

OPINION 8
CELEBRITY INFLUENCE TO
SELL PRODUCTS FAIR?

MONEY 10
SENSEX CRASHES 765 PTS
AS OMICRON ENTERS INDIA

SPORT 14
MAYANK MAKES STATEMENT
WITH 100 AS INDIA SCORE 221

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Booster shot for 40+, advises Govt body

INSACOG also suggests genomic surveillance, travel monitoring

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid scare over the spread of Covid-19 Omicron variant, top genome scientists from INSACOG, a Government's network of national testing labs to monitor genomic variations of coronavirus, on Friday recommended a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccines for those above 40 years, with preference to vulnerable population. They also said genomic surveillance will be critical for early detection of the presence of this variant to enable necessary public health measures.

The Government has said that such a decision (on booster dose) will be considered only after detailed discussion with the scientific community.

India has so far reported two cases of Omicron variant. One of the two patients who was found infected in India is a 46-year-old fully vaccinated doctor from Bengaluru, who had no travel history but developed fever and body ache on November 21. The other confirmed Omicron patient is a 66-year-old South African who came to India with a negative Covid report.

The recommendation for booster dose by the scientists



A health worker administers Covid-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary in New Delhi on Friday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

made in the weekly bulletin of the INSACOG has come amid demands for a booster dose of Covid vaccines by MPs during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the pandemic situation in the country.

"Vaccination of all remaining unvaccinated at-risk people and consideration of a booster dose for those 40 years of age and over, first targeting the

most high-risk/high-exposure, may be considered since low levels of neutralising antibodies from the current vaccines are unlikely to be sufficient to neutralise Omicron, although risk of severe disease is likely to be reduced," INSACOG said.

The scientists have also recommended monitoring travel to and from the known affected areas, and contact

tracing of Covid-19 cases with an epidemiological link to the affected areas has been implemented, along with increased testing.

The Genetics Consortium has said that the preliminary evidence suggests that Omicron may increase reinfection risk, which is expected from the structural changes due to the mutations, and the number of cases of this variant appears to be increasing in almost all provinces in South Africa.

"In some PCR tests, such as Thermo TaqPath, one of the three target genes is not detected. Such a phenomenon was previously seen for Alpha, which is currently not in active circulation and thus SGTF can be used as a marker for this variant, pending sequencing confirmation", said INSACOG adding that the mutation spectrum of Omicron is predictive of high transmissibility".

Continued on Page 11

Reinfection risk 3 times more in Omicron: Study

WHO alerts Asia Pacific to ramp up health services, Covid vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The new super mutant Omicron variant of Covid-19 can increase risk of reinfection by three times as compared to other past variants such as Beta and Delta, said a preliminary study by South African researchers.

Population-level evidence suggested that the Omicron variant is associated with substantial ability to evade immunity from prior infection.

In the meantime, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that countries in the Asia-Pacific region need to strengthen healthcare services and focus on vaccinating their people as the Omicron variant is spreading globally and entering new territories.



In a virtual briefing, Takeshi Kasai, WHO regional director for the western Pacific, said that it is clear that this pandemic is far from over.

"I know that people are worried about Omicron. I understand. My message to you today is that we can adapt the way we manage this virus to better cope with future surges and reduce their health, social and economic impact," he said.

In Asia, Omicron cases have been reported in India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea, and new cases are being documented with each passing hour.

Continued on Page 11

UP blames Pak for air pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took strong exception to the Uttar Pradesh Government's claim that winds blowing from Pakistan were one of the reasons for Delhi's air pollution.

Senior counsel Ranjit Kumar appearing for UP told the Bench that polluted air in north Indian plains is currently coming from Pakistan since UP is in the downward direction of the wind. "Closure of industries may affect sugar cane industries. UP is on downwind, air is mostly coming from Pakistan," he said. A peeved CJI Ramana asked, "So you want to ban industries in Pakistan?"

The Chief Justice also expressed displeasure on certain media reports blaming the top court for the closure of schools.

A special bench headed by the CJI also took note of measures taken by the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas and asked the Centre, Delhi and States in the NCR to follow

SC takes strong exception to claim



The skyline is seen enveloped in toxic smog at Rajpath in New Delhi on Friday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

the directions.

In an affidavit, the commission told the bench, also comprising justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, that a five-member enforcement task force has been set up to contain air pollution in Delhi and NCR. Forty such squads would monitor the implementation of measures suggested by it to deal with pollution, the panel said.

Continued on Page 11

No reports of Omicron Covid variant deaths yet: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organization said on Friday it had not seen any reports of deaths relating to the new Omicron variant of Covid-19. The WHO said it was collecting evidence about the variant of concern (VOC), as countries around the world scramble to stop it from spreading. But

despite a growing number of countries registering infections with the new variant, no deaths have yet been reported to the UN health agency. "I have not seen reports of Omicron-related deaths yet," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.

9 of family Covid +ve days after S Africa tour



PTI ■ JAIPUR

Nine members of a family here tested positive for Covid-19, days after four of them returned from South Africa, putting the Health Department on alert amid concerns over the "Omicron" variant of the infection.

Those who returned from South Africa have been admitted to the hospital of the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) and swab samples of all nine people have been sent for genome sequencing to Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh Hospital, a health official said.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Narottam Sharma said 14 samples were taken for testing from the family, nine of which tested positive for the infection.

In contact tracing, it was found that four of them had returned from South Africa, he said. The official said as per guidelines, those who returned from South Africa have been isolated at the RUHS hospital while the other five have been home quarantined. Currently, Rajasthan has 213 active cases. The maximum 114 active cases are from Jaipur alone.

Cong in 'deep freezer', void to be filled by Didi: TMC

Trinamool ruffles Cong's feathers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After Mamata Banerjee proclaimed UPA's death in Mumbai, Trinamool Congress on Friday put the Congress in "deep freezer" saying the void created by the fall of the Congress would be filled by the Bengal Chief Minister.

Calling the Congress a spent force, an article in TMC mouthpiece *Jago Bangla* said the "Congress is a spent force," adding the national party has lost the "zeal to fight the BJP".

Referring to what pollster Prashant Kishor wrote a few days ago about the Congress' alleged moribund state, the Friday article said not only Kishor but also the Congress leaders felt that there was nothing left in the party and that its leadership was not in control of its affairs.



"The party was so much mired in infighting that hardly any energy is left to build a viable Opposition that will fight the BJP. It is incapable and incompetent party," the article said iterating what the Bengal Chief Minister said in Mumbai a few days ago that "the UPA does not exist."

Batting rather strongly for Mamata, it said with the fall of the Congress and demise of the UPA there was a strong need

for a uniting force that can build up a viable anti-BJP force and around which the other Opposition parties would unite. "The country currently needs an alternative front, that can replace the UPA of which the Chief Minister herself was a part till 2012 when she came out of the Alliance," the mouthpiece said.

It claimed all the "Opposition parties wanted Mamata Banerjee to take charge.

They are looking up to her to fill the vacuum. She is presently the most popular opposition face in the country." Earlier TMC MP Derek O'Brien too lashed out at the Congress. "We think where there is no concept of UPA, there has to be a fresh start," O'Brien said echoing Mamata.

Incidentally a bunch of Congress leaders from Meghalaya, Goa, Tripura and Haryana recently joined the TMC.

Continued on Page 11

PM to visit Gorakhpur on Dec 7

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gorakhpur on December 7 and dedicate to the nation development projects worth over Rs 9,600 crore which include a fertiliser factory and AIIMS.

The prime minister will reach Gorakhpur at 1 pm and after dedicating the projects address a big public meeting. Modi will also dedicate to the nation the fully functional complex of AIIMS, Gorakhpur which has been built at a cost of over Rs 1,000 crore.

He will also inaugurate the new building of ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Gorakhpur. The centre has been instrumental in tackling the challenge of Japanese encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in the region.

Protesting farmers stop Kangana's car, let her go after she says sorry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/ROPAR

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut was in for a shock on Friday when farmers stopped her car in Rupnagar district, when she was on her way to Chandigarh airport.

The protesting farmers, including women, claimed that they had allowed Kangana to go only after she tendered apology for her "regular comments against the farmers", who have been protesting against the Centre's three farm laws, and also against the Central Government's decision to repeal the same.

Kangana, who was coming from her native place in Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), was stopped by the agitators, who were standing on the main road at Bunga Sahib near Kiratpur Sahib. The actor enjoys Y-category security.

She expressed an apology



for her derogatory remarks against an elderly woman farmer last year. Notably, Kangana had tweeted a photo of an aged woman farmer, terming her a "woman available at ₹100" for protests.

Ropar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vivekshel Soni said the protesters allowed the vehicle to move after the police inter-

vened to resolve the matter. Kangana, who is active on social media, also shared her story on Instagram while sitting inside the car, alleging that a "mob of anti-social elements", who are claiming themselves to be farmers, have gheraoed and hurled abuses on her while she was returning after her flight was cancelled.

Continued on Page 11

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Yogi: Previous govts neglected development in Uttar Pradesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unleashing a caustic attack on the previous governments for neglecting development in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Noida International Airport was now being built on the same land of Bhatta Parsaul which had been in the limelight for a long time for violent clashes between the police and the farmers during an agitation against land acquisition.

"The foundation stone of Asia's largest Jewar airport in Noida was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 25. Farmers of Bhatta Parsaul happily gave their land to the government after our government was formed, that too only on twice the compensation rather than four times," the chief minister said while attending the PM Gati Shakti North Zone Conference in Lucknow.

Speaking on the occasion, Yogi maintained that the prime minister launched Gati Shakti to provide a new impetus to infrastructure-related projects within the country.

"Gati' and 'Shakti' are symbolic to each other. PM Gati Shakti is becoming a big medium for boosting infrastructure



development," he said. The chief minister said that the state government had integrated the projects of 16 departments and agencies in the first phase to strengthen the PM Gati Shakti platform. In the second phase, 11 departments and agencies were being identified for integration on Gati Shakti Portal, he added.

"When our government came to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2017, the annual budget of the state was only Rs 2 lakh crore. We increased the resources of the state and efforts have been made to remove the anomalies in the state that are hindering the development of Uttar Pradesh. A single window platform has

been created for investment in the state through which 340 services are available. We worked on saving lives and livelihood," he said.

Yogi further said, "If the intentions are pure and clear, any big problem can be solved. Not a single farmer who gave land for Jewar airport is dissatisfied. We have got 3300 acres of land in the first phase. The rest of the land will also be available soon."

Attributing better law and order situation for attracting investments in UP, the chief minister said that within a one year after the BJP government was formed in the state, the first Investors' Summit was held which resulted in investment

proposals of around Rs 5 lakh crore being received and of them, more than Rs 3 lakh crore investment proposals had fructified.

"After independence till 2017, only one and a half expressways were built in the state, while in the last four and a half years, Purvanchal Expressway has not only been completed, but Ganga Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway will soon be available to people. Besides, there were only four airports in Uttar Pradesh namely Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Agra till 2017. The present government started flights from Prayagraj, Kanpur, Hindon, Bareilly and Kushinagar airports and the state today has nine functional airports," Yogi said.

Talking about the health infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that his government was building one medical college each in 59 districts of the state.

"Health infrastructure has improved a lot in the state. Investments have been attracted due to better law and order. The state is continuously progressing on the path of progress," he said.

Union Minister of Communication, Electronics and Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav, said that India's development would get momentum from the infrastructure project of Rs 107 lakh crore. He said that integration of all departments in the construction of various infrastructure worth Rs 107 lakh crore and preparing a master plan would be remembered by Indians for many years to come. "This is the goal of PM Gati Shakti and the way Purvanchal Expressway and Jewar airport became the hub of multimodal logistics, they are living examples of PM Gati Shakti," he said while virtually addressing the North Zone Conference on Prime Minister's Gati Shakti in Lucknow on Friday.

The Union minister said that airports should be connected with cargo logistics, by road and within the periphery of metro lines as inclusion of all these gave impetus to development of the state and the country.

"The recently built cargo terminal will give impetus to the 'One District One Product' scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh," he said.

4 cops from MP among five killed in mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five persons, including four police personnel from Madhya Pradesh, died in a road accident on Yamuna Expressway in Mathura on Friday morning.

The ill-fated policemen from Budera police station of Tikamgarh district in MP were heading to Haryana in an SUV along with three others to rescue a kidnapped girl when the tragedy struck. Three others, including a police head constable, sustained injuries in the incident and they were admitted to a Mathura hospital.

As per reports, the SUV carrying the men in uniform crashed into a road divider and overturned, leaving four people dead on the spot while a constable was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. The deceased were identified as head constable Bhawani Prasad (52), woman constable Heera Devi Prajapati (32), constable Kamendra Yadav (28), driver Jagdish and Police Mitra Ravi Kumar. The injured were identified as head constable Rati Ram, Dharmendra Kumar and Preeti. On getting information, personnel from Surir police station of Mathura rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to a nearby hospital. Later the bodies were sent for post-mortem and an investigation into the accident was initiated.

Bundelkhand region will throw BJP out of power: Akhilesh



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav exhorted the electorate of Bundelkhand region to throw out the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party from power like Rani Lakshmi Bai expelled the British colonial forces from Jhansi.

"The BJP swept the 2017 UP assembly election and won all 19 assembly seats in Bundelkhand and later in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, it won all parliamentary seats from there. But what did the people of Bundelkhand get in return? They were taken for a ride and no development work took place in the region," Akhilesh alleged while addressing a public meeting at Jhansi on Friday.

Attacking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his government, the Samajwadi Party chief said that just as the BJP changed the names of places and other institutions, the people of the state would very soon change the government.

"The Yogi government has only changed the names of places. Very soon people in Uttar Pradesh are going to change this government. Youth, farmers and businessmen in Uttar Pradesh have decided to get rid of the Yogi government. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh are going to benefit if Samajwadi Party comes to power," he said.

Akhilesh further said that Uttar Pradesh was one state where the maximum number of cases of crime against women in the country was registered and the state also topped in custodial deaths across the country.

"If any government has

received the highest number of notices for fake encounters, then it is the present BJP government in Uttar Pradesh," he added.

Countering the charges of dynastic politics against his party by the BJP, Akhilesh raised the demand for caste-based census.

"Caste-based census is the only solution to caste-related disputes. The BJP is a master in creating discord in society and among castes to exploit it for their narrow political ends. Let there be a caste-based census after which the numerical strength of each caste will be on record. Subsequently, those enjoying strength on paper will be exposed," the SP chief said.

On alliance of Samajwadi Party with smaller caste-based political parties, Akhilesh said, "Now Pal and Gopal (Yadavs) have joined hands and no force on earth can fight this formidable combination."

Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh are slated for early next year. In the 2017 assembly polls, the BJP bagged 312 seats out of the 403 seats in the UP Assembly while the SP could muster only 47 seats, Bahujan Samajwadi Party won 19 and Congress could manage to win only seven seats.

The Rashtriya Lok Dal and Nishad Party won one seat each, Apna Dal bagged nine seats, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) managed to win four seats while Independents won three seats.

Apna Dal and SBSP were allies of the BJP but the SBSP walked out of the alliance after the May 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Thakur, Yogi inaugurate Doordarshan ground sub-centre in Gkp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, inaugurated the ground sub-centre of Doordarshan in Gorakhpur.

Along with this, they also inaugurated the installation of three FM's of the newly-created Akshvani of 10 kilowatt each at Gadhni in Etawah, Lakhimpur Kheri and Nanpara in Bahraich. The stations were

inaugurated through virtual medium. In his address on the occasion, Thakur said that with the inauguration of the ground sub-station of Doordarshan in Gorakhpur, now the local programmes would reach all over the country.

He announced that from December 11, a special one-hour programme would be telecast in Bhojpur from Doordarshan Kendra Gorakhpur. He said that soon three more FM's of Akshvani would be launched at

Sultanpur, Rampur and Maharajganj.

Thakur said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was propagating his message to the people through Mann Ki Baat programme from All India Radio and the number of listeners was increasing day by day.

He said that in the coming days more FM's would be installed across the country.

Appreciating the tenure of Yogi Adityanath government in the state, the Union minister said that Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath had liberated Uttar Pradesh from the mafia. He said that the law and order situation had improved in the state.

Thakur said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had successfully managed the coronavirus epidemic in UP, which had the largest population of the country.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in his address, said that with the inauguration of the ground sub-centre of Doordarshan Gorakhpur on Friday, the decades-long

demand of the local artistes had been fulfilled. He said that now Doordarshan Kendra Gorakhpur would reach more people through its programmes.

The chief minister thanked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for starting the telecast of a special one-hour programme in Bhojpur from Doordarshan Gorakhpur from December 11.

Earlier, while addressing the programme, Principal Director General of All India Radio, N Venudhar Reddy,

said that with the commissioning of these three FM's of All India Radio, Akshvani would get 1.5 crore more listeners.

Director General, Doordarshan, Mayank Agrawal, said that with the launch of the geo-sub kendra, now Gorakhpur Kendra had been connected with the network spread across the country, including Lucknow and Delhi.

He said that now programmes of local folk culture would be able to reach all over the country.

60 lakh parents still waiting for govt grants for school uniforms

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as winter has set in, parents of over 60 lakh school children are still waiting for Rs 1,100 meant for the purchase of uniforms, sweaters and shoes for their wards who are being forced to go to schools without proper winter uniforms.

On October 30, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had declared that Rs 1,800 crore would be transferred through DBT in the bank accounts of

parents of more than 1.60 crore students for the purchase of winter uniforms. He had claimed that the scheme would benefit students of primary, upper primary schools and non-government aided primary/pre-secondary schools.

"A parent would get Rs 1,100 per child and the payments would be made within a month's time," Yogi had declared while releasing funds online.

A month later, officials of the

Education department claimed that over 60 lakh parents were yet to receive the money and the entire process was delayed because of the delay in the confirmation of bank details of parents with the details available with the school.

"Who will do it?" asked a leader of the Shiksha Parishad. "The teachers and officers of the Education department are deployed in the revision of electoral rolls. There is no one in schools to carry out the clerical

work of confirming the bank details of the parents," he said.

Officials said that the first lot of money was transferred to the accounts of over one crore parents but over 60 lakh parents were still waiting for the funds to purchase uniforms, sweaters, shoes and school bags.

An employees' union leader said that the argument given by the official was that the direct transfer of money would ensure a transparent system as well as develop a market at

the local level which in turn would generate self-employment opportunities in rural areas.

"Winter has already set in. The delay in transfer of money will lead to delay in purchase of sweaters and till then the poor students will bear the brunt of the winter," he said.

Principal Secretary Deepak Kumar said that this money should have been transferred within a month's time. "I need to inquire as to where the whole process got stuck," he said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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BE it known to all that earlier my name was SHWETA JASLEENA UPADHYAY which is changed to SHWETA UPADHYAY. In Futur I shall be known as Shweta UPADHYAY. Shweta Upadhyay W/o- Amit Kumar Upadhyay 570- Muthiganj, Allahabad.

NOTICE

BE it known to all that my name SHUBH KUMAR is registered in my School certificates which is wrong. As per Aadhar Card my correct name is SUBH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA. In future I shall be read and write as SUBH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA. SHUBH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA S/O Late DEEPAK KUMAR SRIVASTAVA, R/O- Type-Ist, 240, Police Line, Prayagraj.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित हो कि मेरी जायदाद संख्या ई-6/578 आप्रपाती योजना हरदोई रोड लखनऊ का मूल आवंटन दिनांक 04/अक्टूबर/2004 एवं कब्जा पत्र का मूल प्रपत्र ठाकुरगंज रास्ते में कहीं गिर गया है, जो कि किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा उपयोग किये जाने पर अमान्य व निरस्त समझा जाये। नाम:- मधु जयसवाल पता: 439/147 हर्डे बाजार बालगंज लखनऊ मो.नं.- 9450359365

CITYBRIEFS

AWARDED

Varnika Srivastava, a class I student of City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus II, won a national quiz competition on Indian monuments. The competition was organised under the national level online event "Tourism Quest 2021" by 'Purple Wings', an educational organisation. Varnika answered all the questions related to the Indian monuments with ease. The organisers lauded her for her knowledge and awarded her with a trophy, medal, and certificate.



History Piyush Bhargava provided references from mythology and ancient Indian history to explain how safety of women has always been a major concern and it should be worked upon in the modern times.

FIRST DSc DEGREE

BBAU awarded its first DSc degree to Prof Devesh Kumar, department of Physics, under the advisor ship of Prof RC Sobti. In his research work, Prof Kumar resolved several controversies related to reaction mechanism of enzyme cytochrome P450 and also suggested reaction pathways of several heme and non-heme type enzymes. These enzymes are useful for metabolising drugs in living organisms.

WORKSHOP

The regional centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University organised a workshop on 'Innovative ideas: Igniting young minds' on Thursday. CGM, NABARD (Lucknow), DS Chauhan was the chief guest on the occasion. He highlighted the sectors in which youth can



think of launching start-ups post COVID-19. He also spoke about the programmes offered by NABARD for agriculture and rural development. Senior regional director, IGNOU, Manorama Singh said that the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and IGNOU are working to end the disconnect between demand and supply of skilled manpower, building the vocational and technical training framework towards skill up-gradation and building of new skills. She said the workshop was an endeavour in that direction.

Maya asks people to beware of poll promises of BJP, SP and Congress

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati alerted the people of Uttar Pradesh, asking them to be cautious on the election promises being announced by different political parties ahead of the 2022 assembly polls.

Reacting to promises made by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and even a host of Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mayawati tweeted on Friday, "In UP, a flurry of election promises are being made every day, especially by Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, Congress etc., to woo and mislead the people of the state. But these promises are mostly forgotten after coming to power. This has been their history till now. People should be cautious of them."

The BSP chief further tweeted, "The promises that the BJP and SP are making to the public, why did they not do the work while they were in the government in the state? Why did the Congress party not do what they promised to give 40 per cent tickets and scooty to women in states where they have governments? This is also something to think about."

Ministry of Communications
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Advertisement No.10-03/2020-Restg.
Dated: 26th November, 2021

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The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India invites applications for One year, full time and self financed Panchakarma Technician Course conducted by CCRAAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, New Delhi at the following Training Centre affiliated to Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) - National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC):

Training Centre:
Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI)
Borsojar (Bhetapara), Beltola
Guwahati-781028, Assam
Ph. 0361-2303714, 2132180, E-mail: neiarj-guwahati@gov.in

Duration: 1 year (January, 2022 - December, 2022)

Total Seats: 10 Seats (extendable as per need) at CARI, Guwahati, Assam (50% each for male and female candidates at the centre)

Eligibility: 12th standard pass candidates from all over India.

Age Limit: Minimum 18 years should be completed on the date of final assessment at the end of training.

Reservation: As per rules of the Government of India, reservation policy is 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST & 27% for OBC (Non Creamy Layer). Horizontal reservation of 4% for PH (only lower locomotive disorders) and 10% for EWS category will be applicable.

Last date for receipt of applications at above centre: On or before 24th December, 2021

Per candidate Fee: Application Fee- Rs.500/- and Course Fee- Total Rs.30,000/- (in 3 instalments).

Mode of application: Duly filled in application form along with all requisite documents and demand draft of Application Fee is to be sent to the Institute by registered or speed post. Please visit Council's website www.ccraas.nic.in for Information Brochure (details of Training Programme & Submission Process), Syllabus and for downloading Application Form.

Applications received after the last date will not be considered.
Davp 17216/11/0011/2122 Assistant Director (Coord.)

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OMICRON THREAT

Covid testing intensified in UP

Lucknow among 4 dists under strict surveillance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ramping up preventive measures amid cases of new 'Omicron' variant of novel coronavirus surfacing in other states of the country, the Uttar Pradesh government has intensified screening and has strengthened surveillance at the inter-state borders.

After successfully controlling the first and second waves of COVID-19 pandemic, the state government has asked officials to further improve surveillance with a focus on airports to ensure that the virus transmission does not go out of hand.

In another proactive move in view of rising cases of Omicron variants in other countries, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to intensify genome sequencing of Covid samples and the process is being carried out at Lucknow's KGMU and SPGIMS at a rapid pace.

Authorities have also been directed to continue extensive cleanliness, sanitisation and fogging drives to prevent the spread of other diseases.

The facilities of genome sequencing are available at Benares Hindu University (BHU), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Ram Manohar Lohia Institute and National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Uttar Pradesh.

It is noteworthy that the study to detect new novel coronavirus variants started only after the first wave of the pandemic at the NBRI in Lucknow and a total of 45 samples were tested. In view of the possible third wave of COVID-19, the process of genome testing is being done at BHU, KGMU, CDRI and IGIB.

Director General Health, Dr Ved Prat Singh, said that screening, surveillance and investigation were being increased rapidly while increasing the scope of testing in the state. He said due to cases of the new coronavirus variant being detected in Karnataka and Hyderabad, UP, the most populous state, was taking all precautionary measures.



Huge rush at a reservation counter at Charbagh railway station, throwing caution to the wind

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four districts of Uttar Pradesh — Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Varanasi — are under strict surveillance in view of the Omicron threat.

Health Minister JP Singh said there is a lot of internal traffic and international travel in these districts as people come to Ghaziabad, Noida, Lucknow and Varanasi through Delhi.

"These districts are being screened properly to keep a tab on people who have come from the 19 at-risk countries in the last 15 days," he said.

Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar get a lot of traffic in the NCR because of tourism with foreign nationals who keep coming and going, he pointed out.

Asked if they were also keeping Agra under surveillance,

he said that tourists might reach Agra through Gautam Buddha Nagar or Lucknow. The minister said that they were being watchful and samples of people testing positive for coronavirus infection were being sent for genome sequencing as they could not take any chances.

Regarding the two new cases Omicron detected in Karnataka, he said: "One patient has already returned to his country since the genome sequencing takes over 10-12 days. These were asymptomatic cases and there was no need for hospitalisation. This variant may well be leading to asymptomatic cases but is definitely communicable and transmissible. However, if we look at the second patient, he had not stepped out at all."

"All UP districts have released their respective guidelines in accordance with

the Central government for the passengers. Focused testing is also taking place in various markets in all the districts," he added.

The minister said they were pushing for giving as many vaccine doses as possible.

However, he admitted that there was no evidence regarding the efficacy of the existing vaccines against the new variant. "Both the patients found in Karnataka were vaccinated. The symptoms in them were mild and there was only a little bit of fatigue with no problems of dipping oxygen levels," he said. He added that there are only 343 cases of Omicron all over the world, and only one patient needed hospitalisation while others were home isolated. "The variant is not showing any aggressive signs as of now," he pointed out.

Samples of 5 international travellers sent for genome sequencing

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst Omicron threat, five samples taken from international travellers have been sent to the National Botanical Research Institute for genome sequencing, reports of which are expected shortly.

