Sale.
- 21. In case the sale consideration /purchase price is more than an amount of ₹50 lacs, the same shall attract a TDS of 1% or such rate as may be prescribed by the competent authority. Bank will provide the PAN Card number of the borrower to such bidder for making the payment of TDS. The bank shall only after receipt of the TDS challan execute the final sale certificate and register the same thereafter. 22. All Society or land charges, pending dues or any outstanding with the Society, Municipal Corporation, Electricity Charges or any other authorities would be paid and
- settled solely by the successful bidder. The Bank will not be in any way responsible for the same. 23. Offers not accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit or received subsequent to the above-mentioned stipulated date and time would not be considered and will
- 24. HSBC Staff/Vendor and their family members are not entitled to apply for Auction Property under any circumstances whatsoever. If the Authorized Officer or the Bank
- identifies any such application by the said persons, the entire Auction shall be cancelled. Bank shall conduct a fresh auction as per its discretion
- 25. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof. In the event the highest bidder is disqualified for any reason, then the Authorized Officer shall consider the next highest bid and proceed accordingly as per provisions of law.
- 26. The sale is subject to the discretion and confirmation by the Bank. Decision of the Authorised Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and
- 27. On receipt of the sale price in full, the Bank will issue a Sale Certificate in favour of the Purchaser and would hand over the possession of the property to the purchaser on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS. The Sale Certificate will be issued in the form given in Appendix V (for immovable Property) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant (s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s).
- 28. The sale shall be subject to provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Security
- 29. During e-Auction, if no bid is received within the specified time, the Bank at its discretion may decide to revise opening price / scrap the e-Auction process / proceed with conventional mode of tendering.
- 30. The Bank / service provider for e-Auction shall not have any liability towards bidders for any interruption or delay in access to the site irrespective of the causes.
- 31. The bidders are required to submit acceptance of the terms & conditions and modalities of e-Auction before participating in the e-Auction.
- 32. The bid once submitted by the successful bidder, cannot be cancelled/withdrawn and the bidder shall be bound to buy the Property at the final bid price. The failure on the part of bidder to comply with any of the terms and conditions of e-Auction, mentioned herein will result in forfeiture of the amount paid by the defaulting bidder. 33. The Successful Purchaser / bidder shall not be entitled to appoint any nominee or assignee nor waive any obligations under the terms of this Auction. No persons other than the intending bidders, themselves, or their duly Authorized Representatives, shall be allowed to participate in the auction/sale proceedings. The Authorised
- Representatives must carry with themselves letters of authority from the principal bidder with necessary documents for identification. Such representative shall be entitled to bid or represent the bidder at the sole discretion of the Bank. 34. In case, all the dues together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank are tendered by the above named Borrower one working day prior to the date of Auction, then the property will not be sold vide the said Auction and all the bids received from the prospective bidders shall be returned to them without any liability

For any further details, you may kindly contact: Rohit Dutt Tyagi - Rohit.tyagi@hsbc.co.in

Dated: 27th December 2021

New Delhi: Over 4.43 crore income tax returns (ITRs) for the 2020-21 fiscal have been filed, which includes over 11.68 lakh returns filed on December 25, the I-T department said on Sunday.

This comprises over 2.41 crore ITR-1 and 1.09 crore ITR-4 getting filed for FY2020-21 (Assessment Year 2021-22) till December 25, 2021. "A total of 4,43,17,697 #ITRs have been filed up to 25.12.2021 including 11,68,027 #ITRs having been filed on the day itself," the department tweeted.

their returns for FY2020-21 by sending SMSes and emails.

erty / other sources (interest etc). ITR-4 can be filed by individuals, HUFs and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh and having income from business and

The extended deadline for filing ITR by individuals ends on December 31. The original deadline was July 31, 2021. For the 2019-20 fiscal, 5.95 crore ITRs were filed till the extended deadline of January 10, 2021.

"We are also witnessing an increased investment in private equity and M&A deals. The The department has been reminding taxpayers to file vaccination coverage is expand-ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler ing and the shortage of skilled

> Vijaykumar also said, "Only time will tell if the worst is behind us but clearly almost all

talent across sectors only indicates a buoyant job scenario in 2022," Nitya Vijaykumar, Sr. Knowledge Advisor at SHRM India, said.

Striking a note of caution, sectors seem to be prepared for the future.'

The Authorised Officer

### Over 4.43 cr income tax returns filed till Dec 25 for FY'21

Forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by an individual having income up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house prop-

EBBED

### TEAM VIVA curates an array of ensembles to boost your fashion mood for the New Year's Eve

2021 was a party pooper, thanks to the uninvited guest Covid-19. Though 2022 seems like a breath of fresh air, it's important that we party responsibly. And to ensure you are party ready, we have curated an array of ensembles to boost your fashion mood for New Year's Eve. So, party responsibly but do it in style!



High on drama

Want to make a dramatic entry? Shake it off in a Zabella marine printed layered high low tulle gown with a corset yoke. Accessorise the dress with the MNSH Mini Audrey classic 22kt gold plated brass ball bracelet and Eurumme gold knot

DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONS ASSESSED.

brass hoops. If you love dancing, then opt for a comfy pair of Junipero two strap Kiara heels embellished with crystals. Keep it chic and complete the look with Aanchal Sayal veil mini bag with crystal tassels.

Suit up in style
Office party and have no time to change? Label Prints by Radhika has just the perfect outfit for you. Keeping powerful yet fun, the Rococo pantsuit makes for a classy party outfit. Glam it up with a pair of monogram hoops and an XOXO pendant by AMARIS by Prerna Rajpal. While the gold adds the necessary bling, the beige crystal box bag encrusted with shimmery crystals and the see-through strap block heels by Aanchal Sayal will complement your stylish avatar.



