

**OPINION 8**  
DEMOCRACY WOULD  
CONTINUE TO THRIVE**WORLD 11**  
OMICRON WAS IN NETHERLANDS  
BEFORE SOUTH AFRICA ALERT**AVENUES 12**  
CAT  
ANALYSIS 2021

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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**MESSI  
WINS HIS 7<sup>TH</sup>  
BALLON D'OR  
14 SPORT**

## RT-PCR, RAT can detect Omicron: Govt

No case so far in country, Centre asks States/UTs to remain vigilant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Sunday said the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 did not escape RT-PCR and RAT tests and asked States and UTs to ramp up testing and undertake effective surveillance of international passengers. The Government also said no case of the new variant has been found in the country as yet.

ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said that the Omicron variant didn't escape RT-PCR and RAT and hence, States and UTs were advised to ramp up testing for prompt and early identification of any cases.

In a meeting with States and UTs to review Covid-19, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan assessed the public health response measures and preparedness in view of the new threats from the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

Bhushan advised States to keep a strict vigil on the international passengers coming to the country through various airports, ports, and land border crossings, and stressed strict monitoring of hotspots, a Health Ministry statement said.



A health worker checks the temperature of travelers before allowing them to proceed at train station in Mumbai on Tuesday. AP

Meanwhile, as the country braces for the threat from Omicron, the Government on Tuesday said in Parliament there was no case reported so far and it was alert to the new variant of the corona.

This assurance from Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya came in the Rajya Sabha after several Elders expressed concern over the fast-spreading Omicron and the danger it posed to India. They also sought to know the steps taken by the Government to tackle the emerging threat.

At the meeting chaired by Bhushan, the States were specially advised to undertake effective surveillance of international passengers. Testing of samples of international travellers coming from "at-risk" countries on the first day and of specified category of pas-

sengers on the eighth day needs to be scrupulously done, Bhushan stressed.

He said international pas-

sengers from "at-risk" countries are being advised to wait at the airports till the report of the RT-PCR test is available.

## Booster shot for Omicron possible in 6 months: Adar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Serum Institute of India chief Adar Poonawalla on Tuesday said Covishield can be developed further to work against the new Covid variant Omicron if research indicated such a need.

Tests are on for Omicron and a call on the matter will be taken in another two weeks, when more is known about the

new virus, he said.

"Scientists at Oxford are also continuing their research, and based on their findings, we may come out with a new vaccine which would act as a booster in six months' time. Based on the research, we would know about the third and the fourth dose for us all," he told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

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States have been asked to send all positive samples for genome sequencing to INSACOG Labs (mapped with States) promptly and that States should undertake contact tracing of positive individuals and follow up for 14 days, the statement said.

The Union Health Secretary urged States to strengthen the testing infrastructure while strictly implementing the testing guidelines and ensure ample testing in each district while maintaining the RT-PCR ratio.

States and UTs were advised to have continuous monitoring of areas where recent clusters of positive cases have emerged and send all positive samples for genome sequencing to the designated

INSACOG Lab in a prompt manner.

They were asked to do effective and regular monitoring of home isolation cases, with physical visits to homes of passengers from "at-risk" countries.

The status of those who are negative after the test on the eighth day has to also be physically monitored by the State administration, Bhushan said. "States were also asked to ensure the preparedness of health infrastructure (availability of ICU, O2 beds, ventilators, etc.) and to implement Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness (ECRP-II) with a focus on rural areas and for pediatric cases," it said.

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## Peeved at MPs' suspension, Opp walks out of RS



Opposition leaders protest near Mahatma Gandhi's statue over suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha members, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The second day of the Winter Session of Parliament saw a widening of rift between the Opposition members and Chair on the issue of suspension of 12 Opposition members of the Rajya Sabha. The Congress-led Opposition staged a walkout soon after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu justified the suspension of MPs for the entire Session.

Naidu said the suspended MPs haven't yet shown any remorse for their act of sacrilege of the House in the previous Session in August. Leader of the House Mallikarjun Kharge countered him saying

the motion for suspension moved by the Government was in gross violation of the rules.

He asked how action could be taken in the current Winter Session of Parliament for alleged "unruly" conduct in the last session.

On the first day on the Session, the Opposition has crossed swords with the Chair for not allowing a discussion on a Bill to repeal the farm laws and passed it within minutes.

"Motion (for suspension of the 12 Opp MPs) was moved, it was approved, action is taken, it is final," Naidu said as he rejected an appeal by Kharge to revoke the suspension.

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## CET for UG, PG through NTA likely from 2022

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major reform towards higher education, the Centre on Tuesday announced that a Common Entrance Test (CET) for undergraduate and post-graduate courses at Central universities may be conducted from the academic session 2022 through the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The Ministry of Education wanted that admission to universities will be based on a CET from 2021 academic session itself but the plan could not take off due to challenges posed by Covid-19. Universities' regulator, the University Grants Commission (UGC), said the pattern may also be adopted by the willing State/private universities/deemed to be universities. "Accordingly, all Central universities are advised to take appropriate measures for the Common Entrance Test from the academic session 2022-2023," the UGC said.

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## Govt invites farmers for talks on MSP

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After repealing the three controversial farm legislations, the Government has invited farmers for talks and asked them to suggest names of their representatives to set up a committee for discussions to make the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system more effective and transparent as well as to suggest ways to promote zero budgeting based-agriculture.

The move comes after the 32 farmers' groups gave a deadline by Tuesday (November 30) to the Centre on their six demands. Farmers have called an emergency meeting on December 1 and another meeting on December 4 to decide the further course of action. In a related development, the Manoharlal Khattar Government in Haryana has invited farmers for talks while the Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan has sought a list of farmers' cases in the State.

Farmers' leader Darshan Pal said the Government has sought five names from farmer unions for panel on MSP and other issues.



Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar during the Winter Session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

Pal said the farmers groups under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha will decide on names in its December 4 meeting. Sources said the committee will have representatives of the Central Government, State Governments, farmers, agricultural scientists, and agricultural economists. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has even asked States/UTs, to consider the withdrawal of all cases filed against farmers who were part of the agitation as law and order is a subject.

According to SKM, there was a telephone call from the

Centre to a Punjab farmer union leader, wherein they wanted five names to be suggested from SKM's side for a committee. "However, we have received no written communication and no details are available so far about what this Committee is about, its mandate or Terms of Reference. In the absence of such details, it would be premature to comment on this issue," the SKM said.

Meanwhile, in a reply to Lok Sabha on a legal backing to the MSP, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar did not furnish any clear reply to a question, "whether the Government has any plan to introduce legal backing to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to agricultural products". The question was raised by K Muralidharan.

Apart from the repeal of the farm laws, a legal guarantee on MSP has been one of the major demands of the protesting farmer unions.

Presently, the Government decides the MSP based on the recommendation of the expert

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## CAPSULE

### ECONOMY GROWS 8.4% IN JULY-SEPTEMBER

**New Delhi:** India's GDP growth slowed to 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22, mainly due to waning low base effect, but the economy has surpassed the pre-Covid level, official data showed on Tuesday. The GDP growth in April-June quarter this fiscal stood at 20.1 per cent. The Indian economy had contracted by 24.4 per cent in April-June last year.

### CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER FOR MALLYA, SAYS SC

**New Delhi:** "We can't be waiting any longer now" and the sentencing aspect in the contempt matter against fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, who is an accused in bank loan default case of over ₹9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines, would be dealt with finally on January 18 next year, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

## ERA secy suspended for TET paper leak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After directing the Special Task Force to initiate stern legal action against those involved in Uttar Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (UP TET) paper leak besides invoking National Security Act and Gangsters' Act against them, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday made another crackdown when he placed the Secretary of Examination Regulatory Authority Sanjay Kumar Upadhyay under suspension.

According to an official spokesman, Upadhyay was found prima facie guilty of negligence leading to the leakage of the UP TET paper hence action was taken against him by the chief minister.

During the period of suspension, Upadhyay would remain attached to the office of the Director of Basic Education, Lucknow.

"Secretary, Examination Regulatory Authority, Sanjay Upadhyay has been found prima facie guilty of not conducting UP TET in a fair, copy-less and peaceful manner", the official claimed while issuing his suspension order. Upadhyay was responsible for conducting the examination.

Meanwhile, in another major development, Director of the RSM FINSERV Ltd, Rai Anoop Prasad, who was summoned by STF for interrogation on Monday night in Noida, was also arrested after his role came up in the paper leakage case.

The firm situated at Mohan Cooperative area in Badarpur, New Delhi was entrusted with the job to print the question paper of UP TET by the Examination Regulatory Authority on October 26 last. The STF registered a fresh case against Prasad and four others in Noida in connection with the paper leakage.

Besides Prasad, the STF claimed to have also arrested one Rahul Chaudhary from Vaidik Degree College in Badaut, Baghpat. Chaudhary runs a shoe shop opposite the college. After being grilled, Rahul revealed that with the help of Feroz, a resident of Ramala in Baghpat, and Babloo, aka Balram Rathi, hailing from Shahpur in

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- As you may be aware by now, the Government of India, in the interest of the policyholders of LIC, has passed an amendment to the LIC Act, 1956 permitting the Corporation to make a reservation on a competitive basis, in favour of its policyholders, at any time during the period of five years of the commencement of Section 131 of the Finance Act, 2021, i.e., five years from June 30, 2021, as one of the reserved categories in any public offering that the Corporation may undertake in the future, subject to necessary approvals.
- In order to participate in any such public offering, policyholders will need to ensure that their PAN details are updated in the Corporation's records. Further, subscribing to any public offering in India is only possible if you have a valid DEMAT account – accordingly, policyholders should ensure that they have an active DEMAT account in place.
- In the interests of our policyholders, we have in the past been running advertisements calling upon you to update your PAN in our records. If you have not yet provided this information to the Corporation, please do it at the earliest. This is very important from a KYC perspective, as well as your ability to participate in the proposed public offering by the LIC, as and when it takes place, subject to receipt of requisite regulatory and other approvals, in respect of such public offering. This will be used to help you participate in the proposed offering.
- The process for updating your PAN details with the Corporation is as set out below:

- You may visit the Corporation website [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) OR <https://licindia.in/Home/Online-PAN-Registration>. Keep ready your Policy number, PAN, date of birth and e-mail ID, which needs to be filled in while updating your PAN.
- You may update the records for all of your LIC policies using the above link.
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- Alternately, you may contact LIC Agent for assistance.
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- DP registered with CDSL - <https://sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmid=18>
- If your KYC by a KRA (KYC Registration Agency) is not verified, then you need to provide the following key documents to the DP to open the DEMAT account:
  - Recent photograph
  - PAN card
  - Address proof
  - Cancelled cheque
- The respective DP might also ask for some more relevant documents, basis their internal requirements.
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**You would incur costs towards opening of a DEMAT account and/or PAN issuance and maintaining the DEMAT account or other ancillary costs. All such costs would have to be solely borne by you. No costs would be borne by the Corporation.**

Regards,  
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LIC/IN/2021-2021/2021



# UP to start distribution of smartphones, tablets from 2nd week of December

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will commence the free distribution of smartphones and tablets to students from the second week of December. A dedicated portal 'DG Shakti' has been created for this and it will soon be launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Through this portal, distribution of smartphones and tablets and content will be given to the students. Apart from this, information about smart phones and tablets will be given to the students from time to time on their mobile numbers and mail addresses.

As a relief to students, they will not be required to register anywhere to get the free smartphones and tablets. The process, from registration to smartphone and tablet delivery, is free. The data of the students is being given to the universities by colleges and the data feeding of the same is being done at university level itself. Till Monday, the data of about 27 lakh students has been uploaded on the portal and the process of data feeding of remaining students is being expedited.

The biggest ever tender, to the tune of Rs 4,700 crore, has been floated by the state government on the GeM portal for

# UP govt to distribute double ration free of cost till March

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In view of the crucial 2022 Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party government is likely to distribute double ration, free of cost, to the people across the state and provide 10 kg of wheat and 2 kg of dal per month till March next.

The decision was taken in the BJP's core group meeting which was also attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

A senior BJP leader said that the state government was likely to give free double ration from December to March 2022.

"About 15 crore people will get this benefit in Uttar Pradesh. The eligible beneficiaries will get 10 kg free ration in one unit every



month, edible oil, salt, and pulses will also be given free," he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi had extended the Pradhan Manti Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), a scheme

that provides free ration to the lower income group families till March. The UP government had earlier announced to give 5 kg of rice or wheat per person and 1 kg of dal per household.

Besides, the Yogi government will also provide one litre of edible oil, one kg of salt and sugar per household for another period of three months (December to March) so that the basic kitchen needs are addressed.

With the new announcement, the beneficiaries will now get double the ration.

The free ration scheme was launched by the BJP-led Central government in March, 2020, after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic affected the livelihoods of thousands of people and rendered them financially distressed.

the purchase of smartphones and tablets. Many major companies like Vishtel (Iris), Samsung (Vision) and Acer (Celkon) for tablets, Lava, Samsung (Celcon) and Samsung (United) for smartphones have submitted tenders.

The financial bids of eligible firms will be opened after technical scrutiny and it is expected that the work order will be issued by the first week of December. Around 2.5 lakh tablets and five lakh smartphones will have to be distrib-

uted in the first lot. The companies selected in the tender will have to supply at least 2.5 lakh tablets in the first lot. The companies selected for the smartphones will have to supply at least five lakh smartphones in the first lot.

# UP to bring maximum farmers under crop insurance scheme

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is set to mobilise the farming community by launching a state-wide drive from December 1 to bring the maximum number of farmers under the Central crop insurance scheme -- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

The flagship scheme entails coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities, pests and diseases.

The move comes close on the heels of the start of the winter session of Parliament as the Centre moved a bill to repeal the three farm laws.

The week-long drive will be carried out by the Uttar Pradesh government in coordination with the ministry of agriculture and farmer's welfare and financial institutions, including commercial banks and regional rural banks.

This marks another attempt by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to assuage the feeling of farmers, who have threatened to continue the stir till their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) and sacking of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son Ashish is an accused in Lakhimpur violence, are met. Ashish Mishra is in jail.

As per the Agriculture department records, updated till August 31, Uttar Pradesh, in 2019-20, had a total cultivable area of more than 35.5 lakh hectares with around 47 lakh farmers insured under PMFBY.

This, in effect, translated into Rs 16,743 crore insured sum. Records show Uttar Pradesh was way behind

## Rs 471.77 cr released for relief to farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has released Rs 471.77 crore for crop loss, for providing adequate compensation to the farmers for the loss suffered by them owing to recent floods.

UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, on Tuesday, said that farmers were on the state government's priority list on issues of development. He said every single farmer whose crop had been damaged due to floods or excessive rains was being compensated, maintaining utmost sensitivity and promptness. He said till now, the UP government had given over Rs 471.77 crore in relief funds to farmers benefitting more than 13.45 lakh farmers across the state.

The minister also said that there was no dearth of funds for relief operations and the respective district collectors would distribute it among farmers through DBT. The farmers' crops were badly damaged due to torrential rains and heavy floods in September and unseasonal rains in October. The compensation amount will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers from the district treasury. In wake of the natural calamities, the state government is providing financial assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).

## THE FLAGSHIP SCHEME ENTAILS COVERAGE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FARMERS IN THE EVENT OF CROP FAILURE DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES, PESTS AND DISEASES

Maharashtra and Rajasthan, where 1.45 crore and 85 lakh farmers respectively, were insured under PMFBY.

In fact, Uttar Pradesh accounts for just over 7 per cent of 6.12 crore farmers insured under the scheme nationally. UP Agriculture department has decided to carry out a campaign in 75 development blocks across 75 districts, where the number of insured farmers are on a lower side. In a letter sent to district magistrates, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi said emphasis should be laid on aspirational districts and districts with a substantial population of Scheduled Tribes.

The areas where the scheme is proposed to be taken up rigorously include Sewapuri in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, Campierganj block in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's political backyard of Gorakhpur and Pathardeva assembly constituency of UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi.

Special vehicles to spread awareness in different districts about the scheme will be flagged off by Shahi from Lucknow on December 1.



### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Elma to Elma Shahab Elma Shahab, D/o Shahab Uddin R/o M-2/3, KDA Colony, Ganga Vihar Jajmau, Kanpur.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from TEJBEER SINGH to TEJBEER SINGH CHADHA. Now let me be known by this name. Tejbeer Singh Chadha S/o Surjeet Singh, H-1/4, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.

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### NOTICE

I have lost my original allotment letter & possession letter of H.No.3/407-A Tiyp 18/30 Situated in Hanspuram Yojna 2- Kanpur allotted Vide EMO Kanpur Letter No.2817/ EMO/ Dt.22.10.97, Sunil Singh bhadoriya s/o Sri Ram Prasad Singh bhadoriya R/O 663- C Block- Yashoda Nagar Kanpur

### AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 07.12.2021, प्रातः 11:00 बजे कार्यालय आयुक्त एवं निबन्धक, सहकारिता, उ०प्र०, 14-विधान सभा मार्ग, लखनऊ में निम्नप्रयोज्य अन्वेषक कर कारों :- 3-अदद की नीलामी, सिक्कोरिटी रु० 5,000 /- नगद प्रति वाहन/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

# BJP to take out six Yatras to popularise govt schemes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to invigorate party workers and popularise the schemes of the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to take out six Yatras from different corners of the state that would cover all 403 assembly constituencies of the state and culminate in Lucknow.

The first Yatra will be taken out from December 7 and will be led by senior BJP leaders, including party president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The decision was taken in the meeting of the election steering committee of the BJP held at the BJP state headquarters in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who attended the meeting along with Central election in-charge of UP and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, announced that the Yatras will be taken out from Awadh, Kashi, Gorakhpur, Brij, Pashchim and Bundelkhand regions. Through these Yatras, the BJP will highlight the achievements of the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during BJP's election steering committee meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday

Modi and Yogi governments. "Massive public rallies will also be held during the Yatras," a BJP leader said.

Ahead of the 2017 assembly polls, the BJP had organised Parivartan Yatras against the ruling Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who inaugurated the assembly election steering committee meeting, said that

ahead of the 2017 assembly elections, the BJP had gone to the public highlighting the shortcomings of the ruling Samajwadi Party.

"Today, the party has five years of achievements to showcase as a safe environment has been developed by protecting the dignity of all faiths and religions during the BJP regime in UP. This time too, the organisation has made a detailed outline of its

campaigning through its achievements. It has been decided that six Yatras will be taken out from six corners of the state to reach out to the entire population of the state," he said.

BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh said that the BJP was going to form the government once again by bagging more than 300 seats on the strength of the workers and with the blessings of the people.

# Fog forces cancellation of several trains

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With fog engulfing the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, several trains, including Shramjeevi Express, Vaishali Express and Janta Express, will remain cancelled for over two-and-a-half months.

"The trains will not be running due to fog. There are some trains which will run with a less number of trips between originating and terminating railway stations while some of the trains will run on diverted routes," officials said.

12180/12179 Agra Fort-Lucknow Junction Express (Up and down) and 11817/11818 Lucknow Junction-Meerut City Express (up and down) will remain cancelled between December 1 and February 28; 14534 Barauni-Ambala Express between December 4 and February 26; 14533 Ambala-Barauni Express between December 6 and February 28; 15909 Dibrugarh-Lalgarh Avadh Assam Express between December 1 and February 28; 15910 Lalgarh Dibrugarh Avadh Assam Express between December 4 and March 3; Shaheed Express between December 3 and February 27; Shaheed Express (14674) between December 4 and February 28; Jay Nagar-Amritsar Shaheed Express (14673) between December 6 and February 28; Dibrugarh-Chandigarh Express (15903) between December 8 and March 2; Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express (15904)

between December 7 and February 22; New Tinsukia-Amritsar Express (15933) between December 10 and February 25; Amritsar-Tinsukia Express (15934) between December 2 and February 24; Amritsar-Gorakhpur Express (14924) between December 3 and February 25; Gorakhpur-Amritsar Express (14923) between December 1 and February 28; Patliputra-Lucknow Express (12529) between December 1 and February 28; Lucknow-Patliputra Express (12530) between December 2 and February 28; Chapra-Lucknow Express (15053) between December 1 and February 28; Lucknow-Chapra Express between December 2 and March 1; and Gorakhpur-Aishbagh (15069) between December 1 and February 28.

Other trains which will remain cancelled during this period include those running between Aishbagh-Gorakhpur, Chapra-Farrukhabad, Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus, Mathura-Chapra, Lucknow-Chandigarh, Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus, Varanasi-Dehradun.

Over two dozen trains, including train numbers 15068, 15067, 20940, 20939 and 19407 will be running with less number of trips.

Patna-Kota Express (up and down) will be running on a diverted route between December 1 and February 28 (barring on Fridays) while train numbers 03238 and 03240 (Kota-Patna) will be running on a diverted route (barring Saturdays).

# Centre, UP govt conspiring to weaken quota system: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating that her party would go it alone in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Tuesday said that the Centre as well as the UP government were conspiring to weaken the reservation system.

"I have repeatedly said that the BSP will have no pre-poll alliance in UP assembly polls and the party will contest all the 403 seats," she said.

BSP is contesting the Punjab assembly polls in alliance with Akali Dal. She said that with people's support the BSP would come to power in UP like in 2007.

Talking to reporters here on Tuesday, Mayawati said that she reviewed the preparation of the reserved and some other assembly seats with Most Backward, Muslims and Jat leaders. "The governments are conspiring to weaken the reservation system which was enforced through Article 340 of the Constitution framed by Dr BR Ambedkar," she said.

The former chief minister of UP also said that by denying a backward class census, the BJP had shown its anti-backward attitude.

Attacking the state government, she alleged, "Among religious minorities, Muslims are very upset



## "THE GOVERNMENTS ARE CONSPIRING TO WEAKEN THE RESERVATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS ENFORCED THROUGH ARTICLE 340 OF THE CONSTITUTION FRAMED BY DR BR AMBEDKAR"

in all matters with the state government. In this government their progress has stopped. Their exploitation is being done by framing them in fake cases and fear is created among them with new rules and laws. This also shows the BJP's step-motherly treatment towards them."

"In my government, their

progress and security was ensured," she asserted.

The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh said the Congress did not implement the Mandal Commission report and the BSP got it implemented in the VP Singh government due to which the OBC community got reservation facilities.

She further alleged that Centre and "casteist" state governments were making reservation ineffective by making new rules and laws and also taking support of courts and the same was happening in Uttar Pradesh also. Mayawati promised that if the BSP was voted to power, her government would ensure progress, welfare and security of Jats and OBC communities besides that of Muslims.

"In today's meeting we discussed all the issues with the leaders and sorted out problems which could hinder our victory in the reserved seats", Mayawati said.

Of the total 86 reserved assembly seats in UP assembly, in 2017 polls, BSP could win only two seats while majority 76 seats were won by BJP and its allies.

Meanwhile, Mayawati appealed to the chairman of Rajya Sabha to reconsider his order for suspension of 12 opposition members for the entire session.

"The action taken against these 12 MPs for their acts during the monsoon session is harsh," she said, adding that the Rajya Sabha chairman should talk to these suspended MPs and resolve the matter.

"If the matter is not resolved soon, then unnecessarily the Rajya Sabha proceedings will be disrupted and it will be a loss to the country," she added.



# Omicron threat: UP intensifies screening 3.2 cr Covid vax doses given in UP in Nov



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presides over a Covid review meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Stepping up preventive measures amid the emergence of the new 'Omicron' variant of the novel coronavirus in other countries, the Uttar Pradesh government has intensified screening and strengthened surveillance across the state, toeing the guidelines of the Centre. Upgrading its guard against the new B.1.1.529 variant of SARS-CoV2 which has been classified as a 'Variant of Concern' by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the state government has immediately put the Health department teams on alert in all 75 districts of the state.

While the situation is not alarming at present and does not warrant panic, the government has put over 73,000 surveillance committees on alert mode to ensure thorough screening and timely identification, isolation and treatment of people showing mild symptoms to remove any chance of increased transmission of the virus or any water-borne, vec-

tor-borne disease. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already asked top officials to make special efforts to improve surveillance with a focus on airports, railway stations and bus stations to preempt any probable health exigency in the state.

In another proactive move, the chief minister has instructed officials to make arrangements for genome sequencing of Covid samples and arrangements will be made at Lucknow's KGMU and SGPGIMS besides medical colleges of Gorakhpur, Jhansi, and Meerut at the earliest. The authorities have also been asked to carry out extensive cleanliness, sanitisation and fogging drives to prevent the spread of other diseases.

The Uttar Pradesh government has also initiated making the state 'self-reliant' in oxygen generation and nearly 530 oxygen producing plants have been operationalised.

Ensuring adequate availability of medical oxygen, the state government announced

## Officials on high alert after 10 cases found in Vrindavan

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Health officials in the temple city of Mathura-Vrindavan went on high alert after 10 fresh COVID-19 patients, including six foreigners, were reported during the last 48 hours. An ashram in Vrindavan, where these foreigners and other positive cases were detected, was sealed and it was identified as a containment zone on Tuesday.

Among the foreigners who tested novel coronavirus positive were a 41-year-old

woman from Austria and four women from Russia and France. "All of them are in isolation but they are not hospitalised. Contact tracing and samples of over 100 people who came in contact with the foreign devotees who came to Vrindavan have been sent for testing," a Health department official said.

The foreigners who were coronavirus positive were found to be staying on a tourist visa at an ashram in Vrindavan for the last two weeks. The Health department is now

investigating whether there was a new variant in the infected women and to confirm this, their samples have been sent to Lucknow for testing.

Meanwhile, ISKCON management in Mathura increased vigilance as foreign devotees have frequently been found to be coronavirus positive in Vrindavan. A team of the Health department, which reached the ISKCON campus in Mathura, took samples of several people and sent them for examination.

been planned, with the district administrations keeping a tab on the process and ensuring the availability of raw material so that it could be completed on time.

**SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW**

The total number of Covid vaccine doses administered in Uttar Pradesh in November was 3.2 crore, including 1.65 crore second doses, in November. Giving this information, State Immunisation Officer Ajay Ghai said the pace of vaccination has increased since October when it was impacted by festivities.

The increase was witnessed despite Diwali and Chhath celebrations during this month. In October, 2.4 crore vaccine doses were administered in the state while in September, the vaccination figures (3.4 crore doses) were the highest.

Earlier, 1.67 crore vaccine doses were administered in July and 1.2 crore in June. There has been a gradual increase in the pace of vaccination though a dip was witnessed in October.

Ghai said some of the districts which performed well in

November included Azamgarh (11.25 lakh doses) and Shahjahanpur (9.16 lakh vaccinations. Azamgarh has an estimated eligible population of over 37 lakh, Prayagraj over 45 lakh and Gorakhpur over 35 lakh.

Other districts which also performed well in November included Aligarh (over 8 lakh doses), Lucknow (5.49 lakh doses) and Balrampur (over 5 lakh doses).

