

OPINION 8 DID DEMOCRACY WIN OR THE NATION LOST?

HEALTH 12 DON'T IGNORE THIS PAIN

WORLD 13 NEPAL CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF OMICRON VARIANT IN 2

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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the pioneer

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INDIA RETURN TO TOP OF ICC TEST RANKINGS 14 SPORT

CAPSULE

DENGUE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 15 IN DELHI
New Delhi: Six more deaths due to dengue have been reported in the national Capital, taking the total number of fatalities due to the vector-borne disease reported in Delhi this year to 15, according to a municipal report released.

INDONESIA VOLCANIC ERUPTION KILLS 15
Sumbawatu: Rescuers dug out the body of 13-year-old boy with their bare hands, as improved weather conditions allowed them to resume their search after the highest volcano on Indonesia's Java island erupted with fury, killing at least 15 people with searing gas and leaving 27 others missing.

THAROOR NOT TO HOST SANSAD TV SHOW
New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said he is suspending hosting a talk show on Sansad TV in solidarity with the 12 Rajya Sabha members suspended from the House, and would not resume his anchoring until their suspension is revoked and a "semblance of bipartisanship restored to the conduct of Parliament".

PAK GROUP IN INDIA TO ATTEND SCO SEMINAR
New Delhi: A Pakistani delegation arrived here on Monday to participate in a cyber security seminar being hosted by India under the framework of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). The Pakistan High Commission said its Charge d'Affaires Aftab Hasan Khan received the delegation at the mission.

Modi, Putin vow to cement unique ties

Two leaders discuss Af, terrorism; 28 pacts signed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Russia on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to enhance their ties during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Modi said relations between India and Russia are truly unique and a reliable model of interstate friendship. "Your visit to India is a reflection of your commitment to ties with India," Modi told Putin, adding the two countries remained in touch about situation in Afghanistan and other issues.

Putin said India is a great power and a time-tested friend.

The two leaders discussed the situation in Afghanistan and Putin said they are "concerned about everything that has to do with terrorism. Fight against terrorism is also fight against drug trafficking and organised crime."

On economic ties, the Russian President noted at present mutual investments amounted to more than 38 billion dollars and said "the two countries have a strong co-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives Russian President Vladimir Putin at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

operation in military and technical sphere like no other country. We develop high technology together as well as produce in India."

It was the 21st annual summit between the two countries. Modi had attended the summit

in Russia in 2019. Last year, it could not be held due to the pandemic.

Putin's one-day visit also signified the importance of the relations as this is his second visit abroad since the outbreak of the pandemic. He

travelled to Geneva in June for his first meeting with US President Joe Biden.

The latest summit saw the two countries covering an array of areas with the objective to further cement the special and privileged strategic partner-

ship between the two countries.

Highlighting the time-tested ties between the two nations, Modi said there is no change in the pace of relations between India and Russia despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Continued on Page 11

Lavrov: US made abortive efforts to scuttle S-400 deal

'It tried to make India obey the American orders'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the USA tried to undermine India-Russia cooperation on the issue of the S-400 air defence missile and tried to make India obey the American orders.

Lavrov is in New Delhi for the Puti-Modi summit and inaugural 2+2 dialogue. "S-400 deal doesn't have only a symbolic meaning. It has a very important practical meaning for an Indian defence capability and the situation is basically underway. The deal has been implemented," he told news agency ANI.

"We witnessed attempts on the part of the United States to undermine this cooperation & to make India obey the American orders, to follow the American vision of how this



region should be developed," the visiting Foreign Minister said.

"Our Indian friends clearly and firmly explained that they are a sovereign country & they will decide whose weapons to buy and who is going to be a partner of India in this & other areas," he said.

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems despite objections from the USA. The Trump administration had even warned to impose sanctions like it had done in the case of Turkey for acquiring S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.

Shah regrets civilians' death in Nagaland firing by Army

Case of mistaken identity: Shah; SIT formed, Opp boycotts RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing regret over the Nagaland firing incident, Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday told both Houses of Parliament that a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be completed within a month and asserted that all agencies must ensure such happenings do not recur while taking action against insurgents.

The Opposition barring the Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha boycotted saying the Home Minister's statement is not enough and the Rajya Sabha adjourned for the day due to ruckus as Opposition sought more clarifications.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrives at Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday

First making statement in the Lok Sabha at 3 pm and later in the Rajya Sabha at 4 pm, Shah said the Government is keeping a close watch on the evolving situation and necessary measures are being taken to ensure peace and tranquillity in the region. The State authorities, as a precautionary measure, have imposed prohibitory orders in the affected areas, he informed the House. Shah offered deepest con-



Relatives and locals pay last tributes to the 13 people who were killed in a firing by Armed Forces in Mon district on Monday

lences to the families of those killed in the case of mistaken identity on December 4 and subsequent episodes.

"The Government of India sincerely regrets this unfortunate incident in Nagaland and offers its deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives," the Home Minister said, admitting the

fault committed by the Army's Special Forces. Narrating the sequence of events, Shah said the Army received information on the movement of insurgents in Nagaland's Mon and '21 Para Commando' unit laid an ambush. A vehicle was signalled to stop but it tried to speed away.

Continued on Page 11

Future pandemics could be more lethal than Covid: Vaccine creator

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One of the creators of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has cautioned that vaccines could be less effective against the Omicron variant and warned that future pandemics could be more lethal than the current Covid crisis.

Delivering the 44th Richard Dimbleby Lecture, Prof Dame Sarah Gilbert said there needed to be more funding for pandemic preparedness to prevent the advances made from being lost. She also battled for a universal flu jab saying it should be developed in order to wipe out the threat from influenza.

Sarah added people should be cautious until more was known about it.

She said, "This will not be the last time a virus threatens our lives and our livelihoods. The truth is the next one could be worse. It could be more contagious, or more lethal, or both.

"We cannot allow a situa-



Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, one of the scientists behind the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine

tion where we have gone through all we have gone through, and then find that the enormous economic losses we have sustained mean that there is still no funding for pandemic preparedness," she added.

Sensex slumps 949 points on Omicron scare

Mumbai: Equity indices spiralled lower on Monday as the spread of the Omicron variant in the country spooked investors and triggered an across-the-board sell-off. A plunging rupee and continued selling by foreign institutional investors added to the woes, traders said.

Extending its losing streak for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex crashed 949.32 points or 1.65 per cent to close at 56,747.14, an over three-month low.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slumped 284.45 points or 1.65 per cent to 16,912.25.

All Sensex components ended in the red. IndusInd Bank was the biggest laggard, shedding 3.75 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, TCS, Tech Mahindra and Infosys. PTI

PM to launch projects in Gorakhpur today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a fertiliser factory and AIIMS in Gorakhpur on Tuesday.

With these inaugurations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's nearly two decades' of relentless struggle as a Member of Parliament for farmers' well-being and efforts to improve people's health in Gorakhpur and adjoining areas, will come true.

Built at the cost of Rs 8,603 crore on 600 acres, the fertiliser factory will provide direct and indirect employment to 20,000 people. The fertiliser factory, set up and to be operated by Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL), will also ensure availability of adequate fertilisers in Uttar Pradesh and other border states while reducing dependence on imports.

HURL is a joint venture in which Coal India Limited, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation are the lead promoters while the Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Limited are partners.

"The fertiliser factory of Gorakhpur is a dream project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. As an MP from Gorakhpur from 1998 till March 2017, there was not a single session when Yogi Adityanath did not raise the issue of reopening the factory of the Fertiliser Corporation of India, which was closed down in 1990," Bharatiya Janata Party spokesman Manish Dixit said.

The prime minister had laid the foundation stone for the fertiliser factory on July 22, 2016. On the same date, the prime minister will also inaugurate the AIIMS, equipped

Continued on Page 11

SC retrains Mumbai Police from filing chargesheet against Param

Court decision after CBI steps in

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday restrained the Mumbai Police from filing chargesheet against former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh after the CBI offered to probe charges against him.

However, the State police was allowed to carry on investigations. In a big relief to Singh, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, said the FIRs should also be entrusted to the Central probe agency and he will file an affidavit regarding the same. A bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh also directed the CBI to file its response on the issue of whether the probe should be



handed over to it. The top court said it was only concerned with the "likelihood of bias".

Suspended former Police Commissioner is facing series of cases for misconduct and corruption charges, after he fell out with the State Government, following a fake bomb scare case in front of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's home.

Senior advocate Darius Kambatta, appearing for



Maharashtra, stated that Singh's petition was a service dispute against departmental inquiries, which should be contested before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). The bench then said, "What are your allegations regarding his service, etc, that is for you to take. But this is one of the very unfortunate messages.

Continued on Page 11

But shots make it less impactful; mild symptoms, no death so far

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The cases of Omicron infection reported from vaccinated people in India show that the super mutant virus manages to break the security ring provided by the vaccine.

However, the impact has been less, said health experts, noting that this (vaccine) could also be the reason that there has been no death so far and the symptoms are mild.

They also said the vaccines may well continue to ward off severe illness and death, although booster doses may be needed to protect most people.

Against the backdrop, of the rising number of Omicron cases being reported among the fully vaccinated people, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday urged the Government to announce "additional" doses of Covid



Health workers walk past the passengers waiting in a queue during Covid-19 testing at Katra railway station, amid the threat of spreading of the new Covid-19 variant 'Omicron', in Jammu on Monday

vaccine for healthcare, frontline workers and immunocompromised individuals amid concerns over the Omicron variant of coronavirus, 21 cases of which been detected in India so far.

It also demanded that the government expedite the proposal of vaccinating individuals aged 12 to 18 years. So far, in India 23 people have been found to be suffering with the new variant of Covid-19 with two cases detected on Monday. The heavily mutated

Omicron coronavirus variant is likely to spread internationally and poses a very high risk of infection surges that could have "severe consequences" in some places, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

No Omicron-linked deaths had yet been reported, though further research was needed to assess its potential to escape protection against immunity induced by vaccines and previous infections, it added.

Continued on Page 11

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have to changed my name from Ejaj to Mohammad Ajaz S/o Karamat Ali for future purpose. Add- Mangaremau Italy Fatehpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Deen Mohammad to Hafiz Ulla for all future purpose, Hafiz Ulla s/o Hakim Ulla R/O Hanuman Ganj Prayagraj

NOTICE

I have to changed my name from Mohit to Mohit Kumar Vimal S/o Bijay Shankar for future purpose. Add- Maraunda Suchit Pariyar Unnao.

NOTICE

My former name was Charu Ghai. I have changed my name from Charu Ghai to Charu Sehgal. In future, I should be known Charu Sehgal W/o Shree Deepak Sehgal R/o 10/435, Khasi Lines, Kanpur - 208001.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 12.12.2021, प्रातः 11:00 बजे मोहम्मद बाग क्लब लिमिटेड, 202-महात्मा गाँधी मार्ग, लखनऊ में निम्नोप्योक्त घोषित सामग्रियों आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 5,000/- नगद/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है मैंने अपने पुत्र आयुष सिंह का नाम बदलकर अदिक सिंह Advik Singh कर दिया है। अब से सभी अभिलेखों में आयुष सिंह की जगह अदिक सिंह Advik Singh लिखा व पढ़ा जाये। दिनेश कुमार सिंह निवासी-441/67 /6/6, जल निगम रोड बालागंज, लखनऊ।

NOTICE

I have to inform that my name has been wrongly entered as Savitri in the service book of my son Anil Kumar Yadav. Where as in all my documents my name is Sumitra which is correct from today. onwards we should be known as Sumitra. Sumitra Vill. and Post Malipur. Tehasil Jalalpur. Dist. Ambedkar Nagar.

NOTICE

I, SHASHI KISHOR TRIVEDI holder of Indian Passport No:Z4681836 issued at DUBAI on 28/02/2018 and Permanent Resident of MALIK MAU CHAUBARA HURBUX GANJ RAE-BAREILLY UP and presently working at 12A04 LAGO VISTA TOWER B DUBAI PRODUCTION CITY do hereby change the name of my minor child DIVYANG TRIVEDI holding Indian Passport No:R2347975 issued at DUBAI on 13/04/2017 from DIVYANG TRIVEDI to DEVAANG (GIVEN NAME) TRIVEDI (SURNAME) with immediate effect.

NOTICE

I Ramesh Yadav No 17012027 H Rank SEP Unit 3Corps Zone WKSP C/o 99 APO. hereby inform to all that the name of my brother in Lav Yadav S/o Srawan Yadav as High School certificate is correct and actual. But in relationship record it wrongly recorded as Lawa Yadav S/o Shrawan Yadav. Ramesh Yadav S/o Srawan Yadav R/o Vill Faridpur P.O. Poonapar P.S. Jhanpur Tahsil Sagri Distt Azamgarh

NOTICE

"Smt. Rajinder Kaur Sethi W/o Late. Sardar Satnam Singh Sethi, Sri Jagpal Singh S/o Sri Harinder Pal Singh and Sri Manak Singh S/o Late. Balwant Singh is owner of the Free Hold Bhukhand No.- B-32, Block-C, Yojana -1st Jan Sewak Housing Society Sarvodaya Nagar Kakadeo Kanpur Nagar, which admeasuring Land Area -1031 Sq.Yadrs = 862.01 Sq.Mtr. Kanpur Nagar of Chain Deed of Original Sub Lease Deed Doc. no.- 691/692 Dated 09/09/1965 and Sale Deed Doc.& 4130/4131 Dated 08/08/1974 in Registered in Sub-Registrar Kanpur, which Original Doc. has burned in dange of Year 1984 which FIR was lodged in 07/11/1984 in P.S. -Kakadeo Kanpur have missed on Dange, which use the above Document will be illegal."

Yogi: Samajwadi Party a party of goondas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Realising that the epithet 'goondo ki party' hurts Samajwadi Party the most, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath coined a slogan saying 'Jis gar par Samajwadi Party ka jhanda ho, us gari me koi goonda hoga', hitting SP where it hurts the most.

Yogi made this statement in Azamgarh, the parliamentary constituency of Akhilesh Yadav. "The Samajwadi Party is the party of goonda. Take my word, any car having an SP flag has a goonda sitting in it," Yogi said and added that the entire opposition had unleashed atrocities on the



poor of the state during their regimes. Reminding the atrocities on the

poor in Rampur under the SP government, Yogi accused Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party of being silent and said that at that time the Bharatiya Janata Party was fighting against the oppression.

The chief minister also handed over cheques to the beneficiaries of various government schemes, golden cards of Ayushman Yojana, and homes to women.

The programme was held in the Sagri area of the district. The chief minister said that 1,02,415 people in the district were given free electricity connections and 7.21 lakh farmers were given Kisan Samman Nidhi. He said under

Kanya Sumangala Yojana, 18,000 girls were given Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000 while free food grains were being given to 7,93,824 people in the district.

The chief minister dedicated 69 projects worth Rs 198 crore to the people of the district. Out of these, 29 projects worth Rs 11,388.73 lakh were dedicated while the foundation stones of 40 projects worth Rs 8469.29 lakh were laid.

Paying tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 64th death anniversary, Yogi said the system given by Babasaheb in the Constitution had tied the country to unity from north to south and east to west.

Yogi Cabinet to hold meeting in KV Temple complex on December 16

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Probably for the first time in the annals of independent India a cabinet meeting of the state government will be held in a temple complex as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has plans to hold the meeting of his cabinet at Kashi Vishwanath Temple complex on December 16.

In this meeting, along with the chief minister, both Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma as well as other ministers and officials will be present.

This meeting will be held two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor on December 13, during his two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency.

On December 14, the prime minister is likely to have a meeting with all the chief ministers of Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states from the Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

This will be the second time when the cabinet meeting will be held outside Lucknow. In 2019, Yogi had held his cabinet meeting on the banks of Sangam during Prayagraj Kumbh Mela.

A senior cabinet minister told 'The Pioneer' that with this decision the BJP had made an attempt to tame eastern Uttar Pradesh and send a message across the political spectrum that after Lucknow, Varanasi was the second capital of the state.

Before the cabinet meeting on December 16, the chief minister along with all the ministers will have a darshan of Baba Vishwanath.

The chief minister will personally oversee the arrangements of Kashi Vishwanath Dham inauguration as well as other programmes therefore he will stay put in Varanasi from December 8 to December 16.

BRIEF WINTER SESSION OF UP LEGISLATURE LIKELY FROM DEC 15

A short but important winter session of the Uttar Pradesh state legislature is expected from December 15. A decision regarding this was taken in a cabinet by circulation.

A government official said that supplementary grants would be sought in this session, which was expected to be very short.

"This session would be short because Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wants a cabinet meeting in the Kashi Vishwanath Temple complex," the official said.

He said the government wanted this session immediately because of khar mass (inauspicious month) beginning from December 19.

सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस

07 दिसम्बर, 2021

निःस्वार्थ भाव से राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा में तत्पर... भारतीय सेना को सलाम

सन्देश

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' 07 दिसम्बर 2021 के शुभ अवसर पर मैं सशस्त्र सेनाओं के सभी सेवारत तथा सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों, शहीद एवं दिवंगत सैनिक की पत्नियों तथा उनके परिवार को अपनी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देती हूँ। मुझे खुशी है कि इस अवसर पर उत्तर प्रदेश सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि द्वारा एक स्मारिका का प्रकाशन किया जा रहा है।

हमारी सशस्त्र सेनाओं ने युद्ध और शान्ति के समय सेवा के अपने लम्बे इतिहास में स्वयं को तथा मातृभूमि को गौरवान्वित किया है। मैं उन सभी पराक्रमी सैनिकों के प्रति सम्मान प्रकट करती हूँ, जिन्होंने कर्तव्य का निर्वहन करते हुए अपना सर्वस्व राष्ट्र के लिये बलिदान किया है। 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' देश के नागरिकों को एक आदर्श अवसर प्रदान करता है, जिससे वे उदारतापूर्वक सहयोग करके सशस्त्र सेना के प्रति अपनी आत्मीयता प्रकट कर सकते हैं।

मैं इस अवसर पर समस्त प्रदेशवासियों से अनुरोध करती हूँ कि सैनिकों के प्रति आदर, सम्मान एवं अपनत्व प्रदर्शित करते हुए झण्डा निधि में उदारतापूर्वक सहयोग करें तथा सैनिक बन्धुओं, वीर नारियों तथा उनके आश्रितों के लिये चलाई जा रही कल्याणकारी योजनाओं में अपना योगदान दें।

मैं 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' के आयोजन की सफलता की कामना करती हूँ।

डॉ.पद्मिनी शर्मा
(आनंदीबेन पटेल)
राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

मुझे यह जानकर अत्यन्त प्रसन्नता की अनुभूति हो रही है कि सैनिक कल्याण विभाग द्वारा दिनांक 07 दिसम्बर 2021 को 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' मनाया जा रहा है। इस पावन अवसर पर सभी सशस्त्र सेवारत तथा सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों, शहीद सैनिकों के परिजनों को मेरी हार्दिक बधाई।

सशस्त्र सेनाओं का युद्ध एवं शान्ति दोनों ही स्थितियों में समान रूप से देश सेवा का गौरवशाली इतिहास रहा है। देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा के लिए हमारी सशस्त्र सेनाएं सतत प्रत्यनशील हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के शूरीवीरों को 01 विक्टोरिया क्रॉस, 04 परमवीर चक्र, 04 अशोक चक्र तथा 1644 अन्य वीरता और विशिष्ट पदकों से सम्मानित किया जा चुका है।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' हम सबको देश की रक्षा करने तथा प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की स्थिति में देशवासियों की रक्षा के लिए अपने प्राणों को न्यौछावर कर देने से कभी पीछे न हटने वाले सशस्त्र सेना के जवानों के प्रति अपना आदर एवं सम्मान प्रदर्शित करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।

यह गौरव और सम्मान की बात है कि देश की सशस्त्र सेनाओं में उत्तर प्रदेश के सप्ताहिक सैनिक

मुझे जानकर प्रसन्नता है कि प्रत्येक वर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी 07 दिसम्बर 2021 को उत्तर प्रदेश सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि विभाग 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' पूरी लगन और निष्ठा से प्रदेश में मनाये जाने के लिये संकल्पबद्ध है।

इस अवसर पर मैं राज्य सरकार एवं प्रदेशवासियों की ओर से सेवारत एवं सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों व उनके आश्रितों तथा उन अन्न शहीद परिवारों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ, जिन्होंने देश की रक्षा के लिए अपना सर्वस्व न्यौछावर किया तथा वीरता का उच्चतम मानदण्ड स्थापित करते हुये अलंकरण प्राप्त कर देश और प्रदेश का नाम गौरवान्वित किया है।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार पूर्व सैनिकों के पुनर्वासि तथा सैनिकों के आश्रितों के कल्याणार्थ कृत संकल्प है। प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा शहीद हुये सैनिकों के परिवारों को 50 लाख रुपये की अनुग्रह राशि, 01 अप्रैल 2017 से 26 शहीद सैनिकों के आश्रितों को शासकीय सेवा में अनुकम्पा नियुक्ति, सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों के पुनर्वासि एवं कल्याण हेतु समूह- 'ग' एवं समूह- 'घ' के साथ समूह- 'ख' में भी 5 प्रतिशत का आरक्षण प्रदान किया गया है।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' हमें सशस्त्र सेनाओं के प्रति अपनी कृतज्ञता एवं स्नेह व्यक्त करने का एक सुअवसर प्रदान करता है। इस अवसर पर मेरा प्रदेशवासियों से अनुरोध है कि वे 'झण्डा निधि' में उदारतापूर्वक स्वेच्छ से अंशदान कर सैनिक बन्धुओं के कल्याण में अपना सक्रिय योगदान करें।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' की पूर्ण सफलता के लिये मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