Bling it on Speaking of bling, gold plays an integral part when it comes to New Year Eve parties. Be it accessories or

the look with a gold round ring and Yugen ring from Eurumme.

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

Black magic?

Nothing can go wrong when you sport an LBD. Giving its own twist to the classic black dress is label Devina Juneja. The Ellis midi tulle dress by Devina Juneja features laser cut flowers with leather applique. Accessorise



the outfit with a pair of hoop earrings and charcoal ring from Eurumme. Complete the look with a classic pair of Lana heels from Junipero and circle handle bubbling black satchel by Devina Juneja.

> Wrap it up for an after party If you are headed to another

party and the weather seems a bit chilly? Then, why not be winter ready in style. House of Fett's Wembley Wool Coat, crafted in a beautiful shade of blue, has a lapel collar and is adorned with classic vintage buttons in front. A chic ensemble to throw on as is, you can up your glam quotient and team the attire with a pair of pearl studded slider in block heels from Aanchal Sayal, a champagne wave double circle clutch by Devina Juneja and last but not the least a Cuban link chain and Oro hoops by MNSH.



THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT
A part of the Star Wars franchise and a spin-off from the series The Mandalorian, features the bounty hunter Boba Fett and mercenary Fennec Shand navigating the galaxy's underworld and fighting for Jabba the Hutt's old territory. The show starts premiering on December 29 on Disney+Hotstar.



HARRY POTTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY: RETURN TO **HOGWARTS** 

EPITOME OF

GRACE AND STYLE

REGINA CASSANDRA put in a lot of research to step into the skin of the character of Mrinalini

Produced by Warner Bros, the cast of the acclaimed series will reunite to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the franchise's first film, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. Also celebrating New Year, right as the clock strikes midnight and the new year begins, it will premiere on January 1 on HBO Max.

# In Indian colours

Wearing the Indian jersey helped RANVEER SINGH deliver 83 to the audience as he felt duty-bound to the nation. By TEAM VIVA

Actor Ranveer Singh feels wearing the 1983 Indian cricket team jersey propelled him to deliver the knockout 83 to audiences, which is being highly appreciated. He feels proud that he had the honour to wear the Indian colours and is delighted that the film is entertaining audiences.

Singh shares, "I felt deep sense of responsibility to do my best, contribute and

anchor a film that is very important for our nation. It is a glorious chapter in our history, an achievement that we want the coming generations to know of and feel proud of their country. So, I felt dutybound to my nation, to creatively propel and empower a film that's so important for us as a people."

The actor, who is the

undisputed superstar of his



ensembles, gold does add the element of glamour to one's look. So, if you are a guy who loves to experiment with

gold, then give your party wardrobe a bling-over! Menswear label Kunal

Anil Tanna's blue bomber jacket with

gold melange rib detailing and gold buttons goes well with a blue polo neck and trousers. Have some fun

with layering a charcoal and gold dual

interlinked long chain and complete

generation, is on a massive high right now as 83 has become one of the best reviewed films of all time in the history of Indian cinema.

There is growing chatter about how Singh should be winning the coveted National Award for his brilliant performance as the captain of the 1983 Indian

cricket team that beat the mighty West Indies at Lord's. People are mesmerised as he has again dissolved himself on screen to transform himself into Kapil Dev.

The Gully Boy also felt a sense of duty to the original cricketers of the 1983 cricket team, who made India proud on the global stage, when he wore the national outfit for the Kabir Khan directorial.

He says, "I felt duty-bound to the players of the 1983 World Cup winning squad to re-create, represent and portray their great achievement and justify the cinematic rendition of the story befittingly and also duty-bound to Indian cinema after the struggles that the entertainment business has been through and to delivfilm that unites the diverse cultures of our nation into the bond of cricket and of movies." The actor is a shape shifter who can play any character on

er a film that brings people

back into theatres, that's so

important for our movies; a

screen right from films like Band Baaja Baarat, Ram Leela, Bajirao Mastani, Padmaavat, Simmba, Gully Boy, 83. He has played characters without any reference point whatsoever and has delivered the best performances. Very few actors Îndia have this unprecedented range as an artiste as monumental challenges inspire him.

Singh will be next seen in YRF's Jayeshbhai Jordaar, Shankar's remake of his blockbuster Anniyan and Rohit Shetty's Cirkus.







Actor Ranveer Singh, along with director Kabir Khan, cricketer Kapil Dev and his wife Romi Bhatia spotted at Inox Nehru Place, New Delhi, during the promotions of their recent film. 83

---Photos by Pankaj Kumar



### **Festive films**

Raghavan, will have

the South Indian

superstar,

Sethupathi,

A thrilling Merry Christmas from VIJAY SETHUPATHI and KATRINA KAIF with director SRIRAM RAGHAVAN

Tips Industries 23, 2022, announce their The new project Merry Christmas in association with Matchbox Pictures Pvt Ltd, set to release on December

Bollywood star Katrina The festive thriller, Kaif in lead roles. helmed by Sriram

The film went on floors this week and the first schedule is being extensively shot



come true. But there is also a great

responsibility when you're portraying

somebody who is an iconic figure like

her. Dancers have a certain body lan-

guage, and it was a challenge to get it

right. Mrinalini*ji* was a very dignified

lady who was not prone to any dramat-

ics, no matter what storm she was fac-

ing in her private life. So, it was impor-

tant to portray her in that form.

There was a lot of research and home-

work that went behind it. However,

this is an opportunity of a lifetime, and

I am thankful for it. My heart is full of gratitude.

