

**OPINION 8**  
WHO REALLY MURDERS  
DEMOCRACY IN INDIA?**WORLD 12**  
TALIBAN URGES US TO RELEASE  
FROZEN FUNDS IN DOHA TALKS**SPORT 14**  
SINDHU GETS FIRST ROUND BYE IN WORLD  
C'SHIPS, TAI TZU IN LINE IN QUARTERSPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol. 157 Issue 322  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021; PAGES 14-3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

I AM  
GIFTED:  
PIYUSH MISHRA  
13 VIVACITY

# International flights won't resume

**Omicron scare  
puts off Dec 15  
resumption plan**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Omicron scare, India may not resume scheduled international flights from December 15 as planned earlier.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday decided to postpone the resumption of the scheduled international flights from December 15 citing "evolving global scenario" in the wake of the emergence of the new Covid variant.

No case of Omicron has been reported in India so far but air travel is becoming longer and more expensive due to guidelines issued by the Government.

"In view of the evolving global scenario with the emergence of new variants of concern, the situation is being



Air passengers lined up at a terminal at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Wednesday. SPTI

watched closely in consultation with all stakeholders and an appropriate decision indicating the effective date of resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services shall be notified in due course," the DGCA said in a circular on Wednesday.

The DGCA also referred to its circular issued on November

26 wherein it was decided that scheduled international flights will resume from December 15.

The Pioneer had earlier reported that resumption of scheduled international flights was likely to be delayed from December 15 as planned earlier.

The USA, Canada, the European Union, Israel, China

have already banned travellers from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. Japan has also decided to completely shut down international air travel from its soil.

A decision on the resumption of international flights will only be taken after the

## OMICRON EFFECT

- With new guidelines, air travel become more longer and expensive
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation said only two per cent of the passengers coming from countries that are not in the 'at-risk' list will be subject to random sampling for coronavirus and such passengers will be permitted to leave the airport after giving the samples
- Passengers are being charged ₹500 for the RT-PCR tests, the test result of which will be available in 5-6 hours. Those who opt for Rapid PCR tests need to shell out ₹3,900 at the airport and these are however available in one hour
- Air passengers flying to Chennai from 'at risk' countries will need to pay ₹4,000 for Rapid test while those opting for regular RT-PCR will pay ₹900

Government finds it relatively safer to do so amid the pre-vailing pandemic situation.

The Chief Ministers of Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to reopen international flights from affected countries in the present scenario

The decision comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked officials to review the plans to ease international travel restrictions in light of the "emerging new evidence".

Continued on Page 12

# Contagious Omicron may displace Delta, says S African expert

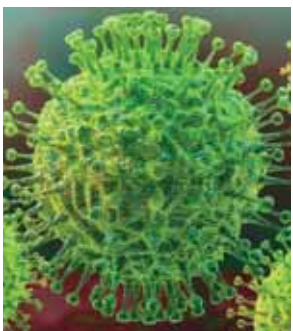
**Johannesburg:** The Omicron coronavirus variant detected in southern Africa could be the most likely candidate to displace the highly contagious Delta variant, the director of South Africa's communicable disease institute said on Tuesday.

The discovery of Omicron has caused global alarm, with countries limiting travel from southern Africa for fear it could spread quickly even in vaccinated populations and the World Health Organization saying it carries a high risk of infection surges

"We thought what will out-compete Delta? That has always been the question, in terms of transmissibility at least, ... perhaps this particular variant is the variant," Adrian Puren, acting executive director of South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), told Reuters in an interview.

If Omicron proves even more transmissible than the Delta variant, it could lead to a sharp spike in infections that could put pressure on hospitals. Puren said scientists should know within four weeks to what extent Omicron can evade the immunity generated by vaccines or prior infection, and whether it leads to worse clinical symptoms than other variants.

Anecdotal accounts by doctors who have treated South African Covid-19 patients say Omicron appears to be pro-



ducing mild symptoms, including a dry cough, fever and night sweats, but experts have cautioned against drawing firm conclusions.

Puren said it was too early to say whether Omicron was displacing Delta in South Africa, since local scientists have only produced 87 sequences of Omicron so far.

But the fact that cases have started to rise rapidly, especially in the most populated Gauteng province, is a sign that some displacement might already be happening.

Delta drove a third wave of Covid-19 infections in South Africa that peaked at more than 26,000 cases per day in early July. Omicron is expected to trigger a fourth wave, with daily infections seen topping 10,000 by the end of the week from around 2,270 on Monday.

Anne von Gottberg, a clinical microbiologist at the NICD, said it looked like infections were rising throughout the country.

Continued on Page 12

# Amid Omicron scare, 6 fliers Covid-19 +ve

**11 international flights landed at various airports in the country**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Omicron scare, six passengers were reported to be Covid-19 positive from the total 11 international flights that landed here on the first day of operation of the central Guidelines for International Travellers as public health response measures for control and management of the new reported variant of the virus.

It has been designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Total of 11 international flights landed at various airports of the country except Lucknow, from midnight to 4 pm today, from 'at risk' coun-

tries. These carried 3,476 passengers," said a statement from the Ministry.

All 3,476 passengers were administered RT-PCR Tests, wherein only 6 passengers were found Covid-19 positive.

The samples of the Covid-19 positive passengers have been sent to INSACOG labs for Whole Genomic Sequencing. INSACOG Labs network, a multi-laboratory, multi-agency, pan-India network has set up by the Government to monitor genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 for genome sequencing to determine the strain of the virus.

States will then undertake contact tracing of these positive individuals and follow up for 14 days.

"The Government continues to keep track of the evolving situation, and supports States/UTs in the fight against the pandemic through "whole of Government" approach," said the statement from the Ministry.



# Defeating BJP sans Congress a hollow dream: Venugopal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has reacted sharply to TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's claim that there was no UPA now.

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Wednesday replied to her comments saying "defeating BJP without Congress is merely a dream".

Mamata, who has poached several Congress leaders in last couple of months, is on a visit to Maharashtra, where she met with NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut in Mumbai.

"There is no UPA now," Mamata said soon after her meet with Pawar.

"Everybody knows the reality of Indian politics. Thinking that without Congress anybody can defeat BJP is merely a dream," Venugopal said when asked a response on the TMC comments.

# What UPA? Mamata attacks its relevance

**TMC chief bats for non-Congress  
Opp unity to take on might of BJP**

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing her one-upmanship over the Congress leadership, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday questioned the very existence of United Progressive Alliance (UPA), by saying, "What's UPA? There's no UPA now", but stressed on the need for bringing together like-minded Opposition parties as a "strong alternative" to fight the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Interacting with the media persons jointly with NCP chief Sharad Pawar after meeting the latter at his Mumbai residence, Mamata negated the very presence of UPA in the country's political spectrum by saying: "Kya UPA hain? Abhi UPA nahi hain" (What's UPA? There's no UPA) and indicated that she was prepared to go "with or without" the Congress in the proposed Opposition alternative.

Mamata, who has of late been desperately trying to occupy the Congress' space by way of aggressive posturing like



NCP president Sharad Pawar with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after a meeting at his residence in Mumbai on Wednesday. PTI

the one witnessed in Goa and poaching of 12 out of 17 Congress MLAs in Meghalaya, indirectly accused the Sonia Gandhi-led party of lacking in "the will" to fight the ruling BJP at the Centre.

The West Bengal Chief Minister, who appeared to be making the most of the NCP chief's presence to undermine the role of the Congress in the proposed Opposition front being cobbled by her, said, "Like what Sharadji said, there should be a strong alternative that believes in fighting it out (against the BJP). If somebody does not want to fight, what can we do? They should at least be ready to fight by being within the force".

Asked if Pawar being the senior-most leader should be the chairman of UPA, Mamata, who is on a visit to Mumbai, said, "Kya UPA hain? Abhi UPA nahi hain" (What's UPA? There's no UPA)". She chose to remain silent on the issue of the Opposition front's leadership.

On her plans to cobble a strong alternative to the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Mamata said, "In view of the situation prevailing in the country, we should develop a strong alternative force against the current Government at the Centre. I cannot do it alone but strong like-minded parties should come together".

Continued on Page 12

# Maurya's tweet on Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi raises political heat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Just a couple of weeks before the Election Commission of India is expected to announce the crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's statement that Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi is next on the agenda of the Bharatiya Janata Party, stirred up a political furore.

In a tweet, Maurya posted in Hindi, "Ayodhya Kashi bhavya mandir nirman jari hai, Mathura ki taiyari hai (grand temples are being constructed in Ayodhya and Kashi, preparations are on for Mathura)." Later Maurya hash-tagged it #Long live Rama, #Jai Shiv Shambhu and #Jai Shri Radhe Krishna.

When contacted, Maurya refused to speak on the issue.

The construction of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor is underway in Varanasi and it is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first week of December while the construction of Ram temple is going on at a frantic pace in Ayodhya and is likely to open for pilgrims by December 2023.

Reacting to Maurya's statement, Samajwadi Party spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary said, "The statement is a clear indication of the mindset of BJP leaders. The party always tried to commu-

nalise the elections. Ram mandir is always on the election agenda of the party. Once the construction of Ram temple has started at the behest of the Supreme Court, the party feels it is orphaned and therefore has come up with Mathura."

"In the last assembly elections, the BJP had raised the issue of 'shamshaan and kabristan'. Through this politically loaded tweet, Maurya, who is also deputy chief minister in the government, is setting the communal agenda of the election," he further said.

Opposition leaders believe that Mathura and Kashi would now find prominent places in the election manifesto of the BJP.

Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya have always been on the agenda of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Before the Supreme Court's verdict in 2019, the BJP's war cry used to be 'Ram Lalla hum aayenga, mandir yahin banayenge'. Once the construction of Ram temple began, the slogans changed to 'Ayodhya to jhanki hai, Mathura, Kashi baaki hai'. Lawsuits have already been filed by Hindu organisations seeking ownership of the land where mosques adjoining Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura and Gyanvapi Mosque near Kashi Vishwanath temple stand.

# Hindu outfit rolls back 'Bal Gopal's bath ritual plan

**Mathura (PTI):** A Hindu religious body which had planned to hold the pre-worship bath ritual of child deity 'Bal Gopal' at his so-called actual birthplace at Shahi Jama Masjid inside the Lord Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple complex on December 6 rolled back its plans on Wednesday.

The Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha withdrew the contentious plan after the Mathura administration beefed up the security in the district, and declared the temple complex a Red Zone, deploying additional security personnel.

Rolling back the ABHM's plan, its national president Rajyashri Chaudhary on Wednesday appealed to the people to undertake the religious ritual for the Bal Gopal at their homes itself.

Chaudhary made the appeal following the denial of permission for holding the ritual by the Mathura administration.

## CAPSULE

### ADMK TWEAKS BYLAWS TO SHUT DOOR ON SASIKALA

**Chennai:** The main Opposition AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, which is facing challenge from eased out leader VK Sasikala, on Wednesday amended its bylaws to strengthen norms to retain the present leadership structure of top two positions held by O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami.

### CRIME RATE IN DELHI DROPS BY 16.8% IN 2020

**New Delhi:** Delhi witnessed a 16.8-per cent dip in incidents of crime in 2020 as compared to 2019, according to the NCRB, the Government informed Parliament on Wednesday.

### JEM'S IED EXPERT AMONG 2 ULTRAS KILLED IN J&K

**Srinagar:** Terrorist commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (Jem) Yasir Paray and a foreign ultra were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of J&K on Wednesday, police said. The encounter took place at Qasbayar area of the south Kashmir district.

# Army to now don new combat uniform

**Made of durable fabric with digital pattern to give better camouflage**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With changing nature of modern warfare in mind, the Indian Army is going for a change of its combat uniform. The new kit will be on display at the Army Day parade here on January 15 next year.

Interestingly, the marching contingents in the Republic Day parade next year will don the uniform of different era starting over 100 years ago.

Unlike the previous years when the contingents wore the dress of their regiments, the Republic Day next year will see the troops marching past the saluting dais in uniform ranging from those worn during the World War I, World War II and other campaigns, sources said here on Wednesday.

As regards the new combat

uniform, they said it is of a digital pattern which will help the personnel to have better camouflage in the battlefield besides comfort. Unlike the past, the officers and men will not tuck in the shirt inside their trousers to provide them more comfort and fluidity in movement, sources said.

The Army is likely to switch over to the new combat uniform from mid next year. The uniform will be a mix of colours, including olive and earthen. The uniform is formally known as battle dress uniforms (BDU).

Several countries, including the US and European armies, have switched over to digital pattern uniform. The Indian Army decided to change its combat uniform after studying the dress of these countries,



officials said.

To ensure safety and comfort element in the operational areas, the uniform is camou-

flaged, either in monochrome such as shades of green or brown to blend in with the background.

The new combat uniform is made of lighter and durable material suitable for both summer and winter as the Army operates in all kinds of terrain ranging from minus 40 degrees at the Siachen Glacier to 50 degrees plus in the Thar desert.

Meanwhile, the Army was working on the issue of having shoulder or collar tags marking the rank of the personnel. Some armies around the world have such rank markings on the button of their combat uniform.

However, some others prefer to have no rank or tags on the shoulders to maintain secrecy on the battlefield.

With more than 13 lakh troops on its roll, it will take some months before the entire Army is provided with the new combat uniform, sources said. They also said the authorities were mulling over changes in the present olive green regular uniform worn by officers and troops.



CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have to change my name from PAL AJAYSINGH BANSI TO AJAYSINGH PAL S/O BANSI PAL for future purposes. Add-14 Sikandra, Jamuwan, Kanpur Dehat.

NOTICE

NAZISH MERAJ (ICSE 2020 UID:7244615) declares that my father's name is MERAJ ALAM but in ICSE marksheet it is indicated as MERAJ JAHAN which is incorrect.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohd.HASAN Warsi to Mohd. HASSAN Warsi for all future purpose, Mohd.Hassan Warsi s/o Firoz Ahmad R/o 88/477 Rupam Chauraha. Chamanganj Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Habib to Mohammad Habeeb. In future, I may now be known by this name. Mohammad Habeeb S/o Bhallan Husain Rais Manzil Husainabad, Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it know that my allotment letter having No.2701D/J.S. Zone-4 /KDA/2003-2004 Dated 19.05.2003, Pertaining to my plot no.25 MIG Swarn Jayanti Vihar Phase-3 Kanpur Nagar, Has been lost of which use would be illegal and ineffective in the eye of law, Jai Narayan Sachan s/o Moti Lal Sachan R/O 1205/123, Koyala Nagar Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

To Whom So Ever It May Concern

This is to certify that M/s Ambika Udyog (Packagings) situated at B-52 Industrial Area Udyog Nagar (Dada Nagar) 208022, is a partnership firm. Due to the sudden death of two partners Sri Keshav Prasad Chaturvedi & Sri Rahul Chaturvedi on 23/04/2021 suffering from Covid 19 disease, Smt Madhu Chaturvedi joined the firm as Partner in place of above aforesaid partners. The firm now is running under the partnership of Smt Madhu Chaturvedi and Sri Praveer Chaturvedi. Evidence remains for record. For Ambika Udyog (Packagings) Partner

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



NAIK TARSEN KUMAR  
02 JAN 1984 - 09 NOV 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEHEAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK TARSEN KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL ROORKEE.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI  
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



HAVILDAR KENDRE SANJEEV  
14 MAY 1991 - 09 NOV 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEHEAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR KENDRE SANJEEV WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MH AURANGABAD (DPLY WITH IFH LEVEL-II PLUS, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)).

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI  
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY



RECRUIT KUMBHAR SOURABHA SUNIL  
29 JAN 1997 - 11 NOV 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEHEAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF RECRUIT KUMBHAR SOURABHA SUNIL WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH NO 2 TECH TRG WING (AMC CENTRE & COLLEGE).

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI  
AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

# Amit Shah to lay foundation of a varsity in Saharanpur today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thursday will be an important day for political parties in Uttar Pradesh as senior political leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav will be participating in different political programmes in the state in the run up to the 2022 assembly polls.

According to reports, Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be in Saharanpur while Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be in Moradabad to address a Pratigya Rally. Similarly, Akhilesh Yadav will be in Lalitpur on his Samajwadi Vijay Rath programme.

Bharatiya Janata Party



media incharge Manish Dixit said here on Wednesday that Shah would lay the foundation stone of Maa Shakumbhari University in Saharanpur along with Yogi Adityanath.

The new state university will be constructed on 50.43

acre land at a cost of Rs 92 crore.

UP Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, state ministers Surya Pratap Shahi, Suresh Kumar Khanna and others would be present there.

As per the programme,

Shah will reach Maa Shakumbhari Devi University construction site at around 1300 hours and will stay there till 1445 hours.

On the other hand, Congress general secretary and incharge of Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, will address her party's 'Pratigya Rally' at Buddha Vihar grounds in Moradabad at 1300 hours on Thursday. UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu is already campaigning in Moradabad to make the rally a success.

Meanwhile, SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who launched the next phase of his Vijay Rath Yatra from Banda in Bundelkhand and reached Mahoba on Wednesday will reach Lalitpur on Thursday where he would address a public rally.

# BJP regime spreading hatred, says Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh, charging that the present regime has only spread hatred, ruined the future of youths and pushed the state into backwardness.

Addressing a public meeting at GIC grounds to launch the fifth phase of his Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra in Banda on Wednesday, Akhilesh questioned the people whether they needed a yogi government or a 'yogya' (responsible) and development-oriented government. He said that those who could not use laptops would never provide it to the youths.

"Now it is the right time for the people to show the door to the ruling BJP for making false promises. During its nearly five-year regime, the BJP government only renamed places and the projects conceived and launched during Samajwadi Party regime," alleged the SP chief, who is on a three-day tour of Bundelkhand region and will take out Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra from Banda to Mahoba.

Akhilesh was scheduled to address a rally near Mahoba Police Lines later in the day and on Thursday, he would go to Lalitpur and address a public rally.

On Wednesday morning, the SP chief reached Banda and embarked on the fifth leg of 'Samajwadi Vijay Rath Yatra' with a focus on Bundelkhand region of the state.

On the first day of the fifth leg of the Yatra, Akhilesh Yadav covered the distance from Banda to Mahoba and stopped



**"Now it is the right time for the people to show the door to the ruling BJP for making false promises. During its nearly five-year regime, the BJP government only renamed places and the projects conceived and launched during Samajwadi Party regime"**

randomly to meet and greet people.

On Thursday, Akhilesh will address a public meeting in Lalitpur and the Yatra will reach Jhansi district on Friday. Earlier in November, he had embarked on the fourth leg of Vijay Yatra from Ghazipur to Lucknow through Purvanchal Expressway, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the highway on November 16.

The SP chief had shared the stage with allies Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar and Janwadi Party (Socialist) chief Sanjay Chauhan on the occasion.

The Rath Yatra is considered a lucky charm by the Samajwadi Party as in 2012, Akhilesh had taken out a Yatra

and the party was voted to power.

Decorated with pictures of party patron and former chief minister of UP Mulayam Singh Yadav, party MP Mohammad Azam Khan, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, and state party president Naresh Uttam Patel and embossed with the slogan 'Bado Ka Haath, Yuva Ka Saath' (the older generation blesses the new) the bus is ferrying the SP chief across the state during the Rath Yatra.

On the other side of the bus is a solo picture of the SP chief with the slogan, 'Kisan, Gareeb, Mahila, Yuva, Karobari, Sabki Ek Awaz Hai, Hum Samajwadi' (farmers, the poor, women, the youth, traders, everyone says in one voice, we are Samajwadi).

## UPSRTC asked to provide better facilities to passengers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To ensure complete safety and convenience of bus passengers in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation to make elaborate arrangements so that the people of the state get better facilities while traveling in buses.

In view of the new variant of novel coronavirus spreading in other countries and the rising cold, Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to maintain safety and hygienic standards at the bus stations as well.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on Wednesday, the chief minister said, "To provide better facilities to the people of the state, hold a review meeting regarding the buses of the Transport Corporation and



get the buses repaired at the earliest."

The officials have been directed to make proper arrangement of headlights in the buses during night journey to deal with the foggy conditions and to ensure that the seats in the buses were not torn or broken.

The officials have been asked to monitor from time to time the facilities

being provided to the passengers.

"The passengers should not face any inconvenience while traveling in the buses of the Transport Corporation. Officers should keep this in mind at all times and make every possible effort in this regard," the chief minister added.

Significantly, for the convenience of passengers in buses, the Yogi Adityanath government has made several efforts. The chief minister's emphasis has always been on providing better facilities to the passengers traveling in the UPSRTC buses. Bus stations are also being expanded rapidly in the state on his instructions.

The government is also going to build an international bus station in Ayodhya for tourists and travelers. Under the Mission Shakti, the state government has been gifting free travel to women in Roadways buses from time to time.