Lucknow made extra efforts to boost the vaccination and directions were issued to hold drives in malls, residential apartments, eateries and slum areas. Zonal officers of Nagar Nigam were directed to involve corporators in their respective areas. Lucknow is holding a special vaccination drive from November 28 till December 2.

District Immunisation Officer MK Singh said they administered only 5.4 lakh doses because the number of people due for vaccination has come down. "We have already

covered a vast percentage of people for the first dose. However, in the special campaigns which we have organised, nearly 40,000 people are being vaccinated currently on a daily basis," he said.

He pointed out that Lucknow has performed uniformly even during festivals except for two to three days.

Special vaccination centres were set up in November and doses were administered from 8 am till 10 pm. Officials said it was done because they had received feedback that some people did not get time to get vaccinated as the vaccination drive would end early.

Looking into the current threat of Omicron, experts have stressed on boosting the Covid-9 vaccination further to fully vaccinate as many people as possible at the earliest.

They said the gap between two doses of Covishield needs to be reduced, vaccine hesitancy of any sort be addressed and approval of vaccines for children be also given.

## 5 crore people fully vaccinated

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

With the number of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 crossing the five crore mark in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, three-quarters of the adults in the state have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine while one-third of the eligible population has been fully vaccinated now, setting a new milestone in the state's fight against the deadly pandemic.

As per data from the CoWIN portal, over five crore people in Uttar Pradesh have

taken both doses of the Covid vaccine. UP is followed by Maharashtra where 3.97 crore people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"In terms of percentage, the state accounts for over 75 per cent of adult population receiving at least one dose of the Covid vaccine, and more than 33 per cent of the state's adult population have received both doses of the vaccine," a government spokesman said.

The number of vaccine doses administered against COVID-19 in the state crossed the 16 crore mark on

Monday which is not even the population of most of the states in the country. So far UP has administered more than 16.22 crore vaccine doses.

"In the light of the emergence of the new 'Omicron' variant of the coronavirus, the government has expedited its vaccination coverage in the state," the spokesman said.

As per the latest figures available on CoWIN, Uttar Pradesh has administered 11,21,02,069 first doses of the Covid vaccine so far and 5,01,82,559 second doses.

## Morning walker duped of gold ornaments by conmen posing as cops

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Two conmen posing as policemen duped a morning walker of his gold chain and two gold rings in Vikas Nagar. As per reports, Arpit Kushwaha was on a morning walk on November 27 when he was stopped by two men who introduced themselves as cops. "They started frisking me without any warning. They asked me where I got the ornaments and why I was wearing them. The miscreants asked me to put off the ornaments and keep them in my pocket. One of them asked me to keep the ornaments in a sachet which they gave me. They later changed the sachet and fled the scene. When I checked it, I found it empty," he said.

Meanwhile, a retired under secretary was accused of criminal breach of trust over non-

payment of loan which he took from UP Vidhan Mandal Sachivalaya Sahkari Samiti Limited.

An undersecretary employed at Vidhan Sabha Secretariat and in the office of deputy speaker lodged a case in this connection. The complainant was identified as Akhilesh Kumar while the accused as Gyan Dutt Dixit of Indiranagar.

In his complaint, Akhilesh said the cooperative society provides loans to officials/employees of Vidhan Sabha/Vidhan Parishad Secretariat. "Dixit had deposited a cheque of Rs 8 lakh to pay back the loan on August 31, but it was dishonoured due to lack of money in his bank account. Dixit was served a notice on November 11 and asked to pay within 3-5 days, but he failed to do so," Akhilesh stated in the FIR.

## Those facing stigma due to HIV/AIDS can lodge complaint with ombudsman

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

HIV, AIDS Prevention and Control ACT-2017 has been notified in the month of November this year in Uttar Pradesh. Any person facing stigma and discrimination due to HIV/AIDS status can make a complain to the ombudsman, as per the provision of Act.

On the eve of World AIDS Day (December 1), Uttar Pradesh AIDS Control Society (UPSACS) project director Anita Meshram said the day gives people an opportunity to unite for a global HIV/AIDS programme. "It also gives us the opportunity to support people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) against social stigma and to promote a happy and healthy life. In this context, it is important that every citizen should unite for their social and moral responsibilities," she said.

UPSACS joint director

Ramesh Srivastava said the notification under HIV/ AIDS prevention Act 2017 has been a great achievement because any HIV/AIDS person facing stigma can complain to the ombudsman in UP who are the divisional commissioners.

Listing other achievements made by UPSACS under Meshram, he said that even during the Covid-19 pandemic, they have ensured the delivery of ARV drugs at the doorstep of PLHIV with the help of communities and partners. "Under the project director of UPSACS, UP's first transgender clinic has been set up in which all preventive and curative services will be provided free of cost. The trans-health clinic in Hazratganj is the first such clinic in north India. It aims at creating an integrated service delivery point to meet health and non-health needs of the transgender community. The clinic also aims to facilitate

**'EVEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, UPSACS HAS ENSURED THE DELIVERY OF ARV DRUGS AT THE DOORSTEP OF PLHIV WITH THE HELP OF COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS'**

supportive environments for the community to increase access to the social entitlements and other need-based services. The clinic also continues to network with and link community members to a range of service providers," he said.

He said that various other services delivered at this clinic are screening for STI, TB, NCD, Hepatitis C & B etc, provision of STI drugs with the support of UPSACS and

advanced STI treatment, psychiatrist consultation, peer counselling, counselling on mental health issues, GID assessment, SRS and HRT, life skill education, HIV screening and condom promotion with the support of UPSACS, HIV testing including confirmatory test, providing medication for the general ailments, social inclusion and entitlements, ART initiation and viral load monitoring.

"UPSACS is also working with 89 NGOs covering around 88,780 high-risk group populations for HIV/AIDS related services. UPSACS is providing therapeutic and counselling and services through 50 ART centres in the state. At present, 93,238 PLHIV are getting free ARV drugs from these centres" he said. On World AIDS Day, different activities like symposiums, signature campaigns and rallies will be organised in the state under the Health.

## RDSO completes safety trials of Kanpur Metro

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) has completed the safety trials of Kanpur Metro trains.

A spokesman told media-persons that the Kanpur Metro had applied for design security and technical clearances as a mandatory requirement for operation of metro services in India.

"To ascertain passenger safety, a series of trials have to be conducted by the Research Design and Standard Organisation officials. These trials mainly lie in two categories. The first category comprises detailed oscillation trials to ascertain rolling stock behaviour on different speeds. The second category tests to calculate emergency braking distance at different speeds both on loaded and empty conditions in dry as well as in

wet conditions. These trials are necessary to ensure passenger safety and comfort and to ascertain a good riding index of the rolling stock," he said.

The spokesman said that the extensive trials were expected to be completed by December 6 but they did better planning and worked in sync with Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation to achieve the goal much earlier. These trials started on November 19 and were completed on November 27.

"Depending upon the results of these trials, the interim speed certificate will be issued by the Research Design and Standard Organisation for the operation of Kanpur Metro priority section from IIT-K station to Moti Jheel station. The residents of Kanpur are expected to get the metro services shortly," he said.

## Science has played key role in mitigating pandemics: Kamboj



**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Under the India International Science Festival (IISF)-2021, an outreach programme was organised at CDRI in Lucknow on Tuesday. Nearly 100 students and teachers from different schools and colleges from the city participated in it.

Former director of CDRI Dr VP Kamboj, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said science has played an instrumental role in mitigating pandemics such as Covid-19.

"India has become the vaccine hub and is helping sever-

al other countries to fight Covid-19 apart from being self-reliant on various technologies related to vaccines, pharmaceuticals and other technologies," he said.

The guest of honour was Treasurer, VIBHA, Dr Arvind Mathur who emphasised on the importance of science and technology in day-to-day life. The 'Make in India' campaign is revolutionising the health and pharma sector in India apart from other sectors, he said.

He encouraged the students to have scientific temperament even if they are not

pursuing science.

To sensitise the students and participants, three popular lectures were delivered by CDRI scientists. Dr Ritu Trivedi delivered a talk on 'Happiness is in the hormones' while Dr Aamir Nazir, spoke on 'Let's talk it out: Effects of Covid pandemic, lockdown and Zoom fatigue in school children. Dr Chandra Bhushan Tripathi delivered a talk on 'Chemistry: The central dogma of life'. The students participated in debate, painting and science model competitions and also visited labs to interact with the scientists.

### 'Eat Right Carnival' from Dec 5 to 11

Lucknow (PNS): The 7-day 'Eat Right Carnival' will kick off at the Gomti Riverfront on December 5. It will have sessions on eating the right food and nutritionists from KGMU and SGPGI will also be there. The carnival is being organised by the Food Safety and Drug Administration under the district administration in association with various other government departments.

Designated officer, FSDA, SP Singh said it is important to have less salt and less fat in food and there various sessions will also be held on the issue. "We will also be putting up food stalls and there will be cultural programmes by the Culture department in the evenings," he said. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said a walkathon would be held at 1090 crossing on December 5 and it would move cover Santa Mulak crossing, Lohia Park and Ambedkar crossing before culminating at 1090 crossing. The walkathon will witness the participation of NCC cadets, NSS, civil defence members, traders and NGOs.

The DM said that the prime attractions of the carnival would be a yoga and aerobics training programme from 7 am to 8 am, free eye health camp and Covid vaccination camp.



Teachers from across state protest demanding revival of old pension scheme, at Eco Garden in Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

## AKTU gets super building category in energy audit

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

In the energy audit, AKTU campus has got the category of super building for installation of solar power plants with 83 per cent consumption, spokesperson Asheesh Mishra said. The 65th meeting of the Academic Council was held under the chairmanship of Prof Vineet Kansal on Tuesday.

"In the meeting, the green signal was given to start non-teaching credit courses in the Centre for Advanced Studies.

This course will be conducted as a credit course in MTech courses. It will be called 'Independent Study and Research'. Under the course, the students will be given a research problem every semester and they will have to solve the same," Mishra said.

Approval has been given to the proposal of granting a minor degree in BTech in accordance with the National Education Policy.

"It is proposed to provide a minor degree in specialisation

in engineering and technology in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Block Chain, Cyber Security, Data Science and Internet of Things. It was also agreed upon to name the gold medal for MTech in Nanotechnology at the Centre for Advanced Studies after Dr Piyush Jaiswal, the late faculty member of the institute. It was also decided to conduct an open source summer internship to connect the students studying in the MBA course conducted in the uni-

versity with project-based learning," he added. Mishra said that approval was accorded for conferring PhD degrees to 70 students who passed the oral examination in the 19th convocation of the university.

"Along with this, approval was also given to confer degrees on the students who passed the oral examination in the 19th convocation by December 11. Approval was given on conferring the degree of DSc on Dr Saurabh Gupta in the 19th convocation," he added.



# ‘Number of farmer suicides dropped to 5,579 in 2020’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of farmers who committed suicide dropped to 5,579 in 2020 as compared to 5,957 in the previous year, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed Parliament on Tuesday, citing the latest NCRB report.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has not given "separate reasons" for farmers' suicide in its 2020 report, the minister said in his written reply to the Lok Sabha. "However, the causes of suicides of persons (including farmers) are family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, marriage related issues, love affairs, bankruptcy or indebtedness, failure in examination, unemployment, professional/career problem and property dispute," he added. Of the total number of farmers' suicides committed during 2020, maximum 2,567 cases were reported from Maharashtra, followed by 1,072 cases from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (564), Telangana (466), Madhya Pradesh (235) and Chhattisgarh (227), as per the NCRB data placed before Lok



Sabha. The number of farmers' suicide in Uttar Pradesh was at 87 in 2020, Tamil Nadu (79), Kerala (57), Assam (12), Himachal Pradesh(6), four cases each in Meghalaya and Mizoram. Agriculture Minister further informed the Lower House that the government has not received any reports on farmers committing suicide due to unavailability of fertiliser in the country, especially in Madhya Pradesh. He said state Governments provide relief to families of farmers who commit suicide. Agriculture being a state subject, the Centre supplements efforts of states through appropriate policy measures for the development of the farm sector, he added.

Sabha.

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# Mamata in Mumbai for business, parleys with Opp leaders

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday flew off to Mumbai to attend a business meet in the sidelines of which she will engage in some political parleys with other senior Opposition leaders too, the Bengal Chief Minister said moments before catching her flight.

Banerjee is on a in a three-day visit to Mumbai where she is likely to meet India's industry captains, senior opposition leaders including NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leaders Sanjay Raut, Aditya Thackeray and others.

The proposed meeting between Banerjee and her Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray will not take place on account of the latter's illness, she said adding his son and Cabinet Minister Aditya Thackeray would meet her instead.

As Uddhav Thackeray is not well his son Aditya will come to meet me at the hotel where I will stay," Banerjee whose party Trinamool Congress has been projecting as the only alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the Congress' Rahul Gandhi and other leaders said.

Banerjee who is scheduled to address an industrialists' conference organized by the Young President's Organisation or YPO a US-based global leadership community is likely to invite the attending industrialists to the much touted Bengal Global Business Summit --- Biswa Bangla, sources said.

"Bengal will be the investment destination of India tomorrow," the Chief Minister said adding she will invite investors from all over the country and the world to meet the Biswa Bangla Sammelan.

Meanwhile, reacting to the Chief Minister's Mumbai visit Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday said that after winning the elections she has been spending public money on joy trips like the one on Tuesday.



"She is spending Rs 3 crore to fly off to Mumbai ... and for what purpose ... just to explore ways to dislodge the BJP ... for this she will meet the Shiv Sena leaders ... but the problem is why should the Shiv Sena give her so much importance when she has been insulting and harming the Congress but for whose support Uddhav Thackeray would be a former Chief Minister," Adhikari said.

"She is spending crores of tax payers' money to fulfil her own dreams to be the Prime Minister which she can never be ... and on the other hand her Government is withholding the salary and DA of the teachers, medical staff etc," he said.

Bengal BJP president Sukanto Majumdar said that the Chief Minister's attempt would prove to be futile because her party has no base in northern and southern India. "She will only go to Mumbai and meet some retired and tired politicians ... perhaps take them in her party like she did in Goa and then beat her trumpet ... but all this will go in vain as again BJP will come to power," he said.

## CITYBRIEFS

### UP SAINIK SCHOOL ALUMNUS TAKES OVER AS FOC-IN-C, WNC

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, an alumnus of UP Sainik School in Lucknow, took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Western Naval Command (WNC), from Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, at an impressive Ceremonial Parade held at INS Shikra. Prior to taking over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the WNC, Vice Admiral Singh served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command. He is among the very few commanders-in-chief who have been bestowed with the unparalleled honour and unique distinction of heading both operational commands of the Indian Navy. He paid homage to all personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation by placing a floral wreath at the Gaurav Stambh - Victory at Sea Memorial, at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.



### KAYASTHA HUNKAR RALLY

To protect the rights and honour of the Kayastha community, a 'Kayastha Hunkar Rally' will be organised on the 137th birth anniversary of Rajendra Prasad on December 3. The rally will be organised at the venue of Uttarakhand Mahotsav at Birbal Sahni Marg, Spokesman of the organising committee Manoj Lal said that to fine-tune the rally, a meeting was held on Tuesday in which former Union minister Subodh Kant Sahai, Rajya Sabha MP RK Sinha and working president of Bharatiya Kayastha Mahasabha Sanjeev Verma took part. Sahai said that Kayasthas from across the country, including actor Shatrughan Sinha, would raise the issue of the rights of the community.

### GOLD MEDAL

Pankhuri Pandey, a class VII student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus II, won a gold medal in Lucknow District Dance-Sport Championship 2021. She won the gold for her outstanding dance performance in the 9-12 years age category. The competition was organised by the Dance Sport Association of Lucknow. Students from several noted schools of Lucknow participated and showcased their dance performances. However, amidst a tough competition, Pankhuri emerged as the winner. The organisers appreciated her talent and awarded her a gold medal and a certificate.



# V-shaped recovery not yet, sectors of economy still crippled: Chidambaram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With India's GDP growth at 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday said it was not yet a V-shaped recovery and there are sectors of the economy that are still "crippled". "Let us extend a cautious welcome. It is NOT yet a 'V' shaped recovery. The fine print will bear that out," the former finance minister tweeted. India's GDP growth slowed to

8.4 percent in the second quarter of 2021-22, mainly due to waning low base effect, but the economy has surpassed the pre-COVID level, official data showed on Tuesday. "In 2021-22, GDP growth in Q1 was 20.1 percent on a previous year's Q1 growth of -24.4 percent. In Q2, the growth is reported as 8.4 percent on a previous year's Q2 growth of -7.4 percent," Chidambaram noted. There are sectors of the economy that are still "crippled" and need help and time to recover, he said.

# Death toll crosses 40k mark in Kerala due to Covid

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Death toll in Kerala due to Covid-19 crossed the 40,000 mark on Tuesday according to Health Minister Veena George. A release issued by the minister said that on Tuesday 19 persons succumbed to the pandemic and 132 deaths registered earlier were found to be because of Covid-19 and this took

the overall death toll till date to 40,132. With the number of deaths crossing the 40,000 mark, Kerala became the State with maximum deaths due to the pandemic in South India. "Out of the 59,254 samples tested during the last 24 hours, it was found that 4,723 new persons were afflicted with Covid-19," said George. Since the Covid-19 cases

remain unabated, the State administration which ordered the full opening of schools from the second week of December, made it known that all teaching and non-teaching staff should undergo vaccination. This was stated by V Sivankutty, education minister, himself an educationist. Sivankutty's announcement came immediately after the disclosure by the educa-

tion department that 7,000 teachers and non-teaching staff refused to undergo vaccination because of religious belief. Though colleges were opened fully last week, most students preferred on-line classes. Students who are active members of student unions affiliated to various political parties were the only ones to be present in the campuses due to obvious reasons..

# Amit Shah's Gandhinagar LS seat to see 'Article 370' cricket, kabaddi tournaments

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The ruling BJP in Gujarat has decided to organise kabaddi and cricket tournaments that will have 'Article 370' in their names in Union Home Minister Amit Shah's Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, party office bearers said on Tuesday.

While modalities are still being worked out, the name of the tournament has been finalised as Gandhinagar Lok Sabha Premier League 370, and an official announcement of the tournament would be done soon, said Gujarat BJP general secretary Pradipsinh Vaghela.

According to Vaghela, the tournament has been named after Article 370 of the Constitution because it was Amit Shah, the Lok Sabha MP from Gandhinagar, who was instrumental in the abrogation of that provision, which conferred a special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked all MPs to organise sports tournaments in their constituencies. Thus, to provide a platform to talented youths, Shah had asked us to host such tournaments in his constituency. We will start with kabaddi and cricket and then take up other sports," said Vaghela.

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
SECOND CORRIGENDUM TO e-Tender Call Notice (e-TCN) No: MD/ACCTS/WK-R-5/2021/1195 Dt. 25.10.2021 as amended after pre-bid meeting Dt. 10.11.2021  
Name of the Work : "Supply of 01 no Pilot Launch on Hire for Three shifts operation per day along with operational crew for a period of five (05) years". Estimated cost Rs. 8,54,98,433/- excluding fuel cost & GST. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 1530 hours on Dt. 14.12.2021. Technical Bids shall be opened at 1530 hours on Dt. 15.12.2021. For details, please log on to the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp>.  
Dy. Conservator  
PPT/PR/124/2021-22, Dt.30.11.2021

**UPSIDA** UTTAR PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
A-1/4 Lakhnau, Kanpur-208024  
Notice for Public Objections/Suggestions on Partial amendment in Layout Plan of Industrial Area Sandila Phase-I, & II District-Hardoi by which Industrial Plots No. E-4/8 (Area-16000.00 Sq.m.), G-30/32 (Area-1350.00 Sq.m.) E-34/38 (Area-2400.00 Sq.m.), E-80/32/38-34 (Area-11009.45 Sq.m.) & C-83/38 (Area-10577.11 Sq.m.) is being created by amalgamation of existing Industrial Plots No. E-4 to E-8, G-30 to 32, E-34 to E-36, E-80 to E-85 & E-89 to E-94 & C-83 to C-88 of existing Industrial Area.  
1(a) The Amended partial Layout Plan of Sandila Phase-I & II of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District-Hardoi has been prepared.  
(b) A Copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager Office of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, HIG-66, Sector-E, Aliganj, District-Lucknow between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as website [www.upsida.com](http://www.upsida.com)  
2 Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft amended Layout Plan.  
3 Objections and Suggestions are shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager UPSIDA at HIG-66, Sector-E, Aliganj, District-Lucknow within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding Public Objections/Suggestions on Draft Amended Layout Plan for I.A. Sandila Phase-I & II". Any person making the Objections or Suggestions should also give his/her full name & address, Email id and contact number. (Regional Manager)  
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

**STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
29, IIE, SAHASTRADHARA ROAD (IT PARK), DEHRADUN  
Phone No. 9135 - 2607292, 2708100 Fax No. 9135 - 2708109 Web site : [www.siidcul.com](http://www.siidcul.com)  
NIT No : 69/SIIDCUL/2021  
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF COMMERCIAL PLOT AT INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PANTNAGAR  
SIIDCUL invites bids from interested bidders for allotment of Commercial plot admeasuring area 73210 sqm for setting up Commercial Mall/Multi-purpose Business Centre at Integrated Industrial Estates Pantnagar. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL [www.siidcul.com](http://www.siidcul.com) or [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) from 02.12.2021 to 22.12.2021. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) on/ before mentioned due date i.e 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021 and time 14:00 hrs.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

**U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD, OBRA-SONEBHADRA**  
E-Tender Notice  
1. Tender No:CT-58/SE(MMC-II)/PD-I/ST/21-22 Online e-Bids are invited for "Hydrazine Hydrate", Obra Thermal power Station, Obra. E-tender has been uploaded on 22.11.2021 at 09:00 hr on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of material approximately Rs. 10.40 Lac. E.M.D. Rs. 21,000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00, Last date of submission 10.12.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. SE,MMC-II  
2. Tender No:ET-06/SE-O&MC-I/OGD-I/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Cleaning & disposal of garbage Turbine, Boiler site U.NO.-9 to 13th MCB, compressor, sump pump house". E-tender has been uploaded on 16.11.2021 (14:30 hrs) on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 81,63,584/- only, E.M.D. cost Rs. 1,64,000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00 (with GST) Last date of submission 08.12.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. SE-I  
3. Tender No: T-04/O&MC-II/3x200MW/BMD-I/BTPS/21-22 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Major/complete O/H of Bowl Mills XRP-763/803 for 3x200MW Cleaning & disposal of garbage Turbine, Boiler site UNO.-9,10 &11th". Short term E-tender has been uploaded on 24.11.2021 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately Rs. 5.34 Lakh only, E.M.D. cost Rs. 11000.00, Tender Cost Rs. 1180.00 Last date of submission 08.12.2021 up to 18.00 Hrs. SE, O&MC-II, 3X200MW  
Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Concerned superintending engineer has right to cancel any or all e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.  
पत्रांक : 66/जो रा को/निविदा दिनांक 30.11.2021  
"Save Electricity in Interest of Nation"

## CASTE CERTIFICATE ROW

# Scrutiny panel summons Wankhede to appear before it on December 14

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having taken cognisance of a complaint by social activist Ashok Kamble against Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede that the latter had allegedly used caste certificate through fraudulent means to join the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), the District Caste Scrutiny Committee, Mumbai city, on Tuesday issued summons to Wankhede appear before it for a hearing on December 14.

After verifying documents submitted along with the complainant through his Advocate Nitin Satpute, the District Caste Scrutiny Committee, Mumbai city - as per the powers vested with it under the Rule no 19 (2) of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,

Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Category ( Regulation of Issuance and verification of) Caste Certificate Rules 2012 notified by the Maharashtra Social Justice and Special Assistance Department --has decided to look into the complaint against Wankhede.

As part of the inquiry, the District Caste Scrutiny Committee, Mumbai city issued a notice to Wankhede to remain present before it for a hearing at 3 pm on December 14.

In his complaint made before the District Caste Scrutiny on behalf Kamble, Satpute has sought the revocation of Wankhede's Schedule Caste (SC) certificate which the latter obtained by suppressing the fact that he was a Muslim and that he had not disclosed his real caste and religion

while being inducted into the IRS in the SC category.

Along with the complaint, Satpute has submitted the caste certificate issued to Wankhede by the Executive Magistrate of Greater Bombay and a photocopy of the latter's birth certificate. He has also submitted a copy of a petition filed by his client Kamble in the Bombay High Court, seeking to declare as Wankhede's appointment as the NCB's Zonal Director "null and void" on the ground that he had joined IRS under the SC category by "suppressing" the fact that he was a Muslim.

Under the 19 (2) of rules notified by the State Social Justice and Special Assistance Department on August 31, 2012, the District Caste Scrutiny Committee, Mumbai city, will have to complete its scrutiny within six months of the complaint.

# Army man on verge of suicide following torment by officials

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In what is being seen as an insult to the national slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan", bureaucrats and politicians of Kerala have come together to make life difficult for a retired Indian Army officer in the State's High Range region (Idukki district). Jobi Joseph (52), who was forced to take medical retirement from Army Educational Corps following a road accident, returned to his native town of Mundakkayam with dreams of giving his experience back to the society by generating wealth and providing jobs to farm workers and the hundreds of educated youth in his village. The farming operations he launched in his village saw 15 persons getting round-the-year employment.

After five years of hard work and toiling, Joseph is faced with the prospect of losing his house and farm land to banks as well as the Kerala Government. Bank has issued notice to seize his property for failing to repay the loans which he had availed and Joseph and family may soon find themselves without a roof over their heads. "Bureaucrats starting from agriculture officers, local body leaders and officials in village and taluk officials are tormenting me day in and day out for no mistakes of mine," Joseph told The Pioneer. Why he has not committed suicide is only because of the training he received in Indian Army. "But the bureaucrats and politicians of Kerala are competent enough to melt the confidence and boldness of even the best people," said Joseph.

He took to organic farming in a major way and launched giant gourami fish breeding which would have fetched high prices in the market. "Though there were no marketing facilities provided by the government departments,



I was confident of selling the breeds. But things took a turn for the worse when the departments of agriculture, revenue and police issued me a stop memo ordering to stop all the work on the farm. They alleged that I was into illegal quarrying and mining in the farm land," said Joseph. This was against all laws in the land, said Joseph. What he did was to prepare the land for farming. "I did not do any quarrying or mining because there was no granite or sand for quarrying and mining in the land. It had some boulders which we removed to dig wells/ponds for fish farming," said Joseph. Despite his heart-rending pleas to the officials, they continue to be indifferent and callous.