Rocket Boys also features Jim Sarbh (as Homi J Bhabha) and Ishwak Singh (as Vikram Sarabhai) in lead roles. Created by Nikkhil Advani, Roy Kapur Films & Emmay Entertainment, Rocket Boys is directed by Abhay Pannu and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, Nikkhil Advani. The show will be streaming soon on SonyLIV.

### TREND B

whether it gets pressurising to take up the game higher every time he comes on screen.

don't think about it. There is no pressure. I just want to think about what kind of films I am doing in the future, tomorrow what shooting I have to go for, what role I'm doing.

"I feel good I have around five-six films next year but I don't know how I would do it," Kumar added.



fairtalk

'As we all can see that one common factor in both of us is our bald look. When I met Kiri bhai (Syed Kirmani) the first time, he said, 'Arey! Kiri bhai!'. I said to him, 'No sir, you are Kiri bhai.' Both of us started laughing and he hugged me. It was a delightful meeting followed by a conversation that offered me insights into the kind of personality he is. The more I got to know him, the more I realised the responsibility I have taken up to portray him onscreen. I'm grateful.'

# dailytalk DHVANI BHANUSHAL

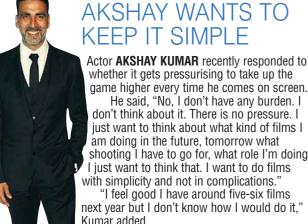
Vijay

'Vaaste has given me so much love from across the spectrum. I have seen youngsters and even older people come up and hum the song for me, which is the biggest compliment. To be able to connect with the people who have made me what I am, my audience, is everything. From the reels that were made around it to all the covers and the phenomenon it created, it's been a part of my very

### BEATRIZ RELATES TO **MIRABEL**

For actor **STEPHANIE BEATRIZ**, who has lent her voice to Mirabel Madrigal — the lead character of Encanto — the portrayal came naturally as she could relate to Mirabel's experi-

The B99 star shares, "Mirabel reminds me of myself at her age — headstrong yet unsure, full of wonder and imagination but sometimes held back by self-doubt. She's funny, awkward and brave. She's also very much a classic Disney heroine, and yet she's a new iteration of that classic. Plus the glasses!"



# LABOUR-ROOM VIOLENCE

Gurpriya Singh looks at the issues of healthcare facilities for women and the difficulties that they face on a day-to-day basis while accessing the same

Por Ramrati, a 29-year-old woman from Patna, narrating her experi-ence of institutional delivery of her first child was quite painful. She got pregnant two months into her marriage. She took good care of herself, and took all the prenatal medications and tests on time. But Ramrati distinctly remembers the four nights she spent in the hospital. "For four days, I kept screaming in pain. The nurse would sometimes abuse or make demeaning remarks, she'd say, 'when you were being intimate with your husband, you didn't feel the pain, you're coming here and shouting.' They would sometimes go on to make caste/religion based remarks, or ask us to give money for an operation. The doctor and interns did a finger test, I would feel as if I am not there for delivery but for them to observe and learn from my body," Ramrati explained.

A report by the YP Foundation, a youth-led and youth-run organisation based in New Delhi, notes a similar experience of a finger test that a young person experienced while conducting a mystery audit at a community health centre in Lucknow. There are multiple such instances recounted by women, where options of detecting pregnancy are not given, and practitioners without taking informed consent routinely conduct bimanual (internal) pelvic examinations to assess the womb.

Even if the act was committed in good faith — in the interest of the patient's well-being and time at hand — the practitioner had not thought it necessary to clarify or take informed consent of the patient, whether she would be comfortable with such an invasive procedure being carried out on

This is just one example of indignity that women routinely experience in the labour room. Labour room violence is not unknown — it ranges from physical and verbal abuse, neglect of quality infrastructure, lack of informed consent or choice and financial abuse.

As part of Khud Se Pooche campaign, a women-led movement in Bihar, supported by multiple organisations in Patna, including Sakhi, Bihar Youth for Child Rights, Gaurav Grameen Mahila

 $B^{\text{utterflies conjure up several}}_{\text{emotions in us}\,-\,\text{of love, ele-}}$ 

gance and splendour. The unique

patterns they carry on their wings are not just mesmerising

but therapeutic in many ways. No wonder the twenty-year-old

Swarali Gogate, from Devgad taluka in Sindhudurga District of

Maharashtram, found her calling in these colourful flies.

Zoology from Abasaheb

Garware College, Pune. After the

Covid-19 outbreak in the coun-

following the national lockdown,

announced a closure for indefi-

nite period. Swarali had to return

home and after a few days of rest,

she felt the urge to tread the

mangroves around her village.

She sought guidance from her college professor, Dr Anand

Padhye, who encouraged her to

ment has trampled our biodiver-

sity. Covid-19 pandemic came as

a boon to the flora and fauna but

with uplifting of the lockdown,

the harmful impacts are once

again visible," explains Swarali.

After noticing the downfall of the butterflies due to cutting

down of trees and shrubs for road and building construction,

Swarali got into action. When

she notices caterpillar larvae on

a branch of a tree, she brings the

branch home to nurture it. She

has conserved hundreds of caterpillars since the first lockdown.

She also documented the jour-

ney of these flies from rearing of

the larva to its transformation

into a butterfly. So far, she has

"Our approach to develop-

study butterflies.

Swarali is perusing BSc in



Vikas Manch, Population Foundation of India and Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion, to build recognition about dignified healthcare in women, many women reflected on diverse experiences in healthcare.