State Surveillance Officer Vikasendu Agarwal said that of all the international travellers who have visited UP in the last few days, only a girl from the USA has tested Covid positive. The girl is in home isolation in Mathura.

The surveillance officer said that nine other travellers from European countries also tested positive for coronavirus infection in Mathura, but they came to India before November 22. They include three travellers from Austria, one each from Lithuania, Spain & Switzerland; and three from Russia. Although all of them were positive, only five of them were genome sequencable because they had a CT count of below 200.

"As of now, there are no Omicron cases in UP, but one needs to be cautious," the surveillance officer said.

On whether efforts should be made to prevent the entry of international travellers to UP, he said it was not possible.

"We are following Central government guidelines in this regard, and all the international passengers are being tested at the airports. We also held a video conferencing with the officials of Lucknow and Varanasi airports and they informed us they are not getting any passengers from the restricted countries," he said.

Regarding the efficacy of Covid vaccines against this particular variant of coronavirus, he said studies were still being carried out by the World Health Organisation in this regard.

Four samples of domestic travellers have also been sent for genome sequencing in Lucknow. A senior official from the CMO office said the samples included two each from Kerala and Lucknow. He



Passengers without masks on board a bus at Kaiserbagh bus station

Pioneer

said they were sending all positive samples for genome sequencing.

To take stock of adherence to Covid-19 protocols, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash carried out a ground-level inspection on Thursday. He made a surprise visit to Alambagh bus stop and Charbagh railway station. He issued directives for regular sanitisation of the railway station premises. He said focused screening should be carried out and if people were found having symptoms, their RT-PCR test must be conducted.

He said masking should be a must at the railway stations and officials must ensure that the social distancing was adhered to. The DM said stern action should be taken against those violating the protocols.

At the Alambagh bus station, the DM told the officials to conduct RT-PCR tests of all those having fever and collect their 15-day travel history.

Meanwhile, Sarojininaray CHC superintendent, Dr

Anshuman Srivastava said no international traveller has tested positive at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow since December 1 after the guidelines for Omicron were announced and testing of all the international travellers was made mandatory. Nearly 4,500 international travellers arriving at the airport are being tested for Covid.

"All the passengers are being tested and there are no direct flights from the countries at risk. There are flights from Sharjah and Dubai. We are also collecting travel history and there have been no travellers from the countries at risk since December 1. None of the passengers who landed at the international terminal of the airport have tested positive," he said.

Dr Srivastava pointed out the results of RT-PCR tests being conducted are out within 24 hours. "We also carry out antigen tests, if we need the report earlier. We have normal-

ly seen that in 90 per cent of the cases, antigen positives turn out to be RT-PCR positives too. If the report of antigen tests is positive, the travellers will be isolated and shifted to the hospital. Even those testing negative are being quarantined," he said.

Covid experts welcomed the decision of the Central government to not resume international flights from December 15.

Dr Piyali Bhattacharya from SGPGI said that WHO has already recommended that those above 60 years should postpone their travel plans in the wake of Omicron threat.

"What has made Omicron the variant of concern is that the vaccine being given now is specific for the spike protein which has mutated over 30 times in this variant. We still do not know how effective is the vaccine against this variant. It is not known if the immunity will work against this variant or there will be a third wave," she said.

100 motorised tricycles to be given to divyangs in each dist



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath honouring a specially-abled student at DSMNRU on Friday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Attempting to help physically challenged people (Divyangs), the Uttar Pradesh government will provide motorised tricycles to 100 such persons in each district of the state. An announcement in this regard was made by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at a function on the occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons in Lucknow on Friday.

"Our government works with a motto to uplift and empower the specially-abled people. We strive for developing their talent and channelise their energies towards nation-building. We are working on a war-footing to provide motorised tricycles to 100 Divyangians in every district," Yogi said while honouring meritorious students of special schools, specially-abled people and organisations working for the empowerment of the specially-abled people at Dr Shakuntala Misra National

Rehabilitation University on Friday. The chief minister also distributed assistive devices to the specially-abled people.

Yogi urged the organisations working for the empowerment of 'Divyangians' to show sensitivity by joining this work of virtue so that the benefits of the government schemes reach as many people as possible.

Referring to 16th-century blind Hindu devotional poet and singer Surdas, English theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author Stephen William Hawking and Sage Ashtavakra, the chief minister said that every 'divyang' must get an opportunity to exercise their special talents.

Extending his greeting to the children and people who were feted, Yogi said, "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Tokyo Paralympic athletes have proved that nothing can stop you if you are determined. Our athletes never let their physical disabilities stop

them, instead, they made it their strength. It was their hard work and talent which made the country proud and India bagged 19 medals. The state government honoured all medal winners to encourage them. Success in Paralympics shows that if they are given even a little encouragement, they can give the benefit of their talent to the nation."

"Prime Minister Modi has recognised the talent of the specially-abled closely. Since 2017, the government began by increasing the pension amount of the specially-abled people and provided all assistance in terms of ensuring availability of assistive devices to them and grants for marriage. The government also increased the category for disabled people from 7 to 21," he said.

Minister for Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment, Anil Rajbhar, and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

One killed in firing over land dispute

Lucknow (PNS): Kin of a farmer opened fire on him and his accomplice in Jiamau on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday over a land dispute. The latter succumbed to gunshot wounds while the former also sustained grievous injuries. The deceased was identified as Shriman while the injured as Sushel alias Lala. The condition of Sushel was also said to be critical. The accused were identified as Shriman's cousin Pawan alias Chhotu and his brother-in-law Sanjay.

As per reports, Shriman would help Sushel in paddy harvest. Both worked in the field till 10:30 pm on Thursday after which they went to a nearby hut where they had food and then went to sleep. The accused reached there around 2 am and opened indiscriminate fire, leaving both injured. They were rushed to hospital where Shriman succumbed to injuries. Sushel's elder brother Sudhir lodged a complaint at the Kakori police station, naming Pawan and Sanjay. He stated land dispute as the motive.

Meanwhile, a 28-year-old salesman working in a motor-cycles' showroom reportedly hanged. He was identified as Shivam Singh of Aliganj.

However, no suicide note was recovered from the room. He lived in a two-storey house under Aliganj police station area.

In another case, police arrested four accused on the charges of thrashing a sub-inspector in Niralnagar under Hasanganj police station. They were identified as Pravendra Mathur, Priyanshu Mathur, JN Mathur, Ashish Kumar Shukla and Pranshu Mathur. They were found to be guilty in a probe conducted by the police. Vinod Kumar, the sub-inspector in question, is a resident of Birbal Sahni Marg and posted in Pilibhit district.

The bike-borne cop tried to overtake the car in which the accused were travelling late on Thursday night but his vehicle was hit by the car. He got involved in a heated exchange with the accused and asked for compensation. Eyewitnesses said initially, the accused apologised to the cop but they later misbehaved with him. In his complaint, the sub-inspector said he was thrashed and his bike was damaged. He also alleged that the accused tried to rob him of his wallet containing Rs 10,000 in cash, a CUG mobile and a smartphone.

Important to connect scientific fraternity with society: Barik

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

While it is important for people to have a scientific mindset, it is equally necessary to ensure a robust connect between the scientific fraternity and the society at large, IITR & NBRI director Dr SK Barik said at the curtain raiser for IISF-2021 on Thursday.

The India International Science Festival (IISF), an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Science, in association with Vijnana Bharati, strives to popularise the celebration of science by common people in a joyful and entertaining manner.

This year marks the 7th edition of IISF which will be held in Panaji (Goa) from December 10 to 13. To spread the message of IISF-2021, IITR & NBRI, in association with Vijnana Bharati, organised a curtain raiser and outreach programme at IITR on Thursday. It included exhibitions, scientist-student interaction, science film screening and popular lectures.

The chief guest on the occasion was Vice-Chancellor

of CSJM University (Kanpur) Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak, who reminded the gathering about the increasing recognition of Indian science and technology's contributions to global well-being. He opined that science and religion complement each other. Emphasising on the need to keep alive the scientific inquisitive temperament in the youth of the country, he said festivals like IISF help in laying a strong foundation for the same.

In his presidential address, Barik, said that scientists are often driven by their scientific mandates and tend to restrict themselves to the laboratory. "The idea of IISF was conceived with two basic goals in mind. It is equally important to celebrate our successes and achievements as it encourages and reinvests the scientific community to rededicate itself to achieving the dream of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," he said.

Organising secretary, Vijnana Bharati, Avadh Prant, S Shreyansh Mandloi said that through its creative programmes and activities, IISF provides opportunities to the

scientific fraternity in the country and abroad to work together for the well-being of India and humanity. He said IISF-2021 would have 12 programs designed based on the event theme of "Celebrating Creativity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Prosperous India".

"As we are celebrating the 75th year of Independence, all the programmes will reflect the spirit and idea of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," he said.

The guest of honour was former Vice-Chancellor of KGMU Dr MLB Bhatt, who spoke about the origins of Vijnana Bharati, popularly referred to as 'Vibha', and its contributions as a science movement with swadeshi spirit led by eminent scientists of the country. He urged the student community participating in the outreach programme to recall Lord Buddha's teachings — "Do not believe in anything simply because you have seen it, heard it, read it or have learnt about it from books or ancient texts. Only believe that which is based on a detailed observation and analysis".

'Need to find solutions to problems like pollution, water scarcity'

Lucknow (PNS): Special Secretary Administrative Reforms, UP Government, Dharendra Singh Sachan, while discussing the problems of increasing population, water scarcity and food availability, said we have to accept these challenges and find solutions. "These solutions should also be such that they should not harm the nature. We have to find solutions not only at the national but also at the global level," he said. He was speaking at the 3-day '5th International Conference on Innovative Approaches in Applied Sciences

and Technologies-2021, organised at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University.

On Friday, the conference was inaugurated at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Auditorium of BBAU. The conference was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh. The Chairman of UP State Council of Higher Education, GC Tripathi, who talked about striking a balance between science and technology with nature. "We are placing the control of our lives in the hands of technology. This behaviour is fatal

for humans because technology is made for humans, and not vice versa. It is the responsibility of intellectuals to identify the problems of the society and find solutions," he said.

AD Pathak from IISR discussed bio-ethanol fuel. He said that bio-ethanol could be used as a second fuel option.

"Due to emerging technologies in the field of agriculture, we are getting good production of sugarcane, and the government is also working in this direction to use bio-ethanol as a second fuel option" he added.



CM Yogi Adityanath and others after paying homage to first President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary at Globe Park in Lucknow on Friday



ADG (Security) BK Singh inspecting KVC Project premises, along with DC and CP, in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

ADG (Security) inspects KVC premises

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the inauguration of 'dream project' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor (KVC) Project is inching close, the administrative and police officers have intensified their arrangements and in this direction, the Additional Director General (Security) Binod Kumar Singh inspected the corridor premises here on Friday. During his stay there, he discussed all the security points with the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and Commissioner of Police (CP) A Satish Ganesh.

The police administration is making high security at the KVC premises and fool-proof security would also be made during the inauguration by the PM on December 13. According to information, apart from presence of senior police and PAC officers, CCTV

cameras will be installed at various places in the premises and outside. The police personnel will be deployed at 102 places while the PAC personnel at 21 places in view to make the security foolproof there. The police and PAC personnel will be deployed there in three shifts of eight hours each. Besides, a quick response team (QRT) would be formed to act rapidly in case of any emergency.

Meanwhile, various competitions and other programmes are being organised in view of the inauguration of KVC Project. The premises have started giving a grandeur shape and lighting and other arrangements are being made there. The KVC Project is set to emerge as a symbol of nationality too in near future along with religion. The state government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced that it would soon

install idols of Bharat Mata, Rani Ahilyabai, Kartikeya and Adi Shankaracharya in Kashi. Bharat Mata's statue will be placed in the middle of Ganga. The PM had laid the foundation stone of KVC Project on March 8, 2019 and the state government is all set to complete the project in record time.

The KVC, spread over an area of 50,200 square metres, is being constructed at the cost of Rs 339 crore. Besides, the renovated temple will have a security wing, museum, facilitation centre, Banaras Gallery, Mumukshu Bhawan, Vedic Centre and a multipurpose hall.

As many as 24 buildings including among others a Spiritual Book Centre, Passenger Facilitation Centre, Bhogshala and Guest House are under construction.

Once the KVC is completed, pilgrims and visitors will be

able to witness the Ganga river as well as the gold-plated shikhar (spire) of Lord Shiva temple from the viewing point in the temple square. An emporium, office of the temple trust and public utilities will be available at one place in the temple square. On festival and other special occasions, up to 5000 people can gather on the premises of the temple square.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is believed to have been built first as the Vishveshwar temple by Hari Chandra in the 11th century. It was destroyed several times by Muslim rulers Qutubuddin Aibak, Mohammad Ghauri, Firoz Shah Tughlaq and Aurangzeb in the past. In 1780, the temple was reconstructed on land adjacent to the masjid by Rani Ahilyabai Holkar and in 1836, Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab donated gold for the temple.

Health officials pull up socks in view of Omicron threat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Health department in Prayagraj has also pulled up its socks to deal with Omicron, the new variant of the coronavirus spreading in many countries these days. Some patients have also been found in India.

In such a situation, preparations have started from the government to the local level to deal with the potential threat and this new variant. Efforts are on for the convenience of the patients in the hospitals. In such a situation, the arrangements in the hospitals of

Prayagraj are also being judged. Simultaneously, the arrangements are being extended.

Preparations are on in TB Sapru Hospital (Beli Hospital), including Level-3 Covid Hospital of Swaroopnari Nehru Hospital (SRN) in the city. A 20-bed ward has been reserved in these hospitals. Out of 20 reserved beds in Beli Hospital, 10 beds and an entire ward of 23 beds in SRN have been reserved for infected people coming from abroad. These wards will be activated in the next day or two.

The way Omicron's fear

has spread in many countries, six patients have been found in India too. Due to this, there is a possibility of spreading the infection rapidly. On the instructions of the state government, an alert has also been raised in Prayagraj and the health department has geared up to arrange for treatment.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Nanak Saran said that 20 beds have been reserved in Beli Hospital. Of these, 10 beds have been reserved in PICU and 10 beds in its upper floor. Oxygen supply is being checked from the oxygen pro-

duction plants set up in all the hospitals. Vigilance is being taken at the airport. There are currently no Omicron cases in the city. Principal of Motilal Nehru Medical College, Dr SP Singh said that 1000 beds in SRN and oxygen pipeline to all these were arranged only after the second wave of corona. Adequate arrangements have been made for ICU, isolation ward, necessary medicines for treatment, ventilator etc. He further said that the dangers of Omicron are not very serious but it is also necessary to avoid it.

HC seeks CBI's response on bail plea of Anand Giri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has sought a response from the CBI in four weeks on the bail application of Anand Giri, arrested in the suicide case of the Mahant of Baghambari Gaddi and National President of Akhara Parishad, Narendra Giri. Justice Rahul Chaturvedi has given this order on the bail application of Anand Giri alias Ashok Kumar Chotiya.

Advocates Vineet Vikram, Imranullah Khan and senior CBI advocates Gyan Prakash and Sanjay Yadav argued on the application of Anand Giri. The petitioner said that he has been framed. The suicide note in which his name appears is suspicious. Apart from this, there is no evidence against the petitioner. He was in Haridwar, away from the city at the time of the incident, where SHO Georgetown gave information over the phone. There is a cutting in the suicide note and the name of the saint who died on

August 21 has also come up. The note was not written by the deceased Mahant.

The petitioners have been in jail since September 22, 21. Special Court Allahabad has rejected the bail application on November 11, 21.

It is worth mentioning that the CBI is investigating the recent death of Mahant Narendra Giri, president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad. Anand Giri, accused of Mahant's death, is in jail. In this case, the CBI team is closely investigating every aspect related to the case. The CBI has also gone to the Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi located in Allapur, Prayagraj city for questioning and investigation.

3 J&K STUDENTS ARRESTED ON SEDITION CHARGES MOVE ALLD HC FOR BAIL: Three Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) students arrested in October on sedition charges for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans following Pakistan's victory in a T-20

Cricket World Cup match against India, directly moved Allahabad high court seeking their release on bail, saying that the lawyers' association in Agra has refused to represent them.

As per common practice, the bail application is moved before the district court first, and in case of its rejection, it is challenged before the high court with a request to release the applicant on bail.

Significantly, along with bail plea, the students have also moved an application seeking transfer of trial of their case from Agra to Mathura on the plea that "the entire bar of Agra judgeship is not ready to appear before the court on their behalf and defend the case."

The three Kashmiri students — Arsheed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai — all studying at an engineering college in Agra, were arrested on October 27, 2021 by Agra Police.

They were booked under 124A (sedition), 153-A (pro-

moting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1)(B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 66-F of the Information Technology Act for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the match.

Seeking transfer of the case, an application filed by them also takes the plea that "if the instant case of the applicant is not transferred to Mathura district court, the accused/applicants cannot contest their case and also cannot take proper legal assistance and in absence of that they would remain behind the bars for an unlimited period."

In their petition, they have also claimed that they are being given constant threat to their lives, if they try to contact any member of the Agra Bar Association. Their application will be taken up by the court shortly.

Political parties support FOPL regulation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Senior leaders of major political parties gave a clarion call for adopting front-of-pack labels (FOPL), an important and timely policy fix to address the country's double burden of malnutrition (DBM) at a public dialogue held at a BHELUP hotel here on Thursday. Poor nutrition is escalating diet related non communicable diseases (DR-NCDs), putting at risk millions of children. With the greatest number of malnourished children in the world, India is home to around 15 million obese children and 45 million who are stunted.

Recent studies of low and middle income countries with DBM have revealed that children and adults in the poorest income quintile face a greater prevalence of overweight and obesity than do those in higher income quintiles. These increases in overweight/obesity are largely the result of

rapid, increased availability and consumption of ultra-processed foods across all sections of society. The food and beverage industry in India is one of the world's largest with a sales volume of 34 million tons. Studies have shown that in Indian households, both urban and rural, 53 percent of children consume salted packaged food such as chips and instant noodles, 56 percent consume sweet packaged food such as chocolates and ice cream and 49 percent children consume sugar-sweetened packaged beverages at an average of over twice a week. Experts have raised the alarm that unhealthy diet is responsible for more deaths worldwide than any other risk factor, and is a leading cause of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

State BJP Vice President and MLC A.K Sharma said, "India's winning strategy to ensure a healthier tomorrow

for its children could consist of a simple, interpretive and mandatory FOPL." Congress Seva Dal President Lalji Desai said, "The food industry's glitzy marketing tactics have a big role to play in this transition of dietary choices even in the economically poorer sections of the society." MLC and member of Consultative Committee of Prevention of Adulteration of Foods and Prevalence of Counterfeit Drugs, UP, Ashutosh Singh said, "In the state, especially in Varanasi, ready to eat or ready to heat ultra-processed food, is fast becoming the food of choice for the migrant workforce who neither have time nor resource for cooked meals."

Sharing the FOPL experience of other countries such as Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, Regional Director, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) Vandana Shah said, "Warning labels are the most effective FOPL

labelling system to date. They work by helping consumers identify unhealthy products in a quick and simple way and by discouraging them to buy." Founder and CEO, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) Dr Lenin Raghuvanshi said, "Senior leaders across political parties along with health experts and human rights defenders have come together to secure the nutrition rights of Indian children. India's FOPL regulation is now a shared agenda." Former Congress MP Dr Rajesh Mishra, SP leader Shalini Yadav, former Mrs India International Roshni Kushal Jaiswal, advocate Sudha Chaurasia, BJP's Sunita Singh, UP Minister Dilip Sonkar, MLA Kailash Nath Sonkar, UPCC secretary Anil Yadav, Manoj Sonkar (BJP), Manoj Rai Dhoochandni (SP), former Zila Panchayat chief Aprajita Sonkar and many others also expressed their views.

Use of 'kulhar', 'dona-pattal' to be promoted at Magh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Lakhs of pilgrims, devotees and visitors will be able to relish real, earthy essence and flavours of beverages and eatables, especially the 'prasad', in 'kulhars' and 'dona-pattal' this Magh Mela. The Magh Mela authorities have also drafted a blueprint to promote the use of biodegradable products of kulhar and dona patal among hundreds of religious, social organisations and individuals, who would set up their camps from January 14.

District Magistrate (Magh Mela), Shesh Mani Pandey, told newsmen, "We have decided to promote the use of 'kulhar' and 'dona-pattal' at the thousands of camps to be

set up on mela campus in the forthcoming Magh Mela. Authorities have chalked out an elaborate plan to promote the earthen tableware and for that, we would be holding interactive sessions with the heads of various akhara, religious, social and cultural organisations."

Pandey further added that these measures will surely help to create mass awareness about protecting the environment among lakhs of visitors who would be arriving to take a holy dip on the pious month of Magh. Seers and saints associated with Kinnar Akhara have already given a thumbs up to the idea and agreed to promote the use of kulhar and dona-pattal during the mela period. Mahamandleshwar Swami

Kalyani Nand Giri of Kinnar Akhara said, "It's a responsibility of each and every individual to protect the environment and by using kulhar and dona pattal, we would be able to do our bit, particularly at the banks of Ganga, where millions of devotees would be arriving at the 47 days long Magh Mela to take holy dips and seeking salvation." Interestingly, authorities of various religious, and social organisations would be too bringing dona pattal from Jewaniya and adjoining villages in trans-Ganga, wherein around 200 families are preparing bowls and plates made from leaves, for use.

Authorities of religious organisations have also agreed to promote biodegradable con-

tainers like those made of leaves or clay, for food and beverages.

Among other things, the 'dona' and 'pattal' made of leaves of Sal and Banyan trees will be used to distribute prasad among devotees. In olden era, bowls and plates made up of Sal or Banyan tree leaves were used in majority of ashrams, social and religious spots, to serve food items and prasad, among devotees.

Pujya Guru Ji of Om Namah Shivaya organisation, said that a major section of pilgrims and devotees, who arrive from far flung states, are very environment friendly and usually prefer biodegradable products to food and beverages.

Agri Mandi Samiti deletes name of Shastri from board installed at gate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a gross negligence, Agriculture Mandi Samiti, had deleted the name of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri from the board installed at the main gate of the wholesale vegetable and fruits market in Pahadia, known as Pahadia Mandi, which had led to the resentment among the local people. The secretary of Mandi Samiti on Friday clarified that there is no government order about deleting the name of ex-PM and it happened by mistake during the renovation of the Mandi and assured the delegation of Bhartiya Ekta Sadbhavna Mission to correct the mistake by adding the name of Bharat Ratna on the board within a week.

Distressed with the deletion of the name of Shastri from the board installed at the main gate of Mandi, a delegation of the Mission met the ADM, City Gulab Chandra

and submitted a memorandum to him demanding that the name of Shastri should be added on the board as it was earlier. The ADM, City asked the delegation to meet the Secretary of Mandi Samiti by referring the matter to him.

The delegation of Mission met the secretary of Mandi Samiti Devendra Kumar Verma and handed over the memorandum making the same demand. The national general secretary of the Mission and national vice president Tilak Raj Kapoor (President Awardee) apprised that the name of the Mandi was kept in the name of Shastri on the directive of the then Governor of the state on July 13, 1982 by closing all the Mandis of the district.

But previous year the name of the ex-PM was removed from the message and it had received sharp reaction from the local people, they said and added, contrary to this, there is no change in the name of

Mandi on the paper and the trade to the countries such as America, China, Nepal, Egypt, Bangladesh and other states of the country is still being done with the old name of 'Lal Bahadur Shastri Naveen Mandi Sthal'.

Verma made it clear to the delegation that there was no government order to change the name of Mandi Samiti or remove the name of Shastri from the board of the main gate of Mandi and it happened by mistake during the renovation of Mandi.

He also assured the delegation to install the other board with the old name of the Mandi with adding the name of the ex-PM. The district president of Mission Vinod Keshari, city president Tahsildar Mishra and state vice president Rajendra Srivastava were also present on the occasion.

AKANKSHA BRINGS LAURELS FOR CITY: Akanksha Yadav, a leading woman blogger, writer and lit-

terateur, has brought laurels for the city as she was honoured with the 'Vriksha Ratna' award on the 11th Foundation Day of Swadeshi Samaj Seva Samiti at a function organised in Firozabad recently. The function was held under the co-ordination of Dr Ajab Singh Yadav, the working president of the organisation and former member of Higher Education Service Commission, Uttar Pradesh and Rudraksh Man Vivek Yadav.

She was given this honour for writing on environmental issues and for promoting environmental protection and plantation. Akanksha, served as a lecturer in the college, has been honoured in different parts of the country as well as abroad in Germany, Sri Lanka, Nepal etc.

She is wife of Krishna Kumar Yadav, Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region, who is himself a well-known name in the field of literature and blogging.

ALLAHABAD (PNS): National Secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, New Delhi, Dr Atul Kothari on Friday said after 150 years, education policy has been prepared pertaining to Indian culture and this is the third education policy after the country's independence. Inaugurating the two-day national conference on 'Flexible Academic Programme' at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad at Jhalwa campus on Friday morning, Dr Kothari said earlier two education policies were also good but these could not be implemented fully. He said now it is high time for all educational institutions to come forward in complete implementation of new education policy. He lauded IIT-A for taking an initiative to implement the Flexible Academic Programme (FAP) at national institutes as part of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He further said that the quality of holistic development is pervasive in the National Education Policy

2020. It includes study, teaching and examination as well as employment oriented. In this emphasis has been laid on the maximum use of information technology. Positive and constructive suggestions from all have been adopted in this policy. With this, the glorious and glorious ancient history and modernity of our Indian knowledge tradition will be established, he added. Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIT-A, in his presidential address emphasized having a counselling system in a flexible education programme. He advocated the implementation of Academic Bank of Credit as envisioned by the New Education Policy. The Director urged the Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas to ensure that there should be continuity in the appointment of a new director or vice chancellor. According to him, a new director should come before the outgoing director leaves the campus. There is no proper connection between former directors and new ones. Prof

Neetesh Purohit, FAP Coordinator said that after a long marathon the FAP is in its final stage to be activated by various institutes in the country. FAP focuses on allowing multiple exits with provisions of re-entry, along with multi-disciplinary, multi-mode, multi-lingual, lateral entry etc. features of the new education policy. The conference aims to concretize various business rules related to academics, administration and financial aspects of FAP such as a 4 year pilot run of FAP from the academic year 2022-23. Prof Ajit Chaturvedi, Director, IIT Roorkee pointed out three main challenges in complete implementation of FAP. Prof Rajivee Tripathi, Director, MNNIT praised the effort taken by IITA in this regard. Prof Mandira Agarwal, IIT Kanpur laid emphasis on implementation of FAP. Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary, Association of Indian Universities and Dr Satish Kumar Singh, President, IEEE, UP also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Vijayshri Tiwari, Registrar, proposed vote of thanks.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF ENGINEER AWARD FUNCTION: Principal Chief Engineer Award Function for the year 2020-21 was organised on Friday at North Central Railway Headquarters. During the function, 102 railway personnel from the Engineering Department of the zone, who have done outstanding and commendable work during the year, were felicitated by Principal Chief Engineer SK Mishra. Mishra congratulated the awardees. He motivated the officers and staff to perform their duties diligently. He directed all the supervisors to be alert towards rail fractures in winter and advised to change the rails as per the requirement. He also emphasised on the importance of the USFD testing. Apart from this, he also stressed on ensuring the quality of work. The programme was conducted by Uday Prakash Prajapati, Pawan Kumar Yadav, Ratnes Kumar and Deepak Shukla.