(पद्मराज)
राज्य मंत्री, सैनिक कल्याण, होमगार्ड्स,
प्रांतीय रक्षक दल एवं नागरिक सुरक्षा, उत्तर प्रदेश

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' 07 दिसम्बर 2021 के अवसर पर सेवारत सैनिकों, सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों एवं शहीद सैनिकों के परिजनों को अपनी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

हमारी सशस्त्र सेनाओं का साहस, शौर्य, त्याग, बलिदान तथा निःस्वार्थ सेवा करने का स्वर्णिम इतिहास रहा है। सशस्त्र सेनाएं कठिन परिस्थितियों और दुर्गम स्थानों पर न केवल राष्ट्र की सुरक्षा और अखण्डता को बनाये रखने बल्कि देश की आन्तरिक कठिनाइयों व देशीय आपदाओं के समय देश के नागरिकों की जीवन रक्षा तथा उनके राहत पहुँचाने का भी महत्वपूर्ण कार्य करती हैं।

'झण्डा दिवस' के पुनीत अवसर पर मैं देश की सशस्त्र सेनाओं के सभी वीर सैनिकों के प्रति कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने युद्ध और शान्ति दोनों अवसरों पर समभाव से सेवा के अपने लम्बे इतिहास से स्वयं तथा मातृभूमि को गौरवान्वित किया है। ऐसे जांबाज वीर सपूतों एवं उनके परिवारों के कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि में सहभागी बनना हम सभी प्रदेशवासियों का परम कर्तव्य है।

मैं प्रदेशवासियों से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि हम सभी विशेष उत्साह से 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' पर अपने सैनिकों के प्रति आदर एवं एकात्मकता प्रदर्शित करते हुए अधिक से अधिक योगदान दें।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' की सफलता के लिए हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

(राजेन्द्र कुमार तिवारी)
मुख्य सचिव, उत्तर प्रदेश

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' 07 दिसम्बर 2021 के अवसर पर सेवारत तथा सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों, शहीद सैनिकों और उनके आश्रितों को अपनी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

हमारी सशस्त्र सेनाओं ने वाह्य खतरों, उग्रवाद और आतंकवाद जैसे आंतरिक खतरों से देश की रक्षा, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के दौरान प्रशासन की मदद करने में कार्यशील और समर्पण के अतुलनीय मानदण्ड स्थापित किए हैं। राष्ट्र उनके साहस और पराक्रम के लिए सदैव आभारी है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा पूर्व सैनिकों, शहीद सैनिक आश्रितों के पुनर्वासि तथा कल्याणार्थ चलाई जा रही योजनाओं को लागू किये जाने हेतु कृत संकल्प हूँ।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' हमें सशस्त्र सेनाओं के सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों और उनके आश्रितों के कल्याण के लिए सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस निधि में उदारतापूर्वक अंशदान के माध्यम से उनके प्रति एकजुटता और समर्पण जताने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।

मैं 'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' की पूर्ण सफलता की कामना करता हूँ।

(के. रविन्द्र नायक)
प्रमुख सचिव, उत्तर प्रदेश

द्वारा दिनांक 19 मार्च, 2018 को लिये गये निर्णय के क्रम-26 में शहीद सैनिकों के आश्रितों को सेवायोजित किया गया है। राज्य के 50 जनपदों में जिला सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि अधिकारियों की नियुक्ति की गई।

इस अवसर पर मैं प्रदेशवासियों का ध्यान शहीद सैनिकों के प्रति आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ जो अपने कर्तव्यों को पूरा करने के लिए अपने जीवन को दांव पर लगा देते हैं। देश हमेशा इन वीर सपूतों के लिए ऋणी रहेगा जिन्होंने मातृभूमि की सेवा में अपने जीवन लगा दिया है।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' देश के लिए बलिदान देने वाले शहीदों, दिवंगत, पूर्व सैनिकों, वीरानुजनों तथा शहीदों के आश्रितों की देखभाल करने के लिए मदद सुनिश्चित करता है और उनके प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।

'सशस्त्र सेना झण्डा दिवस' के अवसर पर मेरी अपील है कि सभी प्रदेशवासी सैनिकों के प्रति आदर, सम्मान एवं अपनत्व प्रदर्शित करते हुये 'झण्डा निधि' में उदारतापूर्वक आर्थिक सहयोग देकर सशस्त्र सेनाओं के साथ अपनी एकात्मकता का परिचय देते हुए गौरव का अनुभव करें।

मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि प्रदेशवासी इस पुनीत कार्य में पूर्ण सहयोग करने के साथ अपने दायित्वों का निर्वहन करेंगे।

(विमोडियर रवि)
डिप्टी, डिप्टी सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि, उत्तर प्रदेश

निदेशालय सैनिक कल्याण एवं पुनर्वासि, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esst/IE-AD/397/2021/7724 Date : 03.12.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed supplier for supply of Assistive Devices.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/ Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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

Janasanyog/CF/2235/21

'No need to panic over Omicron threat'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst the Omicron scare, the Health department said there is no need to panic as strict vigil is being ensured even as no deaths due to this variant have been reported across the world so far.

Head of the Respiratory department, KGMU, Dr Surya Kant Tripathi said even though Omicron is six times more infectious than Delta variant, there is no need to panic as no mortality has been reported from this strain. However, he added that Omicron has spread in 36 countries and hence all protective measures should be taken against this variant.

"Omicron has had 50 mutations, 30 of which were specific in the spike protein, which makes it more infectious but there is no evidence that it is lethal. In a country like ours where over 50 per cent population has been vaccinated, the infection will be less severe as vaccines provide protection against severity but not against catching infection," he said.

"Immunity is of two types; one is cellular or cell-based immunity, and the second is antibody-created immunity. What we talk about generally is the antibody-mediated immunity, and not the cell-based immunity, which is a long-term memory to recog-



nise any micro-organism when it enters the body, and this immunity activates the body or host to create the defence system in the body. Cell-based immunity will remain for all strains of coronavirus. The only thing is that the antibody immunity may vary and may be present in 65 per cent of the cases or 55 per cent of the cases, but it does not mean that it will not provide the cell-mediated immunity," he elaborated.

Regarding the booster dose, he said a lot of countries have started it. "Booster jab will not stop the entry of the micro-organism, so instead of it, one should vaccinate all and priority should be to vaccinate those who have taken only a single dose," he said. He added that his appeal to the Central government is to begin the vacci-

nation of children since two vaccines have already been approved by the Drug Controller of India for kids.

"We should begin vaccinating the children because the population of those above 12 years of age is huge. However, the fourth ICMR survey has shown that 56 per cent of the children are immune," he said. He added that in case of a pandemic, what matters is the number of deaths, and not the number of cases.

Dr SP Ambesh from SGPGI also said that there is no need to press the panic button amidst the Omicron threat.

"When the virus remains in the public domain for long, mutations are bound to occur and antigenic shifts and drifts take place. In case of antigenic shift, the sequence of amino

Decline in fresh positive cases after slight spurt

Lucknow (PNS): After two days of spurt in COVID-19 cases, Uttar Pradesh witnessed a decline in fresh cases as 10 people tested positive for novel coronavirus infection on Monday even as 69 out of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh reported no fresh case in the last 24 hours.

A government spokesman said that 1.46 lakh Covid tests were carried out. The test positivity rate (TPR), which shows the levels of infection among people, has decreased to less than 0.01 per cent, the lowest in the country.

High recoveries and a low number of new COVID-19 cases have reduced the active caseload in Uttar Pradesh to

137. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure that everyone coming to UP from other states and abroad is tested for COVID-19. This includes ensuring that those coming especially from abroad or states reporting a higher surge of cases like Kerala and Maharashtra are carrying negative COVID-19 reports.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh has administered over 16.83 crore Covid vaccine doses. It has also achieved the landmark of administering the first dose of the Covid vaccine to over 77.71 per cent of the eligible adult population. Over 5.35 crore people in the state have been fully vaccinated.

However, it does not mean that precautions should not be followed. People with comorbidities must exercise caution," he added.

He said that treatment would be different for Omicron infection because it has the features of common cold. It results in mild to moderate fever for which paracetamol should be given along with saline water gargles and anti-allergics.

Staff thrashed, petrol pump ransacked by SUV-borne men

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

SUV-borne men ransacked a petrol pump at Matiyari in Chinhat early morning on Sunday following a dispute over payment. They also thrashed the staff and sped off the scene. The police tried to hush up the case but a video of the incident started doing the rounds on social media, forcing the cop to swing into action.

On Monday, the police arrested two of the attackers, identified as Sandeep Kumar Yadav and Virendra Kumar Yadav (both of Chinhat).

As per reports, the SUV-borne youths reached the petrol pump around 4:30 am on Sunday for a refill and picked up a fight with supervisor Akash over payment.

They thrashed the staff and broke the doors of the manager's cabin. They also snatched Rs 50,000 from the supervisor but later dumped it before speeding off.

The police sat on the case and tried to hide the details from mediapersons and senior officials. However, a video went viral on social media after which the police were hauled up by senior officers. On Monday, the police arrested

two of the attackers and said the hunt was on for others. The accused were challaned under sections 147/323/504/506 & 427 of IPC.

Meanwhile, a youth was killed in a road mishap in Sarojininagar on Monday morning. The victim was iden-

tified as Gaurav (26) of Banthra. He was rushed to Sarojininagar CHC where doctors declared him brought dead. Police said Gaurav's motorcycle was hit by a truck on Kanpur road near Shanti Nagar locality under Sarojininagar police station.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/IE/Hearing Aid/577/2014/PU/7725 Date :03.12.2021
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha Abhijan) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer of Hearing Aids for assessment and supply of aids and appliances for Children with special needs.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/2235/21

Liquor sellers seek increase in profit percentage, end of quota system



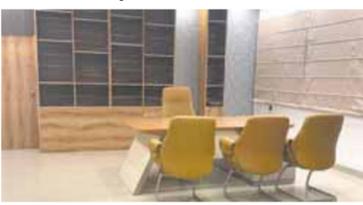
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Liquor sellers, who suffered losses due to Covid, on Monday demanded that the profit percentage given to them be increased and quota system for sale of Indian-made foreign liquor and beer be done away with. They said they are wary of losses once again with the third Covid wave knocking the door. In a press conference under the banner of Liquor Sellers Welfare Association (LSWA) at a city hotel on Monday, media incharge Devesh Jaiswal said liquor sellers have been suffering huge losses for last two years but the state government did nothing to bail them out. He said they want an increase the profit percentage and end of the quota system on the sale of IMFL and beer.

He said the government should form a policy in view of the third wave fears and licence be renewed at the interval of three years. "The government did not return the licence fees of the businessmen during the previous Covid waves even though they suffered huge losses. If the renewal is done at the interval of three years, the businessmen may be at least reach the break-even position," he said.

He added that the profit percentage of liquor sellers was curtailed in the last ten years but it needed an increase for giving a new lease of life to their business. "To address the issue, the government had called the LSWA delegation for a talk on November 13 and the meeting was chaired by the excise commissioner and other senior officials of the department. The meeting was held at Ganna Sansthan. LSWA and other big businessmen who attended the meeting were of the opinion that the profit percentage should be increased," he recalled. He said if the demands were not met, there would be less number of applicants for licence renewal in future.

LU to have Student Facility Centre



Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow University will have its own Student Facility Centre on the ground floor of the DSW office. DSW Poonam Tandon said this special student lounge would be furnished with all kinds of set-ups. "It will have a water & coffee dispenser, comfortable furniture, a reading desk with popular newspapers and magazines etc," she said.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai said this facility is being set up for students and will consist of up-to-date features just as any international student centre should have. "All student-related offices will be an integral part of the building, including the office of DSW and team, office of the chief provost and the director of International Collaborations and International Students' Advisor. The building, earlier known as CPMT Bhawan, will also have a meeting room of global standard where any department, institute can hold their meetings and seminars. The third floor will have an administrative feel with a modular set-up for the staff. The blue print of the entire dream project to recreate the correct utility of space will soon be realised and made available as a New Year gift for students," Tandon said.

विकास एवं रोजगारपरक परियोजनाओं के माध्यम से

उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रगति की नई ऊंचाइयों की ओर

खाद कारखाना, गोरखपुर

लागत ₹8603 करोड़ | क्षेत्रफल 600 एकड़

- बहुमुखी विकास को प्रतिबद्ध हबल इंजन की सरकार द्वारा 30 वर्षों से बंद पड़े खाद कारखाने का पुनर्संचालन
- प्रदेश के नागरिकों की बहुप्रतीक्षित मांग पूर्ण हुई
- प्रतिदिन 3,850 मीट्रिक टन नीम कोटेड यूरिया एवं 2,200 मीट्रिक टन लिक्विड अमोनिया का उत्पादन
- किसानों को नीम कोटेड यूरिया की निर्बाध उपलब्धता
- पड़ोसी राज्य बिहार, झारखंड, पश्चिम बंगाल, छत्तीसगढ़, हरियाणा एवं मध्यप्रदेश के किसानों को भी लाभ
- 20,000 लोगों को प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), गोरखपुर

लागत ₹1011 करोड़ | क्षेत्रफल 112 एकड़

- 300 बेड का अस्पताल
- पूर्वांचल के सभी जनपदों के साथ नेपाल के मरीजों को भी उत्कृष्ट चिकित्सा सुविधाएं
- इलाज के लिए बड़े शहरों पर निर्भरता में कमी होगी
- 14 मॉड्यूलर ऑपरेशन थियेटर
- आयुष ब्लॉक, मेडिकल ब्लॉक एवं नर्सिंग कॉलेज का निर्माण
- सीटी स्कैन, एमआरआई एवं अल्ट्रासाउंड जैसी अन्य अत्याधुनिक चिकित्सा सुविधाएं
- 125 एमबीबीएस की सीटें

रीजनल मेडिकल रिसर्च सेंटर, गोरखपुर

- वायरस रिसर्च और परीक्षण लैब
- जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस पर शोध व इसके रोकथाम हेतु उच्च गुणवत्तापूर्ण जांच की सुविधा
- कोविड जांच की सुविधा एवं इसके निदान हेतु रिसर्च फैसिलिटी
- पूर्वांचल के सभी जनपदों को विशेष लाभ
- अन्य विद्याभ्यासित विचारियों पर शोध

₹10 हजार करोड़ की 3 परियोजनाओं

राष्ट्र को समर्पण

नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

केशव प्रसाद मौर्य

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. भारती प्रवीण पवार

राज्य मंत्री, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण, भारत सरकार

पंकज चौधरी

राज्य मंत्री, वित्त, भारत सरकार

जय प्रताप सिंह

मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण तथा मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश

रवि किशन शुक्ला

सांसद, गोरखपुर

कमलेश पासवान

सांसद, बांसगांव

शिव प्रताप शुक्ल

सांसद, राजसभा

जगदम्बिका पाल

सांसद, झुमरियागंज

प्रवीण कुमार निषाद

सांसद, संतकबीरनगर

डॉ. रमापति राम त्रिपाठी

सांसद, देवरिया

जयप्रकाश निषाद

सांसद, राजसभा

हरीश द्विवेदी

सांसद, वस्ती

विजय कुमार दूबे

सांसद, कुशीनगर

रविन्दर कुशवाहा

सांसद, सलामपुर

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह

सदस्य, विधान परिषद, उत्तरप्रदेश

एवं अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 07 दिसम्बर, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 12:30 बजे | स्थान : फर्टिलाइजर कारखाना परिसर, गोरखपुर

सोच ईमानदार, काम दमदार

SP MLA booked for clash with cops in Chandauli

Lucknow (PNS): Chandauli out when the SP leaders were on Monday registered a case against Samajwadi Party MLA from Sakaldih, Prabhunaran Singh Yadav, in connection with the clash that broke out between police and SP leaders on Sunday. A scuffle broke

out when the SP leaders were on Monday registered a case against Samajwadi Party MLA from Sakaldih, Prabhunaran Singh Yadav, in connection with the clash that broke out between police and SP leaders on Sunday. A scuffle broke

PARADIP PORT TRUST
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (e-TCN)
Name of the work : "Annual Maintenance Contract of M.S. Navigational Buoys with Self contained lights for a period of three years". Estimated Cost : Rs.1,42,00,000/-. Last date & time of submission : 15.30hrs Dt.28.12.2021. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid : 15.30hrs 29.12.2021. For details please log on to the Website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Deputy Conservator
PPT/PR/126/21-22 Dt.06.12.2021

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय अमियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, देहरादून के पत्रांक 6335/निविदा/851, दिनांक 04.12.2021 एवं पत्रांक 6336/निविदा/852 दिनांक 06.12.2021 द्वारा जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत झारखण्ड पेयजल योजना एवं खोरबागा पेयजल योजना के निर्माण एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से दिनांक 06.12.2021 से 22.12.2021 तक ई-निविदा (e-tender) आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा की नियम व शर्तें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
अधीक्षक अमियन्ता

कार्यालय नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर
पत्रांक : 428/ज0क0/2021-22 दिनांक : 04/12/2021
(ई-निविदा प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना)
15 वीं वित्त आयोग के अन्तर्गत प्रथम किस्त के रूप में प्राप्त धनराशि के संपादन नगर क्षेत्र में पेयजल व्यवस्था सुचारु हेतु अवमुक्त/उपलब्ध धनराशि से करायें जाने वाले कार्य के लिए दिनांक- 06/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 01:00 बजे से वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक- 06/12/2021 से दिनांक- 18/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध रहेगी जहाँ इसे डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। निविदादाता दिनांक- 18/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर आन-लाईन अपनी निविदा दर्ज/दरें डाल सकते हैं। ई-निविदा के साथ अनुमानित धनराशि पर धरोहर धनराशि/निविदा मूल्य -Executive officer, Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur A/C No. 919020075846533 IFSC Code - UTIB0000506, Bank Name-Axis Bank ऑन-लाईन भुगतान करना होगा या बैंक एफ0डीआर0 के रूप में जमा करने पर जो कि अधिशासी अधिकारी, नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर के पदनाम से बन्धक होगी एवं शर्तों में उल्लेखित समस्त प्रमाण-पत्रों की छायाप्रति सहित स्व-प्रमाणित कर दिनांक- 18/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 01:00 बजे तक सीलबन्ध लिफाफे को जलकल कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर में जमा करना सुनिश्चित करें। प्राप्त निविदाओं की तकनीकी बिड उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष निविदा समिति के द्वारा दिनांक- 18/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे खोले जायेंगे। तकनीकी बिड के मूल्यांकन के पश्चात दिनांक- 20/12/2021 को वित्तीय बिड अपरान्ह 01:00 बजे उपस्थित सभी निविदादाताओं के समक्ष निविदा समिति के द्वारा खोले जायेंगे।
(ओम प्रकाश) (मनोज जायसवाल)
अधिशासी अधिकारी अध्यक्ष
नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर नगरपालिका परिषद, मीरजापुर

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TENDERING) M-3
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15; ROHINI: DELHI-89
E-mail id: etenderingm3-djb@gmail.com
"Stop Corona : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
PRESS NOT No. 36 (2021-22)
Press Notice Tender
S.No. Name of work Amount put to Tender/ Estimated cost Tender Fee Date of release of tender procurement solution/D. No. Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1. Improvement of sewerage system in ward no. 58 Rohini in AC-13 (Rohini under ACE(M)-3) Rs. 500/- 03.12.2021 2021_DJB_212120_1 1412.2021 Upto 3.00 PM
2. Improvement of Peripheral sewerage system of AC-05 under ACE(M)-3 Rs. 34,87,317/- Rs. 500/- 03.12.2021 2021_DJB_212121_1 1412.2021 Upto 3.00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 729 (2021-22) Sd/- (SUHDHIR KUMAR) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T) M-3

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Weir on Bridge Works
Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No. 327
No. 4657 / Date: 04.12.2021
1. Name of the work :- Weir on Bridge Works in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of work :- 04 (Four) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :-
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender Online for Bidding Last Date & Time of opening of Tender in O/C C.E.E. R.W. Circle, Keonjhar. Technical Bid Financial Bid
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar Bridge Online NCB No. 327 Dt.08.12.21 up to 11.00 A.M. Dt.22.12.21 up to 5.00 P.M. Dt.21.12.21 up to 5.00 P.M. Dt.23.12.21 at 11.00 A.M. Will be intimated later
Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25177/11/0015/2122 Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
E-mail id: cebuidings_orissa@yahoo.co.in Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No. B-I.H.E.-41/2021 44977 Bhubaneswar, the 26th Nov. 2021
Invitation for Bids
1st Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. C.E. (B) - 22 / 2021-22
Name of the Work - "Construction of Center of Excellence & Science Laboratories in N.C. College, Jaipur".
The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 22 / 2021-22
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in, during the period dt.06.12.2021 to 17 hours of dt.21.12.2021 instead of dt.26.11.2021 to dt.13.12.2021 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till 17.00 hours of dt.21.12.2021 instead of dt.13.12.2021.
3. The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.22.12.2021 instead of dt.14.12.2021.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
OIPR-34117/11/0081/2122 Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Waseem Rizvi embraces Hinduism

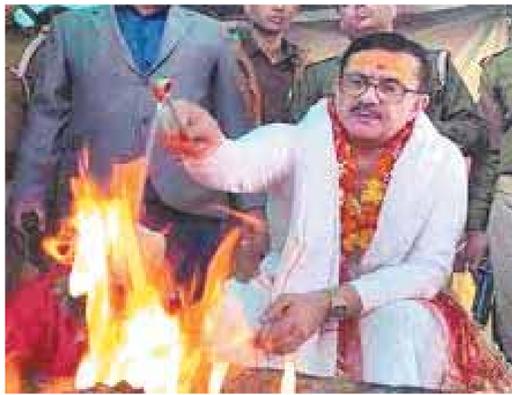
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Controversial Shia Muslim leader and former chairman of UP Shia Central Waqf Board, Waseem Rizvi on Monday embraced Hinduism.