## Uttar Pradesh starts 6-day focused Covid testing drive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to control the spread of new and more fatal novel coronavirus variant Omicron, the Uttar Pradesh government kick-started a special focused six-day testing drive on Wednesday. The state government agencies will conduct this special drive from December 1 to 6.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said, "The six-day drive is divided in a way to cover the entire state in order to remove any risk of further transmission of the new variant of coronavirus. For the first three days, the drive will be conducted in engineering colleges, colleges and schools, while on the remaining three days it will be carried out in hospitals and medical colleges."

The senior official further said, "UP has been maintaining control over the Covid situation fairly well and in view of rising cases in other states, we must intensify our testing operation."

The objective of this 6-day special focused testing drive is to enable early detection, if any, followed by early treatment."

Prasad said that while there was no situation at present warranting panic or worry, the government had 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, vector-borne diseases.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had asked senior officials to make special efforts to improve surveillance with a focus on airports, railway stations and bus stations to ensure that normalcy prevails in the state.

In another proactive move in view of rising cases of Omicron variants of coronavirus in other countries, the chief minister also instructed officials to make arrangements for genome sequencing of Covid samples and arrangements for the same will be made at the earliest at Lucknow's KGMU, SPGIMS, and medical colleges in Gorakhpur, Jhansi and Meerut. Officials have also been asked to continue extensive cleanliness, sanitisation and fogging drives to prevent the spread of other diseases.

## Suspended ERA secretary SK Upadhyay arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Showing his commitment of zero tolerance towards corruption, the Yogi Adityanath government got the Secretary of Examination Regulatory Authority Sanjay Kumar Upadhyay arrested after his role surfaced in the leakage of Uttar Pradesh Teacher's Eligibility Test (UP TET) 2021 paper.

Earlier on Tuesday, Upadhyay was placed under suspension after being found prima facie guilty of not maintaining confidentiality and failing to maintain the integrity of the examination.

On Wednesday, Sanjay Upadhyay was called for questioning by the probing Special Task Force officials and after several hours of quizzing, he was taken into custody in Lucknow before being taken to Noida.

Earlier, the STF team had arrested Rai Anoop Prasad, director of Delhi-based printing company RSM Finserv Limited. Prasad was called for

questioning by the STF on the basis of suspicion after which he was arrested. Rai's company got the contract to print the question papers of the UP TET on October 26.

As per STF sources, the suspicion deepened during the interrogation that Prasad was involved in the UP TET paper leak.

His company was given the work order by Sanjay Upadhyay even when his press was unsecured, due to which the paper leaked while carrying it to the centres.

ADG (STF) Amitabh Yash said that Sanjay Upadhyay was arrested after hours of questioning related to the TET paper leak. Sources said that Rai Anoop Prasad told investigators that Upadhyay issued an order to his company even when he was aware that papers would be printed in unsecured press. The two -- Upadhyay and Prasad -- were found to have violated the secrecy protocol while getting the examination papers printed.

A case was registered

against RSM Finserv Limited director Rai Anoop Prasad, and several others under Gangster's Act at Surajpur police station of Greater Noida.

The Uttar Pradesh Teacher's Eligibility Test was conducted on November 28 and its paper got leaked before the commencement of the exam, due to which the exam was cancelled.

More than 21.65 lakh candidates were going to appear in this. The state government took the matter seriously and initiated a probe.

Meanwhile, Joint Director (Training) of State Council for Education Research (SCERT) Bhushan Chaturvedi will be new director of State Institute for Science Education in Prayagraj and will also hold the post of Secretary, Examination Regulatory Authority, in Prayagraj. Vice-Principal of District Education and Training Institute, Sitapur, Manoj Kumar Ahirwar will be new Registrar, Departmental Examination, also in Prayagraj.

### सुरक्षित वाहन चलाएं ध्वनि प्रदूषण न फैलाएं

### जिम्मेदार नागरिक होने का परिचय दीजिए यातायात नियमों का पालन कीजिए

मा. उच्च न्यायालय के आदेशानुसार  
(जनहित याचिका संख्या-15385/पी.आई.एल./2021)  
सड़क पर दोपहिया वाहनों द्वारा ध्वनि प्रदूषण  
फैलाना एवं स्टैंड करना दंडनीय अपराध है।  
मोटर वाहन अधिनियम-1988 की  
धारा-52 के अन्तर्गत ऐसा करने वालों पर  
**दंडात्मक कार्यवाही**

#### प्रतिबंधित कार्य

अनधिकृत उपकरण/साइलेंसर लगाकर वाहन चलाना

वर्कशॉप/गेराज पर अनधिकृत उपकरण/साइलेंसर लगाना

अनधिकृत उपकरण/साइलेंसरयुक्त वाहनों का विक्रय एवं स्पियर करना

#### दंडात्मक प्रावधान

पहली बार अपराध करने पर  
3 माह का कारावास या ₹10,000 जुर्माना अथवा दोनों

दूसरी बार अपराध करने पर  
6 माह का कारावास या ₹10,000 जुर्माना अथवा दोनों

उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन विभाग

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Vijay Prakash Singh for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. Resident Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900



# Up to 70% of HIV patients have pulmonary complications: Doc

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Up to 70% of HIV patients have pulmonary complications during the evolution of the disease, mainly of infectious aetiology. Lower respiratory tract infections are 25 times more common in patients with HIV than in the general community, occurring in up to 90 cases per 1,000 people.

Giving this information, Dr Ved Prakash from KGMU said that currently, pulmonary infections, not only AIDS-related opportunistic infections, remain a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and one of the most frequent causes of hospitalisation in HIV-infected people worldwide.

On the occasion of World AIDS Day on Wednesday, an awareness programme was conducted in the department. Dr Ved Prakash and his team explained to HIV patients various pulmonary infections and preventive measures.

"An incidence of 20-25 episodes per 100 hospital admissions per year has been observed. These numbers give an idea of the magnitude of the problem of pulmonary infections in HIV patients. Bacterial

## WORLD AIDS DAY

### Governor flags off rally



**Lucknow (PNS):** Governor Anandiben Patel flagged off a rally from Raj Bhawan on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Wednesday. Also present on the occasion was Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna. The programme was presided over by KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri. The governor gave away

gifts to children who were saved from AIDS with the efforts of KGMU. Those who have done exceptional work in the area of blood donation were also felicitated. Commissioner of Police DK Thakur was felicitated for the work done in the area of blood donation by the police department.

pneumonia is currently the most frequent cause of pulmonary infections in HIV-infected patients, followed by PCP and TB, with different incidences depending on geographical area. In addition, endemic

fungi, parasites and viruses contribute substantially to the burden of pulmonary disease in patients infected with HIV worldwide," he said.

He added that HIV infection is associated with a 10-fold

increased incidence of bacterial pneumonia. "Intravenous drugs and smoking are risk factors for the development of bacterial pneumonia in this group of patients. Smoking is associated with a two- to five-fold increase in the risk. Other risk factors include older age, detectable HIV load and previous recurrent pneumonia. Bacterial pneumonia can occur throughout the entire course of HIV infection, but the incidence increases as CD4 cell numbers decrease. 80% of cases of bacterial pneumonia occur with a CD4 count of less than 400 cells per mm<sup>3</sup>," he explained.

As per an estimate, 8,62,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV) worldwide had TB in 2018. "TB is the leading cause of death among people with HIV, accounting for the death of 2,51,000-odd people in 2018 and about one-third of AIDS deaths. Globally, PLHIV were 19 times (15-22) more likely to fall ill with TB than those without HIV in 2018. PLHIV face the threat of drug-resistant TB. If diagnosis is delayed, there is increased risk of mortality from multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB," he said.

Nepalese man robbed of ₹1.15 lakh by 3 accused; one held

**Lucknow (PNS):** A Nepalese man was robbed of Rs 1.15 lakh by three accused in Gomtinagar police station on Tuesday. After a case was registered, police started investigation and nabbed one of the accused, identified as Arbaz Siddiqui aka Sheelu (18) of Ujariaon in Gomtinagar.

As per reports, Mohammed Sartaj Ansari of Banke district in Nepal came in contact with the accused and his aides Sarvar Ali and Hariz aka Hamza, who lured him with an offer — selling him a high-end phone for Rs 75,000. After the deal was finalised, Sartaj was asked to visit UP and meet the accused at Lohia Park in Gomtinagar.

An unsuspecting Sartaj reached the city on Tuesday and later went to Lohia Park to meet the accused. However, the accused attacked Sartaj and looted Rs 1.15 lakh from him. The victim was also not given the phone which the miscreants had promised to sell.

Sartaj informed police and lodged a case in this connection. A team was formed and one of the accused, Arbaz, was arrested later. Arbaz owned up his crime and said he thought police would not initiate any action as the victim belongs to Nepal.

# Girl gangraped on promise of marriage

## Prime accused arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth and his friend allegedly raped a girl in Madaion and also thrashed her when she confronted them. The victim lodged a case naming Shailendra Singh Chauhan of Shyam Vihar Colony and his friend. A case for gangrape under Section 376 D and Section 323 of IPC was registered against Shailendra and others. A police team nabbed the prime accused, Shailendra, on Wednesday.

As per reports, the victim knew Shailendra for a long time and he had promised to marry her. The victim said Shailendra had had physical relations with her on the promise of marriage earlier.

"On Tuesday, on the pretext of going for an outing, Shailendra took me to his house where his friend was already present. Both took turns in raping me," she alleged.

She said when she confronted Shailendra, he thrashed



her with belts. He said he had made a video clip with her in a compromising position. He threatened to share the video on social media.

She further alleged that Shailendra fixed the date of marriage with her December 3 to win her confidence earlier. "He made physical relations with me on several occasions on the promise of marriage," she alleged.

Meanwhile, the Madaion police on Wednesday arrested a woman who had stolen gold ornaments from a jeweller's shop in the area some time ago. The accused was identified as Rinki Shukla of Hardoi. She was spotted in a CCTV footage and police were searching for

her. She was arrested from Sitapur highway. Three sets of gold needles & threads, four gold lockets and a pair of earrings were recovered from her possession.

On November 28, Amit Mishra of Shivanagar had lodged a case in this connection. She said a woman had visited his shop and decamped with the booty. "The woman saw several ornaments while pretending to be a customer but did not purchase anything. After she left the shop, I found some ornaments missing. I checked the CCTV footage and the woman was seen stealing the ornaments," he informed the police.

In another success, the Naka police arrested two women tricksters during a checking drive on Wednesday. The accused were identified as Geeta and Laxmi, both of Palwal in Haryana.

The police said the accused would visit crowded places and markets and target the customers. "These women had recently stolen Rs 30,000 in cash, gold & silver ornaments, including a gold locket, from a woman," the police said.

## Awareness activities mark World AIDS Day



NCC wing of Navyug Girls' College organised an awareness rally on the occasion of World AIDS Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (UPSACS) organised various awareness activities on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Wednesday. A senior UPSACS official said that 65 key points were identified in Lucknow where nukkad natak and magic shows were organised to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS.

"Messages regarding HIV awareness were aired through various radio channels. Hoardings and banners have been placed at the strategic locations in the state capital for mass awareness. Many universities also organised seminars to share the information about HIV/AIDS. Let's take a pledge on the occasion of World AIDS Day to end the HIV epidemic, inequalities and the pandemic," he said.

The official said that all the districts in the state organised signature campaigns, rallies and symposium on HIV/AIDS preventive and curative services. Information was also given to mainstream people living with HIV (PLHIV) to end the stigma and discrimination against them. The theme for this year's World AIDS Day was 'End inequalities, end AIDS and end pandemic'.

Meanwhile, 19 Uttar Pradesh Girls Battalion NCC, the NCC wing of Navyug Girls' College, organised an awareness rally under the leadership of principal Manjula Upadhyay and NCC officer Major Manmeet Kaur Sodhi. The rally was flagged off by Manjula Upadhyay from the college.

The rally culminated at the college after covering Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg via Bansmandi, Naka Hindola and DAV College Road. More than 100 cadets participated in the rally and with the help of posters and slogans, they disseminated the message that awareness is the only protection against AIDS. They also gave information about protective and preventive practices such as always using tested blood, always using new syringes because of AIDS infected needle use, AIDS infected blood transfusion and others. The cadets also informed people that AIDS is not transmitted by eating together, shaking hands or caring for an infected person.

Manjula Upadhyay motivated the cadets to constantly strive for fulfilment of social responsibilities. Programme coordinator Major Sodhi said that AIDS has become a big problem for youths and this there is a need to make them aware of the threats.

"It is possible to build a healthy India only through public participation and for this, the cadets of the college are making continuous efforts," she added.

## Youth killed in mishap

**Lucknow (PNS):** A youth was killed in road mishap in Gosainganj police station area on Tuesday night. The victim was identified as Ajeet (25) of Karaura village in Gosainganj. A native of Badaun, he used to sing and dance at weddings to earn his livelihood. Around 9:15 pm on Tuesday, he was going to purchase foodstuff from Gosainganj market when some unidentified speeding vehicle hit him and he sustained grievous injuries. He was rushed to the Gosainganj CHC where doctors declared him dead. His brother Ramjeet lodged a case in this connection.

Meanwhile, thieves made off with Rs 2 lakh in cash, silver coins and DVR of a CCTV camera from a house where FM CG distribution work is done in Gudamba. The complainant, Ramji Gupta of Jankipuram (Sector H) said the thieves broke open the door of the house and decamped with the booty on the intervening night of November 29 and 30. An FIR was registered in this connection and police started investigation into the case.




## युवाओं के सपने हो रहे साकार शिक्षा और रोजगार

**पूर्वदशम/दशमोत्तर छात्रवृत्ति योजना 2021-22 के अन्तर्गत**

# 12,17,631 लाख मेधावी छात्र-छात्राओं को ₹458.66 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का

## ऑनलाइन हस्तांतरण

एवं

## विद्यार्थियों से संवाद



### योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा



रमापति शास्त्री

मंत्री, समाज कल्याण, अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण उत्तर प्रदेश

नन्द गोपाल गुप्ता 'नंदी'

मंत्री, नागरिक उड्डयन, राजनैतिक पेंशन अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण, मुस्लिम वक्फ एवं हज, उत्तर प्रदेश

अनिल राजभर

मंत्री, पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण एवं दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण उत्तर प्रदेश

मोहसिन रजा

राज्य मंत्री, अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण मुस्लिम वक्फ एवं हज, उत्तर प्रदेश

संजीव कुमार

राज्य मंत्री, समाज कल्याण, अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 2 दिसम्बर, 2021 | समय : प्रातः 9:30 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

### छात्रवृत्ति-विवरण

- अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के 6,23,246 छात्रों के बैंक खातों में ₹214.24 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का हस्तांतरण
- अनुसूचित जाति के 3,54,088 छात्रों के बैंक खातों में ₹104.78 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का हस्तांतरण
- अनुसूचित जनजाति के 2,281 छात्रों के बैंक खातों में ₹1.44 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का हस्तांतरण
- अल्पसंख्यक वर्ग के 71,725 छात्रों के बैंक खातों में ₹29.32 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का हस्तांतरण
- सामान्य वर्ग के 1,66,291 छात्रों के बैंक खातों में ₹108.88 करोड़ की छात्रवृत्ति का हस्तांतरण

# सोच ईमानदार, काम दमदार

समाज कल्याण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE**

Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors for execution of the following works. For more details login on website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in). Short Term E-Tender No. 43/AETC/2021-22:- Replacement of old and damaged control cable of different core at 220 kV S/S Azamgarh under Electy. 400 kV S/S Division, Azamgarh. (Tender Submission date 17.12.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 18.12.2021 at 13.00Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. E-Tender No. 44/AETC/2021-22:- Annual Maintenance of 132 kV S/S Machhalishahar under ETJ, Jaunpur. (Tender Submission date 17.12.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 01.01.2022 at 13.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 8000.00 (Rs. Eight Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 944.00 (Rs. Nine Hundred Forty Four) only. E-Tender No. 45/AETC/2021-22:- Annual Maintenance of 220 kV S/S Jaunpur under ETJ, Jaunpur. (Tender Submission date 17.12.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 01.01.2022 at 13.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 11000.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 1298.00 (Rs. One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Eight) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Electy. Transmission Circle, UPTCL, Azamgarh. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TRANS.) AZAMGARH No. 1567 Date 1.12.2021 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

अनुमयी एवं ई-निविदा हेतु पंजीकृत निर्माताओं या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से परीक्षण दक्षिण-पूर्व क्षेत्र, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु निविदाये दो मांगों में उनके सम्मुख अर्जित तिथि एवं समय तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के भाग प्रथम एवं भाग द्वितीय, निविदा तिथि एवं समय तक उपरोक्त सरकार के ई-प्रोक्वायमेंट सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे। निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि आरटीजीएस/एनईएफटी के माध्यम से जमा करायी जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि तिथि एवं समय (यदि आवश्यक हो तो अग्रलेख कार्यदिपत्र में) पर खोली जायेगी। निविदा की बैलता खुलने की तिथि से 06 माह होनी चाहिए। सचार्त निविदाये किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार्य नहीं होगी। ई-निविदा सं-17/ गुआ(पावदगु) / 2021-22. विद्युत परीक्षण एवं परीक्षण मण्डल, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत प्राइमरी इन्जेक्शन किट की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 30.12.2021 समय 17.00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 31.12.2021 समय 14.00 बजे। निविदा प्राप्त शुल्क (जीएसटी सहित) रु 5,900/- (रु पांच हजार नौ सौ मात्र)। धरोहर राशि रु 45,000/- (रु पचास हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र की हॉई कोपी डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत सभाक के माध्यम से किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विवरण/डाउनलोड /संशोधन/वित्तारिकरण हेतु निविदा खुलने के दिनांक तक वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदाओं को बिना कारण बतये अवैकीकृत/निमाजित करने का अधिकार मुख्य अभियन्ता (पावदगु), प्रयागराज के पास सुस्थित रहेगा। **अधिशायी अभियन्ता (सं०) कृ ते मुख्य अभियन्ता (पावदगु)** पत्रांक- 3279 दिनांक- 01.12.2021 "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाये"

**विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल- तृतीय केस्को, कानपुर "ई-निविदा सूचना"**

अनुमयी एवं कुशल ठेकेदारों से निम्न लिखित कार्यों हेतु आनलाइन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य से सम्बन्धित निविदा प्रपत्र यूपी० एन०आई०सी० /केस्को की ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> /[www.kesco.co.in](http://www.kesco.co.in) पर उपलब्ध है। वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध निविदा सूचना में व्यानुमान धनराशि, धरोहर धनराशि (NEFT/RTGS/BD/Bankers Cheque & BG (DD for the EMD amount of Rs. 5000 and more) के माध्यम से) निविदा मूल्य, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि, निविदा डालने की तिथि, निविदा खोलने की तिथि तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख है। **क्र०श्री १ निविदा संख्या 15/ EUDC-III/2021-22 कार्य का नाम** विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल-तृतीय तथा उसके अधीनस्थ खण्डों में अधिकारियों के विभागीय कार्यों के प्रयोग हेतु 13 नग वाणिज्यिक वाहन किराये पर उपलब्ध कराये जाने के कार्य हेतु **निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 5900.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से) धरोहर धनराशि 1,03,000.00 कार्य पूर्ण करने अवधि 36 माह निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि व समय 14.12.2021 समय 14.00 बजे तक तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि व समय 14.12.2021 समय 16.00 बजे तक वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि व समय तकनीकी बिड स्वीकृति के उपरान्त अग्रोहताक्षरी के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदाओं को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। इच्छुक अनुमयी एवं कुशल ठेकेदारों से अनुरोध है कि नियमित रूप से उक्त वेबसाइट का अवलोकन करते रहे, क्योंकि निविदा के सम्बन्ध में कोई परिवर्तन अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना वेबसाइट पर ही उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (रि०) मण्डल - तृतीय, केस्को, कानपुर 33 कवी एच-ब्लाक उपकेन्द्र, किडवई नगर, कानपुर** पत्रांक : 2708 दिनांक 1.12.2021 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये"**

**Lucknow (PNS):** On the intervention of a local court in Kannauj, a case was registered against 49 people, including Chief Executive Officer of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, for allegedly posting an indecent remark on Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav. Interestingly, Zuckerberg himself has not posted any

defamatory post against Yadav and the FIR names him because his platform was used to post derogatory comments against the SP chief. As per reports, Amit Kumar of Sarathi village in Thathia

police station area of Kannauj approached the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Dharamveer Singh, alleging that a page on Facebook running under the name 'Bua-Babua' was attempting to tarnish the image through

indecent remarks and cartoons on SP president. Kumar had initially sent an application to the superintendent of police on May 25 but no cognisance was taken in the matter. He subsequently moved the court and

demanding that a case be registered against the admin of Facebook page along with CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Notably, the term 'Bua-Babua' was coined when Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati and Samajwadi Party

president Akhilesh Yadav, earlier political rivals, formed an alliance ahead of the 2019 parliamentary elections. Thatia police station incharge PN Bajpai said the FIR against 49 people in connection

with an indecent FB page had been registered on the direction of the court and the accused included Facebook owner Mark Zuckerberg. "During the course of investigation, Zuckerberg's name was dropped, while investigation is being carried out against the administrator of the (Facebook) page," confirmed a senior police official.