DC inspects new airport terminal building

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, while inspecting the new airport terminal building on Friday directed Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer and the director of airport to approach the Defence ministry in Delhi for issuing No Objection Certificate (NOC) soon.

He said the estimate for emergency road connectivity and drainage connectivity would be submitted to the government by the district magistrate in the next one week. He also directed the officials to complete the pending works in time and to finish

the civil works latest by December 31 as directed in the last meeting.

He said the new airport terminal building was of priority for Kanpur and as of now the UP government and the local administration were monitoring the progress of the work on daily and weekly basis. He said to ensure that the progress of the work was at a regular pace constant review meetings were held with the officials concerned. He said the current progress of the work was over 80 per cent in civil works, 50 per cent in electrical works and only 20 per cent in signal and display work. He said the civil works would be completed by December 31.

The DC said that the parking area civil works were completed along with STP, generator room, security room. He added that the facade design and art work would be finalised by December 10, by the Airport Authority of India and it would be having around 180 CCTV cameras for high security along with night vision cameras as well.

He said the road connectivity work by PWD was delayed but directions had been issued to examine the case and if required then to go for re-tender and finalisation of the new contractor in the next 21 days. He said once this was done it might take nearly three months for the completion of

the road. Dr Shekhar said the Indian Air Force officials said that the plane taxi connectivity to the Air Force runway was under consideration by the Defence ministry and hopefully the necessary decision would be taken by this month end.

He added that after the receiving the NOC from the Defence ministry, it would take three months for the taxi-runway connectivity.

The meeting was attended by Kanpur Nagar DM, GM (projects) AAI, Airport Director Kanpur, PWD chief engineer, additional municipal commissioner, officials of Air Force and Rajakiya Nirman Nigam.

DM asks officials to set up secondary treatment plant on war footing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer, while inspecting the 30 MLD secondary treatment plant being set up under Namami Gange project, on Friday, said the progress of the plant was nearly 72 per cent and directed that the work should be carried out on a war footing with special and strict monitoring of the work on a regular basis.

He said the effluent released should be adequately treated and made fit for agricultural use so that the farmers could get the benefit directly. He directed the officials to ensure that the treatment plant was set up within the stipulated time.

He said the tapping the Thermal Nala-A, B and ICI Nala would facilitate the availability of treated sewage from Shatabdi Nagar, Panki, Gangaganj, Ratanpur and Sundar Nagar. He said the two basic goals of treating sludge before final disposal were to reduce its volume and to stabilise the organic materials. He said stabilised sludge did not have an offensive odour and could be handled without causing a nuisance or health hazard. He said the smaller sludge volume reduced the costs of pumping and storage.

Iyer said that wastewater treatment processes produced



District Magistrate, City Mr Vishak G Iyer, inspecting the 30 MLD Secondary Treatment Plant.

a sludge which had to be disposed of. He said the conventional secondary sewage treatment plants typically generated a primary sludge in the primary sedimentation stage of treatment and a secondary, biological, sludge in final sedimentation after the biological process. He said the land application of raw or treated sewage sludge could significantly reduce the sludge disposal cost component of sewage treatment as well as provide a large part of the nitrogen and phosphorus requirements of many crops.

He said apart from those components of concern, sewage sludge also contained useful concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter and the availability of the phosphorus content. He said nitrogen availability was more dependent on sludge treatment, untreated liquid sludge and dewatered treated

sludge releasing nitrogen slowly with the benefits to crops being realised over a relatively long period.

He was accompanied by the Jal Nigam project manager and other officials.

MISMANAGEMENT IN LIBRARY: Earlier, the district magistrate expressed concern over the mismanagement of books in Rajkiya Pustakalaya at Chunniganj and directed the district inspector of schools to ensure proper upkeep of books. He said there should be better almirahs to keep the books safe and directed that the library could take the help of citizens for its improvement and upkeep.

He said books were treasures and they needed to be stored with utmost care. He said more books could be obtained from the people of Kanpur to make the library bigger with a better collection of books.

He said it was a matter of deep concern that the library was practically in a veritable mess and thus advised that it should be cleaned, set right and the building should be given a proper facelift. He said apart from this the citizens should be consulted to make the library aesthetically decorated and properly illuminated.

Dr Iyer said a library played a fundamental role as it was the gateways to knowledge and culture. He said the resources and services they offered created opportunities for learning, supported literacy and education, and helped shape the new ideas and perspectives that were central to a creative and innovative society. He said libraries offered free education and entertainment to the masses including students, working professional or common man of a community.

He said it did not matter what was one's economic status as one could come in and have free access to books that could inform and transform. He said a good modern library usually subscribed to practically all the important newspapers and periodicals so that these were made available to all those interested in these information sources.

He was accompanied by CDO Dr Mahendra Kumar, ADM (City) Atul Kumar and several other officials.

'Victory Flame' of Swarnim Vijay Varsh reaches city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

India Armed Forces are celebrating the current year as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' to commemorate the overwhelming victory in the 1971 war. As part of the celebration, 'Victory Flame' is moving across major towns and military establishments in the country. The flame started from Prayagraj and reached Kanpur Nagar, which was the abode to the formation of the units that played a stellar role in the 1971 victory.

A grand ceremony was held at Kanpur War Memorial where serving soldiers and veterans of the 1971 War ushered in the Victory Flame and offered homage to martyrs who had laid down their lives in line of duty.

Addressing the grand welcome function, Brigadier Dinar Dighe recalled the indomitable courage of the Armed Forces that paved the way for the landmark victory of India. He also thanked all veterans for their contribution to the war efforts and to the society. The veterans of 1971 war shared their experiences of the operations and finally the event culminated with group photographs and high tea.

Several functions and events will be organised at different army establishments and units located in the Kanpur over the next four days and subsequently on December 5, 2021 the Victory Flame will move to Agra which is its next destination.

IMA KANPUR ORGANISING CRICKET TOURNAMENT: The Indian Medical



Brig Dinar Dighe welcomes the 'Victory Flame' on its arrival in Kanpur.

Association, Kanpur Chapter has decided to organise IMA Fortune Cup 2021-22 cricket tournament. The main objective is to keep its members fit mentally and physically.

Medical professionals are so engrossed in serving the suffering humanity that they hardly find time to take care of their physical fitness.

It is equally important they take out time to take part in games and be on field. Keeping this in mind the IMA-K has decided to organise a cricket tournament for the medical fraternity.

Secretary Debijoti Debroy said that the event would begin on December 4 this year and continue till February 13, 2022.

He said that on the opening day the first match would be played between GTB Hospital and Regency Hospital

at the Green Park Stadium from 9:30 am and it would be of limited overs (20 overs each).

He said each team would play eight matches and the final match would be played on February 12 and 13, 2022.

He said the objective was to pass on the message to the masses that a healthy body had a major role to play, especially on account of the changed lifestyles and work pattern. He said the although doctors took care of others they had little time to focus on their own physical health.

IIT-K STUDENT DIES IN MISHAP: A B.Tech final year student of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, was killed and his four friends were injured in a road accident in Swaroop Nagar police station area on

Friday morning.

According to reports, IIT-Kanpur B.Tech final year students Dikshant Raj Meena (CSE), Vikas Yadav (BSBE), Anil Doodhwal (BS, Earth Science) and Deepak Kumar (Civil) along with an MBBS student Mahesh Kumar were returning to their hometown in Rajasthan in a car which hit an electric pole and then rammed into a tree on GT Road near LLR Hospital around 4:20 am on Friday.

While Vikas Yadav died on the spot, the other four students sustained minor injuries. Station House Officer Ashwani Kumar Pandey said at the time of accident, there were five occupants in the car.

The IIT-Kanpur mourned the untimely and tragic death of a very bright student.

KDA to help admin develop township for 63 families displaced

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Arvind Singh will assist the district administration in setting up a township for 63 Hindu families displaced from Bangladesh, in Bhaishaya village in Rasoolabad police station area of Kanpur Dehat.

This township will be developed on the pattern of Landonpur Grant township developed by the Singh in Lakhimpur Kheri during his posting there as chief development officer.

These displaced families were earlier domiciled in Hastinapur in Meerut.

The land for this purpose has already been identified and all the families are likely to reach Bhaishaya village in 2022. Apart from providing two acre land for agriculture, they will be given funds for construction of their houses there.

The state administration has decided to develop a township in Bhaishaya village on the pattern of Landonpur Grant Model of Lakhimpur Kheri. It may be recalled that the Landonpur Grand Model (Baba Gokarannath Gated Township) of Arvind Singh was praised by all the public representatives, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the recent past.

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION RAZED: Kanpur Development Authority demolished the illegal constructions/plotting carried out on around 25 acre land worth about Rs 8 crore in Katri area on the bank of river Ganga on Thursday.

During the drive, the KDA squad, with the help of JCB, demolished the road, drain, sewer, electricity poles and boundary wall of plots constructed there as part of the developmental works. Apart from the team of enforcement and land bank departments, adequate police force, including Mahila police, were present on the spot. Three JCBs were used for demolishing the illegal constructions/plotting.

Arvind Singh's initiative figures in govt book

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The 'Operation Chaturbhuj' of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) Vice Chairman Arvind Singh, implemented during his posting in Lakhimpur Kheri as Chief Development Officer, has been provided space in the book 'Utkrishta Padhhatiyan - Atmanirbhar Uttar Pradesh' released by the state government.

During his posting in Lakhimpur Kheri, Singh had observed that incidents of personal enmity/scuffles and cross-FIRs were increasing due to encroachment on sector/chak roads, ponds and public land; the economy of rural areas was affected due to low agricultural productivity.

In a bid to introduce a permanent solution to this problem, he launched 'Operation Chaturbhuj' under MNREGA there which facilitated the small marginal farmers in transporting their agricultural equipment and machinery from the field to all other areas comfortably.

This led to a decrease in the number of land disputes. Ponds were constructed and leased out to the fishing community to carry out their livelihood. Initiatives taken for water conservation helped in providing jobs to many families there.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and presence of migrant workers, many job opportunities were available in the village. Due to his efforts, Lakhimpur Kheri was declared a model district for providing maximum number of jobs in the state during 2020-21.

Singh also managed the construction of around 2,000 km of chakroad with the mutual cooperation and understanding of villagers without the intervention of police and magistrate and any grant from the state administration.

Gkp-Hyderabad spl to run for four additional trips

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Keeping in mind the huge rush of passengers, the railway administration will run the special train between Gorakhpur and Hyderabad - 02576/02575 Gorakhpur (GKP)-Hyderabad (HYB)-Gorakhpur for four additional trips. As a result the 02576 Gorakhpur-Hyderabad special train will be run on every Sunday on December 12, 19 and 26 and on January 2, 2022, from Gorakhpur and the 02575 Hyderabad-Gorakhpur special train on every Friday on December 10, 17, 24 and 31 from Hyderabad at its prescheduled time and stoppages, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

TEJAS EXP TO RUN FOR 2 ADDL TRIPS

In view of heavy rush of passengers, the railway administration will run 82501/82502 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Tejas Express between Lucknow Jn and New Delhi for two additional trips. This train runs four days a week i.e. on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Friday.

As a result the 82501/82502 Lucknow Jn-New Delhi-Lucknow Jn Tejas Express will run on Wednesday and Thursday December 8 and 9 from Lucknow and New Delhi for additional trips at its scheduled time and stoppages, Chief Public Relations Officer PK

Singh said.

TRAINS TO RUN TILL FURTHER ADVICE

The railway administration has decided to run the following puja special trains earlier notified to run till March 2022 according to the scheduled route, stoppage and rake composition till further advice, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

The 01033/01034 Pune-Darbhangha-Pune puja special train will run on every Wednesday from Pune as 11033 Pune-Darbhangha Express and every Friday as 11034 Darbhanga-Pune Express till further advice.

The 01407/01408 Pune-Lucknow-Pune puja special train will run from Pune as 11407 Pune-Lucknow Express on every Tuesday and on every Thursday as 11408 Lucknow-Pune Express till further advice.

The 02107/02108 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT)-Lucknow-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus puja special train will run on every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus as 12107 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Lucknow Express and on every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday as the 12108 Lucknow-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express till further advice.

The 02165/02166 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus puja special train will run on every Monday, Friday and Saturday from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus as 12165 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur Express and on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Gorakhpur as 12166 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express till further advice.

will run on every Monday, Thursday and Friday from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus as 12165 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur Express and on every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from Gorakhpur as 12166 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express till further advice.

The 01079/01080 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus puja special train will run as 11079 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur Express and on every Saturday from Gorakhpur as the 11080 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express.

The 01115/01116 Pune-Gorakhpur-Pune Puja special train will run on every Thursday from Pune as 11037 Pune-Gorakhpur Express and on every Saturday from Gorakhpur as 11038 Gorakhpur-Pune Express till further advice.

The 02135/02136 Pune-Banaras-Pune special train will run on every Monday from Pune run as 22131 Pune-Banaras Express and from Banaras on every Wednesday as 22132 Banaras-Pune Express till further advice.

The 02099/02100 Pune-Lucknow-Pune special train will run from Pune on every Tuesday run as 12103 Pune-Lucknow Express and from Lucknow on every Wednesday as 12104 Lucknow-Pune Express till further advice.

Training programme organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In connection with the guidelines of Election Commission a training programme for sector level magistrates and police officers was held at zila panchayat on Thursday. District Election Officer/ District Magistrate (DEO/DM) Praveen Kumar Laxkar directed to visit polling stations in advance for the purpose of conducting free, fair and peaceful elections. He directed to inquire about arrangements, including ramp, furniture, potable water, shed etc and submit the report through prescribed format at the election office with the note if anything was lacking and arrangements to be made. The participants were directed to conduct the checking of the works of BLOs along with verification of forms filled up during the brief revision drive of the electoral roll. Additional District Magistrate (Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla,



District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar addressing the training programme at zila panchayat on Thursday

deputy collector Ashwini Kumar Singh and Circle Officer (CO) Sadar Shaileendra Tripathi were also present along with the other officials concerned.

REVIEWED: Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Kumar Tiwari through video conferencing reviewed preparations for distribution of tablets and smart phones under the technical empowerment of youths studying in the state. District

Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar apprised him about the preparations which had been done. The chief secretary said that the plan had been made to make the state digitally active. As per the CS, smartphones and tablets were to be given to students of higher education, diploma, medical, para medical besides trainees of skill development centres and will be distributed through the institutions as well as the universities concerned.

DRM conducts inspection

PNS ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Ramashray Pandey, in his one-day programme on Thursday under Varanasi division did intensive inspection of passenger amenities available at Belthara Road station. During it DRUCC member Devendra Kumar Gupta expressed gratitude for the running of trains with regular number of and for smooth operation of Krishak Express even in bad weather. Thereafter the DRM reached

Belthara Road station and saw the progress. The DRM reached Belthara Road station. The DRM expressed satisfaction over the passenger amenities available at Belthara Road station. During it DRUCC member Devendra Kumar Gupta expressed gratitude for the running of trains with regular number of and for smooth operation of Krishak Express even in bad weather. Thereafter the DRM reached

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Manager (Infrastructure) Gyanesh Tripathi, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM) NK Joshi, Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE)-III Anuj Verma, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (SDEE)/ General AK.Singh, Divisional Commercial Manager Balendra Paul, Divisional Engineer (General) Arun Kumar Singh along with senior railway officers, supervisors and railway personnel. DRM for the development of passenger amenities inspected the Varanasi-Bhatni rail section and various construction works going on at different sta-

Lar Road station and inspected the passenger waiting room, station building, circulating area, various records of the station and operational facilities and gave directions to the persons concerned. He also tested fire extinguishers and the safety knowledge of the staff at Lar Road station and was pleased with the satisfactory results. In the course of inspection he reached Bhatni Junction and inspected the passenger facilities, platform, general passenger hall, ticket counter and station offices. He expressed satisfaction over the passenger

amenities at Bhatni and directed to arrange for additional walkie-talkies for operational facilities. Thereafter, while inspecting the Salempur-Barhaj rail section, the DRM reached Barhaj Bazar station, where Regional Rail User Consultative Committee member Amarendra Gupta while expressing his gratitude to the DRM on the completion of the electrification work of Barhaj Bazar-Salempur rail route and congratulated him. Gupta presented various demands regarding Barhaj Bazar station on which the DRM assured to fulfil the reasonable ones. During his inspection, the DRM directed to upgrade the building of Barhaj Bazar station and install additional handpumps for drinking water. After that, the DRM doing quick inspection of the Salempur and Indra stations gave necessary directions regarding passenger amenities, development work under doubling etc. The DRM inspecting the Indara-Phephna rail section and the standards of crossover line, over head traction etc reached the Phephna station. He did intensive inspection of various works going on at the railway station, saw the plan, examined the map of infrastructure development works and directed the concerned to expedite the work. On the occasion, he directed to complete the passenger amenities development works with full quality within the stipulated time frame under the doubling going on on the said section and at stations.

BJP MPs stage dharna in front of Gandhi statue against unruly behaviour

New Delhi (PNS): With the protest on suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs from Opposition

Ganesha Ecosphere Limited
CIN : L51109UP1967PLC009090
Regd. Office: Raipur (Rania), Kalpi Road, Distt. Kanpur Dehat (U.P.)-209304
E-mail : secretarial@ganeshacosphere.com

NOTICE
It is hereby notified that Share Certificate(s) No. 696, 8705, Folio No. 27060 bearing Distinctive Nos. 650851-650950 & 1451751-1451850 for 200 Equity Shares standing in the name(s) of Santoshi Devi Gour W/o Kamal Kishore Gour R/o Lal Bag Colony, Didwana Tehsil Didwana Distt. Nagaur Rajasthan, issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.

For Ganesh Ecosphere Ltd. Place: Kanpur (Bharat Sajnani) Date: 03.12.2021 Company Secretary

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
Tenders for executing the following works in two parts (as detailed in tender specifications) are hereby invited from experienced contractors and will be opened on the same dates mentioned below at 15.30 hrs. publicly in the office of the undersigned. The tender documents can be had up to previous working day of the opening day on payment of Rs. 236.00 including GST (NON REFUNDABLE) in cash or demand draft. If e-tender document is required by post, Rs. 30.00 will be charged extra. Part-I of the tender will contain an earnest money in shape of CDR/DR/BDR/CS duly pledged in favour of the undersigned in official capacity and part-II will contain rates, terms and conditions and other relevant details. Without earnest money e-tender will not be accepted. E-Tender No. 07/ESDS/2021-22 To be opened on dt. 24.12.2021, Tender cost Rs.236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00

1. Work for sweeping, cleaning & upkeep of control room, carrier room, battery room, multi-store room, fire hydrant room, store room and switchyard roads 400KV, 220KV S/S, microwave building under Electy. 400KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. Executive Engineer Electy. 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur No. 933 Date 03.12.2021 "Save Energy in National Interest."

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स 'केसा हाउस' कानपुर, ई-निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा ई-निविदा प्रथक-प्रथक दो भागों में निम्न साम. शि्यों हेतु केकेको ई-निविदा वेबसाइट [https:// etender.up.nic.in](https://etender.up.nic.in) पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र पूर्ण कर निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा पर खुलने की तिथि के अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। उक्त ई-निविदा उसी दिन 15:00 बजे से 17:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट पर सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। उक्त तिथि को अकाश घोषित होने पर निविदायें अगले कार्यदिवस में नियत समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा धनराशि का मुताबत आर0टी0जी0एस0 (खाता सं0 628805018266 आई0एफ0 एस0सी0-ICIC0006288) के रूप में, केकेको कानपुर के पक्ष में देय होगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर दिये गये समय से दो घण्टे पूर्व तक वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ यू0टी0आर0 की स्कैन प्रत अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि का मुताबत सिर्फ आर0टी0जी0एस0 के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा जो कि उपरोक्त खाते में देय होगी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र के प्रथम भाग में निर्धारित पी0व्यू0आर0 एवं तकनीकी अभिलेख होंगे तथा निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दरे एवं व्यवसायिक शर्तें होंगी, बिना धरोहर धनराशि के तथा सार्वत निविदायें खोली/स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। **निविदा सं0 08 / आर0टी0 जी0एस0/21-22 विवरण** केकेको के विभिन्न केन्द्रों/उपकेन्द्रों में स्थापित कैमरे एवं सहायक उपकरणों के तीन वर्षों हेतु संचालन एवं अनुक्षण का कार्य। **धरोहर धनराशि (रु0) 26,100/- निविदा धनराशि रु0 में (जी0एस0टी0 के साथ) 3540/- निविदा खोलने की तिथि 24.12.2021** उपरोक्त ई-निविदा की पूर्ण प्रक्रिया केकेको की ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से की जायेगी। तकनीकी योग्यता पूरा न करने वाले निविदादाता के निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। सामग्री क्रय की मात्रा घट बढ़ सकती है। अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। • उक्त ई-निविदा में यदि कोई शुद्धीकरण या विस्तारण होता है तो वह ई-निविदा वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड किया जायेगा, जिसका अलग से प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। (अधिशाली अभियन्ता) आई0टी0सेल पता-511/दिनांक 3.12.2021 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें।

camp entering its fifth day, the ruling BJP MPs on Friday too staged a dharna adjacent to them in front of the Gandhi statue on the Parliament premises against the "unruly" behaviour of the opposition MPs.

There were some tense moments as BJP members, carrying placards, marched towards the opposition members near the Gandhi statue to condemn their "undemocratic actions" inside the House. "We are here to highlight the duplicity of the opposition parties," BJP member GVL Narsimha Rao said.

The issue also figured in both houses of Parliament when opposition leaders complained about "hooting" by BJP members to the presiding officers.

Amid the stalemate, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said how can there be a reconciliation when these members are unwilling to apologise for their unruly behaviour in the previous session.

The issue came up in the House when RJD member Manoj Kumar Jha said in the Rajya Sabha that some BJP members "gategashed" the site in Parliament complex where the 12 suspended members were staging an agitation.

GANGRAPE OF A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Chargesheet filed against 33 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nine weeks after a shocking gang-rape of a 15-year-old girl allegedly by 33 persons, including four juveniles, rocked Maharashtra, the police on Friday filed a comprehensive charge-sheet against the accused in the Sessions Court at Kalyan in the adjoining Thane district.

The charge-sheet filed in the sensational black-and-gangrape case against 33 persons in the Kalyan Sessions Court runs into 885 pages, comprising statements by 122 witnesses.

Of the 33 accused, 29 are in judicial custody, while four others—all juveniles—are currently out on bail.

The heinous crime came to light when the 15-year-old victim girl from the satellite town of Dombivili in Thane district—who had allegedly been blackmailed and gang-raped for more than eight months—lodged a complaint with the Manpada police station on September 22, 2021.

The investigations have revealed that in January this year, the victim's boyfriend had reportedly indulged in forcible sex with her and had



video-graphed the incident.

Later on, the accused boyfriend showed and shared the video with his friends who allegedly used the clip to blackmail, threaten and sexually assaulted the girl for over the next eight months.

The perpetrators, some of them said to be politically well-connected, compelled the girl to accompany them to various locations at Dombivili, other nearby towns like Rabale, Badlapur, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Murbad and also at a remote farmhouse, where they repeatedly raped her. The charge-sheet stated that on a few occasions, the accused also dragged the victim girl before perpetrating sexual crime on her.

The accused had allegedly blackmailed and threatened the

victim girl that if she told her family members or approached the police about forced sexual acts, they would put out the video clips of her in revealing positions in social media. However, the victim girl mustered courage and approached the Manpada police station at Dombivili on September 22.

The victim girl, who underwent medical tests and treatment at a local hospital, recovered later from the trauma she had undergone.

During the investigations, the victim girl named all the 33 accused. The accused have been booked under sections 376 (rape), 376 (2) (n) (repeated rape) is punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 10 years but may extend to imprisonment for life, 376 (d) (gangrape), 376 (3) (rape on a woman below sixteen years of age) of IPC and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The 29 adult accused will be tried in a regular sessions court or a Special Fast Track Court, while the four juveniles will be tried before a Juvenile Justice Board.

Rahul calls Govt inhuman, insensitive on 'no record of farmers' death during stir'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday expressed surprise that the Modi Government had "no record" of the farmers' deaths during the farm laws agitation and accused it of being "inhuman", "insensitive" and "arrogant".

The Congress leader also questioned the Government for treating the deceased farmers and earlier people who



died of Covid as nonexistent. "This is not the way a Prime Minister should behave. This is an unpleasant, immoral, and cowardly way to behave," Rahul said.

Addressing a Press conference at AICC headquarters, Rahul mentioned that while he will place the list of the deceased farmers before the Parliament on Monday, he mentioned that the Punjab government is not responsible for the deaths of the farmers during the farm laws agitation but still paid Rs 5 lakh compensation to the families of 403 deceased farmers in the state.

He said the Congress also has a list of 100 farmers from outside Punjab who died during the farm laws agitation and another list of about 200 deceased farmers has been compiled based on public records.

Rahul's attack was against the backdrop of the Government's statement in Parliament a day earlier.

"No record is available on the matter (death of farmers) so the question does not arise," the government maintained.

On a question about the remaining demands of the farmers following the repeal of the farm laws, he said, "I don't think the government will accept farmers' demands" and asserted that "its intention is not right".

"Frankly it is not our mistake that caused the death of 700 farmers. It is the PM's mistake. The Prime Minister apologised. He said he made a mistake and because of that mistake, 700 farmers died. Why doesn't the PM have the decency and the dignity to help their families?" Rahul asked.

Decision on booster dose will be based on scientific evidence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that a decision on booster dose and Covid jabs for children will be taken on the basis of scientific guidance from experts. He also said that India has stepped up surveillance for Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Replying to a two-day-long debate on Covid-19 pandemic, the Health Minister blamed Opposition parties for "playing politics" during the clamour.

Mandaviya said RT-PCR tests have been conducted on 16,000 passengers from "at-risk" countries, of whom 18 have tested positive for Covid-19. The Minister said the swab samples of these 16 passengers have been sent for genome sequencing to screen for the Omicron variant of the virus.