Rizvi, known for making controversial statements targeting the orthodox Wahabi Sunni Muslim organisations, declared that following his death, his body should not be buried but cremated according to the traditional Hindu ritual. The UP Shia Central Waqf Board chief was converted to Hinduism by Mahant Narasimha Ananda Sarawati of the Dasna temple in Ghaziabad. Wasim Rizvi is presently the elected member of the UP Shia Central Waqf Board. As per the provisions of the Waqf Act, only a Shia Muslim can be member of the UP Shia Central Waqf Board.

In his will, Rizvi declared that his pyre should be lit by Hindu seer Narasimha Ananda Sarawati of the Dasna temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad district. In November 2021, Rizvi had released a video, in which he was heard saying that his body must be handed over to Mahant Narasimha Nanda Sarawati and he should light his pyre.

Waseem Rizvi has earned the ire of his entire community after he



challenged 26 'ayats' of Quran and then claimed to have written a new Quran. In May 2021, Rizvi kicked up a major controversy by claiming to have created a 'new Quran' by removing 26 verses.

Rizvi had also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to authorise the use of his 'new Quran' in all madrasas and Muslim institutes in India.

"I appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include this new Quran in the education curriculum of various madrasas and Muslim education institutes across the country. This redacted version of

the Quran is the right Quran and it will soon be available in the market for people to buy," Rizvi had said.

Earlier, Rizvi had moved the Supreme Court appealing it to remove 26 verses of the Quran, saying that they promoted terrorism and jihad. The apex court had dismissed the petition saying it was "absolutely frivolous".

Rizvi had also praised the historic Supreme Court verdict that paved the way for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya. Rizvi has also written a book on Prophet Mohammed.

Babri demolition anniversary passes off peacefully

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The situation in Ayodhya and two other religious places, Mathura and Kashi, remained calm and peaceful on Monday with no sign of any tension, though the security forces remained on a high alert throughout the day.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) had said that it would not hold any major events to mark the day, but was focused on the construction of Ram temple. VHP working president Alok Kumar in a statement said, "6th December is a big day for the whole country. That's why VHP branch Bajrang Dal celebrates 6th December as 'Shaurya Diwas'. Just like in the past there are programmes and events to mark the day. Programme will be held in the same way."

However, in the statement he also said that after the completion of the Ram temple, it would take up the issue of Mathura. "Discussion will take place after Shri Ramlala is seated in the sanctum sanctorum of Ram temple. In 2024, we will consider the Mathura dispute," Kumar said in the statement.

The Muslim community of Ayodhya had also maintained that it would not organise any programme except for the prayers for those who died in the violence after the demolition of the Babri Mosque.

Haji Mehboob, one of the litigants in the case, said that now when the judge-

ment had come in favour of the temple there was no need for any programme, but they would give a tough response if someone tried to rake up the Mathura issue.

The security forces in Ayodhya were put on high alert in view of the 30th anniversary of the demolition of Babri mosque.

The administration had set up a special control room in the district magistrate's office to keep vigil on any development on December 6.

The Ayodhya temple town and the district were divided into multiple security zones and forces were deployed at sensitive points.

All the magistrates were instructed to keep round the clock vigil on all minor and major developments in the twin towns of Ayodhya and Faizabad.

In Mathura also, Central forces, including Rapid Action Force, were deployed near the Shri Krishna Janmasthan and the adjoining Idgah to maintain peace. Movement of vehicles towards Shri Krishna birthplace and Idgah were banned while 2,100 police and paramilitary personnel were deployed around religious places in Mathura.

According to Superintendent of Police (City) Martand Prakash Singh, no untoward incident was reported on Monday and the atmosphere remained peaceful.

Mayawati attacks BJP, SP on law and order front

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Monday attacked both Bharatiya Janata Party and Samajwadi Party on the law and order and claimed that her party was going to form a new government after the assembly elections.

She also announced that like UP, BSP would go it alone and fight on all seats in neighboring Uttarakhnad.

She made the above claims while speaking to reporters on the 65th death anniversary of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution. Asserting that Dr Ambedkar fought for the uplift of Dalits and minorities, Mayawati targeted the Yogi Adityanath government, saying that no day goes by when atrocities are not committed against individuals from the lower sections of the state.

"No day goes by when atrocities are not committed against those from the weaker sections in the state. We don't see many media reports on such incidents. The state government knows how to manage the media," Mayawati said.

The BSP leader further claimed that due to the apathy of the casteist regimes at the Central and state levels, individuals from the backward classes were unable to get the benefits from the Constitution Dr Ambedkar drafted.

"Dr BR Ambedkar struggled for the uplift of Dalits, tribals, backward classes, minorities and the neglected. Today, they are unable to avail the benefits given to them in the Constitution drafted by him due to the apathy of casteist governments at Centre and states," she stated. The BSP supremo also targeted the previous SP government and alleged that 'goondagardi' (hooliganism) and 'mafiaagiri' (rule of the mafias) were at peak in Uttar Pradesh when the SP was in power. The statement

comes days after Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leveled similar allegations against the previous Akhilesh Yadav government.

The BSP was in alliance with the SP during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, while Congress had joined hands with the SP in the 2017 assembly polls. However, both the alliances were defeated by the BJP.

Mayawati said protesting on the streets alone would not protect the Constitution. "Jab satta parivartan ho jayega, tab samvidhan bach jayega (The Constitution will be safeguarded when the government changes)," the BSP chief said.

Taking a swipe at Akhilesh's 'Rath Yatra' and the alliances he has forged for the elections, Mayawati said, "The SP's Chandauli MLA and workers misbehaved with the police on Sunday. This is the situation when they haven't even won the polls. Even if they make alliances, the people of UP know what the situation was during their tenure in the state. Whereas, in contrast to that, there was absolute rule of law when the BSP was in power."

The BSP supremo also shared her party's plans for assembly polls in two other states. "In Uttarakhnad, the BSP will contest all the seats on its own and in Punjab in alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal," she said, exuding confidence that her party would do better in Uttarakhnad and form a strong coalition government in Punjab.

Paying her tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar, Mayawati said he suffered many hardships but dedicated his whole life to make the downtrodden and deprived sections stand on their feet. She alleged there were parties and organisations with a narrow and casteist mindset who had always opposed the humanitarian approach of Dr Ambedkar while showing "false respect" for him.

47 schoolchildren fall ill after eating mid-day meal

Kanpur (PNS): As many as 47 students (boys and girls) of a primary school in Sarsi village of Bhitargaon Development Block under Ghatampur police station fell sick after eating the mid-day meal served to them on Monday morning.

While some students started vomiting soon after eating the mid-day meal, some others complained of dizziness. Many children started weeping due to pain in their stomach. Seeing the serious condition of the children, the school's headmistress informed the incharge of the community health centre at Bhitargaon. After check-up by a team of doctors, eight children were sent to the community health centre for treatment in view of their serious condition. According to reports, aaloo-soya and rotis were prepared to be served to students as mid-day meals at integrated higher primary school at Sarsi village. According to

a worker Minu, eating the mid-day meal, children began to vomit and she informed headmistress Shamama Khatun about the children's condition.

The headmistress informed Bhitargaon CHC Medical Superintendent Dr Ajay Maurya about the incident. Dr Maurya immediately informed the nodal officer of ambulance services, A.C.M.O. Dr RK Gupta, who directed the district convener of ambulance service Ashish Tewari to send the ambulance to the school. One ambulance from Bhitargaon CHC and two from Ghatampur CHC rushed to the school. Dr Ajay Maurya also reached the school along with Dr Khan, Dr Sachin Pandey and his medical team. The doctors examined the children and in view of the serious condition of eight, sent them to Bhitargaon CHC. Their condition was stated to be under control.

Hari Shankar Tiwari, son likely to join SP

Lucknow (PNS): In a major boost to the political fortunes of the Samajwadi Party in eastern UP, don-turned-politician and an influential Brahman leader Hari Shankar Tiwari and his son and Bahujan Samaj Party MLA Vinay Shankar Tiwari are likely to join the party. The entry of the two leaders is likely to further strengthen the SP in east UP as the brother of jailed mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, BSP leader Sigbatullah Ansari of Ghazipur, has already joined the SP. According to Samajwadi Party sources, Hari Shankar Tiwari's son Vinay who is BSP MLA from Chillupar assembly seat in Gorakhpur, recently met Akhilesh in Lucknow. Sources said the SP chief also spoke to Hari Shankar Tiwari over phone. Hari Shankar Tiwari is considered a big name among Brahmin leaders of Purvanchal and with his family coming within the SP fold; it will strengthen the Samajwadi Party's roots in Purvanchal ahead of the crucial 2022 UP polls. The defection of Vinay Shankar Tiwari to SP will be the second setback for BSP in Purvanchal after Shah Alam alias Guddugu Jamali of Azamgarh left the party recently.

CITY BRIEFS

ADDITIONAL MARKS

Christ Church College has taken a unique initiative under which five additional marks will be awarded to each student in their final aggregate if they produce vaccination certificates of their parents. Principal RK Chatterjee said if the students get both the parents' vaccination certificates, they would be awarded ten marks in their final aggregate. "This is our initiative to join the fight against coronavirus. The most vulnerable need to be protected. Let's increase our resilience by taking an integrated approach. We have asked the students to submit the vaccination certificates before January 10, 2022. The certificates can be shared in the WhatsApp group," he said.

VEER NARIS FETED

As a part of Swarnim Vijay Diwas and Azadi Ka Amrit



Mahotsav, NCC Group Headquarters in Lucknow organised a felicitation ceremony of 'Veer Naris' of the bravehearts of 1971 War at Malaviya Hall of Lucknow University on

WORKSHOP

A five-day online workshop on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Deep Learning was inaugurated on Monday under the chairmanship of Vineet Kansal at the

Monday. DM Abhishek Prakash felicitated the 'Veer Naris', Brig Ravi Kapoor, Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarters, along with Col Sumeet Puri, Commanding Officer of 63 UP NCC Battalion, was also present on the occasion. The NCC cadets of 63 UP NCC Battalion gave an impressive guard of honour to pay homage to the bravehearts of 1971 War. Manju Mishra, wife of craftsman Pashupati Narayan Mishra; Chandra Devi, wife of Naik Raja Singh; and Lila Devi, wife of Sower Jit Singh, were felicitated.

the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning. He said that students should innovate for the application of artificial intelligence in the uplift and rehabilitation of agriculture. He said there are various areas where facilities can be developed using artificial intelligence. Director of the institute MK Dutta said five students from each state and aided institute of the technical university are participating in this five-day workshop.

GOLD AWARD

A 6-member students' team of City Montessori School, Kanpur Road Campus, won the gold award at the national level in Quality Circle Conference. The CMS team consisted of Aryan Pratap Singh, Alishba Asad, Ananya Sachan, Prashasti Srivastava,



Alabhya Singh and Jay Pandey. The conference was organised by the Kanpur-Lucknow chapter of Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI). As many as 87 student teams participated in the national conference in which the CMS team won the gold award.

JIM SIGNS MOU WITH IIA

Jaipuria Institute of Management on Monday announced the launch of its new management programme, 'Specialisation in Family Business and Entrepreneurship' to train the future family business owners. The institute is introducing a thrust area in family business domain that will support established, new or aspirant family business leaders in learning and mastering the concepts and skills desired to circumnavigate the complexities of these multifaceted organisations. The institute has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Industries Association (IIA), Lucknow Chapter. The objective of this MoU is to start a long-term collaboration in various areas of student growth and organisation development by exchanging intellectual resources and infrastructure of the organisations.



Woman abused, husband attacked with knife by youths

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group of youths forcibly stopped a couple returning home after attending a function on Sunday night and abused the woman without any provocation. When her husband opposed their act, he was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon. He was admitted to a hospital where he had to be given 25 stitches. A case was registered in this connection and police identified the accused.

As per reports, Anwar of Hata Rasool Khan, along with his wife, was returning home on a bike. Around 11:45 pm when the couple passed via Chitwapur crossing, a group of youths hanging out there forcibly made Anwar stop the

bike. They abused the woman without any provocation.

When Anwar opposed their act, the youths flew in rage and attacked him with a sharp-edged weapon. "Commuters rushed to our rescue even as the accused fled the scene. I was admitted to a hospital where I was given 25 stitches," he said. A case was registered under Section 147 of IPC (rioting while armed with weapons) and also under sections 323/504 and 506 of IPC against the accused who were identified as Deepak aka Golu, Vijay Kumar Kashyap, Vijay, Akash, Karan and Chaman (all of Husainganj). The police said they have launched a manhunt for the accused.

PM may attend KGMU convocation

Lucknow (PNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the 17th convocation of King George's Medical University scheduled for December 17. KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri told mediapersons on Monday that they have invited the prime minister for the convocation but are waiting for a confirmation. Governor Anandiben Patel will presiding over the function.

Dr Puri said the total awards to be given away are 64, including 60 gold medals, one silver medal, two book prizes and one cash prize. The same will be awarded to 42 candidates, including 24 female and 18 male students.

"In the PG category, 35 medical, four dental and one nursing gold medal will be given away. One veteran faculty member will be presented a gold medal for the eminence in his speciality and one old medal is also being given to the best dental intern

and one cash prize for the best PG student," he said, adding girls fared better than boys.

Announcing the name of the awardees at a press conference, he said the Chancellor's gold medal will be given to Ahmad Ozair for securing the highest aggregate marks in MBBS. Ahmad will be getting a total of 15 gold medals, including the Hewitt gold for securing the highest marks in the final year of MBBS.

He would also be awarded the University Honours medal, Late (Prof) AD Engineer's gold medal, a gold medal presented by Provincial Medical Services Association, Prof PC Dubey Memorial gold medal, SDK gold medal, Raj Bahadur Kanaujilal gold medal, Dr RKD Mishra Memorial Centenary gold medal, Dr Amy Engineer Book Prize, Selby Memorial gold medal, Professor Satish Chandra Dhasman gold medal and Late Dr Ram Behari Singh Rathore gold

medal.

Shivam Singh will be awarded a medal for scoring second highest marks in MBBS while Akansha Singh will be awarded the Dr RML Mehrotra Memorial gold medal for the highest aggregate marks in MBBS. Neelam Chauhan will be awarded a gold medal for being the best MCh (Plastic Surgery) student for the year 2021 and Rajat Verma for the best MCh (Neurosurgery) student for the year 2021.

DSc (Honoris Causa) will be awarded to Prof Saumya Swaminathan, former DG of ICMR. She is in Switzerland and will be accepting the degree online.

The chief guest at the Foundation Day, to be held on December 18, will be Justice Ramesh Sinha, senior judge from the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court.

The guest of honour will be Prof Rama Kant, former head of the department of Surgery.

31 accused of atrocities against women in UP get death penalty

Lucknow (PNS): On the direction of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, under the statewide 'Mission Shakti' Abhiyan for the safety, respect and justice of women and girls, 31 accused have been awarded death sentence by courts in one year between October 2020 to October 2021. Giving this information, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said here on Monday that during the said period, the Prosecution department succeeded in getting the death penalty to 31 accused through effective action. Awasthi said that as a result of effective advocacy done by the Prosecution department in the cases going on in various districts of the state during the said period, 995 accused were awarded life imprisonment.

The additional chief secretary said that during Mission Shakti Abhiyan, 1,315 accused were awarded imprisonment for 10 years or more in cases going on in various courts. Similarly, he said, 2,553 accused were sentenced to imprisonment for less than 10 years.

Apart from this, 503 accused were punished with fine and bail pleas of 18,681 accused were rejected.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying floral tributes to Babasaheb BR Ambedkar's statue on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Meeting of Ministry of MSME, potential entrepreneurs held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under CSIR-Floriculture Mission activities and as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) hosted 'National MSME Expedition Meet 2021' and organised a 'Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) - Potential Entrepreneur Meet' on Monday. The programme was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj.



The one-day programme was aimed at creating awareness about MSME activities and its various schemes. The programme was attended by potential floriculture entrepreneurs and farmer clusters of CSIR Floriculture Mission from different parts of the country through virtual mode.

Speaking on the occasion, NBRI director and director of CSIR Floriculture Mission, SK Barik addressed the floriculture farmers and entrepreneurs to take benefits of the MSME schemes for enhancing, starting their business. Director of FFDC, Kannauj, and an active partner of CSIR Floriculture Mission, SV Shukla addressed the issues raised by the farmers and suggested technologies for development of various value-added products. The directors of IHBT and IIM also discussed various opportunities that the entrepreneurs can avail of through different MSME schemes.

The MSME team was led by deputy director (Publicity)

No untoward incident in Mathura amid idol installation threat in mosque

Mathura: With Hindu outfits rolling back their December 6 plan to install an idol of child deity 'Bal Gopal' at His actual birthplace Shahi Jama Masjid within Lord Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple complex, no untoward incident occurred here in Mathura barring arrests of five Karni Sena activists for raising provocative slogans.

Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, which had announced earlier to install

the deity's idol and carry out a purification ritual of the temple complex, had recalled its plans on December 1 after the Mathura administration had beefed up the security in the district. The district administration had also declared the temple complex a Red Zone after deploying additional security personnel. Five activists of Karni Sena were arrested U/S 151 of CrPC and sent to Sadar police station, Mathura's Senior Superintendent of Police

Gaurav Grover said.

No untoward incident occurred amid a massive deployment of security personnel, including those from the Uttar Pradesh police, Provincial Armed Constabulary and Rapid Action Force, the SSP said, adding all sensitive areas in the temple town was kept under the vigil of the CCTV and drone cameras during the day. To ensure foolproof security in the temple town, the SSP along with District

Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal personally camped at the Deeg Gate police outpost near the temple complex for the whole day. Owing to the proper deployment and monitoring, no new tradition or ritual could take place, DM Chahal said. Karni Sena activists led by Sarveswar Das Maluk Das of Barsana, however, assembled at the temple gate and besides chanting the Jai Sri Ram slogan accused the Hindu community of not cooperating in

the movement to reclaim the birthplace of Lord Shri Krishna.

A repeat of the Babari mosque demolition episode could have been possible today, had Hindus joined the movement, he said, adding it was a golden opportunity to complete the mission under the chief ministership of Yogi Adityanath. Maluk Das and his associates were whisked away by the police as his speech turned provocative, the SSP said. **PTT**

CISH develops herbal tea in tablet form

Lucknow (PNS): The Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) has developed an immunity booster herbal tea in a tablet form.

Acting director Neelima Garg said they came up this idea because it was very convenient and could be used even while travelling. She said they are on the verge of transferring the technology to an entrepreneur. "This tea can be made within minutes. Just put the

tablet into hot water and it dissolves on its own and has sugar added to it. We have made it with both sugar and sugarfree," she said.

Garg said this kind of tablet is available abroad but is the first kind of its initiative in India. Garg said it is an immunity booster full of antioxidants. "Normally one has to take all the herbal ingredients and then prepare it, but with this tablet if you are on a journey or any-

where else, you can carry a flask of warm water and mix the tablet in it to have a refreshing herbal formulation," she said.

Garg said they have put in eight to ten Indian herbs which they cannot reveal. The flavour is soothing and it is very healthy, she said. Garg said they were approached by an entrepreneur from their Agri Business Incubator who asked them to prepare the formula in this form.

Youth fleeing after killing father dies in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre case of 'natural justice', a youth, who was fleeing after killing his father, met with an accident and died.

The incident took place in a village under the Shahbad Kotwali area of Rampur district late on Sunday night. After getting information, the police sent the bodies of both to Rampur for post-mortem. Police are busy registering a case in both cases.

Reports said that Buddhasen (55), a resident of Majhra (Talkabad) of village Bhagwantpur, was posted as a home guard in Shahbad Kotwali. According to the police, between the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, Buddhasen's younger son Neekpal allegedly thrashed his father who was sleeping in the house over a dispute relating to mutual partition of the house. Buddhasen was critically injured in the attack and he died on the

spot. The eldest son, Omprakash, informed the police about the killing.

As soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot and took the body into custody. On being informed, the family members told the police Neekpal had killed the father. At the same time, the police got information about the death of a person in a road accident. On visiting the spot, they found that the youth who died in the road mishap was Neekpal (25). He died while trying to flee after killing his father. The police sent his dead body to post-mortem.

The cops registered separate cases in both the incidents and claimed to be making a probe to confirm whether the statement of the elder son Omprakash was true. The cops were also waiting for the autopsy reports of both the victims.