## Case registered against FB CEO, 48 others

## Gorakhpur Metrolite gets PIB clearance for one corridor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gorakhpur Metrolite, which will be the first of its kind in the country, got the PIB (Public Investment Board) clearance on November 30 for one of its corridors.

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation managing director Kumar Keshav said it has been quite a journey in the past seven-and-a-half years when the Lucknow Metro was first started, followed by Kanpur and Agra Metro projects, making UP the only state to have one Metrolite and three Metro rail projects.

He said quick technical decisions with proper approach made it possible to change perceptions that government projects get delayed. "The key mantra is to see that the projects are not delayed because that would escalate the cost of the project," he said.

"When we started with the Lucknow Metro, we had a small technical team, and we have reached this level that construction of the first corridor of Gorakhpur will begin after the clearance by the Union Cabinet, the revenue operations of Kanpur Metro will begin by the end of this year and girders are already being installed on the first corridor in Agra," he pointed out.

Talking about the Gorakhpur Metrolite, he said they had planned for two corridors initially. "The Metrolite with the new specifications by the Government of India was released in 2019. It is a high-speed extra-load train which runs at 60-70 kmph. The PIB has cleared the way for the implementation of the first corridor which is 15.14-km-long and now the project will go for the Union Cabinet clearance," he said.

Keshav said it would be a new technology brought for the first time in the state because these are smaller trains. "Right now, the Metro technology has

been established in the country and the Metrolite is the next thing coming. This is a very big achievement because tier-III type of cities need some solution for traffic problems," he said

Incidentally the project, which is estimated to be completed by 2024, will have to stretch to almost 28 kms with two elevated corridors, whereby one elevated corridor will be 15.14 km comprising 14 stations, while the other corridor will be 12.70 kms with 12 elevated stations. The first corridor extends from Shyam Nagar, Bargadwa, Shastri Nagar, Nathmalpur, Gorakhnath



Mandir, Hazaripur, Dharamshala, Gorakhpur Railway Station, University, Mohaddipur, Ramgarh Lake, AIIMS, Malviya Nagar, and MMM Engineering College.

The estimated cost of the project, as per the detailed project report (DPR), is around Rs 4,224 crore with a completion cost of Rs 4,672 crore after four years. The project is being funded by an equity contribution from the Central and state governments in equal proportion. Besides this, a contribution of Rs 200 crore by the local bodies along

with a soft loan of Rs 2,233 crore from the funding agencies is being made.

For the Agra Metro, Keshav said the progress has been smooth and they launched 18 girders (since December 7, 2020) on the first corridor (Taj East Gate to Sikandra), and the depot construction is at an advanced stage. "We have got all the clearances from the National Monument Authority and work on the underground stations will also begin shortly," he added.

There are two corridors proposed for the Agra Metro — the first will be from Taj East Gate to Sikandra and the second from Agra Cantt to Kalindi Vihar. The total length of the proposed metro network will be 29.4 kms, of which the first corridor will be 14 kms comprising 13 stations (six will be elevated and seven underground); and the second corridor will be approximately 16 kms comprising 14 elevated stations.

Regarding the progress of the Kanpur project, Keshav said they offered RDSO for trials on November 10 and once it submits the report to the Commissioner of Railway Safety, it will go to the Ministry of Railways for clearance

The Kanpur project, a world-class MRTS, began in May, 2019 with an aim to provide a safe, convenient, fast and reliable mode of travel to people. Within just two years from inauguration, the trial run of Kanpur Metro Priority Corridor commenced on November 10 this year in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Keshav said that the revenue operations were likely to start by the end of December or starting of January. For this project, two corridors with a total length of 32.5 kms are designed in such a way that they will pass through major landmarks of the city such as railway stations, educational institutions, markets and large residential areas.

## Yogi thanks PM for approval to Gkp Metro

**Lucknow (PNS):** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting approval for the first phase of the Gorakhpur Metro Light Rail Project.

On Wednesday, Yogi Adityanath tweeted, "Approval has been received for Phase-I of 'Gorakhpur Metro Light Rail Project' in the meeting of Public Investment Board (PIB). I express my gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for this."

Under the Light Rail Transit Project (LRT) in Gorakhpur, a detailed project report (DPR) of three-coach light metro has been prepared and the state cabinet has also given its approval to it. Construction work will start as soon as the permission of the Centre is received and the target is to complete the construction work by 2024. The state government has also made a provision of Rs 100 crore for Metro rail projects in Gorakhpur, Varanasi and other cities of the state in the budget.

As per the DPR of Gorakhpur Metro rail, there will be two corridors and a total of 27 stations, all elevated ones, will be built on both corridors. Approximately Rs. 4,672 crore is estimated to be spent in the construction of the Gorakhpur Metro rail project.

"The first corridor will be 15.14 kilometre long from Shyam Nagar to Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology and will have 14 stations. It is estimated that around 1.55 lakh people will travel in it daily by the year 2024. This number is expected to increase to 2.05 lakh in by 2031, while in the next ten years i.e. by 2041, 2.73 lakh people will be able to travel daily.

## Low-income group employees, advocates to get subsidised houses

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Uttar Pradesh government is likely to provide houses on subsidies to lakhs of employees and advocates with low incomes. A nominal value of Re 1 for land will be charged from the buyers of these houses. The discount will be given to the buyers

on the condition that they will not be able to sell the house for the next 10 years.

Official sources said that a draft of the scheme was prepared during a meeting of high-ranked officials and now an approval from higher authorities was awaited after

which the draft would be placed before the state cabinet for its approval. Employees of Group C and D and advocates, who do not have much income, face difficulties in getting a house. So far, there has been no system of providing houses on discount to Group C and D

employees. Taking note of this issue, discussions were held and this draft, seeking to provide these people houses on discount, was prepared. The process of providing the house was discussed during a preliminary round of talks and the eligibility criteria for this will be

decided later. Meanwhile, the Personnel department has been made the nodal department for Group C and D employees. As per information, the Housing and Urban Planning department will provide Nazul land on lease to the nodal department.

## CITYBRIEFS

### MSME FESTIVE BONANZA SCHEME



Union Bank of India, one of the leading public sector banks having a network of over 9,200 branches and more than 11,600 ATMs across the country along with overseas presence, is offering competitive interest rates with an emphasis on digitalisation of product and services to enhance the ease of banking for general public. To boost government self-monitored RAM sector, the bank has introduced various new MSME products like Union Suvridha, Union GST Gain, Union Sanjeevani, Union Arogyam and many others. To further extend banking support to MSME registered borrowers, the bank has launched MSME Festive Bonanza Scheme which is offering lowest rates in the industry. A special MSME credit camp/MSME bonanza was organised by Union Bank of India along with Indian Industries Association, wherein the registered borrowers were offered in principal sanction loans of approx Rs 150 crore starting with ROI 6.80% and concessional service charges.

### CMS STUDENT EXCELS

Aashi, a class 5 student of City Montessori School, Station Road Campus, brought laurels to the institution by winning an inter-school face painting competition on wildlife and environment. The event was organised by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden in Lucknow. Students of several noted schools of the city participated in large numbers in the competition in which Aashi emerged victorious by creating awareness towards conservation of wildlife and environment through a demonstration of her creative and artistic capabilities. The jury her performance and presented her a certificate.



### ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

A seven-day orientation programme started at the department of Social Work, Lucknow University, on Wednesday. The programme started with the first semester students of Masters of Social Work, Population Studies, Public Health, and CCJA students. In the first session, an introduction process was organised between the students and the members of the department. The head of the department told the students about the orientation programme and its main purpose. In the second session, information was given to the students about the university, the department and various courses.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III SECTOR-VII, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022				
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" N.I.T. No. 36/2021-22/SW-III				
S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1.	Boring of 05 Nos. T/well in rocky strata inside primary UGR premises at Greater Kailash-I Under South-III(AAC-50)	Rs. 25,35,979/- Rs. 500/-	29-11-2021 Tender I.D No. 2021_DJB_211761_1	15.12.2021 At 2.00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at ( <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> )				
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advdt. No. J.S.V. 692 (2021-22)				Sd/- (Naveen Kumar Khare) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-50



DELHI JAL BOARD

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-VIII

SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI. 110075



"Stop Corona : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hygiene"

PRESS N.I.T. No. 13/EE(SDW)/VIII/(2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/Money In Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Deployment of operation & maintenance Staff for 91 MLD STP Papankalan Ph-I Dwarka	3781442/-	75700/-	500/-	Tender ID:- 2021_DJB_211885_1 Date: 30.11.2021	15.12.2021 at 11.45 A.M.

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advdt. No. J.S.V. 694 (2021-22)

Sd/-

(T.P. Singh)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

(SDW)-VIII

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

इलाहाबाद

ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office: 15/287 M.G. Road, Civil Lines, Bada Chauraha Kanpur, U.P. -208001

[See Rule 8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-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 (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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 described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount and interest & other expenses there on as described here in below:-

The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Branch	Name of Mortgagers/Guarantors	Description of the Mortgaged Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Notice Outstanding Amt.
Branch : Swaraj Ashram, Kanpur				
1.	M/s. S. S. Polyfilms Prop. Shri Vinay Pratap Singh S/o Shri Ram Autar Singh(Borrower)	1. Shri Ram Autar Singh (Guarantor cum Mortgager) S/o Late Shri Tej Singh  2. Shri Arvind Singh S/o Shri Shiv Pujan Singh (Guarantor)	All that part and parcel of land and building situated at part of House No. 30 LIG, Block C-1, Scheme No. 38, Indira Nagar, Kanpur. Area of Property 166.50 sq.mtr. name of the owner of the Property Shri Ram Autar Singh S/o Late Shri Tej Singh Boundaries: East: House No. 23 LIG , West: 9 Mtr. Road, North: House No. 29 LIG, South: House No. 31 LIG	28.06.2021  30.11.2021  Rs. 24,11,164/- upto 29.11.2021 + int. & chages w.e.f. 30.11.2021
Date : 02.12.2021		Place : Kanpur		The Authorized Officer, Indian Bank



## Varanasi does better in family planning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the family planning programme, there has been an increase in awareness as well as access in the community about permanent and temporary means in the district. According to the recently released National Family Health Survey, 2020-21 (NFHS-5), the achievement of Varanasi district in any kind of modern (temporary) methods under the family planning programme is 60.9 per cent whereas the same was 42.6 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-16). At the same time, according to NFHS-5, the achievement of the district in any method of family planning (permanent and temporary) is 72.5 per cent, while in NFHS-4 it was 58.5 per cent.

In connection with this improvement a workshop was held here on Tuesday in association with 'The Challenge Initiative Health Cities India (TCICH) - Population Service India (PSI)' under the aegis of the Health department. The workshop focused on the achievement of the family planning programme for five years



A workshop on family planning being held in Varanasi on Tuesday night. Pioneer

and the journey of PSI. Additional Director (Health), Varanasi, Dr Shashikant Upadhyay, while presiding over the workshop, said that in these five years, PSI has done better work in the field of family planning with the coordination of Health department and ASHA workers and its result is clearly visible in the NFHS-5 report of the government. He said that various efforts are being made to take health facilities to rural and urban areas regarding family

planning and population stabilisation, so that better results can be seen.

Former Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh, who was also present, said that good work has been done in the field of family planning with the efforts of ASHA workers and with the support of TCICH-PSI. When the last report of NFHS was published in 2015-16, there was a need for awareness and outreach in the area of family planning in the district and for which good

work has been done in these five years.

Officiating CMO Dr Rahul Singh said that since 2017 when PSI started working in the field of family planning in urban areas, continuous improvement has been seen at all 24 urban primary health centres (UPHCs) and the level of health services has also increased due to the efforts of the medical officers in-charge of these UPHCs. He said that permanent and temporary services of family planning in urban areas should be reached to the last person and appreciated the cooperation of all the medical officers and health workers along with the PSI.

Joint Director Dr Manisha Singh, ACMOs Dr AK Maurya and Dr Rajesh Prasad, District Programme Manager Santosh Singh and others also expressed their views. Medical officer in-charges of UPHCs, divisional urban advisor Mayank Rai, urban health coordinator Ashish Singh, Vivek Malmia, Kriti Pathak, Akhilesh, Sunita etc from PSI were also present.

## Minister inaugurates picture exhibition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Culture, Religious Affairs and Protocol Dr Neelkanth Tiwari inaugurated five-day long picture exhibition, being organised under the auspices of state and regional branches of Press Information Bureau (PIB), Information and Broadcasting Ministry at Government Girls Inter College (GGIC), Maldahia, here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Tiwari said that the purpose of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is to remember those moments of pride, which are associated with the history of India's independence.

'This festival has also become a medium of cultural awakening. The young generation of the country is getting acquainted with the age-old cultural heritage of India,' he said, adding that both the central and state governments together are remembering the heroes who contributed to the freedom of the country. 'Kashi was also the centre of literary awakening during the free-

dom struggle,' he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Director General, Bureau of Outreach and Communication, I&B Ministry, Satyendra Prakash highlighted the objectives of the programme and said that the purpose of celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is to make people aware about the sacrifices of the freedom fighters. Additional Director General of PIB, Lucknow, RP Saroj said that on the occasion of completion of 75 years of independence of the country, the role of common people is also being decided in how India will be in the next 25 years.

Joint Director, regional PIB office, Lucknow, Manoj Kumar Verma informed that in the five-day picture exhibition based on the freedom movement and the life of freedom fighters, a magic and cultural programme was also organised on the first day.

During this, discussion on various public welfare schemes and quiz competitions were also organised. Among those who were also present in the inaugural function were GGIC Principal Archana Singh, Media and Communication

Officer, PIB (Varanasi) Prashant Kakkar, Regional Publicity Officer (Lucknow) Jai Singh, officer of Banda Gaurav Tripathi, Regional Publicity Officer (Azamgarh) Tariq Aziz, senior office assistant (Prayagraj) Ram Murat and others. The programme was conducted by Dr Lalji, Regional Publicity Officer (Varanasi) Dr Lalji, who said that the entry of the general public is free in the exhibition which will remain open from 9.30 am to 6 pm.

Various departments including Union Bank of India, Nehru Yuva Kendra, District Minority Welfare Department, Child Development Project, District Social Welfare Office, Regional Public Relations Bureau, Bank of Baroda and Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society put up their stalls in the exhibition. Earlier, a rally was organised by the schoolchildren before the start of the picture exhibition. Hundreds of children from different schools participated. The rally started from the GGIC campus and went to the statue of Sardar Patel at Maldahia crossing where Dr Lalji and Archana Singh laid

the wreath.

**21 FELICITATED BY UP PATRAKAR PARISHAD:** Uttar Pradesh Patrakar Parishad (UPPP) felicitated as many as 21 persons for their outstanding contributions in different fields on the occasion of its 15th Foundation Day. At a function held at a hotel in the Lanka area on Tuesday evening, Banaras Shiromani Award was given to senior journalist Sushil Kumar Mishra, social worker Dr Sudhir Kumar Mishra and folk singer Mohini Mishra, among others.

The chief guest of the programme was the former head of the TB and Chest department, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Prof SK Agrawal, while the special guests were BJP leader Rakesh Tripathi, social worker Dr Ganga Sahai Pandey and anti-corruption activist Sujit Kumar Singh.

The programme was presided over by social worker Nutan Singh. The guests were welcomed by UPPP president Rajesh Mishra and senior journalist Kali Shankar Upadhyay.

## UBI holds MSME credit camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Aiming at benefitting the entrepreneurs of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), the Union Bank of India (UBI) on Wednesday organised a special MSME Credit Camp at a hotel in Nadesar area, here under its MSME Festive Bonanza, a Loan Scheme.

During the lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSME sector suffered a lot and hence, to facilitate the entrepreneurs of this sector, the bank has launched MSME Festive Bonanza and to



UBI holding a MSME Credit Camp in Varanasi on Wednesday. Pioneer

provide loan to the entrepreneurs a special MSME Credit Camp was organised, informed

the final head of the bank Vikash Kumar and regional head Sunil Kumar.

The entrepreneurs will be provided loan to recover from the losses at the attractive interest of 6.40 to 7.40 per cent rate of interest, informed they adding, the concession from 50 to 75 per cent on the processing charge will be given on the loan. The other relief are also being given to the entrepreneurs while giving loan of Rs 25 lakh or above this amount. The bank's officers Randhir Kumar, Sudhir Kumar Singh, Surya Agnihotri, Rajesh Kumar Nagvanshi, Dr Amritanshu, heads of branches and entrepreneurs were present on the occasion.

also present on the occasion.

**IIT(BHU) STUDENT GETS RS 2.05 CR PACKAGE:** Campus placement started at 12 midnight at Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University). On the first day of campus placement, a student was offered a maximum package of Rs 2.05 crore (\$274,250/-) by a United States company. In this, till the end of the first phase, 55 companies gave 232 offer letters to various students. In this, an average package of Rs 32.89 lakh per annum and a minimum of Rs 12 lakh was given.

Total registered students are 1243. Average CTC earned is Rs 32.89 lakh. Last year upto this time, 91 companies offered 324 jobs. Earlier, 66 companies had offered pre-placement to a total of 241 students of B Tech 3rd year and IDD 4th year during their internship. The campus selection process is being done in Aryabhata Hostel of the institute. In the first phase, various companies selected the students by conducting an online test, group discussion and then interview.

## BJP, SP two sides of same coin: SC Mishra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

BSP national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra, who has been conducting election meetings for success in the assembly elections, said that the BJP and the Samajwadi Party are two sides of the same coin.

"During the SP regime, there was a state of goons and mafia. The merchant and the common man did not consider themselves safe. The same is the case during BJP tenure. Cases like robbery, murder and rape are increasing continuously. Women are not safe," Mishra said while addressing people present in the workers' convention organised by the party at Paschim Shira Dargah Maidan of Manjhanpur area in Kaushambi district on Wednesday.

Mishra said that mafia were behind the bars during



BSP's national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra addressing the rally at Manjhanpur, Kausambi.

the tenure of Bahujan Samaj Party and traders and women felt safe. "The Centre and UP government led by BJP have

duped the farmers and unemployed. The farmers kept on protesting for almost a year against three farm laws and

many lost their lives during this period," he said.

"BJP's election strategists finally made the government repeal the three farm laws. In the upcoming assembly elections in UP, BSP will strongly contest all the seats in the state and form the government," Mishra said.

Meanwhile, on the recommendation of BJP city unit president Ganesh Kesarwani, district convener Giri Shankar Prabhakar has declared the divisional team constituted. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that district co-convenor Mayank Yadav has been nominated. Somnath Pandey, co-convenor of Chowk Division, Vaibhav Kharen, co-convenor, Vishnu Tripathi, co-convenor of Muthiganj, Vikalp Srivastava, has been made co-convenor. Convenor and co-convenor of other mandals have also been declared.

## Docs take out cycle rally for prevention of AIDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

To mark World AIDS Day 2021, the doctors of Prayagraj launched a campaign on Wednesday to create awareness among the people. Eminent doctors of the city took out a cycle rally for the prevention of AIDS. Through the rally, information was given about this deadly disease and how we can prevent it.

In order to spread the important information about AIDS to the people, the eminent doctors of the city toured the city by bicycle and gave a message to the people that AIDS is a dangerous disease. They stopped from place to place, told people about AIDS and advised everyone to be healthy and safe. The cycle rally continued to tour on various routes of the city for about one and a half



Doctors fraternity taking out cycle rally to mark World AIDS Day in Prayagraj.

hours.

The rally started at 10 am from the Convention Centre of AMA located at Maharana Pratap Square of Civil Lines. Dr

Sujit Kumar Singh, President, Allahabad Medical Association (AMA), flagged off the cycle rally. Male and female doctors participated in the rally.

Pamphlets were distributed to the people informing them about ways to prevent AIDS. Also, they shared information related to it.

The rally was led by Dr Atul Dubey, Sports Secretary, AMA, and Dr Ritu Jain. Dr Subodh Jain, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dr Subhash Sharma, Dr Archana Jain, Dr Himanshu Bhushan etc participated in the rally.

A rally was also taken out from Subhash Chauraha of Civil Lines in the city for public awareness on World AIDS Day.

The cycle rallies were taken out from the Red Cross Society and the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit of NACO on different routes. They made people aware of the horrors of AIDS. It is said that prevention is the only cure for AIDS.

## Magh Mela: Preparations to set up tent city begin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With the Magh Mela scheduled to be held in January 2022, authorities concerned have taken up hectic preparations to set up the tent city on the banks of the river Ganga.