As part of the campaign, a number of women spoke about the extreme judgement and shaming that they had to experience, when accessing a healthcare facility due to delayed/ missed/ painful period cycles. Instead of medical diagnosis and treatment, women were asked personal, out of context and uncomfortable questions such as if they had boyfriends, or if they were having intimate affairs or relationships. In an assertive manner, before being heard, some women were told that they must be pregnant. All these responses have made women feel violated. The ones who experienced pain were told to learn to be resilient or that it will get better after marriage or after the first child. Their pain was dismissed and personal comments were made. In all these experiences, there is a gaze of suspicion and shame that women felt, further traumatising and silencing women patients. The hesitation and barriers, that sometimes young, unmarried women overcome to visit health services, interrupt women's access to services.

Because of the stigma associated with sexual health and reproductive health, from adolescence, women are unable to express or share concerns, and there is hesitation to discuss breast asymmetry, breast cancer related issues, vaginal discharge, menstrual hygiene related queries or general curiosity about body and psychological changes. Lack of proper and dignified access to sexual and reproductive health services, that are often layered with hesitation, stigma and shame impacts mental health of women.

According to the latest National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), Quality of Care is measured by whether users were told about the side effects of the current method of family planning. For instance, in Patna, only 46.4 per cent women were made aware of this, and only 18.6 per cent of women who do not access family planning services were counselled about the same. With less than half of the women who were not made aware about the side effects, even fewer were given any counselling, while myths and misconceptions around family planning remain common. With only a two per cent decrease in unmet need among women, at 15 per cent unmet need is high, where women wish to use contraceptives to postpone next birth. All three factors are linked to lack of proper counselling, that leads to discontinuation and dissatisfaction among

The other big aspect of indignity that women have also experienced is discrimination, differential treatment and bias in treatment due to age, caste, class, religion, abilities, sexuality, gender, employment, education, appearances and flu-



A lot of women felt violated or discomforted by the way the doctor, compounder or nurse touched them — some of them felt that they were touched inappropriately but they didn't know who to tell or whom to report to. They all resort-

In most cases women didn't know who to reach out to, how or whom to explain these experiences, there is always a fear of being told, at home or at a healthcare clinic, that they are seeking attention, they are overreacting, or being frivolous. In a report by CEHAT on the mistreatment of women in the labour rooms, in similar situations, doctors, nurses and hospital orderlies mentioned that it was the women who misunderstood the situation, and that there was nothing of sexual in nature involved in the doctor's actions.

Many women didn't think that they could share these experiences with their families, from the fear of being told to dress properly, behave in a clinic or denied to visit a clinic in the future. There is significant power in the hands of the medical fraternity, where agency, bodily autonomy and integrity is compromised for treatment and care.

Health practitioners and experts note that doctors and medical staff members are part of the same society that normalises these practices every day and simply these go on to reflect in the healthcare, due to non-training/ sensitisation of health care professionals.

During the Khud Se Pooche workshops, women suggest setting up feedback boxes, gender sensitisation and sensitivity training, ethics training, helplines, mental health counseling sessions or committees that can take note of these experiences, and help navigate the situation.

While the experiences of indignity in healthcare are universally understood, the individual's personal circumstances impact their health and well-being. This was starkly visible in the campaign to which most of the above anecdotes are attributed, that factors such as quality of housing, family structure, violence or conflict, working conditions, education, daily lifestyle, gender or sexuality, caste, religion or class, played a huge role on how women navigated access to healthcare.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that addressing social determinants of health appropriately is fundamental in improving health and well being. These include early childhood and development, education, income and employment, housing, work-life balance and conditions, violence, among others to ensure that women health-seekers are not seen as a homogenous group and root and underlying causes are considered, in the treatment process.

(The author is the campaign lead at Khud Se Pooche, a women-led movement in Bihar.)

procreate in the wetlands and the

destruction impacted the entire

research in this area. Along with

the study of flora and fauna, she

also studied the insect and bird

diversity around the mangroves

of Devgad. She also conducted a study of three-legged insects

and the animals and recorded

around 125 types of birds along

efforts are being made at the

groves are being recreated near

water bodies by planting the

seeds of mangrove plants. In

many parts of the world, recre-

ated mangroves have shown

positive impact on biodiversity, increased productivity, improve-

For conserving mangroves,

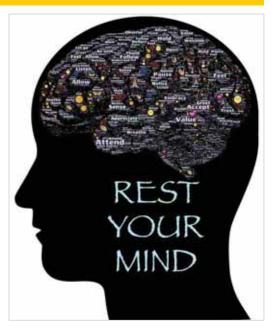
with insects and flies.

Śwarali focused her

ecosystem.

## Take a break

Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj ji discusses the vital role that rest has in preserving health and lists the four kinds of rest



leep is the best form of relaxation, close to medita-Otion, that's why those who sleep well always keep well and feel well. Hence, not too many people need to be convinced that the body must have proper sleep in order to function properly. However, not many people are aware of the vital role of rest in preserving health. That's because many people feel that the words — rest and sleep — are synonymous. But actually they are not so. Even though both are vitally important, they definitely are not the same. Because, the condition of sleep exists only when consciousness has ceased, whereas, in case of rest, it is not so.