The Health Minister hit out at the opposition for making a political issue on the availability of ventilators, which were funded through the PM-CARES Fund, and

hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the testing times. He said orders were placed for the supply of 58,000 ventilators, mostly with public sector companies, and 50,200 breathing machines had been delivered to states and 48,000 have been installed at various hospitals.

Besides ventilators, the Government also ensured availability of Covid protocol medicines across the country to ensure that the states did not appear wanting in the fight against the pandemic. Mandaviya also slammed the opposition parties for creating doubts about homegrown vaccines which affected the vaccination drive.

"Opposition-ruled states promised support during meetings with the prime minister, but went back on their words and tried to weaken the nation's fight against COVID-19," the Minister said. To questions on the vaccination drive, the Minister said the Government was committed to fully vaccinate all the eligible beneficiaries.

RJD demands release of politicians who have spent 14 years in jail

Patna: The opposition RJD in Bihar on Friday demanded that politicians who have spent more than 14 years in jail serving sentences be released forthwith in keeping with a Supreme Court judgement which has empowered respective state governments to take a call on such matters.

The issue was raised in the state assembly by MLA Chetan Anand, whose father Anand Mohan Singh had been awarded death penalty which was later commuted to imprisonment for life in a high profile murder case.

"I had raised the matter both as a member of the House and as a member of an aggrieved family," Anand told reporters later outside the assembly.

Singh, a don-turned-politician who famously loved to get photographed holding a gun and surrounded by henchmen armed to the teeth, had been convicted for inciting a mob that lynched IAS officer G Krishnaia in the 1990s. Krishnaia, who was the

District Magistrate of Gopalganj, was beaten to death after being dragged out of his car while it was passing through Muzaffarpur district where a procession was being taken out in support of dead gangster Chhotan Shukla upon his murder.

Interestingly, Singh had always been daggers drawn with Lalu Prasad, who was then the chief minister of Bihar and is now the president of the RJD.

Brij Bhari Prasad, then a powerful RJD minister of the state, was allegedly involved in the murder of Shukla, who had got associated with the Bihar P people's Party floated by Singh.

Brij Bhari Prasad was also shot dead in a Patna hospital where he was undergoing treatment in 1998.

Singh's son said, "The reply to my submission by the minister in charge clearly shows that it has no intention to release such prisoners. I spoke not only for my father but for many others, including Rajendra Yadav". Rajendra Yadav is an ex-

MLA of the RJD from Atri in Gaya who has been convicted for the murder of a JD(U) worker when the former was taking out a victory procession after winning the seat in 2005.

Leader of the opposition Tejashwi Yadav, who stood beside Chetan Anand, also spoke after the latter was through. "This government wants to keep all those who are not beholden to it under some type of pressure. Reluctance to release Anand Mohan and Rajendra Yadav is politically motivated," said Yadav.

He asserted that the nephew of a minister was named in a murder that took place about a month ago though the accused was yet to be arrested.

"So much for the Nitish Kumar government's claims of framing no innocent and sparing 'no guilty'," said the RJD leader who shortly afterwards held a press conference at the party office where he brandished a bundle of papers claiming it to be a copy of the FIR lodged in connection with the Purnea murder case.

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No:- JDA/EE&T/AtDir.Engg.-I/2021-22/D-103 Date: 03.12.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-I/45/2021-22
Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given:-

| S. N. | UBN No | Cost of Work (Lacs) | A&F | Nature of Work | Last Date |
|-------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | JDA2122WS0800449 | 224.72 | 271/2021-22 | EE-PHE-I, OCEMS supply, installation & maintenance work | 27.12.2021 |

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-I
Raj.Samwad/C/2021-22/9121

जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, जोन-4 गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

प0सं0 :- 644/एल0जे0एस0/ईई-4/2021-22, दिनांक :- 2/12/2021

एतद्वारा जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम लखनऊ में कार्यरत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 13/12/2021 के सायंकाल 3:00 बजे तक निविदा. बाक्स में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 13/12/2021 को 2:00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद भुगतान केश काउन्टर पर जमा करके प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा बाक्स से प्राप्त निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष सायंकाल 3:30 बजे खोली जायेंगी। समयावधि के पश्चात प्राप्त निविदाओं पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखी व क्रय की जा सकती हैं। निविदा के साथ वांछित धरोहर राशि एफ0डी0आर0/सी0डी0आर0/बैंक गारंटी जो अधिशाली अभियन्ता के नाम बन्धक हो, जमा करना अनिवार्य है।

| क्र0 सं0 | कार्य का विवरण | निविदा का मूल्य | धरोहर धनराशि |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | गोमती नगर जोन-4 के अन्तर्गत विकल्प खण्ड में भवन सं0 1/11 से 1/16 तक 110 एम0एम0 व्यास की 90 मीटर पी0वी0सी0 पाइप लाइन डालने के कार्य हेतु। | 200.00 | 3000.00 |
| 2 | गोमती नगर जोन-4 के अन्तर्गत भवन सं0 1/52 विकल्प खण्ड से विकल्प खण्ड-1 नलकूप तक 160 एम0एम0 व्यास की 120 मीटर पी0वी0सी0 पाइप लाइन डालने के कार्य हेतु। | 200.00 | 3000.00 |

अधिशाली अभियन्ता जोन-4
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

IMPORTANT NOTICE
For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to augment the following Express Trains temporarily from the dates shown against each :-

| Train No. & Name | Augmented by | Date w.e.f. (Originating Station) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12029/30 New Delhi - Amritsar - New Delhi Swarna Jayanti Shatabdi Express | AC Chair Car -1 | Ex. New Delhi on 05.12.2021 Ex. Amritsar on 05.12.2021 |
| 12231/32 Lucknow - Chandigarh - Lucknow Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Lucknow from 04.12.2021 to 10.12.2021 Ex. Chandigarh from 05.12.2021 to 11.12.2021 |
| 12236/35 Anand Vihar (T) - Madhupur-Anand Vihar (T) Humsafar Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 09.12.2021 Ex. Madhupur on 10.12.2021 |
| 14010/09 Anand Vihar (T) - Bapudham Motihari -Anand Vihar (T) Champaran Satyagrah Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 04.12.2021 Ex. Bapudham Motihari on 05.12.2021 |
| 12444/43 Anand Vihar (T) - Haldia-Anand Vihar (T) Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 07.12.2021 Ex. Haldia on 09.12.2021 |
| 12408/07 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karambhumri Express | 2 nd Seating - 1 | Ex. Amritsar on 10.12.2021 Ex. New Jalpaiguri on 15.12.2021 |
| 14205/06 Ayodhya Cantt. - Delhi - Ayodhya Cantt. Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Ayodhya Cantt. from 04.12.2021 to 10.12.2021 Ex. Delhi Jn. from 07.12.2021 to 13.12.2021 |
| 14208/07 Delhi - Pratapgarh - Delhi Padmavat Express | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Delhi Jn. from 05.12.2021 to 11.12.2021 Ex. Pratapgarh from 06.12.2021 to 12.12.2021 |
| 14512/11 Meerut City-Prayagraj Sangam-Meerut City Nauchandi Exp. | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Meerut City upto 08.12.2021 Ex. Prayagraj Sangam from 04.12.2021 to 09.12.2021 |
| 22420/19 Anand Vihar (T) - Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar (T) Suhaildev Exp. | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) from 04.12.2021 to 09.12.2021 Ex. Ghazipur City from 05.12.2021 to 10.12.2021 |
| 22434/33 Anand Vihar (T) - Ghazipur City-Anand Vihar (T) Exp. | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 10.12.2021 Ex. Ghazipur City on 11.12.2021 |
| 22428/27 Anand Vihar (T) - Ballia-Anand Vihar (T) Exp. | Sleeper - 1 | Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 04.12.2021 Ex. Ballia on 05.12.2021 |

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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Forces, police alerted against honey trap

'Delhi-based advocate honey-traps officials and later uses them to get sensitive info'

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Following an intelligence input, Central paramilitary forces, Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police and Delhi Police have been alerted to guard their ranks against a honey-trap bid by a Delhi-based advocate, aged 35 years.

The suspected advocate allegedly honey-traps officials and later uses them to get sensitive information as also transfer and postings of the armed forces' and police officials.

The advocate originally hails from Bhiwani, Haryana and is currently based at Dilshad Colony here and is allegedly involved in "activities prejudicial to national interest."

"It has been reported that(the advocate) is taking interest in developing connections with the officers of Indian Army and CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces or paramilitary forces). She is using her relations with these officers in seeking personal favours like transfer/posting and elicitation of sensitive information from prominent government officials," reads the alert.

She has also allegedly formed close connections with both retired and in-service officials of various Government ministries as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Jammu and Kashmir Police and Delhi Police, according to the alert.

"She is known to honey trap officials and later use them to get her work done," reads the communication that also attached a detailed profile of the advocate, including her photographs.

The armed forces have been asked to sensitise the ranks and file about her indulgence in undesirable activities detrimental to the security

interest of the country.

The agencies have also been asked to ensure that the entry of the advocate is barred from their respective premises.

In the last one year, she has travelled extensively to Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

She is interested in connecting with influential people and takes a lot of interest in news related to Jammu and Kashmir, transfer of senior officials of paramilitary forces and also in the personal lives of her connections.

"She has now shown interest in developing similar connections in the Indian Army, preferably (posted) in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi," the advisory added.

She uses three mobile phones and a landline for networking and honey-trapping activities.

The identity of the suspect advocate is being withheld so as not to disturb the surveillance mounted on her by the agencies.

Keeping close watch on Chinese ships in Indian ocean region: Navy chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A tension persists at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last one and half years, security scenario has become complex, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said here on Friday.

He also said China has built more than 138 warships in the last ten years and India has factored in this development to ensure operational preparedness. The Navy chief's remarks came in the backdrop of China increasingly flexing its muscle in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific.

Assuring that the Indian Navy continues to keep a close watch on the movement of the Chinese ships in India's zone of interest, Kumar

said China is present in the Indian Ocean region since 2008. At any given time there are eight Chinese ships there and sometimes the number goes down to three, he said while addressing the annual press conference on the eve of the Navy Day on Saturday. Elaborating upon the sequence of events since last year when trouble broke out at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, the newly appointed Navy chief said Indian warships were deployed in all the sensitive zones and continue to be mission deployed even now.

He admitted situation along India's northern border (LAC) has added to the "security complexities" at a time the country was reeling under COVID-19 and that the "dual" scenario continues.

The Indian Navy continues to maintain close surveillance on the Chinese movements and has fairly good maritime domain awareness, the Navy chief said adding "we have plans in place." As regards the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, he said this is of great importance to India as more than 200 billion dollars worth of trade of the country transits through the sea lanes there. Moreover, Indian diaspora also resides in the littoral states on the rim of the Indo-Pacific, the Navy chief said. On comparison with China in terms of number of ships, Kumar said, "It is not just the numbers that matter. It is also about people, how you employ the weapons that you have, your strategy and your operational plans.

There are a whole lot of issues. I want to assure you that the Indian Navy is a well-balanced force and is confident of defending India's maritime interests for sure."

Kumar said that Acceptance of Necessity (approval) was accorded for 72 projects worth Rs 1,97,359 crore for the Navy and out of which 59 projects worth Rs 1,74,027 crore will be implemented indigenously. He also said work is on to finalise the ten-year plan for projecting the need for ships, submarines and related assets. Referring to the the-aterisation plan of the armed forces, he said the details on setting up of the maritime theatre command are being worked out and they may be finalised by the middle of next year.

Fear engulfs Keralites as water level in Mullaperiyar Dam rises

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

About 4 million people staying in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Alappuzha in Kerala live in perpetual fear as the possibilities of the 126 year old Mullaperiyar Dam bursting any time became stronger with the north east monsoon of 2021 bringing in bountiful rain.

Wednesday night saw Tamil Nadu Government which owns and operates the dam situated in Kerala opening seven shutters without any warning and this led to unexpected raise in water level in Periyar River that flows

through Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam districts.

"The Central Government should immediately intervene and save the people of Kerala from a deluge. It is time Mullaperiyar Dam is either demolished or decommissioned," seven-time MLA of Kerala Legislative Assembly P C George told The Pioneer. George, a veteran farmers' leader in the State said that the Dam is a ticking time bomb and people like him who reside downstream live in perpetual fear.

"I as the chairman of the petition committee of Kerala Legislature had recommended thrice the decommission of this dam and cancellation of

the 1886 Mullaperiyar Agreement signed between the then British Government and the Travancore Maharaja. The agreement has become null and void as all agreements signed between the British colonial masters and the princely States in India got cancelled by the night of August 14, 1947 with the implementation of the India Independence Act 1947," said George.

The controversial dam, built with lime and surki (before cement and concrete mixture came into vogue) is 53.66 meter (176 ft) high, 1200 ft in length and has a depth of 142 ft. "Though Tamil Nadu claims that its Kallanai Dam in Thanjavur was built

during the 2nd century AD, the truth is that it is a dwarf of a dam compared to Mullaperiyar. Its height is just 5.4 meters and there are no structural defects detected in it unlike Mullaperiyar Dam which has many flaws in its construction," said George.

M M Mani CPI(M) MLA who is the former power minister and P J Joseph, MLA and former minister for revenue too expressed their fear and concerns about the safety of the dam and called for immediate action from the Government of Tamil Nadu. "Water level in the dam should be brought down so that people could sleep peacefully," said Mani.

Tamil Nadu opened the

shutters of the dam on Wednesday late night without any warning that led to the flooding of Periyar River flowing through Kerala. Since the people staying on the river banks were did not sleep because of heavy rains, they could alert their brethren and save them from getting washed away, said Joseph.

George said Kerala has identified land for building a new dam in place of Mullaperiyar. "We will continue giving Tamil Nadu whatever water it is taking from Mullaperiyar. Our only mission is to save the people of Kerala from getting washed away while ensuring water for Tamil Nadu," said George.

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan returns as Kerala CPI(M) chief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The ruling CPI(M) in Kerala which has been facing a series of allegations in connection with murder of political rivals, corruption in high places and religious appeasement, got a major relief on Friday as the party's State Secretary decided to give back the charge of secretary to polit bureau member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan who was on leave on health

grounds since November 2020. The decision to hand over the post of secretary to Balakrishna comes at a time when there is a strong demand by the party cadre to elevate him as all India General Secretary.

Though Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, who has been secretary of the Kerala unit of the party since 2014, was on leave reportedly due to health reasons, it was the arrest and imprison-

ment of his younger son Bineesh Kodiyeri that made him temporarily vacate the party post.

Bineesh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with drug trafficking and related financial issues.

The younger son of Balakrishnan was in Bangalore's Parappana Agrahara Prison for one year and was released on bail only in October 2021.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 282/2021

It is notified for information of general public that the Train No. 82501 / 82502 Tejas Express between Lucknow Jn. - New Delhi - Lucknow Jn. will run extra trip as under:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Train No. 82501 Ex. Lucknow Jn. on 8.12.2021 & 9.12.2021 | Extra Service on Train No. 82502 Ex. New Delhi Jn. on 8.12.2021 & 9.12.2021 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Further from 17.12.2021 onwards, train will run as per Notification No. 190/2021 dated 13/07/2021 (Four days in a week i.e. Every Sat, Sun, Mon & Fri)

Please Note: It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.

CPROT-162 Chief Passenger Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do not travel with inflammable items in trains

'Cyclone Jawad to hit near Puri around noon on Sunday'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IMD on Friday said Cyclone Jawad (name proposed by Saudi Arabia), formed in the Bay of Bengal, is expected to travel along the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts on Saturday before reaching Puri district on Sunday morning. This is the first cyclone in 130 years in December and third after Yaas and Gulab to reach Odisha in 2021.

According to cyclone development frequency data maintained by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), no cyclone had crossed the Odisha coast in December between 1891 and 2020. As per the latest satellite observations, it was located 420 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 650 km south-southeast of Paradip and 530 km south-southeast of Gopalpur.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba chaired the second meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee to review the preparedness of States and Central Ministries/Agencies to deal with the cyclone "Jawad".

IMD director general Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Friday said the cyclone would come closest to land near Puri district around noon on Sunday. The maximum impact will be when the cyclone intensifies to the 'Severe Cyclone' category, bringing with it very heavy rainfall and gusty winds with speed picking up to 110 kmph between the mornings of Saturday and Sunday. "The cyclonic storm is likely to reach the west-central Bay of Bengal off the coast of north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha by Saturday morning. Thereafter, it is likely to recurve north-northeastwards, move along the coast of Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh and touch the coast around Puri by December 5 noon," he said.

बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक Baroda U.P. Bank
(पूर्ववर्ती काशी गोमती संयुक्त ग्रामीण बैंक) (Sponsored by Bank of Baroda)
प्रधान कार्यालय: बुद्ध विहार व्यावसायिक योजना, तारामंडल, गोरखपुर-273016
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जे 12/140 डी 1, गुलाबवाड़ी, चौकाघाट, जनपद- वाराणसी 221001

कच्चा नोटिस (अचल सम्पत्ति हेतु)

अधोस्तावरी, जो कि सिक्वोरिटीजेशन एण्ड रिकॉन्स्ट्रक्शन ऑफ फाइनेंसियल एसेट्स एंड एन्फोर्समेंट ऑफ सिक्वोरिटी इंस्टीट्यूट 2002 के अंतर्गत बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक के अधिकृत अधिकारी हैं, द्वारा उपरोक्त एक्ट की धारा 13(12) तथा सिक्वोरिटी इंस्टीट्यूट (एन्फोर्समेंट) रूल 2002 के रूल 9 में निहित प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत अधिकारों का प्रयोग करते हुए बकायेदार/जमानतदार को बकाया ऋणों के सम्बन्ध में मांग पत्र भेजे गए तथा ऋण वापसी हेतु 60 दिनों का अधिकतम समय दिया गया। बकायेदार/जमानतदार द्वारा, मांगी गई धनाशिशि जमा न किए जाने पर एतद्वारा बकायेदार/जमानतदार एवं जन साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त एक्ट की धारा 13(4) ब रूल 8 एवं 9 के अंतर्गत प्राप्त अधिकारों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित सम्पत्ति पर अधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा उसके समक्ष दस्तावेज एवं तिथियाँ पर कब्जा ले लिया गया। बकायेदार/जमानतदार को विशेष रूप एवं जनसाधारण को एतद्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित परिसम्पत्तियों का किसी भी प्रकार का संव्यवहार ना करें। इस सम्बन्ध में किया गया कोई संव्यवहार बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक को देव शशि उस पर ब्याज के प्रभार के शर्तों के अनुसार होगा। बकायेदार का ध्यान आकषित किया जाता है कि धारा 13 की उपधारा (8) की अधिनियम के अंतर्गत जो प्रतिभूति सम्पत्ति पुडवाने के लिए उपलब्ध समय के समबन्ध में है।

| क्र० सं० | बकायेदार/जमानतदार का नाम, पता व खाता संख्या | सम्पत्ति का विवरण | मांग सूचना पत्र की तिथि व बकाया राशि | अधिग्रहण की तिथि |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | श्रीमती नमीता वर्मा उर्फ तहजीब फातिमा पत्नी अलकाब कादरी एवं अलकाब कादरी पुत्र स्व० निसार अहमद, पता: मं नं० 313 जी, चाँदपुर लोहा, वाराणसी | श्रीमती नमीता वर्मा उर्फ तहजीब फातिमा पत्नी अलकाब कादरी के नाम, मं नं० 313 जी, चाँदपुर लोहा, जिला- वाराणसी, क्षेत्रफल- 863 वर्ग फीट | 26.11.2020 एवं ₹ 9,65,039.15 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31-03-2020) | 29.11.2021 |
| 2. | श्रीमती शकुन्तला देवी पत्नी लक्ष्मी नारायण जायसवाल एवं लक्ष्मी नारायण जायसवाल पुत्र स्व० लालता प्रसाद, पता: खाता नं० 199, गाटा नं० 176, मं नं० 40 23/14-ए-7, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, जिला- वाराणसी | श्रीमती शकुन्तला देवी पत्नी लक्ष्मी नारायण जायसवाल के नाम, खाता नं० 199, गाटा नं० 176, मं नं० 40 23/14-ए-7, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, जिला- वाराणसी, क्षेत्रफल- 315 वर्ग फीट | 26.11.2020 एवं ₹ 10,73,532.29 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31-03-2020) | 29.11.2021 |
| 3. | श्रीमती चम्पे ली देवी पत्नी मोनु एवं बबलू पुत्र मोनु, पता: सी 15/362 डी, हकास्टोला, लल्लपुर, चेतनगंज, वाराणसी | श्रीमती चम्पे ली देवी पत्नी मोनु के नाम, सी 15/362 डी, लल्लपुर, चेतनगंज, जिला- वाराणसी, क्षेत्रफल- 201.3 वर्ग फीट | 26.11.2020 एवं ₹ 4,10,333.48 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31-03-2020) | 29.11.2021 |
| 4. | श्री राजेश कुमार पुत्र स्व० चुनमुन एवं श्रीमती सीमा कुमारी पत्नी राजेश कुमार, पता: एस 23/61-डी-ए-1-पी, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) लक्ष्मी नारायण जायसवाल, पता: एस 23/14-ए-1, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, सारनाथ, वाराणसी, (2) राममती देवी पत्नी केदारनाथ तिवारी, पता: एस 23/62-डी, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, वाराणसी | श्री राजेश कुमार पुत्र स्व० चुनमुन के नाम, एस 23/61-डी-ए-1-पी, डेलवरिया, चौकाघाट, जिला- वाराणसी, क्षेत्रफल- 230 वर्ग फीट | 26.11.2020 एवं ₹ 5,32,978.00 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31-03-2020) | 29.11.2021 |
| 5. | श्रीमती मीना देवी पत्नी महेन्द्र शर्मा एवं श्री महेन्द्र शर्मा पुत्र स्व० दादा दाकुर, पता: (1) आराजी नं० 201/01, मीना- दनियालपुर, परगना- शिवपुर, बार्ड- सारनाथ, जिला-वाराणसी, (2) सी-33/87-ए, चंदुआ, फिस्तपुर, वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) उदय सिंह पुत्र स्व० शिवमुरार, पता: एस.ए. 19/197 दनियालपुर सारनाथ वाराणसी, (2) सुरेश कुमार पुत्र स्व० नारायण, पता: बी-38/165 एन, तुलसीपुर, महेमुरांज, वाराणसी | श्रीमती मीना देवी पत्नी महेन्द्र शर्मा के नाम, आराजी नं० 201/01, मीना- दनियालपुर, परगना- शिवपुर, बार्ड- सारनाथ, जिला-वाराणसी, क्षेत्रफल- 247 वर्ग फीट | 26.11.2020 एवं ₹ 4,24,729.79 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31-03-2020) | 29.11.2021 |

नोट: प्रकाशन सावधानीपूर्वक किया गया है। किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर संबंधित शाखा से संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

दिनांक - 04.12.2021 स्थान - वाराणसी प्राधिकृत अधिकारी

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.
Corporate Office: 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
Ph: 0124- 4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website: www.shubham.co

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

It is to bring to your notice that your loan account has been declared as NPA by secured creditor Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited having its registered office at D-305, Ground Floor, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi - 110017 (herein after called 'SHDFCL') and you are liable to pay total outstanding against your loan to SHDFCL. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Therefore, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to SHDFCL within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which SHDFCL will be empowered to exercise the power under Section 13(4) of the ACT. The details of borrowers and secured assets are as under:

| S. No. | Loan Account No. Borrower(s) Name | Applicant Address | Notice Amount | Secured Asset |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | 0ALB170900005008085, Rahul Jaiswal, Raj Bahadurlal Jaiswal | 218, Garwan Tola Khuldabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh-211003 | Rs. 17,32,377/- | 240A / 218 Garwan Tola Pergana and Tehsil - Sadar District -Allahabad Uttar Pradesh-211003 |
| 2. | 0VRN200200005026858, Abhishek Rai, Parmila | Arazi No. 97, Nakeshpur, Aithgaon Varanasi Uttar Pradesh-221007 | Rs. 6,89,208/- | Arazi No. 97, Situate Mauza- Nakhshapur, Pergana Aithgawa Tehsil- Pindra, Distt-Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh-221003 |
| 3. | 0VRN190100005017566, Ajay Kumar, Babita | Bhikharipur, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh - 221004 | Rs. 8,00,780/- | Arazi No.8, Mauza- Bhikharipur Kalan, Pergana- Dehat Amanat, Tehsil- Sadar Distt-Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh-221004 |

PLACE: GURGAON, AUTHORIZED OFFICER,
DATE: 03-12-2021 SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

लखनऊ नगर निगम जलकल विभाग, जोन-1

लालबाग, लखनऊ
अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना

पत्र सं० 1341 / EE-1/नियो दिनांक : 03.12.2021

निम्नलिखित आपूर्ति/कार्य हेतु अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से नीचे दिये गये विवरण के अनुरूप कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु मोहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 10.12.2021 के सायंकल 4.00 बजे तक आमत्रित किये जाते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 10.12.2021 को 1.00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद सुगतान कैश काउन्टर पर करके प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। भरी हुई सील निविदायें उसी दिन अधोस्तावरी के कार्यालय में 4.00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा बाँक्स से प्राप्त सभी निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष 4.30 बजे सायंकल खोली जायेगी।

| क्र०सं० | कार्य/आपूर्ति का विवरण | निविदा का मूल्य | घरोहर धनराशि |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. | जोन-1 अन्तर्गत नाका क्षेत्र के पंजाबी मोहल्ला में नाका थाना के सामने म0न0-78/03 (श्रीमती पूजा) वाया म0न0-78/44 (श्री अमरजीत सिंह) से म0न0-78/51 (श्री बॉबी) के मकान तक 110 एम0एम0 ब्यास की लगभग 48 मीटर पी0वी0सी0 पाइप लाइन डालने का कार्य। | 100.00 | 2400.00 |

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-1 के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-1
जलकल विभाग

सेण्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India
1911 से आपके लिए "केंद्रित" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911
Regional Office: Lanka, Varanasi-221005 | www.centralbankofindia.co.in

**APPENDIX IV [See Rule 8 (1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice, on date mentioned below against each account stated hereinafter, calling upon the borrower/guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below against each account. The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the total amount due mentioned below against each account and interest & all expenses there on:

| Sl No. | Borrower, Guarantor, Account No. & Branch Name | Mortgagor and Description of Mortgaged Property | Date of Possession Notice | Date of Demand Notice & Amount Due |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Borrower/Guarantors - SRI SIDHARTH SINGH S/o Sri Digvijay Singh, Smt. Nishiprabha Singh W/o Sri Digvijay Singh and Smt. Garvita Kapoor W/o Sri Sidhartha Singh, All R/o C-33/289, Chandua, Chhittapur, Varanasi-221001(UP) and Sri Shashank Singh S/o Sri Chandra Prakash Singh, R/o H. No. C-33/289, Chandua Chhittapur, Distt.- Varanasi-221001 (U.P.) Sri Shardul Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Kr. Singh R/o H. No. M-1/885, Vinay Khand, Gomati Nagar, Distt.- Lucknow (U.P.) & Sri Raghvendra Singh S/o Vijai Shankar Singh, R/o Rai Kvardih, Sadar, Distt.- Mau-275101 (U.P.) | EM of Residential Property House No. J-12/79, A-3 and J-12/79, A-4, Mohalla - Nati Imali, Arazi No.- 292, Varanasi-221001(UP). Owned By: Sri Shashank Singh S/o Sri Chandra Prakash Singh, Sri Sidhartha Singh S/o Sri Digvijay Singh, Sri Shardul Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Kr. Singh & Sri Raghvendra Singh S/o Vijai Shankar Singh., Measuring 971.25 sqft. Bounded as follows: East: Juj Rakba Arazi No.292, West: Private passage, North: Private passage, South: Juj Rakba Arazi No.- 292 | 01.12.2021 | 16.06.2021 Rs. 66,70,698.80 + interest & all expenses |
| 2. | Borrower/Guarantors - SRI SHASHANK SINGH S/o Sri Chandra Prakash Singh, R/o: H. No. C-33/289, Chandua Chhittapur, Distt. Varanasi-221001(UP). Owned By: Sri Shashank Singh S/o Sri Chandra Prakash Singh, Sri Sidhartha Singh S/o Sri Digvijay Singh, R/o: H. No. C-33/289, Chandua Chhittapur, Distt.- Varanasi - 221001 (UP), Sri Shardul Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Kr. Singh R/o: H. No. M-1/885, Vinay Khand, Gomati Nagar, Distt.- Lucknow (U.P.) & Sri Raghvendra Singh S/o Vijai Shankar Singh, R/o: Rai Kvardih, Sadar, Distt.- Mau-275101 (U.P.) | EM of Residential Property House No. J-12/79, A-3 and J-12/79, A-4, Mohalla - Nati Imali, Arazi No.- 292, Varanasi-221001(UP). Owned By: Sri Shashank Singh S/o Sri Chandra Prakash Singh, Sri Sidhartha Singh S/o Sri Digvijay Singh, Sri Shardul Singh S/o Sri Satyendra Kr. Singh & Sri Raghvendra Singh S/o Vijai Shankar Singh., Measuring 971.25 sqft. Bounded as follows: East: Juj Rakba Arazi No.292, West: Private passage, North: Juj Rakba Arazi No. 292, South: Juj Rakba Arazi No. 292 | 01.12.2021 | 16.06.2021 Rs. 27,97,894.71 + interest & all expenses |

Note- The attention of Borrower, Guarantor & Mortgagor is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets. For any clarification/error please contact the concerned branch

Place : Varanasi Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India



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PAPER WITH PASSION

What's next?