The 47-day Magh Mela will commence on January 14 and conclude on March 1 on Mahashivratri. There will be six main bathing days — Makar Sankranti (January 14/15), Paus Purnima (January 17), Mauni Amavasya (February 1), Basant Panchmi (February 5), Maghi Purnima (February 16) and Mahashivratri (March

1). The state state government has sanctioned a whopping budget of Rs 59-crore and appointed senior IAS officer Sheshmani Pandey as the Mela Adhikari (mela officer). The Magh mela area will be divided into six sectors and seven pontoon bridges will be constructed. Furthermore, 'shivirs' (camps) and tents of seers and saints at Acharya Wada, Dandi Wada, Khak Chowk, Kalpawasi Nagar, Prayagwal Sabha and Kinnar Akhara would be main attractions next year.

The mela authorities have initially taken up the work of levelling on the banks of the

Ganga, where thousands of tents would be erected. The land allotment work for the various religious, social and cultural organisations is likely to be held in the third week of December. Officials of various government departments, including police, health, Jal Nigam, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, power, PWD and irrigation have been directed to complete their respective projects as they have been specified time. The work of setting up pontoon bridges has already been started. This time, there would be a total seven pontoon bridges on the Ganga for

smooth passage of pilgrims. The officials are taking stock of the situation on Mela campus and are chalking out plans to tackle the soil erosion problem due to strong currents of the river water. The newly appointed Magh Mela Adhikari said, "Elaborate arrangements would be made for the Magh Mela. Adequate facilities would be offered to the pilgrims and devotees arriving at the Mela for a hassle-free visit and stay." Magh Mela 2022 will also witness a 30 days 'kalpwas' period, starting January 17 (Paus Purnima) and ending on Maghi Purnima (February 16)

smooth passage of pilgrims.

The officials are taking stock of the situation on Mela campus and are chalking out plans to tackle the soil erosion problem due to strong currents of the river water. The newly appointed Magh Mela Adhikari said, "Elaborate arrangements would be made for the Magh Mela. Adequate facilities would be offered to the pilgrims and devotees arriving at the Mela for a hassle-free visit and stay." Magh Mela 2022 will also witness a 30 days 'kalpwas' period, starting January 17 (Paus Purnima) and ending on Maghi Purnima (February 16)

## 8 fresh cases of dengue detected in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sangam city on Wednesday reported eight new dengue cases, taking the tally to 1,080. One each fresh case was detected from Medical College campus, Allahapur, Muthiganj, Chakia, Colongelanj, Chaudhata and Saidabad.

Out of the eight cases detected, seven were from city

areas, while the rest one from trans-Ganga pocket. Moreover, out of a total 1,080 dengue cases in the district so far, 798 were reported in urban pockets, while the rest 282 in rural areas.

Officials of the Health department, however, claimed that the graph of dengue cases has declined in the past one week. Dengue cases have gone

down in the city as well as trans-Ganga and Yamuna pockets. Still, effective and sincere measures are being initiated to check the vector-borne disease. Officials also claimed that city pockets which are reporting fresh dengue cases on frequent intervals, are under scanner and an anti-larvae spraying drive has been intensified in these areas, including

Allahapur, Colongelanj, Muthiganj, Medical college campus and Chakia localities. "City residents have also been urged to take preventive measures to check the spread of dengue," said a senior health official, adding that continuous efforts are being undertaken to inform residents and appeal to them to take preventive measures.

## Kayasth Hunkar Rally to be held in Lucknow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Akhil Bhartiya Kayasth Mahasabha (ABKM) will hold Kayasth Hunkar Rally in state capital on the Jayanti of the first President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad on December 3 to mount pressure on the political parties by showing its strength for its representation in the ticket distribution in the UP assembly elections scheduled early next year. The former state minister Ribu Srivastava made an appeal to the people of Kayastha community to attend the proposed rally in large numbers from Varanasi.

The people of Kayasth community are in sizable number, about 13 per cent of the total population of the state and decide the fate of the candidates on a number of assembly seats in the state but despite this, the political parties neglected them and did not give the representation in the election because they failed in demanding their representation in the politics unitedly. Now, the community realises its strength and thus, decided to mount pressure on



Senior SP leader Ribu Srivastava addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Wednesday. Pioneer

the political parties by holding rally to give ticket to the people of the community to contest the election in such assembly constituency where they are in dominant position, said the former state minister Ribu Srivastava while talking to the media persons, here.

The rally proposed to be convened at Uttrakhand Mahotsav place along the river Gomti in Lucknow on December 3 at 11 am, will be addressed by the national office-bearers of the ABKM and the people of the community will attend at large-scale, informed Ribu Srivastava

adding, the people of the community will also attend it in large numbers from Varanasi.

The community will put demand of its rights which it did not get so far, she said adding, the community will also demand its representation in the politics as well as in the election scheduled early next year for which it was deprived. The community is now awaken and no political party can ignore it, she said and appealed the people of the community to reach the state capital in large number to show their strength. The vice president of the ABKM Rahul Srivastava was



# DC concern over slow construction of roads connecting Panki & Dada Nagar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, expressing concern over the slow pace of work on roads connecting Panki and Dada Nagar, said it should be given full momentum and a timeframe should be set for completing the work.

He said the retaining wall near Dada Nagar should also be completed within the set timeline.

He warned the representative of NHAI and asked the joint commissioner of industries to ensure that the general manager of NHAI attended the next meeting with full details. He also directed the district magistrate of Kanpur Dehat along with industry associations and NHAI to visit the site and submit a joint report latest by December 7, 2021.

Dr Shekhar was chairing the Divisional Udyog Bandhu meeting at the commissionerate along with officials and members of the industry. He said regarding high mast lights in Jainpur Industrial Area, it was apprised that the work would start in December. The divisional commissioner then directed regional manager of UPSIDA to provide timeline for completion of this work.

He said the issue of CETP in Jainpur Industrial Area was also discussed and the work there would start in the next 10 days. He also issued directive to resolve the drainage problem in Rania Industrial Area and directed the joint commissioner of industries to convene



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner., Dr Raj Shekhar, chairing the Udyog Bandhu Meeting at the Commissionerate.

Pioneer

a meeting with stakeholders in Kanpur Dehat on December 4, 2021. Dr Shekhar said the issue of house tax had remained unresolved despite continuous efforts and directed the joint commissioner of industries to meet ACS, Nagar Vikas, along with a delegation of industrialists to pursue the matter.

He said the CFO, Kanpur Dehat, and DC, Kanpur Dehat were directed to finalise the land for fire station in Rania by December 15, 2021 in coordination with DM, Kanpur Dehat.

He said it was also directed that the CFO, Kanpur Nagar should immediately demand remaining budget for Panki fire station.

Besides, it was also directed that a committee comprising joint commissioner of

industries, ADM (City), CFO and industry associations should visit the fire station to find a way whether it could be operated in emergency till it was completed.

The officials of the PWD told the committee that the work of the road connecting Medhniपुरwa to Bithoor would be completed by February, 2022. The divisional commissioner then directed industry associations to hold a meeting of their members in the next three days and tell them strictly not to burn any waste. He said if this was found then FIR would be lodged against the industries concerned. Kanpur Nagar Nigam was directed to ensure cleanliness in the industrial area. In addition, it was brought to the notice of the committee that

while widening of Bhauli-Bhimsen road, electric poles were hindering the work. The divisional commissioner took it seriously and directed the SE of PWD to fix the responsibility as to why the issue was not considered in the original estimate. He also directed that poles be shifted immediately from the middle of the road.

The executive engineer of Dakshinanchal Vidhyut Vitran Nigam Limited apprised the committee about the steps being taken to stop tripping in Bansal and Kailash feeder. He said the work of changing conductors of the 33 KV power station would be completed by January 15, 2022.

The meeting was conducted by Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner of Industries, Kanpur division.

## Subhashini Ali flays violence unleashed against minorities

KANPUR (PNS): Former parliamentarian and Communist Party of India (Marxist) politburo member Subhashini Ali, while addressing a dharna at Bakarmandi Crossing on Wednesday, condemned the violence unleashed against the minorities to create a communal divide in the country.

She said the police were a mute spectator and kept the eyes closed fearing backlash. She said today the police were being remote controlled and used as a private army. She said the minorities were being targeted on false pretexts like conversions and love jihad and other issues. She said the Left parties had decided to raise their voice in support of the oppressed minorities and to protest the high-handedness of the Centre and state governments. The former MP said today both the Centre and state government were making all efforts to polarise the people for votes by stoking communal passions. She said the people were unable to see into the evil designs of the government. She said the reason was that the ruling party wanted to divert the focus of the common man from essential issues like inflation, high fuel prices, high taxes, privatisation, and many more issues. She appealed to the people to refrain from falling prey to the Machiavellian moves of the government to further its personal interests. She said those who were raising their voices were being targeted and victimised. She said there was not a single day when prices did not move up and said in the absence of employment the government was diverting the attention of the people from vital issues.

Ali said from the time of demonetisation, GST and coronavirus pandemic had dangerously affected the economy of the country and employment opportunities had nosedived, pushing the common man to the verge of starvation. She said it was shocking the despite all this, the government was giving free hand to the industrialists to hike prices of the products keeping an eye on the forthcoming elections.

Addressing the dharna, RLD convener Suresh Gupta said the Centre and state government were ruling by terrorising people. He said the RLD and Left parties have decided to hold a conclave on December 6 at Khasi Lines to decide the future course of action. Several others spoke on the occasion.

## Separated from daughter, man shoots self

KANPUR (PNS): Upset at being separated from his six-year-old daughter, a teacher committed suicide by shooting himself in his house in Hemant Vihar under Barra police station on Wednesday morning.

According to a report, Surya Prakash Dwivedi of J-1, Hemant Vihar, Barra, had retired as pharmacist from ESI Hospital. His younger son Ritesh (37) was running online English classes for children. On Wednesday morning, when Ritesh was alone in his room, he sat on the bed and shot himself on his forehead from point-blank range. Hearing the gunshot, Ritesh's mother Suman rushed to the room and on seeing the profusely-bleeding body of Ritesh, she fell unconscious. Dwivedi, who also rushed to the room, called the police and the cops reached the spot along with forensic experts and started investigation. Ritesh's elder brother Lokesh, an engineer in a nuclear power corporation, lives in Mumbai with his family. According to Dwivedi, Ritesh was married to Komal alias Puja of Dabauli in 2014 and they had a six-year-old daughter Ayva. In 2019, Komal had lodged an FIR against her in-laws and Ritesh, alleging they were humiliating her for dowry and thereafter she had started living with her parents along with Ayva. As Ritesh loved Ayva very much, he often wanted to meet her but it was not possible due to Komal's resistance. Due to Komal's rigidity and separation from his daughter, Ritesh was very upset and this pushed him to end his life on Wednesday.

# DM inspects CMO office

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar conducted a surprise inspection of chief medical officer (CMO)'s office on Tuesday. The DM reached in the office of the CMO at 12.20 pm and found 15 employees were absent without any application. The DM asked for the attendance register and verified the presence and directed the CMO



to withhold one day salary of the absent employees and seek clarification from them within three days. The DM inspected most of the counters and expressed discontent over improper maintenance of files. He warned the persons concerned to maintain records properly. He said entry of all applications should be done. He found that the files were not kept in order at any counter and disposal was not transparent. In establishment section counter clerk failed to give information about the matters properly so the DM ordered to suspend him. The DM directed the CMO to ensure that the official files were in order. During the inspection the DM was

accompanied by CMO Dr PD Gupta and Additional CMO (ACMO) Dr Neesh.

**DIRECTIVE:** Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra has directed the Nagar Palika Parishad to keep the streets and road as clean as possible otherwise remain prepared to face the music. Such direction was issued by him in a meeting in his office on Tuesday. While expressing discontent over the filth on roads in the city he directed the EO Nagar Palika Mirzapur to launch the drive for getting the roads and drains cleaned properly. The DC directed the ADM and city magistrate too to coordinate with Nagar Palika and monitor the sanitation work properly. The meeting was attended by Additional District Magistrate (Finance & Revenue), Shiv Pratap Shukla, City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh and EO Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Mirzapur Om Prakash.

**PADDY PURCHASE:** APC of the state sought information from all DMs through video conferencing on Tuesday about paddy purchase and distribution of salt, gram and refined oil from ration shops. He directed to the DMs to ensure the availability of necessary amenities at purchase centres. He directed the DM to direct the SDMs to inspect purchase centres regularly to ensure transparency. He directed the DM to ensure proper distribution of additional one kg salt, one kg of gram and one litre refined oil to the eligible card holders along with monthly ration. Dy RMO informed that 50 MT of gram and 1,690 boxes of refined oil had been received by the district. During the video conferencing in NIC, DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar, ADM (F&R), Shiv Pratap, Dy RMO along with DSO Umesh Chand were present.

# RPF inspector wins gold

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In the third National Masters Athletics Competition-2021 organised by Masters Athletics Association of UP at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Siga, Varanasi, from November 27 to 30, Ranjeet, posted as an inspector in the Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway, Lucknow, and a resident of Gorakhpur, participated and in the 110 metre hurdle by winning a gold medal and in the 400 metre hurdle, a bronze medal brought pride to the RPF. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. On this achievement of Ranjeet, the senior RPF officials congratulated and extended best wishes to him.

**RETIREMENT:** Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Rita P Hemrajani honoured Dinesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur, who was retiring on Tuesday in her room by presenting him gold plated medal, settlement papers and service certificate. Apart from it in a function organised in the Personnel department of North Eastern Railway (NER) headquarters here, Senior Personnel Officer (SPO) Basant Lal presented gold plated medals, settlement papers and service certificate to 15 non-gazetted railway personnel retiring on Tuesday. On the occasion, SPO said that all the retiring employees had spent most of their lives in railway service for which the railway administration was grateful to them. He said that all of them had come in

the category of senior citizens after retirement and added that they should spend most of their time in social service and national interest with which their health and routine will remain good. On the occasion Assistant Personnel Officer (APO) Anand Kumar, employees of Personnel department and family members of the retiring



personnel were present. In this programme all Covid-19 prevention guidelines were followed, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

**AMRITSAR-LAL KUAN EXP FROM DEC 4**  
In the earlier information issued by the railway administration, the following express train due to possible fog was cancelled from December 4 to February 26, 2022. For the convenience of the passengers this train will be run again from December 4. The run of regular train No 14616 Amritsar-Lal Kuan Express and regular train No 14615 Lal Kuan-Amritsar Express will be started again from December 4, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

## Quality Awareness Fortnight starts

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Quality Awareness Fortnight started at Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) on Monday. In the fortnight which will continue till December 11 several awareness programmes will be organised in NCL headquarters and projects to enhance the quality of coal. NCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhat Kumar Sinha, while addressing the programme organised at the



headquarters as the chief guest, said providing quality coal to our customers was our responsibility. Company's Director (Technical Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel) RN Dubey, Chief Vigilance Officer AK Srivastava were present as special guests in the programme. Quality Awareness Fortnight was started by CMD NCL by hoisting the flag.

# 13 rly personnel retire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the presidentship of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey and under the leadership of Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, in a simple ceremony organised in Premchand audito-



rium room of divisional office here on Tuesday, a total of ₹8,37,95,094 was paid to 13 employees retiring on November 30. On the occasion Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Finance Manager (SDFM) Preeti Verma, Divisional Finance Manager (DFM) Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Personnel Officer (APO) Abhinav Kumar Singh along with inspectors and staff of Accounts and Personnel department were present. Extending best wishes to the retiring employees for their life ahead, DRM expressed his gratitude to them for their long and remarkable service. He said this money received by the employees after the service period is the earning of their life's hard work so it should be spent very wisely.

While extending best wishes to the retiring employees, SDPO explained in detail about all the documents related to ID card, service certificate and PPO. Those retiring on Tuesday included Jaiprakash Srivastava, Assistant Operations Manager (AOM), Anil Kumar

# Current goal is to end AIDS epidemic by 2030: Dr Mishra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Secretary-general of HIV Welfare Society of India, Dr Rahul Mishra, while addressing a seminar on 'Past, Present and Future of AIDS/HIV' on the occasion of World AIDS Day at the University Institute of Health Sciences on Wednesday, said the current goal of not only India but the whole world was to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

He said under this campaign special emphasis would be laid on ensuring there was no vertical transmission of HIV to children and anybody already infected was treated with medicines that gave the best opportunity for healthy living.

He said another equally important issue was to unitedly fight the social stigma existing in the society and added that despite more positive attitudes toward people living with HIV, in India, the stigma attached to AIDS still impeded testing, status disclosures and access to prevention and treatment in high-risk populations. He said to fight HIV, there was a need to further create awareness among the masses and also to train and empower peer educators to share their own experiences, talk about how they overcame similar challenges and encourage others to participate in research studies as well as programmes.

Dr Mishra said the first HIV infection was detected in India in 1986 in female sex workers in Chennai. He said with nearing four decades the emphasis was to be laid on diligence to achieve the ambitious plan. He said for this adequate funding was critically important and secondly, the affected communities must be fully engaged. He said the resources and actions must be focused on the populations and locations where they were needed, as informed by evidence and data. He said the eradication of HIV was a daunting task as it required political leadership, political will, and ensuring that resources were properly given to the effort.

He said several decades of innovations, action and partnerships had ushered in a new era in the global HIV response and one that could mean the end of AIDS. He said today medical scientists know enough to stem this epidemic



Secretary General of HIV Welfare Society of India, Dr Rahul Mishra inaugurating the seminar on "Past, Present and Future of AIDS/HIV" on the occasion of World AIDS Day at the University Institute of Health Sciences on Wednesday.

Pioneer

and one needed to take what one knew into action. He said apart from this one must continue to seek new discoveries through research in the laboratory, in the clinic, and in the community. He said both discovery and action were needed as one moved forward.

He said the current status of HIV+ was around 23.49 lakh people living with HIV/AIDS and the HIV epidemic had an overall decreasing trend in the country with estimated annual new HIV infections declining by 37 per cent. He said the theme of World AIDS Day was 'End Inequalities, End AIDS'.

Dr Mishra said the method to achieve this by 2030 was to ensure that life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) reached all those who were infected and that all persons living with HIV knew their status. He said it also aimed to ensure that those on ART were viral suppressed so that infection was negligible. He said India was one of the signatories to the global objective and thus it also had to ensure that 90 per cent of the people know their status, 90 per cent of them were on life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 90 per cent of those on ART were virally suppressed and thus by 2030, it aimed to make accessible ART to every person living with HIV to reduces the viral load in their blood to undetectable levels. He said this would result in making the risk of their transmitting HIV neg-

ligible.

He said HIV prevention for uninfected individuals at risk should not be perceived as a one-time event, but rather as requiring ongoing engagement, or retention, in the prevention process for as long as the risk remained in order to maintain the desired protective effect of the interventions. He said the importance of retention in prevention services and adherence to interventions was evident. He said protection from HIV acquisition in men was yet not complete, necessitating ongoing risk reduction counselling and consistent condom use.

He said retention was also important to ensure repeat HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV infection, if HIV acquisition occurred.

Dr Mishra said at population level, both the HIV care and the HIV prevention continuation was necessary for framing a comprehensive response to the HIV epidemic. He said both must focus on the very beginning of the trajectory — identifying those who were HIV-infected in a community but were unaware of their infection as well as those who were uninfected and should be the target of the various interventions at each step of the HIV prevention continuum. He said achievement of one step in either continuum may benefit individuals and should be applauded; however, all steps must be optimised to maximise the

impact of care, treatment, and prevention services and raise the bar of programme performance

He said the use of a prevention continuum may offer a new framework to measure HIV prevention programme performance by linking steps and encouraging engagement across all the steps. He said conceptualisation and implementation of the prevention continuum for specific populations at risk would require careful analysis of the size and location of such populations, impediments to their engagement in prevention, efforts at demand generation for such services, tailoring of the prevention packages, and training of the appropriate workforce to be engaged in such efforts. He also stressed on the need to design supportive activities to promote linkage, retention, and adherence in prevention services.

He said more monitoring tools would be needed to be developed to measure each step of the prevention continuum and, most important, the quality and effectiveness of the overall continuum.

Kanpur Nagar Chief Medical Officer Dr Nepal Singh congratulated the UIHS for spreading awareness in various areas of diseases and disease control and prominent issues like HIV+ and COVID-19.

The vote of thanks was proposed by UIHS Director Dr Pravin Katiyar.