So, what exactly is rest? In simple words, it is a period of inactivity during which the body can restore expended energy. We've all experienced this. When we are tired and fatigued, and when we take a short nap or some rest, we feel refreshed and invigorated. According to psychiatrists and behavioural scientists,

to refresh the human mind and body, four kinds of rest are necessary. First is physical rest, that may be obtained by discontinuing physical activities — sitting or lying down and relaxing. Second is sensory rest which is secured by remaining quiet and by refraining from using the eyes, which curtails a great drain of energy. Third is emotional rest, which is



achieved by non-involvement in the ups and downs caused by personal interaction and last is mental rest which is obtained by positive thinking, meditation, and so on. In short, rest is the curtailment of energy expenditure, which permits the body to redirect energies to restoration. It can be used very effectively to rejuvenate ourselves and improve our outlook. For various reasons, our sleep may be inadequate or we may have to be more active physically or mentally during some part of the day. In such situations, we become drowsy, sleepy, rest-

Today's 'success at any cost' culture has some people thinking they would rather be caught stealing than caught taking rest. As a result of which they push themselves, though feeling in need of rest, and resort to stimulants like coffee, tea, soft drinks, et al, to jolt themselves up. This practise takes its toll on their physical th and the problem is than solved. Nervous energy is further drained by it,

In today's hustle and bustle atmosphere of workaholism and efforts to succeed and get ahead, the body's biological needs are often sacrificed. Under such a scenario, it is far better to take some time to rest quietly, with eyes closed and the body still, so as to perform more efficiently thereafter, than to forget the needed rest and drag through and perform at a greatly

Resting the mind is even more important than resting the body. Because a tired mind will not allow the body to take proper sleep. Studies have revealed that regular practise of meditation for even a few minutes in the morning, at bedtime and at convenient intervals during the day would keep the mind constantly relaxed and considerably reduce the quantum and frequency of rest that would be required. So it's better to be wise for our own health and make a habit to rest a

# Reimaging the ecosystem

ALKA GADGIL looks at ways of conserving mangroves and preserving butterflies



conserved the flies belonging to Common Mormon, Lime butterfly, Tailed Jay and Common Jay species.

During the pandemic, her butterfly project generated curiosity in the youth in and around her community. Everyone who watched her butterfly conservation was amazed at the stages of a butterfly's life cycle. "How can such a big butterfly fit in such a tiny cell?" they wondered. Inspired by her work, they promised that they would

not remove the larvae from the trees and would refrain from spraying pesticides.

Śwarali, even as a child, had immense curiosity and interest in the flora and fauna. While most of the children in her village were interested in watching cartoons, she would watch Animal Planet. As a child, she used to wonder when would she be able to see these animals? How did they live? How did they behave? What is their relationship with the surrounding?

"To help find answers to my childhood curiousity, I joined a course run by the Institute of Natural History Education and Research at Pune, which helped me a lot. There are tiny microorganisms in water, and they too have diversity. I got acquainted to Taxonomy which is a science of classification, identification and nomenclature of species," said Swarali.

There were mangroves and wetland around the creek near her house in Devgad. A few vil-shrimps and prawns. These fish

lages from the area had no direct access to the mainland. The cooking gas cylinder supply was a grave issue because it was difficult to ferry a cylinder to remote places. As a result, people depended on firewood and were cutting down trees. To resolve the issue, a bridge across the creek was built. This disrupted the ecosystems of the mangroves. The water currents of the creek got separated because of the heavy pillars impacting the

ment of water quality as well as reduction of the total organic carbon. Although development does have an impact on the eco systems and livelihoods of the people, there are ways to mitigate the loss. The Self-Help Groups from Devgad block have started a nursery of the mangrove plants in partnership with the Mangrove Cell of Maharashtra Government.

The local youth, inspired by Swarali's efforts, has started taking an interest in reimaging a lost eco system and have started participating in the conservation work of the wetlands. Swarali's passion inspires, and it reminds us of a line from Robert Frost's 'Butterflies...flowers that fly and all but sing'.

--- Charkha Features

less or down. And to come out of it, we need good rest. even though the drain may not be evident at that time.

reduced productivity level.

Nowadays, many top multinationals, especially abroad, have made separate restrooms for their staff so that they can just go there for a while and just relax to come back and work with more energy. Many medical professionals have also said that napping improves body functions, including digestion. Also, resting at regular intervals prevents excessive fatigue and promotes better and more efficient work. It sharpens the mind and also allows you to fall asleep more quickly and sleep more soundly. Resting and napping are not signs of laziness, they are intelligent and productive uses of your time.

This moment is all there is.

### CANCER TREATMENT WITHOUT CHEMO POSSIBLE RESEARCH SHOWS PAIN CAN BE SILENCED

team of 11 scientists from the Cleveland Clinic of America and Allahabad University have devised a way in which chemotherapy and radiation therapy will not be required to kill cancer

cells. The research of the group, led by Professor of Cancer Biology at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr Yang Li, and supported by Munish Pandey, of the department of

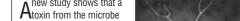


and radiation therapy. Following the success of the rat experiment, plans to implement it on the human body are now being extended. The team had previously designed knockout mice for

significant because it implies a strategy by which cancer

patients will be shielded from the side effects of chemo

miR-21. Since then, the tumour that had formed in the rat's body gradually reduced. Some tumours have completely disappeared



Anew study shows that a toxin from the microbe that causes anthrax can in mice. Researchers found the toxin targets painsensing cells to alter signaling and block pain.

silence multiple types of pain Building on that finding,

researchers engineered an anthrax protein vehicle to deliver different types of treatments into pain receptors and modulate nerve-cell function. The findings can inform the design of therapies that selectively target pain-sensing fibers without the widespread systemic effects of opioids and other pain killers

The research reveals that this specific anthrax toxin works to alter signaling in pain-sensing neurons and, when delivered in a targeted manner into neurons of the central and peripheral nervous system, can offer relief to animals in

The work, led by investigators at Harvard Medical School in collaboration with industry scientists and researchers from other institutions, is published in Nature Neuroscience.

### 10 MINUTES OF RUNNING HELPS MENTAL HEALTH

Researchers found that as little as ten minutes of moderate-intensity running could benefit mental health. In study participants, both mood and cognitive functions improved, and the activation of bilateral prefrontal subregions associated with cognitive function and mood also increased. These results demonstrate the potential advantages of exercise prescriptions for various conditions including mental health treatment.