The world's scientific community needs to pool all its resources to avoid another Delta-like chaos

The Omicron variant has brought back the pandemic scare, but the world appears not to have learnt its lessons from the previous waves and lockdowns. The world has seen the Delta variant wreak havoc and Omicron is only beginning to bloom. Next to nothing is known about its capacity to infect and ease of transmission. Yet, a global approach to fighting it is conspicuously absent. South Africa did not waste time informing the world about the detection of patients infected with the Omicron variant. In no time, and without waiting to verify if the new variant really originated from there, the country, and several other African nations, were subjected to travel restrictions by the US, European Union, the UK and a large part of Asia. The variant has now been detected in 30 countries in all and the list is growing. Nobody has any idea if the cases are spreading from somewhere or originating from everywhere. The samples have been sent for genome sequencing and the results will take time coming. The Americans do not know how the variant was detected in California or why the UK reported 32 cases. Of the two cases in India, one is about a patient without any travel history. How is that possible? Unless the world's scientific community pools its resources for a coordinated testing and tracing programme, there is going to be chaos just like during the time of Delta. More than impulsive travel restrictions, the focus is expected to be on intensive testing and tracing.



The second issue where a global understanding is urgently needed is vaccination and vaccine supply. The rich nations and the better among the developing countries are facing the problem of people refusing to vaccinate either because of complacency or issues of privacy. Such people constitute a definite risk to the rest of the population insofar as the transmission is concerned. It is time there is a global debate on making vaccination legally mandatory. If complacency impedes the vaccination process in advanced nations, the lack of vaccines is slowing down the process in the poorest nations of the world, particularly in Africa. Incidentally, India has already cleared all vaccine orders placed by COVAX for supply to African countries, but that alone is not enough. South Africa, along with India, is at the forefront of the global campaign for a proposed temporary waiver of intellectual property rights on COVID-19-related pharmaceuticals. The US has supported the proposal, but the pharmaceuticals and the EU and the UK are not ready. Instead, they want to supply their vaccines – a costly proposition for the poor countries. They also have export restrictions that impede access to vaccine inputs, contribute to uncertainty on delivery timeframes by suppliers, impact clinical trials and impede the movement of samples from global clinical trials to centralized testing sites. Yet, the pharmaceuticals are unmoved. This has led to discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated people that the world has to set right fast.

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PICTALK



Indian Navy personnel display their skills during the Navy Week at the Gateway of India, in Mumbai

Celebrity influence to sell products fair?



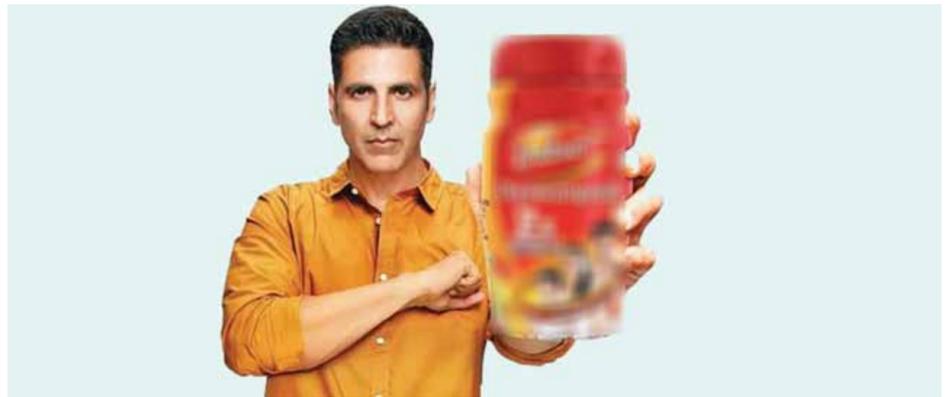
HASAN KHURSHID

Celebrity endorsements have become an effective marketing tool which can exert greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention

The term 'Hero' denotes a person who is admired for his courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities. It is generally associated with a war hero. The hero is a character who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage or strength. The hero is a role model, looked by others as an example to be imitated. According to Cambridge dictionary, 'hero worship' is a feeling of extreme admiration for someone, imagining that they have qualities or abilities that are better than anyone else's. The concept of hero narratives fulfil important cognitive and emotional needs, including the need for wisdom, meaning, hope, inspiration and growth. The framework called the Heroic Leadership Dynamic (HLD) is to explain how need based heroism shifts overtime from our initial attraction to heroes to later retention or repudiation of heroes. Central to HLD is the idea that hero narratives fulfil both episodic and energising functions. To energise us, heroes promote moral elevation, heal psychic wounds, inspire psychological growth and exude charisma.

However, gone are the days when 'hero worship' provided the elevation of the human spirit. Today, the concept of role model has shifted from personalities of heroic deeds to film actors, singers, musicians, models, cricketers and other sportspersons, wrestlers and the likes who are simply the professionals in their respective fields but have somehow gained fame and public support. They have no visible role to elevate the human spirits but still, through the vehicle of media resources, have successfully reached to target the impressionable minds, mostly the teenagers to blindly follow them as their role models worthy of veneration. The glamour which they exhibit accelerates their fame and 'star' becomes their pseudonym.

Celebrity endorsement of advertisements make a great impact. However, quite often the endorsements given by celebrities for a particular product are unscrupulous and unreliable as these promoters hardly use the products being endorsed. A few



years ago, the issue of misleading endorsement had cropped up in India, when Maggi noodles were temporarily banned after the food regulator revealed that it contained an excessive amount of lead.

Marketers use celebrity endorsements to make advertisements believable and to enhance consumer recognition of the brand name. Celebrity endorsements as of now have become the most effective marketing tool in advertisements, which can exert a greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention. The millennial generation, especially the college students, are the viable purchasers and brand loyalists. There is a great effect of celebrity-brand congruence and publicity on consumers' choice and buying behaviour. Fans of celebrities quite often seek to imitate or follow the style of their choice celebrities to improve their self-image and self-esteem. As such, they become crazy to purchase the product endorsed by them.

Celebrities cause great influence on the endorsed product. However, for creating such a big influence upon the sale of the endorsed product, they charge heavy amounts from the manufacturers/ businesses. Some celebrities charge up to ₹5.5 crore a day to endorse brands. Several celebrities have also endorsed the co-ownership endorse-

ment model by taking an equity stake in the product brand company. Another form of arrangement is a royalty agreement where the celebrity leases a brand to another company, which is in manufacturing and distribution.

The law of demand states that other factors being constant (ceteris paribus), price and quantity demanded of any good and service are inversely related to each other. When the price of a product increases, the demand for the same product decreases, then increases as the prices fall. However, this rule is changed when not bothering the demand or price of a product endorsed by the favourite celebrity, the consumer out of celebrity influence finds himself forced to buy the product.

Leaving aside the questions of false and misleading advertisements and celebrities' endorsing a product or service without using, experiencing and having knowledge of the product endorsed, the question arises from the principle of reasonableness as well as accounting procedures that the heavy amount paid to celebrities by manufacturer for endorsement in any form is made through business expenses, which ultimately falls on the neck of the consumers.

The phenomenon of marketers' sensitising, informing customers about their prod-

uct/service may be fair enough through reasonable modes but why the intervention of celebrities for recommending a product? How can it be in the consumer's interest, when the choice of the consumer is not the demand of the product but the psychological influence of the endorser? More so, what is the rationale, rule or criteria of celebrities charging heavy amount as fees for endorsement in a most arbitrary, discriminatory, fanciful and unjustified manner? Who decides the quantum of fees and on what measure or basis? The endorsers have been let loose to charge any amount of fees from manufacturers arbitrarily with no legal control.

The question arises whether the heavy cost of endorsement falling upon the neck of the consumer is a consumer rights issue? If yes, then the central authority is empowered to protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class and prevent violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practices under the CP Act, 2019. The Authority is also empowered to undertake and promote research in the field of consumer rights. It is, therefore, essential to establish that endorsement practice is unfair and prejudiced to consumers interests or rights.

(The writer is a legal journalist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)



THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THE HEAVY COST OF ENDORSEMENT FALLING UPON THE NECK OF THE CONSUMER IS A CONSUMER RIGHTS ISSUE? IF YES, THEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY IS EMPOWERED TO ENFORCE FAIR TRADE PRACTICES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DELHI'S AIR POLLUTION AND PAKISTAN

Sir — The air pollution in Delhi and adjoining regions is so severe that it is a life-and-death issue; it has serious health implications. The consequences will be very grave if nothing is done to improve the quality of air. When the Supreme Court was hearing the case related to air pollution in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh Government made the bizarre claim that the smog in Delhi was caused by Pakistan. But for the nightmarish situation in Delhi due to the air pollution, we could have thought that it was comic relief provided by the Yogi Adityanath Government.

The UP Government stretched logic to the limit when it deduced that the toxic air was blowing from Pakistan to cause smog in Delhi, perhaps in a vain bid to pull the wool over our eyes. The 'indictment' of Pakistan as 'the guilty party' prompted Chief Justice NV Ramana to ask in a sarcastic vein if the UP Government wanted the country's top court to ban industries in Pakistan and added, for good measure, that it has no jurisdiction over the neighbouring country. It is absurd to say that Pakistan is responsible for the smog in Delhi; it is common knowledge that emissions from vehicles and industries, road dust, construction activities, garbage burning, stubble burning etc are the major causes for the high levels of pollution.

G David Milton | Maruthanode

E-LEARNING CAN'T COMPARE WITH SCHOOLS

Sir — I tend to disagree with the fact that online classes would enhance the quality of education. On the contrary, students have been facing a lot of issues due to the forced switch over to e-learning from the conventional system of classroom learning. The mandatory shift to online classes has greatly impacted the disadvantaged students living in rural India. Students can easily lose track of their studies in online education, as there are no face-to-face lectures. Until and unless you keep yourself motivated, it takes a long time to complete a course through e-learning.

Though it is imperative to maintain the engagement of students during the

Indian athlete makes a long jump



India's former athlete Anju Bobby George barely needs an introduction. She has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent and encouraging young girls in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality. Anju has made India proud by winning such a prestigious award. She dedicated her whole life to the development of women's sports in the country. The 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump has inspired Indian

women to play, learn and grow in sports and bring back laurels for the country. She is truly an inspiration to the women of this country who wish to translate their talent and hard work to success.

We must appreciate her for her exceptional contributions in bringing gender-equity in sports. She has worked hard to promote the importance of women's sports and is a deserving recipient of such an honour. And now, her responsibility has increased and she will continue to show the path to aspiring Indian women sports enthusiasts. Indian women have tremendous talent and will power and if given the right atmosphere, their performance would go up significantly. Lately, Indian women proved the same at the Tokyo Paralympics. We need guides who can refine and mould the raw talent of this nation. And mentors like Anju Bobby George and others can fill this vacuum by bestowing youths with the right inspiration and guidance.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

lockdown, e-learning cannot be smooth and it cannot make up for the academic loss suffered by the students. The most crucial part of a student's life is to learn good communication skills, discipline, social interaction and an optimistic attitude. These qualities can only be achieved when there is a live student-teacher interaction. The most nostalgic part of everyone's life is their school life, which obviously cannot happen in e-learning.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

A DIVIDED OPPOSITION IS GIFT FOR THE BJP

Sir — The TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee declared political war against the ruling BJP and has been trying to stitch alliances with other like minded parties nationwide to that effect. To prove others her credentials as the unchallenged candidate for the leadership position in Opposition camp against PM Modi, she is belittling the role of other potential players, especially the Congress.

Her political strategist Prashant Kishor has criticised what's been going on in the Congress party. The other day, she questioned the very existence of the UPA. Though her comments are correct to some extent, the context and timing is not right. The BJP is very strong on the national front with some advantages on its side. To defeat it at hustings, there should be a strong alliance of regional and national parties. For that each potential alliance partner should act as the best team member, build a cohesive team, minding the ultimate goal and leave personal agendas to the back burner. The Congress party with its national presence cannot be left out in an anti-BJP camp. The divisions in the Opposition camp will certainly help the BJP continue its winning streak.

DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Saboteurs

Event managers make our events their own, but some aren't really doing a good turn to anybody

Just a few days back, we wrote in these very columns about the hardships event managers face, and have faced especially during the lockdown days, but how they are still around with their bubbly spirit and zest to spread smiles, joy and happiness amongst us on our special days. No doubt that this class remains largely unnoticed and unacknowledged, and there were therefore several thank-you messages. But what also emerged was the other side of these performers; it seems they perform not just on stage but there are other arenas, too, before, during and after the booking. There has been more than one instance in the past that a female event manager cut short the duration of her promised appearance at a show because she wanted to spend more time in private with the accompanying DJ. The loss was entirely the host's since he had paid her in advance and now there was neither the stage hostess nor the music player around. Without making much song and dance about this affair, one just prefers to keep things in the right perspective.



The same lady, it now emerges, after apologising and patching things up with her husband, has again taken the high road to merriment. Causing it to occasion with her professional services, or even otherwise, she is learnt in the circles to have a dinner partner in Mumbai's Fort area (when both the parties stay at Mulund and Ghatkopar, and he is no SoBo boy), open to any obvious eye. Nothing illegal about it, only that both of them got acquainted during a trip to their guruji's ashram in Paramdham, Deolali, where this sort of tethering is looked down upon. So it appears to be a vicious pond where things happen to denigrate morality, truth, and societal standards while the garb is to promote happiness, gaiety and joy unto others. But, as it transpires from this case study, these people aren't really doing a good turn to anybody around them, certainly not their families or society at large. The crux here is: There's nothing *naitik* about the whole scheme of things, there is no *Mera Naam Joker* angle here, no sacrifice, only the sensory benefits to accrue from the façade of a smiling demeanour. As 'Ghazal King' Jagjit Singh said, *sarakti jaye hai rukh se naqab, ahista ahista*.

SOUND BITE

We are going to install 1.40 lakh CCTV cameras in phase two of the project in Delhi.



Arvind Kejriwal — Delhi Chief Minister

The US knows that Putin is putting in place the capability to invade Ukraine in the near future if he desires.

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

While putting on 15 kgs for *Mimi* was a challenge, losing those kilos wasn't easy either.



Actor — Kirti Sanon

I am delighted to see that the Kerala Government took the initiative to host the senior women's nationals this year.

Former Indian footballer — Bemben Devi

The PM said that he made a mistake and apologised to the nation. As a result of that mistake, 700 people have died.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



FIRST COLUMN

NOBODY IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS SAFE

A year after the first vaccines became available, only six per cent of Africans are fully vaccinated



GWYNNE DYER

The new Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus was discovered by scientists in South Africa and Botswana, the only countries in southern Africa that have the skills and resources to detect a new variant. On November 23, scientists in Botswana uploaded 99 Sars-CoV-2 genome sequences to the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the United Kingdom, which has operated as a clearing house for more than a million such sequences from dozens of countries since March 2020. They noted that three of the genomes seemed different from the usual Delta variant. On the same day a separate team in South Africa uploaded the genomes of seven COVID samples with the same suspicious mutations in the spike protein that the virus uses to infect human cells. Within hours, scientists everywhere could study those genomes on the web, and in 72 hours the WHO declared that we have a fifth 'variant of concern' on our hands. Whereupon the rich countries of the global north instantly slammed their gates shut against travelers from South Africa and nine other



countries in the same region. It's not even clear that this is where the variant first emerged, but never mind all that. Prof Tulio de Oliveira, the Durban-based scientist leading the effort to understand the new variant, pointed out that South Africa has been "very transparent with scientific information...The world should provide support to South Africa and Africa and not discriminate or isolate it." Fat chance. By Sunday South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa was warning that the travel ban "is not informed by science, nor will it be effective in preventing the spread of this variant."

The only thing the prohibition on travel will do is to further damage the economies of the affected countries and undermine their ability to respond to and recover from the pandemic. "Where to start? Perhaps with the fact that there is no country called 'Africa'. For example, there is actually no shortage of vaccines in South Africa, a semi-developed country where the main problem is vaccine reluctance. Internet access is high and mistrust of authority is even higher, so only 27 per cent of South Africans are fully vaccinated. The risk of new variants emerging still exists even in rich countries where the Covid virus continues to circulate widely. In most African countries, and in the poorest Asian countries as well, the risk is very high and will remain so, because they just can't get enough vaccines. A year after the first vaccines became available, only 6 per cent of Africans are fully vaccinated. Twelve billion vaccine doses will have been produced in the world by the end of this month (December), which is more than enough for every human being over 18 years old. But the rationing is mainly done by price, so school-children are being vaccinated and adults are getting a third jab in the wealthy countries, while several billion adults have not yet had their first jab in the global south. And in the meantime, they are also punishing the economies of the poor by imposing knee-jerk travel bans on an entire region of Africa on suspicion of harbouring the Omicron virus — even though we all know that it has already been confirmed in Europe and Asia, and is doubtless present in the Americas too. The right move, even at this late date, is to focus all the world's energies on getting vaccines into the poorest countries: 'nobody is safe until everybody is safe'. Omicron looks like it may be a big problem, and there could be even bigger ones behind it.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Can doctoral degrees make better teachers?



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Michael Faraday did an apprenticeship, and had no degree; Charles Darwin had an 'ordinary' degree in theology and James Joule had no degree at all

It is often said that the quality of higher education in a country rests on the hands of the number of PhDs holder produced by her. With this objective, policymakers of higher education give more impetus to increase the number of doctoral degree holders every year. Even during the accreditation process of UGC-NAAC more thrust is given to the number of PhD holders in an institution. The UGC is also supporting teachers through faculty improvement programs to pursue PhD. Even those who do not have any interest in research also do PhD for the sake of promotions. Does a greater number of PhD holders improve the academic or research culture of a country? Do such people do any good for the academic system?

A debate was triggered earlier this month when Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that making a PhD degree mandatory for the post of assistant professor at universities is "not favourable" in the current education system.

If we analyze the quality of an average PhD holder from a state university or private university, we get a dismal picture of our higher education (with few exceptions). There are many who even do not know how to state a research problem or how to cite references properly. Quality in higher education cannot be attributed to the degree one holds. If the number of PhDs and high impact factor publications is the scale for measuring quality, our country would have produced hundreds of Nobel Laureates and we would have solved many of the problems afflicting our society.

In history we find many eminent scientists without a PhD degree or even a good academic degree. Michael Faraday did an apprenticeship, and had no degree; Charles Darwin, had an 'ordinary' degree in theology; and James Joule, had no degree at all. John Walker, who won the Copley Medal and the Nobel Prize, got a third-class honours degree; and Admiral Henry Jackson, who invented radio communication between ships, did not have a degree either.

In one of the studies published in The Biologist, it is reported that 10 per cent of the distinguished scientists who were listed in the prestigious Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) never had degrees. Our own great scientist and teacher Sir C V Raman did not have a research degree. Clearly, degrees or grades are not a reliable indicator of the research or academic ability and potential of a candidate. Using degree scores alone would have prevented many world-famous scientists from building successful careers if they had lived today.

Considering the facts from history, the statement of the Union Education Minister is a welcome step for people who value knowledge and wisdom above certificates or degrees.

In higher education what is needed is the transformation of the students to equip them to solve the problems faced by soci-



IF WE ANALYSE THE QUALITY OF AN AVERAGE PhD HOLDER FROM A STATE OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY, WE GET A DISMAL PICTURE OF OUR HIGHER EDUCATION (WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS). THERE ARE MANY WHO EVEN DO NOT KNOW HOW TO STATE A RESEARCH PROBLEM OR HOW TO CITE REFERENCES PROPERLY. QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DEGREE ONE HOLDS

(The writer is a science communicator and columnist. The views expressed are personal.)



ety and also to mold them into citizens having good values. Unfortunately, today's education fails to impart these. Academic transformation can be achieved only by updating the latest developments in the subject. Regrettably, most of our teachers are not interested in updating the subject. The students are fed with information of the 70s or 80s or 90s that these teachers learned during their college days and they ask students to write the same for university examinations. Teachers of this group do not even students to refer to standard books.

Many teachers who have taken doctoral degrees have the feeling that they have climbed Mount Everest and they do not need to learn further. They even have a feeling that they should be focused only on MSc and PhD classes as they are superior. Many do not engage themselves with BSc and MSc classes citing workload mentioned in UGC rules, which gives weightage to teachers who are engaged in research. In many affiliated colleges having research centers, BSc and MSc students get less focus from this group of teachers. In university centers the situation is so pathetic that many are not interested even in taking classes, their only focus is research. In many university centers, theory and practical sessions for post-graduate students are carried out by research scholars.

Of course, in science education, research and teaching are two sides of the same coin and we cannot

neglect either one. The attention of teachers is needed for molding undergraduate students as they are fresh and need the assistance of teachers. The students who come for MSc and PhD are people who usually have already a clear set of objectives.

Value-based education can be provided only if a teacher has some connection with society. Most of the present-day college teachers feel they are an elite class. A teacher having more degrees and honors becomes totally excluded from society. During earlier days students had good role models among their teachers. But in today's world even a teacher's life is corrupted with the dismal state of society. Most of the present-day teachers do not like to correct students; they only fulfill their duty as a lecturer providing one hour lecture or giving a test and teacher-student relationship ends just there.

To be a good teacher one needs to be a good student. Only a good student can excel as a teacher. To be a good student means always opening your eyes and ears to the learning process. A good teacher need not be one who holds a PhD degree. The reason in most cases is that once a person is awarded a PhD degree, he feels that his learning process is complete and becomes egotistic. They feel that they are superior superhuman beings and nobody should question them. This creates a negative impact on the academic culture of our students. In science education, this atti-

tude will destroy the questioning nature of students.

To be a good teacher is more difficult than securing a PhD degree. A good teacher should be able to understand the academic level of each student and accordingly deliver the content. It is really more challenging than doing a wet lab experiment. In higher education what we lack today is the presence of a good teacher. Only a good teacher can instill scientific creativity in students.

There are many passionate researchers among our school teachers who do not have a post-graduate degree, but still are better researchers compared to PhD holders. We have to tap the resources of such great teachers. But the so-called scientific community will not accept them as they do not have a PhD. The Government should provide opportunities for such teachers to showcase their talents. We need to promote them with an award equivalent to Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize given to researchers. Solutions to problems affecting the community can be solved only if we tap the intellectual ability of so-called non-scientific people who lack a PhD. It is the undue importance we give to the PhD degree that harms the productivity in science. Science should be respected looking at the work one does, not by one's degree. In higher education what we need is good teachers who enlighten our youngsters and create a strong intellectual pool for the country.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THERE IS NO UPA IN INDIA ANYMORE. ONLY THE UNITY OF REGIONAL PARTIES CAN DEFEAT THE BJP IN THE 2024 ELECTIONS.
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE



IT CAN BE POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM FOR MAMATA BANERJEE. BUT, FOR US, FIGHTING THE RSS-BJP LINE IS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH.
—CONGRESS LEADER
RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Delhi's response to air pollution needs a rethinking

The Delhi-NCR's plan to mitigate air pollution requires better-timed measures with actions being more 'pre-emptive' rather than 'reactive'

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unexpected disruption but air pollution remains the national capital's chronic crisis which recurs on a yearly basis. Year after year, it is a familiar story — farm fires meet firecrackers in November, Delhi-NCR and the Indo-Gangetic plain choke and the annual blame game starts. After a two-month-uproar, come February, everyone moves on.

In 2017, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was introduced specifically to combat winter air pollution in Delhi. However, the primary issue is that the GRAP measures are reactive and linked to higher levels of measured PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations. As a result, the appropriate response measures targeting



TANUSHREE GANGULY MILAN GEORGE JACOB

(Tanushree Ganguly is a Programme Lead and Milan George Jacob is a Communications Specialist at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water. The views expressed are personal.)

sources are usually activated too late. For instance, actions such as private vehicle restrictions, construction bans and school closures kick in only when the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels of 300 ug/m3 — 20-times the World Health Organisation's safe limit — persist for at least 48 hours.

Hot mix plants, stone crushers and brick kiln operations are required to be shut only when air quality crosses the severe mark (250 ug/m3). In 2021, Delhi is better equipped with an early warning system that gives a three-day pollution forecast and a dedicated Decision Support System (DSS) developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology that pin-points sources of pollution. However,



these systems are not in sync with the GRAP.