FIRST COLUMN

FASHION DESIGN AND E-LEARNING

Aspiring designers can learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format



ARCHANA SURANA

While the world is struggling with a health pandemic, an economic depression, and a global social justice movement, Bill Cunningham's quote — "Fashion is the armour to survive the reality of everyday life" — became the inspiration to the fashion and design fraternity. From adjusting to the new normal to navigating through it and bringing creativity to reality, the fashion industry has set trends yet again. In the modern world, creativity has never been just about classroom learning. Now, with the 'anything anywhere' approach of the digital world, fashion design learning has stepped into a transformative revolution. When FHCM's couture week 2020 went digital, the fashion industry was in awe. FHCM stands for Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode that brings together fashion brands that foster creation and international development. However, with Gucci partnering with the art auction house Christie's on NFT video "ARIA", the industry realised that we had just scratched the surface of technology. Fashion design institutes have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to innovate old-fashioned teaching methods and adapt to the fast-moving digital world. Being a stu-



dent-centric process enables the learner to customise the procedures and processes based on her needs. With digital platforms for aspiring designers to learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format and accelerated personalisation in digital tools to customise one's virtual studio, it has never been a better time to flow along with creativity. The importance of exploring global perspectives through international fashion shows, exhibitions, webinars that reflect the global context in fashion education and industry cannot be emphasised enough. The design education colleges have been quick on the uptake and started organising virtual events and platform during the lockdown in 2020 where they allow the students to showcase their learnings and creations. These institutes also use social media platform like Facebook Live where students presented their work online.

The field of technology is growing every day and therefore, it is impacting education, teaching and learning processes with its innovative solutions and sustainable methods. Increasing use of technologies like AI, IoT and AoIT is helping effectively in saving costs, time and energy in the education sector especially the creative fields. In 2020, due to the pandemic, all the education institutes introduced many innovative ways of teaching and learning in order to maintain the quality of education and content material. According to InTech report 2017, design learning needs digital or online learning to have a progressive future. There is a great need for active interaction between humans and technology through activities using creative intelligence for a bright future of designing field. Even if we were in a digital utopia with digital equity and no technical glitches, to imagine learning fashion design virtually is difficult. From the touch of the fabric to the aesthetics and design, physical interaction is as essential as the field itself. Paris Fashion Week's physical return to the runway, including industry heavy weights from Chanel and Hermes to Louis Vuitton and Yves Saint Laurent, proves that fashion cannot survive without it being inferred by the senses. Rethinking decades-old teaching models requires a more finely tuned equilibrium between physical and digital education to work successfully. Combining face-to-face lectures with technology may give rise to blended learning, increasing students' learning potential. Need of the hour is for institutes to become omnichannel and build an efficient e-learning model and for the fashion fraternity to come together as a community and use technology as a venue for Sustainable Fashion Culture.

(The writer is Founder and Director, ARCH College of Design & Business. The views expressed are personal.)

# Village secretariats of AP: Doorstep welfare



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to doorsteps; Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other States have evinced interest to adopt similar systems

A game-changer initiative in Andhra Pradesh Government's unique grass root administration and a brain child of young Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the concept of Village/ward Secretariat - door-step services to ensure welfare programmes reach the beneficiary — is gaining the attention of international agencies, the Union Government and a number of states.

Aimed at revamping and improving the delivery of government services, the largest of its kind in India, the setup involved hiring 389,000 volunteers to ensure that government benefits-ration cards, pension accounts and other welfare schemes are made available in the rural areas as also in the wards in towns.

The Village Secretariat and Ward Secretariat (VSWS) Department was created to manage the operations. The volunteers who are key in the new set up are being paid a monthly remuneration of ₹5000 and they are always available in the area to provide government benefits that are listed under various schemes at the door step of the beneficiary.

On average, there is one volunteer for every 70-100 households, tasked with doorstep-delivery of government services and ensuring that beneficiaries are identified and mapped for proactive service delivery. To ensure that services improve, issues relating to the delivery of food, social and health security benefits are to be addressed within specified time frames, with a team of 200 call-centre executives to track and monitor service delivery requests and notify relevant secretariats about impending deadlines. It all started on October 2, 2019 when the Chief Minister launched the flagship programme of his government. As a preamble to the new concept, he recruited village secretaries who would head the village secretariats. The idea came to him during his 'padayatra' before the 2019 general elections when villagers complained how they are going around offices and officials for benefits of welfare programmes and how they are denied them on account of lack of funds.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti Sanitation has acknowledged the services being offered to the people at their doorstep through the new system. National Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry which brings out a monthly e-book, Jal Jeevan Samvad, highlighted the village/ward secretariat system in AP and pointed out: "This is a unique experiment in itself and furthers the spirit of the 73rd Constitution Amendment, 1992 and in line with 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' - administration at your doorstep. Now by setting up of village secretariat, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a concrete step towards administrative transparency and accountability to provide better services to the people at their door step".

The special story in the magazine also



THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE KEY IN THE NEW SET-UP ARE BEING PAID A MONTHLY REMUNERATION OF ₹5000 AND ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT ARE LISTED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE BENEFICIARY. ON AVERAGE, THERE IS ONE VOLUNTEER FOR EVERY 70-100 HOUSEHOLDS

(The writer is Advisor, National Media and Inter State Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



mentioned that out of various services for the people, around 318 services have started reaching villagers through the village secretariat system. The beneficial effects of government schemes are clearly visible in the villages.

UNICEF, which has identified the potential strength of the village secretariat system, associated itself with the grass root network to continue its awareness campaign among children as mothers about nutrition food. A special cell with three representatives has been created by UNICEF attached to the State level Head office of village/ward secretariat. Besides, the Institution has also appointed district coordinators to take the task.

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to the people's doorsteps, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other states have evinced interest to adopt similar systems. Ministerial and Official representatives from these states are planning to visit AP soon to have the first-hand experience of the functioning of the setup.

As a matter of fact, the then Chief Minister of united AP Chandrababu Naidu too launched the village secretariat concept in 2002. But there is no comparison between the two since the present setup is well thought over and target-oriented, supported by a digital road map to ensure doorstep deliveries of benefits.

While Naidu had to introduce the village secretariat in view of World Bank guidelines in the name of reforms, the current CM made it happen in real terms and

people are getting total benefits from the new system.

Between the first and third of every month, the present government disburses ₹1,420.5 crore worth of pensions to 6.1 million beneficiaries under the YSR Pension Kanuka. They are delivered to beneficiaries wherever they might be, even those displaced from their homes. For transparent, well-targeted delivery of benefits, the state relies on biometric identification. A call centre with toll-free number 1902 has been set up to enable the people to register their grievances and also obtain feedback on the welfare schemes.

In all, a strong contingent of 1,34,694 village ward secretariat staff along with dedicated gram volunteers numbering 2,47,344 extend 540 services under 35 departments. Fact sheets reveal that while 3,31,57,081 service requests were registered till the end of October last, 3,29,70,051 services have been delivered.

Specific time frames are fixed for delivery. While Pension card, rice cards are to be handed over within 21 days, eligible applicants should get Arogyasri cards in 20 days and the deadline for getting house site pattas is 90 days.

A study paper on the village administration in Andhra Pradesh published in The Indian Journal of Political Science in its quarterly publication in 2006 clearly mentioned the 'outcome' of the reforms in Panchayat Raj introduced by Chandrababu Naidu.

The paper originally submitted by its author D.Ravinder at an International conference on "State,

Civil Society and Citizens: Revisiting the Relationship" held in Osmania University in February, 2004, concluded that "it (the system) introduces babudom at the local level". The study paper highlighting the lacunae said with the onset of World Bank led reforms processed under the regime of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, "good governance" has become a catchy word. It is in this name that a number of reform processes were introduced in the state. One such important reform process at the grass roots level has been the introduction of "Village Secretariat" system.

The paper said this system instead of bringing good governance has become a bone of contention between hitherto existing departments, panchayat raj and revenue, and also between the elected representatives and government officials, i.e., between Sarpanch and the newly created position of "Village Secretary ". Thus, the process of good governance at the grass roots level unleashed new conflicts. The present paper makes an attempt to analyse the dynamics of these new reforms at the grass roots in Andhra Pradesh.

Quite contrary to the setup introduced during Chandrababu regime, the present village/ward secretariat system supported by village secretaries and a battery of village/ward volunteers day and night ensuring the targeted people get welfare programmes at their doorstep without spending a single pie and wasting time.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHICH IS THE MAIN PARTY, THE CONGRESS OR THE TMC? THE SESSION WILL BE OVER BEFORE THEY COME TO ANY DECISION.  
—BJP NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
DILIP GHOSH



IT IS INSIGNIFICANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON DILIP GHOSH'S OBSERVATION. LET THEM THINK OVER THEIR DEFEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.  
—TMC LEADER  
SOUGATA ROY

# Role of universities in fostering entrepreneurship

Interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in university settings

Entrepreneurship is extremely important for any economy, for its ability to make a significant impact on citizens and nations as a whole. Great entrepreneurs can change the way we live and work, by creating jobs and wealth, with changes varying between social impact to immense innovations. But can entrepreneurship be taught? The answer to this age-old debate is both yes and no. Since education is essential to enhance the thinking abilities and as entrepreneurship ecosystem is developed by the interplay of actors like universities, government and entrepreneurs themselves, universities become the hotbed of fostering the required entrepreneurial environment. An early introduction and expo-



HIMABINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

sure to entrepreneurship and innovation is more likely to sow the seeds of entrepreneurial careers for students at a future juncture. Cities which are ranked highly for their entrepreneurial activities also boast promoting entrepreneurial education and culture. To take an example, Silicon Valley is known for entrepreneurship and is also the home to more than 10 universities, including Stanford and UC Berkeley.

There are three ways in which universities can take advantage of their position to further entrepreneurship. As universities are places of higher education, attracting workforce who wants to lead a better life, they can transform themselves into breeding grounds for budding entrepre-



neurs. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship to the economic development and job creation, universities can impart entrepreneurial skills and knowledge by updating existing programs and developing new courses. Going forward, interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in a controlled environment in the university setting. Creation of industry linkages to provide internships to students with

local companies will further enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Secondly, universities can act as incubation centres to follow up and promote potential ideas by facilitating collaborations and incubation capacities not only to students from the area of business, innovation and entrepreneurship, but also from other areas like engineering, humanities, applied sciences and medicine. Provision of physical space to give wings to potential ideas and suitable support to raise funds at an early stage to transform these ideas into business models are their added advantages. of for the development of the business model. The faculty also play an important role in the incubators, as they are crucial resource for mentorship

and can channelize the energy of their students by providing proper guidance in research activities. However, not much can be achieved with research and publications of an idea, if it cannot be exploited for business opportunities.

Therefore, thirdly, the role of a university as a knowledge transferrer and as a bridge between academia and industry is noteworthy. Universities involved in applied research have large number of patents, articles and registered intellectual property rights, converging the joint efforts, experience and creativity of students and faculty. However, such research has to be commercialized as well, and here comes the role of universities as a conduit in industry linkages. By establishing connections with industry,

universities develop entrepreneurial ecosystems and provide students entrepreneurs with advice on aspects like licenses, consulting, and spin-offs. Entrepreneurship education in universities inspires students to start their own ventures. Several surveys have shown that a majority of students enrolled in an entrepreneurship course aspire to set up their own businesses. Through their studies, it is also found that entrepreneurship courses at universities have a profound impact on the students. Thus, entrepreneurship courses have a positive impact the students' founding abilities.

Entrepreneurs are assets to any nation as they contribute towards innovation, job creation, and enhanced standard of living and the best way to

promote entrepreneurship is to make people aware of it by educating them.

Entrepreneurship education can provide students with technical skills and managerial skills, but most importantly should cultivate entrepreneurial intent among them, which ultimately increases their tendency to start their own enterprise. The Indian higher education system has to step up and distinguish a general business management course from an entrepreneurship course to motivate, train and support budding entrepreneurs. The demand is for education programs which can expand their horizons in entrepreneurship by their unique and hands-on content and teaching techniques. Are the universities listening?



# PARLIAMENT’S WINTER SESSION RS adjourned as Opp continues to protest MPs’ suspension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition continued remain in a bellicose mood on the issue of suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha members and warned that Parliament could see further disruption if the action was not reviewed.

The suspended MPs sat near the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Parliament premise to register their protest.

The proceedings of the Upper House were adjourned for the day as Opposition members lodged strong protest on the issue. The first adjournment happened soon after the House met for the day and then two other adjournments followed.

The MPs demanded that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge be allowed to speak on the suspension, while the treasury bench moved the Dam Safety Bill for consideration. As the Chair refused to let Kharge speak, Opposition members raised vociferous protest. Placard-carrying opposition MPs trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans against the suspension.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu expressed dismay at their conduct, and said the suspended MPs have shown no



remorse, and there was no question of revoking their suspension. "It is sacrilege of the House, I have said (on the conduct of the 12 suspended MPs during the last session in August). There is no remorse by members who have really insulted the parliamentary system," he said.

Naidu ordered that nothing that the opposition MPs say would go on record but said their conduct in the Well of the House should be shown to the people of the country.

"Protest will go on until this illegal suspension is revoked. It is autocratic. Other opposition colleagues have been protesting in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha,"

Shiv Sena leader Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi told The Pioneer.

Ripun Bora, another suspended MPs belonging to Congress, said "Every day from 10 am to 11 am opposition MPs are protesting and will continue to do so. The suspended MPs are also sitting in protest and will do so every day from 10 am to 5 pm in front of the Gandhi statue."

"Rajya Sabha Chairman should explain why they have been suspended as they were raising farmers' and peoples' issues such as price rise and Pegasus snooping allegations. Is that an offence? Should we apologise for it?" Bora stated.

As soon as the House resumed in the afternoon, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who was in the chair, asked Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to move The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 for consideration in the House. The minister moved the motion for consideration of the bill by the House, and thereafter the Deputy Chairman asked him to speak on the bill. In the meantime, Kharge asked the Deputy Chairman to allow him to speak on the issue of suspension of 12 members of the House. However, Harivansh did not allow him to raise the matter, and said he can speak on the Bill.

As the minster started his speech on the Bill, opposition members started raising slogans and again demanded that Kharge be allowed to speak on the issue of suspension of members. Harivansh requested the opposition members not to come into the Well and to go back to their seats.

He also told some members that photography in the House is not allowed when they tried to click pictures with their phones. But when opposition members refused to relent, the Deputy Chairman adjourned the House till 3 pm and thereafter for the day after a brief functioning of the house.

# Govt should give ₹5 cr aid to kin of martyred farmers: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After two days of disruptions, the Lok Sabha Sabha on Wednesday witnessed active participation by most of the Opposition members in the House proceedings with Congress members seeking a legal guarantee for the MSP and ₹5 crore compensation for each of the farmers' martyred' in the ongoing agitation.

Proceedings largely went on smoothly even as 'Telangana Rashtriya Samiti' members continued to protest in the well on the issue of paddy procurement by the center.

The question hour lasted 28 minutes with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishaw and Consumer affairs Minister Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti answering questions on electrification of railway tracks and LPG prices respectively.

Cabinet Minister for Consumer affairs Piyush Goyal said the question on the LPG was not related to his ministry and that 'international prices guide these prices'. This was when a member pointed out that LPG prices have risen to Rs 1400.

TRS members who were in the well carried placards 'don't punish farmers', 'bring bill for MSP' and 'no discrimination among states' and sought to block members speaking during question hour with their placards.

Criticising members for sloganeering and creating a ruckus in the House, Lok Sabha



Speaker Om Birla said their behaviour is not justified and the House cannot function if some members disturb the entire House.

"You are a member of the House. Senior members are speaking and you are waving placards in front of them. What decorum do you want to create in the House?," he said.

Lok Sabha was adjourned till 12 noon and it lasted one hour and 35 minutes during zero hour before adjourning till 2.35 pm when Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya moved the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020 for discussion.

The house proceedings were a clear departure from last two-day when it could not conduct any business and adjourned for the day after repeat disruptions.

During zero hour, Congress members Manish

conceding law on the MSP all those in jail for farmer agitation be released.

Apart from farmers issue, Sangita Azad (BSP) brought up the matter of leakage of question papers for teachers exam in Uttar Pradesh, Mahua Moitra (TMC) sought demolition of a villa near 'an ASI protected site' in Goa, Shashi Tharoor questioned reduction in Kerosene subsidy which he said was affecting Kerala fishermen and Nishikant Dubey (BJP) wondered as why the country did not have a common Civil Code despite 75 years of independence.

Congress looked distancing itself from the TRS saying it wanted to participate in the proceedings of the House to put the government in the mat after it rolled back three farm laws.

The Congress suspects "a hidden agenda" in TRS protests in the house to not to allow a proper discussion on farmers issue.

## Lok Sabha passes Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed by voice vote a Bill to regulate and supervise assisted reproductive technology clinics.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, seeks to regulate and supervise assisted reproductive technology banks, and ensure the safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also moved various amendments to the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill based on recommendations made by a parliamentary committee. Moving the Bill, Health Minister said the Bill was tabled in Parliament in September 2020 and the lower House referred it to the Standing Committee. Many suggestions came from the Standing Committee and Government has considered those recommendations, he said. The Standing Committee Report on the Bill was submitted in March this year.

"Many such ART clinics have been running in the country without regulation. Need was felt for regulation of such clinics as it has implication on health of those who

undertake the procedure," he said.

Initiating debate on the Bill, Karti Chidambaram (Congress) said this law is a Victorian law as it is not all encompassing. It excludes those who could not afford this expensive procedure for a baby and the Government should consider supporting poor childless parents for taking help of ART, Karti suggested.

He also suggested that the Government should consider including lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBTQ). Heena Gavit (BJP) said the Bill seeks to set minimum standards and codes of conduct for fertility clinics and egg/sperm banks. It also proposes stringent punishment for those practising sex selection and sale of human embryos or gametes. She said about 80 per cent ART clinics are not registered and the Bill will ensure strict adherence to guidelines.

"Ensuring confidentiality of the commissioning couples, women and donors will also be done under the aegis of this proposal of the Cabinet. The Bill also has a provision that those involved in trafficking and sale of embryos will be fined Rs 10 lakh at first instance and in second instance the person could be imprisoned for up to 12 years," she added.

# PM to lay foundation for Delhi-Dehradun corridor project on Sat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation of the ambitious Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun) project on Saturday during his visit to Dehradun.

Official sources said besides the Expressway, the PM will inaugurate and dedicate projects worth Rs 18,000 crore in the run-up to Uttarakhand assembly polls.

The corridor will have seven major interchanges for connectivity to Haridwar, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Yamunagar, Baghpat, Meerut and Baraut. It will also have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor (12 km) for

unrestricted movement of animals, according to the PMO release.

A 340-m tunnel near Dat Kaali temple, Dehradun, will also help reduce impact on wildlife, the Government said.

Road Ministry sources said the Delhi Dehradun corridor will be built at a cost of around ₹8,300 crore and after completion will reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun to two-and-a-half hours.

At present, it takes six hours to travel from Delhi to the Uttarakhand capital.

According to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi will lay the foundation stone of 11 development projects, including the government's ambitious project -- the Delhi-

Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun).

Further, multiple animal passes are being built in the Ganeshpur-Dehradun section for avoiding animal-vehicle collisions. The economic corridor will also have arrangements for rainwater harvesting at intervals of 500m and over 400 water recharge points.

A greenfield alignment project from the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, connecting Halgoa, Saharanpur to Bhadrabad, Haridwar, will be constructed at a cost of over ₹2,000 crore.

It will provide seamless connectivity and reduce travel time from Delhi to Haridwar as well.

## SC clears hurdle on custodial interrogation of ex-Unitech promoters by ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court on Wednesday cleared a hurdle for fresh custodial interrogation of ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra by the Enforcement Directorate as it clarified that its earlier order of production of the accused through video conferencing facility will not come in the way. The ED has sought clarification of the August 26, order of the top court by which it had transferred the Chandra brothers to two separate jails in Mumbai and said that they will participate in judicial proceedings against them through video conferencing.

ED has said that given new evidence found against them, it needs to confront the ex-promoters, and for that their custodial interrogation is needed. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said, "Having regard to the contents of the application, which have been filed by the ED, we clarify that the order dated August 26, 2021, will not come in the way of ED to bring the requisite application before the magistrate for the purpose of seeking custodial interrogation of the accused, which shall be decided in its own merits".

## Speculation of BJP, JDS tie after Modi-Gowda meet

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Speculation is abuzz about BJP having a pre-poll tie-up with the JD(S) for the December 10 Legislative Council elections in Karnataka. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday following BJP veteran B S Yediyurappa setting the ball rolling on the issue by his public statement.

On Tuesday, photos of Modi holding Gowda's hand and offering him a seat went viral setting off possibilities of both the sides exploring electoral adjustments in the Southern State. Earlier, former BJP Chief Minister Yediyurappa had publicly solicited JD(S) backing on seats where the regional party is not contesting. Gowda had said after his meeting that he discussed the upcoming MLC elections with Modi. "I told Modi that state-level leaders from JD(S) and BJP have to take a decision on forging an alliance," he said.

On December 10, elected representatives of local bodies will choose 25 members to the Legislative Council. This election gives BJP the chance to control the upper house with a majority. The BJP and Congress are contesting in 20 seats whereas the JD(S) in just six where it is confident of winning.