The last three years saw four entrepreneurs committing suicide in Kerala, out of which three were Gulf-returnees. "This is in addition to more than 50 farmers who took to the extreme measures because of failed crops and loans which they could not repay in time," said C R Neelakantan, engineer-turned social activist and head of Aam Aadmi Party's Kerala unit.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION  
O-1134  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RWS&S DIVISION, ANGUL :AT: TALCHER  
Al: Baghuabole, Po.: Hatatola, Talcher, Dist.: Angul, Pin: 759100  
(Ph. No./ Fax : 06760-240792, E-mail : [esrwsang@gmail.com](mailto:esrwsang@gmail.com))  
National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement  
Bid Identification No. 05/SE/RWSS/ANGUL/2021-22 Dt. 20.11.2021 (JJM)  
The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/ Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.  
Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.  
1. No. of Tenders : 3 Nos.  
2. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000.00  
3. Value of work : Rs. 276.59 Lakhs to Rs. 388.88 Lakhs  
4. Class of Contractor : "B", "A" & "Spl." Class  
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in portal : 03.12.2021 at 13.00 hours to 13.12.2021 upto 17.00 hours  
6. Date & time of seeking tender clarification : 08.12.2021 upto 17.00 hours  
7. Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document : 14.12.2021 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at: Talcher.  
8. Time of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months  
9. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.  
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.  
Superintending Engineer,  
RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher  
OIPR-25019/11/0009/2122



# Complete poll preparations by December 5: DEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Election Officer/District Magistrate (DEO/DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, while reviewing the preparations for the upcoming assembly election at District Rifle Club here on Tuesday, directed all the concerned officers/employees to complete the preparations by December 5. He instructed the poll personnel that while updating the voter list, special care should be taken in the addition and deletion of names apart from proper examination of rejection and duplicate forms. ‘Complete the work of digitisation immediately and in view to increase the gender ratio, focus should be given to add new voters of 18-19 years old,’ he said.

Regarding form feeding, he directed that at least 20 forms each should be super checked by all EROs/ AEROs and not a single form should be fed without the report of BLOs and EROs/AEROs. He asked the BLOs to submit the forms immediately apart from compiling the detailed information about the forms received from different booths. While giving instructions to prepare the communication plan and route chart, the DEO said that the correct phone numbers of two residents adjacent to each booth should be added apart from other necessary information and added that all the zonal and sector officers along with BLOs should check the assured minimum facilities (AMF) of their respective booths.

Sharma also directed the officers concerned to complete the work of identification of



DM KR Sharma addressing a meeting of officers on election preparations in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

critical and vulnerable booths in 2-3 days and give information by December 5. According to him, as per the guidelines of the Election Commission (EC), keeping in mind the protocol of corona, not more than six booths should be kept at one polling station and if there are more booths, they should be made by marking other nearby centres or new polling places apart from ensuring that the maximum distance of the polling station is within two kilometres.

In a meeting with the political parties, he sought proposals for facilities/problems etc related to booths so that they can be examined and diagnosed by the concerned authorities soon. He urged the political parties to appoint

booth level assistants and also make available the list of sensitive booths by December 5. While meeting with the zonal and sector officers, he said that the process of compliance of the code of conduct should be started by removing banners, posters, wall painting etc and asked the officers-in-charge to discharge the given responsibility sincerely.

He also directed the ADM (Supplies) to mark the suitable place in view to get the control room started from now, so that any kind of voter related problem can be reported by the people. He asked the ADM (Finance) to start tender and other processes for barricading work and district economics and statistics officer to make the communication plan avail-

able by December 5. Similarly, the Health department has directed to ensure running of the CHCs/ PHCs for 48 hours till the polling parties remain present at the polling stations apart from seeking the details of action plan regarding RT PCR test and arrangement of ambulances police station-wise by December 5. For cleanliness in entire rural areas, DPRO was instructed to make arrangements with the help of gram panchayats and Municipal Corporation.

ADM (Administration)/ Deputy District Election Officer Ranvijay Singh, ADM (Civil Supplies), registration officers, assistant registration officers, officers-in-charge and representatives of political parties were present in the meeting.

# Allahabad HC admn to take action against 15 judicial officers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The High Court administration has decided to take strict action against 15 judicial officers including 11 Additional District Judges (ADJs), two District Judge level and two CJM level working in several district courts of the state. Of these, 10 have been given VRS. In which eight ADJs and two CJMs are included. Their rights have been confiscated.

This decision was taken in the full court meeting of the judges of Allahabad High Court and Lucknow Bench

last week. Of these, 11 officers were judged to be inoperable under Rule 56C. All these were also affecting the image of the department by their conduct and behaviour. These officers include a presiding officer of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal at the level of District Judge, Additional District Judges working in Lakhipur, Agra, Kaushambi, Varanasi, Hamirpur, CJM Moradabad and Unnao, one CJM level officer of Kanpur Nagar, female Additional district judge of Gorakhpur have been give VRS.

A registrar working in the High Court was also included in that list by the scanning committee due to non-completion of work, but due to his conduct, behavior and being a good judicial officer, he has been given relief. A District Judge was relieved from the proceedings due to retirement. Relief has also been provided to the ADJ of Sultanpur, who has been suspended for a long time.

According to sources, the recommendations of the judicial officers on whom the decision has been taken to take

action will be sent to the state government.

The action will be finalized after the approval of the State Government and the signature of the Governor.

Article 235 of the Constitution empowers the High Court to exercise control over the judicial officers working in the District Courts. In the past also such action has been taken by the High Court against judicial officers. An attempt was made to contact the Registrar General of the High Court in this regard but he could not be contacted.

# Forensic tests to be done on prime accused in Phaphamau killings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Police have decided to go for the DNA profiling of 23-year-old uneducated youth Pawan Kumar Saroj, arrested in connection with the killing of a couple and their two children in Phaphamau, and send his shirt having blood stains for forensic test. The reason is that Pawan who was arrested in entire rural areas, DPRO was instructed to make arrangements with the help of gram panchayats and Municipal Corporation.

ADM (Administration)/ Deputy District Election Officer Ranvijay Singh, ADM (Civil Supplies), registration officers, assistant registration officers, officers-in-charge and representatives of political parties were present in the meeting.

members of the family in the trans-Ganga village. The bodies were found on the morning of November 25.

He added that the accused was not cooperating in the investigation and also tried to mislead the police several times by drafting false stories over the incident. Cops have also noticed some injury marks on his body during the medical examination and are now compiling evidence to nab three to four more persons who might have assisted the prime accused in eliminating the family members on the fateful night.

The accused kept on changing the names of his accomplices despite the fact some of his close relatives have escaped from their respective villages ever since police nabbed Pawan from his Tharwai village. The police are relying on call details and DNA profiling to nab the other accused.

Police also made it clear that the persons who were named in the FIR by the kin of the deceased had nothing to do with the killings as per the investigations done so far. These persons against whom FIR was lodged by the kin of the deceased had a dispute with the brother of the deceased man.

The prime accused even refused to have any link with the deceased girl and also denied sending even a single message to her. But when police showed his messages sent on the girl — name saved as ‘Gori Man’ — on mobile, the accused had no answer.

Police investigations also claimed that the deceased girl was raped by one person as per forensic evidence and medical reports.

Additional DG (Prayagraj zone) Prem Prakash said, “After scanning the WhatsApp chat of the accused made with the slain girl on November 21

evening and detailed investigation, police identified him as Pawan Kumar Saroj, a resident of Tharwai, who was sending messages to the slain girl on her mobile.”

Police said Pawan has admitted that he had been chasing the girl for a long time but she was constantly ignoring him. After being irked over her behaviour, he claimed to have executed the crime. “Pawan was a jilted lover and wanted to teach a lesson to the girl,” police added.

Earlier, a case was lodged against 11 persons under sections 147, 148, 149, 302, 376 (D) and 3/4 of PCO Act and SC/ST Act regarding the incident.

The killings became a major issue as political leaders of various parties, including Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Samajwadi Party attacked the government over the law and order situation.

# New corona variant puts admn on alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of the finding of a new variant of corona in parts of the world, the district administration has intensified its activities making the Health department in a full alert mode to keep close watch on the travellers at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rahul Singh said that a new variant of corona has been found abroad, especially in South Africa, Germany, Britain, Netherlands and other countries and due to this, the district administration and Health department have become fully alert.

He said that as per the

instructions received from the government, the work of focus sampling has already started in the district from Tuesday. During the first three days, all institutions of higher education like medical colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnic institutes/ITIs, universities and affiliated colleges will be covered. College and hostel staff, students and inmates of the hostels in these institutions will also be tested. After this, in the next three days, sampling of health workers will be done in government and private hospitals and medical education institutions. Health workers will also include faculty members from medical education institutions, resident doctors

and students.

In connection with the same, letters have been sent to the registrars of Banaras Hindu University, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Dr Sampurnanand Sanskrit University and Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital apart from principals/ directors of all other medical colleges (Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, Allopathic etc), government and private engineering/ management institutes, degree colleges, ITIs and polytechnic colleges on behalf of the CMO. Dr Singh has appealed to the people of the district that there is no need to panic about any variant, rather we need to be more alert and

careful. He suggested the people to wear masks when they step out of the houses, keep sanitising hands from time to time. ‘All citizens above the age of 18 years should definitely get both the vaccines to protect against corona and those who have taken the first dose must get the second dose in time as vaccination is considered to be the most effective way to prevent corona,’ he said. District Surveillance Officer and ACO Dr SS Kanojia informed that teams have been constituted for focus sampling to be done from Tuesday to December 2 in all the institutions of higher education of the district and they will complete this work during the period.

# ‘Mother can protect her unborn child from HIV infection through medical practices’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

When Vimla (not real name) became pregnant for the first time, she was diagnosed with HIV positive in a blood test done during antenatal check-up at the hospital. She was shocked when the doctor told her about the HIV positive test and her dreams to become a mother were shattered though she was informed of a two month long pregnancy. Later, she was referred to the Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centre where her treatment started on time and despite being HIV positive, she gave birth to a healthy child. Now she is leading a happy life. This story is not only of this woman but as many as 50 HIV infected women have given birth to healthy children within three years after getting treatment at the ART Centre located at Pandit Deendayal

Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital here.

On the eve of World HIV/AIDS Day, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and District HIV/AIDS Officer Dr Rahul Singh said that every year on December 1, the day is celebrated to increase awareness among the community about HIV / AIDS and to break the myths and misconceptions. This year's theme has been set as ‘End Inequalities, End AIDS’. ‘Modern medical practices have made it possible for the mother to protect her unborn child from HIV infection if the pregnant woman is known to be HIV infected in time. The risk to the baby is higher if the infection is detected after the third-fourth month of pregnancy, so the sooner treatment of an HIV-infected pregnant woman begins, the lower the risk to her baby,’ he said.

According to senior med-

ical officer of ART Centre Dr Preeti Agrawal, as many as 50 HIV-infected women had undergone treatment at the ART Centre at DDU Hospital and they have given birth to healthy children during the last three years. They included 18 in 2019, 12 in 2020 and 20 till the month of October this year who have given birth to healthy children. Telling her story, yet another 35 years old woman informed that only a few months after the marriage that took place four years ago, it was found that she was HIV positive along with her husband and then the dream of becoming a mother was seen to be eclipsed, but today she is the mother of a two-year-old daughter with the advice and treatment of the ART Centre.

Dr Agrawal said that in the ART Centre, special care is taken of the HIV infected pregnant women and for this, such

HIV infected pregnant women are referred to the Government Women's Hospital for safe delivery. According to her, HIV virus weakens the immunity of human beings, due to which many diseases surround the infected persons if they are not treated in time.

“This condition is called AIDS. The virus cannot be completely eradicated with treatment, but it can be kept in check. With good food and treatment, the immunity of a person remains intact. Therefore, if the patient does not hide the disease and takes timely and regular treatment, then he/she can complete his/her normal life,” she said, highlighting some of the main symptoms of being HIV positive including persistent weight loss, diarrhea, fever, itching/skin infection on the body, blisters in the mouth and mildew on the tongue.

# 12-day Shilp Mela to be inaugurated today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The much awaited Rashtriya Shilp Mela of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre Prayagraj will be inaugurated on December 1 by the divisional commissioner Sanjay Goyal at NCZCCC Shilp Haat. This 12-day Shilp Mela could not be organised last year owing to the grim Covid situation.

Talking to newsmen here on Tuesday, NCZCC director Prof Suresh Sharma said that his effort is to provide opportunity to the real and genuine artisan rather than their urban versions who acted as middle men to grab opportunities.

As many as 91 stalls will be



Prof. Suresh Sharma, Director NCZCC addressing a press conference in Prayagraj

provided to traditional handicraft and handloom artisan

from various states, while there will be 21 food stalls to provide

mouth watering refreshment to the mela goers. NCZCC will also put on display its publications this time during the mela, he added. For the entertainment of the mela visitors, variety cultural programmes will be held on the well decorated open air stage of Shilp Haat on a regular basis for all 12 days. The NCZCC director emphasised that stage will be provided to the real traditional artistes, and effort has been made not to repeat the same artistes. It was found in the past that same groups with separate team leaders had been performing. Now the IDs of all the artistes will be checked to stop the above practice.

# NCR GM takes stock of fire safety measures in trains

ALLAHABAD (PNS): General Manager, North Central Railway, Pramod Kumar took stock of fire safety measures in trains in the weekly safety meeting. Principal Chief Safety Officer detailed about various drives undertaken for prevention and mitigation of fire cases

Kumar convened a weekly safety meeting on Tuesday with the principal heads of departments at the NCR Headquarters. DRMs of Jhansi, Agra and Prayagraj joined virtually.

The GM expressed his strong concern over the case of fire in two AC coaches of Udhampur-Durg Express at Hetampur station on Friday and reviewed the measures available in trains and railway installations to prevent and combat such incidents. The GM had already ordered a high level headquarter commit-

tee chaired by the Principal Safety Officer (PCSO) MK Gupta to probe into the details of the incident.

PCSO, while speaking about the incident, gave detailed account of the prompt action taken by the railway staff which included the guard, TTEs and loco pilots of the affected train, guard of the goods train standing on adjacent line, Station Master and pointsman of Hetampur station and jawaans of RPF.

Kumar said that this is the time that a close introspection is needed to be done to ensure safety in train operations.

As informed by the DRMs and the PCSO, intensive checking of the stations and trains has been resorted to in a mission mode with a focus on prevention of fire. This involves inspection of fire detection and smoke sensors in coaches; checking of the knowledge of

the staff regarding response to be generated in case of any suspicion of fire; prevention of accumulation of garbage in trains near dustbins or elsewhere; keeping a close watch on carrying of any inflammable item in train and random checking of wiring in the coaches.

UPRTOU POSTPONES ADMISSIONS FOR 18 COURSES: Authorities of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) have decided to postpone admissions for 18 courses in the academic session July 2021-22 in view of their falling popularity among the students.

The university will restart admissions in these courses from the next academic session, keeping in view new trends and interest of students. It has been decided to postpone admissions in a total 18 courses as well as in an awareness

programme in HIV and family education (APHFE) in the academic session of July 2021-22.

The postgraduate diploma courses, admission in which has been deferred by the open university include PG diploma in Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies (PGDGT & PS), PG diploma in Consumer Protection (PGDCP), PG diploma in Tourism Management (PGDTM) and PG diploma in Hospital and Public Health Management (PGDHHM). Likewise, the diploma courses in which admissions have been postponed include diploma in Hospitality and Hotel Management (DHHM), diploma in Tourism Studies (DTS), diploma in Computer (DIC), diploma in Hardware Technology (DIHT) and diploma in Computer Office Management (DCOM).

# Local contractors stage demonstration

VARANASI (PNS): Blaming the government for giving the contract of water supply in rural areas to big companies, the local contractors of Jal Nigam on Tuesday staged a demonstration protesting against it and lamented that now, there is crisis of livelihood before them. They also submitted a memorandum to the district administration to be forwarded to the Chief Minister to direct the departmental officers to give the contract to local contractors as it will save the money in crores. The contrac-

tors gathered at the office of the executive engineer in Nadesar, here and staged a demonstration under the banner of the UP Jal Nigam Thekedar Sangharsh Samiti, Varanasi. The department has given contract to supply the drinking water through pipes to the houses in villages at district level under Jal Jeevan Mission to the big private companies which made 40,000 contractors and labourers in lakhs unemployed, they blamed and added that moreover, the contract to these big companies was given

more than 40 per cent of the departmental rate. While giving the contract to the big companies, the department have reason that the local contractors had tendered for the work 7 to 10 per cent below of the departmental rate, they said adding, had the department given contract to the local contractors, there would have been competition among them and also save the crores of money of the department. The contract of this work was given to the big companies because of the faulty policy of the govern-

ment, they blamed and added, it resulted that it posed a serious crisis before the contractors and labourers as they have no work. They submitted a memorandum to the district administration to be forwarded to the Chief Minister to issue directive to the management of the department to give the contract of this work to the local contractors to save the money of the department. Radheysyam Goel, Mayank Singh, Vineet Singh, Sudarshan Singh, Mahendra Patel and others joined the demonstration.



# DM directs officials to complete Cantt over bridge on time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishakh G Iyer, while inspecting the over bridge under construction at Cantonment, on Tuesday, directed the project officers of the Bridge Corporation to complete the remaining construction work on a war footing.

He said till the bridge construction was going on, road leveling work should be carried out every fortnight so that it did not cause inconvenience to the people.

He said all hurdles need to be solved on priority and directed the officials of the



District Magistrate, City, Vishakh G Iyer inspecting the progress of the Cantonment overbridge on Tuesday.

Bridge Corporation to complete the work on time and directed them to ensure barricading at the construction site. He later visited the collectorate where the dependents of

those who died during COVID-19 were to deposit their claim forms. He directed the officials to ensure that the people who came to deposit the forms did not face any problem and were not made to run from pillar to post. He said if there was too much rush then more counters should be opened on priority. He then directed the ADM (R&F) to ensure there was proper monitoring of the acceptance of forms and for this a magistrate was deployed on special duty. He said if something was missing or not mentioned the officials should help the people rectify the forms and ensure that it was deposited.

## NSI, CFTRI join hands to develop technologies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The National Sugar Institute, Kanpur and Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore inked a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday to jointly carry out research on developing technologies.

The MoU was signed by Prof Narendra Mohan of NSI and Dr Sreedevi Annappurna Singh, Director of CFTRI, Mysore.

As per the MoU the two institutes would carry out research on developing technologies for producing products other than sugar which may result in economic sustainability of the sugar industry worldwide. Keeping this in view, collaborative research work would also be carried out to develop innovative value-added food products from by-products of the cane sugar industry.

With these efforts by the two premier institutes, one related with sugar technology and the other to food technology, it would be possible to convert the conventional sugar factories into 'agri-business complexes' producing many food products other than sugar. This will also facilitate round the year working in sugar factories rather than for a few months in a year which is a practice at present.

Initially both the institutes would work on developing technologies for producing low calorie sweetener and dietary fibre from bagasse, non-chemical fortified jaggery and special sugars to meet requirements of the food processing industry and other sectors.

Prof Mohan said the two institutes would focus on developing technology for natural cane juice preservation and packaging so that a natural and healthier drink may be provided to society. With this roadmap, the two institutes would begin the research and development work from January 1, 2022, he added.

## Newly-married woman found hanging in house

KANPUR (PNS): A newly-married woman was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in Gunjan Vihar locality of Barra police station area on Tuesday morning. She was married about four months ago. Her parents alleged that their daughter was killed by her in-laws when she failed to meet their dowry demand. They said the injury marks on the body indicated how she was humiliated by her in-laws.

**SUICIDE:** A love-sick couple was found hanging in a garden of Misri Ganj under Ajgain Kotwali police station area of Unnao on Tuesday morning. While the boy, Saurabh, a native of Mirzapur village under Purwa Kotwali station of Unnao, was living with his maternal uncle Basant, a CRPF jawan, in Misri Ganj, Ajgain (Unnao), the girl belonged to Juhi, Kanpur.

As the in-laws of Basant live in Juhi, Kanpur, Saurabh used to go there with his uncle and developed affair with a neighbouring girl. When the family members refused for their inter-caste marriage, the couple ended their lives.

On Monday morning, the girl proceeded for school and did not return till late evening. Saurabh also proceeded from the house by Basant's bike and did not return home throughout the night. On Tuesday morning, they were found hanging in a garden of Misri Ganj.

**ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP:** In the two-day 6th Kanpur district athletics championships 2021 held at the DPS Kalyanpur for ICSE/CBSE students (boys and girls) up to class VIII and U-16 and U-18 categories, the host school DPS Kalyanpur emerged overall champions. In the girls category, the championship went to St Mary's Convent School while DPS Kalyanpur did the same with 28 points in boys' category. Other winners include: Sangar Singh, Dipti Nishad, Piyanshu Yadav, Sanyukta Reddy, Abhinav Dwivedi, Ranchi Singh, Shibub Katihar, Ajashwini Singh.

# NCL CMD honoured

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

On the occasion of 37th Foundation Day of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) on

Sunday Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), NCL and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), two of the leading subsidiaries of Coal India, Prabhat Kumar Sinha, was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by AKS University, Satna, for outstanding contribution in the mining sector, leadership and corporate management.

Under Sinha's leadership, NCL has joined the prestigious club of producing 100 million tonnes (MT) of coal and has produced more than 115 MT in the year 2020-21. Sinha has about 38 years of experience in the field of min-

ing. Besides being a skilled mining engineer and he also possesses excellent managerial skills. Under the guidance of Sinha, NCL and MCL have achieved unprecedented heights in many

important standards like production, despatch, productivity, CSR, environment management, renewable energy, research, quality of coal, employee welfare. Sinha has recently been honoured with the Best CEO Award 2020-21 for Outstanding Corporate Management and Innovation by Geomintech, Bhubaneswar. Under his leadership in October NCL and MCL had registered a significant increase in coal despatch amid discussions of nationwide power crisis due to which Sinha has also received a commendation letter from Minister of Coal, Government of India.



## Trains to be rescheduled, short terminated

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to the block being given for the construction work of limited height subway (LHS) at level crossing No 233 between Lal Kuan-Bareilly City stations located on Izzatnagar-Bhojipura rail section of Izzatnagar division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on December 1 from 6.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs the cancellation, rescheduling/control and short termination/short origination of the following trains will be done, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

**KASGANJ- LAL KUAN UNRESERVED TRAIN:** The 05381 Kasganj-Lal Kuan unreserved passenger train to run from Kasganj on December 1 will remain cancelled.

**TANAKPUR-CHOPAN EXPRESS:** The 15074 Tanakpur-Chopan Express train to run from Tanakpur on December 1 will be run by being rescheduled by 100 minutes.

**KASGANJ-LAL KUAN TRAIN:** The 05369 Kasganj-Lalkua unreserved passenger

train to run from Kasganj on December 1 will be rescheduled by 140 minutes.

**PILIBHIT-BAREILLY CITY TRAIN:** The 05386 Pilibhit-Bareilly City unreserved passenger train to run from Pilibhit on December 1 will short terminate at Bhojipura. On the other hand, the 05330 Pilibhit-Bareilly City unreserved passenger train to run from Pilibhit on December 1 will short terminate at Bhojipura.

**KASHIPUR-KASGANJ TRAIN:** The 05335 Kashipur-Kasganj unreserved passenger train to run from Kashipur on December 1 will short terminate at Lal Kuan.

**BAREILLY CITY-TANAKPUR TRAIN:** The 05321 Bareilly City-Tanakpur unreserved passenger train to run from Bareilly City on December 1 will be run from Bhojipura.

**BAREILLY CITY - PILIBHIT TRAIN:** The 05329 Bareilly City-Pilibhit unreserved passenger train to run from Bareilly City on December 1 will be run from Bhojipura.

**BAREILLY CITY-LAL KUAN TRAIN:** The 05327 Bareilly City-Lal Kuan unreserved passenger train to run from Bareilly City on December 1 will be run from Bhojipura.

**BAREILLY CITY-KASHIPUR TRAIN:** The 05351 Bareilly City-Kashipur unreserved passenger train to run from Bareilly City on December 1 will be run from Bhojipura.

**TRAINS TO BE RESTORED** The railway administration had earlier temporarily cancelled the 15014/25014 Kathgodam-Ramnagar-Jaisalmer and 15013/25013 Jaisalmer-Kathgodam-Ramnagar Express. These trains will be restored as follows. The 15014/25014 Kathgodam/Ramnagar-Jaisalmer Express will be restored from December 1 to February 28. Besides, the 15013/25013 Jaisalmer-Kathgodam/Ramnagar Express will be restored from December 3 to March 2, 2022, Chief Public Relations Officer Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

## Taneja to continue as CCSU V-C

CORRESPONDENT ■ MEERUT

Till the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Prof Narendra Kumar Taneja will discharge the duties as the V-C. Uttar Pradesh Governor/ Chancellor Anandiben Patel, in view of the transparent working style of Prof Taneja, has ordered to discharge duties as the V-C till further orders or the appointment of a new V-C. As the tenure of Prof Taneja was ending on



November 28 in such a situation, speculations were being made that the university would get a new V-C. However, the manner in which Prof Taneja has put the system of CCSU on track is undoubtedly commendable. Whether it is field of academics or administrative or financial, he made commendable improvements in all areas. Due to his tireless efforts, CCSU is standing at the top position in all fields today. On getting extension of service he thanked the UP Governor/ Chancellor Anandiben Patel.

## Nodal officer reviews development works

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Secretary Urban Development and nodal officer of the district Anurag Yadav reviewed the development works and government schemes at Collectorate on Monday. Reviewing the works of Health department he became aware about the progress in the schemes along with the facilities of ambulance services and directed to equip all the vehicles engaged in department with GPS system. He directed to intensify Covid vaccination and became aware with the arrangements regarding dengue. The CDO was directed to conduct random check-

ing of m n i - m u m two roads in a block to know the physical condition

and take action accordingly if required. About the flood relief fund DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar apprised that cent per cent allocated amount had been released and for more fund of ₹2 crore had been demanded. The DM was directed to ensure the distribution of woollen blankets and make arrangement for 'rain basers' at the required places in view of the cold season. Reviewing paddy purchase the nodal officer was informed that 6,693 metric tonnes (MT) had been purchased till date against the target of 2,31,000 MT. The schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas (urban), condition of cow shelter homes, cleaning of irrigation canals, electricity supply and the recovery of electric bills were also reviewed. The meeting was attended by DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar, CDO Srilaxmi VS, ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla,

ADM(Namami Gange) Amarendra Verma, DFO PS Tripathi, city magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh and other officials concerned.

**MEETING:** In view of the new variant of Covid-19 an emergency meeting of the Health department was organised by CMO Dr PD Gupta on Monday. Addressing it he directed the officials concerned to be in alert mode, activate monitoring committees and expedite vaccination work to achieve the target of cent per cent in the district. He appealed to the people to come forward for the success of drive. District vaccination officer Dr Neellesh Srivastava apprised till date 78.9 per cent population of the district had been vaccinated with first dose and 45.9 per cent with second dose. He said that all health centres were in active mode and all the people were requested to get vaccinated to thwart the effect of pandemic.