Additional Superintendent of Police Sansar Singh also reached on Monday morning to inspect the spot. A forensic

team also collected some evidence related to the murder and the accident.

Meanwhile in Saharanpur, a minor girl was kidnapped at gunpoint and raped by two youths living in her neighbourhood in the Gangoh police station area of the district, an official said on Monday.

The Class 10 student was kidnapped by a youth and his brother when she was mopping the outer courtyard of her house, Saharanpur Superintendent of Police (Rural) Atul Sharma said.

The youths took the girl to their house and made her unconscious by making her smell stupefying substance, the SP said, adding that the duo then raped the girl.

The girl returned home after she regained consciousness and told his family members about the incident following which the girl's father lodged a complaint at the police station, Sharma said.

Babasaheb Ambedkar remembered on 65th Parinirvan Diwas



Lucknow (PNS): On the 65th Parinirvan Diwas of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on Monday, all the teachers, students and staff, including Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh, garlanded the statue of Ambedkar.

The VC addressed the students and asked them to take inspiration from Babasaheb's life. He said no matter how many struggles come in life, one should never deviate from one's goal.

"Babasaheb's whole life was full of struggles but he got a good education while facing the struggles and made the country proud on the world stage. Like him, all students need to pursue their goals and work for the benefit of the society by getting a good education. Babasaheb returned to his country after getting higher education and did many works in the interest of the country," he told the students.

"The purpose of Babasaheb to pursue education was to work for the benefit of the society and in the same way, we should also make education our goal," Singh said. He also asked the students to be humble.

BBAU registrar S Victor Babu, Manoj Dadwal, Shilpi Verma, Rachana Gangwar, BS Bhaduria, Kaman Singh, BB Malik, RS Verma, Rajshree and other teachers, staff and students paid floral tributes to Babasaheb's statue.

All HC stays SIC order on appointment of PIOs in institutes covered under RTE Act

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Monday stayed an order of the State Information Commission (SIC) directing the chief secretary to ensure the appointment of Public Information Officers (PIO) in all schools and institutions covered under the Right to Education Act in Uttar Pradesh. A division bench of Justice Rakesh Srivastava and Justice Shamim Ahmad passed the order on a writ petition filed by the Association of Private Schools of Uttar Pradesh.

Reiterating its earlier order, the bench termed the SIC's order "bad" and said it acted

beyond its authority in exercise of powers under original jurisdiction. "This order will not absolve the educational institutions of their obligation, if any, under the RTE Act, 2009, nor does it absolve them from providing requisite information in this regard to any officer of the state/public authority which it is otherwise obliged to provide," it said.

The petitioner had challenged an order passed by the SIC which, while hearing a complaint moved by RTI activist Sanjay Sharma, directed the chief secretary to ensure the appointment of a PIO in each institution covered under the RTE Act. Filing the plea

before the HC, the petitioner contended that the SIC's order was beyond its jurisdiction.

"The schools which are part of the petitioner/association do not fall within the definition of public authority and no such direction can be issued to the state's chief secretary for appointing PIOs in private institutions as has been ordered," it averred. Passing the interim order in favour of the petitioner, the bench, however, clarified that the complaint of respondent Sanjay Sharma would still be alive and open for the SIC to proceed on it in accordance with law. The bench also issued a notice to the complainant.

'Cong manifesto to be vision document of UP's development'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary and party's Uttar Pradesh in-charge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, claimed that the party manifesto would be the vision document of development of Uttar Pradesh with women getting special privileges to bring them into the mainstream. She made this remark soon after she chaired the meeting of the Congress' election related committees at the UPCC office here on Monday.

After reaching Lucknow on Monday morning according to the scheduled programme, Priyanka Vadra par-

ticipated in the meeting of the party's manifesto committee, coordination committee, and election and campaign committee.

During the discussions, Priyanka Vadra said that in the manifesto, special attention would be given to youth, farmers, women, traders and the deprived of all sections. The manifesto of the Uttar Pradesh Congress will be a document to prepare the way for the progress of the state, she added.

Before the meeting, the Congress leaders paid tributes to Dr Ambedkar by garlanding his portrait on Parinirvana Diwas. Priyanka

Vadra remembered the contribution of Dr Ambedkar in the making of the Constitution.

The meeting was attended by former MP and former UPCC president Nirmal Khatri, former Union minister Pradeep Jain Aditya, former MP PL Punia, Begum Noor Bano, leader of the legislature party, Aradhana Mishra, leader of the Legislative Council Deepak Singh, former MLA Akhilesh Pratap Singh, Ajay Rai, Ranjit Singh Judev, Supriya Shrinet, UP Mahila Congress president Shehla Ahrari and councillor Mamta Chaudhary.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

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1st Floor, Main Branch Bldg, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Phone No. 0522- 2287514, 2288988

NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice of intended sale under Rule 6 (2) & (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act -2002

Date: 04.12.2021

Auction No. IB/SAMVLSARFAESI/2021-2202

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank has taken constructive possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues by the borrowers/guarantors, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website - <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi>

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Proprietor/Partners/ Director(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Details of Immovable property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Dt of Demand Notice / Dt. of possession Notice / Amount of Secured Debt	a) Reserve Price / b) Earnest Money / c) Accounts details for EMD / d) Increase in Bid Amount / e) Encumbrance	
				a) Rs.	b) Rs.
1	Borrower: Ms Arsh Creations & Communication Private Limited, Registered Office- 7, Y.M.C.A. Complex (Old Building), 13 Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow. 2nd Address: Camp Office: H. No. 3/12 Vipul Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226001. Guarantor/ Mortgage-1. Mr. Sudhir Sinha S/O Mathura Prasad Sinha, 2. Mrs. Poonam Sinha W/O Mr. Sudheer Sinha Both R/o 1, B-104, 1st Floor, Saraswati Apartments, River View Enclave, Sector-4, Gomti Nagar Extension, Ward- Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Nagar, Lucknow 226010. 2nd Address: 6, Officer Hostel, Vidhaya Niwas 5 Meerla Bai Marg, Near VIP State Guest House, Lucknow - 226001. 3. Mr. Anur Kumar S/O Chhotey Lal, R/o C-215, 43, Village Chawar Khas Post Palya path, Shahjahanpur, 242001, U.P. Guarantor-1. Mr. Vijay Anand S/O Late Mahaveer Prasad, R/o 1/399, Sector-1, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow 226022. 2. Mrs. Sangeta Rastogi D/O Mr. Ajai Pal Rastogi, R/O 3/5, Vishesh Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226010. 3. Mr. Rajesh Dubey S/O. Late Lalji Dubey, R/o 1, 5/152, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226010. 2 nd Address: 68/2B, Lalpat Rai Road, Mumfordganj, Allahabad - 211002	All that part & parcel of Flat No. SR/104 Area- Covered (Built-up area) - 124.46 sq.mtr. Super Area: 149.352 sq.mtr. situated at First floor, Saraswati Apartment, River View Enclave, B/Block, Sector-4, Gomti Nagar Extension, Ward- Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Nagar, Lucknow Standing in the name of Mr. Sudhir Sinha and Mrs. Poonam Sinha, Bounded by: Adjoining: STAIRCASE, On Top: SR/204/Block-B/Type-2, AT Bottom: PARKING, Property ID No.- IDIB6423202105	15.01.2020 28.10.2021 as on 30.09.2019	a) Rs. 80,28,000.00 b) Rs. 8,02,800/- c) A/c No. 21781483876 IFSC- IDIB000H561 d) Rs. 10,000/- e) NA	
2	Borrower: Ms Sukalp Engineering Corporation, R/o 9/21, Shivani Palace, Sanjay Gandhi Puram, Lucknow 226001. Proprietor/ Guarantor/ Mortgage- Mr. Neeraj Kumar Agarwal S/O Mr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal R/o A-1093/12, Indira Nagar, Lucknow 226016. Guarantor/ Mortgage-1. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Agarwal S/O Mr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal R/o A-1093/12, Indira Nagar, Lucknow 226016. 2. Guarantor- Mr. Amit Agarwal S/O Mr. Gopal Krishan Agarwal, R/o 301, B-80, Mahanagar, Lucknow 226006.	All that part and parcel of Khasra No.167, Area 0.183 Hect. Situated at Nawabasta Kala, Pargana, Tehsil & District Lucknow standing in the name of Mr. Neeraj Kumar Agarwal & Mr. Sandeep Kumar Agarwal Both S/O Mr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal. Boundaries - On the North by :Khet Banshi and Nanhu, On the South by: Property Manohar Lal, On the East by :Khet Shiv Sagar & Ram Sagar, On the West by: Galiyara 151t., Property ID No.- IDIB6423202104	29.08.2019 26.11.2019 as on 29.08.2019	a) Rs. 2,17,45,000/- b) Rs. 2,17,45,000/- c) A/c No. 21781483876 IFSC- IDIB000H561 d) Rs. 10,000/- e) NA	

For S.I. No. 1 - Last Date & time for EMD Submission :10.01.2022 up to 4.00 P.M., Date and Time of e-Auction :On 11/01/2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
For S.I. No. 2- Last Date & time for EMD Submission :24.12.2021 up to 4.00 P.M., Date and Time of e-Auction :On 27/12/2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

For verification about the title document, property & inspection thereof, the intending bidders may contact Indian Bank, Stressed Asset Management Branch, during office hours, and for auction related query intending bidders may contact :- Ph:0522-2288988.

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Place -Lucknow- Date : 04.12.2021 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Floral tributes paid to Ambedkar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar was observed at various places in the city here on Monday. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and other political parties organised programmes to recall the teachings of Dr Ambedkar. At Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal and heads of various departments paid floral tributes at the portrait of Dr Ambedkar at the Administrative Building.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that it is the duty of all of us to follow the spirit, vision and path shown by Baba Saheb, the architect of our Constitution, to help the nation march towards development. Among those who also paid homage to Dr Ambedkar were PCEE Rajesh Kumar Rai, PCME Amitabh, PCMM AK Rathod, PFA Yogesh Kumar Srivastava, PCPO Pradeep Kumar Singh, PCMO Dr Devesh Kumar, CVO Pramod Kumar Choudhary and CEE (Inspection) PP Raju.

The day was also observed at the NER DRM office under the chairmanship of Divisional Railway Manager Ramashray Pandey. In his presidential address, Pandey said that Baba Saheb with his hard work, dedication, austerity, patience and discretion has given a new direction and consciousness in the development of the country. 'Baba Saheb not only imbibed the depths of various



GM Anjali Goyal inaugurating Mahaparinirvan Diwas function of Dr Ambedkar at BLW in Varanasi on Monday. Pioneer

subjects with his study, diligence, dedication and contemplation, but also how its conclusion can be effective in the uplift of the society,' he said.

Senior officers who also paid tributes to Baba Saheb were ADRM (Operations) Shiv Pratap Singh Yadav, SDPO Sameer Paul, SDFM Preeti Verma, SDOM NK Joshi, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma, SDE-1 Jayendra Kumar Singh, SDSTE Trambak Tiwari, SDEE AK Singh, DPO Vivek Mishra and ACM Jang Bahadur Ram.

The death anniversary of Dr Ambedkar was also observed by the Dalit Foundation as Mahaparinirvana Diwas 'Rakta Bandhuta'. On the occasion, a

blood donation camp was organised in the Blood Bank of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Government District Hospital, Pandeypur in which many persons including Ganesh Prasad Sharma, Manoj Kumar Rathor, Ramesh Prasad, Amlash, Panchu Kumar, Anoop Kumar, Dr Gorakhnath, Vikas Gupta, Vinod Kumar, Shailendra Kumar, Bhanu Vishwakarma, Sujit Kumar, Jai Santosh and Vineet Kumar donated blood.

Samajwadi Party also observed Parinirvan Diwas of Baba Saheb at its city office, Orderly Bazar. Later, the city chief Vishnu Sharma and others paid floral tributes to the

life-size statue of Bhimrao Ambedkar at Ambedkar Park. Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that Dr Ambedkar was a great personality who supported the rights of workers, farmers and women. Dr Ambedkar was the first Law and Justice Minister of independent India and the father of the Indian Constitution and one of the architects of the Republic of India who devoted his entire life to eliminate casteism and uplift the poor, downtrodden and backward classes.

City general secretary Jitendra Yadav, spokesman Sandeep Sharma and many others also expressed their views.

Election Commission wary of violence, mass rigging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Election Commission in its pre-poll exercise found here in Allahabad that polling may witness violence or mass rigging at more booths as compared to last elections, and had raised the number of critical booths in the district from 763 to 885 for 2022 assembly elections, which is 122 more than the earlier election. There will be 5,076 polling booths in the district for 12 assembly constituencies this time. The district will be divided into 355 sectors and 50 zones with 17

observers. Booths where mass-scale rigging or violence is expected are defined as critical booths. A micro-observer is posted there with para-military force. Videography of all such booths is done and an arrangement for live webcast is also done for minute-to-minute monitoring of the critical booths.

The highest number of critical booths is in Allahabad City West constituency followed by Soraoon and Karchhana.

Out of total 855 critical polling booths 90 are in

Phaphamau, 127 in Soraoon, 102 in Phulpur, 9 in Pratappur, 43 in Handia, 36 in Meja, 122 in Karchhana, 154 in City West, 64 in City North, 38 in City South, 34 in Bara, and 67 in Koraoon.

It may be mentioned here that Allahabad City West with maximum number of critical booths has been the hub of Atique Ahmad and his brother Khalid Azeem alias Ashraf. Reports suggest that the number of critical booths may go up in the coming days.

ONE KILLED IN ROAD MISHAP: One person died

while two of his family sustained injuries in a road accident when their car rammed into a truck near Phaphamau on Lucknow highway. Raj Kumar Yadav left Lucknow on Sunday with his wife Rekha and son Navneet to attend a funeral in Daraganj. It was around 5 am when they reached Malak Harhar. Suddenly, their car rammed into a truck from behind. It took police and villagers hours to pull out the car. Raj Kumar Yadav was found dead while his wife and son were grievously injured.

Ambedkar remembered at NCR function

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On the occasion of Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar, North Central Railway General Manager Pramod Kumar paid floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar in a function organised at NCR Headquarters in Prayagraj. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, NCR, Nand Kishor threw light on the early life of Babasaheb and discussed in length the struggle faced by him for the uplift of weaker sections of society.

At the outset, officers and office-bearers of various associations paid homage to Dr Ambedkar by paying floral tribute on his photograph.

Sheshnath Pushkar, Rajbhasha Adhikari, discussed different provisions of the Indian Constitution regarding equality. Dinesh Kumar recalled how Ambedkar took stand on the issue of protection of rights of women during deliberations on Hindu Code Bill. Contribution of Ambedkar in ensuring a balance between rights and duties was also mentioned.

Lalsa Ram, Secretary Zonal SC/ST Association, also put forth his views while Shailendra Kapil, CCO/NCR, paid tribute through a poem.

In his address, the NCR



North Central Railway General Manager Pramod Kumar paying floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar in a function organised at NCR Headquarters in Prayagraj. Pioneer

GM referred to Dr Ambedkar as a man of high courage. He said that Dr Ambedkar paved the way for a modern society

based upon social harmony. He added that Babasaheb strived for equality in society along with governance based on the

tenets of equality and justice. The programme was conducted by Awadhesh Kumar, CPO/IR, NCR.

Workshop on Prakrit language concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 21-day national workshop on 'Teaching & Learning in Prakrit Language', sponsored by Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi (formerly known as Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan) concluded at Parshwanath Vidyapeeth here on Monday. The workshop was organised in collaboration with Gujarat University which had signed an MoU with Parshwanath Vidyapeeth for Academic Exchange Programme.

In the valedictory function of the workshop, Prof KK Sharma chaired the session, while Prof VK Shukla, director of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) was the chief guest. Vice President of PV Managing Committee Indrabhooti Barar was the guest of honour. More than 32 participants from various places of the country attended the workshop and got benefitted by this academ-



Concluding function of workshop on Prakrit language being held at Parshwanath Vidyapeeth in Varanasi on Monday. Pioneer

ic endeavour of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth. In the valedictory session Dr OP Singh presented the report of the workshop and also gave vote of thanks.

Earlier, in the inaugural session Prof KD Tripathi, Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha, chaired the session and Prof Harishankar Pandey, Dean Faculty of Student

Welfare; Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) was the chief guest. Both the scholars appreciated the efforts of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth in the area of teaching and learning in Prakrit. Joint Director of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth Dr SP Pandey welcomed the guests and presented his view on the necessity of learning Prakrit language. He said that if Indian

culture is to be understood properly, the knowledge of Prakrit along with Pali and Sanskrit is very necessary.

In this workshop the faculty members Prof DN Sharma from Gujarat University, Prof JR Bhattacharya from Shanti Niketan, Bolepur and Prof DC Jain from Jodhpur University threw light on Prakrit grammar. Through various texts like Abhijnana Shakuntalam, Gathasaptashati, Mricchakatika, Uttaradhyayana, Kuvalayamala and Dashvialkalika they taught Prakrit grammar. Prof Maheshwari Prasad, Prof AK Jain, Prof P Shah, Prof VS Shukla and Prof PC Jain were the guest faculty for this workshop who engaged in special classes on the subject. A total of 87 lectures were delivered on different aspects of Prakrit grammar. On the penultimate day, a written test and viva-voce was organised and the winners were given prizes in the concluding function.

BHU mountaineers climb Kedarkantha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The students of Advance Mountaineering Course-14, being run by the Mountaineering Centre of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), climbed Kedarkantha peak under the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand successfully. This 12-member team was flagged off by the Officiating Vice-Chancellor of BHU Prof VK Shukla from Malviya Bhawan on November 25 last.

According to the in-charge of University Mountaineering Centre Prof Anil Kumar Singh, the team along with coach Balram Yadav and team in-charge Shivnarayan Yadav reached Shankri village on



BHU mountaineers at Kedarkantha in Garhwal Himalayan range recently.

November 26 via Dehradun and then they started trekking from there. Crossing Juda Ka Talab, the team reached the Kedarkantha Base Camp where techniques like emergency rescue, rappelling, jungle track and night survival were practiced. As it was a post monsoon operation, the temperature was below freezing point there and in this freezing cold, the team ascended at midnight. While reaching the summit at 7 am on November 30, the team hoisted the flag of the university

along with the tricolour. The team members were Pratima Yadav (leader), Shubham Jaiswal (deputy leader), Chandan Kumar Mishra (quartermaster), Sakshi Sonkar (medical officer), Vandana Gupta (information officer), Vishwajit Yadav, Manish Kumar (both luggage officers), Rajnish Kumar (transport officer) and Vishishtha Upadhyay, Diwaker Raju (recreation officers) along with trainer Balram Yadav and team in-charge Shivnarayan Yadav. On the arrival of the team in Varanasi, Prof Anil Kumar Singh and others congratulated them, in which students Amit Kumar, Anil etc were also present along with Dr Jaiprakash Yadav.

PNB ZM visits divisional office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Zonal Manager of Punjab National Bank (PNB) RK Vashisth made a visit to divisional office of Mau and conducted an inspection.

Inspiring the staff members to ensure conducive participation in 6S campaign, Vashisth said that the better customer service is the base of better business and emphasised on ensuring an increase in debt assets and deposit amount apart from decreasing in NPA for the business by bank.

The increase in the assets of retail, MSME, agriculture and financial inclusion and extension of digital reach are main pillars of 6S campaign, he said adding, the bank is



PNB Zonal Manager RK Vashisth addressing a function at Regional Office in Mau. Pioneer

determine to get the benefits of various schemes of maximum beneficiaries through 6S which include Shikhar, Swagat, Sankalp, Samridhi, Swabhiman and

Sampark. The divisional head of the bank Ravi Bhushan Jha outlined the importance of the excellent customer service.

Vashisth reviewed the scheme by chairing a meeting in which the 6S was in the main focus and issued some directives to the branch managers and agriculture officers to achieve the target within stipulated time. The team of the divisional office assured the zonal manager to achieve the goal by following all the standards.

The chief managers in the divisional office Deepak Kumar, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Sudhir Kumar Jha, Anurag Srivastava and Jitendra Kumar Singh were mainly present on the occasion.

Accused wanted in murder case arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Mahendra Yadav, wanted in Bachcha Yadav murder case, was arrested by the Georgetown police on Monday morning. He was preparing to surrender before the court when nabbed by the police.

Bachcha Yadav of Babaji ki Bagiya was a Nagar Nigam contractor and on the issue of a payment of over Rs 1 crore, he was shot dead by his two contractor friends Mahendra Yadav of Salori and Rajesh

Yadav of Ashok Nagar at a medical shop on Lowther Road near Medical College crossing on Wednesday night where all the three were enjoying drinks.

The contractors used to sit at the medical shop situated near a wine shop. Bachcha Yadav was a C grade contractor, while Mahendra Yadav enjoyed the status of B grade. Because the above contract was of over Rs 1 crore, it went to the B grade contractor, who hired the C grade contractor Bachcha to do the work.

Bachcha invested money and almost completed the work. When on Wednesday night during their routine drinks sitting, Bachcha asked for money, but Mahendra and Rajesh felt offended and invited an altercation which resulted into the murder of Bachcha Yadav. Mahendra Yadav and Rajesh Yadav had pumped seven bullets from their licenced firearms into the body of Bachcha Yadav who died on the spot.