There's clear evidence that physical activity has many benefits, such as the ability to improve mood, but in previous studies, cycling was often the form of exercise studied. Running, however, has always played an important role in the well-being of humans. The unique form and efficiency of human running, which includes the ability to sustain this form of exertion

(that is, by jogging as opposed to sprinting), and the

evolutionary success of humans are closely linked. These findings may contribute to the development of a wider range of treatment recommendations to benefit mental

### **SHARK PROTEINS TO NEUTRALISE COVID-19**

 $S^{\text{mall, unique antibody-like proteins known as VNARs} - \\ \text{derived from the immune systems of sharks} -- \\ \text{can}$ prevent the virus that causes COVID-19, its variants, and related corona viruses from infecting human cells according to a new

The new VNARs will not be immediately available as a treatment in people, but they can help prepare for future coronavirus outbreaks. The shark VNARs were able to neutralise

study.

WIV1-CoV, a coronavirus that is capable of infecting human cells but currently circulates only in bats, where SARS-CoV-

2, the virus that causes COVID-19, likely originated. Developing treatments for such animal-borne viruses ahead of time can prove useful if those viruses make the

jump to people Researchers are preparing an arsenal of shark VNAR therapeutics that could be used for future SARS outbreaks.

### **GET READY FOR A DOG-ALLERGY VACCINE**

rhere have been many research efforts describing the I nature and progression of dog allergies, but there have been very few applied studies that use this information to try to cure people of dog allergies entirely by artificially inducing immune

tolerance. But researchers have now identified candidates for those parts of the molecules that make up dog allergens that could give us precisely that: a dog allergy vaccine.

Their findings

were published in the Federation of European

Biochemical Societies journal.

Being allergic to dogs is a common malady and one that is growing worldwide. Over the years, scientists have been able to identify seven different dog allergens molecules or molecular structures that bind to an antibody and produce an unusually strong immune response that would normally be harmless.



# NGIDI STRIKES TWICE HP stun mighty TN BUT INDIA REMAIN IN CONTROL In Vijay Hazare Trophy final for maiden title

outh Africa fought back with a Couple of wickets in the after-noon session via Lungi Ngidi but India still controlled the proceedings by reaching 157 for two at tea on day one of the first Test here on Sunday.

India scored 74 runs in the second session while Ngidi removed Mayank Agarwal (60 off 123) and Cheteshwar Pujara (0) off successive balls to provide the hosts much needed breakthroughs.

K L Rahul grew in confidence and was batting on 68 off 166 balls at the break alongside skipper Virat Kohli (19 batting off 54).

After struggling to hit the fuller lengths in the morning, South African pacers bowled with more consistency and attacked the

Agarwal, who got to his half century after lunch, was dismissed against the run of play.

The ball appeared to bounce over the wicket apart from missing the leg stump but the on-field decision was reversed when DRS revealed that it was hitting the wickets, leaving Agarwal in disbe-

His fall also ended a memorable 117-run partnership, making Rahul and Agarwal only the third Indian opening pair to stitch a century stand in 21 games in South Africa.

With sun coming out, Pujara

walked in and was dismissed first ball, inside edging a defensive shot

to Keegan Petersen at short leg. Soon after, Rahul brought up his fifty with a delightful cover drive off

Kohli, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, began with an unconvincing drive off Marco Jansen before clipping spinner Keshav Maharaj wide of mid-on for his second boundary. Rahul survived a close LBW call



off medium pacer Wiaan Mulder late into the session before flicking a half-volley in his following over for his 11th boundary.

In the morning session, Agarwal and Rahul played with the required discipline in testing conditions to take India to 83 for no

Kohli made a brave call to bat first on a greenish surface which is expected to get quicker as the game

progresses.
Both Rahul and Agarwal, who are close friends and play for the same domestic team, left the ball well against a pace attack which did not bowl well enough in favourable

Agarwal carried his good from the home series against New Zealand to SuperSport Park while Rahul stuck to the approach that brought him a lot of success in England earlier this year when he opened the batting alongside the now injured Rohit Sharma.

Rahul was more watchful to start with, showing absolute clarity in leaving the ball while Agarwal was quick to cash in on freebies offered by the opposition pacers.

Agarwal drove Ngidi through point for the first four of the

Rahul, who took 21 balls to get off the mark, played an exquisite straight drive off Kagiso Rabada to

Debutant left-arm pacer Jansen made a nervy start to his career with Agarwal dispatching him for three fours in his opening over.

ball in Test cricket was a gentle full toss which Agarwal duly dispatched through cover point. Then the lanky pacer bowled a couple into the pads which were crisply flicked

away.

The South African pacers bowled a tad too short in the first hour of play. The Dean Elgar-led side also wasted a review early in the

The only chance that came South Africa's way went begging with a diving Quinton de Kock dropping Agarwal off Jansen. He was batting on 36 at that time.

South Africa decided to leave out in-form pacer Duanne Oliver from the playing eleven while India picked the struggling Ajinkya Rahane ahead of Hanuma Vihari

The hill state of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday reached its zenith in cricket, with a stunning 11-run victory over mighty Tamil Nadu in the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

Youngster Shubham Arora came out all guns blazing with his maiden List A century as Himachal downed five-time champions Tamil Nadu under the VJD method to win their first ever domestic one-day championship.

Chasing a stiff 315, Himachal Pradesh, who were playing their maiden Vijay Hazare final, responded in style with the 24-year-old wicketkeeper-batter making a fine 136 not out with 13 fours and one

With Himachal 299/4 in 47.3 overs, and needing 16 off 15 balls, bad light suspended play at 5pm, before Himachal were declared winners under the VJD Method.