Delhi-NCR's action plan to tackle air pollution requires a fundamental rethink. More measures need to be 'pre-emptive' rather than 'reactive' as we propose in this four-point plan.

First, the threshold for declaring a public health emergency and restricting highly polluting activities like industrial operations, vehicular movement, and construction has to be brought down from 48 hours of PM2.5 concentrations at 'severe' level (>300

ug/m3). The threshold should be improved to 'very poor' (PM2.5 > 121 ug/m3) in the next three years and eventually to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards limit of 60 ug/m3 if Delhi-NCR is to ensure clean air round the year. Public messaging should be stepped up at the threshold and citizens should be encouraged to limit their outdoor movements. The messaging should also include air quality forecasts so that citizens can plan activities accordingly. Similar to COVID-19, lockdowns should be acceptable even in the case of chronic crises like air pollution, the long-term impacts of which are much worse.

Secondly, the response measures in the GRAP should be triggered by the early warn-

ing system and in sync with the forecasted source contributions. This means that if 'severe' air quality is forecast for the next two days and the primary contributor is to be local vehicular emissions, then vehicular restrictions should be imposed in the city. For a system that is driven by forecasts, continuous validation of the forecasts becomes equally important. Also, efforts should be made to ensure that the forecasting system captures and reflects on-ground conditions and episodic contributors. Thirdly, the NCR and states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh should have a common winter response plan, which should be notified under the Commission of Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas Act, 2021.

For instance, a survey from last winter found that power plants and industries accounted for 15 per cent of Delhi's winter particulate concentrations. However, there are no coal-fired power plants within Delhi's jurisdiction. Equally, states in the region resort to using some of their most inefficient plants to fulfill their power needs, on account of perverse incentives that keep efficient plants moth-balled. Therefore, one component of the regional plan must be to ensure that all large-scale industries around NCR comply with minimum efficiency and emission standards.

Fourthly, create a fund that pools resources from the environment damages compensation paid by industries and the green cess paid by

commercial vehicles entering Delhi. Such a fund can compensate the weakest of those affected by air pollution, especially during economic shutdowns. It can provide a safety net to informal sector workers like construction labourers and micro and small enterprises. Further, the fund can also be used to accelerate clean energy transition for Delhi NCR's urban poor, thereby reducing household emissions.

Air pollution is certainly not insurmountable. Look at the examples of London, Los Angeles, and even Beijing for inspiration. These cities have successfully improved the quality of air and thereby, quality of life. With a recalibrated approach to solving for clean air, Delhi too can add itself to the list.

Sensex crashes 765 pts as Omicron enters India

Mumbai: Domestic markets lurched lower on Friday after India reported its first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, prompting investors to dial back risk exposure. The Centre on Thursday said two cases of Omicron have been detected in Karnataka. Both the patients are men, aged 66 and 46 years, with mild symptoms. Severe symptoms have not been noted, an official said.

The Government has asked people not to panic and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. It also said while there is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work against Omicron, some of the mutations reported may decrease the efficacy of the jabs. Snapping its two-session rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 764.83 points or 1.31 per cent to end at 57,696.46. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 204.95 points or 1.18 per cent to 17,196.70. PowerGrid was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 4.03 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra and Maruti.

Only four index components finished in the green — L&T, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement, rising

up to 0.72 per cent. "Following a positive opening, benchmark indices gave up all gains led by losses in heavyweights in anticipation of the RBI meet next week. Meanwhile, investors were also cautious after India reported Omicron cases," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "However, global equities traded with slight gains recovering from yesterday's broad based sell-off led by fears on

Gold prices decline by ₹196; silver tanks ₹146

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Friday dipped ₹196 to ₹46,581 per 10 gram in line with fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹46,777 per 10 gram. Silver also declined ₹146 to ₹59,878 per kilogram from ₹ 60,024 per kilogram in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,767 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.30 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX were trading down at USD 1,767 per ounce on Friday," according to HDFC Securities,

new COVID variant and Fed chair's comment on the bond-buying program.

"RBI's monetary policy meeting will be a key market driver as investors await MPC's policy decision which is broadly expected to hold an accommodative stance considering the uncertainty surrounding the new variant," he added.

Rupee drops 10 paise to 75.12 against USD on new Covid variant worries

Mumbai: The Indian rupee extended its loss by another 10 paise to settle at 75.12 against the US currency on Friday in line with massive sell-offs in domestic equities amid growing worries over the new COVID variant.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.98 and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.95 and a low of 75.18 against the US dollar in a highly volatile trading session. The local unit finally settled at 75.12 a dollar, down 10 paise over its previous close. For the week, the currency weakened by 23 paise against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent up at 96.21.

PM: India has proved it is second to none in adopting technology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the history of currency shows tremendous evolution, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday informed that last year, in India, mobile payments exceeded ATM cash withdrawals "for the first time" and affirmed that the country has proved to the world that it is second to none in adopting new technology.

"From barter system to metals, from coins to notes, from cheques to cards, today we have reached here," he said.

Inaugurating InFinity Forum, a thought leadership Forum on FinTech through video conference, Modi said in India has now "fully digital banks, without any physical branch offices, are already a reality" and may become commonplace in less than a decade.

"As humans evolved, so did the form of our transactions. From barter system to metals, from coins to notes, from cheques to cards, today we have reached here," he said.

The Prime Minister noted that India has proved to the world that it is second to none when it comes to adopting technology or innovating around it.

"Transformational initiatives under Digital India have opened doors for innovative Fintech solutions to be applied in governance", he said to the forum participated by 70 countries.

The Prime Minister emphasized that now it is time to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution. "A revolution that helps to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country", Prime Minister said.

Explaining how technology has also catalyzed financial inclusion, Modi pointed out that from less than 50% of Indians having bank accounts in 2014, India has almost universalized it with 430 million Jan Dhan accounts in the last 7 years.

The Prime Minister said transformational initiatives under Digital India have opened doors for innovative Fintech solutions to be applied in governance.

The Prime Minister emphasized that now it is time to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution. "A revolution that helps to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country", he said.

Centre: ₹374.78 cr payment pending for reprocessing under PM-KISAN since 2019

New Delhi: About ₹374.78 crore amount is pending for reprocessing after failed transactions occurred under the central scheme the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) since its launch in 2019. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, eligible marginal farmers have electronically given ₹6,000 annually in three equal instalments -- saw a 14.22 lakh pending failed transaction during 2019-20 fiscal, when the scheme was launched in February 2019.

"Consequently, the number of pending failed transactions was reduced to 8.19 lakh during the 2020-21 fiscal. But in the ongoing 2021-22 fiscal, the number of pending failed transactions stood at 9.11 lakh till November 30", the Ministry of Agriculture data showed.

The amount that was pending for reprocessing due to failed transactions was ₹182.78 crore during 2019-20 fiscal, ₹163.99 crore in 2020-21 fiscal, and ₹28.47 crore till November of 2021-22 fiscal. The total amount that is pending for reprocessing from 2019-20 till November 20 of this year under the PM-KISAN scheme stands at 374.78 crore, the data showed.

In a written reply to the Upper House, the agriculture minister said failed transactions remained less than one per cent so far since the launch of the PM-KISAN scheme. "Under the PM-KISAN scheme, the total number of transactions that have taken place is 80,27,44,674, of which the number of failed transactions is less than one per cent," he noted.

Tomar said the cumulative number of failed transactions of PM-KISAN were at 69,02,227 from February 1, 2019, till November 30 of this year. Out of which, 32,02,408 transactions were successfully reprocessed, Tomar said.

The minister said various reasons have been identified by the Centre for the transaction's failure under the PM-KISAN scheme, such as account closed or transferred, invalid IFSC code, account inactive, account dormant, amount exceeding the limit set on account by the bank for credit/debit per transaction, among others.

Govt seeks Parl nod for ₹62,000 crore infusion in AIAHL as part of ₹3.73 L cr extra spending

New Delhi: The Government on Friday sought Parliament's nod to infuse over ₹62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India after its privatisation, as part of over ₹3.73 lakh crore additional spending planned in the current financial year. The extra spending would include ₹58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy, ₹53.123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and ₹ 22,039 crore to rural development ministry for transfer to National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled the second batch of supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha envisaging a net cash outflow of over ₹ 2.99 lakh crore and ₹74,517 crore extra expenditure would be matched by savings by different ministries.

Later, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the supplementary demands for grants for 2021-22 in the Rajya Sabha.

As per the document, ₹62,057 crore would be given to the Civil Aviation Ministry for equity infusion in Air India Assets Holding Company (AIAHL) for repayment of past Government guaranteed borrowing and past dues/liabilities of Air India.

In October, the government signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of Air India, along with low-cost carrier Air India Express and ground handling arm AISATS, for Rs 18,000 crore. The amount includes payment of Rs 2,700 crore in cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the carrier's debt.

NIFTY 50

| SCRIP | OPEN | High | LOW | LTP | CHANGE |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| NIFTY 50 | 17424.90 | 17489.80 | 17180.80 | 17196.70 | -204.95 |
| UPL | 700.10 | 717.75 | 699.75 | 713.00 | 14.80 |
| BCL | 382.50 | 388.40 | 381.30 | 386.00 | 7.15 |
| IOC | 121.00 | 122.85 | 120.75 | 122.40 | 1.75 |
| ONGC | 144.00 | 146.85 | 143.15 | 145.80 | 1.80 |
| INDUSINDBK | 944.95 | 957.85 | 938.50 | 952.60 | 7.05 |
| IT | 1799.95 | 1844.80 | 1796.55 | 1800.00 | 10.80 |
| COALINDIA | 159.00 | 160.70 | 158.25 | 159.85 | 0.55 |
| ULTRACEMCO | 7578.45 | 7655.00 | 7296.15 | 7344.40 | 21.20 |
| TATAMOTORS | 480.00 | 484.70 | 477.30 | 480.30 | 1.20 |
| TATACONSUM | 767.50 | 781.00 | 763.10 | 774.80 | 1.55 |
| TATASTEEL | 1115.00 | 1134.20 | 1102.25 | 1114.65 | 2.25 |
| EICHERMOT | 2450.00 | 2497.15 | 2445.05 | 2456.00 | 4.45 |
| TCS | 3646.45 | 3665.95 | 3630.85 | 3641.00 | -1.90 |
| JSWSTEEL | 637.00 | 654.85 | 630.00 | 646.00 | -0.75 |
| HERAMOTOCO | 2485.00 | 2497.45 | 2451.05 | 2465.00 | -7.70 |
| ADANIPORTS | 739.00 | 746.50 | 734.00 | 736.80 | -2.30 |
| TITAN | 2405.00 | 2405.45 | 2355.05 | 2376.45 | -10.05 |
| AXISBANK | 679.10 | 687.35 | 671.00 | 672.75 | -3.35 |
| INFY | 497.30 | 497.35 | 473.60 | 475.00 | -26.30 |
| DISCOVER | 1771.10 | 1786.65 | 1732.55 | 1737.60 | -10.65 |
| ICICIBANK | 700.50 | 729.50 | 715.10 | 717.15 | -5.25 |
| BRITANNIA | 3557.00 | 3593.45 | 3550.00 | 3552.00 | -26.50 |
| HDFCBANK | 1525.80 | 1535.95 | 1507.05 | 1514.00 | -11.75 |
| CPIA | 930.00 | 930.00 | 908.30 | 912.75 | -8.50 |
| NESTLEIND | 19402.20 | 19498.80 | 19137.00 | 19320.00 | -183.20 |
| WIPRO | 644.75 | 653.95 | 639.90 | 640.45 | -6.35 |
| SBIN | 475.75 | 481.50 | 470.50 | 471.95 | -5.05 |
| HDFC | 2790.00 | 2823.95 | 2765.00 | 2777.00 | -30.80 |
| HCLTECH | 1188.00 | 1189.70 | 1169.65 | 1170.40 | -14.30 |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 3355.00 | 3343.15 | 3280.60 | 3287.00 | -41.40 |
| GRASIM | 1735.25 | 1742.10 | 1698.10 | 1702.00 | -21.85 |
| NTPC | 128.70 | 130.25 | 126.40 | 127.00 | -1.70 |
| BAFINANCE | 7160.00 | 7233.80 | 7055.00 | 7085.00 | -95.50 |
| DREDDY | 4652.20 | 4664.00 | 4583.00 | 4595.00 | -67.75 |
| BAJAJINSV | 17750.00 | 17889.75 | 17540.00 | 17501.25 | -266.90 |
| HINDUNILVR | 2383.30 | 2389.90 | 2337.90 | 2348.50 | -34.80 |
| M&M | 848.95 | 855.65 | 833.95 | 835.00 | -13.60 |
| SHRECEM | 26280.55 | 26419.90 | 25563.65 | 25860.05 | -429.75 |
| HINDALCO | 427.00 | 433.80 | 424.00 | 424.90 | -7.20 |
| MARUTI | 7305.00 | 7329.00 | 7148.75 | 7200.00 | -124.95 |
| SUNPHARMA | 711.90 | 717.10 | 708.90 | 710.25 | -13.25 |
| ITC | 255.00 | 226.20 | 221.35 | 221.90 | -3.95 |
| TECHM | 1625.00 | 1638.25 | 1589.70 | 1598.90 | -30.75 |
| SBILIFE | 1177.00 | 1188.05 | 1163.70 | 1165.00 | -23.05 |
| BHARTIARTL | 730.00 | 734.65 | 716.30 | 718.20 | -14.35 |
| HDFCLIFE | 707.25 | 707.25 | 688.15 | 691.00 | -14.30 |
| ASIANPAINT | 3185.00 | 3187.45 | 3106.20 | 3115.00 | -65.60 |
| KOTAKBANK | 196.70 | 198.90 | 190.20 | 192.00 | -44.25 |
| RELIANCE | 2498.40 | 2498.50 | 2400.00 | 2413.15 | -69.70 |
| POWERGRID | 213.15 | 216.45 | 205.50 | 205.80 | -4.70 |

BSE 500

| Script | Open | High | Low | LTP | SEQUENT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| IDEA | 12.81 | 14.73 | 12.61 | 14.44 | DIXON | 153.30 | 163.50 | 153.20 | 161.40 | UFLEX | 510.00 | 529.20 | 504.60 | 517.50 | SUMICHEM | 374.20 | 374.85 | 367.90 | 372.00 | WESTLIFE | 547.05 | 574.20 | 547.05 | 560.70 |
| INFY | 1762.00 | 1786.70 | 1732.20 | 1734.90 | CAMS | 2975.20 | 3000.00 | 2940.00 | 2943.30 | SUPREMEIND | 2404.20 | 2406.00 | 2315.00 | 2346.30 | FINOLEXIND | 204.60 | 205.60 | 200.05 | 201.60 | HAWKINCOOK | 6295.00 | 6295.00 | 6050.00 | 6090.00 |
| IOC | 249.00 | 278.70 | 247.40 | 255.65 | TITAN | 2392.15 | 2403.60 | 2354.85 | 2369.55 | STLTECH | 275.00 | 288.00 | 273.15 | 284.95 | VIPIND | 51.20 | 546.80 | 528.00 | 532.20 | SCHAEFFLER | 7800.00 | 8030.00 | 7800.00 | 7877.35 |
| ONGC | 117.00 | 113.45 | 110.45 | 111.80 | SRF | 14.70 | 14.70 | 13.53 | 13.67 | METROPOLIS | 3210.00 | 3235.35 | 3154.85 | 3198.05 | TIMKEN | 2130.00 | 2174.55 | 1998.50 | 2016.70 | KSCIL | 4800.00 | 507.40 | 497.05 | 505.00 |
| INDUSINDBK | 944.95 | 957.85 | 938.50 | 952.60 | IFCI | 2095.50 | 2119.00 | 2070.70 | 2083.80 | WHIRLPOOL | 2550.00 | 2620.00 | 2550.00 | 2594.80 | MOTILALOFS | 970.25 | 975.05 | 954.90 | 970.50 | SYMPHONY | 982.00 | 997.50 | 968.40 | 990.00 |
| IT | 1799.95 | 1844.80 | 1796.55 | 1800.00 | ONGC | 143.95 | 146.80 | 143.50 | 145.80 | WHIRLPOOL | 2035.00 | 2062.00 | 2030.00 | 2023.20 | BIRLAACORPN | 1333.10 | 1359.65 | 1333.10 | 1348.35 | BIRLAACORPN | 1333.10 | 1359.65 | 1333.10 | 1348.35 |
| COALINDIA | 159.00 | 160.70 | 158.25 | 159.85 | DALBHARAT | 1865.40 | 1919.00 | 1856.00 | 1861.80 | GRAPHITE | 47.15 | 422.95 | 41.40 | 417.80 | SPARC | 248.85 | 259.95 | 247.50 | 254.15 | FDC | 289.00 | 289.00 | 284.00 | 285.40 |
| ULTRACEMCO | 7578.45 | 7655.00 | 7296.15 | 7344.40 | NESTLEIND | 19400.00 | 19436.00 | 19136.10 | 19305.40 | NETWORK18 | 72.40 | 76.90 | 72.40 | 74.65 | FRETAIL | 48.75 | 49.65 | 48.60 | 49.10 | COROMANDEL | 747.05 | 757.75 | 744.20 | 748.80 |
| TATAMOTORS | 480.00 | 484.70 | 477.30 | 480.30 | STLEIND | 19400.00 | 19436.00 | 19136.10 | 19305.40 | ABBOTINDIA | 19117.30 | 19562.25 | 18679.00 | 18890.90 | CESC | 88.50 | 89.50 | 88.00 | 89.15 | SIS | 491.25 | 503.00 | 486.00 | 489.70 |
| TATACONSUM | 767.50 | 781.00 | 763.10 | 774.80 | GAIL | 132.00 | 133.80 | 131.65 | 132.25 | ASHOKA | 799.70 | 7437.80 | 7151.05 | 7188.00 | GICRE | 144.50 | 144.50 | 140.40 | 141.60 | GRINDWELL | 1699.00 | 1720.00 | 1660.05 | 1667.95 |
| TATASTEEL | 1115.00 | 1134.20 | 1102.25 | 1114.65 | ULTRACEMCO | 7379.00 | 7450.00 | 7298.80 | 7348.00 | JSWSTEEL | 590.00 | 104.90 | 97.00 | 100.30 | CIYENT | 1000.00 | 1012.00 | 998.00 | 1004.50 | GMDCLTD | 66.95 | 68.50 | 66.30 | 67.75 |
| EICHERMOT | 2450.00 | 2497.15 | 2445.05 | 2456.00 | SBIN | 2525.00 | 2577.00 | 2513.00 | 2527.10 | JSWENERGY | 321.00 | 324.90 | 311.20 | 321.10 | TIINDIA | 1700.00 | 1700.00 | 1613.70 | 1620.00 | CHOLAHLDNG | 700.00 | 702.75 | 673.00 | 678.85 |
| TCS | 3646.45 | 3665.95 | 3630.85 | 3641.00 | BHARTIARTL | 733.00 | 734.45 | 716.55 | 717.35 | MANAPPURAM | 343.20 | 350.00 | 339.55 | 347.50 | VAIHAVGBL | 530.00 | 539.15 | 525.55 | 528.85 | CAPPL | 813.00 | 819.80 | 801.75 | 810.85 |
| JSWSTEEL | 637.00 | 654.85 | 630.00 | 646.00 | IRCTC | 815.00 | 831.25 | 810.30 | 820.50 | RBLBANK | 193.65 | 195.25 | 190.55 | 192.15 | DCBBANK | 85.40 | 85.40 | 83.30 | 83.80 | KAJARIACOR | 1147.00 | 1147.00 | 1116.00 | 1122.60 |
| HERAMOTOCO | 2485.00 | 2497.45 | 2451.05 | 2465.00 | REPEAL | 224.50 | 234.25 | 224.00 | 2308.45 | MANAPPURAM | 172.90 | 173.90 | 169.50 | 171.95 | GODREJPC | 925.15 | 928.20 | 910.15 | 912.95 | KALPATPOWR | 383.35 | 387.00 | 381.10 | 382.00 |
| ADANIPORTS | 739.00 | 746.50 | 734.00 | 736.80 | HDFCBANK | 1533.00 | 1536.00 | 1507.55 | 1513.10 | DREDDY | 4662.00 | 4666.45 | 4585.00 | 4598.00 | DISHTV | 18.95 | 18.95 | 18.50 | 18.95 | KPRMILL | 510.00 | 514.40 | 504.90 | 508.35 |
| TITAN | 2405.00 | 2405.45 | 2355.05 | 2376.45 | BOSCHLTD | 1670.00 | 1685.00 | 1646.15 | 1648.00 | TATAMTRDVR | 261.40 | 264.35 | 256.75 | 258.15 | ALKYLAMINE | 3246.00 | 3299.25 | 3192.80 | 3266.00 | SKMILL | 210.00 | 219.95 | 215.05 | 215.85 |
| AXISBANK | 679.10 | 687.35 | 671.00 | 672.75 | TCS | 3643.00 | 3665.95 | 3630.75 | 3639.65 | TRIDENT | 44.65 | 44.65 | 44.65 | 44.65 | ASTRAL | 2244.00 | 2260.00 | 2213.10 | 2 | | | | | |

WHO says measures used against delta should work for omicron

Manila: Measures used to counter the delta variant should remain the foundation for fighting the coronavirus pandemic, even in the face of the new omicron version of the virus, World Health Organisation officials said Friday, while acknowledging that the travel restrictions imposed by some countries may buy time.

While about three dozen countries worldwide have reported omicron infections, including India on Thursday, the numbers so far are small outside of South Africa, which is facing a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases and where the new variant may be becoming dominant. Still, much remains unclear about omicron, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, or whether it can evade vaccine protection.

"Border control can delay the virus coming in and buy time. But every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases," Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western

Pacific, told reporters Friday during a virtual news conference from the Philippines. "The positive news in all of this is that none of the information we have currently about omicron suggests we need to change the directions of our response."

That means continuing to push for higher vaccination rates, abiding by social-distancing guidelines, and wearing masks, among other measures, said WHO Regional Emergency Director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure.

He added that health systems must "ensure we are treating the right patients in the right place at the right time, and so therefore ensuring that ICU beds are available, particularly for those who need them."

Kasai warned: "We cannot be complacent."

WHO has previously urged against border closures, noting they often have limited effect and can cause major disruptions. Officials in southern Africa, where the omicron variant was first identified, have decried restrictions on travelers from the region.

WHO says no reports of omicron Covid deaths yet

Geneva: The World Health Organisation said Friday it had not seen any reports of deaths relating to the new Omicron variant of Covid-19.

The WHO said it was collecting evidence about the variant of concern (VOC), as countries around the world scramble to stop it from spreading.

But despite a growing number of countries registering infections with the new variant, no deaths have yet been reported to the UN health agency.

"I have not seen reports of Omicron-related deaths yet," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.

"We're collecting all the evidence and we will find much more evidence as we go along. 'The more countries... keep testing people, and looking specifically into the Omicron variant, we will also find more cases, more information, and,

hopefully not, but also possibly deaths."

While Omicron has rattled the world, Lindmeier also urged people to be mindful of the Delta variant, which accounts for 99.8 percent of sequences uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative with specimens collected in the last 60 days.

"Omicron may be on the rise, and we may come to a point where it takes over to be the dominant variant, but at this point, the very dominant variant remains Delta," he stressed.

Lindmeier added: "The restrictions that were put into place in many countries just two weeks ago -- economical closures again, lockdowns in some areas, closures of Christmas markets in parts of Europe -- this was done before Omicron because of a rise of Delta cases. Let's not lose sight of this."

WHO rushes experts' team to S Africa to help combat Omicron

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The WHO has rushed a team of experts to South Africa's Gauteng province, the epicentre of the new Omicron variant of Covid-19, to ramp up surveillance and contact tracing efforts as the country grapples with rising cases of infections.

Omicron, which was first identified in South Africa exactly a week ago, now has been detected in at least 24 countries around the world, including India.

"We are deploying a surge team in Gauteng province to support surveillance and contact tracing," World Health Organisation's Regional Emergency Director for Africa Dr Salam Gueye said in a media briefing on Thursday.

A team is already working in South Africa on genomic sequencing, he said.

Malaysia detects first omicron case in S African student

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia said Friday it has detected its first case of the new omicron strain of the coronavirus in a foreign student who returned to the country last month after visiting her family in South Africa.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the 19-year-old female transited in Singapore and arrived in Malaysia on Nov 19, where she underwent a COVID-19 test upon arrival. She was then bussed to her university lodging in northern Perak state with four others and placed under quarantine, he said.

Results the next day confirmed the student was positive for COVID-19, he said. The bus driver and four others in the vehicle tested negative and were all quarantined, he added.

New York confirms at least 5 omicron cases

New York: Health officials have confirmed at least five cases of the omicron coronavirus variant in New York, Gov. Kathy Hochul said Thursday evening.

A 67-year-old woman from Suffolk County, two Queens residents, a Brooklyn resident and a fifth person believed to be a visitor to the state tested positive. Their vaccination statuses weren't immediately clear, but the woman from Suffolk County had received at least one dose, Hochul said.

The cases come after a Minnesota resident tested positive for the variant following attendance at an anime convention in New York City.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the geographic spread of the positive tests suggested the variant was undergoing "community spread" in the city, and wasn't linked to any one event.

Taliban bans forced marriages of women in Afghanistan

Kabul: The Taliban decreed Friday that they are banning the forced marriage of women in the war-torn country, in what appears to be a move to address criteria that developed nations consider a precondition to recognise their Government and restore aid.

The move announced by Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada came as poverty is surging in Afghanistan, following the religious militia's takeover in August that pushed out US and international forces and led foreign governments to halt funds that had been a mainstay of

the economy.

"Both (women and men) should be equal," said the decree, adding that "no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure." Women's rights improved markedly over the past two decades of international presence in Afghanistan, but are seen as under threat with the return of the Taliban, whose earlier rule in the 1990s saw them virtually cloistered.

Forced marriages have become more commonplace in the poor, conservative country, as the internally displaced marry off their young daughters

in exchange for a bride-price that can be used to pay debts and feed their families.

The announced decree did not mention a minimum age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old.

Women in Afghanistan for decades were treated like property — as an exchange token for blood money or ending disputes or tribal feuds. The Taliban now state they are against the practice. They also said a widow will now be allowed to re-marry 17 weeks after her husband's death, choosing her new husband freely.

Mob in Pakistan's Punjab province lynches Sri Lankan citizen over 'blasphemy'

Lahore: A mob in Pakistan on Friday lynched a Sri Lankan national before burning his body over alleged blasphemy in the country's Punjab province.