The police had arrested

Rajesh Yadav with three licenced firearms the very next day, but Mahendra escaped and kept hiding at Lucknow and Kanpur. His two brothers are reported to be police inspectors. Mahendra Yadav came to know that his location was being tracked, so he decided to surrender in the court to evade arrest, but was nabbed by the police on Monday morning.

The police recovered from his possession the pistol used to kill Bachcha Yadav.

Assistant prof held on charges of rape

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Madan Yadav, an assistant professor of CMP Degree College, has been arrested on the charges of raping a girl student and hobnobbing with police to harass the witnesses. Eight police personnel, including an inspector, have already been placed under suspension in this connection. Yadav is a resident of Ghazipur.

Two years ago, a girl student preparing for competitive examinations had lodged a complaint against him at Colonelganj police station, and he was arrested and sent to jail. After coming out from the

jail, Yadav contacted Handia police inspector Brijesh Yadav and in connivance with the police, he started harassing the girl and her family members.

The witnesses were arrested on fake charges and sent to jail. After receiving complaints, the officials placed eight police personnel under suspension and a manhunt was launched for Yadav, the prime accused, who had been absconding. The police arrested him and he was being interrogated.

MNNIT STUDENT DIES UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES: A girl student of Motilal Nehru National

Institute of Technology (MNNIT) died under mysterious circumstances here on Sunday.

The doctors said that she had consumed an overdose of hypertension medicine which led to her death. However, her father said that she was quite healthy and was not taking any medicines.

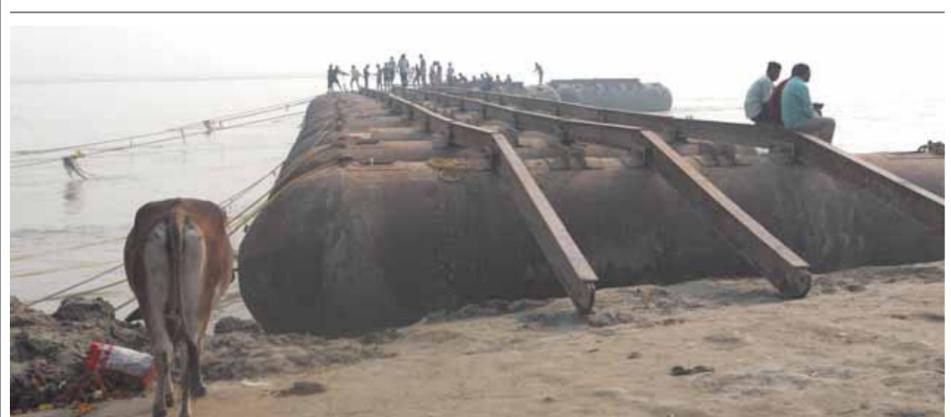
The body was sent for post mortem to ascertain the real cause of death.

An MTech (II) student, Jaya Pandey (24) lived in IHB Hostel of MNNIT. Suddenly, her condition deteriorated on Saturday night and she was taken to a nearby hospital from

where she was shifted to a private hospital in Civil Lines where she breathed her last on Sunday.

A resident of Dharkanda village of Rohtak Bihar, Jaya had done BTech from Patna and was pursuing MTech here at MNNIT.

The police and forensic experts reached her room and collected some samples from there. Her phone is also being examined. Her father Vijay Pandey raised doubts over the cause of death and said, her daughter was not suffering from any illness, then why would she consume blood pressure medicines?



A pontoon bridge being constructed for Magh Mela on the river Ganga in Prayagraj. Pioneer

Merchants Chamber suggestions to FinMin for Union budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Secretary of the Merchants Chamber of Uttar Pradesh, Mahendra Nath Modi, has given some suggestions for the forthcoming Union Budget 2022-23.

He said the Merchants Chambers suggested that income tax law should be based on the principle of what a taxpayer should bear as an outflow from his income after fully securing health, education of children, food and old age benefits.

He said similarly tax was tax, whether direct or indirect, therefore an upper cap must be fixed with respect to each slab rate(s) and excess over such limit must be allowed to be set off against indirect tax paid or payable either in the same year or in subsequent one or two years.

He said insurance policy should be treated as capital asset and indexation on principal contribution towards any scheme of insurance which attracted tax on premature repayment or on maturity, should be allowed while computing income chargeable to tax on that account.

He said the long term policy should be decided to levy tax on dividend (pay-out of

tax paid income) and medical insurance should not be of any upper limit for deduction of premium paid for medical insurance policy against taxable income because it was a social security measure and in current times having regard to steep rise in the cost of medical treatment and hospitalisation.

Modi said the Merchants Chamber was of the view that charitable institutions -- famous institutions whether established for imparting education, medical treatment (healthcare) or community services etc. -- earned fabulous income due to locational advantage or old immovable property being part of operating assets, good will or brand value, therefore, such institutions must pay tax on their gross receipts unless such super profits were utilised in-house.

He said modernisation of existing infrastructure, or upgradation of existing infrastructure, or expansion of existing infrastructure with focus on employment generation should be taken into consideration. He said unrelated local infrastructural development similar to CSR activities, charitable institutions enjoying benefit under sections 11, 12 &

13 of the IT Act, 1961 must adopt public schools or primary health care centres in the same vicinity, for providing and meeting out educational or health solutions to under privileged people in the vicinity.

He said the Merchants Chamber suggested that school fees of children charged by schools should be allowed as deduction against income chargeable to tax, like insurance premium, and disincense to taxpayers having more than two children should be provided as either a higher income tax rate or restrictions on deductions. Interest under Section 234A of the IT Act should be restricted up to the period of payment of self-assessment tax on the total income after April 1 following the previous year (as per present scheme interest meter does not stop on payment of self-assessment tax and continued up to the date of filing of income tax return.

For construction of first house or purchase of first flat for present or future self-use, greater incentive in the form of weighted deduction for payment of interest or repayment of principal amount of loan should be provided to the taxpayers. Casting of vote in both state assembly and parliament

elections must have incentive or not casting of votes must be linked to certain disincentives.

He said previous year, financial year and assessment year should be substituted just by one-year 'Financial Year' or 'Calendar Year' as it would reduce confusion and clerical mistakes in writing the correct year for which tax was being paid, in various forms, TDS challans and advance tax etc.

He said large agricultural land holdings should be brought under tax regime if not by the term income tax then by levying some levy, cess or lowering of limit of maximum amount not chargeable to tax.

Finally, he said, long term capital gains arising on the sale of shares held for five years or more should be exempt from LTCG. He said all charitable institutions must pay 5 per cent of gross receipts or income as income tax instead of requirement of actual spending or utilisation of minimum 85 per cent of its total income. He added that 50 per cent of annual letting value should be allowed as deduction against income under any other head of income to take care of annual repairs of self-residence houses.

Goods worth lakhs of rupees gutted by fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Goods worth lakhs of rupees were gutted by a fire which broke out in an auto parts shop adjacent to a petrol pump opposite Kalyanpur police station due to electric short-circuit in the early hours of Monday.

Over half-dozen fire tenders were pressed into service to control the fire.

Anil Kumar Kushwaha of Hasanpur, Rawatpur, runs his two-wheeler and four-wheeler auto spare parts shop. Around 4 am on Monday, his neighbouring shopkeeper informed him about the fire in his shop. He immediately informed the police and the fire brigade.

Over half a dozen fire tenders from Fazalganj, Latouche Road and Armapore fire stations rushed to spot and controlled the fire after around two hours. By then, goods worth lakhs of rupees were gutted.

According to Anil Kushwaha, goods worth around Rs 50 lakh were gutted. He said the exact amount of loss would be clear by late evening.

Kalyanpur Inspector Ashok Kumar Dubey said the fire broke out due to an electric short-circuit.

On the basis of the complaint and report of the fire officer, further action would be taken up in the matter, he said.

Due to the fire cracks developed in walls of adjacent shops also.

TWO MINORS DIE IN WALL COLLAPSE: In a tragic incident, two minor brothers were killed after a kachchi wall collapsed on them in Anantapur village under Derapur police station of Kanpur Dehat on Monday morning.

The incident took place when both the brothers were preparing to proceed for their school.

They were immediately rescued and taken to hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

They were identified as Sohail (5) and Mohit (8), sons of farmer Surat whose wife has died.

Poultry entrepreneurs to stage countrywide demonstrations today

KANPUR (PNS): In order to attract the government's attention towards problems faced by the country's poultry industry, members of the Poultry Farmers Broilers Welfare Federation will stage demonstrations in over 700 district headquarters of the country on Tuesday.

During the demonstrations, the poultry entrepreneurs and farmers will hand over memorandums addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the chief ministers of the respective states, to the district magistrate of their respective headquarters, and urge for early settlement of their demands.

Addressing media persons, president of the Poultry Farmers Broilers Welfare Federation, FM Sheikh, said for the past 10 months, prices of the prime raw material of poultry feed -- soymeal -- had increased manifold. He said from the usual price of Rs 30,000 per ton, the price had shot up to Rs 1 lakh per ton in July-August last.

He said if this situation continued, poultry farmers would have no other alternative of livelihood and would be forced to commit suicide. He said the poultry industry provided direct employment to over 50 lakh families and increased earnings of over 10 crore farmers.

PFBWF treasurer Mohd Israil and media incharge Amit Singh were also present at the press conference.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP: A large number of activists donated blood on Sunday in the blood donation organised under the aegis of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal Kanpur South unit, Mayor Pramila Pandey inaugurated the blood donation camp along with Vibhag Pracharak Akhileshji and MLA Mahesh Trivedi.

Inaugurating the camp, Mayor Pramila Pandey said no other donation was bigger than blood donation which helped in saving lives.

NER Bharat Scouts & Guides State Council meeting held

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The meeting of North Eastern Railway (NER) Bharat Scouts and Guides, State Council, was held at GM's conference room on Sunday under the chairmanship of president of the organisation and Additional General Manager (AGM), NER, Amit Kumar Agrawal. In the meeting on the post of vice-president Principal Chief Signal Telecom Engineer Anil Kumar Mishra, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) SK Pandey, PCCM, SC Prasad, AK Shukla, PCEE, Chief Workshop Manager/Mechanical Workshop, Yogesh Mohan, Vidhi Agarwal, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Rita P Hemrajani, PFA Preeti Jha, Preeti Mishra and Shikha Agarwal were selected unanimously.

Agrawal said that efforts should be made to make the organisation self-reliant. Chief State

Commissioner BS Dohre said that the valuable suggestions of the president, Agrawal, would be fully followed so that the organisation continues to move forward on the path of progress. In the meeting the programmes for the current year and the upcoming year were specifically discussed. State Commissioner (Scout) and Additional

Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Lucknow, Sanjay Yadav, senior officers-bearers of the State and District Association, Ravinder Mehra, state treasurer Rakesh Kumar Animesh Verma, Deependra Kishore Sinha, Savita Pandey, Srinivas Sharma etc participated in the meeting. Ashok Shrivastava Maharishi welcomed all officers-bearers who participated in the meeting while CP Chauhan, Senior PRO and Assistant State Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.



Signal dept beats Accounts

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In the fourth match of Inter-Departmental Cricket Tournament organised at Railway cricket grounds here under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) on Sunday the Signal department won by 28 runs and entered the next round. The fourth match was played between Accounts department and Signal department. The Accounts department won the toss and invited the Signal department to bat first. Signal department scored 156 runs in stipulated 20 overs for the loss of six wickets, in which Akshat contributed 50 runs (unbeaten) off 39 balls with the help of three fours, Ajay Rawat 25 runs in 19 balls with the help of two fours and one six, Shubham 24 runs with the help of three fours in 16 balls while Arjun 17 runs and Shambhu Nath 11. Accounts

department's Jaiprakash by giving 22 runs and Arjun 27 runs took two wickets each. Chasing the target of 157 runs, the team of Accounts department could score only 128 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 20 overs.

Thus the Signal department won the fourth match of the tournament by 28 runs. Accounts department's Raju Jaiswal scored 36 runs off 37 balls with the help of one four, Prince made 21 off 15 balls with the help of three fours, Ajay scored 19 runs in 14 balls with the help of two fours, Naveen scored 13 runs and Arjun scored 11. Signal department's Shambhu Nath while bowling brilliantly took five for 29 runs in four overs, while Aftab, Ajay Rawat and Gyan got one wicket each. Shambhu Nath of the Signal department was declared the Man of the Match for his spectacular performance in batting and bowling.



Victory Flame leaves for Agra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Victory Flame which had arrived at Kanpur on November 29 on a week-long schedule left for Agra on its onward journey.

The Victory Flame started from Prayagraj and a large number and variety of commemorative events had been organised in the Cantonment since then. All the events witnessed massive gathering of the defence personnel and civilians as well. The final day event focused on maximum participation from NCC cadets and students from several schools in Kanpur Cantonment.

The Victory Flame was first taken to Army Public School, Kanpur, where it was received by Brigadier Dinar Dighe, the Station Commander. The event began with addresses by the school principal and teachers. It was followed by a tree plantation drive in which the station commander and students from the schools as well as NCC, planted saplings.

The next event was an exhibition of various creative paintings and art depicting the Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations. The week-long celebrations were appreciated by the station commander and the event concluded with his



Brig Dinar Dighe takes part in closing function of Victory Flame.

Pioneer

informal interaction with students over tea.

The final day event was a grand and spectacular equipment display at the Kanpur Garrison Grounds. The station commander inaugurated the display and then received the Victory Flame at Garrison

Grounds. Weapons and equipment of infantry and air defence were put on display to a host of enthusiastic NCC cadets and school students.

The eager students raised questions which were answered by the defence personnel. The students also

raised queries about the exciting opportunities that awaited them in the defence forces.

Another highlight of the event was a visit by differently abled students who brightened the show with their creative displays.

NSI imparts training on effluent treatment plants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute Director, Prof Narendra Mohan, while addressing a five-day training programme for scientists of Central Pollution Control Board and National Mission for Clean Ganga at the institute on Monday, said the customised training programme was being organised on the request of Central Pollution Control Board to impart training about standard operating procedures designing and operating effluent treatment plants and newer technologies for minimising fresh water usage and waste discharge.

He said the programme was specially designed to address environmental issues in the sugar industry so as to make it a cleaner industry to avoid pollutants from this industry contaminating the holy river Ganga.

During the inaugural day, an overview was given to the participants about unit operations in factories producing various processes and also having power export facilities.

Technology for minimising fresh water usage and

effluent discharge was elaborated with examples of sugar refineries situated in areas of water scarcity and at ports. The participants were also informed about the importance of measurement of fresh water consumption and waste water discharge from various unit operations and transmission of data with respect to effluent quality so as to take corrective measures.

The sugar industry is required to create facilities for calibration of instruments and also testing of effluents for various parameters like BOD, COD, TSS, TDS and pH etc., hence an environment cell is essential.

Lectures were also delivered about latest techniques for treating sugar factory effluents, standardisation of such plants, cost-economics and precautions required to be taken for steady operation. Since sugarcane crushing in a factory may vary, the quantity of effluent may also vary, and thus adequate provisions should be made while designing the effluent treatment plants to absorb such shocks.

IIT-K CONTINUES ITS GLORIOUS RUN IN CAMPUS PLACEMENTS:

Continuing its glorious run in the placement season 2021-22, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, witnessed a new high in offers made by recruiters.

Kick-starting the season virtually on December 1, the IIT-Kanpur received a total of 940 offers at the end of Day 4, out of which, 773 were accepted. This is in addition to the 156 pre-placement offers (PPOs) that were already accepted.

In 2020-21, at the end of Day 3, 665 offers were made whereas in 2019-20, 594 offers were made. This shows a significant increase of 32.5 per cent in the number of offers made till Day 3 this year, which is 887.

At the end of Day-4, 109 placement offers were made by core sector companies to 97 students. This constitutes over 11.5 per cent of the total jobs offered. On the other hand, 16 startups offered 45 jobs, till Day 4.

IIT Kanpur has pulled in top recruiters like Axtria, EXL, Graviton, Goldman Sachs, ICICI Bank, Intel, Microsoft, OLA, Rubrik, Samsung, Quadeye, Uber, among others, so far this season.

IIT Kanpur Director Prof Abhay Karandikar said, "IIT Kanpur is known for its academic excellence and as an institute of trust. It is this trust that pulls in top recruiters from across the world year after year."

The new highs we are witnessing so far this year is indicative of the growing trust of recruiters to the institute and its students, despite the pandemic-induced challenges. We are confident and hopeful that we would end the remainder of the season on a high as well."

At the end of Day 4, the institute received 47 international offers.

This is a big jump of 150 per cent over last year when 19 international offers were received.

The highest packages so far are USD 274,250 for international and Rs. 1.2 crore for domestic companies. In total, 49 offers above Rs 1 crore have been received so far.

Out of the total of 773 students placed, about 55 per cent are undergraduates and 45 per cent are post-graduates. So far, 216 companies have finished their recruitment process, and more are lined up for the next few days.

42 mobile phones recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIN

Surveillance cell and cyber team recovered 42 mobile phones worth about ₹6.50 lakh. SP Ravi Kumar handed them over to their owners who thanked him for it. The team which made the recovery comprised

Surveillance Cell incharge Kulbhushan Singh, Cyber Crime Cell incharge S-I Ram Prakash besides Manoj Kumar, Gaurav Bajpai, Karmaveer Singh, Rohit Singh, Jagdish Chandra, Sushant Mishra, Akshay Veer Vikram Singh, Ankush Shankhwar and Krishna Veer.



Cycle rally taken out

PNS ■ VARANASI

In the series of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Levents a cycle rally was taken out in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) premises on Sunday morning with great enthusiasm. The cycle rally was flagged off by Deputy Chief Personnel Officer/HQ Shyam Babu. This cycle rally started from Kundan Engine located near Central Market Tiraha and after passing



through the entire BLW campus ended at Surya Sarovar. In it all the players of BLW, Scouts Guides, District Scouts Guides, Civil Defence, St John's Ambulance Brigade, welfare inspector, Staff Council, backward castes and members of SC/ST Association participated, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar said. The programme was mainly attended by Shyambabu, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (Headquarters), Rajkumar Gupta, Senior Personnel Officer (HQ), Piyush Midge, Assistant Personnel Officer (Staff), RK Saini, principal, BLW Inter College, along with Madhav Batwal, Kailashnath, Vijay Kumar Gupta, Ram Sahai, Chandan Pandey, Harishankar Yadav, Vinod Kannaujia, CM Yadav, Hira Singh, Poonam Tigga etc.

Ticket checking drive

PNS ■ VARANASI

Making Mau the focal point, bus raid and intensive ticket checking campaign was conducted under the direction of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Sanjeev Sharma and under the leadership of Assistant Commercial Manager (ACM), North Eastern Railway (NER), Varanasi, Ajay Kumar Suman, on Varanasi-Mau section, Mau-Ballia section, Mau-Bhatni section and Mau-Shahganj section recently. During intensive ticket checking was done by the checking team members in trains in which 37 people without tickets were caught by the TT and RPF team and presented before the magistrate. Penalty and additional fine were collected from all of them. Similarly, a total of ₹4,65,000 was collected by the ICP team of Varanasi and Mau from 620 passengers travelling without tickets. In the checking team Divisional Commercial Inspector, Mau, Akhilesh Singh, ICP Mau Arun Kumar, CIT Rakesh Kumar, CITT Maroof Khan, Sunil Singh, Raim Ahmed, including dozens of RPF jawans, extended their cooperation. SDCM Sanjeev Sharma has appealed to passengers to pay attention to cleanliness in the stations or trains during their journey, wear masks, follow Covid-19 prevention guidelines and travel only with proper travel tickets. Along with it an appeal was made that by adopting appropriate behaviour, passengers should be safe themselves and also keep others safe, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Two-front challenge

Time's running out as fresh cases of Delta variant emerge while Omicron increases its presence, too

A bizarre situation is unfolding in India. The new Coronavirus variant, Omicron, has reared its head in five States. At the same time, fresh Covid-19 (probably Delta) cases are being reported from eight States. While scientists study the distinction between the two variants, they currently seem to share the same fallout on patients: they are either asymptomatic or have minor symptoms that have so far not attracted serious medical attention. Four factors stand out in the latest bout of the pandemic in the country. Even a person without any travel history has contracted Omicron, like in Karnataka. Omicron is infecting people irrespective of their vaccination status. Adolescents — this is worrisome — are also getting infected, as has been reported from Gujarat. India is reporting cluster infections involving both the variants. Omicron clusters were reported from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Non-Omicron COVID-19 clusters were reported from



Telangana and Karnataka. Over 40 students of a medical school in Telangana tested positive following a college event where they wore no masks. Karnataka reported two separate clusters from a school and a college, involving over 300 students and staff, following a freshers' party. Telangana Public Health Director Dr G Srinivas warns COVID cases may increase by mid-January with numbers peaking by February.