**DIRECTIVE:** Secretary general Election Commission of India (ECI) Umesh Sinha along with others became aware about the brief drive of electoral roll in the district through video conferencing at NIC on Monday. Interacting with all divisional commissioners and DMs of the state he said to ensure random super checking of all the forms 6,7and 8 and maintain transparency. He said in case of rejection of any form clear reason must be noted. He directed too that each case of addition, deletion and booth change should be verified by supervising authorities and the places should be verified thoroughly if the complaints were more. He directed to all the election officers to maintain the diaries and note down the detail of the daily activities. Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra, DM PK Laxkar, Additional Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Chandra Yadav, ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla and Assistant Election Officer Nanhaku Singh were present at NIC on the occasion.

## NTPC Vindhyachal employees take pledge

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Project Head of NTPC Vindhyachal Subhash Chandra Nayak, Chief General Manager (SSC) Vipan Kumar, General Manager (Maintenance) Piyush Kumar read the preamble to the Constitution of India to all the officers and employees in the ED Conference Hall of administrative building recently. The employees of NTPC Vindhyachal took a pledge to uphold the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution and lead as law abiding citizens of the nation. On the occasion through the online



portal an online quiz programme based on constitutional democracy was organised. Constitution Day is celebrated in India every year on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Indian Constitution was formally adopted by the Constituent Assembly and came into force on January 26, 1950, on the occasion of Republic Day. Prominent among those present were all the General Managers, heads of departments and other AGMs as well as office-bearers of the association, senior officers and employees.

# ALIMCO organises mega blood donation camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), as part of its golden jubilee celebrations on Tuesday, organised a mega blood donation camp which was part of the year-long programmes which took off in a big way.

The blood donation camp was held in association with the Blood Bank of GSVM Medical College. A total of 32 units of blood were donated by ALIMCO. The celebrations will also be held at other units of the organisation all through the year.

Addressing the blood donation camp, ALIMCO General Manager (Marketing) Lt Col (Retired) PK Dubey, said the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India had completed 50 glorious years of social service, especially for the differently-abled persons and thus it had decided to open the golden jubilee programmes with blood donation.



Alimco staff and officials donated blood on the opening day of Golden Jubilee celebrations on Tuesday.

He said blood donation was considered to be one of the noblest donations of the globe. He said there was no substitute to blood and thus it majorly hinged on blood through voluntary blood donation. He said it was the vision of the CMD DR Sarin to celebrate the golden jubilee year in a big way and start with a blood donation.

Addressing the gathering, General Manager (Project and Commercial) Praveen Kumar said a single unit of donated blood could benefit three lives. He said there were many myths relating to blood donation and thus there was a need to dispel myths and doubts. He said the officials and staff of ALIMCO worked with dedication and devotion for the differently-

abled persons so that they could be brought into the mainstream of society.

General Manager (Administration and Finance) Atul Rustagi said unless voluntary donations improved much would lean heavily on mercenary donors and thus appealed to other organisations to organise blood donation camps so that precious lives could be saved. Later junior manager Mahesh Singh, addressing the camp, said that ALIMCO had decided to hold various programmes during the golden jubilee year. He said it was certainly a milestone achieved by ALIMCO and this year it would make its presence felt not only in Kanpur, UP and India but even abroad.

He said the organisation not only focused on making differently-abled persons independent to live with self-esteem but also saved precious lives by ensuring it frequently organised blood donation camps as well. He thanked the medical team from the medical college for their support.

## KDA frees land worth ₹10 cr from unauthorised possession

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) freed around 3,500 square metre land having 16 plots and 10 shops, and 1,500 square metre park situated in O Block of Sabzi Mandi, Kidwai Nagar, all worth around ₹ 10 crore, freed from unauthorised possession on Tuesday.

The possession of the two plots freed on Tuesday was immediately handed over to their original allottees on the spot.

For the sale of the remaining plots, KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh directed the officials to sell them through e-auction after proper investigation.

It may be recalled that



KDA squad demolished unauthorised possession in O Block, Sabzi Mandi, Kidwai Nagar, on Tuesday.

during a Janata Darshan programme, Singh had received several complaints about unauthorised possession on KDA land in O Block of Sabzi Mandi, Kidwai Nagar. He had direct-

ed the executive engineer (zone 4) for spot inspection during which it was found that 17 plots of KDA were in unauthorised possession there. Despite the orders of the Allahabad High

Court on a PIL (Saksham Foundation Charitable Society Vs State of UP and others) on May 18, 2015, the KDA had failed to get its land freed from unauthorised possession.

Now, KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh succeeded in getting the land freed from unauthorised possession on Tuesday. KDA is likely to add sizable income to its exchequer from the proceeds of the freed plots and shops.

Singh said that the encroachers of KDA property would not be spared under any circumstances.

After getting the KDA land from unauthorised possession on Tuesday, penal action against the respective encroachers would be initiated, he added.

## Expert explains provision for income tax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The provision for income tax is the estimated amount that a business or individual taxpayer is expected to pay in income taxes for the current year. The amount of this provision is derived by adjusting the firm's reported net income with a variety of permanent differences and temporary differences. Taxation is the main source of development finance in most countries. Tax provision is the estimated amount of income tax that a company is legally expected to pay to the IRS for the current year. It is just one type of provision that corporate finance departments set aside to cover a probable future expense.

This was stated by tax expert Ravi Kumar Gupta while addressing the IT Bar Association on income tax provisions at the Civil Lines auditorium on Tuesday. Explaining why tax was recovered, he said until someone came up with a better idea, taxation was the only practical means of raising the revenue to finance government spending on the goods and services that most of us demand.

“Setting up an efficient

and fair tax system is, however, far from simple, particularly for developing countries that want to become integrated in the international economy. The ideal tax system in these countries should raise essential revenue without excessive government borrowing, and should do so without discouraging economic activity and without deviating too much from tax systems in other countries,” he said.

He said developing countries faced formidable challenges when they attempted to establish efficient tax systems and the first and foremost was that most workers in these countries were typically employed in agriculture or in small, informal enterprises. He said thus they were seldom paid a regular, fixed wage, their earnings fluctuated, and many were paid in cash, “off the books”. He said the base for an income tax was therefore hard to calculate. He said the modern means of raising revenue, such as income taxes and consumer taxes, played a diminished role in these economies, and the possibility that the government would achieve high tax levels was virtually excluded.

Gupta said secondly, it was difficult to create an efficient tax administration without a well-educated and well-trained staff, when money was lacking to pay good wages to tax officials and to computerise the operation (or even to provide efficient telephone and mail services), and when taxpayers had limited ability to keep accounts. He said thus governments often took the path of least resistance, developing tax systems that allowed them to exploit whatever options were available rather than establishing rational, modern, and efficient tax systems.

He said because of the informal structure of the economy in many developing countries and because of financial limitations, statistical and tax offices had difficulty in generating reliable statistics. He said this lack of data prevented policymakers from assessing the potential impact of major changes to the tax system. He said as a result, marginal changes were often preferred over major structural changes, even when the latter were clearly preferable. He added that last but not the least income tended to be unevenly distributed within developing

countries and although raising high tax revenues in this situation ideally called for the rich to be taxed more heavily than the poor, the economic and political power of rich taxpayers often allowed them to prevent fiscal reforms that would increase their tax burdens.

**EYE DONATION A NOBLE DEED:** Minister of State for Higher Education Neelima Katiyar, while inaugurating a seminar on Eye Protection and Eye Donation organised by Saksham Sanstha at the BNSD Shiksha Niketan, said although all organs of the body were equally significant, eyes were much above and treated as very special. She said eyes rendered one vision and allowed one to enjoy the aesthetics that the world had to offer. She said due to several kinds of visual impairments, many people lost their vision and the world turned dark to them and thus one could give them the gift of light by a simple step of eye donation. She said blindness was a major cause of concern around the world today and according to the World Health Organisation, after cataract and glaucoma, blindness was mostly caused by corneal impairments.



## OMICRON COVID-19 VARIANT

# No cases in India yet, we ready: Health Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country braces for threat from Omicron, the Government on Tuesday said in Parliament there was no case reported so far and it was alert to the new variant of the coronavirus.

This assurance from Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya came in the Rajya Sabha after several Elders expressed concern over the fast spreading Omicron and danger posed to India. They also sought to know the steps taken by the Government to tackle the emerging threat.

In an effort to allay the apprehensions of the MPs, the Minister said during the question hour this new variant Omicron has been found in 14 countries. "There is no case of Omicron in India yet. We are immediately checking suspicious cases and conducting genome sequencing. We are also taking all possible precau-



tions," Mandaviya said.

Elaborating upon the preparedness to handle the situation if it goes bad, the minister also said "We have learnt a lot during the Covid crisis. Today, we have a lot of resources and laboratories. We can manage any situation."

His remarks came a day after senior government officials on Monday had also reportedly said there were no cases of the variant, feared to be much more transmissible, detected in India. However, the officials also said the results of the genomic analysis of inter-

national passengers who have arrived in India recently were being expedited.

Mandaviya also said the Central Government has issued an advisory based on the global developments related to the new variant and is keeping a keen watch on ports. The minister informed the house studies are being conducted on the Omicron.

He also urged the people to adhere to covid appropriate behavior, wear mask and observe all other precautions as the corona threat was not yet over.

## Halal food polarises Kerala society

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though the Congress had condemned the Sangh Parivar for the latter's "campaign against spitting on food", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan alleged at Kannur that the grand old party was no different from the BJP and the RSS in spreading controversial issues. Addressing various meetings organised by committees of the CPI(M) in the district in the run up to the triennial district and State conventions of the party, Vijayan said there was nothing wrong in the concept of halal food prepared, served and sold by

the Muslim community all over the world. "The Sangh Parivar and the BJP are attacking the minority community members on a large scale. This is happening all over the country and they were trying the same tricks in the State," said the Chief Minister. G Jayapal, general secretary, Kerala Hotel and Restaurants Association, said the controversy was created by vested groups to create rift among communities. "This is a propaganda targeted against the Muslims and it will have wide ramifications. The day is not far off when Muslims would stay away from Hindu business establishments," said Islamic scholar Mohiyuddin

# LS adjourned amid Opp stir over farm issues

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha could not carry out any business and adjourned for the day as the Opposition members demanded a discussion on the farm issue with many trooping into the Well of the House holding placards. Speaker Om Birla's repeated pleas to the MPs to restore order cut no ice with the Opposition.

While members of Congress, Trinamool Congress (TMC), Telangana Rashtriya Samiti (TRS) wanted to take up the issue of farmers in the House, the Speaker said he was ready for any discussion if the order is restored in the House.

Amidst slogan-shouting, the Speaker adjourned the House proceedings till 2 pm. When the same drama was played out post-resumption, the House was again adjourned till 3 pm.

At 3 pm leader of the Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded a discussion on issues facing protesting farmers. "We want to run the House smoothly, we want to cooperate..we do not come here for the picnic but to raise problems of common people," he said adding a discussion on farmers issue was not allowed in the House a day before.

At this stage, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee also stood up



saying his party wanted a discussion even as several members shouted slogans "we want justice" and waved placards saying "do not punish farmers".

TRS members who were in the well of the house raised the demand for paddy procurement by the Central Government.

Meanwhile, 'the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2021.' was also introduced in Lok Sabha in the middle of the ruckus.

Seeing the house continue to be in disorder, the Speaker adjourned it for the day after only 13 minutes of the proceedings.

On the first day of the Winter session on Monday , a bedlam broke out in the House during the passage of the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, as the opposition demanded a discussion over the bill to which government did not as agree to saying enough has been said in the issue.

# Dalit girl kidnapped, raped in for resisting prostitution bid

PTI ■ MATHURA

A minor Dalit girl from here was allegedly kidnapped and raped repeatedly in Delhi for resisting prostitution bid, police said.

The victim, who was later rescued by her mother, is a resident of a colony falling under Kosikalan Police Station of the district.

"She was repeatedly raped by a youth in Delhi," an FIR filed by the mother of the girl said. SP (rural) Srish Chandra said while two teams have been formed to nab the offenders, the allegation of delay in registering an FIR and other charges are being probed.

According to the FIR, the minor was beaten and forced in the prostitution in Delhi. The victim was also raped repeatedly by a youth when-ever she resisted her captors' prostitution bid, the FIR added.

The victim, somehow managed to communicate her whereabouts to her mother, who succeeded in getting her released from the clutches of captors, the FIR further claimed.

It is alleged that her FIR under various sections of the IPC, SC/ST Act and POCSO Act was registered against three persons only after the direction of the district police chief.



It is also alleged that the girl was made to sit in a police station for five days.

According to police, while two persons had taken her to Delhi, the girl was handed over to third afterwards.

The medical examination of the girl has been conducted and her statement has been recorded, police added.

## Admiral Hari Kumar takes charge as Chief of Naval Staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Admiral R Hari Kumar on Tuesday assumed command as the chief of the Indian Navy here after present incumbent Karambir Singh retired after 41 years of service. Kumar is the 25th chief of the Navy. He was heading the Western Naval command before taking charge of the top job.

Kumar is an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy(NDA). He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 1983. In his career spanning over 38 years, he has commanded Coast Guard Ship, Indian Navy ships Nishank, Kora, Ranvir and the Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat.

A Gunnery specialist, he has held several key appointments, including Fleet Operations Officer and Fleet Gunnery Officer of Western Fleet, Executive Officer of INS Vipul, Gunnery Officer (GO) of INS Ranjit and commissioning crew of INS Ranvir.

His shore appointments include Command Gunnery Officer at Head Quarters Western Naval Command, Naval Advisor to Government of Seychelles, UN Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM II) at Mogadishu and Training



Newly-appointed Naval Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar inspects the Guard of Honour during a ceremony at South Block, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Commander,INS Dronacharya. As a Flag Officer, he has served as Commandant of the Naval War College at Goa, Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST), Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet

(FOCWF), Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command, Controller Personnel Services and Chief of Personnel (COP) at Naval Headquarters. He has also served as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to

The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at the critical junction during the creation of the institution of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

## Goa Forward Party MLAs meet Rahul, extend support to Cong ahead of polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met two Goa Forward Party MLAs and an independent legislator after they extended their support to the party to defeat the BJP in the Assembly polls early next year.

Goa Forward Party MLAs Vijay Sardesai and Vinod Palyekar and independent legislator Prasad Gaonkar met Rahul Gandhi and alleged that the BJP Government in the State was "corrupt".

Assembly elections in Goa are slated for early next year and the Congress is seeking the support of smaller parties in the state to oust the BJP from power.

However, there has been no announcement of a pre-poll alliance yet.

The Congress suffered a jolt recently when its former chief minister Luizinho Faleiro quit the party and joined the TMC, along with his supporters.

The TMC is seeking to emerge as a political force in Goa, so is the AAP.

# KVIC to begin Pashmina production in Varanasi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a path breaking initiative, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has roped in four Khadi Institutions from Varanasi and Ghazipur districts in Uttar Pradesh for processing Raw Pashmina wool and weaving it further into woollen fabric. The Pashmina fabric will be woven in Varanasi from January next year. This is the first ever attempt to introduce the heritage craft of Pashmina weaving outside J&K and familiarise the artisans in the rest of India with this unique art.

According to the KVIC, 20 Khadi artisans from Sewapuri Ashram in Varanasi will be given 30-days training in Pashmina weaving for which 2 master trainers from West Bengal have been roped in by these institutions. These four Khadi Institutions of Varanasi division have started processing of raw Pashmina wool in Delhi.

"Nearly 200 KG of Pashmina wool processed in Delhi will be supplied to artisans in Leh by the first week of

December. These Leh artisans will spin the wool by December-end that will be brought to Varanasi for weaving," said Sandeep Singh, Secretary of Krishak Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan, Varanasi.

He said the two artisans coming from West Bengal are highly trained in making Muslin which involves ultra-fine weaving which is very much similar to the weaving of Pashmina.

These four khadi institutions taking up the Pahmina Production in Varanasi are: Krishak Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan, Varanasi, Shri Mahadev Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Ghazipur, Khadi Kambal udyog sansthan, ghazipur and Gram Sewa Ashram, Ghazipur.

These KVIC recognized Khadi institutions have started procurement of raw Pashmina wool from Leh-Ladakh and brought it to Delhi on 15th November for processing that is de hearing and converting it into roving. The roving will be sent back to the Khadi artisans in Leh for spinning, who have

been provided with 100 new model charkhas by KVIC.

The development comes after a meeting of Chairman KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur recently where LG informed that around 50 MT raw pashmina is produced in Leh-Ladakh per annum out of which, after cleaning and processing, only 15 MT dehaired wool is actually produced for production of Pashmina wool products.

Even in just 15 MT dehaired Pashmina wool, a meagre 500 kg quantity, i.e. 0.5 MT only, is utilized in Leh-Ladakh by a few small units for manufacturing of Pashmina products, which is causing loss of employment in Ladakh.

These Khadi institutions of Varanasi have purchased 500 KG of raw Pashmina wool from Leh recently and brought it to Delhi for processing, i.e. dehairing and conversion into roving. Saxena said, "this move will not only ensure utilization of entire quality of de-haired Pashmina wool of Ladakh but will also open new job opportunities for local artisans and

availability of genuine and affordable Pashmina wool products in Varanasi. KVIC will provide online marketing support also to these khadi institutions. This will be a path-breaking initiative as the production of Pashmina would, for the first time, be done outside the J&K and Leh-Ladakh region."

The processing of Raw Pashmina wool at Delhi was launched on 20th November by Chairman KVIC. The processed Pashmina wool would be supplied back to the artisans in Leh-Ladakh. The Pashmina Raw Wool Processing Centre in Delhi will ensure round the year supply of pashmina roving to the artisans in Leh-Ladakh where all activities remain suspended for six months owing to extreme cold.


The All ChangThang Pashmina Growers Marketing Cooperative Society, Leh, from where Khadi Institutions are procuring raw Pashmina wool, has also welcomed the move saying this would support the local artisans of Leh-Ladakh. "We have supplied 500 KG of

raw wool to KVIC and any further demand for raw wool will also be met as this would ensure adequate work to the Khadi artisans in Leh-Ladakh and also strengthen the local Pashmina industry," said Thinlay, Secretary of All Chang Thang Pashmina Growers Marketing Cooperative Society, Leh.

KVIC, after one-month training, provided 100 new model charkhas of 8-spindle to the local artisans in 4 villages of Leh-Ladakh to start the spinning activities of Pashmina wool.

These villages are: Likir, Saspol, Shakti and Leh city. These 4 institutions from Varanasi division have adopted the artisans and as a special case, have decided to pay Rs 20 per hank spinning charges.

At present, artisans working on traditional charkha in leh-Ladakh can produce only 2-3 hanks of Pashmina wool per day and earn less than Rs 100 per day. But now on the 8-spindle new model charkhas provided by KVIC, artisans will produce up to 15 hanks per day and earn up to Rs 300 per day.

 <b>बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा</b> <b>Bank of Baroda</b> <small>विकास विश्वसेवा विश्वसनीय</small>		<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> <b>[Rule 8 (1)]</b> <b>(For Immovable Property)</b>	
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of Receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.</p> <p>The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda. <b>The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</b></p>			
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</b>			
Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Details of immovable Property	Dt. of Demand Notice
			Dt. of Possession Notice Outstanding Amount
Branch- B.N. Road Branch,		Natraj Complex, 11-B.N. Road, Kaiserbagh,	Lucknow-226001
1.	<b>Borrower: 1. M/S Shikhar Associates,</b> Prop. Mrs. Jagriti Singh W/o Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, 24 Shankarpuri Colony, Kamta, Chinhath, Lucknow. <b>2. Mrs. Jagriti Singh W/o Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh,</b> 24 Shankarpuri Colony, Kamta, Chinhath, Lucknow. <b>Guarantor: Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh</b> S/o Mr. Chandrabeeer Singh, P-24 Old Cold Storage Shankarpuri Colony Kamta, Lucknow.	1. All the part & parcel of equitable mortgage of shop no G.F. G-214 Ground floor Sahara Trade Centre Block No.7/B-2 & 7/B-3 Indira Nagar Lucknow. Having total area of 14.34 Sq. /mtr. In the name of Mrs. Jagriti Singh, <b>Bounded as: East:</b> Shop no G-215, <b>West:</b> Shop no G-213, <b>North:</b> Shop no G-219, <b>South:</b> Corridor 2. All the part & parcel of Equitable mortgage of shop no G-213 Ground floor Sahara Trade Centre Block No.7, Indira Nagar Lucknow. Having total area of 13.621 Sq. /mtr. In the name of Mrs. Jagriti Singh, <b>Bounded as: East:</b> Shop no G-214, <b>West:</b> Corridor, <b>North:</b> Shop no G-220, <b>South:</b> Corridor	<b>09.09.2021</b> <b>26.11.2021</b> <b>Rs. 47,38,000/-</b> as on 09.09.2021 + Interest thereon at Contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses
Place : Lucknow, Date: 01.12.2021		Authorised Officer, Bank Of Baroda	



UCO BANK

ZONAL OFFICE : DHANSHREE COMPLEX, 1st FLOOR, D-63/8-1M, TULSIPUR, MAHMOORGANJ, VARANASI

Whereas, POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)			
<p>The undersigned being the authorised officer of the UCO Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued <b>60 Days Demand Notice</b> dated mentioned against each accounts calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each accounts within 60 days from date of notice (s) date of receipt of the said notice (s).</p> <p>The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this Date mention below.</p> <p>The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to change of UCO Bank, for the amount, interest and expenses thereon.</p>			
Sl No.	Name of Ac/Borrower/Owner of Property & Address	Description of mortgaged property	Demand Date Possession Date Current Balance Out Standing
1.	Mrs. Shandhya Singh W/o Ashok Kumar Singh R/o Salempur urf Mugalaha, Gorakhpur, Branch : Campierganj, U.P	Area of land - 144.175 sq. mtr. i.e. 1551.31 sq. ft., Arazi No. 228, Situated at Vill- Salempur Alias Mugalpur, Tappa - Khutahan, Pargana - Havelli, Tehsil - Sadar, Distt. Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. <b>Boundaries : North :</b> Land of other, <b>South :</b> Land of Malti Devi, <b>East :</b> Land of Silpi, <b>West :</b> Road.	<b>17-08-2021</b> <b>25-11-2021</b> <b>16,37,878.43</b> (Rs. Sixteen Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Rupees & Forty Three Paise Only) + Interest & Other Charges.
2.	M/s Dayaram General & Kirana Store Prop. Rajkumar, Anand Bazar, U.P Branch : Gyanpur	Plot No. 868 G, Situated at Anand Bazar, Gyanpur, Bhadohi. <b>Boundaries : North :</b> Road Vabhanouti to Gyanpur, <b>South :</b> House of Vishwanath Prasad, <b>East :</b> House of Ramlal, <b>West :</b> House of Dayaram.	<b>21-09-2021</b> <b>25-11-2021</b> <b>10,04,534.59</b> (Rs. Ten Lakh Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four Rupees & Fifty Nine Paise Only) + Interest & Other Charges.
3.	M/s Pooja Beauty Collection, Prop. Mr. Santosh Kumar Jaiswal S/o Sadhu Ji Jaiswal R/o Girharganj Bazar, Kunraghat Gorakhpur, Branch : Gorakhpur, Main	Arazi No. 853, Mauza - Khorabar Urf Sooba Bazar, Tappa - Havelli, Pargana - Havelli, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt. Gorakhpur. Area 647 sq. mtr. situated at Arazi No. 853, Mauza - Khorabar Urf Sooba Bazar, Tappa - Havelli, Pargana - Havelli, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt. Gorakhpur. In the name of Mrs. Kamla Devi W/o Sadhu Jee Prasad. Deed No. 6646, Book No.1, Division No. 2894, Page No. 1-24, D.O.R. - 04/12/2003. <b>Boundaries : North :</b> Road 30 ft. wide Kachha, <b>South :</b> Zameen Hum Mukir, <b>East :</b> Zameen Hum Mukir, <b>West :</b> Zameen Hum Mukir.	<b>01-06-2021</b> <b>29-11-2021</b> <b>10,43,017.46</b> (Rs. Ten Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight Rupees & Forty Six Paise Only) + Interest & Other Charges.

Note : The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9

Date : 30-11-2021

Authorised Officer - UCO Bank



## Family man

It is high time men start participating in a rational conversation about family planning

Not even one among ten men uses condoms in India. Hardly any men go for sterilisation. In contrast, sterilisation is the preferred contraception method among women. Around four in ten women undergo sterilisation. These are some of the revelations of the National Family Health Survey-5 that examines male and female attitudes to safe sex and avoiding pregnancy in India. Women prefer sterilisation over other methods of contraception like pills, injectables and intrauterine devices. In 23 States and Union Territories of the country, condom use is less than 10 per cent. Uttarakhnand has the highest condom use at 25.6 per cent. The only silver lining is the use of condoms has gone up by around four per cent since the last health survey. The onus of avoiding pregnancy still falls on women in India. They go through the biological process of bearing a child and giving birth and on top of it are made responsible for 'family planning'. Male engagement in family planning is extremely limited and dismaying. Given the low condom usage and a negligible number of vasectomies done, men seem to be simply unwilling to share the responsibility of family planning. In rural areas, where lack of education is still glaring and women are unemployed, they often come forward to get sterilised arguing that a vasectomy can weaken their men, the family's only breadwinners.



Unfortunately, the public health campaigns on family planning engage more with women than men. In both rural and urban India, men often refuse ster-

ilisation, even though it is safe and simple, because of misconception that it affects their virility. Similarly, their ideas of patriarchy and pleasure make them forego the use of condoms. Both men and women are even today ignorant about the need to use contraception, seeing it merely as a tool to avoid pregnancy rather than for delaying or spacing children. The only way to change these perceptions is through interactive national campaigns that make men reassess their attitudes. The Government has to play a proactive role to make men return to the contraception conversation. Memories do not fade easily and people are aware of the dark days of the Emergency when in 1976, about 6.2 million men were forcibly sterilised, around 2,000 died in botched up operations, and police action against protesting victims led to many more deaths. The family planning programme has never been holistic, wavering, in phases, between sterilisation and contraception, birth control and population control, sterilisation of men and sterilisation of women, or linking large families with national instability. In 21st century India, permanent sterilisation can no longer shape the family planning programme. It is not about population explosion either as the total fertility rate has dropped to 2.0 in 2019-2021, compared with 2.2 in 2015-2016. It is about making men and women participate in a rational conversation about planning their families rather than promoting a bureaucratic agenda to control the population.