# Normal-to-above-normal min temp likely over northwest India: IMD's winter forecast

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted a higher probability of normal temperatures during winter this year in Haryana, Punjab, West Rajasthan, and Delhi NCR while normal to above normal minimum temperatures over many parts of northwest, south, and north east parts of the country from December 2021 to February 2022.

According to the IMD, India witnessed 645 events of heavy rainfall this year. Of them, 168 very heavy rainfall occurred in November, the highest in the month in five years.

In its forecast for minimum and maximum temperatures for the winter months, the IMD said that below normal minimum temperatures are most likely over some parts of the north interior peninsula. "Below normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except over some parts of northwest India and most parts of northeast India, where normal to above normal maximum temperatures are most likely during the upcoming winter season," the IMD said.

"The rain in December in the peninsular region is likely to be above normal at around 132% of the long-period average. Currently, weak La Niña conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific region. The latest Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System



(MMCFS) forecast indicates that La Niña conditions are likely to strengthen and peak to moderate conditions during the upcoming winter season," it said.

According to the IMD, the country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data. It was mainly

extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) events in the month, equalling the number reported last year.

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data. It was mainly

because of five low-pressure systems over the Andaman Sea in November compared to 2.4 on an average in November. The northeast monsoon was also in its active phase last month. To put things in perspective, the number of heavy rainfall events this November was more than the total such events in the last four years -- 247 in 2020; 116 in 2019; 135

in 2018 and 139 in 2017. The Met office also said peninsular India gauged 160 per cent more rainfall -- 232.7 mm against the average of 89.5 mm -- in November, the highest in the month since 1901.

The country as a whole received 56.5 mm of rainfall against the normal of 30.5 mm -- an excess of 85.4 per cent -- in November.

# Covid-19 survivors could suffer health effects for years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Patients who survive severe Covid-19 may not be lucky enough to survive for long, a study has said suggesting that they are more than twice as likely to succumb over the years than those who remain uninfected or experience milder virus symptoms.

As these deaths frequently occurred long after the initial infection had passed, they may never have been linked to Covid-19 by the patients' families or doctors, the study published in Frontiers in Medicine has found.

This is for the first time that any study has found that Covid can cause severe symptoms and death for vulnerable people, particularly those with underlying health conditions. So far, studies have been high-

lighting that some people may experience long Covid, signs and symptoms that last for a few weeks or months after infection. Symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath can linger for months after the infection has passed.

Indicating the importance of vaccination, the study said that coronavirus infections may significantly damage long-term health. The increased risk of dying was greater for patients under 65, and only 20% of the severe Covid-19 patients who died did so because of typical Covid complications, such as respiratory failure.

"We conducted a previous study that showed that patients with severe Covid-19 who recovered were at significantly greater risk of being hospitalised in the subsequent six months," said Prof Arch

Mainous of the University of Florida, the lead author of the study. "This new study extended that to investigate mortality risk over the next 12 months."

The researchers tracked the electronic health records of 13,638 patients who underwent a PCR test for Covid within the University of Florida health system, with 178 patients experiencing severe virus symptoms, 246 mild or moderate Covid-19 and the rest testing negative. All patients included in the study recovered from the disease, and the researchers tracked their outcomes.

The study found that patients who were very unwell with coronavirus had a greater chance of dying over the next year, a trend that was particularly notable among those aged under 65.





# Nov GST mop up at ₹1.31 lakh crore

## SECOND HIGHEST SINCE ROLL OUT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in November grew 25 per cent to ₹ 1.31 lakh crore - second highest since its implementation - indicating economic recovery with normalisation of business activity and increased compliance, a Finance Ministry statement said on Wednesday.

This is the fifth month in a row that the revenues from goods sold and services rendered was over ₹1 lakh crore.

“The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2021 is ₹1,31,526 crore of which CGST is ₹23,978 crore, SGST is ₹31,127 crore, IGST is ₹66,815 crore (including ₹32,165 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹9,606 crore (including ₹653 crore collected on import of goods),” the statement said.

CGST refers to Central

Goods and Services Tax, SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) and IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax).

The revenues for the month of November 2021, are 25 per cent higher than close to ₹1.05 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in November 2020, and 27 per cent higher over November 2019 revenues.

“The GST revenues for November 2021 have been the second highest ever since introduction of GST, second only to that in April 2021, which related to year-end revenues and higher than last month’s collection, which also included the impact of returns required to be filed quarterly. This is very much in line with the trend in economic recovery,” the ministry said.

In October 2021, the revenues were at ₹1,30,127 crore, while in April 2021 it was the highest at ₹1,39,708 crore.

The recent trend of high GST revenues has been a result of various policy and adminis-

trative measures that have been taken in the past to improve compliance. GST, which subsumed a host of indirect taxes like excise duty, service tax, VAT, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

A large number of initiatives undertaken in the last one year like, enhancement of system capacity, nudging non-filer after last date of filing of returns, auto-population of returns, blocking of e-way bills and passing of input tax credit for non-filers has led to consistent improvement in the filing of returns over the last few months, the ministry added.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said collections may dip in December 2021, as suggested by the deceleration in the daily average e-way bill generation in the first three weeks of November 2021.

“We expect Central GST collections to rise to ₹5.8 trillion in FY2022, exceeding the FY2022 BE by ₹50,000 crore,” Nayar added.

# 5,554 cr digital transactions logged in FY2020-21: Minister Chandrasekhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital payment transactions have witnessed a multifold increase in the last few years, growing to 5,554 crore in FY2020-21 from 1,004 crore in FY2016-17, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

The number of digital transactions stood at 4,683 crore in the ongoing fiscal till mid-November, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

“Digital Payments transactions have been steadily increasing since last few years. Over the past four years, digital payment transactions have grown multifold from 1,004 crore in FY2016-17 to 5,554 crore in FY2020-21. State/UT-wise transaction details are not maintained,” he added.

The Minister said number of digital transactions stood at 3,134 crore (FY19), 4,572 crore (FY20), 5,554 (FY21) crore and 4,683 crore (FY22 till mid November).

Citing a report by the

Reserve Bank of India, Chandrasekhar said India has a strong regulatory system and robust large value and retail payment systems that have contributed to the rapid growth in the volume of transactions in these payment systems.

There has been a substantial growth in e-payments by Government and also in digital infrastructure in terms of mobile networks, the report said.

The report emphasises the need to undertake further efforts to bring down the volume of paper clearing and increase acceptance infrastructure to enhance digital payments in India, it added.

In response to a separate question, Chandrasekhar said the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) had rolled out Digital Village project on pilot basis in 700 villages (with atleast one Gram Panchayat or Village per district per State/UT) in October, 2018 for delivery of various citizen centric services viz education and health, skill and financial inclusion, and solar lights.

# IPO rush continues; 10 cos line up public issues worth ₹10,000 cr in Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IPO lane will continue to be busy in December as 10 companies have lined up initial share-sale plans worth more than ₹10,000 crore, merchant banking sources said on Wednesday.

Moreover, the initial public offerings of Star Health and Allied Insurance and Tega Industries are currently open for public subscription.

This comes after 10 firms successfully concluded their initial public offerings (IPOs) in November.

Among the companies that scheduled their IPOs in this month include Rate Gain Travel Technologies, travel and hospitality technology services provider, and Anand Rathii Wealth Ltd, part of Mumbai-based financial services group Anand Rathii. RateGain’s ₹1,335-crore initial share-sale will open for public subscription during December 7-9, and the ₹660-crore IPO of Anand Rathii Wealth will open on December 2.

# India-China trade deficit stands at USD 30 bn during Q1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trade deficit between India and China stood at USD 30.07 billion during April-September 2021, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

India’s exports to China during the April-September 2021 period was USD 12.26 billion, while imports were aggregated at USD 42.33 billion, according to data given by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

She said the imports from China have increased from USD 60.41 billion in 2014-15 to

USD 65.21 billion in 2020-21, exhibiting an increase of 7.94 per cent over six years.

However, the imports were static between 2019-20 and 2020-21, she said.

“The Government has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China, including bilateral engagements to address the non-tariff barriers on Indian exports to China,” Patel said.

Schemes like the production-linked incentive scheme will help promote domestic manufacturing capacities and attract investment and reduce dependency on imports from China, the Minister said.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders for commercial usage was hiked by ₹100 per cylinder by the Oil

marketing companies. This is a second hike after the price was increased on November 1.

Following the hike, the price of the 19-kg commercial cylinder will now cost ₹2101 per cylinder in Delhi; ₹2051 in Mumbai; ₹2174.50 in Kolkata and ₹ 2234 in Chennai. However,

there is no increase in prices of other domestic cylinders weighing 14.2kg, 5 kg, 10kg

composite or 5kg composite cylinders. Presently, a 14.2kg Domestic cylinder in the

national capital cost ₹899.50 and the 19kg cylinder commercial cylinder is costing ₹2,101. LPG Cylinder Rate is revised monthly for all over the States and Union Territories in

India.

Earlier on November 1, prices of 19kg Commercial cylinder has seen a steep rise of ₹ 266, increasing the prices to ₹ 2,000.50.

NIFTY 50							BSE 500						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE		Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	PIDILITIND	2223
NIFTY 50	17,104.40	17,213.05	17,064.25	17,166.90	183.7		ASIANPAINT	3158.9	3199.85	3123	3137.55	SRRTRANSFIN	1401
INDUSNDRBK	891	938.75	890.15	934.5	51.5		IIFL	309.5	324.35	300	316.25	DELTACORP	249.6
JSWSTEEL	6149.5	6398.6	614	638.75	30.35		IDEA	11.13	13.25	10.72	12.67	KEI	1128
TATAMOTORS	467.85	478.4	463.55	478	19.4		TATAPOWER	220	227.35	215.05	225.2	JUBLFOOD	3710
AXISBANK	664.9	681.4	660	680	24.35		BHARTIARTL	732.1	737.4	718.1	721	BANDHANBNK	276.4
ADANIPORTS	695	711.05	682.75	709	25.15		INDUSINDBK	890	939	889.9	934.25	DREDDY	4685
SBN	464.45	477.25	464	475.9	15.35		TATAMOTORS	468	478.5	463.7	475.35	BAJAJ-AUTO	3260
MARUTI	7191.00	7380.00	7130.05	7300.50	232.7		RELIANCE	2425.5	2474.6	2425.5	2466.9	SUNPHARMA	753.95
HINDALCO	4195	4261	4161	425.25	12.5		IBULHSGFIN	231	251.9	228.7	250.55	SPICEJET	70.7
TECHM	1550.00	1594.40	1550.00	1588.00	46.55		AXISBANK	663	681.4	660.7	679.8	SPANDANA	400
EICHEMOT	2410.00	2482.45	2385.05	2438.10	67.65		TCS	3535.15	3589.35	3535.15	3578.15	IDFC	50.8
RELIANCE	2433.00	2474.00	2425.10	2457.75	62.35		SBIN	464.4	477.2	463.9	475.3	ADANIPOWER	101.1
COALINDIA	153.6	156.25	152.55	155.9	3.9		INFY	1715	1741.4	1713.45	1715.5	MOTHERSUMI	211.2
HDCLIFE	680	695	678.05	695	14.2		TATASTEEL	1076	1095.9	1066.65	1082.5	RAJESHXPO	771
HCITECH	1146.00	1163.00	1145.20	1159.55	20.9		TRIDENT	50.1	51.3	49.4	49.4	L&TFH	76.2
ICICIBANK	716.4	732.75	715	727.05	12.7		MARUTI	7203.9	7377.8	7132.05	7274.75	INDUSTOWER	281.05
GRASIM	1667.00	1694.40	1653.35	1688.35	25.9		IEX	758.4	758.4	705	729.85	TCIEXP	2198
UPL	687.5	693.75	681.55	691.85	10.15		COFORGE	5425	5449.45	5308.25	5380.7	PC	117.5
TCS	3535.00	3590.00	3535.00	3581.00	51.85		ZEEL	325.2	338.9	324.65	337	ICIGICI	1437
HINDUNILVR	2340.00	2356.75	2323.25	2350.85	33.3		WIPRO	644.8	645.55	633.2	634.8	PRESTIGE	422.2
IT	1746.00	1794.00	1762.05	1790.05	25.3		CHAMBLFERT	372	399.9	368	397.55	REDINGTON	148.5
HDPC	2712.80	2757.45	2696.20	2710.50	37.4		IRCTC	810	817.3	796.35	811.55	HAL	1293.9
NSTEIND	19210.00	19449.90	19161.90	19372.40	219.85		TECHM	1550	1593.7	1549.95	1588.35	IOLCP	452.75
TATASTEEL	1092.00	1097.00	1066.50	1082.00	10.8		MINDTREE	4356	4439.35	4304.1	4375.45	NOCIL	224.3
BAJAJFINSV	17444.00	17546.70	1720.10	17400.00	162.65		HAVELLS	1369.95	1375.85	1320.3	1363.2	ABCAPITAL	110.9
HDPCBANK	14950.00	1507.05	1489.10	1506.40	12.85		PNBHOUSING	572.4	578.45	538.3	578.45	FSL	170.15
BAFINANCE	7032.00	7107.70	6951.00	7050.00	52.75		VEDL	340.9	349.65	335.1	347.3	LUXIND	3771.75
ITC	222	223.3	220.6	222.5	1.9		BANKBARODA	86.15	88.25	85.7	87.65	BOSCHLTD	16290
NTPC	130	132.95	125.85	127.25	0.5		IBREALEST	170	175.15	165.2	171.95	MAXHEALTH	376
BAJAJ-AUTO	3280.00	3294.20	3227.30	3275.00	11.9		BAJFINANCE	7041.95	7105.2	6950	7039.5	CENTURYTEXT	780.95
SBILIFE	1160.80	1179.45	1155.50	1164.00	3.45		ADANIAPORTS	698	711	683	708.05	APOLYXTEL	927.25
POWERGRID	207	208.75	204.7	207.73	0.55		ICICIBANK	715.6	732.7	715.6	728.25	VBL	90.4
INFY	1715.00	1741.90	1713.00	1717.10	4.35		HDPCBANK	1490.55	1507	1488	1504.6	APOLLLOTREY	205
M&M	836	842.7	823.25	837.7	1.8		SAIL	101.3	103	100.2	102.5	FRETAIL	49
ONGC	142.4	143.65	139.65	142.3	0.2		SRF	2050	2098.5	1994.05	2015.9	LEMONTREE	44.3
HEROMOTOCO	2480.00	2480.00	2436.05	2450.00	0.7		APOLLOHOSP	5705.1	5756.35	5530.3	5568.25	GUJALKALI	606.3
SHERECEM	26350.00	2626.35	25850.00	26101.00	-1.25		NTPC	130.4	132.85	125.95	127.7	ALKEM	3596.35
BPCL	372.75	376.95	365.8	369.7	0.3		GODREJPROP	1981	2031.75	1940	1966.1	OIL	214
BRITANNIA	3550.50	3606.70	3528.00	3540.00	-5.5		NATIONALAUM	88.5	90.25	87.05	89.9	SEQUENT	155.95
ASIANPAINT	3155.90	3199.75	3124.10	3136.95	-6.7		PNB	37.5	38.5	37.15	38.25	INDIAMART	7447
WIPRO	642.6	645.95	633.25	635.6	-1.65		METROPOLIS	3320	3320	3134.65	3160.25	BAJAJHLONG	5050
KOTAKBANK	1979.00	1985.90	1940.00	1955.65	-6.25		BHEL	58.9	60.3	57.9	60.05	CEATLTD	1179.15
TITAN	2409.80	2441.95	2347.40	2364.00	-11.5		CPIA	982.9	986.35	922.1	927.8	DBCBANK	83.7
TATACONSUM	7899	7908.5	767.45	774	-4.6		JSWSTEEL	610.85	639.55	610.85	637	FINEORG	3680
SUNPHARMA	756.75	760.25	740.35	747.5	-6.1		HCITECH	1150	1162.8	1140.95	1155.35	RAMCOCEM	952.35
BHARTIARTL	11965	11995	1165	1179.5	-1		EICHEMOT	2412	2482	2393.4	2437.6	WELSPUNIND	138.5
DREDDY	4696.00	4712.40	4590.00	4605.30	-70.55		CAMS	3050	3078.85	3034.8	3042.05	AUBANK	109.1
ULTRACEMCO	7612.00	7678.75	7291.00	7320.00	-113.75		BAJAJFINSV	17400	17538.75	17205	17381.65	BALAMINES	3000
DIVISLAB	4880.35	4977.80	4725.00	4766.00	-112.8		INDHOTEL	179.9	185.1	177.5	183.95	BALKRISHN	2190.65
CPIA	980.75	986.7	921.85	923.55	-42.95		ITC	221.55	223.25	220.6	221.95	VAIBHAVGBL	488.1
							LALPATHLAB	3852.95	3852.95	3703.25	3721.75	POWERINDIA	2615
							HINDUNILVR	2334.3	2356	2322.65	2345.15	JKPAPER	208.1
							SUZLON	7.1	7.22	6.83	7.21	CESC	89
							INDICALCO	419.9	426.2	418.5	424.4	HONAUT	38700
							HDPCFIRSBT	45	46.5	44.35	46.25	CENTURYPLY	613
							PVR	1363	1381.65	1327.15	1353.1	KPRMLTD	530.9
							RLBANK	186	193	184.31	191.75	PHOENIXLTD	958
							INDIGO	1917	1959	1854	1901.4	CYIENT	1050.95
							ASHOKLEY	119.75	122.8	119.45	121.95	TATACOMM	139.4
							ADANIANT	1698.9	1704.65	1642.6	1693.3	IOB	21
							JINDALSTEL	347	351.5	344.5	347.2	SUNTECK	432.25
							M&M	833	842.9	823.85	834.95	JKBANK	36.85
							DLF	378	385.55	375.4	383.05	HEG	1809.1
							CANBK	199.9	207.5	198.75	206.8	BURGERKING	148
							HDPC	2720	2756.9	2697	2703.3	ALKYLAMINE	3177.55
							JUSTDIAL	665	701.95	656.5	690	TIMKEN	2050
							DMART	4725	4842.45	4670	4694.75	MINDAIND	594.05
							COALINDIA	154	156.5	152.55	155.8	INDOCO	389.3
							KOTAKBANK	1980	1985.4	1940.25	1954.25	ABB	2060
							ONGC	141.5	143.75	139.6	142.2	SYNGENE	605
							BPCL	372.5	379.9	365.75	368.5	HSCL	44.45



# African, W Pacific and European regions report increase in Covid cases: WHO

AP ■ GENEVA

The World Health Organisation says the rate of increase of coronavirus cases held steady over the last week, though its African, Western Pacific and European regions all reported gains.

At the same time, new deaths globally linked to Covid-19 fell 10 per cent.

The UN health agency, in its latest weekly epidemiological report on the pandemic, said case counts shot up 93% in Africa, though it cautioned about interpreting too much from that high figure because it was largely due to “batch reporting” of antigen tests by South Africa.

The report, for the first time, referred to the new omicron variant that was christened on Friday after being



People queue to be vaccinated against Covid-19 at the Lenasia South Hospital, near Johannesburg on Wednesday. South African doctors say the rapid increase in cases attributed to the new Omicron variant is resulting in mostly mild symptoms AP

detected in South Africa and Botswana. WHO said the variant has now been reported in a “limited number” of countries

— though it has spread widely, into four of the WHO’s six regions. As of Sunday, more than

280 million cases and more than 5.2 million deaths have been tallied due to the pandemic, WHO said.

## Polish Prime Minister urges vaccinations as deaths rise

**Warsaw:** Poland’s prime minister got a booster shot against the coronavirus and made an emotional appeal to citizens to get vaccinated as 570 new deaths in one day were reported from Covid-19.

Mateusz Morawiecki’s appeal on Wednesday was made to a nation with a vaccination rate of just 54%. The num-

bers those fully vaccinated have risen very slowly in recent weeks, though fears of the new omicron variant have appeared to spur some to finally get vaccinated. Poland also reported over 29,000 new infections, the highest infection rate since a virus wave in the spring made central Europe a global hot spot. AP

## Saudis detect 1st case of new variant Omicron

**Dubai:** Saudi Arabia said Wednesday it detected its first case of the new coronavirus variant omicron. The kingdom’s state-run Saudi Press Agency said the case came from a citizen coming from what it described as a “North African country”. The report said the infected individual and his close contacts had been quarantined.

The case marks the first-known instance of omicron being detected among Gulf Arab nations. AP

## Slovakia may give cash to some who get vaccine

**Prague:** Slovakia’s government has proposed a plan to give people 60 and older a 500-euro (\$568) bonus if they get vaccinated against Covid-19, the finance minister said Wednesday.

The measure, announced by Finance Minister Igor Matovic, should boost inoculations in the European Union country with one of the bloc’s lowest vaccination rates. So far, only 46.1% of the nation’s 5.5 million people have been fully vaccinated.