Priyanka Kumara, who was in his 40s, was working as the general manager of a factory in Sialkot district, some 100 kms from here, a Punjab police official told PTI.

"Mr Kumara allegedly tore a poster of the headline Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in which Quranic verses were inscribed and threw it in the dustbin. The poster of the Islamist party was pasted on the wall adjoining the office of

Kumara. A couple of factory workers saw him removing the poster and spread the word in the factory," the official said.

Hundreds of men, enraged over the "blasphemy" incident, started gathering outside the factory from adjoining areas. Most of them were activists and supporters of the TLP.

"The mob dragged the suspect (the Sri Lankan national) from the factory and severely tortured him. After he succumbed to his wounds, the mob burnt his body before police reached there," the official said.

Trump faces flurry of investigations beyond Jan 6 probe

New York: As Donald Trump's lawyers try to block the White House from releasing records to the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, the former president faces a flurry of other investigations that could come to a head in the coming weeks and the new year.

That includes two major state criminal investigations — one in New York and one in Georgia — and lawsuits concerning sexual assault allegations, a fight over an inheritance and questions of whether he should be held personally liable for inciting the insurrection.

Trump has long dismissed the investigations as nothing more than a politically motivated "witch hunt."

Ukraine says Russia amassed over 94,000 troops at border

Kyiv (Ukraine): Ukraine's Defense Minister estimated Friday that Russia has amassed more than 94,000 troops near their borders and said there is a probability of a "large-scale escalation" in late January.

Ukrainian and Western officials recently voiced alarm about a Russian troop buildup near Ukraine, saying they feared it could herald an invasion. Moscow has denied planning to invade and accused Ukraine and its Western backers of fabricating claims to cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told lawmakers Friday that the number of Russian troops near Ukraine and in Russia-annexed Crimea is estimated to be 94,300.

The minister noted an escalation "is a probable scenario, but not certain, and our task is to avert it."

FROM PAGE 1

BOOSTER SHOT FOR 40+, ADVISES GOVT BODY

However, it has also been said that while there is initial suggestion that this variant may have a growth advantage over Delta, growth advantage is not the same as higher transmissibility, especially when there is prior immunity in the community.

In the meantime, noting that some clusters of infections have also been reported from some places in the country, the Ministry has asked the States that active surveillance and testing is the only key in detection of such clusters or hotspots.

It also asked States to send the samples of those tested positive to the laboratories tagged to the State and UTs in the INSACOG network.

"Samples of all those who test positive must be sent for Whole Genome Sequencing expeditiously, and only to the laboratories tagged to the State/UT in the INSACOG network," Ministry said in a letter to the States and UTs.

It also underlined to put in place a system to ensure that sample quality is good and transportation to INSACOG labs is quick to avoid any delay in testing. It said further that ideally no samples should be sent to any lab which is not part of the INSACOG network.

"Enhanced Testing is the only strategy for detection of the virus, hence as per the earlier guidelines of ICMR and Ministry of Health, focused and strategic testing must be taken up in and around the cluster of infection," said the letter. All the contacts of the infected persons should be traced, quarantined and tested within 72 hours.

In view of international passengers arriving from both "at-risk" and other countries, the Ministry has urged the States to access Air Suvudha portal every day to know in advance the details of passengers coming to the respective states and UTs from different international airports to different states and Union Territories to follow up through the surveillance mechanism.

"In view of the higher transmissibility of 'Omicron', all efforts should be made to regulate crowds, enforce masking and social distancing at all times", said the Ministry.

UP BLAMES PAK FOR AIR POLLUTION

Seventeen such flying squads have already been constituted. Ban on entry of trucks, excluding those carrying essential goods and those running on cleaner fuel, will continue, it said.

Taking a note of the measures, the bench ordered, "We have perused affidavit by Centre and the Delhi Government. We have taken into consideration the directions proposed. We direct the Centre and the Government of National Capital Territory to implement the orders of December 2 and we keep the matter pending and will hear it on next Friday."

At the outset, the bench referred to certain news reports and said a message "intentionally or unintentionally" been sent that the court is the "villain" and it is ordering the closure of schools.

"One thing which we observed is whether intentional or unintentional and some sections of media portrays us that we are the villains who want to close down the schools. You (Delhi gov-

ernment) on your own opened the schools. But, see the newspaper..." the Chief Justice said.

Senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi Government, referred to a news report and said one English newspaper reported that the apex court threatened to take over the administration.

"You (Delhi Government) can condemn all of this but where do we go? Where did we say that we will take up an administrative role. We cannot interfere with the freedom of speech and expression and a political party can hold a press conference but we cannot do so," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, in a lighter vein, quoted Mark Twain, "If you do not read newspapers you are uninformed and if you read them then you are ill-informed."

The bench said the issue of rising pollution was not adversarial litigation and it will keep monitoring the solution. It asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to approach the commission on air quality management with its grievance against the direction that the industries, which were not running on cleaner fuel in NCR, will be allowed to operate for eight hours a day only.

CONG IN 'DEEP FREEZER', VOID TO BE FILLED BY DIDI

Reacting strongly to the TMC claims, Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said that for all practical purposes Banerjee was acting as the informer of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"She wants not only to break the Congress but by doing so the entire anti-BJP opposition & her main motive is to smoothen the path for the BJP & she is doing this by becoming the informer of the Prime Minister," Chowdhury said.

Reminding that the Congress enjoyed a good 20 percent vote share he asked, Can you fight Modi without this 20 per cent votes & she is doing what she has been doing because she wants to weaken the Congress and help the BJP & she is Modi's informer.

REINFECTION RISK 3 TIMES MORE IN OMICRON: STUDY

"People should not only rely on border measures. What is most important is to prepare for these variants with potential high transmissibility. So far, the information available suggests we don't have to change our approach," he said during the virtual media briefing.

The study, published pre-print on medrxiv, which means not peer-reviewed yet, showed that recent reinfections have occurred in individuals whose primary infections occurred across all three waves, with the most affected by the Delta variant.

This finding has important implications for public health planning, particularly in countries like South Africa with high rates of immunity from prior infection, the researchers said.

"We find evidence of increased reinfection risk associated with emergence of the #Omicron variant, suggesting evasion of immunity from prior infection," Juliet RC Pulliam, from DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological

Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, wrote on Twitter.

The team examined whether SARS-CoV-2 reinfection risk has changed through time in South Africa, in the context of the emergence of the Beta, Delta, and Omicron variants, and conducted a retrospective analysis of routine epidemiological surveillance data from 2,796,982 individuals with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 who had a positive test result at least 90 days prior to 27 November 2021. The results showed that 35,670 individuals had suspected reinfections.

They developed two methods to monitor signatures of changes in reinfection risk -- a null model with no change in reinfection risk and compared observed patterns to projections under the null model.

"Using this approach, we start to see reinfection numbers exceeding the projection intervals from mid-November in Gauteng and nationally," Pulliam said.

In the other approach, the team looked at trends in the relative hazards of primary infection and reinfection. "Since early October, we see a decreased risk of primary infection, though this could be partially explained by vaccine rollout. We see a simultaneous increase in reinfection risk."

"We also see a recent increase in the number of reinfections in individuals who had already had multiple suspected infections from mid-November."

"These findings suggest that Omicron's selection advantage is at least partially driven by an increased ability to infect previously infected individuals," Pulliam said.

PROTESTING FARMERS STOP KANGANA'S CAR, LET HER GO AFTER SHE SAYS SORRY

Stating that how the attempt of "mob lynching" is being made openly in our country, Kangana claimed that the situation would have been different in case there was no security with her.

"Despite the presence of police, I am not allowed to move," she said in the video.

"They are threatening to kill me and are abusing me. If the police were not here, there would have been lynching—Several people are doing politics in my name and today's episode is the result of that," she said.

Several video clips are also being circulated in the social media in which Kangana can be seen briefly interacting with the protesting women. In one of the video, the actor can be heard telling the women protesters that she was like their daughter.

In another video, several protesters are carrying flags approaching her vehicle. Later, she was seen talking with the women protesters, holding their hands, while they were asking Kangana to apologise for her remarks.

Kangana was seen clarifying that her remark was not against the woman farmer, but against the protesters at Shaheen Bagh. But the women protesters refused to believe her. One of the women even warned her that she must think before saying anything about the farmers' protest. Later, the police diverted the actor's car to Chandigarh via Morinda after it was learnt that a group of farmers were also waiting for her at the Toll Plaza near Ropar.

SC asks UP govt to explain if 2018 policy will apply to early release of life convicts

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to explain whether its policy of 2018 on the premature release of convicts serving life-sentence can be applied retroactively in the wake of some amendments made to it in July this year.

The top court told the State government that it is of prima facie view that the 2018 policy should have been applied to the prisoners, who have served more than 20-25 years of incarceration and whose names were not considered.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna issued notice to the State government and sought its response in two weeks saying that though 103 convicts have approached the court, it will not go into individual cases looking at the impact of their release on society.

We are of the prima facie view that cases of these prisoners should have been considered under the 2018 policy as their names were not considered at that time, the bench said. It said, The only question which has been raised in aid of the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution is in regard to the applicability of the new policy to those cases which were not considered in terms of the earlier policy dated August 1, 2018.

It noted that on August 1, 2018, a policy was framed by the UP Government concerning the premature release of prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment, annu-

ally on the occasion of Republic Day or Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti.

The policy, which was framed in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 161 of the Constitution, stipulated the procedure for considering the cases of prisoners serving a sentence of imprisonment for life. The policy was considered by this Court in an order dated May 4, 2021, the bench said.

It noted that the policy of 2018 has since been amended on July 28, 2021. The issue in the present proceedings is whether the cases of those prisoners which were required to be considered but were not considered during the term of the earlier policy of August 1, 2018, would yet be governed only by the new policy of July 28, 2021, the bench said in its order.

During the hearing, senior advocate Garima Prasad, appearing for the UP government, said that cases of these prisoners were not considered as they had not applied for premature release as required under the 2018 policy of the State government framed under 161 of the Constitution.

She said that some amendments were brought in 2021 to the policy under which they do not need to apply and everyone who has touched 60 years of age will be considered for premature release.

Prasad told the bench that under the 2018 policy only on specific dates of the year like January 26, August 15, or October 2, convicts were considered for premature

release after the prisoners applied under the policy.

She said, after the amendments every 15th day of the month, they will be considered for premature release and now it has become a continuous process.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for the convicts, said that one of the convicts is 87-years-old and these are the people whose names were not considered under the 2018 policy.

He said that a similar issue had come up before another bench of the top court and interim bail was granted by it.

Malhotra, relying on earlier orders of the court, said that it was directed that the State government would consider the cases for premature release, but clauses 2(b) and 2(f) of the amended Policy dated 28 July 2021, shall not be taken into account by the State.

The bench said it will pass orders on the plea on December 17 after perusing the State government's affidavit to be filed in two weeks on the issue of applicability of retrospective of the 2018 policy and noted that the court will not go into individual cases.

It said, At this stage, we clarify that the Court will not be going into the individual facts of the large number of prisoners, who have been impleaded as parties to these proceedings since ultimately, the case of each individual prisoner would have to be considered by the appropriate authority in accordance with law.

1 in 100 Covid patients may develop central nervous system complications

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least one in 100 patients hospitalised with Covid-19 are likely to develop central nervous system complications, like strokes due to clogged arteries, bleeding in the brain, inflammation of the brain, and other potentially fatal complications, researchers have said after analysing nearly 40,000 cases of such hospitalised infected patients.

Many of the patients had comorbidities like hypertension, cardiac disease and diabetes, as per the study, one of the largest multi-institutional studies to date on brain complications of Covid-19.

Researchers from the Thomas

Jefferson University in Philadelphia, US said the most common finding was a stroke due to clogged arteries.

Symptoms led doctors to suspect brain complications in about 11 per cent, the researchers reported at the recent annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

The most common complication was ischemic stroke, with an incidence of 6.2 per cent, followed by intracranial hemorrhage (3.72 per cent) and encephalitis (0.47 per cent), an inflammation of the brain.

"Much has been written about the overall pulmonary problems related to Covid-19, but we do not often talk about the other organs

that can be affected," said study lead author Scott H. Faro, M.D., FASPNR, professor of radiology and neurology and director of the Division of Neuroradiology/Head & Neck Imaging at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

"Our study shows that central nervous system complications represent a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in this devastating pandemic."

The patients had been admitted between September 2019 and June 2020. Their average age was 66 years old, and there were twice as many men as women. The most common cause of admission was confusion and altered mental status, followed by fever.



Bollywood
 'The wedding preparations of Vicky and Katrina are happening but in a hush-hush way.'
 —Krushna Abhishek

SHORTCIRCUITS



KAJOL
 So, until 27, despite being opinionated about everything, I wasn't particular about my fashion choices. That's when I decided to get it together. It had more to do with learning to put together what I liked and what I didn't. I'm learning that even clothes have a way of saying what you are. So, I think I have an opinion.'



AAYUSH SHARMA
 'I like criticism, I like negativity. When somebody trolls me, I feel happy. There's always a sense of 'I will prove you wrong'. The first time it happened to me, I was like, 'Why? What did I do wrong? But then eventually, I started finding that one space that every time you are being criticised, I take my criticism in a very healthy spirit.'



TONY KAKKAR
 'I want to thank viewers and listeners for making the song, *Kurta Pajama*, such a big hit. I'm grateful to Shehnaaz Gill for accentuating the song with her star presence. It was a huge high for me to be able to have absolute control over the creation and execution of the song.'



BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH
 'You know, it's a dead-end to ask for spoilers, but I can tell you this — it is a riotous film (*Spider-Man: No Way Home*). I don't want to give anything away and I haven't actually read the whole script! I did that on purpose because I just want to enjoy the ride, you know.'

DANIEL RADCLIFFE
 'I was in New York, about to do *Equus*, and I saw this billboard of Robert Pattinson. I was like, 'I know that guy!' I hadn't heard of the *Twilight* books at the time; I wasn't aware of that phenomenon. It's odd. We've a strange relationship now where we basically only communicate through journalists. We haven't seen each other in ages but I've met him, he's a lovely person.'



BOLLYWOOD

Not just glitz and glamour

Face of North Mrs India, PRIYADARSHINI NIEHARIKA, tells CHRISTY VARGHESE that she was never serious about the world of fashion, until the platform offered by Mrs India Pride of Nation 2021 helped her realise her potential

Last month, Jamshedpur-born Priyadarshini Nieharika was crowned as Face of North Mrs India at the grand finale of Mrs India Pride of Nation 2021. The evening, which was all about glitz, glamour and fashion at The Leela, Gurgaon was adorned by renowned celebrities like Madhurima Tuli, who was also featured among the jury. This distinctive platform by Glamour Gurgaon has paved the way for married women to step out into the world with their individuality and unique personality with confidence and dignity. Ladies from all walks of life across India auditioned to be a part of the process and all along the way were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones to challenge their limits and live their dreams.

Conceptualised by Barkha Nangia, the director of Glamour Gurgaon, the pageant has been touted as the epitome of womanhood in the modern world by transforming those who are engaged in their daily lives into stronger individuals who are aware of their capabilities. On the heels of several beauty pageants in the past, Glamour Gurgaon is known to provide a platform for women to contribute to the welfare of society while working in the fashion and entertainment industry. Some of the previous winners such as Dr Rajbir Randhawa are currently seen on the entertainment circuit. She was recently seen on *Who's Your Daddy Part 2*, the ALTBalaji web series, apart from featuring in *Street Dancer 3*, alongside Varun Dhawan and Shraddha Kapoor. Another noteworthy winner is Sweta Sarangal, who has made quite the name for herself in Punjabi films and also helped the community using the platform she has access to by spreading awareness on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour through a campaign in Delhi.

Nangia shared that these pageants are organised on a grand scale, with most of the work happening behind the scenes as every contestant who cleared the preliminary rounds underwent in-depth grooming under image consultants, make-up artists, renowned fashion



designers and the celebrities on the jury panel.

Talking about adding another successful edition of the pageant to her cap, Nangia revealed, "Mrs India Pride of Nation is a step towards acknowledging a married woman's contribution to her family and society while taking care of her own health. Every woman is special and is capable of leading a progressive and meaningful life; it's all about making her realise her potential

and motivating her to put her skills to the best use. Through this platform, we also empower participants by imparting knowledge about various health and wellness issues. This title is not just about beauty and talent, it also seeks to guide women in leading a healthy life, mentally and physically. To spread awareness on self-care we have also initiated a Breast cancer awareness week."

We got in touch with Nieharika, who was also proclaimed as the con-



testant with 'The best smile' at the pageant, for more inside information.

❖Do you remember the first time you forayed into the world of beauty and glamour?

I, honestly, haven't been into it for a long time. It was just an opportunity that I thought I could identify with. While I honestly haven't been into it for a long time, I believe I have always possessed a good sense of aesthetics.

❖Have you not participated in competitive events when you were younger?

Back in school and college, of course I have, especially with occasions such as graduation day, I am not unaccustomed to this, but not to this extent. Back then, it was all about having fun; it is not competitive and your appearance is not scrutinised critically.

This is another ball game altogether, you are competing with women across the country. When I went for the finale, I learnt that 17,000 people had auditioned to win the crown. My journey began in March this year, and concluded last month. Along the way, I got to learn from the best of 17,000 diverse women, apart from the grooming we undergo in preparation for the five-day event; the first four days were jam-packed with training sessions. I dared to dream and participated, and

here I am. However, I believe I still have a long way to go. I would still consider myself a novice, despite everything. (laughs)

❖So, what has life been like, after the pageant? What's next for you?

It's been an interesting journey ever since I got crowned because there is so much to do after the pageant concluded. I cannot tell you everything that is going on but I would like to emphasise that the pageant works on the thought of developing 'beauty with a purpose'.

We have been spreading awareness for breast cancer, apart from inspiring women to deviate from regular life and pursue the things they want to.

From the third week of December we would be mentored by the organization on developing our own branding. The organisation helps us, every step of the way. Not just with promotions et al but also by enabling us to come out of our shells.

The learning process goes on, I will be taking it as it comes. In the meanwhile, I am extremely grateful for this insightful experience as it helped me focus on myself because in our daily lives, while taking care of everything, we forget to look after ourselves.

❖What role do you play in your daily life?

Apart from being a homemaker, I am an HR representative for one of the largest IT organisations across the globe for the past five years.

❖Is there anything you would like to add for the readers?

Balancing a professional and a passionate side takes its toll and I too got overwhelmed at times but in retrospect it is all about prioritising; there is always a way out, trust me. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude for the strength and support I received from my peers, colleagues, mentors, family and friends.

And for the women reading this — please go out and pursue your interests.



DISCOVERING REAL SELF

Actor SAMIR SONI gives a glimpse of what goes in the mind of an introvert like him in a world which is inherently outgoing through his book *My Experiments with Silence*

Actor Samir Soni, who has turned into an author with his book *My Experiments with Silence*, which stems from diary entries, gives a glimpse of what goes in the mind of an introvert like him, in a world which is inherently outgoing given the social nature of human beings, and how he made his way through it.

Talking about his recent book, Soni said, "These diary entries are an introvert's entries of how I look at the world, how I have gotten my way through showbiz despite being someone who is not very outgoing. I have put together my heart in this book. At a time where people seek validation, I chose to turn to my safe place, my diary, and that's how I discovered my real self."

Explaining how being an introvert had its share of disadvantages and benefits, he continued, "I haven't been someone who is socially very active and that might have been a disadvantage on most instances, but as an actor, it was an advantage for me because it enabled me to connect with my character better."

Through his diary, the actor provides an insight on how healing is never a linear process and hopes that the book will help the readers with answers to the questions that have long agitated the human mind.

—IANS

Path less taken

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA is giving rise to 'content-pole cinema', claims ABHISHEK KAPOOR. By TEAM VIVA

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana has established himself as the poster boy of content cinema in India today. His blockbuster social entertainers have brought taboo topics out in the open for public discussion and this has earned him the tag of one of the 'Most Influential People in the World' by the prestigious TIME magazine.

Khurrana's next, *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*, is with Abhishek Kapoor (director of films like *Kai Po Che*, *Rock On!!* and *Kedarnath*) and the film-maker says that while the industry has always either made tentpole or parallel cinema, Khurrana has given birth to the big 'content-pole' cinema that is pulling audiences, who want exceptional quality of entertainment, to theatres.

Kapoor proudly says, "We've been led to believe that there's conventional tentpole cinema and then there's parallel cinema but thanks to actors like Ayushmann Khurrana that gap is being bridged gracefully, giving rise to a new wave of content-pole cinema."

He adds, "What's wonderful about him is that right since his debut, he has championed the art of taking the road less travelled. This hasn't just granted him the credibility of his fans but also the limitless scope to experiment."

Kapoor explains how Khurrana perfectly fits the role of a gym trainer from Chandigarh in this romantic film. He expresses, "I believe that creating compelling characters is paramount to being a filmmaker. Manu's character had stayed with me for over two years before the film went on floor but Khurrana walked in like a breeze and made it his own in no time. He fit the part like a glove and enriched it further with his own nuances."

The director and the Bollywood star hit off brilliantly because they share the common goal of presenting brilliant and disruptive content to audiences worldwide. Kapoor says, "He and I connected mentally and emotionally



instantly because we have the same passion to present something fresh and new for audiences to connect with. We pushed each other to deliver the best film that we could have possibly made."

He adds, "I'm glad to creatively collaborate with an actor who is sensitive, genuine and deeply opinionated. He enjoys a special place in the hearts of his fans because he made them a promise and kept delivering on it relentlessly. With *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*, I'm bolstering that promise while also backing it on a large-scale to let the audiences relish this experience in all its glory."

Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui, produced by T-Series and *Guy In The Sky Pictures*, also stars Vaani Kapoor and is set to release on December 10.

Put on your dancing shoes

For the first time, BADSHAH will don five avatars — including that of an event manager, pandit, chef, rapper and a fashion designer — in his latest music video for *Say Yes To The Dress*, which he has sung with PAYAL DEV. By TEAM VIVA

Discovery+ is all set to surprise its audiences by bringing the Indian version of the hit international franchise *Say Yes To The Dress* to the country. Right in time for the wedding season, the brand has roped in the popular artist, Badshah for the music video. Joining him as the female lead singer is the melodious Payal Dev. This groovy track is composed by Aditya Dev and the video is produced by the production house, The Content Team. To take the song's virality quotient up a notch, discovery+ has roped in everyone's favorite dancer, Punit J Pathak to choreograph it.

Audiences, for the first time, will get to witness Badshah in five different never seen before avatars including that of an event manager, pandit, chef, rapper and a fashion designer, bringing about an energy that has no match. Not only does the video showcase real-time brides but also successfully brings out the show's core theme of fun, celebration and giving each bride the attention they deserve. While the show is visually mesmerising, the rapper's newest wedding track is sure to get one swaying.

Badshah on his new track for discovery+ 's *Say Yes To The Dress India*, said, "The song hits the right notes for each bride, and it was absolutely fun to envision its playout as I tried to capture the multiple thoughts that run through the mind of a bride. For the first time I was not just being myself but playing some quirky avatars which made the experience one of a kind for me too."

He further added, "It has been an absolute delight to collaborate with dis-



covery+ for the second time this year and I look forward to working with them on more such interesting projects in the future. I hope this song sets the bar high and makes its way to everyone's playlist as they *Say Yes To The Dress*."

"It's always a fun time working with Badshah and this song is nothing less than magic to the ears. Since we thoroughly enjoy this track ourselves, I am sure the audiences too will give it just

the amount of love it deserves", shared Payal.

"Listening to the track, I knew it was going to be the song of the season so I tried to keep the choreography as simple and catchy as possible so that everyone can recreate it with ease on any Indian wedding or party occasion. Also, Badshah has created such an amazing and catchy song and I had to justify it visually hence thought of bringing a surprise element for his fans by showcasing

him in never seen before looks, which he has portrayed so well," expressed Pathak.

Neeraj Sharma, founder and principal producer of The Content Team said, "We at TCT believe in coming up with creative solutions that bring audiences closer to the content. Buoyed by the recent successes of some of the prestigious singing reality shows in India, we have a fair understanding of what consumers are looking forward to in the music industry. We are thrilled to bring to you the biggest *shaadi* blockbuster of the year."

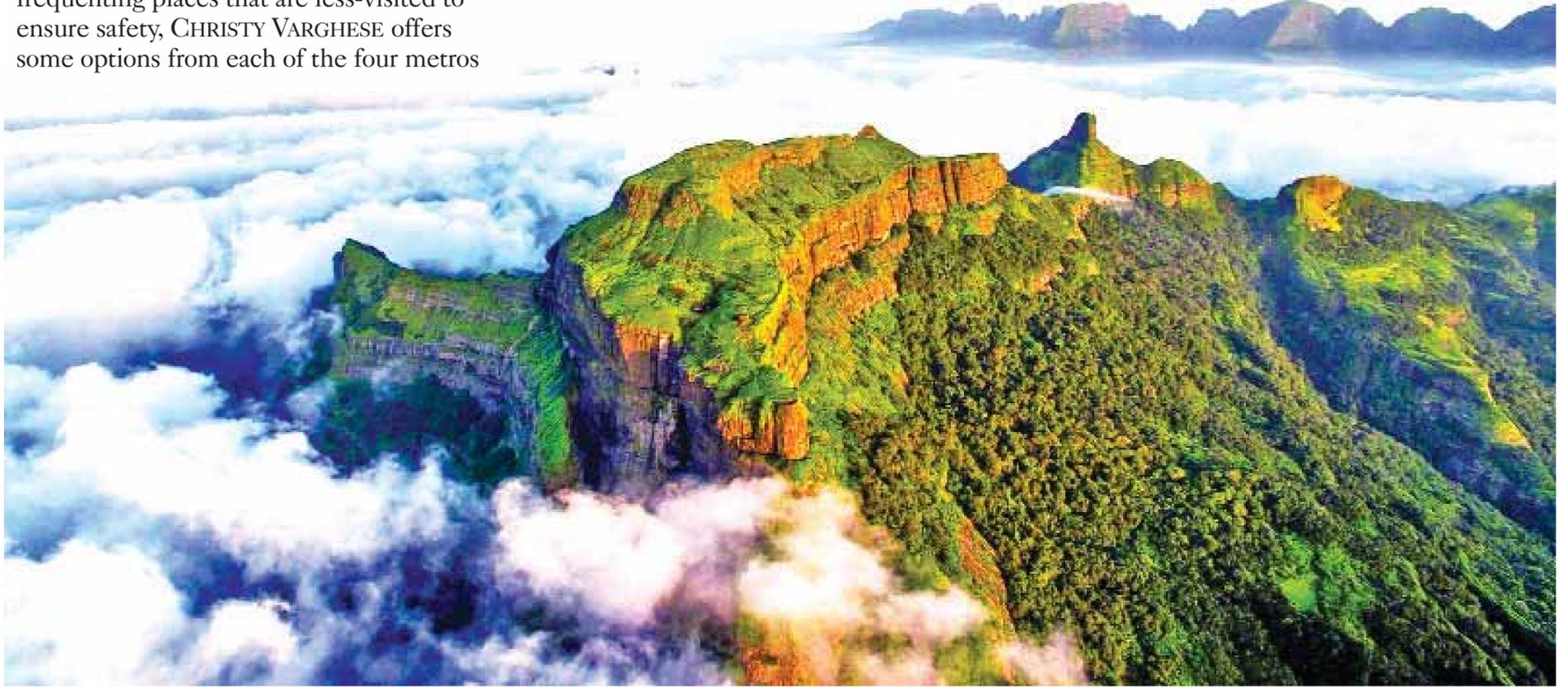
"We at discovery+ believe in offering content that caters to different passion groups. As we advance towards the wedding season, we are excited to present another original from our global hit international franchise, *Say Yes To The Dress India*. We foresee this as a family favorite and recognise that weddings are incomplete without groovy tracks. Therefore, to bring the show's elements to life, we collaborated with Badshah for this outstanding track that showcases the significance of a wedding dress in a bride's life," stated Issac John, head of marketing at Discovery, Inc.