### PICTALK



Artist creates a sand sculpture on the eve of the World AIDS Day at Puri beach, Odisha

PTI

## Contagion

To stop Omicron from becoming another Delta, vaccines and protocols become utmost important

The unending restrictions are back again as the newest and potentially the most contagious strain of the Coronavirus — Omicron — has caused panic across countries and made them cautious about resuming international travel. While a bunch of countries have detected cases of Omicron, rest have their fingers crossed. The Government has, therefore, issued new guidelines and identified about a dozen "at risk" countries — the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel and entire Europe. This comes as a disappointment both to the economy and citizens as international travel was restarted just a few days ago after a hiatus of 20 months. Now passengers travelling from "at risk" countries will have to provide their travel history for the last 14 days and undergo an RT-PCR test on arrival. The findings on the new variant are not much but are enough to arouse fears of a possible third wave which was seemingly avoided.



Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said that "no case of Omicron has been found in India so far", however, Omicron could possibly have entered the Indian borders already. India recorded 6,990 new COVID-19 cases,

the lowest in 551 days, on Tuesday; but now is not the time to relax. In fact, the discovery of the mysterious new strain gives all reasons to worry and, more importantly, to follow the protocols that have been successfully dodged so far. In light of the new variant, the Government has extended COVID-19 measures till December 31. Therefore, while scientists figure out Omicron's risk and transmissibility, the public should refrain from heedless travel and diligently follow COVID appropriate behaviour. In order to stop Omicron from becoming another Delta, which wreaked sheer havoc during the second wave, people must realise the danger. However, there are certain factors that can make things go south pretty quickly: our careless tendency towards COVID-19, this being the high time for weddings and festivities and, of course, only about 40 per cent of the population being fully inoculated so far. Therefore, vaccination becomes of utmost importance and the unvaccinated have a good reason to shed hesitancy and get jabbed. The mistake of taking it lightly caused heavy losses last time and whether we allow it to happen again depends significantly on our behaviour.

# Democracy would continue to thrive

An autocracy survives when there is no alternative. In a well functioning democracy, this is usually not a problem as a vacuum seldom occurs



PRAFULL GORADIA

Aspersions are being cast in the media that democracy is on decline. Those ignorant of history can only say so. Today, Europe is prima facie democratic; at least to the extent of holding elections. Before WWII, there were mostly autocracies, for example, Germany, Italy and Spain. For most of the 19th century and earlier, democracy was an Anglo-Saxon monopoly. It was inaugurated by England in 1215 with the signing of the Magna Carta or Great Charter by King John at Runnymede in Surrey. All citizens obtained concessions and this was the beginning of the rule of law. Most of the noblemen were present at the signing at Runnymede in the county of Surrey. It began the tradition of the enforcement of the rule of law, which became a big pillar of democracy. All are equal before the law and all are to be treated justly.

The English noblemen had virtually forced the Magna Carta for King John to sign or else his endeavour would have to avoid his signature. Who is normally willing to give up power? Had the noblemen not been gradual and tactful, the King would probably not have signed the carta and there could have been a civil war. Simple measures like the Church shall have full freedom, London city will be free to levy the taxes it used to earlier. All merchants could leave and return to England without harassment or taxation. Mild and acceptable measures were the beginning of modern democracy.

From the early centuries to the end of World War II was a long era of autocracy in most parts of the universe. In Europe, religion usually provided the ideology and monarchs came and went. China was a centralised empire for 22 centuries uninterrupted. India had Muslim monarchs, emperors or otherwise, Europe was dominated by Holy Roman Emperor backed by the Roman Catholic Church based in the Vatican; the Eastern Church was at the back of the Russian Czars. Africa was waking up while South America was



an island with a local king until Spain and Portugal conquered them. Where was democracy? In England and later Great Britain with Canada, Australia and other colonies followed suit when they became independent. So did the USA after 1776.

England, its culture and leaders usually thought about what is fair. Whereas other good cultures were guided by what is right as prescribed by their religion. Yet others were conveniently guided by what is possible, by might or right. Had it been otherwise, King Henry VIII would not have survived on the throne after leaving the Vatican Church merely for annulling his marriage to Catherine of Aragon and marrying Anne Boleyn. The independent Church of England has thereafter followed what suited the interests of England not the presumed wishes of God.

Germany tried democracy called the Weimar Republic between 1920 and 1931 but failed. By May 1945, Adolf Hitler's regime was roundly defeated. Thereafter, Konrad Adenauer came to power with his Christian Democratic Party; a democratic Government has ruled thereafter. France was ruled by Napoleon III until 1870 when



ANOTHER REASON FOR THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRACY IS THE VERY SIZE OF THE COUNTRY WHERE A TAKEOVER BY CIVILIANS OR SOLDIERS WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE POWER AND HOLD IT

he was defeated by Germany, led by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Italy was not a democratic country until after 1945. Eastwards onwards, there was a variety of autocracies.

India has performed admirably, especially because we started in 1947 with a low rate of literacy. Incidentally, Nehru was a democrat, moreover, he kept winning all the elections until he lived. So did Indira Gandhi in 1972 and 1980 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1985. Except for two years between 1977 and 1979, the dynasty ruled India. The great advantage of democracy is the synergy it produces. Freedom lands enthusiasm to people and the work willing. Compulsion, which often results from autocracy, semiparalyses. As Prime Minister Modi said that India was able to achieve 100 crore vaccinations within some months because it was everybody's effort, the results of synergy are amazing.

Another reason for the success of democracy is the very size of the country where a takeover by civilians or by soldiers would find it extremely difficult to capture power and hold it. Additionally, the country is so diverse in the language and culture of the people that a

unity amongst people to capture and retain power is difficult.

An autocracy usually survives when there is no alternative. In a reasonably well functioning democracy, this is usually not a problem as a vacuum seldom occurs. The nature and temperament of the people is important. Here, the credit must go to the Hindu faith which makes people believe in their Karma. To an extent, this makes the people individualistic who seldom want to unite to knock out another group. This is unlike Islam which prefers rule by *jamhuriyat* or consensus under a monarch. The contrast between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh tells the story of different temperaments. The contrast between Islamic countries and the rest of the world is interesting. Wherever there is monarchy the people are happy if they are a Muslim. The concept begins with the Caliph who is supposed to be the spiritual and temporal head of Sunni Islam. The world of Muslims is meant to be one or pan-Islamic.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TEST CRICKET IS THE BEST THRILLER

Sir — The true beauty of Test cricket was witnessed after many years, when New Zealand rearguard snatched a thrilling draw in the first Test match against India. Debutant Rachin Ravindra and tailender Ajaz Patel braved the wicked last-session pitch to defy India's three accomplished spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin at Kanpur's Green Park. The last-wicket Kiwi batters managed to survive the final 52 balls to deny India for 40 minutes when the umpires finally decided it was too dark to play on. Interestingly, after the drawn Test, the two teams ended up getting four World Test Championship points each.

Cricket lovers were surprised about India's delayed declaration on the fourth day. Though the Man of the Match Shreyas Iyer explains that there wasn't much happening on the wicket and India needed a competitive total, maybe around 275-280; which is not digestible to many. Whatsoever, this Test should be remembered fondly as India fielded with a depleted squad, with several frontline players either rested or recuperating. The match proved why this format of cricket is called 'Test' and that Test cricket 'ka koi jawab nahi.'

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

### COVID NORMS ARE FOR LEADERS, TOO

Sir — The Maharashtra Government has issued new guidelines with regard to the new variant of Coronavirus. However, the way Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's daughter's wedding in Mumbai and Maharashtra minister Gulabrao Patil's son's wedding in Jalgaon took place in the presence of a large crowd, it raises doubts on the credibility of the Government. There is public outrage about this. But there is no one to take action on it. There is no one to question the wrongdoers because they are the Government. How is the framework of rules not the same for the leaders and the public? Clearly, if your own Government is in power then who is going to take action against you? No one would dare to do that.

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

## Need to look back to move ahead



India is a divine tree that stands tall and offers shade to people of all races, gives fruits of wisdom, teaches ethics and morality and has a culture that is as vast as the history of humankind itself. But sadly, the tree is falling apart and we are just not able to see it. If one was to notice, India is a colourful country that offers traditional yet ultra-modern solutions to even the most complicated problems. Traditionally, our food is such that it nourishes and heals our mind and body and not just fills the stom-

ach. Our traditional music is therapeutic. Today, Raga therapy is used to heal the mind and body as Ragas can calm the nerves. At the same time, they are mighty enough to evoke fire or rain, when performed correctly, of course.

We are blindly running towards the 'western culture' which is not tuned for Indian bodies. The western culture is based on materialistic factors while the Indian culture is based on spirituality. We need to understand that spirituality does not mean religion or rituals; it simply means being aware of your mind, body and soul. Indeed we have to adopt certain modern practices to develop economically and otherwise, but we must not forget our roots. If we start living an Ayurveda-inspired lifestyle, many of our health problems wouldn't even arise. The idea is not to put on a *dhoti* and head to the mountains, but to use the wisdom of those who have already been there and contribute to the betterment of humanity.

Manish Kumar | New Delhi

question papers in order to secure the berth for undeserving candidates in lieu of money. It badly impacts the mental and physical health of aspirants and also decays the administration by promoting corruption.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has failed to conduct the State-sponsored exams time and again and it reflects the ineptitude and level of corruption deeply entrenched in State machinery which also exposes the racketeering nexus. The Government can't shy away from its responsibilities with false assurance every time such rackets are busted. It's really shameful that State exams are losing credibility day by day. However, what's more disgraceful is that no strict action has been taken by the authorities even after taking massive hits on reputation.

Janga B Sunuwar | Bagrakote

### STATE GOVT FAILED THE EXAM, AGAIN

Sir — The Uttar Pradesh TET question paper — Leaked scandal has crushed the hopes of candidates who aspired to become teachers in Government's schools. At a time when Government jobs are scarce and private jobs have enough insecurity, aspirants work hard to get Government jobs for stability in life. But faults on part of the State Government are bent on hijacking the exam by leaking

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Narendra Modi ji, you are not a sympathiser of farmers, you are a sympathiser of votes.



Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi



If a social media company lets you say something with a mask on, we'll hold it to account.

Australian Prime Minister — Scott Morrison

I have always spoken against those who go against the country and will continue to speak against them.



Actor — Kangana Ranaut



It's great to see the young guys come through and perform straightaway on debut.

Team India head coach — Rahul Dravid

The inauguration of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur will be done next month.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister — Yogi Adityanath



FIRST COLUMN

POLITICALLY, WOMEN CANNOT BE IGNORED

The Indian subcontinent bests the west when it comes to primacy of women in politics



NILOFAR SUHRAWARDY

The patriarchal trend where males get more opportunities to make it to the top is visible even in the most progressive, liberal, and even so-called democratic societies. Ironically, politics is one field where the women of the Indian subcontinent seem to have broken the glass ceiling, more boldly than even in the west. The United States still has to boast of having a lady as its President. India has had women as President as well as Prime Minister. Women have been politically dominant in similar key positions in Pakistan, Bangladesh and also in Sri Lanka. Of course, the United Kingdom, Germany and New Zealand stand out as few countries where women have got opportunities to head their respective governments. Be it Margaret Thatcher from the UK, Angela Merkel (Germany) or Jacinda Ardern (New Zealand), there is no denying that the strong stamp of their distinct personalities could not have been ignored. Their rise could not have been possible without the backing of their parties. However, political charisma linked with their personalities is not solely dependent on their parties but has to do with their individual personalities. The possibility exists that Indira Gandhi may not have joined politics if she was not Jawaharlal Nehru's daughter. Initially, she was viewed



as a "puppet," "dumb-doll" and/or a totally weak politician. But her entry into politics and later her role as Prime Minister led her to be known as the Iron Lady. Incidentally, Sonia Gandhi refrained from picking up political reins immediately after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She decided to head the Congress only when intra-party worsened. Her political credentials were untested but she succeeded in helping the Congress-led coalition remain in power for two consecutive terms. She is now the natural "high command" of the party. Priyanka Vadra's entry into politics seemed natural. Initially only her smiles and the crowds attracted by her hit media headlines. But her current moves are scripting a different tale. The reference is to her "broomstick-policy" in the aftermath of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that gave her credibility as a politician. The political rise of Mamata Bannerjee, Mayawati and the late Jayalalithaa is quite similar. Their initial entry was backed either by their party and/or specific politicians in their domains. Subsequently, however, each moved on to successfully establish their own identities quite successfully. While Mamata rose from the ranks of Congress, she parted company to form Trinamool Congress in 1998. She led the party to oust Left bloc from West Bengal and head the government since 2011. The two names are inseparable — Mamata and TMC. So is the case of Mayawati and Bahujan Samaj Party. The same can be said about Jayalalithaa and AIADMK. Interestingly, the most vocal and eloquent voice of TMC in Lok Sabha is also a woman, Mahua Moitra. Women's political empowerment extends to other parts of the subcontinent. In Bangladesh the two lady prime ministers, Begum Khaleda Zia (1991-96 and 2001-2006) and Sheikh Hasina (1996-2001 and from 2006) have compelled acknowledgement of the importance given to women's leadership. Pakistan had late Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister from 1988-90 and 1993-96. Sri Lanka gave the world its first woman Prime Minister in 1960 — Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Politically speaking, in the Indian sub-continent, women have carved a distinct niche of their own without being tagged as puppets or as pawns of their parties. Compared to their limited significance in most parts of world, they take the lead here. Against this backdrop, perhaps Priyanka's political message of encouraging entry of more women into politics should not be dismissed as mere rhetoric.

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

Battle to become the aam aadmi of Punjab



AMITABH SHUKLA

Rejecting the so-called 'Delhi model', the Punjab CM said that the State is witnessing the 'Channi model' which stands for equal opportunities for all

Which party is the true custodian of the *aam aadmi* (common man) image in Punjab? The million rupee question is playing out in the election campaign as two of the contesting parties-ruling Congress and its challenger Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are insisting that they are the "real" representatives of the common man, ones battling for the plebeian and have the interest of this section paramount in their scheme of things.

With Charanjit Singh Channi, the self-proclaimed common man from a lower middle class family, who had once sold crackers for Diwali on a cot outside his tent house and was also working full time in the tent business of his father, becoming the chief minister taking over from Amarinder Singh of Patiala royal family, known in political circles as Maharaja, politics has taken a 360 degree turn in the state and the one facing the heat is the original party named on common man-Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Not surprisingly, during his election campaign in the state, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that he had reasons to believe that he has imitators in Punjab and a "fake Kejriwal" is roaming around, making same promises, asking people to know the fake from the real. Kejriwal was referring to Channi as the fake copy though he did not mention anyone by name in his speech.

Ever since he became the chief minister, Channi has been cultivating the image of the *aam aadmi* with a missionary zeal. He has been stopping at roadside 'dhabas' regularly to have tea with commoners, dancing bhangra to drum beats on the stage at functions, participating in wedding ceremonies and giving 'shagun' to couples, getting photographed with auto-rickshaw drivers, meeting workers, farmers and so on. This has clearly rattled AAP to an extent as it believes that Channi's new image could be problematic to its poll prospects in the state and spoil its dream to come to power.

Sample this: "These days a *nakli* Kejriwal is roaming in Punjab. Whatever I promise, he announces it the next day but doesn't implement it. Beware of him. Only *asli* Kejriwal can fulfill what he promises." And more, "In the entire country, only one man, Kejriwal, can bring down your electricity bill to zero. So, beware of that fake Kejriwal," said AAP's national convener, referring to Channi and his promise to bring down power rates by ₹3 across all categories of consumers.

Interestingly, both Kejriwal and Channi were in Ludhiana the same day to sell their USP of common man in the industrial city. Hours before Kejriwal was scheduled to meet the auto and taxi drivers, Channi made a surprise halt at an auto-rickshaw stand to listen to the



EVER SINCE CHANNI BECAME THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB, HE HAS BEEN CULTIVATING THE IMAGE OF AN AAM AADMI WITH A MISSIONARY ZEAL. THIS HAS RATTLED THE AAP TO AN EXTENT AS IT BELIEVES THAT CHANNI'S NEW IMAGE COULD BE PROBLEMATIC TO ITS POLL PROSPECTS IN THE STATE AND SPOIL ITS DREAM TO COME TO POWER

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)



problems of the drivers and got himself clicked with them while sipping tea. This was too much for Kejriwal who was quick to retort, pointing out that he had a pre-scheduled meeting and when the 'nakli Kejriwal' came to know about this, he reached the auto-rickshaw owners' office. "Still, I think fear is good. He may do something out of fear of the real Kejriwal, but he cannot do, because he is 'nakli'," said Kejriwal.

So this *asli-nakli* (real-fake) war of words continued with Kejriwal attacking the Punjab CM for imitating him (Delhi CM) on promises on electricity tariff. Kejriwal went on to add that former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had also imitated the Delhi Government and declared free bus service for women. But it was incomplete because Captain Amarinder had provided free travel to women only in government buses.

Channi was quick to retort and trained his guns at the AAP supremo, emphasizing that the Delhi Model of Arvind Kejriwal is nothing more than a 'bundle of lies'. "The Punjab government has already taken several path-breaking initiatives to benefit the masses whereas Kejriwal and his company are just making promises for them. I can never be a duplicate of Kejriwal as I can't be as treacherous and cunning as he is," the Punjab CM said. That went slightly off the mark and enraged the AAP leaders who retorted back in

the same coin the next day in their statements.

Rejecting the so-called Delhi Model or the Kejriwal model, the Punjab CM said that the State is witnessing 'Channi Model' which stands for equal opportunities for all. "Channi model is in unison with the teachings of the Great Sikh Gurus who have shown us the way of equality and brotherhood. This model is being implemented in the State for its progress and prosperity of its people...and this model will be there till I am in this office," the first Dalit chief minister of the state emphasized in one of his election speeches.

To further consolidate his image of *aam aadmi*, Channi spent the night at the same Gurdwara, Shaheed Baba Tega Singh at village Chand Purana (Moga) where he had stayed during his cycle yatra in 2016. His spin doctors were quick to point out, "departing from convention, the chief minister chose the Gurdwara sahib for stay at night instead of any hotel, rest house or palatial house of party leader".

Left behind in the race to project him as the *aam aadmi*, SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal too is trying to catch up with his two *aam aadmi* rivals-Kejriwal and Channi. He is obliging the selfie-seeking youths and is happily posing for them and hunting for space in the social media to project this image. The image of the common man is difficult to stick with the Badal family as they are considered

as tycoons, having business interests in several sectors, including hospitality, transport, cable and entertainment, etc. However, there is no harm in flowing with the political wind, a SAD supporter says on why the party chief should also project the image of the common man.

While Amarinder Singh kept mostly to his residence and farm house in his second term of office and remained cut off from the people, Channi is doing the opposite. He never lets go of any opportunity to consolidate his assiduously cultivated *aam aadmi* image and his political advisors say that this is playing out well with the electorate who for the first time in over two decades, have seen a different political persona as the head of the state.

Parkash Singh Badal was a five-term CM, Amarinder Singh held the post for nine and a half years and both of them together occupied almost a quarter of a century at the helm. While Badal believed in distributing largesse through his Sangat Darshan scheme, Amarinder was largely cut off from grassroots, instead depending on his support and advisors to reach out to the people. So, this image of both Channi and Kejriwal is like a breath of fresh air for many in the poll-bound state.

Not surprisingly, there is a fierce competition to emerge as the real champion of the common man and that has become the USP of the election campaign so far.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE'S NO POINT IN RAISING ARTICLE 370 IN PARLIAMENT. OUR DEMAND IS RESTORATION OF STATEHOOD AND ELECTIONS IN J&K. —SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD



ARTICLE 370 IS A LEGACY OF THE CONGRESS. IF THE CONGRESS IS NOT READY TO SAVE ITS OWN LEGACY, HOW CAN IT SAVE OTHERS'? —FORMER J&K CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH

Impact of greenhouse gasses and deforestation on climate

Trees can absorb four tons of CO2 over the course of 40 years. A forest is considered a carbon sink if it absorbs more carbon than it emits

India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy and the third largest consumer of electricity. As the country advances, the per capita consumption of electricity is likely to rise sharply. Consumption of coal, gas and crude oil is also expected to increase. At present, solar and wind produce less than 13 per cent of the total energy consumed and the rest comes from coal, petroleum, nuclear, etc. Burning of coal, natural gas, and oil to generate electricity and heat is the leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions globally.

Would it be possible to generate all the electricity we need without emitting additional greenhouse gases?

India emits 83 per cent of greenhouse



BKP SINHA

(The writer is a former IFS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

Additionally, India's population growth will intensify the demand for food, which in turn will necessitate more urea and irrigation, and using the Haber-Bosch process to produce urea will exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, it is necessary to switch to less CO2-intensive energy. The developed nations like the US and Western Europe have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate measures and specific innovations because their research and development budgets are relatively large for this purpose. Obtaining carbon-free electricity will be a huge challenge for India because to achieve zero emissions, all of our electricity must come from non-emitting sources. Solar, wind,



hydroelectric, biomass, and geothermal power can provide energy without causing global warming.

While natural gas plants are running, they need to purchase fuel and the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the cost of climate change in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Solar and wind energy are intermittent sources. The maximum conversion capacity of solar energy is only 33 per cent. They cannot generate electricity 24 hours a day, so their storage and generation costs

should also be considered. Batteries used in off-grid solar systems can be charged during the day and used during the night. It is a reasonable solution for using solar power throughout the day, but it is also quite expensive due to the costs associated with the battery and its life, which will determine how much it adds to the electricity bill and the public exchequer.

Solar power generation is significantly less in winter than in summer. Solar power and wind energy generation is totally dependent on natural circumstances. Even in bright sunshine and strong winds, production will always be less than the installed capacity due to intermittent shutdowns caused by maintenance. To collect as much sunlight as

possible, we need a large number of solar panels that take up a lot of space, and some roofs are not big enough to accommodate them, so space is also an issue. Location is also increasingly important in solar energy. Our installation needs to be increased many times compared to the current one.

Even though nuclear power could be a solution, it is risky and capital intensive.

The main reason why zero-carbon electricity is so expensive is intermittency. Because of this, the state is aiming to generate more renewable electricity by combining solar and wind power with other options like gas-powered plants, which is a necessity for cities and towns. It can be argued that the grid—a single connected network is

the solution, but in practice, this is not feasible, at least in the near future.

To use renewable energy more efficiently and generate carbon-free energy, we must invest more in research and development. Furthermore, issues such as widespread poverty alleviation, education, health, clean drinking water, water for sanitation and job creation require more money to be diverted to address these issues, which in turn can adversely affect investment in research and development. Even if we take into account the government's efforts towards clean energy, new innovations will be required to remove its impediments. Diffusion of innovations requires R&D expertise and also a long period of persua-

sion, decision-making, and implementation that will take a considerable amount of time.

Therefore, conservation, afforestation and sustainable forestry practices are also the most efficient and cost-effective ways to combat carbon emissions.

Trees can absorb four tons of CO2 over the course of 40 years. A forest is considered a carbon sink if it absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits. Photosynthesis absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. It is then deposited in forest biomass (such as trunks, branches, roots and leaves), in dead organic matter (litter), and in soil and microorganisms. This process of carbon absorption and deposition is known as carbon sequestration.



# Indian economy grows 8.4% in Q2

**New Delhi:** India's GDP growth slowed to 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22, mainly due to waning low base effect, but the economy has surpassed the pre-COVID level, official data showed on Tuesday.

The GDP growth in April-June quarter this fiscal stood at 20.1 per cent. The Indian economy had contracted by 24.4 per cent in April-June last year.

The gross domestic product (GDP) had contracted by 7.4 per cent in the corresponding July-September quarter of 2020-21, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown at the onset of the

COVID-19 pandemic last year.

This year, a massive second wave of the pandemic hit the country in the middle of April, which forced states to impose fresh restrictions.

However, the economy has now surpassed the pre-COVID level.

In value terms, the GDP stood at ₹35,73,451 crore in July-September 2021-22, higher than the Rs 35,61,530 crore in the corresponding period of the 2019-20 financial year.

The GDP had shrunk to ₹32,96,718 crore in July-September last year during the nationwide lockdown.

GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in April-September 2021-22 (H1 2021-22) is estimated at ₹68.11 lakh crore as

against ₹59.92 lakh crore during the corresponding period of previous year, showing a growth of 13.7 per cent in H1 2021-22 as against a contraction of 15.9 per cent during the same period last year.

According to the NSO data, gross value added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector accelerated to 5.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22, compared to a contraction 1.5 per cent a year ago.

Farm sector GVA growth was up at 4.5 per cent, compared to 3 per cent growth earlier. Construction sector GVA grew by 7.5 per cent compared to a degrowth of 7.2 per cent earlier. Mining sector grew by 15.4 per cent, as against a contraction of 6.5 per cent. **PTI**

## Govt debt at 62% of GDP; capable of repaying liabilities: Minister Chaudhary

**New Delhi:** Central government debt is estimated at about 62 per cent of GDP for this fiscal and it is capable of repaying its liabilities, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Parliament on Tuesday.

"Increasing the buoyancy of tax revenue through improved compliance, mobilisation of resources through monetisation of assets, improving efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure etc are the important measures initiated by Government to control the fiscal deficit and the debt burden," he said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Government debt is held predominantly in domestic currency, he said, adding, "Government is capable to repay its debt." **PTI**

# Sensex succumbs to fag-end sell-off as Omicron worries haunt global markets

**Mumbai:** Equity indices surrendered early gains to close in the red on Tuesday, mirroring the nervousness in world markets about the impact of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus on global economic recovery.

A depreciating rupee and unabated foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After rallying over 900 points in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared all gains to settle 195.71 points or 0.34 per cent lower at 57,064.87.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty declined 70.75 points or 0.41 per cent to 16,983.20 -- closing below the 17,000-mark for the first time in three months.

Tata Steel was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, tumbling 3.87 per cent, followed by

Kotak Bank, Bajaj Auto, M&M, Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank and Maruti.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, Bajaj Finance and Infosys were among the gainers, jumping up to 3.43 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said domestic indices started the session on a strong footing amid optimism in global markets following the US President's announcement that lockdowns are currently off the table.

"However, the optimism was quickly substituted with a sudden sell-off in the domestic market as global equities slipped into negative territory following Omicron experts' advice to be cautious. Defying

the market trend, IT and healthcare stocks along with mid and small caps traded with gains," he noted.

Global markets spiralled lower after drugmaker Moderna's CEO Stephane Bancel warned that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to be as effective against Omicron as they have been against the Delta variant.

Domestic investors also remained on the sidelines ahead of the release of GDP numbers.

"Markets will first react to the GDP numbers in early trades on Wednesday and the auto sales will also start pouring in from December 1. Needless to say, the excessive news flow around the new COVID variant would keep the volatility high.

"Keeping in mind the scenario, it's prudent to continue with hedged positions until the markets stabilise," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking.