The Government's medical infrastructure apparatus may be ready to handle a fresh wave, but that is beside the point because the Omicron infection has so far not been intense among its patients, vaccinated or not. The Government faces two issues. One is how to reduce human transmission of the virus. The only option is to mount a massive screening operation in the country, especially in airports, railway stations, and other public transport centres. Sending those who test positive into compulsory quarantine is the need of the hour. The Centre should also coordinate with the States on increasing testing and tracing. Closing down airports and railway stations is not recommended unless the infection is severe enough to cause complications and even death. Secondly, time is running out for the Government to decide on vaccinating children. There are 14-odd crore children in the 12-17 age group in India. Most are already exposed to the Delta variant. Omicron has now begun infecting children in that age group in Gujarat. India is witnessing a unique situation. On the one hand, local outbreaks of Delta are witnessed in areas where the people are not yet exposed. On the other hand, the virus has since mutated into the Omicron variant which is also around. We need an urgent assessment of the implications of this twin-pronged attack. The COVID-19 task force has to address two issues. One, we have waited so far to vaccinate children, and should we now wait a while longer for a new vaccine for children that protects them from new and future variants? Secondly, the South Africa case reveals Omicron is also infecting previously infected people. Has Omicron also the potential to override vaccine-induced immunity?

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PIC TALK



Tourists at play at a snow-covered field after light snowfall at Sonmarg in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir

Ten on ten

Records are meant to be broken in sports or life; what we need is to learn to be grounded

New Zealand bowler Ajaz Patel on Saturday achieved the rarest of rare feats in international cricket as he clinched all 10 wickets in first innings of the second Test match against India at the Wankhede Stadium. With that, he joins England's Jim Laker and former Indian captain Anil Kumble to dismiss 10 opposition players in an innings. Though his 10-wicket haul could not ensure Kiwis the victory, the Mumbai-born left-armed Ajaz, whose parents emigrated to New Zealand in 1996, won many hearts as he pulled off this miracle of a record. With this resounding victory, India not only registers a comprehensive series win by 1-0, it also dethrones New Zealand from the ICC Test rankings and claims the top spot. However, whatever the outcome at the end of the day might be, the match would be known for Patel's perfect 10 at his long-lost hometown.



There have been enough instances in the history of team sports when one player proved enough for the opposition team. Rohit Sharma, for example, scored a massive 264 runs against Sri Lanka in November 2014. In return, the Lankans were all out for 251 runs before the end of the 44th over. The 'hitman' Sharma scored 13-odd runs more than

Sri Lanka's team total. Sharma's 264 remains the highest individual score in ODIs to date. Major Dhyani Chand, the first superstar of Indian hockey who led the country to many victories and was considered a magician of the game, was the key protagonist as India won three consecutive Olympic hockey gold medals — Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, and Berlin 1936. Diego Maradona, who is often hailed as a one-man army in the world of football, led Argentina to the FIFA World Cup title in 1986. The quarter-finals against England saw him beat five English players to score a goal. This was voted as the goal of the century in 2002. There are many honourable mentions who have achieved feats like these players have in various sports. While victory may not always be the most satisfying milestone, to give everything a person has got surely is. A takeaway from these events is to learn to be grounded in life. Records, no matter how unbreakable they might seem, are not invincible in any sport. Jim Laker wouldn't have thought that another 10-wicket haul will happen again, but Anil Kumble did it in 1999, followed by Ajaz Patel.

Did democracy win or the nation lose?



VIVEK GUMASTE

When a protest based on disinformation triumphs over bold courageous reform, it does not augur well for democracy or the progress of a nation

When on November 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unexpectedly announced the repeal of the three farm laws, he coincidentally brought into focus a flaw in our national psyche: a penchant for fuzzy unreal narratives driven by sheer emotionalism as opposed to hard facts and sensible logic.

At the outset the PM's statement was a straightforward apology; of having failed to convince the farmers of the Government's good intentions. But in reality, it was far more than the obvious. This abrupt course reversal raised a series of existential questions:

First, were these farm laws so diabolical in their intent and so farmer averse in their construct that annulment was the only option? Or was it a classic case of political chicanery outwitting honest intentions? And did this retreat signal a victory for democracy as some newspapers editorialised?

To begin with, for decades, all political parties have been in agreement that the agricultural industry in India is in dire straits and badly in need of reform. During his tenure, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh once stated: "There are other rigidities because of the marketing regime set up in the 1930s which prevent our farmers from selling their produce where they get the highest rate of return. It is our intention to remove all those handicaps."

Accordingly, in September 2020, the Modi Government passed three Bills — the Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, the Essential Commodities Act (Amendment) Bill and the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.

The Bills would allow greater market play and attract private investment and technology that was needed to better the infrastructure (storage facilities), increase productivity and improve farm incomes.

There has been much debate on the merits and demerits of these Bills and there is near unanimity among experts like Ashok Gulati, the Infosys chair professor for agriculture at ICRIER on the validity and timeliness of these proposed changes.



More recently on July 2, 2021, Sharad Pawar, a former Agriculture Minister and a politician conversant with agricultural issues had called for amendments to the farm bills instead of rejecting them outright.

Failure to implement the farm bills will have serious consequences at the ground level as Ashok Gulati elaborates: "...Cropping patterns will remain skewed in favour of rice and wheat, with the granaries of the food corporation of India bulging with stocks of grain. The food subsidy will keep bloating and there will be large leakages. The groundwater table in the north-western States will keep receding and methane and nitrous oxide will keep polluting the environment."

So, objectively, devoid of political rhetoric and emotional blackmail (displeasing respected and revered farmers), one can only reach this conclusion: the farm bills had merit and did not deserve to be retracted. Was this really a victory of democracy as claimed by some? The answer is a categorical, no.



THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS WISDOM AND CAPACITY, CHOSE TO EMPATHISE WITH THE FARMERS AND WITHDREW THE BILLS. BUT LET US NOT KID OURSELVES THAT THIS WAS A VICTORY OF RIGHT OVER WRONG AND A TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY. IT WAS NEITHER

be retracted. Was this really a victory of democracy as claimed by some? The answer is a categorical, no. Tavleen Singh, writing in the Indian Express (Well Done PM Modi. Nov 22, 2021), sermonised: "In the end it was not about the farm laws but about democracy and the right to protest. Democracy won. The most powerful Prime Minister India has seen for more than three decades bowed to the wishes of the people."

For one, Modi is no tin pot dictator whose dominance is sustained by the might of an army. His power and popularity are a reflection of the people's mandate vettled by two successive parliamentary elections. The farm bills were passed as per Constitutional regulations. Therefore, to project this as a standoff between an autocrat and valid public aspirations is an erroneous interpretation of democracy.

Second, protest is an integral part of a democracy and the farmers are justified in their agitation regardless of the virtues of their case. However, when a protest takes a maximalist stance, turns into a violent (Republic Day happenings), disruptive (blockage of

highways, rail roko) vendetta with the sole motive of humbling the other party, then it becomes a mobocracy.

More importantly, when a protest based on disinformation triumphs over bold courageous reform, it does not augur well for democracy or the progress of a nation.

The Opposition waltzing with schadenfreude may think themselves as victors, farmers may pat themselves. But the greatest loser is not the BJP or Modi but the nation whose progress has been set back several decades.

The Prime Minister in his wisdom and in his capacity as the ultimate elected leader chose to empathise with the farmers despite their misplaced feelings and withdrew the Bills to defuse the spreading rancor and in the larger interest of the nation (There was a suggestion that external forces might exploit the situation).

But let us not kid ourselves that this was a victory of right over wrong and a triumph of democracy. It was neither.

(The author, a US-based academic and political commentator, frequently writes on current affairs in India.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEED MORE THAN PHYSICAL FITNESS

Sir — We all have heard our elders reiterate the phrase 'health is wealth', although how much attention we pay to it is a different discussion altogether. Over time, we have created our own definition of health. People generally think good health means a body that is free of physical illness. But it makes no sense to call a person 'healthy' if he/she is suffering mentally. In modern times, health is limited to balanced eating, popping multivitamin pills, and of course, fat loss or muscle building. Of course being physically active and fit is important for one to feel healthy, but we must realise that physical fitness is just a small part of being healthy.

One can be disease-free but not healthy if he/she is suffering from mental or emotional illnesses like depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, etc. Sadly, emotional and mental health hasn't been given due importance in India. Just like a plant needs sunlight, water, air, soil and good climatic conditions to grow, a person needs vitality (sunlight), vibrance (water), values (air), ethics and morals (soil) and a positive environment (good climatic condition). Good health is denoted not only by physical fitness but more importantly by mental and emotional well-being. If you burn fat, burn negativity too. If you develop muscles, develop positive vibes too. Instead of chasing a perfect body, we should lead a healthy life.

Nikita | New Delhi

SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR DADA

Sir — BCCI president and former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who underwent angioplasty after a mild heart attack, is stable and his health parameters are being closely monitored. We, the cricket fans, wish for his speedy recovery. Even active cricketers suffer such mild attacks and it is time to undergo testing every year as a routine to avoid a major setback.

The treadmill test is a dangerous one and avoided in border line cases. The aim is to bring awareness, education and training to the general public in order to increase the likelihood of lives being saved in the event of a heart attack, as the

An irreparable botch-up



The killings of innocent civilians in Nagaland's Mon district were profoundly sorrowful and poignant. In what seemed to have been a case of mistaken identity, the tribal villagers were returning home in a pick-up van singing songs after a day's work in a coal mine. Nagaland had to go through this heart-breaking tragedy when it was celebrating the Hornbill Festival. It is just not enough to deplore and condemn the carnage or be satisfied with mere expression of regret

and condolence. Those who are responsible for it must be severely punished. The killings constitute a heart-rending tragedy and cannot be downplayed as an 'unfortunate incident' and an 'ambush blunder'.

The version that the Assam Rifles went by the colour of the vehicle (supposedly the same colour as that of the insurgents' vehicle shared with it by the intelligence) and opened fire when it did not stop when asked to fall short of standards expected of a professional organisation. The ascription of the botched operation to faulty or half-baked intelligence cannot be cited to reduce the gravity of the crime. The intelligence inputs on the 'likely movement of insurgents' should have been meticulous and corroborated and verified in a highly professional way. The north-eastern State of Nagaland now needs a healing touch; its legitimate political aspirations need to be acknowledged and fulfilled.

G David Milton | Marthancode

early moments of a heart attack are critical and a trained person on the scene can make a critical difference. We wish Sourav Dada speedy recovery.

CKR Nathan | Kolkata

FREEDING TEMPLES FROM STATE CONTROL

Sir — Recently, the Uttarakhand Government repealed the Char Dham Devasthanam Board Management Act, the object of which was to extend the Government's control over the four Hindu shrines of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath in addition to 49 other temples in the State. The decision was prompted by the opposition faced by the Government from priests, pilgrims, politicians and various other stakeholders who viewed it as an attempt to dilute the community's control over its religious institutions. The withdrawal of the Act shows that political will bends to public sentiment but some might argue that it was motivated by political opportunism considering the

impending Assembly elections. Nevertheless, it was a noteworthy decision.

Now, this incident should not be viewed in isolation because it reflects a larger socio-political issue that pervades public discourse today i.e., the State control over Hindu temples. In many States across the country, temples are controlled by the respective State Governments and not by the local Hindu community to whom they actually belong. This is not the case with non-Hindu religious institutions like mosques and churches which are controlled by the Muslim and Christian communities respectively. Surprisingly, or maybe not so surprisingly, the Left which seems to worship secularism has failed to address this issue, perhaps because the victim this time is not the minority.

Nissim Aggarwal | Panipat

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The Government sincerely regrets the incident in Nagaland and expresses its deepest condolences to the affected families.

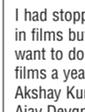


Union Home Minister — Amit Shah



Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to the new COVID variant.

NIAID Director — Anthony Fauci



I had stopped acting in films but now I want to do four-five films a year like Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn.

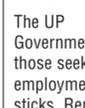


Actor — Sunny Deol



I will use the next few days to recover and forget about tennis. I am really tired from this season and this whole year.

Tennis player — Novak Djokovic



The UP Government beat those seeking employment with sticks. Remember this when the BJP comes seeking votes.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



FIRST COLUMN

UKRAINE HAS BECOME AN EXCITING CRISIS

It would be colossally stupid of Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, and he is not a stupid man



GWYNNE DYER

There is a threat today that there will be war tomorrow. We are entirely prepared for an escalation," said Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. His head of military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, warned that around 90,000 Russian troops are now deployed in the vicinity of Ukraine, and could invade "from several directions" by January. Nato's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned that Russian use of force against Ukraine would "come at a cost", without specifying what this would be. And the US State Department let it be known that it is considering its options to deter the Kremlin, including sending military advisers and new weapons to Kyiv. American intelligence services started warning that Russian tanks were moving west several weeks ago. Ukraine played down the reports at first, but now it's begging for new weapons to resist the allegedly impending attack. One significant Russian military force did move west last month: the



41st Combined Arms Army, which was transferred from Novosibirsk in western Siberia to Yelnya southwest of Moscow. That puts it 280 km from the Ukrainian frontier, which is not exactly breathing down the necks of the Ukrainians. The Russian troops that really are near Ukraine's borders in the east and in the Crimean peninsula are exactly where they were before this 'crisis'. So why did the 41st Combined Arms Army (around 30,000 soldiers) move almost 4,000 km. west last month? Here's a clue. It's now 280 km north of the Ukrainian border, but it's less than 100 km from the border of Belarus.

It's not there to invade Belarus right now, of course. 'President' Alexander Lukashenko, still clinging to power there after rigging an election last year and crushing the massive protest movement that ensued, is a long-standing Russian ally. The 41st Army's job is to keep Lukashenko in power if it can, and to ensure that his successor is friendly to Moscow if he falls. So, there's no threatening build-up on Ukraine's border — nor would Russia have an easy time invading Ukraine even if there were. Russia has three times Ukraine's population, but its ground forces are not even twice as big (400,000 vs. 255,000). It has many far-flung borders to guard, and half its soldiers are conscripts serving only one year. True, Russian air power is much superior to Ukraine's, so it might win in the end if NATO did not intervene militarily (and NATO wouldn't do that — nobody wants a nuclear war). But it would be colossally stupid for Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, and he is not a stupid man. He would end up occupying a country of 45 million people most of whom resent the Russian occupation so much that a big, long guerrilla war would be almost inevitable. He would face a rejuvenated NATO that posed a real threat to Russia from borders far closer to Moscow than those of the old Cold War, plus a crippling full-spectrum trade embargo. There has been some rhetorical sabre-rattling from Moscow recently, but NATO has also been pushing the Russians hard: American and British warships in the Black Sea coming very close to Russian-occupied Crimea, US nuclear-capable bombers doing the same, and sales of advanced Western weapons to the Ukrainians. The Kremlin is just as suspicious and frightened of the West now as it was at the height of the Cold War. That does not excuse Putin's behaviour towards Ukraine, but if the 'Western media' just go on just printing the handouts, everything will seem to be under control until one day somebody makes a serious mis-step in the dance, and everything goes very badly wrong.

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

India should abandon the MSP track now



UTTAM GUPTA

The Government should consider direct benefit transfer to farmers. It will help eliminate inefficiencies and misuse that go with current MSP regime

In view of the new Coronavirus mutation Omicron rearing its head, the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled to have commenced from November 30, has been deferred indefinitely.

The Government should use the interregnum for formulating strategy and coordinate with other like-minded developing countries. The key areas requiring attention are (i) permanent solution to the public stockholding (PSH) program for food security; (ii) a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries; (iii) remove the existing inequity in fishery subsidies; (iv) patent waiver for manufacture COVID-19 vaccines; (v) WTO reforms.

India runs a mammoth program of public stockholding for food security purposes. Under it, agencies of the Government like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produce such as wheat, rice/paddy, coarse cereals from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and distribute at a heavily subsidized price of ₹1/2/3 per kg through a network of fair price shops to meet the needs of India's poor and vulnerable population.

The excess of MSP plus handling, storage and distribution cost over the realization from sale (read: ₹1/2/3 per kg) is paid as subsidy from the Union Budget. This includes (a) subsidy to the farmer being the excess of MSP of say, rice over its international price also known as External Reference Price (ERP) in WTO parlance and (b) subsidy to the food consumer - being the excess of ERP over the price paid (₹ 3 per kg rice). The WTO is concerned with (a) branded as "product-specific" subsidies. It is also concerned with subsidy on agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seed, irrigation, power, etc., referred to as "non-product specific" subsidies.

Under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO, the sum total of product and non-product specific subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) is capped at 10 percent of the value of agricultural production for a developing country. If, a member country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, it is a violation.

The AoA came into force on January 1, 1995. For India, until 2005, MSP was less than ERP. Thereafter, even as MSP was higher than ERP, in the last decade, this gap widened. For instance, as per a May 2018 submission by the USA to WTO, during 2013-14, Indian AMS on rice was 77 percent.

At present, India enjoys protection under a "peace clause" which was sanctioned in the 9th MC held in Bali (2013). It said "if a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, no member will challenge this until 2017, when the WTO would look for a permanent solution." In the General Council (GC) held in December 2014, this sanction was modified to say "the peace clause will stay till a permanent solution was found."



INDIA COULD FACE A MUCH BIGGER CHALLENGE IF PM MODI AGREES TO THE DEMAND FOR LEGAL GUARANTEE TO MSP. IN THAT SCENARIO, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PROCURE THE ENTIRE PRODUCE OF ALL FARMERS — UP FROM THE PRESENT MEAGRE SIX PER CENT — RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN AGGREGATE MEASUREMENT SUPPORT TO ASTRONOMICAL LEVELS

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



However, the peace clause is not a panacea as it comes with several riders such as submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting." This makes India vulnerable which is evident from some countries insisting on 'safeguards' and 'transparency' obligations after it invoked the peace clause in 2018-19.

Therefore, India is looking for a 'permanent solution'. It has asked for 'total exemption for support to PSH for food security'. But this is a tall order as it will render the very concept of cap meaningless and tantamount to re-writing AoA.

A practical option would be to address the flaws in computation of AMS under AoA viz. (a) ERP is taken for the year 1986-88 even as MSP is for relevant year say, 2018-19; (b) subsidy given to resource poor farmers is not excluded; (c) entire output — instead of quantity procured for PSH — is used. If, these flaws are removed, the resulting AMS will be well within the permissible 10 per cent. Thus, for 2013-14, against 77 per cent as per US submission (it suffered from the flaws), AMS for rice works out to only 5.45 per cent.

This alone will not help as with increase in MSP and substantial increase in procurement thereafter, even with flawless calculation, the AMS will exceed the 10 percent threshold. During 2018-19, on rice it works out to over 11 percent.

India could face a much bigger challenge if Prime Minister Narendra Modi agrees to the demand for legal guarantee to MSP as in that scenario, the Government

will have to procure the entire produce of all farmers — up from the present meagre 6 per cent — resulting in increase in AMS to astronomical level. This will not even pass muster under 'PSH program for food security' as such procurement is not for feeding the poor; instead, it will be only for supporting the farmers.

Looking forward, it should consider direct benefit transfer (DBT) to farmers — on lines similar to the developed countries of US and EU. While, ensuring compliance with WTO rules (assistance in this form is not subject to cap), this will also help in eliminating inefficiencies and misuse that go with current MSP regime.

Coming to SSM, it allows members to temporarily raise tariffs beyond the "bound levels," (this is the maximum permissible duty that a member country can impose under bound rate agreement) to deal with surging imports and resultant fall in prices.

The 2015 MC-10 in Nairobi had recognized that developing countries will have the right to take recourse to SSM as envisaged under the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. But this comes nowhere near India's demand to amend an already existing provision in Article 5 of the AoA to provide them the same benefit that developed countries derive from Special (Agricultural) Safeguards (SSG).

On the third issue, during 2018, developed countries gave massive fishery subsidies against just \$227 million by India, leading to the former overexploiting world's fish stocks even as small fishermen struggle to earn their livelihood.

In sync with the principles of "polluter pays" and "common but differentiated responsibilities", in its submission, India has proposed that developed countries abolish their subsidies over the next 25 years even while exempting developing countries from over-fishing subsidy prohibition within these 25 years. It wants special and differential treatment (S&DT) to be an integral part of the pact.

As for patent waiver for manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, India along with South Africa had submitted a proposal in October, 2020 seeking temporary waiver of TRIPS (trade related intellectual property rights) provisions to deal with public health emergencies. Even as it has received support of majority of members including USA, it is facing resistance from EU and the UK.

Finally, the US, under the Trump administration, had blocked the appointment of members of the appellate authority of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) - an authority for adjudicating disputes arising from non-compliance with WTO rules. At present, there being just one member in the body against the required strength of seven, the dispute resolution process has come to a grinding halt.

To conclude, India should abandon the MSP track; instead go for DBT to protect farmers. On SSM, fishery subsidies and TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, it should garner support from all like-minded developing countries, especially G-33, to get our proposals accepted. As for WTO reform, Modi should persuade Joe Biden to remove the US veto.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SCINDIA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CONGRESS AND JOINED THE BJP. HE ALSO TOOK OUR MLAs WITH HIM BY DISTRIBUTING MONEY. —CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH



SOMETHING MUST HAVE HURT HIM (DIGVIJAYA SINGH) THAT HE WENT TO THIS LEVEL DESPITE BEING OLD AND MATURE IN POLITICS. —UNION MINISTER JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

Unfortunate Nagaland killings: Time for retrospection

Such hostile agendas will not allow an occasion to go by to harm the nation's security. After all, their sole raison d'être is to bleed India

The December 4 incident in the Tiru area of Nagaland's Mon district when some people were killed in a case of mistaken identity by the security forces is also perhaps one of the unpleasant aberrations in recent times, and one which has been genuinely regretted by the security forces.