Tamil Nadu have been the best domestic side in the country in white-ball cricket since the 2019-20

After losing the finals of the oneday and T20 competitions in 2019, the team has won back-to-back titles in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20s (2020-21 and 2021-22), but underdogs Himachal outplayed the favourites on this occasion.

On a day when veteran wicketkeeper-batter and former captain Dinesh Karthik smashed an entertaining 103-ball 116, the young Himachal glovesman outshone the seasoned pro with his well-calculated, unbeaten century under pres-

After opting to field on a flat Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Rishi Dhawan took another fine call in sending Amit Kumar ahead of him, as the skipper chose to play the role of a finisher.

The move paid dividends as the the left-right combination of Arora and Amit (74 from 79 balls; 6x4) added 148 for the fourth wicket in a match-winning partnership.

After Baba Aparajith gave TN the much-needed breakthrough by dismissing Amit, Himachal needed 71 from 54 deliveries, but Rishi played his role to perfection, hammering the rival bowling attack to make it look easy in the end.

Eyeing a record sixth title in the tournament and a limited-overs double this season, Tamil Nadu, who recently won the Syed Mushtaq

Ali T20, were lacklustre on the field.
Skipper Vijay Shankar made a
blunder as he fumbled when he was presented a crucial run-out opportunity when Arora was on 113.Arora was also grassed by Jagdishan when he was on 135, with Himachal needing 18 in as many

"The team has backed me throughout the tournament. I just wanted to play my natural game and built on my innings after I got set," said Man of the Match Arora.

An elated Dhawan said: "Finally

we have won a title, it's the result of our hard work over the years. We knew the conditions well here and so we just to stay on there."

Eyeing a maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title, Himachal started strongly with a 60-run opening stand between Arora and Prashant Chopra (21 off 26 balls).

But Tamil Nadu effected a double blow, dismissing Chopra, Digvijay Rangi (0) in a space of five balls to leave them at 61/2 in 9.3

HP were then reduced to 96/3 in 16.1 overs with Murugan Ashwin dismissing Nikhil Gangta off his very first delivery. But the left-handed Arora remained calm, while Amit Kumar,

coming ahead of skipper Rishi, played a perfect second fiddle. The left-right combination kept rotating the strike and snatched

quick singles. Arora and Kumar slowly pulled

the game out of Tamil Nadu's hands as they struggled to break the part-

# 3rd Ashes: Aus dominant on day 1

**AP** MELBOURNE

 $E_{\text{room discussions about}}^{\text{ngland's earnest dressing-}}$ improving shot selection failed to bear fruit on Sunday's opening day of the third Ashes cricket Test, as shambolic batting delivered a Boxing Day feast of wickets for Australia at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

England was bowled out for 185, before Australia reached 61-1 at stumps.

Admittedly England, humiliated in a 275-run defeat in Adelaide, faced a tough task Australia captain Pat Cummins won the toss and invited undersiege England to bat first on a green-tinged, seaming MCG

England was 61-3 at lunch. By tea, the tourists were in serious trouble at 128-6, having lost the key wicket of skipper Joe Root for 50.

England's resistance with the bat lasted just 65.1 overs. World No.1-ranked bowler Cummins (3-36), spinner Nathan Lyon (3-36) and leftarm quick Mitchell Starc (2-54) combined to keep the pressure on England's batters.

A loose shot outside off stump by Root, a questionable cut by Ben Stokes, and a wild heave by Jos Buttler will attract heavy attention from England's press after another difficult day for the tourists, who trail two-nil in the five-match series.

England's top order. The skipper took three wickets in the opening session after winning the toss and bowling.

Rain delayed the start of

Cummins ripped through



play for 30 minutes before Cummins removed Haseeb Hameed without scoring and Zak Crawley for 12.

Dawid Malan added 48 for third wicket with Root, before Cummins was rewarded in the final over before lunch, as Malan was caught at first slip for 14.

Australia claimed another three wickets in the middle session, dismissing the dangerous duo of Root and Stokes (25). The departure of Buttler for three, after aiming a wild slog to deep mid-wicket off the bowling of Lyon in the last over before tea, summed up England's struggles against Australia's disciplined bowl-

World No.2-ranked bats-

man Root added to his side's woes outside off stump by offering a catch to wicketkeep er Alex Carey off the bowling of Mitchell Starc at 82-4.

Root needs a secondinnings score of 109 to claim a new record for most test runs in a calendar year, passing the tally of 1788 recorded by Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf in 2006.

Stokes tried to lift England's scoring rate by launching into an aggressive cut shot off the bowling of Cameron Green, but the left-hander was caught at gully at 115-5.

Dubutant Scott Boland, playing at his home state ground, got his first test wickt by trapping Mark Wood leg before to the delight of the majority 57,,100 fans at the

MCG. Jonny Bairstow hit 35 before falling over as he edged a bouncer from Starc to gully at 159-8. Lyon removed tailenders Jack Leach (13) and Ollie Robinson (22).

David Warner and Marcus Harris (20 not out) shared an opening stand of 57 for Australia. Warner was caught at gully off the bowling of Jimmy Anderson for 38.

Harris required medical attention during the following over after being struck on the hand by a bouncer from Stokes, but survived to the end of play with nightwatchman Nathan Lyon to leave the hosts in the ascendancy again

### Rangana Herath joins B'desh team after quarantine

Tauranga: Bangladesh spin bowling consultant Rangana Herath has completed his 14-day quarantine and has been allowed to join the team ahead of the two-Test series against New Zealand.

The 43-year old Herath tested positive for Covid-19 after arriving in New Zealand. Apart from him, the eight other members of the Test squad comprising players and support staff were asked to as they were in close contact with a Covid-positive patient who was flying with them from Malaysia to New Zealand.