Sectorally, BSE metal, energy, auto, bankex and telecom indices lost as much as 2.34 per cent, while consumer durables, IT, realty and tech mustered gains.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices spurred up to 1.45 per cent. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with losses, while Shanghai was positive.

Stock exchanges in Europe were in the negative zone in afternoon trade.

Meanwhile, the rupee closed 10 paise lower at 75.17 (provisional) against the US dollar. International oil benchmark Brent crude tumbled 3.12 per cent to USD 71.15 per barrel.

# New Bill on cryptocurrency to be introduced after Cabinet approval: Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Government is working out a new Bill on cryptocurrency which will be placed in the ongoing session of Parliament after approval of the Union Cabinet.

The ongoing winter session is scheduled to end on December 23.

Replying to a series of questions in the Rajya Sabha, she said the new Bill takes into account the rapidly changing dimensions in virtual currency space, and incorporate features of the earlier Bill that could not be taken up.

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, has been

included in the Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II for the introduction in the ongoing winter session. The Bill seeks to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Bulletin said.

It also seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in

India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses.

"Yes, last time (monsoon session) there was a Bill but subsequently because there were other dimensions...That Bill has been reworked. And in a way the bill which is coming now is a new Bill. But, never

mind, the work done on that Bill have all been taken on board here," the Minister said.

Sitharaman the government had "genuine intent" to bring the Bill even during the last session. "Now, we are coming up with a new Bill. So, it's not as if, the last time we just put it there, we did not want to come up with one. So, leading

to a suspicion that this time also we are putting a Bill, we may not come up with one. No, let's be clear on that the earlier attempt was definitely to come up with a Bill which the house can consider," she added.

The government, she said, started working on a new Bill as a lot of things had to come into play. "This Bill, once the

Cabinet clears it, will come here into the House," the finance minister said, and added the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced soon.

On asked if the government proposes to ban misleading advertisements in media, she said the guidelines of Advertising Standards Council of India are being

studied and their regulations are also being looked into "so that we can take, if necessary, some kind of a position or a decision to see how we are going to handle it." The minister also said cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India and the government does not collect data on transactions in cryptocurrency.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	17051.15	17324.65	16931.40	16983.20	-70.75
POWERGRID	200.30	209.50	200.30	206.50	6.25
SHERCEFF	25480.00	26350.00	25330.95	26349.95	738.85
BAJAJFINSV	16886.00	17500.00	16880.00	17240.00	349.60
TITAN	2336.40	2390.00	2336.40	2371.00	46.80
TATACONSUM	765.00	789.65	764.20	781.00	15.00
SBIIFE	1135.00	1167.90	1134.15	1151.00	14.75
INFY	1704.55	1729.90	1700.05	1717.00	20.65
WIPRO	630.60	645.50	630.50	638.00	7.40
BAJFINANCE	6910.00	7199.80	6849.25	6983.00	77.25
TCS	3491.00	3563.75	3491.00	3535.00	33.00
TECHM	1529.00	1594.45	1526.50	1550.95	14.30
CIPLA	965.00	984.00	958.60	973.00	8.00
NTPC	127.80	129.45	124.70	127.50	1.00
BRITANNIA	3514.00	3565.00	3501.10	3550.00	21.40
HCLTECH	1133.00	1157.90	1133.00	1139.35	6.20
NESTLEIND	19000.40	19429.00	18935.45	19100.00	99.60
ULTRACEMCO	7387.30	7519.00	7347.55	7399.00	10.75
BPCPL	370.00	379.50	368.00	368.00	0.55
AXISBANK	648.00	677.45	648.00	651.90	0.80
ITC	22.00	22.50	22.00	22.10	0.20
SUNPHARMA	751.00	761.65	746.05	751.60	0.55
ASIANPAINT	3116.15	3189.00	3116.15	3147.75	0.45
IOT	1767.25	1798.90	1751.30	1764.00	-3.25
IOC	119.00	120.90	117.85	118.55	-0.25
HINDUNIVLR	2322.00	2361.00	2302.00	2318.00	-11.40
TATAMOTORS	466.55	478.00	455.65	458.95	-2.50
HDFCBANK	1095.00	1129.00	1086.55	1090.00	-10.45
GRASIM	1680.00	1709.65	1683.00	1670.60	-13.35
ICICIBANK	716.75	732.30	711.00	712.00	-4.40
DREDDY	4713.90	4748.25	4650.00	4655.00	-42.60
HDFCLIFE	682.00	689.75	672.65	677.40	-6.25
DIVISLAB	4930.00	4949.70	4840.15	4875.00	-46.35
UPL	689.00	702.75	678.55	682.00	-7.35
ONGC	143.35	147.75	141.10	142.40	-1.70
HDPC	2665.00	2764.90	2656.00	2680.00	-33.80
SBN	486.00	472.50	448.00	459.10	-6.00
MARUTI	7149.50	7220.00	7015.55	7055.00	-94.50
EICHERMOT	2415.80	2447.00	2360.00	2375.00	-38.40
COALINDIA	158.50	158.50	151.35	151.75	-2.50
RELIANCE	2468.00	2475.90	2388.85	2401.20	-40.30
HINDALCO	418.95	430.00	410.00	412.50	-7.65
BHARTIARTL	740.00	750.20	722.65	725.75	-13.60
HEROMOTOCO	2476.00	2512.65	2424.05	2445.00	-45.80
M&M	850.80	860.80	828.55	835.00	-15.80
INDUSINDBK	902.00	927.50	877.50	878.35	-17.10
BAJAJ-AUTO	3296.00	3322.95	3223.05	3230.00	-68.20
ADANI PORTS	704.00	712.65	699.70	684.00	-18.60
JSWSTEEL	621.50	632.60	624.30	608.75	-16.85
KOTAKBANK	2023.00	2039.60	1946.90	1957.00	-62.60
TATASTEEL	1110.95	1127.90	1063.00	1070.10	-44.65

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	41852.10	42542.50	41574.90	41782.35	-101.35
CADILAHC	455.00	472.90	451.00	465.85	9.60
BERGPAINAT	740.25	768.95	739.20	751.70	11.45
HAVELLS	1331.90	1409.95	1324.00	1350.00	19.90
BAJAJHLING	4966.40	5080.00	4966.40	5014.00	73.65
SBCARD	940.00	974.90	940.00	950.90	13.90
AMBUJACEM	370.00	378.10	367.00	374.50	5.35
CHOLAFIN	541.00	565.05	540.00	549.75	7.55
BANDHANBNK	269.10	283.25	269.10	272.35	3.65
TRIDENT	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	
LALPATHLAB	3931.00	3931.00	3657.40	3794.35	
HINDUNIVLR	2338.55	2360.50	2300.25	2318.45	
RBLBANK	181.40	193.90	181.15	182.60	
ADANIENI	1669.00	1718.00	1648.90	1661.00	
NAUKRI	5488.00	5960.00	5742.55	5849.65	
JINDALSTEL	353.15	358.90	341.60	347.70	
CANBK	200.00	206.50	197.60	199.05	
PNB	37.95	38.50	37.05	37.35	
BOSFT	480.00	494.95	471.45	474.35	
DEEPAKNI	2087.00	2155.50	2085.55	2117.60	
BANKBARODA	86.25	88.75	85.20	85.75	
HEROMOTOCO	2480.00	2510.85	2426.00	2447.90	
IBREALIST	168.40	176.50	166.16	167.95	
MPHASIS	3060.00	3104.95	2826.10	2905.70	
BHEL	58.40	60.70	57.90	58.90	
BPCPL	370.00	379.35	368.00	369.90	
MARUTI	7146.70	7251.05	7025.00	7086.15	
HDFCBANK	1494.00	1529.85	1485.25	1493.60	
NAVINFLUOR	3490.00	3778.00	3490.00	3740.10	
POWERGRID	200.00	209.55	200.00	206.80	
TATACHEM	870.00	892.45	868.40	871.75	
DLF	378.00	390.70	372.30	375.05	
DELTA CORP	249.50	261.35	245.45	246.15	
ONGC	143.25	147.75	141.10	142.45	
SUNPHARMA	752.00	761.20	746.50	753.95	
VEDL	348.40	353.70	346.00	339.00	
LT	1760.00	1799.00	1755.10	1763.90	
GMM	435.00	453.05	435.00	447.85	
CIPLA	970.00	984.00	959.00	971.30	
AUROPHARMA	650.10	671.90	648.48	659.55	
GUGLAS	660.35	678.00	655.95	669.65	
FEDERALBNK	87.65	90.20	86.30	86.95	
ASIANPAINT	3125.50	3188.80	3125.50	3144.40	
RECLTD	130.00	140.95	128.00	135.70	
TATAELXSI	5800.00	5950.60	5685.75	5790.85	
ITC	221.80	225.10	220.00	221.30	
HDPC	2681.00	2764.95	2658.00	2676.40	
PVR	1389.70	1443.25	1360.20	1372.95	
SUZLON	6.64	6.94	6.61	6.88	
PNBHOUSING	550.95	550.95	541.05	550.95	
COFORGE	5340.00	5467.50	5285.45	5425.95	
ASHOKLEY	122.20	124.20	119.00	119.75	

RUPEE vs Dollar

75.17 (-10P)

74.40 (+2p)

74.52 (-12p)

74.42 (-3p)

74.89 (-37p)

75.07 (-18p)

23 24 25 26 29 30 NOV

PTI GRAPHICS

Inverted Scale

GODREJ/CP

919.70

931.20

916.00

924.05

SFL

2877.10

3488.70

2877.10

3247.95

VRLLOG

446.30

471.95

446.30

455.25

FSL

164.30

171.35

163.20

169.40

SUPREMEIND

2160.00

2177.00

2094.90

2169.55

HATHWAY

20.00

20.50

19.85

20.00

DBL

489.00

534.00

489.00

488.70

DEPAKPERT

356.50

384.60

356.50

371.50

EQUITASBRNK

61.50

63.45

58.35

59.55

PIDILITIND

2229.00

2250.00

2192.90

2204.95

NHPC

30.10

31.20

30.10

31.10

CARBORUNIV

899.00

933.70

881.20

906.70

CROMPTON

447.70

461.85

439.65

448.40

HAPPSTMNDS

1159.00

1248.25

1159.00

1206.75

FINEORG

3594.95

3670.00

3491.75

3591.75

BALKRISNDI

2152.95

2240.70

2152.95

2180.30

PGHL

4978.10

5342.80

4965.65

5322.10

NATOCAPHARM

819.40

843.80

806.00

837.50

POWERINDIA

2356.15

2754.00

2356.15

2614.45

JSWENERGY

286.00

304.10

BSE Sensex

NOV 2021

57,064.87

-195.71

Power Gen: 1.43

IT: 2.18

Bajaj Finance: 1.98

Nestle: 1.33

M&M: -1.62

Bajaj Auto: 1.27

Bharti Airtel: 1.98

PTI GRAPHICS

Nifty 50

NOV 2021

16,983.20

-70.75

Power Gen: 1.07

IT: 2.01

Bajaj Finance: 2.07

Nestle: 2.01

M&M: -2.68

Bajaj Auto: 1.96

Bajaj Auto: -2.07

PTI GRAPHICS

STAR

406.25

436.10

406.25

421.30

GNFC

424.40

431.65

414.75

424.60

ROUTE

1799.90

1821.90

1761.00

1812.30

BOSCHLTD

16300.00

16664.20

16072.35

16179.70

SOLAR

1238.00

1285.70

1220.15

1272.60

CAMS

3083.00

3098.40

3000.00

3065.55

SCHNEIDER

104.30

107.10

103.65

104.10

CEATLTD

1160.00

1187.00

1147.60

1171.30

ADANITRANS

1810.00

1850.00

1807.75

1807.75

PFIZER

531.85

5301.85

5109.70

5194.40

ENGINEERSIN

71.90

73.50

70.90

71.50

DALBHARAT

1850.00

1910.10

1840.10

1873.35

MGIL

92.00

93.65

91.50

91.65

EDELWEISS

61.05

71.65

66.30

66.95

AVANTI

516.00

540.00

509.95

524.60

CENTRALBK

21.50

21.90

21.05

21.30

JKCEMENT

3185.45

3280.70

3154.80

3235.00

WSPSPUNIND

138.00

141.35

136.80

138.20

JKPAPER

20.80

20.95

20.40

20.80

KPRMILL

491.10

538.30

491.10

530.45

PAGEIND

38173.60

39000.00

38173.50

38450.35

CREDITACC

53.70

55.015

50.195

50.75

TU18BRDCTT

41.00

42.25

40.90

42.10

LAOPALA

31.60

34.50

31.10

32.10

JKTYRE

128.05

131.70

127.15

128.65

MOTILALOFS

893.00

954.50

893.00

940.40

CRISIL

3069.95

3210.00

3063.00

3118.40

GALAXYSURF

2915.00

2915.00

2762.00

2780.25

UJIVANSFB

17.95

18.60

17.95

STAR

406.25

436.10

406.25

421.30

GNFC

424.40

431.65

414.75

424.60

ROUTE

1799.90

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GALAXYSURF

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# Omicron was in Netherlands!

AP ■ BUSSELS

The Omicron variant was already in the Netherlands when South Africa alerted the World Health Organization about it last week, Dutch health authorities said on Tuesday, adding to fear and confusion over the new version of the coronavirus in a weary world hoping it had left the worst of the pandemic behind.

The Netherlands' RIVM health institute found omicron in samples dating from November 19 and 23. The WHO said South Africa first reported the variant to the UN healthy agency on November 24.

It remains unclear where or when the variant first emerged — but that hasn't stopped wary nations from rushing to impose travel restrictions, especially on visitors coming from southern Africa. Those moves have been criticized by South Africa and the WHO has urged against them, noting their limited effect.

Much is still not known about the variant — though the WHO warned that the global



People wear face mask to protect against the coronavirus at the public transport station Friedrichstrasse in Berlin, Germany on Tuesday

risk from the variant is “very high” and early evidence suggests it could be more contagious.

The Dutch announcement Tuesday further muddies the timeline on when the new variant actually emerged. Previously, the Dutch had said they found the variant among passengers who came from South Africa on Friday — but these new cases predate that.

Authorities in the eastern German city of Leipzig, mean-

while, said Tuesday they had confirmed an infection with the omicron variant in a 39-year-old man who had neither been abroad nor had contact with anyone who had been, news agency dpa reported. Leipzig is in the eastern state of Saxony, which currently has Germany's highest overall coronavirus infection rates.

Meanwhile, Japan and France announced their first cases of the new variant on Tuesday.

## Japan confirms first case of new variant

Tokyo: Japan confirmed on Tuesday its first case of the new omicron coronavirus variant, a Namibian diplomat who recently arrived from his country, officials said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary said the patient, a man in his 30s, tested positive upon arrival at Narita airport on Sunday and was isolated and is being treated at a hospital.

## 1st French Omicron case on Indian Ocean island of Reunion

Paris: France confirmed its first case of the new variant of the coronavirus on Tuesday as countries around the world scrambled to close their doors or find ways to limit its spread.

The WHO has warned that the global risk from the omicron variant is “very high” based on early evidence, saying it could lead to surges with “severe consequences.”

# Taliban kill, abduct dozens of ex-officers

Kabul: Taliban fighters have summarily killed or forcibly “disappeared” more than 100 former police and intelligence officers since taking power in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch said in a report. The group pointed to continuing retaliation against the armed forces of the ousted Government despite an announced amnesty.

Taliban forces have hunted down former officers using government employment records and have targeted those who surrendered and received letters guaranteeing their safety, the report said. In some cases, local Taliban commanders have drawn up lists of people to be targeted, saying they committed “unforgivable” acts.

“The pattern of killings has sown terror throughout Afghanistan, as no one associated with the former government can feel secure they have escaped the threat of reprisal,” Human Rights Watch said in the report.

The Taliban seized power on Aug. 15 when they swept into the capital Kabul as the internationally backed government collapsed. Kabul's fall capped a stunningly swift takeover by the insurgents,

who had taken a string of cities as U.S. forces and their allies withdrew from Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of war. Since that time, the Taliban have been struggling to deal with the collapse of the country's economy and have faced an increasingly deadly insurgency by the Islamic State group.

Taliban forces have also targeted people they suspect of supporting the Islamic State group in eastern Nangarhar province, an epicenter of IS attacks, the report said. In the province's capital Jalalabad, a fierce, 8-hour gunbattle erupted Tuesday when Taliban forces raided a suspected hideout of IS militants, witnesses said.

The deputy provincial police chief, Tahir Mobariz, said that during the fighting, a woman and a man in the house detonated suicide vests, dying in the blasts, and third person was killed by gunfire. Two suspected militants were arrested, he said. The Taliban leadership has repeatedly announced that workers of the former government, including members of the armed forces, have nothing to fear from them. Former army officers have said they

were ordered to give up their weapons, and in return they received a document confirming their surrender and ensuring their safety.

On Saturday, Taliban Prime Minister Mohammed Hassan Akhund denied in a public address that any retaliation was taking place.

When the Taliban took over, “they announced amnesty for all. Has there been any example of this?” he said, referring to retaliation. “There is no problem for anyone.” But he added that if any former security officer “resumes his bad deed...then he will be punished based on his crime.”

But Human Rights Watch said the promised amnesty has not stopped local commanders from retaliating against former members of the army, police and intelligence services.

“The burden is on the Taliban to prevent further killings, hold those responsible to account and compensate the victims’ families,” said Patricia Gossman, the organization's associate Asia director.

Through interviews with witnesses, relatives, former government officials, Taliban officials and others, Human Rights

Watch said it had documented the killings or enforced “disappearance” of 47 former armed forces members in four provinces between Aug. 15 and Oct. 31. It said its research indicated at least another 53 killings or disappearances took place as well.

The research focused on Ghazni, Kandahar, Kunduz and Helmand provinces. “But the cases reflect a broader pattern of abuses” reported in other provinces, it said.

Taliban fighters have carried out night raids on homes to detain former security officers or threaten and abuse their relatives into revealing their whereabouts, it said. In multiple cases it documented, the bodies of those who had been taken into detention were later found dumped in the street. While some “opportunistic” killings took place immediately after the Taliban takeover, “killings and disappearances appear to have become more deliberate since then as Taliban commanders...have used informants and information from the previous government to locate others” linked to the former armed forces, it said.

# Iran strikes hard line as talks over nuclear deal resume

Tehran (AP): Iran struck a hard line Tuesday after just one day of restarted talks in Vienna over its tattered nuclear deal, suggesting everything discussed in previous rounds of diplomacy could be renegotiated.

Speaking to Iranian state television, Ali Bagheri, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, referred to everything discussed thus far as merely a “draft.” It remained unclear whether that represented an opening gambit by Iran's new president or signaled serious trouble for those hoping to restore the 2015 deal that saw Tehran strictly limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The United States left the deal under then-President Donald Trump's “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran in 2018. Since the deal's collapse, Iran now enriches

small amounts of uranium up to 60 per cent purity — a short step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

Iran also spins advanced centrifuges barred by the accord, and its uranium stockpile now far exceeds the accord's limits.

President Joe Biden has said America's willing to re-enter the deal, though the negotiations continue with U.S. officials not in the room as in previous rounds of talks since Washington's withdrawal.

“Drafts are subject to negotiation. Therefore nothing is agreed on unless everything has been agreed on,” Bagheri said. “On that basis, all discussions that took place in the six rounds are summarized and are subject to negotiations. This was admitted by all parties in today's meeting as well.”

That directly contradicted

comments Monday by the European Union diplomat leading the talks.

“The Iranian delegation represents a new administration in Tehran with new understandable political sensibilities, but they have accepted that the work done over the six first rounds is a good basis to build our work ahead, so no point in going back,” Enrique Mora said.

Another state TV segment saw Bagheri in Vienna saying Iran demanded a “guarantee by America not to impose new sanctions” or not re-impose previously lifted sanctions.

Mohammed Eslami, the country's civilian nuclear chief, reiterated that demand in comments to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency.

“The talks (in Vienna) are about return of the U.S. to the deal and they have to lift all

sanctions and this should be in practice and verifiable,” he said. He did not elaborate.

The U.S. has imposed a slew of sanctions on Iran since the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Some eventually directly dealt with the country's nuclear program, while others targeted Tehran for what Washington describes as destabilizing actions in the Mideast. Under the 2015 nuclear deal, the U.S. lifted nuclear sanctions, which returned when Washington pulled out of the accord.

Iran maintains its atomic program is peaceful. However, U.S. intelligence agencies and international inspectors say Iran had an organized nuclear weapons program up until 2003. Nonproliferation experts fear any brinkmanship could push Tehran toward even more extreme measures to try to

## Oli re-elected chief of Nepal's CPN-UML party

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's main opposition CPN-UML on Tuesday overwhelmingly re-elected former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli as the chairman of the country's largest Communist Party for the second time.

Oli bagged 1,840 votes against his nearest rival Bhim Rawal, who got 223 votes, registering a landslide victory in the party's 10th general convention held in Chitwan district. The 70-year-old leader was re-elected as the party chief for the next five years.

Elections were held for a few other posts of office-bearers of the party, despite Oli's attempt to forge a consensus in all the positions.

# Putin warns West: Moscow has ‘red line’ about Ukraine, NATO

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday sternly warned NATO against deploying its troops and weapons to Ukraine, saying it represents a red line for Russia and would trigger a strong response.

Commenting on Western concerns about Russia's alleged intention to invade Ukraine, he said that Moscow is equally worried about NATO drills near its borders.

Speaking to participants of an online investment forum, the Russian president said that NATO's eastward expansion has threatened Moscow's core security interests.

He expressed concern that NATO could eventually use the Ukrainian territory to deploy missiles capable of reaching Russia's command centers in just five minutes.

“The emergence of such threats represents a ‘red line’ for us,” Putin said. “I hope that common sense and responsibility for their own countries and the global community will eventually prevail.”

He added that Moscow has been forced to counter the growing threats by developing new hypersonic weapons.

“What should we do?” Putin said. “We would need to develop something similar to target those who threaten us. And we can do that even now.”

He said a new hypersonic missile that is set to enter service with the Russian navy early next year would be capable of reaching targets in comparable time. “It would also need just five minutes to reach those who issue orders,” Putin said.

The Zircon hypersonic cruise missile, capable of flying at nine times the speed of



sound to a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles), has undergone a series of tests, most recently Monday.

Ukrainian and Western officials have expressed worries this month that a Russian military buildup near Ukraine could signal plans by Moscow to invade its ex-Soviet neighbor. NATO foreign ministers warned Russia on Tuesday that any attempt to further destabilize Ukraine would be a costly mistake.

The Kremlin has insisted it has no such intention and has accused Ukraine and its Western backers of making the claims to cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs.

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 after the country's Kremlin-friendly president was driven from power by mass protests and also threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency that broke out in Ukraine's east.

Earlier this year, a spike in cease-fire violations in the east and a Russian troop concentration near Ukraine fueled war fears, but tensions abated when Moscow pulled back the bulk of its forces after maneuvers in April.

Putin argued that to avoid tensions, Russia and the West should negotiate agreements that would take the parties' security interests into account. The Russian leader noted that Russia has been strongly worried about NATO's drills near its borders, pointing at a recent exercise that involved U.S. strategic bombers.

“Strategic bombers, which carry precision weapons and are capable of carrying nuclear weapons, were flying as close as 20 kilometers (12 miles) to our border,” he said. “That represents a threat for us.”

# Myanmar court postpones verdict for ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi

AP ■ BANGKOK

A court in Myanmar postponed its verdict on Tuesday in the trial of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to allow testimony from an additional witness, a senior member of her political party.

The court agreed with a defense motion that it allow Zaw Myint Maung, who had

previously been unable to come to court for health reasons, to add his testimony, a legal official said. The court had been scheduled to deliver a verdict on Tuesday on charges of incitement and violating coronavirus restrictions.

The verdict would have been the first for the 76-year-old Nobel laureate since the army seized power on Feb. 1, arresting her and blocking her

National League for Democracy party from starting a second term in office.

She also is being tried on a series of other charges, including corruption, that could send her to prison for dozens of years if convicted.

State television on Tuesday night announced a sixth charge of corruption filed against Suu Kyi. She is already being tried on four such charges with a

fifth pending trial, and each charge is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a fine. The new charge accuses her and former President Win Myint of violating the Anti-Corruption Law in connection with granting permits to rent and buy a helicopter.

The judge adjourned the proceedings until Dec. 6, when Zaw Myint Maung is scheduled to testify, said the legal official,

who spoke on condition of anonymity because the government has restricted the release of information about the trial. It was unclear when a verdict will be issued. The cases are widely seen as contrived to discredit Suu Kyi and keep her from running in the next election. The constitution bars anyone sentenced to prison from holding high office or becoming a lawmaker.

## FROM PAGE 1

## RT-PCR, RAT CAN DETECT OMICRON: GOVT

They were asked to work for early implementation of sanctioned pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen generating plants, along with ensuring a seamless supply of logistics, drugs, O2 cylinders, etc.

States have been asked to co-ordinate with airport health officers (APHOs) and “Air Suvidha” portal for a list of positive travellers, including details of all international travellers, and strengthen support to them for effective surveillance.

Effective and timely coordination between State admin, BOI officials, APHOs, port health officers (PHOs) and land border crossing officers (LBCOs) was stressed upon.

States have been advised for meetings with relevant officials to ensure smooth implementation of the new “Guidelines for International Travellers” which come into effect from midnight.

Daily monitoring by the State surveillance officer has been directed to track and contain the spread of transmission of any VoCs (volatile organic compound) in the country, especially from any recent clusters of positive cases.

## EXISTING VACCINES MAY NOT WORK AGAINST OMICRON: MODERNA

While no deaths have yet been reported from Omicron, and it could take weeks to know how infectious and how resistant the strain may prove to vaccines, its emergence underscores how besieged the world remains by Covid-19, nearly two years after the first cases were recorded.

Moderna, US drugmaker Pfizer and the backers of Russian vaccine Sputnik V have all announced that they are already working on an Omicron-specific vaccine.

Scientists in South Africa said they had detected the new variant with at least 10 mutations, compared with three for Beta or two for Delta -- the strain that hit the

global recovery and sent millions worldwide back into lockdown.

China warned that the fast-spreading Omicron variant would cause challenges in hosting next February's Winter Olympics in Beijing, with thousands of athletes, media and participants arriving from overseas required to enter a strict “closed-loop” bubble.

## BOOSTER SHOT FOR OMICRON POSSIBLE IN 6 MONTHS: ADAR

It is, however, not essential that a specific version of the vaccine will be required for Omicron, he said.

“The Lancet has reported that Covishield's efficacy is very high and significantly reduces chances of hospitalisation and possibility of death... It is not necessary that the efficacy of Covishield would drop with time, he said, referring to the new study published in the peer-reviewed journal.

If a booster is needed eventually, he said the company has enough doses and it will be available at the same price.