JAIDEEP SAIKIA

But the fact of the matter is that it was a freak incident and it was not premeditated in the manner in which Col. Viplav Tripathi and his guiltless family were murdered in Manipur. To that end, the episode must be treated, an incongruity that has been truly repented for by a force that has contributed not only to the security of the North East, but its all-round welfare as well.

(The writer is a conflict analyst and author of books on security and strategy of the North East. The views expressed are personal.)

A colossal error would be made were the incident to be allowed to be hijacked by the anti-India forces which have been scavenging the expanse for just such an opportunity. Agencies such as the Ministry of State Security of the People's Republic of China and the Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan either in isolation or togetherness of agenda have been attempting to pin down the Indian security forces to counter-insurgency operations and away from their primary border management duties. Indeed, these agencies would not let go of an opening to rabble rouse the peace-loving people of the North-East into an anti-India course of action when aberrations come their way as it



indeed did in Mon. Such hostile agendas — as has been seen time and again in the past, in Assam, Kashmir and Manipur and elsewhere in India — will not allow an occasion to go by to harm the nation's security. After all, their sole raison d'être is to bleed India with a "thousand cuts" and set a "hundred prairie fires" which would

not only seek to thwart India's growing prowess as a regional power, but heap ignominy onto its security forces in order to mislead the nation's population from the growth curve and upward mobility that the nation is all set to achieve.

The Mon incident provides an ideal opportunity for a stock-taking exercise. While it has been analysed that the episode was certainly — were one to paraphrase a timeless expression from Shakespeare — one which has always been "more honoured in the breach than in the observance" the fact of the matter is that the security forces had definite and credible information that a terrorist outfit, namely the National Socialist Council of

Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung Aung) faction was in the area with an objective to carry out subterfuge in the vicinity of Tiru in Nagaland's Mon district. Therefore, an operation was planned by the security forces in the area in order to counter the nefarious designs of the anti-nationals. L'affaire Mon took place because of the events including both the preparedness and the sense of duty with which the security forces were seeking to thwart a repeat of the November 13 episode when non-combatants in the form of the Colonel's family were purposely targeted by the merciless terror actors.

The Mon incident, if fair play has to be taken recourse to, must also take into account what took place on

December 3 and 4 in Pherzawl district of Manipur when the Vang Battalion of the Assam Rifles was in the process of vacating their operating base in Parbung. The villagers of Parbung including women, elders and children came out in their numbers to request the Assam Rifles not to move out of the area. The force was considering vacation because insurgency had fallen to a low in the location. This unprecedented event was not only because of the exceptional operational achievement and civic action policies of the Assam Rifles unit, especially by way of aiding the population by provision of every sort of support during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also because a

sense of bonhomie had grown between the inhabitants of Parbung and the Assam Rifles since 2006 when an officer of the Assam Rifles, Lt Col. Rajeev Bakshi, made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in the area. Indeed, a commemorative football match, the Lt Col. Bakshi Memorial Football Tournament, is organised every year in Parbung to commemorate the manner in which officers and men of the Assam Rifles have dedicated their lives for the people of the North East. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the denizens of a region to which the Assam Rifles have set aside their entire existence for is truly termed as the "Friends of the North East".

Nagaland killing: Opp MPs demand repeal of AFSPA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As several Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Monday demanded the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958, the Congress sought a judicial probe by a sitting judge of High Court into the killings of civilians by security forces in Nagaland.



Members of the armed forces in Nagaland during an anti-insurgency operation by security forces in Nagaland.

Condemning the killing of civilians during an anti-insurgency operation by security forces in Nagaland, the Opposition members expressed concern over the lapse and wanted an impartial probe into the incident.

Members called for repeal of the AFSA enforced in Nagaland that allows security personnel to use force and even open fire after due warning in case of breach of law and order. Congress member Manish Tewari said while probing the incident Government should not invoke immunity under special pow-

ers act. Stressing that emotional integration of people living in border areas is extremely important for the unity and integrity of the country, Tewari demanded that there should be an impartial judicial inquiry by a sitting high court judge into the unfortunate incident.

"It will have a long-term impact" he said. Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) member Tokheho Yephthomi, said, "There should be an inquiry into the incident. The state government has

announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh for those slain. But, since the civilians were killed by central security forces, the compensation should be paid by the Centre."

"The AFSPA has not given powers to security forces to indiscriminately kill people," Yephthomi said referring to the killing of 14 civilians during an anti-insurgency operation in Nagaland on December 4.

Congress member Gaurav Gogoi said the death of Indians at the hands of security forces was highly condemnable.

"How can a group of unarmed civilians be mistaken as militants," Gogoi said and demanded convening of an all party meeting to discuss the situation in the north-east.

Sudeep Bandyopadhyay (TMC) said the situation in Nagaland should not be allowed to deteriorate further and demanded maximum compensation be given to the next of kin of those killed in the incident.

Members noted that Nagaland should not be "thrown into uncertainty" at a time when the Centre was holding peace talks with different groups in the state.

Shiv Sena member Vinayak Raut questioned how intelligence agencies could give such misleading inputs to the security forces. He also demanded an inquiry into the functioning of intelligence agencies.

YSCRCP member P V Midhun Reddy sought action against the perpetrators but said that care should be taken

4-member Congress delegates to visit violence-hit Nagaland

It will submit its report to Sonia Gandhi within a week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A four-member Congress delegation led by former MoS Home Jitendra Singh will visit the violence-struck Nagaland to report on the incidents that took place in the past week. The delegation

will submit its report to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi within a week.

The delegation consists of Congress leader Jitendra Singh, Dr Ajoy Kumar, Gaurav Gogoi and Anto Antony, according to an AICC statement.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi through a social media post condoled to the families of those who've been killed in the incident. Rahul Gandhi on

Facebook mentioned that Congress is on the ground in Mon District and all the regional party office bearers participated for the last rites of the deceased in the Mon Town. W Aum Yim Vice President NPCC, Mr Nadang Konyak, President DCC Mon, President NSUI DIMAPUR Unit, ACCC Vice President and PCC President K Therie along with others participated in the Mon Town funeral

that took place this morning, informed Rahul.

The Trinamool Congress too had formed a committee led by Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev that was supposed to visit the Nagaland's Mon district on Monday to meet the families of civilians but had to cancel as the Nagaland government has imposed section 144 in the affected area because of the deteriorating law and order situation.

to ensure that the morale of the armed forces does not go down.

T R Baalu (DMK), Rajiv Singh Ranjan (JDU) and Supriya Sule (NCP) expressed deep anguish at the killings and

demanding a statement of Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament.

Ritesh Pandey (BSP) said "mistakes" by the armed forces or failure to follow protocol has raised questions on the credi-

bility of the government and called for an impartial probe into the incident. Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) wanted the government to tell Lok Sabha when it would repeal the AFSPA in the state.

Pradyut Bordoloi (Congress) demanded an oversight mechanism on the implementation of the AFSPA in Nagaland and demanded that the perpetrators of the crime be brought to book.

Scindia issues directions for crowd management at IGI airport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of no social distancing, chaos and overcrowding at airports after new travelling guidelines were imposed due to spread of Omicron strain of Covid-19 variant, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday directed the GMR group-led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), to implement better crowd management strategies.

The Minister called a meeting on Monday with officials of the Airports Authority of India, Bureau of Immigration and DIAL. Officials of Genestrings Diagnostics, the sole laboratory that does RT-PCR testing at the Delhi airport, were also present at the meeting.

Amid growing concern over the new Omicron variant of coronavirus, long queues at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport with no social distancing is giving a harrowing time to flyers as they wait to get their RT-PCR test results. Most travellers are facing a tough time as they wait five to six hours to get their RT-PCR.

At the Delhi airport, Rapid PCR test costs a passenger Rs

3,500 but the results come in 60-90 minutes. RT-PCR costs a passenger Rs 500 and the results come in around six hours. A passenger coming from an "at-risk" country can choose either of the tests at the Delhi airport.

In a statement issued on Monday evening, Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO, DIAL, said that the Delhi airport has been making continuous enhancements in infrastructure and processes to manage the new screening norms for passengers arriving from "at-risk" countries. The number of passengers pre-booking their tests on arrival have been going up every day, he noted.

In a series of tweets, Delhi airport said "We have updated testing capacity at international arrival with deployment of 120 Rapid PCR machines, taking hourly capacity to 500-600 per hour with a TAT of less than 60 minutes.

Further, there is provision for approximately 500 RTPCR tests per hour. This additional capacity will further smoothen the international arrival process."

On Saturday, taking to Twitter, people narrated their

ordeal and shared pictures of the jam-packed airport. "IGI Airport at 5 AM, seems all flights for the day arrive at the same time. Finding Omicron is sure going to be like finding a needle in a haystack", one of the flyers tweeted.

The DIAL had said on Saturday that 20 dedicated counters have been set up for the passengers arriving from "at-risk" countries and having pre-booked their mandatory COVID-19 test.

After the new travelling guidelines, all passengers coming from "at-risk" countries have to compulsorily undergo RT-PCR test and two per cent of passengers arriving from other countries would also have to take the test on a random basis.

The passengers will have to wait for the results before leaving the airport or taking a connecting flight, according to the guidelines. Countries in Europe, including the UK, and South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Israel have been placed in the "at-risk" category by the Union Health Ministry.

Delhi Govt issues showcause notice to Etihad Airways for violating Covid norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Etihad Airways has received a show-cause notice from the Delhi Government's New Delhi district for the alleged violation of guidelines for international travellers amid the Omicron scare.

The Vasant Vihar sub-divisional magistrate under New Delhi district has asked station managers of the airline to respond to the show-cause notices within 24 hours. Earlier, a show cause notice to American Airlines was issued for alleged non-compliance with the guidelines for international arrivals. Air India and Iran's Mahan airlines have also

received notices for violation of norms last week.

"Non-compliance shall be viewed seriously, and it would be presumed that the Station Manager has nothing to say in the matter and action as deemed fit shall be initiated as per relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005; Section 188 of IPC and other applicable laws," the notice read.

"Travellers from Countries excluding those Countries at risk, will be allowed to leave the airport and shall self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival. A sub-section (2% of the total flight passengers) shall undergo post-arrival testing at

random at the airport on arrival.

The 2% of such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries). Such travellers shall be escorted by the concerned airlines/MoCA to testing area on arrival on December 5 and 6," read the notice.

According to the Centre, the countries designated as "at-risk" are European countries, including the UK, and South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel. Travellers from these "at-risk" countries are following addi-

tional measures on arrival in India from Tuesday midnight.

Under the new norms, RT-PCR tests are mandatory for passengers arriving from "at-risk" countries, and they will be allowed to leave the airport only after the results come. Also, two per cent of passengers arriving on all flights from other countries will be subjected to the test randomly.

Meanwhile, on Saturday the New Delhi district administration issued show-cause notices to Air India and a private airline from Iran for alleged violation of passenger boarding guidelines issued by the Centre following the emergence of the coronavirus vari-

ant Omicron, officials said. They said three passengers -- one each in Air India flights from Dubai and Amritsar and the third travelling in a Mahan Air flight from Tehran -- were allowed boarding without filing up their personal details.

A passenger in Mahan Air flight from Tehran that landed at Delhi's IGI Airport on Friday evening was allowed boarding despite not filling up personal details form, stated the notice.

Similarly, two passengers from Air India's Dubai and Amritsar flights that landed here on Saturday early morning had not submitted their personal details.

Air India owes ₹2,350 crore to AAI, SpiceJet ₹185 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Air India tops the list of airlines so far as outstanding dues to the Airport Authority of India is concerned. The carrier has outstanding dues of ₹2,350 crore followed by Spicejet having dues of ₹185 crore to the AAI as on September this year.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said on Monday said in a written reply in the Parliament that some airlines have defaulted on clearance of their dues. The AAI follows up with the airlines regularly for recovery of dues according to its credit policy, he added.

As per the reply, the outstanding dues of Air India, Alliance Air, SpiceJet and Go Air (now called Go First) up to September 2021 was ₹2,350 crore, ₹109 crore, ₹185 crore and ₹56 crore, respectively.

AAI charges airlines for using air navigation services, landing, parking among other facilities.

Charging penal interest, encashment of security deposits along with resorting to legal action were other measures available with the AAI to carry out recovery of dues, the minister noted.

The AAI owns 125-odd airports across the country. AAI incurred a cumulative loss of ₹2,948.97 crore in 2020-21. As per ministry of civil aviation data, out of 136 airports operated by AAI, as many as 107 airports were running in losses due to Covid disruption.

The data said that tier-II airports such as Chandigarh, Dehradun, Bhopal, Belgaum, Aurangabad, Delhi (Safdarjung), Imphal, Gaya, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, and Hubli recorded losses during FY19, FY20, and FY21.

CBI books pvt companies in ₹240 cr bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered two separate cases against private companies and others, including their directors on the allegations of bank frauds causing losses to banks of nearly Rs 240 crore and conducted searches against them.

The agency registered a case on a complaint from State Bank of India (SBI), SAM Branch, Ahmedabad against a Surat-based private company Siddhi Vinayak Logistic Ltd. (SVLL) and others including its directors, unknown public servants and unknown others on the allegations of causing loss of Rs 214.11 crore to SBI, the CBI said.

The cases relates to sanction of term loans to the private company for purchasing new commercial vehicles.

LS nod for Bill on pharma institutes, research

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday introduced a Bill which seeks to accord special status to six more institutes of pharmaceutical education and research as well as set up a council for these institutes. The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The Bill, introduced in Lok Sabha in March this year and referred thereafter to the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers, seeks to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998, which established the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), at Mohali in Punjab and declared it as an Institution of National Importance.

With the amendment, six more institutes of pharmaceutical education and research will be declared as Institutions of National Importance. These institutes are at Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Raebareli. It also proposes to bring down the membership of the board of governors — mandated to manage the institute's affairs — of each NIPER from the current 23 to 12 members.

Govt move to amend NDPS Act

A Bill on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances was introduced in the house even as the Opposition members demanded that the Government should re-draft it and then "come back for approval". BJD and RSP members Bhartruhari Mahtab and NK Premchandran opposed the bill.

Initiating debate on the Bill, Abdul Khalek from the Congress said the Bill, which seeks to bring down the number of members from 23 to 12, has also led to removal of three MPs from the governing council. Saugata Roy (TMC) demanded that the Government provide permanent campus to these institutes.

Stressing that there is need to focus on capacity building, BJP's Rajdeep Roy said it will help train manpower. Participating in the discussion, Sanjeev Kumar Singari (YSRCP) said industrialists should be incentivised for every research undertaken.

He said the country's youth are talented and there is a need to train them in the pharma sector. Alok Kumar Suman of JD(U) said with this Bill, research in the pharmaceutical sector will be strengthened.

Scientists devise method to increase success of kidney transplants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two scientists with the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) have developed a method to increase the success of kidney transplantation specifically among patients from Kerala. The genetic study determines the optimal dose of immunosuppressant drug to be administered to prevent organ rejection, a major risk factor in transplantation procedures.

Radhakrishnan Nair and Lekshmy Srinivas, Division of Laboratory Medicine and Molecular Diagnostics, RGCB, conducted the pharmacogenetic study involving patients who have undergone kidney transplantation at the Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital.

At present, the dose of the drug administered to patients to lower the body's immunity is calculated on the basis of body weight. In this procedure, blood levels have to be closely monitored and doses adjusted, as lower levels can lead to rejection of the transplanted kidney, while higher levels can cause medical complications. Not only is this trial-and-error method time-consuming and costly, but it also creates other complications for the patient.

"Though similar studies have been conducted among other populations before, the predictive value of pharmaco-



genetic factors identified were insufficient and not enough for clinical use. The new development would help prevent the adverse effects of overdose and help a lot of patients," said Chandrabhas Narayana, director, RGCB.

The researchers studied the effect of genes and their variants in determining the drug concentration in a patient's blood. "We have developed an equation/technique that can be used by nephrologists to predict the starting dose of the immunosuppressant drug tacrolimus, which has to be administered to patients to attain optimal drug level in the initial period after the surgery, based on their genetic profiles," Radhakrishnan Nair said.

"This equation is specific to patients from Kerala who undergo kidney transplantation. The molecular-based method tests the patient's DNA

for a specific variation before the surgery," Dr Lekshmy Srinivas explained.

The dose prediction study was focused on tacrolimus, which is administered to kidney, heart or liver transplant patients. The pioneering study was conducted in collaboration with Dr Noble Gracious, Department of Nephrology, Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. The group has also discovered the genetic variants that increase the chances of rejection and the adverse effects associated with the drug.

The research, which has significant potential to save lives of kidney transplant patients, was jointly funded by the Science and Engineering Research Board and the RGCB, and was published in the journal Frontiers in Pharmacology.

Govt working on implementing tribal advisory councils in J&K: Arjun Munda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI :

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said on Monday that the Home Ministry was currently working on implementing tribal advisory councils in Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha, Munda said Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) have been constituted in ten states having scheduled areas namely Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

The minister said, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhnad despite not having any notified scheduled area, also have tribes advisory council constituted therein.

Answering a question on the status of TAC in J&K, he said the process is on and with the removal of Article 370, all provisions applicable in the rest of India will also be brought into effect in J&K.

Nishikant Dubey (BJP) asked about the removal of the Governor from the TAC by the government of Jharkhand and sought to know what is being done on the issue.

Tomato prices skyrocket to ₹140/kg in southern India

Supplies hit due to heavy rain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The latest Ministry of Consumer Affairs data on Monday showed that retail prices of tomato have skyrocketed to a high of ₹140 per kg in some parts of southern India as supplies have been hit due to heavy rains.

In metros like Mumbai tomato was sold at ₹55 per kg. Tomato prices have been ruling high since September-end in most retail markets of the country but there has been a sharp rise in southern states of late due to continuous rains.

In the northern region, retail prices of tomatoes were ruling in the range of ₹30-83 per kg on Monday, while in western region it was ₹30-85 per kg and ₹39-80 per kg in the eastern region. All India average modal price of tomato has remained high at ₹60 per kg for over a couple of weeks now. Retail prices of tomato were ruling at ₹140 per kg at Mayabunder and at ₹127 per kg at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In metro cities, tomato was sold at ₹55 per kg in Mumbai, ₹56 per kg in Delhi, ₹78 per kg in Kolkata and at ₹78 per kg in Chennai on Monday.



Thiruvananthapuram, at ₹105 per kg in Palakkad and Wayanad, ₹94 per kg in Thrissur, ₹91 per kg in Kozhikode, and ₹83 per kg in Kottayam on Monday.

In Karnataka, the retail price of the key kitchen veg-

table was ruling at ₹100 per kg in Mangalore and Tumakuru, ₹75 per kg in Dharwad, Rs 74 per kg in Mysore, ₹67 per kg in Shivamoga, ₹64 per kg in Davanagere and ₹57 per kg in Bengaluru. In Tamil Nadu too, tomato was as high as ₹102 per

kg in Ramanathapuram, ₹92 per kg in Tirunelveli, ₹87 per kg in Cuddalore, ₹83 per kg in Chennai and ₹75 per kg in Dharmapuri.

In Andhra Pradesh, tomato was sold at ₹77 per kg in Visakhapatnam and at ₹72 per kg in Tirupathi, while in Telangana, tomato was costing ₹85 per kg in Warangal. Retail price of tomato was ruling at ₹85 per kg in Puducherry. On November 26, the consumer affairs ministry had said that tomato prices are likely to soften from December with the arrival of fresh crops from northern states.

Retail tomato prices have risen from September-end due to unseasonal rains in Punjab,

Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh which led to crop damage and delay in arrival from these states, it said. Delayed arrivals from north Indian states was followed by heavy rains in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, which disrupted the supply and also resulted in crop damage.

Tomato prices are highly volatile and any slight disruption in supply chain or damage due to heavy rains result in spurt in prices, it had said. As per the Agriculture Ministry, kharif (summer) production of tomato in the current year is at 69.52 lakh tonne as against 70.12 lakh tonne produced last year.

14 CIVILIANS DIE IN BOTCHED UP OP BY ARMY IN NAGALAND

NHRC notice to Centre, State over incident

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Centre and the Nagaland Government over reports of killing of civilians during an alleged "botched up operation" by the Army Para Commandos to target militants, officials said.



Statement said.

It triggered several incidents of arson, rioting and attack on soldiers and Assam Rifles camp, resulting in more injuries and deaths, including that of one soldier, the rights panel said in a statement.

The NHRC has "taken suo motu cognisance of media reports on the killing of civilians when their vehicle was fired upon in an alleged botched-up operation by the Army Para Commandos, lying in wait for militants in Mon district of Nagaland late Saturday", it said.

The commission has issued notices to the defence secretary, Union Home Secretary, Chief Secretary and the Nagaland Director General of police, seeking a detailed report in the matter within six weeks, the

statement said. The commission has also observed that it is "incumbent upon the security forces ensuring proper precaution with a humane approach even if it involved the militants".

The report is expected to include the status of the inquiry being conducted by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances that led to the tragic outcome of what was to be an operation targeting the alleged militants," it added.

persons, officers responsible for the incident, the statement said.

"According to the media reports carried on Monday, the state government has reportedly constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a probe into the matter. The Army has also instituted a court of inquiry to probe the circumstances that led to the tragic outcome of what was to be an operation targeting the alleged militants," it added.

TMC calls off Nagaland visit

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after declaring that a three-member delegation of the Trinamool Congress will tour trouble-torn Mon district of Nagaland the party on Monday called off its visit to the North Eastern State saying the situation was not conducive for travelling to that State.