"MIQ (Managed Isolation and Quarantine) facilities released me today and now I am so happy to be back with the team. At the same time, I had a kind of difficult two weeks with that (quarantine) but I am so glad to be back and looking forward to the tour," Herath was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz on Sunday. "At the same time I must thank BCB and New Zealand healthcare as they looked after me very well," he added.

There were doubts over the series going ahead after players were sent into quarantine. However, the players were allowed to resume practice after all the members of the touring party returned negative tests on December 21.

The Bangladesh team is currently in Tauranga for their last phase of preparation and will play a two-day game against the New Zealand XI on December 28-29.

### CEO holds blind cricket tournament

PNS PANAJI

the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has organised a Blind Cricket tournament between both the team to create awareness among the voters about the inclusive election initiaitives of Election Commission of India for the forthcoming Goa Assembly Election.

North Goa Blind Team won a massive victory over South Goa Blind Team today at a Porvorim. After winning the toss, South Goa Blind Team asked North Goa to bat first. North Goa opening player

Yeshwant Gosavi (65 runs) and Prajyot Jha (70 runs) scored 160 without loss, setting a big target for South Goa team to win in 12 overs. However, South Goa could not chase the target and scored just 125 losing 5 wickets in 12 overs. The District North Goa

team received an 11,000/- cash prize, certificate and trophy. Rs.5500 cash prize was given to the runner up team. Participation Certificates were given to the Players of both TeamGoa Chief Electoral Officer Kunal, distributed the prizes congratulated both the teams for showing sportsmen spirit. He said sportsmen spirit and participation in elections are interrelated.

The election is a festival of democracy and in election, we need sportsmen spirit, commitment and participation for the success of democracy, he

# ICC expresses sadness at Illingworth's death



PTI DUBAI

The International Cricket ■ Council (ICC) on Sunday expressed grief at the death of former England captain Ray Illingworth at the age of 89.

He had been undergoing radiotherapy for esophageal cancer. Yorkshire, the English county Illingworth played for, announced his death on Saturday.

the off-spinning all-rounder, started his first-class career in 1951 at the age of 19. He represented England

Born in Pudsey, Yorkshire,

from 1958 to 1973, playing 61 Tests, scoring 1836 runs and picking 122 wickets. He captained England to a famous 2-0 Ashes victory in 1970-71.

He had a tremendous first-class career, accumulat-

ing 24,134 runs and taking 2072 wickets. He also led Yorkshire to three consecutive County Championship wins from 1966 to 1968.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said: "Ray Illingworth was a giant of English cricket and was one of England's finest captains.

He made an enormous contribution to the game, not iust as England's captain, but also as coach and chairman of selectors. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at

this difficult time." retirement, After Illingworth turned to broadcast and was a part of BBC's television coverage.

He also served as England coach in 1995-96 and was the chairman of selectors between 1994 and 1996.

### SHASTRI: ONE OF GREAT Debutants Rajasthan United left to play with 9 players INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

PTI MUMBA

Former India Ravi Shastri on Sunday heaped praise on Himachal Pradesh after they won their maiden Vijay

of the great inspirational stories".
"...You know for a team like Himachal, like I said no superstars, but going on to win the tournament, just goes to show that if your work ethics are good, you are grounded, you are humble and you want to

it of the game as a team, you can achieve great heights. "So, hats off to them for

play the game in the true spir-

Hazare Trophy, saying "it is one

major upset after another in this tournament,' Shastri told reporters here. The former India all-rounder was speaking after the prize distribution of 74th Police Shield tournament at the picturesque Mumbai Police

Gymkhana here Himachal Pradesh on Sunday stunned the mighty Tamil Nadu in the final of the

India player Suryakumar slammed 249 in the final of the Police Shield and played a key

Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Yadav, part of the winning Parsee Gymkhana team, part in the team's victory.

PTI KALYANI (WB)

Tn a bizarre development, debutants Rajasthan United were left to play their maiden I-League match against Punjab Football Club on Sunday with just nine players, instead of 11, due to the confusion over the registration of amateurs

The Jaipur-based side, which had made it to the I-League after winning the qualifying tournament in October, acknowledged that the situation arose due to "errant decision making" by the

Raiasthan United said the All India Football Federation refused its request to postpone the match to January when they can have enough players with new signings. It also took a dig at their opponents -- Punjab FC -- for refusing to play the match later.

The AIFF, on its part, said it had

acted as per rules which were approved by the world governing

"We retained minimal players from the qualifiers and sought to get better players for the higher league -- seeing as the competition is undoubtedly higher," Rajasthan United said in a statement.

'The AIFF issued a statement to all clubs on 14th Dec 2021 stating that these teams could field amateur players who be allowed to play as such till December 31, 2021. Respecting the statement, RUFC registered a significant number of amateurs.

"A second statement released on 21st Dec said that amateur players signed on or before August 31 would be allowed to play in the league."

The club had no way to sign professional players after winning the I-League Qualifiers as the June-August



transfer window (for professional players) had already ended by then. The second transfer window begins

only on January 1. The club said it respects the decision of both the AIFF and their

opponents to not postpone the fixture. "We acknowledged the errant decision making and communication that has led to this situation. It is a deep humiliation and learning experience for a club as new as us

ness at the development, saying "sportsman spirit is only left to be discussed on social media and books, but when it comes to the field it is a totally different ball game." "Our opponents could have the willingness to play this match on a

It, however, expressed its bitter-

later date." The club further said a simple

option would have been to forfeit the match and play from game 2 on January 5 onwards (which occurs after the winter transfer window opens) but decided to take the field with only nine "It (forfeiting the match) is some-

thing our philosophy will not allow. Offering our opponents the respect they deserve, we will put forth our bast face in the circumstances and strives to display the sportsmanship that defines the sport