“We have hundreds of millions of stock in our campus. We have over 200 million doses reserved for States and Union Territories in India. So, if the Government is to announce a booster dose, we are well stocked,” he told the TV channel.

## PEEVED AT MPS’ SUSPENSION, OPP WALKS OUT OF RS

Not satisfied with Naidu's ruling, the opposition parties, including the Congress, AAR, RJD, and Left parties protested, raising slogans. Naidu, however, ignored them and went on to take up listed Zero-Hour questions. The Opposition MPs then staged a walkout from the House. TMC members too staged a walkout a short while later after their leader Derek O'Brien said it's not the Opposition but the 80 MPs of the Treasury Benches who should be

suspended as they blocked certain discussions during the previous Monsoon Session.

Naidu said he was not considering Kharge's appeal as the suspended MPs have not shown any remorse, but on the contrary, justified their acts. “You try to mislead the House, you disturb the House, you ransacked the table, you also threw papers on the Chair and also some of them have got on to the table and then you are giving me lessons. This is not the way,” he said.

Raising the issue when the House met for the day, Kharge said the motion for suspension moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi was in gross violation of the rules and action was taken in the current Winter Session of Parliament for alleged “unruly” conduct in the last session.

Also, the rules require the Chair to name the members before a motion of suspension is moved, which did not happen when the 12 MPs were suspended on a Government motion on November 29, he said, adding that the Chair had on Monday not even allowed him to raise a point of order, which according to the well-settled conventions of Rajya Sabha is always permitted.

A member named by the Chair has to withdraw from the proceedings of the House. Six of the suspended MPs are from the Congress, two each from Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena, and one each from CPI and CPM.

Naidu also rejected Kharge's contentions of action being taken on deeds done in the last Session, saying the Rajya Sabha is a “continuing institution” and the Chairman of the House is empowered to suspend members for unruly conduct under rules 256, 259, 266 and other residuary powers.

Opposition MPs, however, objected to his comment that the House took the action bypassing the resolution by voice vote as they felt only the treasury benches had given affirmative response to the motion moved by Joshi. “Not the House, except some opposition parties. I agree,” Naidu remarked.

Earlier, Kharge said the moving of the motion and its adoption “is a gross violation of rules of procedures regarding the suspension of members provided under rule 256.” Furthermore, when the Leader of Opposition is seeking to raise a point of order, they have to be allowed to raise the same. I was, however, not allowed to raise my point of order. This itself is a gross violation of well-settled time honored parliamentary conventions,” he said.

Kharge said the suspension of any member can happen only when two conditions -- him or her being named by the Chairman and then a motion being moved -- are fulfilled. He also referred to the leaders of 16 Opposition parties meeting Naidu earlier in the day. Naidu said there were 33 members who are named for the August 10 incident, out of these 12 members were suspended.

## GOVT INVITES FARMERS FOR TALKS ON MSP

body the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). The factors considered by the CACP for fixing MSPs include cost of production, domestic and international prices, demand-supply conditions, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. MSP is announced for the kharif crops of paddy, jowar, bajara, ragi, maize, arhar, moong, urad, cotton, groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean and sesamum.

The rabi crops for which MSP is announced are wheat, barley, gram, masur, rapeseeds & mustard, safflower and toria. Besides, MSP is announced for copra, de-husked coconut, jute and Fair Remunerative Prices (FRP) for sugarcane.

## CET FOR UG, PG THROUGH NTA LIKELY FROM 2022

“These tests would be conducted in minimum 13 languages in which NTA is

already conducting JEE and NEET examinations,” the UGC said in a letter to vice-chancellors of all universities.

“The Common Entrance Test may also be adopted by the willing State/private universities/deemed to be universities,” the commission said. UGC also said that for admission in PhD programme NET score shall be used, wherever feasible.

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, had proposed a CET for all universities through the NTA which will serve as a premier, expert, autonomous testing organisation to offer high-quality common aptitude test, as well as specialised common subject exams in the sciences, humanities, languages, arts, and vocational subjects in higher education institutions.

A committee was constituted to look into the matter and to suggest the modalities for conducting the test for Central universities. “The committee held several rounds of discussions regarding the modalities in details for conducting the CET. Thereafter, a meeting was held with the vice-chancellors of all Central universities on November 21 to discuss the recommendations of the panel,” it said.

## ERA SECY SUSPENDED FOR TET PAPER LEAK

Muzaffarnagar, they operated the gang.

He claimed that the question paper recovered from him was of second shift of UP TET and they procured it from Ravi aka Bunty, a resident of Kandhla in Shamli, a day before the scheduled exam.

He also disclosed that in the ongoing ‘online’ exams for recruitment of sub-inspectors in UP Police, he and Babloo aka Balram had taken Radheyshyam Vidyapeeth Lab in Kankarkheda locality of Meerut on rent. Through LAN, they tried to hack the question papers and get it solved but due to the alertness of NCiet conducting the said exam, they failed to do so.

A case has been registered against Rahul and further interrogations are on. The STF team is also concentrating its

probe mainly at the office of the Examination Regulatory Authority in Prayagraj. It made one more arrest of an accused Gaurav from Aligarh on Monday. His name came up during investigation of three accused, Ravi, Dharmendra and Manish, who were already arrested by STF from Shamli on Sunday. The three are suspected to have leaked the paper of the second shift.

During grilling, however, they revealed that it was Gaurav who provided the paper in Mathura on a Rs 2 lakh deal.

Gaurav, a resident of Tappal in Aligarh, disclosed the name of another accused from Agra, who is attached to the Education department. Apart from this, the names of the people to whom he sold the pamphlets also came up after which 19 people are on the radar of the STF.

Meanwhile, search is on for Rajan, the kingpin of the paper solver gang, hailing from Nalanda, Bihar. Sources said that a team of STF was also searching for Ajay Dev Singh Patel, a resident of Shankargarh in Prayagraj. It was through Ajay that the racket of making the paper available to the examinees for Rs 5 lakh came to the fore.

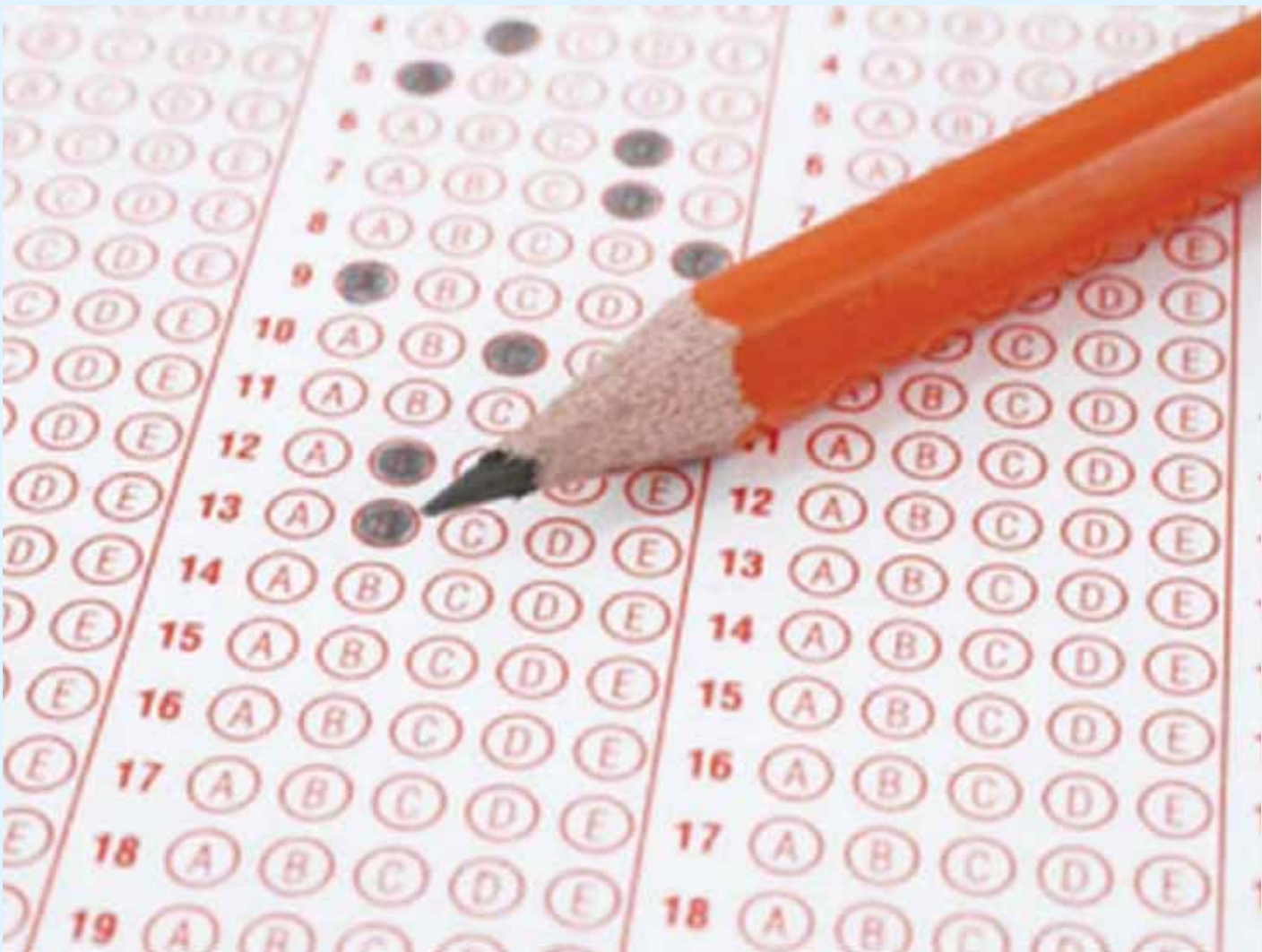
When Ajay is caught, important information related to the entire gang is expected to come to the fore. Ajay's role has come to the fore in the past also in the paper leak case. It is noteworthy that the 16 people arrested from Prayagraj, include Satya Prakash Singh, an assistant teacher at a primary school in the city's Shankargarh area.

Rajendra Patel, the alleged mastermind of the racket, and Chaturbhuj Singh, one of the key players, were among those arrested from Prayagraj. Besides, police arrested other members of the gang, including one Sunny Singh, who was instrumental in sourcing solvers from Bihar. Roshan Singh Patel, arrested from Kaushambi, is suspected to have leaked the paper of the first shift of TET. The police recovered the first shift paper from Roshan Singh Patel, a resident of Chitrakoot. Patel is a lab technician in Manjhanpur tehsil of Chitrakoot. According to STF, the recovered paper was provided to Roshan Patel by someone in Lucknow.



# The analysis is out and the overall exam was not very tough as compared to 2020. However, DILR was a little time consuming and lengthy, says SUMIT SINGH GANDHI

## CAT ANALYSIS 2021



The CAT 2021 first cut analysis is out. The surprise was in the number of questions we saw. 66 total questions which is a 10 questions reduction from CAT 2020 and that provided a good time for the students to give a better performance.

Overall the exam was doable not very tough when compared to 2020 with DILR was a little time consuming and lengthy. VARC was more inference based. Overall it had 66 questions and I am proud this is what I had predicted and our students gave 6 practice mocks of total 66 questions in last two months.

CAT 2021 tested students on speed, logic and analytical skills, a sincere student with well rounded preparation of concepts and a good practice of mocks would make their way to the IIMs. CAT tested students on their actual knowledge instead of mere guesswork. The reduction in questions from CAT 2020 helped students have a better time allocation and not have a crisis.

It was an exam with No twist it was all planned well prepared students should be able to outperform, data interpretation and logical reasoning section was a little difficult and time consuming, we saw the changes in reading comprehension passages with

dominance of inference based questions. But this wouldn't affect the overall criteria for a student selection in IIMs.

Negative marking existed for the multiple choice questions; 1/3rd ie 0.33 negative marks. Type in the answer questions didn't have any negative marking similar to the CAT 2020.

The exam was not very difficult, it was manageable provided your concepts were clear. CAT has always been an ardent lover of concepts and logic than calculations, speed and time when compared to other competitive exams.

Feedback from some of the students after the CAT 2020:

"The paper was overall easy, pretty much similar to CAT2020. Thankfully the verbal section went off well to kickstart the exam on a good note. What was surprising was to see no conventional data interpretation questions like the tables, graphs and pie charts. The exam has been as per the expectations so hoping to get good results and making all proud. Awaiting for IIM-A" – Nikhil

"The paper was very structured but lengthy and time crunching. VARC was time consuming with concerns with the inference based

questions in all Reading comprehensions not many factual questions. LR/DI was the trick section set selection was the key so now let's hope for the best." – Shreya

"A not very tough paper, overall moderate with verbal coming only from 3 areas of RC, para jumbles and inference based questions. DI section was time consuming but manageable. Overall moderate difficulty level so hoping for some good result" – Sumeet

**Sectional Analysis:**  
Overall Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

VARC 24 Questions: Reading comprehension was dominated in the verbal section. There were 4 passages with 4 questions each. More inference based questions and not factual, there were close options too so it needed little focus while solving.

TITA Verbal ability was overall easy. 3 questions on para jumbles, 3 questions on parasummary, 2 questions on odd one out. The odd one out was tougher than always.

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

and you will see the results!" The exams in terms of difficulty level were very close to our real CAT exams and closest to RC 19.

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

Those going in for Slot 2 and 3, Stay confident and just give the best shot at it. Would recommend all students to relax, chill and take a break. You have worked real hard for the exam and done your best. Now let the karma play its role and come back with a bang for the series of exams lined up ahead, one day one exam can never give an idea about one's aptitude nor decide your career path.

**Slot 2**  
Overall easier to last year. The paper has done good justice to the time management and attempts with the 66 questions. Selection of questions will be important just like CAT 2021.

Sectional Break up: Verbal (24 Qs), DILR (20), Quants (22) questions.

VARC was more inference based with reading comprehension topics coming from the recommended reads. DILR was easier than 2020, last

year we saw it increasing with every next slot, no such surprise this year. Selection played a key role in cracking this section, games and tournament and the graph based questions were very easy to tackle, the third one based on online food delivery ratings was moderate.

Quants was focussed on Arithmetic, Geometry and Algebra, modern maths felt missing.

Overall it had 66 Questions and it was on the lines this was on the lines of Real CAT Mocks and students gave 6 practice mocks of total 66 questions in last 2 months, RC 31, 28 seemed well connected to the students for VARC, DILR.

**Slot 3**  
Overall the exam was doable and not very tough when compared to 2020. VARC was more inference based, but had reading comprehension passages all from the predicted topics. DILR was moderate in difficulty terms but felt a little time consuming and lengthy. Quants was tougher than the Slot 1 and 2.

Negative marking existed for the multiple choice questions; 1/3rd ie 0.33 negative marks. Type in the answer questions didn't have any negative marking similar to last year.

The writer is CEO, Director CATKing

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

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

— Cesar Chavez

### MSC AUTONOMOUS AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

The University of Sheffield is inviting applications for its MSc Autonomous and Intelligent Systems course starting in September 2022.

The course covers all major aspects of control and systems engineering with an emphasis on system autonomy and intelligence.

**Duration-** 1 year full-time

**Eligibility-** Holders of a three year/ 4 bachelor degree with a minimum of 60% or "first class" from a reputable university in control engineering or a related subject.

Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

Alternatively, you might be an experienced professional, thinking about updating your knowledge of the subject.

**Fee-** Overseas (2022 annual fee): £26,200



and accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), NAAC accredited with "A" Grade and equivalent to MBA by Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The institute is also accredited globally by AACSB (USA) and ASIC (UK).

**Apply:** <https://admissions.ims-ghaziabad.ac.in/n>

**Eligibility Criteria:**  
Applicants who have a minimum of three year Bachelor's degree with 50% marks or equivalent in any discipline recognized by the UGC/AICTE.

Aspirants with relevant work experience and fresh graduates are also welcome to apply. A valid CAT/MAT/CMAT/ATMA/GMAT/NMAT/XAT Test score is required. All eligible candidates will have to undergo an Entrance Exam.

### PGDM AT IMS GHAZIABAD

IMS Ghaziabad is one of the Trusted Business Schools in India offering PGDM programme approved by AICTE

## SRM and GoI disseminate key findings of NFHS 5 for TN & Puducherry

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR



School of Public Health, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCH&RC, Kattankulathur was awarded the prestigious National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS) projects in 2018 for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (II Phase States).

On November 24, 2021, the Government of India (GoI) released the key findings of the survey after the successful completion of 14 states of the second phase by Dr V K Paul, Member Niti Aayog and Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

NFHS-5, the fifth in the NFHS rounds, provides information on population, health, and nutrition for India.

The main objective of each NFHS is to provide robust data on health and family welfare and emerging issues in this area to help direct policies at the central and local levels. This round includes some new topics like pre-school education, disability, death registration, menstrual hygiene, and abortion.

# Alienation leads to unpleasant human experiences

Consequences of child neglect would cause aggression, depression, self-harm, negative academic performance, absconding, and school and college dropouts, says NAMAN JAIN

A very interesting and challenging topic for discussion as the need of the hour is to do with alienation leading to child aggression, violent behaviour and relationship violence. Alienation is the unpleasant and awful form of human experiences caused due to neglect and isolation or detachment and separation. Consequences of child neglect would cause aggression, depression, self-harm, negative academic performance, absconding, and school and college dropouts.

Relationship violence is a form of abuse and it could be emotional, mental, physical, verbal, financial, sexual and social. It can be between intimate partners, parent-child, siblings, teacher-student, employer-employee etc. When a parent for example, deliberately neglects their child and causes them emotional harm and stress, it is a form of relationship violence.

**Consequences of Relationship Violence**  
◆ **The Snowball Effect of Relationship Violence**

A child who has been neglected and/or abused but never got the chance to resolve carries that trauma for life. Parents who had a difficult childhood, often carry forward negative learned behaviours and may become neglectful and abusive to their own children or become abusive partners. These are examples of the snowball effects of relationship violence.

Social issues such as child neglect and abuse, drug abuse, dowry deaths, and domestic violence are all, one way or the other, can be termed as the consequences and larger form of these unrest and disturbances that are rooted in violence, often learned when one is young.

◆ **The Socio-Economic Cost Effect**

Any kind of aggression in the society will have its impact on nations as we invest on health, child health, women empowerment, legal, judiciary and other systems of civil obedience to settle, retain and maintain peace for all. There is enormous cost involved globally in our efforts to eliminate violence and establish peace in most of the regions.

It is worth reiterating that relationship problems lead to mental health which is a big public health problem too. Health care cost affects and impacts economies of the nation in a big way. Other socio-economic costs also include the cost that we incur to protect the safety and security of our society and nation from internal violences.

◆ **The Role of Stakeholders**

Alienation leading to violence as stated is a complex issue that requires multi stakeholder intervention. Parents, friends, relatives, teachers, colleagues, celebrities, media, businesses and governments, all come under the scope of this.

◆ **Parents**

Role of the parents in upbringing their ward is fundamental and indispensable. It is better to be seen and experienced by the child than said as the parents are expected to be responsible for this. Respecting the diversity of children in the same home not getting swayed by what their parents' parameter of success is something we all need to be mindful about. The onus of having a well-balanced relationship with their ward rests with the parents first in building the character for the personal and academic well being of the children; especially during pandemic. Parents are expected to be serious in knowing the role

of a role model and play their role accordingly to ensure each other's intervention is complementary and result oriented.

◆ **Teachers**

Educators being mindful in helping the positive development of the child's mind through counseling and individual attention on them to inculcate character building, resilience, goal setting, etc. can help in shaping the behavior, attitude and approach of the children towards their personal and professional life, relationship with elders, families and society as a whole.

This coupled with frequent and tactful awareness sessions with parents on the dangers of neglecting child support can work wonders, for sure. Sensitising the children with the value systems, cultural heritage, historical glory, positive effect and influence of legacy, inheritance of past generations has to be made part of the curriculum of teaching and learning for building awareness in children on the impact of societal ecosystem.

◆ **Relatives and friends**

Next best to their parents and teachers, significant adults as relatives and members of the family play a crucial role. Their intervention in grooming and mentoring the children and youth. This would work very well as a strategy to give children the opportunities to navigate, accept and accommodate regrets and uncertainties in life in a big way when they grow.

◆ **Governments**

Most of the time it is reactive in terms of creation of policies, guidelines, rules and orders when it comes to the involvement of Governments as stakeholders to address these problems in the society. It is the need of the

hour to make it a proactive measure in this direction. Through policies, legislation and strengthening the ecosystem for supports and services for those impacted by social issues like the ones discussed here, governments can make a big difference. They can also bring diverse sectors together and encourage collaboration and collective action.

◆ **Industry**

Ongoing industry trends also give pressure on children turning out to be poor learners and decision makers. For example, the entertainment industry is a very big influence on children of all ages. For the last couple of decades children who were madly connected with cyber cafes were addicted to playing games for hours together.

Some of the studies by the American Psychological Association (APA) state that when neglected or left to fend for themselves for long, many children try to entertain themselves through video games etc. While some studies say there is no link, there are others that say it can lead to short/long term aggression.

Complex issues such as neglect and abuse can be effectively and proactively addressed by cross-sector collaboration, investment of resources for services and supports for children and families and active involvement of families in the lives of their children.

Let's all take responsibility and contribute to working towards creating a society having equal respect for all and be part of the global effort of establishing peace in our homes and in the world.

The writer is Education Policy Expert and Director at Silverline Prestige School-Ghaziabad

# Decoding scholarships for international education

There has been a recent surge in students aspiring to study abroad. The factors responsible for this recent phenomenon of a stellar rise in international university applications pertain to the healthcare infrastructure, stay back facilities provided, growth in the Indian economy and variety in the course offerings by the International Universities.

Despite such facilities, there rises one major constraint that does pull down the Indian aspirants and their parents is the financial burden.

One must acknowledge that studying in most countries worldwide is not affordable unless the student and parents are aware of and benefit from the scholarships and financial aid facilities for international students in the targeted destination.

Most of the top International Universities provide scholarships based on the remarkable achievements along with academic performance consistency.

This fact gets more evident on studying more available scholarship databases.

**Six top scholarships for undergraduate studies**

◆ **Rhodes Scholarship:** allows a monetary benefit of 15000 pounds annually for the first two years of study. The

scholarship is offered by Oxford University.

◆ **Tata Scholarships:** for Cornell University allows a monetary benefit of complete tuition fees coverage and other financial needs during the study tenure.

◆ **Danforth Scholars Programme:** allows a monetary benefit of either full tuition fees/50 per cent tuition fees or a monthly stipend of 2500 US dollars depending on the financial need of the student's course.

◆ **Nanyang Scholarships:** allows a monetary benefit of entire tuition fees, 6500 Singapore Dollars as living allowance, 2000 Singapore Dollars as accommodation allowance 5000 Singapore dollars as travel allowance for the overseas programme and 1750 Singapore Dollars as computer allowance.

◆ **Boston University Presidential Scholarship:** allows a monetary benefit of 25000 US Dollars per annum.

◆ **Karsh International Scholarship:** allows a monetary benefit of complete tuition fees. The mentorship is necessary for figuring the right resources and exceedingly for the student's time management, who already has too much on the plate.

The writer is Ankit Kapoor, Co-founder & Director, Pratham Test Prep

## Great Learning's Advanced Certificate Programme in Sales

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Learning, a part of EdTech company for higher and professional education, has launched an Advanced Certificate Programme in Sales. Designed by seasoned industry experts and Great Learning mentors, it provides freshers, junior sales personnel and other early-stage working professionals an

opportunity to fast track their career in sales. The programme will also provide learners with dedicated career assistance in terms of interview and resume preparation, career guidance, job opportunities, and interview guarantee.

The 15-week online programme takes a structured approach, delivering a 360 degree understanding of B2C sales to the learners, anchoring

on areas like customer relationship, pricing, sales strategies, negotiation, analytics and key techniques to make a successful sale. It also covers aspects of managing a sales team effectively while addressing key aspects such as monitoring, motivating, and managing a team of sales people.

The objective of this programme is to help young professionals pick up critical skills required in sales, so

that they are able to differentiate themselves and become eligible for higher paying and better quality sales roles.

Hari Krishnan Nair, Co-founder, Great Learning said, "The digital era has created a new set of skills that all sales professionals will have to quickly master in order to succeed. While there is no dearth of sales roles, there is also an increasing shortage of well trained sales professionals."

## JK LakshmiPat University celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Guru Day

PNS ■ JAIPUR

In order to pay tribute to the legendary management guru and Padma Shri awardee Dr Pritam Singh on his birth anniversary, JK LakshmiPat University (JKLU), Jaipur held its second edition of the Management Guru Day. The virtual event remembered the immense contribution of Dr Singh as a board member right from the inception of the university and also felicitated the George F Baker Professor of Administration and 11th Dean of the Faculty, Harvard Business School Dr Shrikant M Datar for his exemplary achievements in the field of management.

Dr Singh, who died in June, 2020 due to cardiac arrest, served as independent director in several private companies and was a former director of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Lucknow and a former professor and dean of IIM-Bangalore. Besides serving the board of JKLU, he was also associated with Hero MotoCorp Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd and Parsynath Developers Ltd.

Dr Datar was felicitated with a trophy and citation in a live webinar that witnessed over 300 plus attendees across various platforms. The programme started with screening of JKLU film followed by a showcasing the glimpses of Dr Pritam Singh's associa-

tion with the University.

In his address on Design Thinking & Innovation, Dr Datar spoke about the importance of innovation, developing innovation skills and nurturing innovative mindset. He highlighted the importance of establishing a connection between the operational world and innovation world, which is a combination of routine and curiosity, much-needed for innovation to take place.

He shared a 4 step process of Design thinking and innovation which included human centered approach, problem framing, ways to ideate and innovation mindset.



If you are passionate about animals and want to protect and learn more about them, there are several opportunities in wildlife conservation, says DR MUKESH KWATRA

# CONSERVE



As more and more species are becoming extinct, it creates a heavy impact on environment. More than 99% species are now extinct. 15 species were declared as extinct in 2020 itself according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In order to conserve wildlife species, immediate actions need to be taken before we run out of time. With the current rate of at least 100–1,000 times, the rate of species extinction and the decline in the size of species is higher than nature has intended.

A career in wildlife requires a lot of attention and hard work and should only be followed by those who are passionate about animals and who want to protect and learn more about them. Government agencies, Wildlife NGOs, and some others related to the field, provide opportunities to have a career in wildlife conservation.

#### Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Conservationists work to preserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity. They not only prevent endangered species but also help to prevent wild forest fires and preserve natural resources like soil and water.

#### Indian Forest Services

Indian Forest Services (IFS) Officer is like a Wildlife Conservationist who primarily ensures implementation of National Forest Policy and is employed by the Government.