The current four-party ruling coalition in Slovakia has been split over the issue. The pro-business Freedom and Solidarity opposed it, saying it was ready to support a 150-euro (\$170) bonus only. But the party didn’t veto it, making the approval possible. AP

## Student shoots, kills 3, wounds 8 at Michigan high school

AP ■ OXFORD TOWNSHIP

A 15-year-old sophomore opened fire at his Michigan high school, killing three students, including a 16-year-old boy who died in a deputy’s patrol car on the way to a hospital, authorities said.

Eight other people were wounded, some critically, including a 14-year-old girl who was placed on a ventilator after surgery. Investigators were still trying to determine a

motive for the shooting Tuesday at Oxford High School, located in a community of about 22,000 people roughly 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Detroit, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.

“The person that’s got the most insight and the motive is not talking,” he said at a news conference late Tuesday.

Deputies rushed to the school around lunch time as more than 100 calls flooded

911 dispatchers with reports of a shooter. They arrested the student in a hallway within minutes of their arrival. He put his hands in the air as deputies approached, Bouchard said.

The boy’s father on Friday bought the 9 mm Sig Sauer used in the shooting, Bouchard said. He didn’t know why the man bought the semi-automatic handgun, which his son had been posting pictures of and practicing shooting, Bouchard said.

## Russia warns US diplomats will have to leave by Jan 31

**Moscow:** Russia warned on Wednesday that a number of US diplomats will have to leave Russia before the end of next month, the latest salvo in a diplomatic tug-of-war between Moscow and Washington.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said those US Embassy personnel who would have spent more than three years in Russia would have to leave Russia by Jan 31.

She said the Russian demand mirrors US actions that would make 55 Russian diplomats to leave. “We see the American demand as an expulsion and will respond in kind,” Zakharova said. AP

## Taliban urges US to release frozen funds in Doha talks

AFP ■ DOHA, QATAR

The Taliban renewed its call for the United States to release billions of dollars in frozen funds after two days of talks in Doha as aid-dependent Afghanistan grapples with economic crisis.

The Afghans also called for an end to blacklists and sanctions in meetings led by Taliban Foreign Ministry Amir Khan Muttaqi and Tom West, the US special representative for Afghanistan.

It was the second round of talks between the two sides in Qatar since the US ended its 20-year occupation of

Afghanistan and the hardline Islamists rapidly returned to power.

“The two delegations discussed political, economic, human, health, education and security issues as well as providing necessary banking and cash facilities,” tweeted Afghan foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi.

“The Afghan delegation assured the US side of security and urged that Afghanistan’s frozen money should be released unconditionally, blacklists and sanctions must end and human issues be separated from political ones.”

# India-UK free trade agreement talks set for early 2022

**London (PTI):** Formal negotiations for an India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) are set to begin early next year as officials on both sides continue their engagement following the conclusion of working groups in October, the UK government said on Wednesday.

A government spokesperson also dismissed a British media report indicating ruptures within the UK Cabinet over food safety standards concerns associated with the proposed UK-India FTA as completely untrue and insisted that government departments remain in lockstep towards a deal with India to open up huge opportunities for UK businesses. We look forward to launching negotiations early next year, a UK government spokesperson said.

India is projected to become the world’s third largest economy by 2050, and a trade deal will open huge opportunities for UK businesses to trade with India’s GBP 2 trillion economy, the spokesperson said.

A report in the City AM

publication on Tuesday had quoted government sources at Whitehall as saying that India’s food safety standards have been a cause for concern for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as the UK looks to seal a zero-tariff trade deal with the world’s largest democracy.

It also referred to a senior Department for International Trade (DIT) source as saying that momentum on the UK-India trade deal has slowed down and that it is unlikely a quick deal will be struck.

Asked about the claims, the government spokesperson said: This report is completely untrue. Both DIT and DEFRA continue to work in lockstep to support British farmers and food and drink exporters.

As we have continually stated, maintaining the UK’s high standards, including for food safety, remains a red line in all our trade negotiations.

According to the DIT, preparations for the launch of negotiations for the UK-India FTA “remain underway” since the conclusion of bilateral

working groups. UK International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan and her counterpart, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, had also held talks during the G20 trade ministers meeting in Sorrento, Italy, in October to discuss final preparations for the launch of UK-India FTA negotiations.

The UK has said it wants a deal that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India.

Last week, Confederation of British Industry (CBI) president Lord Karan Bilimoria had indicated that talks were set to begin imminently. The London-based entrepreneur and founding chair of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) highlighted the areas of focus for the FTA, which the CBI as the industry representative body for over 190,000 UK businesses will be involved with.

We are just scratching the surface with a country like India. India is the fifth largest economy in the world, emerging global economic super-

power, we should be doing way more than GBP 24 billion bilateral trade, he said.

That FTA I hope will be a huge benefit in enhancing bilateral trade and very comprehensive... as comprehensive as possible. Movement of people; reduction of duties and tariffs the tariff on Scotch whisky is 150 per cent, that’s got to be reduced drastically; academic collaborations and cross-border research is going to be huge between our countries; partnering on a Green industrial revolution. There is a vast array to really ramp up business and trade between our two countries, he added.

Back in May, India and the UK clinched an Enhanced Trade Partnership during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart, Boris Johnson, with the goal to double bilateral trade to GBP 50 billion by 2030. The FTA is seen as the next step in the bilateral engagement, with some discussion around an interim agreement ahead of a full-fledged deal.

## S Korea confirms 5 cases of variant

**Seoul:** South Korea confirmed its first five cases of the new Omicron variant in people linked to arrivals from Nigeria.

Following the confirmation of the Omicron infections, South Korea announced it will require all passengers arriving from abroad over the next two weeks to quarantine for at least 10 days. AP

# Putin demands NATO guarantees not to expand eastward

**Moscow (AP):** President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Moscow would seek Western guarantees that would preclude any further NATO expansion and deployment of its weapons near Russia’s borders.

Putin’s statement came amid Ukrainian and Western worries about an alleged plan by Moscow to invade Ukraine. Russian diplomats countered them Wednesday by expressing concern about Ukraine’s military buildup near the area of the separatist conflict in the country’s east.

Speaking at a Kremlin ceremony where he received credentials from foreign ambassadors, Putin emphasised Russia will seek strong, reliable and long-term guarantees of its security.

In a dialogue with the United States and its allies we will insist on working out specific agreements that would exclude any further NATO moves eastward and the deployment of weapons systems that threaten us in close vicinity to the Russian territory, Putin said.

He said that Russia is offering the West to engage in detailed talks on the issue, adding that Moscow would need legal guarantees of its security.” The Russian leader noted that such agreements should take into account interests of all countries.

Putin’s statement came a day after he 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.

Tensions have been soaring in recent weeks about a Russian troop buildup near Ukraine, which worried Ukrainian and Western officials, who saw it as a possible sign of Moscow’s intention to invade its ex-Soviet neighbour.

NATO foreign ministers warned Russia on Tuesday that any attempt to further destabilise 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.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the concentration of Ukrainian troops looks alarming, adding that he was going to raise the issue during a ministerial meeting in Stockholm of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe on Thursday.

He again assailed Ukraine for failing to meet its obligations under a 2015 peace deal signed in Minsk that was brokered by France and Germany.

“Kyiv is becoming increasingly insolent in its aggressiveness towards the Minsk agreements, the Russian Federation, and in its attempts to provoke the West to support its military ambitions,” Lavrov said in remarks in the upper house of Russia’s parliament.

The US State Department and Russia’s Foreign Ministry said that Blinken and Lavrov will meet on Thursday on the sidelines of the OSCE meeting. A State Department official said that Blinken will meet first with Ukrainian Foreign

Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Ukraine has amassed about 125,000 troops about half of the size of its military near the conflict zone. She also pointed at an increasing number of violations of a cease-fire in the east.

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 eastern industrial heartland known as Donbas. More than 14,000 people have died in the fighting. Ukraine and the West accused Russia of sending its troops and weapons to back the rebels. Moscow denied that, charging that Russians who joined the separatists were volunteers.

In Wednesday’s address to parliament, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for negotiations with Russia to end the conflict in the east.

### FROM PAGE 1

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WON’T RESUME

After the PM review meeting, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that it would take the final decision on the resumption of international flights in view of global scenario.

The decision to mandatorily test all incoming passengers from these European countries and South African countries has made travel time longer and expensive. Passengers said once the traveller reaches any airport, s/he will have to take the RT-PCR test.

Test result takes around six hours to be known. The travel time has thus increased from nine hours to 15 hours. Once travellers de-board the plane, they will have to get the test done and wait in the waiting area till the results are out. This is taking five-six hours.

India has air bubble agreements with 28 countries such as the UK, Netherlands, France and Germany. India has placed countries including South Africa, China, the United Kingdom, European countries, Brazil, Botswana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, Singapore and Israel under the “at-risk” category.

In a related development, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said only two per cent of the passengers coming from countries that are not in the “at-risk” list will be subject to random sampling for coronavirus and such passengers will be permitted to leave the airport after giving the samples.

Issuing a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), the Ministry said travellers undergoing random sampling may give the sample and be allowed to leave.

## CONTAGIOUS OMICRON MAY DISPLACE DELTA, SAYS S AFRICAN EXPERT

On Monday, an NICD presentation a flagged a large number of COVID-19 admissions among infants aged under two

years as a area of concern. But von Gottberg cautioned against linking that with Omicron just yet.

“It looks like in fact some of those admissions might have started before the emergence of Omicron. We are also seeing that there was an increase in influenza cases just in the last month or so, and so we need to be really careful to look at the other respiratory infections,” she said.

“We are looking at the data very, very carefully, but at the moment I’m not too sure that we can link it definitively to Omicron.”

South Africa has been praised for alerting the global scientific community and WHO so quickly to Omicron -- a brave move given the damage that travel restrictions imposed by multiple countries including Britain will do to its important tourism sector.

The country has reported close to 3 million COVID-19 infections during the pandemic and over 89,000 deaths, the most on the African continent.

### WHAT UPA? MAMATA ATTACKS ITS RELEVANCE

Replying to a question, Mamata said: “Sharadji is the senior most leader and I have to come to discuss our political strategies.”

The TMC leader said that she wanted to meet Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, but could not do so as the latter was not keeping well. “I pray to God that he recovers from his illness fast... He sent his party leaders Sanjay Raut and Aaditya Thackeray to my hotel. We had a good discussion.”

Pawar, who earlier while explaining the intent behind the West Bengal Chief Minister meeting him, said: “Her intention is that in today’s situation at the national level like-minded forces have to come together and set up a collective

leadership platform and provide a strong alternative to the BJP.” She had a positive discussion with all of us.”

“The strong alternative means an alternative in which the people of the country have confidence. When such an alternative develops, we will go in that direction,” the NCP chief said.

When asked if Congress would be a part of the proposed “strong alternative”, Pawar said: “All those opposed to the BJP are welcome to join us. There is no question of excluding anyone.”

Asked as to who would lead the proposed Opposition front against the BJP, Pawar said: “The question before us is not who will lead the Opposition front, but we are interested in building a strong front that will inspire the confidence of the people. Who will lead the Opposition front to elections and who will all be there in the front is a secondary issue.”

Responding to a query linked to Mamta’s indirect criticism of the Congress “that it is necessary for party leaders to remain in the field and not go to foreign countries frequently and that you can defeat the BJP only being in the field”, Pawar said: “The kind of victory that Mamata Banerjee scored in West Bengal is the result of the hard work put by her lakhs of Trinamul Congress party colleagues on the field. She has spoken from her personal experience. We welcome it.”

Earlier in his preface to the media interaction, Pawar said: “Mamta Banerjee’s visit to Mumbai is natural, because West Bengal and Maharashtra have an old association. She just came to review various political issues with us.”

“She was also eager to meet and interact with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and myself. Because of ill-health, Thackeray was unable to meet her. From their party, Sanjay Raut and Aaditya Thackeray had a meeting with her. Today, my colleagues and I had a long chat with her.”

## Petrol cheaper by ₹8/litre in Delhi as Govt reduces VAT

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol will be cheaper in the National Capital by ₹8 per litre after the Delhi Government on Wednesday announced a reduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate to 19.40 per cent from the exist-

ing 30 per cent.

Therefore, petrol rates will come into effect from Wednesday midnight.

Delhi’s diesel rates are cheapest in the National Capital Region (NCR) at ₹86.76 per litre, while the rates of diesel in Noida and Gurugram are ₹87.01

and ₹87.11 per litre respectively. Taking it to social media, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, “We have made petrol very cheap in Delhi from today. VAT rates have been reduced from 30 per cent to 19.4 per cent. Petrol and diesel will be cheaper in Delhi as compared to

other cities of NCR. I hope this step will bring huge relief to the people of Delhi from inflation.” The Delhi Government had marginally increased the VAT rate on petrol last year. Back then there was 27 per cent VAT on petrol in Delhi, which was increased to 30 per cent.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

## 55% drop in number of students going abroad, RS told

**New Delhi:** The number of students going abroad for higher education has dropped by over 55 per cent between 2019 and 2020, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was replying to a written question in the Rajya Sabha.

“While 5,88,931 students went abroad for higher education in 2019, only 2,61,406 students had gone in 2020,” Pradhan said citing the data from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) informed Parliament that it has been taking several steps to provide better higher education opportunities to students.

“Research and teaching collaborations and faculty or student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions will

be facilitated, and relevant mutually beneficial MoUs with foreign countries will be signed,” the minister said in the written response.

The minister further said that, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government encourages high performing Indian universities to set up campuses in other countries, and similarly, selected universities from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India,” he said. PTI

## Online class connectivity troubled by scarcity amid plenty: Ex-ISRO chairman

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It is easy to the Government of India to offer free and trouble-free on-line connectivity to all school and college students in the country with the transponders remaining unused as on date, according to G Madhavan Nair, former chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation.

Madhavan Nair is credited with the launching of EDUSAT (Educational Satellite) during his tenure as the ISRO boss. “These satellites as well as the GSAT-6 communication satellite which is operational now are capable of providing more than 50 different channels for educational programmes virtually free of cost to all corners of India, Nair told *The Pioneer*.

“Nearly 90 per cent capacity of GSAT 6 which is operational is lying vacant. The decision makers and policy makers refuse to look at it as Sage

Viswamitra did to Sakunthala because GSAT 6 is linked to the notorious and fictitious Deva Scam which rocked the country for some time,” said the former ISRO chairman, a launch vehicle specialist.

He said the Centre should seriously consider launching two more satellites of the GSAT-6 genre. “This would help us in increasing the connectivity as well as coverage, two issues that haunt the on-line classes. This could be done at a budget less than Rs 1500 crore,” he said. The advantage with satellites of this genre is that the end user need not depend on towers and optic fibre cables because the smart phones would be able to pick up data signals straight from the satellites.

A major shortcoming of on-lines classes faced by students in Kerala and Tamil Nadu is poor connectivity due to shortage of towers.





**Bollywood**  
'I feel Shamita is being  
accosted for having a  
heart and viewed as  
privileged by some.'  
—Shilpa Shetty



## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

ROGIER HESP aims to show the other side of success through his film *Gold*, featuring at the European Union Film Festival. By KHUSHBU KIRTI



◆**Congratulations on your film, *Gold*, entering the European Union Film Festival.**

**Please tell us everything about it!**

*Gold* is my feature debut and an intimate story about a professional sport. It is a film in which we follow a young gymnast closely, who experiences the pressure of being the top athlete. The narrative is explored through his eyes.

The story revolves around the suffocating relationship between him and his disabled father and their dream of winning the Olympic gold.

◆**Is *Gold* inspired by true events?**

*Gold* is inspired by many stories in professional sports in which athletes' thought-process clashes with that of their parents. In many cases, that relationship breaks down.

In my youth I saw how top-class sport gave one of my friends a status.

It gave him an identity and security. Back then, I only saw the success. Later on, I understood the possible pressure that comes with it. Doesn't our society look too much at what you are, and not at who you are? Does success work as an adhesive poison? And what role do parents play in this?

It is a dangerous thing, you see — parents seeing their children as an extension of their own ego. Sometimes, they have to live up to their missed dreams or opportunities. This was the starting point for our vision of *Gold*.

◆**So, the film is about the distorted relationship and the war of ego between the father and the son?**

Every parent hopefully wants the best for its child. They give them directions, so their children can sail the right course.

I became a father myself and I got to know feelings of proudness when my

son learns something new. How will I react when I notice that he has a special talent? Indicating a course can quickly change in determine direction. The pride creates a monster. There is a danger that parents will over-identify with their children. This way you can get a reversed dependency. Children have to perform for the egos of their parents. It is in the sports world mostly, where you come across these kinds of stories.

This film shows in a penetrating way the dilemma of so many teenagers. The inner struggle between your identity and the love of a parent.

◆**What is the significance of the title?**

Every top athlete has one goal — winning gold. However, with this film, we wanted to show the other side of the medal. A real story about the hellish journey towards that dream.

◆**What do you think of the difference between films that are making a mark at the festivals and which are commercially successful. Why do you feel that is?**

The reason, according to me, is because there is obviously more freedom, and less thinking within the box, along with sharper subjects.

◆**What, according to you, is the USP of the film? Why should more people watch it?**

For the first time, it shows a sports film that does not romanticise the image. This is a sincere portrait of the life of a young athlete. And to make it as authentic as possible, the main role is played by a real gymnast. So David has transformed himself from a gymnast into an actor.

◆**EUFF is an event that celebrates the diversity and creativity of European theatre, heritage and culture.**

**What opinion do you have for platforms of this sort that give recognition to the local films?**

A film is a way to reflect emotions. It is beautiful to see that emotion is universal and these festivals enable that. Stories from every corner of the world reach a wider audience and touch more lives. It is wonderful!



## Discovering hidden gems

CYRUS SAHUKAR is back to unfold unexplored cultures of India with Discovery's *Lost Essence S2*

After the success of *Lost Essence Season 1*, Discovery Channel is back with its season two and is all geared up to showcase the unexplored gems of India that are tucked away in the remotest corners of the country. The new season that premiered on November 30 inspired conversations, captured imagination, and created awareness about these unexplored locations of India like the rugged valleys and mountains of Ladakh and Turtuk covering North and roaring beauty of Shillong, Meghalaya and Manipur covering Northeast regions of India, whilst taking one through a journey like never before.

Hosted by a man of numerous talents, who is also a travel enthusiast, Cyrus Sahukar will be unfolding hidden facts about unexplored cultures and locations to bring the country's lost essence to life. With roads that are not well-trodden, the anchor also encountered unmatched thrill and adventure, as he experienced the authentic mouth-watering North East cuisines,

learnt of old and rich culture of these places and met some interesting people as he made his way to the destination.

Sharing his experience on the show, Sahukar said, "This show has given me an experience of a lifetime. While the picturesque terrains, culture and food etched a place in my heart, this journey has thoroughly satisfied my inner travel enthusiast. I am thrilled by the fact that the world will now know more about these magical hidden gems that are travel friendly and were tucked away in the remote parts of the country. These places are sure to top the viewers' travel list as the show uncovers the best kept secrets of India."

Shaun Nanjappa, head of advertising sales, South Asia, Discovery Inc, shared, "India is one of the world's largest, oldest and richest civilizations and is known for its abundant heritage. It is home to so much more than one has explored or aims to explore. This show is sure to inspire conversations on so many levels whilst the viewers discover the undiscovered."

Start-ups are dynamic organisations. Being a new business in the market, they always thrive for new ideas to gain traction. To ensure success, start-ups need to have the right talent at the right time that can contribute to their flourishing growth. However, amid the competitive business scenario, hiring has become one of the toughest challenges for every organisation. It becomes even difficult if a start-up relies on skilled or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) employees. Landing at the right talent can give a tough time to the organisation.

On the other hand, larger companies have deeper pockets than start-ups. They focus on hiring new-age tech talents including software developers, data scientists, AI or IoT experts and many others to stay ahead in the technology-driven world. Start-ups need to attract the right talent and retain them for long.

**Focusing on the potential of culture**

The key to having a competent team is culture fit. It is one of the most crucial parts of the hiring strategy. Culture is something that evolves over time and shapes the personality of the brand. To attract the right talent, start-ups need to cultivate an atmosphere to make the employees feel welcomed, required and happy to work that in turn impacts business performance. As per the estimates of a study — around 94 per cent of executives and 88 per cent of employees believe a distinct workplace culture is important to business success. Any organisation can start from the first day to create a fun and engaging work environment. They can build an atmosphere where employees feel comfortable while increasing the chances of growth in the organisation.