Premiering on December 8, *Say Yes To The Dress India* celebrates brides from different walks of life as top-notch fashion designers of the country help them choose and curate their dream attire. Catch all the fun that goes behind helping these brides achieve the 'perfect' dress for their big fat Indian wedding filled with family drama, fun, dancing, and a burst of colours.

TRAVEL BUG

ROAD LESS-TRAVELLED

Combining the urge to travel with frequenting places that are less-visited to ensure safety, CHRISTY VARGHESE offers some options from each of the four metros



With the lockdown being lifted in phases, most of us city dwellers can't wait to travel to someplace relatively cooler, where the night sky is filled with stars that are clearly visible to the naked eye. And we are sure your bags are packed, ready to go. But what destination do you have in mind? Surely someplace relatively unknown, to minimise the scope of contact with other people?

With states like Himachal Pradesh witnessing an overwhelming influx of vacation-starved folks after the announcement that a negative RT-PCR test report is no longer required to enter the borders, we are certain that you are having a hard time figuring out the destination for your weekend getaway.

Rest assured, we are here to help you!

Here's a straightforward guide to lesser-known scenic places close to the metros that will help you beat the heat and, odds are, won't feature on the itinerary for most people... unless they have read this article, of course.

DELHI

As someone who resides in Delhi, I have been to the conventional spots across Himachal Pradesh one too many times, which is why I feel now would be a good time to explore Uttarakhand. Do take note that at the time of writing, the state demands a negative RT-PCR test from everyone entering its borders.

Chakrata: Chakrata is about 325 km away from Delhi, and if you're up for it, the place is a great destination for a motorcycle trip. Built as a summer retreat for high-ranking officials of the East India Company, presently, Chakrata serves as the base for the Special Frontier Force (SFF), an Indian special operations unit, that serves under the direct supervision of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). So, I am afraid you won't witness any rave parties here. Pre-COVID, there was a range of adventure sports one could indulge in, however, even if you can't go river rafting in Kanasar or waterfall rappelling at Kimono Falls, there is still a lot to do. Located about 13 km from Main Chakrata Market, the Deoban Forest, loved by bird watchers, makes for a good hike. Hire a 4x4 vehicle and a guide as normal four-wheelers are known to get stuck along the secluded stretch leading to Deoban. The motorable road is only built till the Forest Rest House and after a brisk 15-minute walk, one can reach Vyas Shikhar. As per local belief, this is where sage Vyas wrote the Hindu epic, Mahabharata. If you are lucky, the weather will permit you to catch a glimpse of numerous peaks of the Himalayan range including Nanda Devi.

You could undertake the somewhat easy, five-km-long trek from the taxi stand near the cantonment area at Chakrata to Tiger Falls. Your exertion, through luxurious deodar vegetation, will be rewarded with the breathtaking view of the waterfall cascading down the hill to form a small pond at the bottom. Enjoy the serenity of the falls and the surroundings by having a small picnic beside the pond. If you are in luck,



subject to further developments of the pandemic, you would be able to rappel down the face of the waterfall.

Feeling particularly adventurous? You could recce the Budher caves, which remain largely unexplored due to the rough terrain, known for their stalactite and stalagmite formations. A stalactite is an icicle-shaped formation that hangs from the ceiling of a cave and is produced by the precipitation of minerals from water dripping through the cave ceiling. Most stalactites have pointed tips while, on the other hand, most stalagmites have rounded or flattened tips. A stalagmite is a type of rock formation that rises from the floor of a cave due to the accumulation of material deposited on the floor from ceiling drippings. An easy way to remember the terminology is by simply picturing that stalactites are held 'tight' by the roof of the cave while stalagmites 'might' just grow big enough to touch the roof of the cave.

These caves are about 30 km from Chakrata and are believed to have been built by the Pandavas. But be warned, those who have undertaken it say that the expedition is quite rigorous.

We saved the best for the last though. We highly recommend a visit to Chilmiri neck, which is just 20-30 minutes away from Chakrata main town. A sunset point set atop a plateau, Chilmiri is the highest peak in the

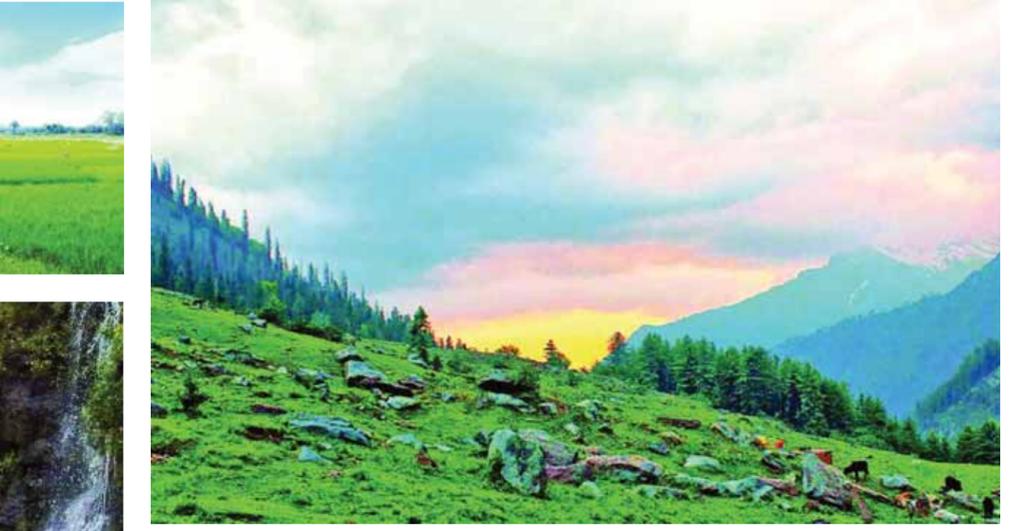


town, offering National Geographic-worthy views of the mountains surrounding Chakrata.

KOLKATA

If you reside in Kolkata, we are sure you have visited Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Siliguri. Since I haven't visited it, I had to rely on a friend, who happens to be a modern day-nomad, for some valuable input. Bearing in mind that we were looking for someplace offbeat, she highly recommended that we visit Simultala (about 360 km from Kolkata) and Ayodhya Hills (280 km from Kolkata). We sought more information on the latter as it is closer.

Ayodhya Hills: Ayodhya (or Ajodhya) Hills, in Purulia District of West Bengal, is a part of the lowest step of the Chota Nagpur Plateau and are popular among young mountaineers



thirst is known as Sita Kund. Now, this is a small, shallow water body in Bagandi village where cold water bubbles from the white sand base.

Ajodhya Hills is known for its temperate environment and pleasant weather which lasts through the year. While it was one of the most remote areas of the state, it is now slowly gaining popularity.

CHENNAI

We can't imagine your eyes ever tiring of the panoramic views at Yercaud, Ooty, Kodaikanal and Munnar. However, if you were on the lookout for a place much closer to Chennai, we have something worth your while.

Kolli Hills: Kolli Hills or Kolli Malai, which means 'Mountains of Death', is a small mountain range located just 358 km from Chennai and is apt for a perfect bike trip. The Kollimalai Ghat Road, leading to the Kolli Hills, is an extremely adventurous undertaking with more than 70 hairpin bends spread across a length of nearly 47 km.

Apart from the scenic journey to Kolli Hills, there are numerous places you could visit, in and around the area, to satiate the tourist within you.

The Arapaleeswar Temple is a crucial part of Kolli Hills sightseeing with a rich culture and historical significance that dates as far back as the 1st century CE when it was built by the then-ruler Valvil Ori. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple stands as a witness to the great Dravidian style of architecture till today.

And don't forget to visit the Botanical Garden which comprises a beautiful rose garden, a majestic sightseeing point, eco-friendly cottages, and a fun-filled children's park.

If hiking is your passion, do visit Puliacholai, a haven for the quiet and adventurous alike. Puliacholai is a dense forest range on the foothills of Kollimalai. There is a lot of scope in converting this place into a trekking base, as the forest has nearly 24 discernible, well-set trails.

MUMBAI

Being the third-largest state in India, Maharashtra has no dearth of scenic locations with pleasant weather throughout the year. We had heard of several (somewhat) commercialised places that would serve as the ideal weekend getaway from the prickly summer heat

such as Mahabaleshwar, Panchgani, Matheran, Lonavala and Khandala. Since some of the aforementioned places fall within 100 km of Mumbai, seeking clarity, we reach out to a fellow traveller who currently resides in Mumbai. As someone who was raised in Pune, another major Maratha city that has its little belts of greenery, forests and temperate weather, he is a trusted source of intel. When he shares that all of the aforementioned places deserve a visit, we feel dejected; turns out he is just as spoilt for choice as we are. He is someone who prefers camping out by himself or with friends, somewhere in the Sahyadri mountain ranges (Western Ghats). He shares that camping out always seems like the best way when travelling, provided you have the necessary equipment, know how to cook and clean up after yourself.

Thinking hard, as a cursory remark, he mentions that if one fancies the notion of heading out on a long drive, one could visit Amboli, Maharashtra's last hill station on the way to the plains of Goa. He says that since it is relatively unexplored, there's no need to be worried about running into many tourists here. While we recommend you take all necessary precautions every time you step outside the safety of your home, we look up his claims and it turns out he is right. At a little less than 500 km from Mumbai via NH 48, Amboli Ghat (as it is also known) looks pristine and has one of the lowest positivity rates in Maharashtra with between 1,100 and 1,500 residents, as per the latest data.

Bhandardara: Knowing that we might like embarking on a momentous trek leading to some breathtaking views, he recommends we visit Bhandardara. A short while later, he shares an elaborate itinerary. Turns out a large reason why he singled out Bhandardara is because of Kalsubai Peak, the highest peak of the Sahyadri Ranges, and Maharashtra, with its summit situated at an elevation of 1,646 metres.

The trek is a very tricky one and, usually, the experienced trekkers find their way to the top with some difficulty, he said about the climb. He also added that there are now man-made stairs to access the peak if you don't wish to trek.

While there are several quaint hotels in or around the city centre at Bhandardara, we were told that camping at the Mt Kalsubai base or close to the Wilson Dam would be a good idea. For a weekend getaway, there is plenty to look forward to here.

So, what are you waiting for? Travel, but travel safe and smart.

Mayank makes statement with 100 as India score 221/4

➤ **MAYANK AGARWAL** scored his maiden century against New Zealand in the seventh innings of fourth Test match by making an unbeaten 120 runs off 246 balls with 14 fours and four sixes on the opening day of the second Test match at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Friday (December 3). The 30-year-old from Bangalore, scored all four centuries, including two double hundreds, in nine innings of seven Test matches at home.

➤ **CHETESHWAR PUJARA** became the seventh Indian top order batter (1-4) to receive 10 or more ducks in Tests. The right hand batter's 10th duck came in the 150th innings of 89th Test match while batting in top order. It was also his first duck in 22 innings of 12 Test matches against New Zealand.

➤ **VIRAT KOHLI** received his maiden duck in 20 innings of 11 Test matches against New Zealand. Overall, it was his 14th duck in 163rd innings of 97th Test match.

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Under pressure to prove his worth, Mayank Agarwal made the best statement possible with a superb hundred as India recovered from a sudden top-order collapse to reach 221 for 4 in two extended opening day sessions against New Zealand in the second Test here on Friday.

Agarwal (120 batting, 246 balls), who is all but certain to sit out once Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul come back during the next series (if South Africa then away, if West Indies then home), added to a happy headache for coach Rahul Dravid, on a day when vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had to be "dropped" because of a hamstring niggle.

Worse, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli failed to trouble the scorers and it was a hundred that came under pressure with India being 80 for 3 and 160 for 4 at different stages of the game.

Had the Indian team management been forced to play Rahane, the axe was likely to fall on Agarwal and it's never a great feeling to go out there in such a situation.

He was jittery to begin with as a streaky boundary through slips came early on but once he marched down the track to loft

Ajaz Patel (29-10-73-4) for a straight six, his nerves had all but vanished. The boundaries --- 14 in all and four sixes, all off Patel showed his class as he got his fourth hundred in Tests.

In fact, Patel, who was by far the best New Zealand bowler in view, having reduced India from 80 for no loss to 80 for three, did look pedestrian in front of Agarwal at times.

When an airborne Agarwal punched the air after a square driven boundary off part-time seamer Daryl Mitchell, one could sense that pressure weighing a thousand tonnes must have come off his chest.

Agarwal was the first choice opener during the England series but before the first game, he got hit on the head and KL Rahul coming in his place, grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

With Rohit also having his best overseas series as Test opener, Agarwal was confined to the reserves.

He could again be back in the reserves but he made a statement of intent with his strokeplay as he dominated the 80-run fourth wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (18).

Along with another reserve player in Wriddhiman Saha (25 batting, 53 balls), Agarwal added

another 61 runs before the close of play.

New Zealand had erred in not playing Neil Wagner on a track where there was a lot of bounce on offer.

If Agarwal showed discretion, the same couldn't be said about Shubman Gill (44, 71 balls), who was dazzling till he was around in their 80-run opening stand before Patel snuffed him out.

Gill looked fluent before paying for his impetuosity which led to a mini collapse.

Mumbai-born left-arm spinner Patel also picked up Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in quick succession with both failing to trouble the scorers. Patel became the second Mumbai-born cricketer after legendary England captain Douglas Jardine to play against India in his city of birth.

He altered the length cleverly and the extra bounce, which is always a speciality of Wankhede, helped him immensely.

He had Gill on the mat when he flighted one to entice him to come out and the ball turned and jumped with keeper Tom Blundell making a hash of a stumping.

However, the very

next ball saw him shorten the length as Gill tried jabbing at it and it turned enough to take the outside edge into Ross Taylor's palms.

Pujara's confidence has hit nadir after too many failures and he survived a DRS appeal from New Zealand before he jumped down the track to york himself. Patel, very wisely, fired one with an angle straight into his toes and what happened with Pujara often happens with out-of-form batters.

For skipper Kohli, it was a delivery that straightened after pitching as the Indian skipper tried to play a forward defensive stroke. Straight umpire Anil Chaudhary gave him out and Kohli immediately asked for a review.

The replay was inconclusive on whether it hit the bat first or pad and as per rule, TV umpire Virender Sharma went with his on-field colleague, leaving Kohli absolutely livid.

He had a word with leg umpire Nitin Menon and was seen expressing his displeasure.

The TV cameras then caught him standing in the dressing room balcony, visibly upset with the decision, which was a touch and go one.



| India vs New Zealand | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| DAY 1 | |
| Scoreboard | |
| INDIA 1st INNINGS: | |
| Mayank Agarwal batting | 120 |
| Shubman Gill c Taylor b Patel | 44 |
| Cheteshwar Pujara b Patel | 0 |
| Virat Kohli lbw b Patel | 0 |
| Shreyas Iyer c Tom Blundell b Ajaz Patel | 18 |
| Wriddhiman Saha batting | 25 |
| Extras: (b-9, lb-5) 14 | |
| Total: 221/4 in 70 overs | |
| Fall of wickets: 80-1, 80-2, 80-3, 160-4 | |
| Bowling (New Zealand): | |
| Tim Southee | 15-5-29-0 |
| Kyle Jamieson | 9-2-30-0 |
| Ajaz Patel | 29-10-73-4 |
| William Somerville | 8-0-46-0 |
| Rachin Ravindra | 4-0-20-0 |
| Daryl Mitchell | 5-3-9-0 |

| MOST DUCK BY INDIAN TOP ORDER (1-4) IN TESTS | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|------|-----|----|----|
| PLAYER | M | I | N.O | RUNS | AVG | H.S | 100 | 50 | 0 |
| Virender Sehwag | 98 | 169 | 6 | 8129 | 49.87 | 319 | 22 | 29 | 15 |
| Pankaj Roy | 43 | 79 | 4 | 2442 | 32.56 | 173 | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Dilip Vengsarkar | 99 | 151 | 16 | 5533 | 40.98 | 166 | 15 | 26 | 14 |
| Virat Kohli | 80 | 126 | 7 | 6348 | 53.34 | 254* | 23 | 18 | 12 |
| Sunil Gavaskar | 120 | 204 | 13 | 9843 | 51.53 | 236* | 34 | 42 | 11 |
| Sachin Tendulkar | 179 | 276 | 27 | 13507 | 54.24 | 248* | 44 | 58 | 11 |
| Cheteshwar Pujara | 89 | 150 | 9 | 6486 | 46.00 | 206* | 18 | 31 | 10 |

FAISEL FEATURES

Rahul bhai told me to make it 'big': Mayank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mayank Agarwal knows that he might be confined to the sidelines once KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma are back in the mix but what has helped him stay focussed is words of wisdom from coach Rahul Dravid, who told him to control what's in his domain.

Agarwal, who has been in and out of the squad in recent times, scored a fine 120 under pressure on the opening day of the second Test before which he watched legendary Sunil Gavaskar's batting videos and slightly changed his stance.

"When I was picked, Rahul bhai spoke to me. He asked me to control what is in my hands and said, 'go out there and give it your best,'" Agarwal said at the end of the day's play.

"He had told me 'When you get set, make it big'. I am happy to have capitalised on the start that I had. But that message was very clear from Rahul bhai, that I should make it count," he added.

The Bangalore based opener lamented that it was his misfortune that he got hit on the head during a net session in England and then

there was nothing in his hands.

"It was unfortunate for me to not have played in England, I got hit and there's nothing much I could do about that. I accepted it and continued to work hard and work on my process and my game."

Gavaskar on the day during his commentary session spoke about how he had advised Agarwal to reduce his pronounced back-lift into a shorter one and the opener said that as of now, he is trying to ape the iconic former India captain's side-on stance.

"He told me that I should consider keeping the bat a bit low initially in my innings. I have a tendency to hold it high. I couldn't make that adjustment in this short period of time. When he was saying that, I noticed his shoulder position and basically picked up that I need to be more side on."

On the day, he hit four sixes off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, who was New Zealand's best bowler by a distance with four wickets to his name. He said it was a "conscious decision".

"He was bowling exceedingly well. But each time anything was in our half (our arc), the plan was to be a bit more attacking.



Anything that came a little towards us in length, we were going to go for it.

"He had that phase when he tied us down, so it was a conscious decision to make it count when we could or each time he bowled it in our spot," he explained.

For Agarwal, this innings was more about "grit and determination" and he was prepared to look ugly as long as he got results. "That is something I have thought about, but this innings was more about grit and determination, just to stick with the plan, be disciplined. I know I didn't look good sometimes but I got the job done," he said.

India hasn't still reached a commanding score and Agarwal reckoned that the first session on Saturday will be crucial. "How we start is crucial, the focus is that. The first session we want to play it out, the wicket is going to get harder and harder to bat on."

Afghanistan will face pressure from ICC over women's cricket: Ramiz

PTI ■ LONDON

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja has said that the ICC will put pressure on Afghanistan to clarify its position on the ban of women's cricket after the Taliban took control of the government in Kabul. Raja is part of an International Cricket Council working group reviewing the state of the game in Afghanistan.

"Pressure will be put on Afghanistan. I'm sure they will have to decide in the next six months how they deal with the ICC," Raja told Stumped on the BBC World Service.

It is an ICC requirement for full members to also have a national women's team, besides the men's side. But the return to Taliban rule has led to the prospect of women being forbidden to play cricket in Afghanistan. "Like everybody else, we are giving them time. They are in a difficult situation," said Raja. Afghanistan is one of 12 full members of the ICC. Afghanistan's men took part in the T20 World Cup that was played in the UAE and Oman in October and November.

Sri Lanka completes test series sweep vs West Indies

AP ■ GALLE

Spinners Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya took five wickets each to propel Sri Lanka to a crushing 164-run win over West Indies in the second test Friday and a 2-0 series sweep.

Chasing 297 to win, the West Indies reached 65-2 in the second innings at lunch on the fifth day but the tourists were bowled out for 132 in the third session. They lost their last eight wickets for 40 runs.

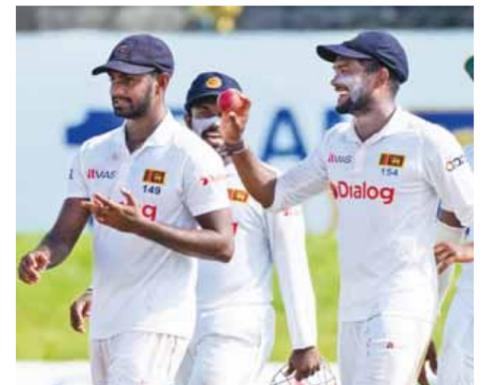
Embuldeniya had best figures of 5-35 while Mendis recorded 5-66, and collected 11 wickets in the match.

Sri Lanka was still batting when play started on the final day and they declared their second innings on 345-9 in the morning session.

Sri Lanka had scored 204 in its first innings and the West Indies made 253, taking a 49-run lead.

Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 155 and his overnight partner Embuldeniya was out for 39 bowled by Jason Holder.

De Silva faced 262 balls and hit two sixes and 11



boundaries in scoring his eighth test century.

Left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul had the best bowling figures of 3-106 while offspinner Roston Chase took two wickets.

West Indies lost its first second-innings wicket with the total on 15 when captain Kraigg Brathwaite (6) was trapped lbw by Mendis.

Then Nkrumah Bonner joined Jermaine Blackwood

and the pair added 50 runs for the second wicket before Blackwood (36) was caught by de Silva off Embuldeniya in the last ball before lunch break.

When Mendis had Shai Hope (16) caught by Lakmal, West Indies' score stood at 92-3, but it triggered the late collapse.

Bonner top scored for the West Indies with 44.

Sri Lanka won the first test at the same venue by 187 runs.



Axelsen, Tzu Ying named BWF Male and Female Player of the Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Tokyo Games silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying were named the BWF Male and Female Player of the Year respectively in recognition of their stellar runs this season.

It was the first season-ending award in this category for both Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying -- the All England champions of 2020.

All eight winners were honoured in a virtual broadcast on Friday.

Axelsen was rewarded for his extraordinary run starting from the Barcelona Spain Masters in February 2020.

The Dane made 10 finals in 11 individual tournaments, winning seven of those, including gold at the Tokyo Games. "This means a lot to

me," said Axelsen in a release. "Thank you to my team, my coaches, my friends, my family, my competitors."

This year has been really eventful. A few downs, but a lot of ups, with the Olympics being the biggest win, a dream coming true. This award gives me a lot of motivation to work harder."

Tai Tzu Ying won the All England 2020 and then struck a rich vein of form at the three-tournament Asian Leg in January 2021, making all three finals, and clinching the BWF World Tour Finals 2020.

The Chinese Taipei player then made the final of the Tokyo Olympics, going down in a thrilling match to China's Chen Yu Fei.

"It's a pity I can't be in Indonesia for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals," said the world No.1.

Medvedev puts Russia back in Davis Cup semifinals

AP ■ MADRID

Daniil Medvedev maintained his perfect record at the Davis Cup Finals to put Russia into the last four.

Medvedev defeated Mikael Ymer 6-4, 6-4 Thursday to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Sweden in the quarterfinals of the revamped team event.

Andrey Rublev earlier outlasted Elias Ymer, Mikael's older brother, in a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (3) win at the Madrid Arena. With Russia having secured the win after the two singles matches, the doubles match wasn't played.

Argentina end France's dream run to book final berth in Junior Hockey WC



PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former champions Argentina ended France's

dream run in the FIH Junior Men's Junior Hockey World Cup by registering a hard-fought 3-1 win in penalty

shoot-out of the first semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

The display from both teams was not worthy of a semi-final but 2005 champions Argentina kept their composure in the shoot-out after the regulation 60 minutes ended goalless.

In the penalty shoot-out, Lucio Mendez, Bautista Capurro and Franco Agostini scored for Argentina while only skipper Timothee Clement found the target for France.

The match ended on a bad note as tempers flared after Lucas Montecot missed

France's fourth attempt, resulting in almost fistcuffs but officials of both teams and on-field umpires rushed quickly to handle the situation.

The first semifinal turned out to be a sedate affair, at least in the first two quarters as both the teams failed to create any clear cut chances from field play.

Argentina were by far the better side on display and attacked French goal on quite a few occasions.

The South Americans secured two penalty corners inside the first 10 minutes but, on both occasions, France goalkeeper Guillaume de Vaulcelles denied the opposition.

Qualified for semis, Sindhu loses final group match



PTI ■ BALI

Already Assured of a semifinal berth at the BWF World Tour Finals, India's P V Sindhu on Friday suffered a three-game defeat to top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in her third and final group A women's singles match here on Friday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, couldn't apply enough pressure on the world no. 10 Chochuwong to go down fighting 12-21 21-19 14-21 in a match that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

This was Sindhu's third loss to the 2016 world junior champion Chochuwong in seven meetings.

Sindhu thus finished in the second position in group A, behind Chochuwong and her opponent of the semifinal stage will be decided in a draw later in the day.

Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth

bowled out of the season-ending tournament after losing to second seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia 19-21 14-21 in 37 minutes in his third and final group B match.

It was Srikanth's second loss to the world no. 8 Malaysian, who had defeated the Indian at Hylo Open in straight games.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too ended their campaign though they eked out a hard-fought 21-19 9-21 21-14 win over England's Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in the inconsequential third and final group match.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, was quite erratic and couldn't control the rallies against Chochuwong, who rode on her quality of strokes to stay a step ahead.

In the first game, Sindhu erred in her lengths early on as Chochuwong led 5-3. The Indian managed to collect a few points but she never looked in control.

Chochuwong took the initiative and kept things under her control, leading 11-6 at the interval.

The Thai player got rewarded for her angled and crisp returns, while Sindhu lacked consistency as Chochuwong took 17-9 lead.