#### Wildlife Biologist

As the impact on the world due to human activities keeps growing continuously, a career as Wildlife Biologist requires work like gathering, analysing and interpreting data of animals and its habitats including disease, genetics, behaviour and pollution impact to improve habitat conditions in order to conserve wildlife. An individual applying for this field should not only be able to understand information mentioned in the scientific studies but also should be efficient enough to handle wild animals, work with acid and infected blood.

#### Wildlife Manager

Students wanting to pursue this career must have an interest in biodiversity and should strive to protect natural resources. The job of a wildlife manager consists of maintaining and manipulating the humans or wildlife habitats to produce benefits not only for the public in general but also for the

**To become an IFS officer, you need a Bachelor's degree with at least one of the subjects like Science, Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Math, Physics, Statistics and Zoology**

animals. A wildlife manager should apply and formulate solutions to problems related to wildlife habitat management.

#### Wildlife Educator

Educators play a vital role in the field of wildlife conservation as they provide information about wildlife to the youth. A wildlife educator has a career of teaching in schools and universities about aspects related to the environment which covers the geographical conditions of the location of wildlife, their habitat and more. Students wanting to apply for this career should have good communication skills and the ability to work with children.

#### Outreach Specialist

Professionals in this field use economic and conservation principles to help in restoring and maintaining wildlife. These professionals mostly interact with industries, citizens, private and corporate landowners to assist them with wildlife management. Individuals need to have critical thinking abilities to be able to do well in this field.

#### Public Relations

Specialist in this field interprets wildlife researches and conservation programmes in order to exhibit it to others. The job includes creating brochures and websites, writing articles and news releases, speaking at public gatherings or conversing through media.

#### Wildlife Consultant

A career as a wildlife consultant is a full-time job. Professionals in this field need to assist in fields, habitats, conduct surveys, observe wildlife and do many more tasks. Consultants need to follow rules laid down in National environmental policy and ensure quality environments.

One of the tasks of a wildlife consultant is to settle impacts made due to various actions proposed on the environment.

#### GIS Specialist

Specialists in this field work with geographic information systems. The task of a GIS specialist is to interpret data and put forth policy and management recommendations regarding wildlife and its habitat. Individuals wanting to apply to become a GIS professional should have a background in computer science and have knowledge about programming as they are used to create tools.

Students interested and passionate towards any of this field should pursue it based on their interest and qualifications. They need to obtain a Bachelor's degree in a subject related to this field like Wildlife Biology, Marine Biology and Zoology followed by a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and Conservation and get certified as a Wildlife Biologist.

To become an IFS officer, you need a Bachelor's degree with at least one of the subjects — Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Zoology, Agriculture, Forestry or Engineering from a recognized university and then you need to clear the IFS examination conducted by UPSC annually.

The writer is founder of Smiling Tree

# Blend skill development with education

Educators are helping students possess skills that go beyond jobs and technology and last a lifetime, says ROHAN PARIKH

They say that children learn a lot in their formative years while their memory, attention span, and language skills develop. However, during their growing years, children need the right guidance that will help them identify and nurture these innate skills. But a lot also depends on a child's temperament and personality to understand these skills and work towards honing them. During these impressionable years, schools and teachers play a vital role in discovering their interests and enhancing their skills.

In a world that is constantly transforming, it is this young generation that is going to usher in a new era of change and sustain it. For that, skill development is vital. So, let's explore various ways to carry out skill development at the school level and the importance of developing skills from a young age to have a future-ready workforce.

Gone are the days when education was limited to the pages of a book and students memorised information solely to pass an examination. Educators are pushing the envelope and helping students possess skills that go beyond jobs and technology – and will last them a lifetime. Here are some of the reasons why skill-based learning has become imperative in schools.

**Identify specific future-ready skills in children:** Education needs to evolve if it has to accommodate students with an enhanced skill set. Students must learn certain skills that will help them easily adjust and blend into the workforce of tomorrow. In this case, teachers can identify what the child needs and accordingly tailor the educational needs of the students.

**Encourage students to be more creative:** Students need to be pushed out of their comfort zones and motivated to think out-of-the-box. This will foster an environment of creativity and inspire them to try new things and share their creative thoughts with others. In this way, children also come together to discuss and share their ideas, knowledge, interests, etc.

**Make communication an essential part of their journey:** The new age of learning includes bringing new concepts to the table and exploring them.



**Rohan Parikh**  
MD, The Green Acres Academy,  
Schools by The Acres Foundation

However, children need to be taught the art of communication, which can prove to be useful in their growing up years. Teachers must encourage students to communicate their thoughts and ideas more clearly and without any hesitation.

**Introduce a student-led learning approach:** To embrace an effective student-led learning approach, schools need to understand that in student-based learning, the students are at the core, and not the educators. Students must have a say in making the classrooms future-ready as well as be more involved in technology deployment decisions.

**Make students think on their feet:** In this day and age, where things are moving at an accelerated pace, quick thinking and adapting to a situation has become the need of the hour. Thus, these skills need to be ingrained in students, so that they learn how to deal with an emergency with their prompt thinking and adaptability skills.

**Inspire students to take calculated risks:** Every new or creative thing brings with it a certain set of risks. But students should be motivated to experiment with new ideas and different thought processes. Instead of fearing failure or making mistakes, students delve deeper into their thoughts and make the most of these opportunities for growth.

Those who see the universe as an expression of God's consciousness and who love and worship all of creation are true religious leaders. They are those who perceive the unity behind the diversity. However, today, many inexperienced people twist the meanings of scriptural statements in order to exploit the gullible and naive. Religions and spirituality are supposed to be keys that open our hearts and help us view the world with compassion. However, blinded by selfishness, man has lost his power of discrimination. He has used the very same key intended to open his heart to lock it shut. He has used it

for creating more darkness.

Four people who had gone to a conference had to spend the night together on an island. It was so cold, everyone felt frozen to the bone. All four of them had matches and kindling with them. Yet each thought he was the only one who had them. The first man thought: "The locket hanging from the other man's neck means he belongs to another faith. Why should I light a fire for him?"

The second thought, "That person belongs to an enemy country. They are always fighting with us. I will never use my matches and wood to warm him!"



**The Siemens Limited has launched the 9th edition of Siemens Scholarship Program.** The programme hones youth to become industry-ready engineers, and launch a sustainable career in engineering, R&D or manufacturing.

The scholarship programme is available for students throughout the four years of graduation and 50% of scholarships is reserved for girls. As of 2021, 935 students from 93 Government engineering colleges across 26 States in the country have been part of the this scholarship programme.

**Eligibility:** First-year students of Government Engineering colleges from the following streams can apply: Mechanical / Production, Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, Electronics & Telecommunication and Computer Science / Information Technology.

Age: Up to 20 years.  
SSC: Minimum 60% aggregate.

HSC or equivalent result: Minimum 50% aggregate and minimum 60% PCM aggregate.  
Annual family Income: Not more than ₹2 lakh.

**How to apply:** Interested candidates can visit: [www.siemens.co.in/scholarship](http://www.siemens.co.in/scholarship).

**Application deadline:** The last date to apply for this scholarship

scholarship programmes is January 10, 2022.

If you would like to complete your study in Canada, then here is a wonderful chance provided by the **Western University through its Admission Scholarships Program**.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible, the applicants must have a high school certificate with a good excellent academic record.

**Award:** The Western University will provide an award amount of up to \$8,000 to the successful candidates.

Students must be enrolled in any undergraduate degree programme at Western University.

**Supporting documents:** To apply, candidates must be ready to submit the previous transcripts at the university.

International students can apply.

**Admission requirements:** For admission, applicants must have a high school certificate before applying for this grant.

**Language requirement:** Students need to demonstrate that they have a good level of written and spoken English.

**How to apply:** In order to be eligible , a student must apply for admission directly from secondary school to Western's main campus for full-time first-year studies. No application is required to be considered for these scholarships. Awards are automatically awarded upon admission to Western.

**Application deadline:** It is March 1, 2022.

#### BUSINESS DEV (SALES) AT QUADB

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/7c5b8b](http://internshala.com/i/7c5b8b)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT AURODO

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/a9a58c](http://internshala.com/i/a9a58c)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### MARKETING AT SHIPPINGCHIMP

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/d48525](http://internshala.com/i/d48525)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### HR AT PAYTAL

Location: Delhi, Gurugram  
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/630f43](http://internshala.com/i/630f43)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### 3D VISUALISER (INTERIOR DESIGN) AT THE HIGHLIGHT INTERIOR

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹8,000–₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/b19ba7](http://internshala.com/i/b19ba7)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### REACT NATIVE DEVELOPMENT AT LEANVIA LLC

Location: Chandigarh  
Stipend: ₹8,000–₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/a9a690](http://internshala.com/i/a9a690)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

#### WEB DEVELOPMENT AT STACKMYBIZ

Location: Ranchi  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/c2b0f9](http://internshala.com/i/c2b0f9)  
Deadline: December 8, 2021

# MIND IT

The third person looked at the man sitting next to him and thought: "I know this guy. He campaigns against my religion. I'll never let my fire warm his body."

Thus, without making a fire, all froze to death. In reality, the cause of death wasn't exposure; it was their cold-heartedness.

While today the world is facing the hardships of the coronavirus pandemic, humanity is also being plagued with other forms of disease — the diseases of

selfishness, greed, anger and jealousy. We urgently need a medicine that can transform anger into compassion, hatred into love and selfishness into magnanimousness, etc. Here, faith and spirituality are the solution.

A community is comprised of individuals. It is the conflicts in our minds that manifests externally as war. When a transformation takes place in the human mind, society changes automatically. We should try to cultivate love and peace in our

hearts. We have to put in that effort. Nations around the world spend trillions of dollars on the military and defence. When it comes to war, we have such intensity and focus. Why don't we put just a fraction of that money and effort towards creating world peace?

National Defence is essential. But the greatest security comes through implementing spiritual values in our lives. If we want to confront the internal enemy, we have to find and wield an internal weapon.

We are surrounded by millions of people who are poor and hungry. In fact, hunger is our greatest enemy. Hunger is

what transforms people into terrorists, thieves and murderers. It is hunger that turns women into prostitutes. Poverty weakens our bodies and minds. It is into such minds that the poison of terrorism is injected. In reality, if we can eradicate hunger, 80 percent of our problems will be solved. We must wholeheartedly serve the poor. In order to do this, we must cultivate love and compassion for them within. This is my prayer. It is the compassionate mind that transforms society. Let us pray for the welfare of everyone in the world.

Courtesy: Amma, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi

## INBRIEF

### AIEED 2022 TO BE CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER

The Arch College of Design and Business will conduct the All India Entrance Exam for Design (AIEED) 2022 from December 15-25, 2021 for April 2022 batch. The AIEED is the one of its kind for online exam in design education which is accessible for interested students from anywhere in the world.

The unique exam is organised to offer admissions to Arch's UG as well as PG design programmes. Design aspirants can apply for the exam till December 10, 2021. The exam was launched in

2010 to introduce a screening process to select the right design students. This screening for design studies' and its parts and stages aim to enable the students to do a self-discovery and in the process, help the college to identify the aspirants rather than just evaluating their skills.

In the assessing process, the college tries to know the students' perceptions, attitude and approach towards the world to identify the potential talent who can write future course of design.

The college is affiliated to the University of Rajasthan for Bachelor of Design Degree & Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA).

### INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The National Institute of Technology Andhra Pradesh is collaborating with State Government-funded universities to form a regional educational cluster group in East and

West Godavari districts. The aim is to promote research-based local community service projects. The institute signed a MoU into an inter-institutional

collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada, Dr YSR Horticulture University, Tadepalligudem and Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry.

### INCUBATION CENTER UNDER RRU

The Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA) aims to lay out a comprehensive strategy for achieving it in a sustainable and institutionalised manner through transversal linkages between the civilian and

security actors. Such interlinking will foster cross-functionality and attract a techno-industrial complex around the security forces of the nation — making the forces a major contributor to the National GDP.

### IT DELHI COLLABORATES WITH NLUD

The IIT Delhi and the National Law University, Delhi (NLUD) have signed an agreement to establish NLUD-IITD Collaborative Platform for initiating wide ranging research and academic collaborations in various interdisciplinary areas.

a) Law and Technology, including Operations Research-Artificial Intelligence,

Forensic Science, Cyber Laws and Cybercrimes.

b) Law and Development including Official Statistics, International Trade, Migration, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Environmental Law.

c) Law and Justice including Ethics, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Criminal Law and Justice.

The collaboration comes within the ambit of

the Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIIP) scheme of the Research and Development (R&D) Unit of IIT Delhi.

Under the scheme, IIT Delhi and NLUD have sanctioned joint projects on forensic investigations involving human DNA samples and investigation of inherent algorithmic biases and their legal ramifications for India.

### NDIA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

As a collaborative initiative among the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Australia India Water Centre, and Western Sydney University, The first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme was launched virtually on November 29, 2021.

This programme will be implemented by the Australia India Water Centre (a consortium of Australian and Indian

universities). The aim is to provide a structured platform for capacity building with strategic and long-term investment to support the water management reforms in India.

The objectives are to equip water professionals with necessary skills, knowledge and networks that will enable them to contribute to the development and management of water resources in India.

### WEBINAR ON 72 YEARS OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY

The Mahindra University School of Law organised a webinar on Constitutional Law on the topic: *72 years of Constitutional Democracy: Merits & Demerits*.

Justice B Chandrakumar, retired Judge of AP High Court and Professor (Dr) Inukonda Thirumali, renowned academican, spoke on the occasion. Dean and faculty from the

School of Law, Mahindra University also addressed the webinar, which was available to students as well as external audience.

Speaking at the webinar Dr Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University said: "We are proud to be a part of a vibrant democracy. Our democracy's backbone is the Constitution. What better way to celebrate democracy than a discussion of

the constitutional aspects of it! We are happy to indulge in a meaningful discourse on constitution organised by the Centre for Constitutional Studies."

Justice Chandrakumar opined that the citizens could vote out the then Government in power in 1977, when all other constitutional safeguards failed to check the mismanagement of power under the proclaimed Emergency rule.



# Messeven

## Argentine legend wins his record extending 7<sup>th</sup> Ballon d’Or award

AP ■ PARIS

Lionel Messi admitted winning the Copa America with Argentina might have been the determining factor in him claiming the men's Ballon d'Or prize for the seventh time after a turbulent year, as Spain's Alexia Putellas took the women's award.

Now 34, Messi pipped much-fancied rivals like Robert Lewandowski and Karim Benzema to take the award in a glittering ceremony on Monday in Paris, the city he now calls home after leaving boyhood club Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain in August.

Despite his tearful goodbye from Barcelona and his relatively underwhelming start to life in France, the jury of journalists from around the world rewarded him in particular for captaining Argentina to their first major international title since 1993.

"Two years ago I thought I was coming into my final years but here I am again back here," said Messi, who won the last edition of the Ballon d'Or in 2019 before last year's awards were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Messi also won in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and in 2015.

"People were starting to ask me when I was going to retire but now I am here in Paris and I am very happy," he said at the Chatelet Theatre in central Paris, where he was joined by his wife Antonella Rocuzzo and their three children.

"I don't know how many more years I have left but I hope there will be many because I am really enjoying myself this year.

"What I achieved with Argentina was a dream come true. I think I won this trophy thanks to what we did at the Copa America, so I dedicate it to my teammates."

Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 in the final in Rio de Janeiro as Messi won a major title with his country for the first time. He also scored 38 goals in 48 games in his final season with Barcelona and won the Copa del Rey.

### Lewandowski second

However Messi has played just 11 times and scored four goals for PSG since joining the French club and there was a feeling that this year might see a different winner.

Poland striker Lewandowski would have been a shoe-in in 2020, when he scored 45 goals in 37 games for Bayern, only for the awards to be cancelled.

He ended last season with a remarkable 41 Bundesliga goals but had to settle for second place in the voting for the

### KEY NUMBERS

**53** Robert Lewandowski has scored 53 goals across all comps for FC Bayern in 2021; the most among all players in the big five European leagues. Lewandowski has averaged a goal every 67 minutes in this period, which is 42 minutes fewer than Lionel Messi (109).

**7** Lionel Messi, now seven-times winner of the Ballon d'Or, was involved in nine goals for Argentina in the Copa América 2021 (four goals + five assists), the most of any player in the tournament.

**41** Alexia Putellas has been directly involved in 41 goals in the Primera Iberdrola in 2021 (22 goals and 19 assists), more than any other player in the competition.

Ballon d'Or, which is organised by France Football magazine and voted for by a panel of journalists from around the world.

Lewandowski instead was given a consolation prize for the year's best goal-scorer and received glowing praise from Messi.

"I wanted to say to Robert that it was an honour to go up against him. He deserved to win it last year," Messi said.

Midfielder Jorginho, who won the Champions League with Chelsea and Euro 2020 with Italy, came third, followed by Real Madrid's Karim Benzema and another Chelsea player, N'Golo Kante.

Five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo came sixth. He was absent from the ceremony.

Between them, Messi and Ronaldo have won 12 of the last 13 editions of

the Ballon d'Or with the exception coming in 2018 when Luka Modric claimed the prize.

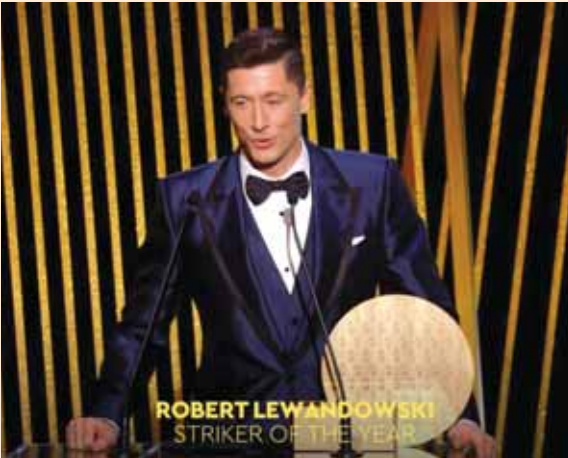
**Putellas succeeds Rapinoe**  
This is just the third year that a



PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma poses for photo after winning Yashin Ballon d'Or Trophy as best goalkeeper



Barcelona player Alexia Putellas, left, holds the Women's Ballon d'Or trophy; Pedri holds 2021 Kopa Ballon d'Or for best young player



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski holds the 2021 Ballon d'Or trophy for striker of the year

women's Ballon d'Or has been awarded, with Putellas following in the footsteps of Norway's Ada Hegerberg, winner in 2018, and the United States' 2019 World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe.

Spain international Putellas, 27, captained Barcelona to victory in this year's Champions

League, scoring a penalty in the final as her side hammered Chelsea 4-0.

She also won a Spanish league and cup double with Barca, the club she joined as a teenager in 2012 and who are fast becoming the dominant force in the women's game.

Her Barcelona and Spain teammate Jennifer Hermoso was second, with Sam Kerr of Chelsea and Australia coming in third.

TOP 10 MEN'S PLAYERS (2021)			
Rank	Player	Team(s)	Points
1	Lionel Messi	Argentina, Barcelona, PSG	613
2	Robert Lewandowski	Poland, Bayern Munich	580
3	Jorginho	Italy, Chelsea	460
4	Karim Benzema	France, Real Madrid	239
5	N'Golo Kanté	France, Chelsea	186
6	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal, Juventus, Man Utd	178
7	Mohamed Salah	Égypt, Liverpool	121
8	Kevin De Bruyne	Belgium, Man City	73
9	Kylian Mbappé	France, Paris-SG	58
10	Gianluigi Donnarumma	Italy, AC Milan, PSG	36

ALL-TIME BALLON D'OR LEADERBOARD			
Player	Winner	2nd place	3rd place
Lionel Messi	7 (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021)	5 (2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)	1 (2007)
Cristiano Ronaldo	5 (2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)	6 (2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2018)	1 (2019)
Michel Platini	3 (1983, 1984, 1985)	—	2 (1977, 1980)
Johan Cruyff	3 (1971, 1973, 1974)	—	1 (1975)
Marco van Basten	3 (1988, 1989, 1992)	—	—
Franz Beckenbauer	2 (1972, 1976)	2 (1974, 1975)	1 (1966)
Ronaldo	2 (1997, 2002)	1 (1996)	1 (1998)
Alfredo Di Stéfano	2 (1957, 1959)	1 (1956)	—

## We did it together bro: Ravindra to Patel

PTI ■ KANPUR

New Zealand's Indian-origin spinner Rachin Ravindra, who played a pivotal role in helping his side draw the first Test against India, said he was quite nervous about how the game would pan out as far as his bowling was concerned.

The 22-year-old Ravindra, in the company of Indian-born Ajaz Patel (2 off 23 balls), held a 91-ball vigil that yielded 18 runs for him to save the match for his side which was nine down in pursuit of 284 on the final day here.

Patel, who was born in Mumbai, played for the first time in the country of his birth. He also picked up three wickets in the game even though Ravindra went wicket-less.

The 33-year-old Patel interviewed Ravindra for the New Zealand cricket team's official Twitter handle and recalled his own Test debut.

"I remember my my first Test match, I was really nervous, and my hands were shaking when I first got the ball. How was it for you?" Patel asked.



Ravindra candidly admitted to having nerves of his own.

"I felt a bit nervous bowling wise. We were about four down in first innings when I was next, so definitely felt a few butterflies (that time), but I think after a few balls, I did what I do. Luckily it ended up okay," said Wellington-based player.

Ravindra has already a lot of attention for his Indian roots and his first name which is inspired by Indian greats Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. The youngster said he enjoyed playing in front of Indian fans.

"Being able to play in India in front of crazy fans. Glad to have done that. My mum and

dad have been such big influences on my career. I am sure that they are proud," said Ravindra.

"We did it together bro," he said, sharing a smile with Patel. Later, in another video posted by New Zealand Cricket, Ravindra said the partnership with Patel was unforgettable.

"I think I was actually alright in the end, I knew my process, my training, and I backed myself to do it. You are kind of pretty focussed, taking in the crowd, you know, how loud they were..."

"It was quite nerve-wracking. I guess we (he and Patel) somehow managed our nerves together.

## West Indies 69-1 after dismissing Sri Lanka for 204 on Day 2

AP ■ GALLE

West Indies made a steady start in reaching 69-1 after bowling out Sri Lanka for 204 before rain forced an early end to day two of the second cricket test on Tuesday.

Left-arm spinners Veerasammy Permaul and Jomel Warrican combined for nine Sri Lanka wickets with career-best performances.

When play was called, West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite was on 22 and Nkhrumah Bonner on 1. The tourists trailed Sri Lanka by 135 runs with nine wickets in hand.

Permaul, in his first test in more than five years, snared 5-35 to register his first five-wicket haul.

Warrican took 4-50, also a career best.

The pair ensured they reversed a good Sri Lanka start which featured a 106-run opening partnership. The last nine wickets went for 98 runs.

Sri Lanka resumed on 113-1, and Pathum Nissanka and Oshada Fernando added 26 more runs to the total before Permaul struck in the seventh over of the day. Fernando tried to play a cut shot close to his body and was caught behind by Joshua da Silva for 18.

Permaul took two wickets in one over, trapping Nissanka lbw for 73 to end an innings that lasted 148 deliveries and contained a six and five boundaries. Two deliveries later, he had Dhananjaya de Silva caught behind on 2.

Charith Asalanka, playing his first test, scored 10 before becoming Permaul's next wicket, caught by Bonner.

## Pakistan beats Bangladesh by 8 wickets in 1st cricket test



AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Opener Abid Ali missed out on back-to-back centuries by nine runs but Pakistan comfortably chased down a 202-run target to beat Bangladesh by eight wickets on Tuesday in the first cricket test.

Abid and Abdullah Shafique put on a 151-run partnership for the first wicket, their second consecutive 100-plus stand in the match to give Pakistan's chase a powerful start. Abid, who hit 133 in the first innings, struck 12 boundaries and scored 91 off 148 deliveries in the second innings.

Resuming Day 5 at 109 without loss, and just 93 runs away from the victory, Pakistan's openers appeared to be in full control until offspinner Mehidy Hasan

struck.

Shafique followed his first-innings half-century to reach 73 before Mehidy (1-59) trapped him lbw.

Seven overs later, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam (1-89) had Abid out lbw, baffling him with a sharp turn to make Pakistan 171-2.

Azhar Ali then combined with captain Babar Azam to complete the inevitable, hitting consecutive boundaries off Mehidy to finish off the game. Azhar was unbeaten on 24 and Azam was not out on 13.

Liton Das' maiden test century helped Bangladesh post 330 in its first innings, then Taijul Islam claimed 7-116 to bowl out Pakistan for 286 — giving the hosts a 44-run first innings lead.

## South Africa tour on as of now: BCCI treasurer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal on Tuesday said India's tour of South Africa remains on schedule provided the situation doesn't aggravate in the rainbow nation after a new COVID-19 variant was detected there.

India play the final Test against New Zealand in Mumbai and are scheduled to depart to Johannesburg from there on December 8 or 9 on a chartered flight. Dhimal expressed confidence the bio-bubble environment created by South Africa will keep the players safe. The first Test will be played in Johannesburg from December 17. "We stand with them (as they deal with this threat), the only thing is we won't compromise on players' safety. As of now we have a chartered flight going to Johannesburg as scheduled and players will be in a bio bubble," Dhimal told PTI.

On the possible change of venues within South Africa to deal with the threat, Dhimal said: "We are in constant touch with the Cricket South Africa (CSA) officials.

"Whatever best we can do to not compromise the series we will try and do but if situation aggravates and if it compromises our players' safety and health, we will see.

"In the end, whatever is the Government of India advisory, we will abide by that," Dhimal told PTI. Countries around the world have already pressed the panic button and imposed travel bans from South Africa but India has not done that. However, South Africa is among the "at risk" countries as per the revised guidelines of the Indian Government.

## Sindhu leads India's campaign at World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BALI

PV Sindhu will look to ensure that her consistent run yields a title, while all eyes will also be on the fast-rising Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as they make their debut at the BWF World Tour Finals beginning here on Wednesday.

It will be the best ever representation for India at the year-end tournament with as many as seven of them qualifying for the



USD 1,50,000 event.

Save for mixed doubles, the Indians compete in all other categories with Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, who made the cut after the completion of the Indonesia Open last week, set to represent the country in the women's doubles event.

The only Indian to win the prestigious title in 2018, reigning world champion Sindhu was a finalist at the event the year before and she will look for another good outing when she opens her campaign against

top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in group A.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, has been consistent with three semifinal finishes in the last three events and is likely to make it to the knockout stage.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad is expected to finish among the top two in the group as she has a good record against the other two opponents -- Denmark's Line Christophersen and Germany's Yvonne Li. Srikanth, only the fourth player ever to

win four Super Series titles in a year, has looked in good touch in the last few events with semifinal finishes at Indonesia Masters and Hylo Open.

The former world No.1 had reached the knockout stage of the year-ending event in 2014 and he will look to relive those moments when he begins his campaign against Malaysia's second seed Lee Zii Jia in group B which also comprises France's Toma Junior Popov and Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.