**Utilising the capabilities of technology**

Technology has become an indispensable part of our life and start-up ecosystem. Similarly, it has become an important part of business and when organisations look for a competent workforce, they should adopt the technology. This increases employees' productivity and automates their tasks for better efficiency at work. From improving the way employees work to freeing them from the burden of tedious

## THE RIGHT FIT

Start-ups need to find and retain employees that fit into their work culture, suggests YOGITA TULSIANI



**Give people reason to join you**

The advent of start-up culture has redefined the way industries function. Traditionally, the corporate industry revolved around money. However, start-ups have recreated the culture to join a company for reasons other than money. Some people find start-up organisations more flexible while others get space to innovate and think creatively. Start-ups must focus on building positive company culture with great team spirit. It helps employees recognise the company's people-centric culture that will help them grow. For instance, startups can create purpose-driven non-financial incentive programs to promote learning and rewarding employees.

**Showcasing business impact**

It is imperative to understand that not all employees work only for money. They have become mission-driven and passionate about accomplishing their professional goals. This category of employees makes a greater contribution to the company's overall business performance. Furthermore, start-up teams are usually small, thus, the company can take due advantage of recognising and appreciating their employees to boost their motivation. It becomes vital in aligning them with business goals and make them a part of the development process to impact the consumers' life make a robust strategy to innovate the talent development process.

**Summing up**

Start-ups have a higher degree of accountability than larger organisations. It is considered a learning ground for beginners and a battlefield for experienced employees. However, retention and attribution need to be viewed differently and a precise focus must be kept on innovating the talent development process.

(The author is the MD and co-founder of iXceed Solutions, a global tech-recruiter provider.)

Skincare has always had a special place in everybody's life. Some people can get away by only using moisturiser and sunscreen daily while others follow a full-fledged regimen. Skincare becomes a requisite thing when some special days are just about to next door. These can be your first date day, your anniversary night or the most special wedding day. It can be anything.

Then just using a moisturiser, cream or even only sunscreen can't serve the purpose. You need to follow a proper am to pm skincare routine that could give you a glowing, brighter, flawless and spotless face.

So, what are you waiting for? Here is the full bloom skincare routine for your special days. It takes just a few minutes for you to look through this important skincare timetable that you can also do on normal days:

**AM SKINCARE ROUTINE**

◆**Start your day with a glass of water**

Your AM skincare routine starts in the early morning and it is not about cleansing your face. The first thing you need to do in your morning skincare regimen is to drink warm/lukewarm water on an empty stomach, about one hour before eating anything. You can add some lemon drops or honey to it.

This ritual will help to detox your blood and eventually your skin. This provides your skin with a natural glow and radiance from within. You can't get results in one day or a week. Start doing this routine at least before a month of your wedding.

◆**Use a mild cleanser to clean the face**

Don't go for harsh soaps or sulphate or chemical-based cleansers before your wedding. Such products can harm your skin, lead to dryness or some kind of sensitivity. Opt for a mild cleansing lotion.

◆**Give your skin the dose of hydrating serum**

Serums are very good for

## Get that glow

Follow the routine, by RAJESH GROVER, to shine on your special day



your skin. It goes deeply into the skin and nurtures the skin from within.

A hyaluronic acid serum is best to include in your skincare routine before your wedding special day. It will help to maintain the overall skin integrity, skin barrier function and long-lasting skin hydration. Your skin will look healthy, refreshing and illuminating.

◆**Must add moisturiser into your daily routine**

Many of us think that only applying sunscreen or serum is enough and our skin needs no moisturiser. But this is not the case, even when your skin type is oily.

A moisturiser acts to cover your skin and prevent transepidermal water loss. For people with oily skin, a mattifying moisturiser helps to keep skin oil-free and mattify along with keeping skin hydrated. So, don't skip this step, although do some search and find a proper moisturiser as per your skin type.

◆**Safeguard the skin with a broad-spectrum sunscreen**

It is the must have step of skincare. Your skin needs protection against harmful sun rays, urban pollution and heat (IR) rays. A broad-spectrum sunscreen with potent antioxidant formula and PA factor can give whole protection from all these environmental aggressors.

You can choose gel-based, mineral or any other base for your skin type as per your skin type. Apply sunscreen every single day.

◆**Some greens, a fruit and green tea every day**

Along with the above mentioned skincare, also give inner nutrition to your skin. Some greens like broccoli, spinach; fruits like oranges, strawberries, kiwi, apples and a cup of green tea every day will help to detox your body, clean skin from within and provide radiance from within.

**PM SKINCARE ROUTINE**

Night skincare is as important as morning skincare. Grime, dirt and pollution make your face dirty and full of free radicals. Your skin needs rejuvenation therapy after the whole day.

◆**Remove makeup and cleanse the face**

The very first thing is to use a cleansing lotion and remove makeup. Cleanse your face. It will help to clean your skin and help to breathe them.

◆**Apply face toner and repair face serum**

Face toner is a skincare essential that helps to tone and balance your skin pH. A vitamin C based or witch hazel based serum is amazing to give skin the needed rejuvenation. After applying the toner, give your skin a break of one to two minutes and then go for vitamin C serum. Vitamin C is an amazing antioxidant that neutralises the free radicals, de tan the skin and makes skin even-toned and healthy. At night this serum will help to repair your damaged skin.

◆**Go for under eye cream gel**

Afterwards, apply an under-eye cream gel to give your eyes some beauty treatment. A good under eye cream-gel will not only help to tackle dark circles but also provides your under-eye skin with the needed relaxation and a renewed life.

◆**Pamper your skin on alternate days**

Now take any natural face mask made of fuller's earth, gram flour or oatmeal. Apply this on every alternative day before sleeping. It will bring a different kind of sun-kissed glow to your face.

◆**Give your skin the much-needed treatment**

Now decide what your skin needs the most. Are the dark spots your concern or ageing signs? Else, you only need to give a hydrating touch to your face. Accordingly end your pm skincare routine with brightening cream, anti-ageing cream or just a good hydrating moisturiser.

Apply these simple am and pm skincare rituals into your daily life and gift yourself the natural illuminating skin.

(The author is co-founder of Derma Essentia.)

## TRENDBLAZER



### MANOJ BAYPAYEE PRAISES IFFI

Stating that he believed the International Film Festival of India was a great vehicle to encourage India's next generation of filmmakers, actor **MANOJ BAJPAYEE** said that he believed the country could be a great force in entertainment.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of IFFI here, Bajpayee said, "I personally believe that the IFFI, organised by the government of India is a great vehicle to instigate and encourage new filmmakers and the coming generation of filmmakers. A country of such a huge population can be a great force in entertainment."

**fairtalk**  
PIYUSH MISHRA



"You know I did my first play in school. My first professional theatre was in 1979 (*Dilli Teri Baat Nirali*). I have a sense of belonging and have a relationship with stage. I never knew what stage-fear is... never felt it. When I write, act in theatre, direct plays or other creative outlet that I have been exploring, I think I am meant for it. But I am not talented as an artiste, I am gifted."

**dailytalk**  
SHAM MASHALKAR



"In films, the scene which we are going to do is already pre-decided like in the film *Bachna Ae Haseeno*, one or one and a half months before, I got a welcome letter from YRF along with the script, chocolates and a bouquet. In TV, such things do not happen as the scenes change immediately. They tell us to mug everything up."

### CLOONEY ON HIS 2018 ACCIDENT

Actor **GEORGE CLOONEY** thought he would die in his 2018 motorbike crash. He was frustrated that people stopped to film him on the ground instead of helping.

Clooney shared, "If you're in the public eye, what you realise when you feel it's the last minute of your life is that, for some people, it's just going to be entertainment for their Facebook page."

"I'm a pretty positive guy, but that told me — clearly — that you really are here just for their entertainment," he added.





PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

Defending champion PV Sindhu has got a first round bye and faces the prospect of coming up against Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying and former world number one Carolina Marin in the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively of the World Badminton Championships here.

Sindhu, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, has been seeded sixth in the December 12-19 showpiece event.

The world number seven Indian has seen a resurgence in form as she had reached semifinals in the last three tournaments she had played.

Sindhu faces the winner of Martina Repiska of Slovenia and Ruselli Hartawan of Indonesia in the second round. If she clears the third round, Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, who had beaten her in the Tokyo Olympics semifinals, will be awaiting her in the quarterfinals.

If she Sindhu gets past Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, she could be up against Marin who had beaten her in the 2016 Rio



## PV SINDHU GETS FIRST ROUND BYE IN WORLD C'SHIPS, TAI TZU IN LINE IN QUARTERS

Olympics summit clash.

Marin returns from injury straight into the World Championships and she will be

playing in an arena named after her. Tai Tzu has also taken sufficient rest as she hasn't played since winning silver at Tokyo 2020.

The other half of the women's singles has two players -- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan and An Seyoung of Korea -- who have

swept the prominent World Tour titles since the Olympics.

Nozomi Okuhara of Japan whom Sindhu had beaten in the

2019 final is also in the other half of the draw.

Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yu Fei of China is not taking part like many other players from her country.

In men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth, seeded 12th, will open his campaign against local player Pablo Abian and has the prospect of facing compatriot B Sai Praneeth (seeded 14th) in the quarterfinals, if both are able to reach that stage.

Defending champion and top seed Kento Momota of Japan could be the man waiting for the Indians in the semifinals.

Young Lakshya Sen has also been drawn in the same half as his two senior compatriots and faces Max Weisskirchen of Germany in the opening round. He can be up against Momota in the quarterfinals if the Indian reaches there.

In the men's

doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been seeded eighth and handed a first round bye. Three other Indian pairs -- Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Arun George and Sanyam Shukla are also in the fray.

In women's doubles, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face the French duo of Delphine Delrue and Lea Palermo in the first round.

Two other Indian pairs — Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh, and Maneesha K and Rutaparna Panda — are also in the fray.

In mixed doubles, three Indian pairs — Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh, MR Arjun and Maneesha K and Utkarsh Arora and K a r i s h m a Wadkar — are in the fray.



## We are getting best possible preparation for World Cup: Mithali

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India are scheduled to play Only one series before the Women's World Cup early next year but ODI skipper Mithali Raj feels the team is getting the best preparation possible ahead of the mega event.

In the last nine months, India hosted South Africa before playing a three-match series in England and Australia. They lost all three series but made the mighty Australia work really hard for it and also ended their 26-match winning streak in the third ODI Down Under.

India will play World Cup hosts New Zealand before the ICC event in March-April.

"We have played three best teams since March and it has



given us good preparation. Players have played domestic cricket and also in the Women's Big Bash so they are getting game time which is the most

important thing.

"We are getting to play in New Zealand before World Cup which is also good," said Mithali after a partnership

between KFC and Indian Deaf Cricket Association was announced here on Wednesday.

India, who were unable to post 250 plus scores, did that twice in the Australia series and chased down 265 in the final ODI.

"When you play against a strong team in its backyard you try to give your best. Though we lost the series, the matches were very close. We scored 270 and chased 270 odd, if we can do that consistently we will be among the best sides in world cricket," said Mithali.

Middle-order batting needs improvement but Mithali said all departments must fire as a unit if they are to win the World Cup.

"We bat as a unit so you can't pinpoint one area. There

are times when top order failed and the others performed. As a unit if we look to post a good total then it will help. If we focus on one area like middle order then it becomes too much of a burden for that particular slot."

India finished runners-up in 2017 when not many expected them to but expectations will be high this time.

"There were not enough expectations back then. Now in 2021 players have got experience and got a lot of exposure with the T20 leagues. Overall we have young players but they have got enough exposure. It is just of matter of gelling well as a team.

"Every match will be different there. The quicker we read our opponents the better it will be for us," she added.

## Andy Flower steps down from coaching role at Punjab Kings



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assistant coach Andy Flower has parted ways with Punjab Kings and is expected to land a role in one of the new teams ahead of IPL 2022.

Former Zimbabwe captain Flower, who worked as a coach in England for more than a decade and guided the national team there, was hired for his maiden IPL stint ahead of the 2020

season.

"He sent his resignation to the team recently. It has been accepted.

There is a good chance that he goes to one of the new teams (Lucknow or Ahmedabad)," a BCCI official told PTI.

There is a good possibility that the 53-year-old is given a bigger role in his next IPL assignment.

Flower worked alongside head coach Anil Kumble for the past two seasons. The development comes at a time when K L Rahul, Punjab Kings skipper for the past two seasons, is expected to move to the Lucknow franchise.

Punjab wanted to retain Rahul but he did not want to stay.

It remains to be seen if Flower stays as head coach of CPL franchise Saint Lucia Kings, which is owned by same consortium that owns Punjab Kings. Saint Lucia finished runners-up in 2020 and 2021 season.

## Injury-plagued Saina pulls out of World Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world no.1 Saina Nehwal will miss the World Championships for the first time in her international career due to multiple injuries that have derailed her season.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist, who has won a silver and bronze besides eight quarterfinal finishes in the World Championships over the years, is recovering from a groin pull and knee injury.

The big event will be held in Huelva, Spain from December 12 to 19. "Saina had to withdraw from World Championship as she is still recovering from the groin and a knee injury. She

won't be able to regain fitness in time to play the tournament," Saina's husband and fellow shuttler Kashyap told PTI. Returning to action at the Thomas and Uber Cup Final in Aarhus, Denmark in October, Saina had to retire midway in the round-robin match against Spain's Clara Azurmendi due to a groin niggle. She played in Denmark but again withdrew midway into the second game of the first round match at French Open.

"She had a tough groin injury in Uber Cup. She was fine in Denmark but it didn't heal properly and again started paining when she was playing in French Open. It aggravated and became serious," said Kashyap. "She also had a



knee injury in France and had to pull out. She is doing her rehabilitation now. Hopefully, she will be able to get back to training from 10th or 15th of this month." In a stellar career, Saina has never missed the World Championships since making her debut in the 2006 edition. The 31-year-old from Hyderabad claimed the silver in 2015 when her rampaging run was stopped by Spain's Carolina Marin in the final. She also secured a bronze two years later at Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2018, Saina claimed her second individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and also helped the country win its first mixed team title in the quadrennial event.

## 'Golden Boy' Neeraj Chopra to launch PM's mission

**New Delhi:** Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra will visit Sankardham School in Ahmedabad on December 4 and launch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission to spread awareness about balanced diet, fitness and sports.

During his meeting with Tokyo Olympians at his residence on August 16, Modi had urged India's Olympians and Paralympians to visit 75 schools each by the 2023 Independence Day and spread awareness against malnutrition and also play a sport with schoolchild-

ren. On Wednesday, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted to say that javelin thrower Chopra will set in motion the PM's mission.

"PM Sh @narendramodi ji gave a clarion call to our Olympians & Paralympians to visit schools and interact with students on the importance of 'satulit aahaar', fitness, sports & more. Starting Dec 4 @Neeraj\_chopra1 will be at Sankardham School in Ahmedabad to launch this mission," Thakur wrote on his Twitter handle. **PTI**

## Germany beats Britain in Davis Cup for 1st semi since 2007

AP ■ INNSBRUCK

Germany came from behind to upset Britain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals after Kevin Krawietz and Tim Pütz won the decisive doubles match.

The German pair defeated British teammates Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) after the best-of-three tie was level following the two singles.

Krawietz and Pütz saved four set points in the tiebreaker before taking the opening set and won the second tiebreaker after winning seven straight points from 5-0 down.

"This is an incredible team achievement," Krawietz said.



"We have a great atmosphere in the team from day one."

Daniel Evans had given Britain the lead by beating Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-1, but Jan-

Lennard Struff pulled Germany even with the 10-time champion by beating Cameron Norrie 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2.

Germany has won the Davis

Cup three times but not since 1993. In its first semifinal since 2007, Germany will meet either Sweden or the team from Russia on Saturday. Croatia will face either Serbia or Kazakhstan in the other semifinal.

"We have done everything to win," Struff said. "We hope our journey goes on and the next goal is to win the semifinal."

Britain was seeking its fourth semifinal berth in the last six editions of the tournament. It last won the event in 2015, and it had beaten Germany 2-0 when the teams also met in the quarterfinal two years ago.

"Everyone is gutted, this is a tough day to swallow," Britain

team captain Leon Smith said. "It could have gone either way, but it wasn't to be today. They gave their best effort but sometimes that is not enough, and Germany deserves to go through."

Struff said his win over Norrie was "one of the most important victories of my career. Cam Norrie is a real fighter. I started very well, went 4-1 up, but when you take so many risks, you can expect that more mistakes will come."

The 12th-ranked Norrie failed to serve out the opening set against Struff when leading 6-5, and the Briton missed two set points in the tiebreaker.

## Hyderabad kick off December with Jamshedpur challenge



PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Coming off a memorable victory over defending champions Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC will be raring to go when they take on inform Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League game here on Thursday.

The game will be the first of six for Manolo Marquez's men in a hectic December, and inci-

dentally, all of them are scheduled to be played at the same venue.

Currently in fourth position, Owen Coyle's Red Miners are fresh from a 3-1 victory over FC Goa and will be high on confidence going into this game.

HFC head coach Marquez believes his team is ready for the game but also knows that it will not be an easy one for his side.

"For me, Owen Coyle's team are always tough to face. Last season, both games were very equal and ended in a draw," the coach said.

"This season, they have players who are comfortable playing different styles of football and are happy to play with more possession. They also have a similar squad from last season and for me, they will surely fight for the top-4," he added.

In attack, Jamshedpur have Nerijus Valskis and Jordan Murray, both of whom were on the scoresheet in the last game.

## Liverpool primed to pile on misery for Everton

AP ■ LONDON

ENGLAND

Arriving with the best attack in the Premier League, Liverpool looks primed to pile on the misery for local rival Everton in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

Everton hasn't won any of its last seven games and the pressure is increasing on manager Rafa Benitez, who is taking on his former club.

Meanwhile, Liverpool great Steve Gerrard could do his old club a big favor by leading Aston Villa, where he has recently taken over as manager, to a win over Manchester City, one of Liverpool's main title contenders. Second-place City is a point ahead of third-place Liverpool and a point behind Chelsea, which is also in action at Watford. Fourth-place West Ham is at home to Brighton, third-to-last Burnley looks for just its second win of the season in a trip to Wolverhampton, and Leicester travels to Southampton.



SPAIN

Spanish league leader Real Madrid can increase its advantage at the top when it hosts Athletic Bilbao

in a match postponed from the ninth round. Madrid is four points clear from both Atlético Madrid and Real Sociedad.

Madrid is unbeaten against Athletic in 12 league matches, with eight wins and four losses.

Eighth-place Athletic hasn't won in five consecutive league matches.

In the Copa del Rey, Sevilla plays at Córdoba, Real Sociedad visits Panadería Pulido and Real Betis plays at CFI Alicanté.

ITALY

After losing back-to-back Serie A matches, AC Milan will try to get back on track in the league when it visits relegation-threatened Genoa.

Milan has slipped three points below league leader Napoli, which travels to Sassuolo.

Inter Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip up from the top two and hosts lowly Spezia. The defending champion is third, four points below Napoli. Also fifth-placed Roma visits Bologna.

FRANCE

It's Super Wednesday in Ligue

1 with 10 games in the evening. Leader Paris Saint-Germain will miss an injured Neymar when it hosts third-placed Nice.

PSG will rely on Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi to crack the joint-tightest defense in the league. On a 13-game unbeaten run in all competitions, Rennes can consolidate second place against defending champion Lille.

Expect goals in that game as it features Lille's Jonathan David, the league's top scorer, and Rennes' Gaetan Laborde, the second most prolific scorer.

Marseille can make up ground in the race for Champions League spots with a win at mid-table Nantes.

Lyon will host Reims without spectators after the league sanctioned Lyon for incidents at home on Nov. 21 when Dimitri Payet was hit on the head by a bottle of water thrown from the stands in a game that was abandoned.

## Six-time champions Germany, Argentina, France enter Junior Hockey WC semifinals

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Six-time champions Germany and Argentina earned hard-fought wins over Spain and Netherlands respectively, while France cruised past Malaysia to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.

In the first quarterfinal of the day, Germany eked out a narrow 3-1 win over Spain in shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 2-2 in regulation time, before Argentina beat Netherlands 2-1.

In the third quarterfinal, the tournament's surprise package France beat Malaysia 4-0.

Germany took the lead from a penalty stroke through Christopher Kutter in the fifth minute but the lead was shortlived as Ignacio Abajo equalised for Spain from a penalty corner six minutes later.

After two barren quarters, it was Spain who shocked the Germans in

the 59th minute when Eduard de Ignacio-Simo scored a fine field goal to give his side the lead.

There was more drama in store as just at the stroke of the hoooter, Germany secured a penalty corner and Masi Pfandt stepped up to take the match into shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, Paul Smith, Michel Struthoff and Hannes Muller found the back of the net, while Matteo Poljaric missed.

Spain were awful from the one-on-one situation as Abajo, Guillermo Fortuno and de Ignaci-Simo missed while only Gerard Clapes scored.

Germany are the most successful team in the history of the Junior World Cup having won the tournament six times.

The Germans won consecutive titles in 2009 and 2013 in New Delhi, which was their last crown. Germany secured the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in 2016 in Lucknow.