A party delegation of the Trinamool Congress was scheduled to visit the Mon district of Nagaland where innocent villagers killed by the security forces but we were told that the area has been put under Section 144 ... and that we will not be allowed to go outside the airport," TMC MP Shantanu Sen said.

"From Jorhat we were scheduled to go further 75 miles but we were not assured any security by the administration ... and we were also told that the delegation will be detained at the airport ... We were going to that State to stand by the families of the people who were killed in the firing," he said adding "we do not want the BJP to earn political points by alleging that the TMC is trying to politicising an issue that concerns national security."

Earlier, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Shusmita Dev too attacked the BJP government for killing the people at will. Demanding Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation for failing to provide security to the citizens of the

country she asked as to what Shah was doing when the innocent people were being killed. "The Home Minister should resign owning moral responsibility for the entire episode ...," she said. Meanwhile hitting back at the TMC for calling off its Nagaland trip Bengal BJP president Sukanto Majumdar on Monday said that the Bengal ruling outfit had declared the trip out of excitement but knowing that they would not be welcomed in Nagaland they decided to cancel the trip.

"Why did not go ahead with the tour ... they cancelled their trip because they knew that they will not be welcomed their ... they knew that they were only going to earn political mileage from a sad incident," Majumdar said.

Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari on the other hand lashed out at the TMC for compromising with national security by raising issues which should be raised in the national interest. "The TMC has almost sold out this region ... now they are trying to play dirty politics with other states without having any concern for the country's national security," he said.

The Left Front however criticized the TMC for dropping the tour saying "they did not visit Nagaland because there is no civic election there like Tripura ... where they went to divide the opposition vote and help the BJP."

Maha honour killing: Mother, son decapitate girl for marrying lover

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In a ghastly "honour killing" that took place nearly six months after she eloped and got married with her boyfriend from her village, a 19-year-old girl was hacked to death by her brother and mother in Goygan village in Vaijapur taluka of Aurangabad district in Maharashtra on Sunday.

A day after they severed the head of the girl Kirti Mote, clicked selfies with the deceased and posted them in local WhatsApp groups, Sanket S Mote (18) along with his mother Shobha S Mote (40) surrendered to the police and confessed to their crime, prompting the police the two under arrest on Monday.

Kirti had earned the wrath of her family members after she eloped with her boyfriend Ajay S Thore (23) both from the same village and married him in the temple town of Alandi in Pune district. The family was not happy as the girl married a boy with criminal antecedents.

After living as husband and wife for nearly six months, Kirti and Thore returned to their native village mid last week.

Having learnt that Kirti had returned to their village, the mother and son duo went to meet the girl at her husband's home and spoke about a rapprochement. A pleased Kirti went to the kitchen to prepare tea and snacks for them.

Before long, the mother and son fol-



lowed her to the kitchen where Shobha held Kirti's legs tight, while her son Sanket took out a sickle he was carrying and beheaded her. Kirti died on the spot.

Later, the mother-son threw Kirti's head outside the house, went to the police station and surrendered. They admitted to the crime. Meanwhile the selfies of Kirti's beheaded body clicked by the mother-son duo had gone viral in the local whatsapp groups

The neighbours saw the woman's head outside Motes' home and the headless body lying inside in a pool of blood nearby and alerted the police.

The investigations have revealed that Thore, a history-sheeter with some cases lodged against him in Vaijapur Police Station, was allegedly harassing his wife Kirti.

After a post-mortem, Kirti's funeral was performed on Monday morning in the presence of her peasant father Sanjay Mote, and her in-laws.

SUSPENSION OF 12 RAJYA SABHA MPs

Tharoor not to host Sansad TV show until suspension is revoked

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said he is withdrawing himself from hosting of a talk show on Sansad TV in solidarity with the 12 Rajya Sabha members suspended from the House and would not resume his anchoring until their suspension is revoked and a "semblance of bipartisanship restored to the conduct of Parliament".



parliamentary institutions which belong to us all," Tharoor said in a statement.

"However, the prolonged suspension of 12 MPs from the Rajya Sabha, expelled in an arbitrary manner for actions committed during a previous session, has called into question the very assumption of a bipartisan spirit animating the work of Parliament," the MP from Thiruvananthapuram said.

Tharoor said as an MP who has gone every morning to greet the protesters and express his solidarity with them, he is concerned that his continued involvement in hosting the show on Sansad TV would be seen as making him complicit in the "undemocratic manner" in which parliamentary institutions are being run.

"Sadly, Sansad TV itself

has been accused of being part of the problem, as adverse comments have been made by many on its habit of having cameras focus on the members of the Treasury benches while ignoring the Opposition," the former Union minister said.

A parliamentary TV channel must, by definition, reflect the diversity of Parliament and not merely whitewash the reality of the current functioning of the House, he said.

"On reflection, and in solidarity with protesting MPs, I have decided to suspend my hosting of the talk show 'To the Point' on Sansad TV until such time as the suspensions of MPs are revoked and a semblance of bipartisanship restored to the conduct of Parliament and the functioning of Sansad TV," Tharoor said.

Omicron cases in Maha mount to 10, as 2 more +ve

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

The number of Omicron infections rose to 10 in Maharashtra on Monday, as two more persons -- a 37-year-old man and his 36-year-old friend who landed in Mumbai from Johannesburg and the United States respectively on November 25 -- tested positive

for the new Covid-19 variant.

"Both patients have not shown symptoms and are admitted to the BMC's Seven Hills Hospital in Andheri east. The two patients have taken doses of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine," senior State health official said.

In a related development, five five high-risk and 315

low-risk contacts of the both the men have also been traced.

The tracking of more contacts of the two men is underway.

The two fresh Omicron were detected a day after seven more cases of Omicron were detected in Maharashtra. Six members of a family that returned from Lagos, Nigeria on November 24 and a man

from Pune tested positive for the new Covid-19 variant.

The first case of "Omicron" was detected in the twin township of Kalyan-Dombivli in Thane district where a 33-year-old man - who had arrived from South Africa to Mumbai via Dubai and New Delhi - tested positive for the Covid-19 variant on Saturday.

Giving details of the Omicron situation in Pune, a Health department official said: "A patient was found positive for Omicron variant in Pune through routine surveillance. He visited Finland from 18 to November 25 2021. He was tested after he experienced mild fever on November 29 and was found Covid positive.



Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and president of the PDP Mehbooba Mufti (C) along with party leaders takes part in a protest against the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and 35A and the killing of civilians, in New Delhi on Monday

Leave India if you feel suffocated here: RSS leader to Farooq Abdullah

New Delhi: Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar on Monday hit out at National Conference president Farooq Abdullah over his remarks that people of Jammu and Kashmir may have to make "sacrifices" like agitating farmers to get back their rights, saying it shows that he loves violence, not peace.

He also suggested that Abdullah should leave the country to live in any other part of the world that he likes, if he feels suffocated in India.

The RSS leader also slammed PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for staging a protest in the national capital against alleged repression of people of the union territory, saying "it has become a fashion for her to tell lies".

He also said that both leaders from Jammu and Kashmir should stop playing "politics of provocation" and stop becoming an obstruction in maintaining unity and integrity of the country.

"His statement clearly shows that he loves violence, not peace. He is saying that he will get everyone killed, keep them hungry," Kumar told reporters here at a press conference when asked for his comments on Abdullah's remarks.

Abdullah on Sunday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir may have to make "sacrifices", as farmers protesting the new farm laws did, to restore its statehood and special status.

FROM PAGE 1

MODI, PUTIN VOW TO CEMENT UNIQUE TIES

The Prime Minister said the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two sides was getting stronger and both sides remained in touch on the situation in Afghanistan and other issues.

In the last few decades, the world witnessed many fundamental changes and different kinds of geopolitical equations and variables, but the friendship of India and Russia remained constant, Modi said. Giving details of the talks later, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said Putin's visit was short but very productive and substantive as both the leaders had excellent discussions. The two sides also inked 28 agreements and MOUs, he added.

The Foreign Secretary also said the Prime Minister thanked Putin for the welfare of the Indian community in Russia during the pandemic. Both the leaders discussed the need for mutual recognition of vaccine certification to enable travel by citizens of both the countries, Shringla said.

The fact that Putin visited India is an indication of the importance he attaches to the bilateral relationship and his personal rapport with Modi, Shringla said. The summit talks took place hours after the foreign and defence ministers of the two countries held their inaugural '2+2' dialogue with an aim to widen the ambit of discussions on strategically important issues.

Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. Then the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the two sides held the '2+2' dialogue.

Both sides inked an agreement for joint production of over six lakh AK-203

assault rifles at a manufacturing facility in Amethi.

SHAH REGRETS CIVILIANS' DEATH IN NAGALAND FIRING BY ARMY

Suspecting the presence of insurgents in the vehicle, the security personnel opened fire, he said.

Six out of eight occupants of the vehicle died in the firing by security forces, said Shah, adding that later, it was found to be "a case of mistaken identity". Two persons who sustained injuries were evacuated to the medical facilities by the Army personnel. He said local people, on getting news of the firing, surrounded and attacked the troops and one soldier was killed in the violence while several others were injured. Shah said that in self-defence and to disperse the crowd, the troops had to open fire in which seven more civilians were killed.

The Home Minister said on Sunday evening, an agitated crowd targeted Assam Rifles company operating base and forces had to open fire in which one civilian was killed. It has been decided that all agencies must ensure such incidents do not happen in the future during action against insurgents, he said.

Quoting an Army statement, Shah said the cause of the unfortunate loss of lives is being investigated at the highest level and appropriate action will be taken as per law.

"Ministry of Home Affairs also deputed additional secretary, in-charge of North East to Kohima wherein he held a meeting with the chief secretary and other senior officers of the State Government of Nagaland and senior offi-

cers of para-military forces today morning.

"The situation was reviewed in detail to ensure that normalcy is restored at the earliest," he said.

Dissatisfied with the statement, Opposition parties, including the Congress, DMK, SP, BSP and the NCP walked out of the House. They said neither there was any mention of compensation nor of action against the guilty. The members of the Trinamool Congress did not join the walk-out.

In the Rajya Sabha, Shah made the statement amid the din before the House was finally adjourned for the day. Previously the House saw four adjournments of varied durations. As soon the House reassembled at 4 pm after the fourth adjournment of the day, Deputy Chairman Harivansh called Shah to make his statement. As the Minister was making his statement, Opposition members kept raising slogans against the Government.

After Shah finished his statement, Harivansh asked the protesting members to go back to their seats from the well of the House to seek any clarification for the Minister. He adjourned the House for the day as the protesting members refused to relent.

SC RETRAINS MUMBAI POLICE FROM FILING CHARGESHEET AGAINST PARAM

"The only concern that we should have is, whether in regards to other matter whether the CBI should consider the same or not," it said. Senior advocate Puneet Bali, appearing for Singh, told the apex court that the Maharashtra

Government was acting with "mala fide" against the former police commissioner. "After your lordships' order, I (Singh) have joined the investigation. All non-bailable warrants and proclamations against me have been cancelled.

"Then they file a chargesheet in one of the FIRs. That is a complaint filed by a person against whom I took action. Then they suspended me. The state of Maharashtra is trying to scuttle your Lordship's orders," Bali said.

The top court noted the submissions and allowed the Mumbai police to carry on the investigation and restrained it from filing the chargesheet. The bench also extended the interim protection granted to Singh till January 1, 2022, when it will hear the matter next.

The State police had earlier told the apex court that Singh cannot be considered as a "whistle-blower" under the law as he chose to speak out against alleged corruption involving former Home minister Anil Deshmukh only after his transfer.

OMICRON CAN BREAK VAX SHIELD: EXPERTS

In fact, a study has pointed out that the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 is associated with a substantial ability to evade immunity from prior Covid19 infection.

The team of researchers in South Africa noted that, in contrast, there is no population-wide epidemiological evidence of immune escape associated with the Beta or Delta variants.

Experts believe the variant carries around 50 mutations. Of these, 32 are in spike proteins, which the virus uses to enter the human cells, and 10 are mutations of high relevance.

This is the first data-based study to suggest that Omicron may evade immunity from prior infection.

"Population-level evidence suggests that the Omicron variant is associated with substantial ability to evade immunity from prior infection. In contrast, there is no population-wide epidemiological evidence of immune escape associated with the Beta or Delta variants," the authors of the study noted.

The WHO reiterated that, pending further advice, countries should use a "risk-based approach to adjust international travel measures in a timely manner", while acknowledging that a rise in coronavirus cases might lead to higher morbidity and mortality rates.

"The impact on vulnerable populations would be substantial, particularly in countries with low vaccination coverage," the agency said.

PM TO LAUNCH PROJECTS IN GORAKHPUR TODAY

with world-class medical facilities. "In fact, Yogi Adityanath is also instrumental in bringing AIIMS in Gorakhpur and making eastern Uttar Pradesh a medical hub," Dixit said.

The demand for the setting up of AIIMS in Gorakhpur was one and a half decades old.

The 300-bed AIIMS at Gorakhpur, costing Rs 1011 crore, will become functional with the inauguration by the prime minister. The capacity of the AIIMS will be expanded to 750 in the coming days. With the inauguration, a 35-bed emergency ward will also come into service, and it will provide quick treatment to critical patients.

Indian economy shows strong signs of recovery, upswing in 19 of 22 eco indicators

New Delhi: Indian economy is showing strong signs of recovery from the devastation caused by the pandemic, with an upswing being reported in 19 out of the 22 economic indicators as compared to the pre-Covid levels. High-frequency indicators (HFIs) are being monitored to track the progress of economic recovery in India since the first COVID-19 case was reported in the country in January 2020. The latest information indicates that among 22 HFIs, full recovery has been achieved in respect of 19 HFIs, as their latest levels in the months of September, October and November this year are higher than their pre-pandemic levels in the corresponding months of 2019, official sources said.

Among the 19 HFIs, there are some indicators whose recovery is way beyond 100 per cent, such as e-way bill by volume, merchandise exports, coal production and rail freight traffic, which suggests that not only the recovery is complete, the economic growth is now gathering momentum over the pre-pandemic levels of output.

This is further confirmed by the estimates of GDP recently released for Q2 (July-September) of 2021-22, whose year-on-year growth in real terms at 8.4 per cent takes the output level higher than the pre-pandemic level of Q2 output in 2019-20.

While Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) at ₹108.2 crore in October was 157 per cent of the pre-Covid levels of 2019, UPI volumes are nearly four times at 421.9 crore. Merchandise imports at USD 55.4 billion in October are 146 per cent of 2019 levels. E-way bill volume has more than doubled to 7.4 crore in October. Coal production has risen 131 per cent to 114.1 million tonnes in September while rail freight traffic has jumped 125 per cent. Fertiliser sales, power consumption, tractor sales, cement production, port cargo traffic, fuel consumption, air cargo, IIP, and 8-core industries are all above pre-Covid levels, they said.

DangerAvert

The Omicron variant may not be as dangerous as the Delta and Alpha, which has so far claimed more than five millions lives across the world. However, the variant appears to be more contagious, said a scientist from Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Israel



DOCYARD
DR SHOBHA GUPTA

Medical Director and IVF specialist

MOTHER'S LAP IVF CENTRE



Is biological clock ticking?



Many people in India are struggling from infertility and they all have different stories to tell about their infertility journey. Today, the lifestyle which we live is the biggest culprit of being infertile.

Our lifestyle and health do not support fertility, particularly when we are waiting. It is very important to remember that you should maintain and sustain this whole year.

- ◆ **Don't sit, go out and walk:** Walking is an ideal preconception exercise. It is a great cardiovascular exercise especially if you step at a reasonable pace and it also helps to tone your legs, back and tummy.
- ◆ **All these are very important in treating infertility as being fit is the most integral part of your conception plan.** So, go for a regular walk in the morning and evening.
- ◆ **Sugar is the biggest enemy:** Every time you eat foods that are high in sugar, your pancreas produce insulin to convert the sugar in your blood into energy. And if this is repeated frequently, you may develop insulin resistance which results in diabetes.
- ◆ **High levels of insulin slow down the ovulation process and cause PCOS,** which further contribute to infertility issues.
- ◆ **Eating right is significant in your fertility journey:** Too many of us are eating too late in the day or when we go to bed at night, we're meant to digest our day, not

Too much stress is bad for your physical and mental health. Stress suppresses ovulation in women, reduces sperm count in men and lowers libido in both. Give your body a physical and mental rest

is very important for a woman to have a balanced diet which is full of multi vitamins and minerals. Try to make your dishes mainly plant-based, with a little high-quality meat included in your weekly diet. Cook mainly with second-pressed olive oil and use cold-pressed oils to add to food after cooking.

- ◆ **Keep stress at bay:** Too much stress is bad for your physical and mental health. Stress suppresses ovulation in women, reduces sperm count in men and lowers libido in both.
- ◆ **So, give your body a physical and mental rest.** Listening to some soothing sounds like sea movement, waterfalls and rainforest noises, can also eliminate stress.
- ◆ **Is your biological clock ticking:** Natural pregnancy is any day better. Keep a check on your biological clock, as we age our biological clock starts ticking. It's hard to know when is the right time to do something about checking your fertility or should you wait another two months, six months or do something now?

Women are most fertile in their early 20s and their fertility declines with age. From the age of 35, this fall becomes steeper. The more "fertility aware" you are the better, so you can make an informed decision and be aware that it might take you longer to conceive.

- ◆ **Limit the usage of laptops, computers and phones:** Especially at night, limit the usage of electronic devices as radiation from them harms your fertility big time. Instead of working on laptops and sticking to your phone; invest your time in your partner.
- ◆ **Seek professional advice:** You are the best person yourself to know about your body. When you think everything is getting lost and things go out of your way its best to seek a professional's advice on your fertility.

WARMFOOD

GRAPES: Due to their high nutrient and antioxidant contents, grapes provide a plethora of health benefits. Vitamin K, a fat-soluble vitamin important for blood clotting and bone health, is found in more than a quarter of a cup (151 grammes) of grapes. They're also high in vitamin C, which is an important nutrient and powerful antioxidant for connective tissue health.

Antioxidants aid to repair the damage that free radicals, which are damaging chemicals that produce oxidative stress, inflict to your cells. Grapes have a high concentration of beneficial plant chemicals that may help protect against cancer.

One of the compounds found in this fruit, resveratrol, has been extensively researched in terms of cancer prevention and treatment.



DON'T IGNORE THIS PAIN

It is estimated that over 4 lakh Indians above the age of 60 are suffering from Lumbar Canal Stenosis' symptoms. DR SK RAJAN says not to ignore pain in lower back and shares ways to address it

Our lower back (Lumbar spine) consists of five big bones (aka vertebrae) in the lower part of the spine between the ribs and the pelvis with intervening soft cushion like pads referred to as discs. Each of the bones have a hole in them and these holes align to form a pipe for passage of spinal nerves. Narrowing of this passage is referred to as Lumbar Canal Stenosis (LCS). This stenosis results in compression of the nerves traveling through the lower back into the legs.

While it may affect younger population due to developmental (birth related) causes, it is more often a degenerative (wear and tear) condition that affects people age 50 and older. The discs may become less spongy as you age, resulting in reduced disc height and bulging of the hardened disc into the spinal canal. Currently, it is estimated that over 4 Lakh Indians above the age of 60 years are suffering from its symptoms and over 12-15 Lakh across age brackets having some sort of spinal stenosis.

- ◆ In rare cases, there is loss of motor functioning in the legs, and loss of bowel control
- ◆ Excruciating pain while walking that may subside while bending forward, sitting or lying down

Degenerative spondylolisthesis and degenerative scoliosis (curvature of the spine) are two conditions associated with lumbar spinal stenosis. Degenerative spondylolisthesis (slippage of one vertebra over another) is caused by arthritis of the facet joints. Most commonly, it involves the L4 slipping over the L5 vertebra. It usually is treated with the same conservative or surgical methods as lumbar spinal stenosis.

Degenerative scoliosis occurs most frequently in the lower back and more commonly affects people age 65 and older. Back pain associated with degenerative scoliosis usually begins gradually and is linked with activity. The curvature of the spine in this form of scoliosis often is relatively minor, so surgery is required when conservative methods fail to alleviate pain associated with the condition.



Dr S K Rajan
Neuro-spine Surgeon, Agrim Institute of Neurosciences, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram

adjacent areas, any enlargements, degeneration or tumors. In specific cases a myelogram may be required, which is a special X-ray of the spinal cord that is taken after injecting a contrast material in the surrounding cerebrospinal fluids (CSF). This is helpful in monitoring the pressure on the spinal cord or on the related nerves due to the compression, herniated disc, bone spurs or tumors.

How can this be treated?

While medication and physical therapy remain the first line of treatment module, surgical intervention is only preferred when these fails to provide relief. Medications & injections - Anti inflammatory medications and analgesics may be helpful in the initial stages to subside pain. But in case is the pain is persistent or worsens with time, the doctor may prescribe other medications or injections. Epidural injections also help in reducing pain and swelling, but is only a temporary

relief method followed. Physical therapy - this along with prescribed exercises may help stabilize your spine, build your endurance and increase your flexibility. Therapy may help you resume your normal lifestyle and activities. In those cases where these conservative options fail, surgery may be the only resort. Depending upon age, overall health, associated co-morbidities and pre-existing conditions doctors may consider the type of surgery.

Surgical Treatment

There are several different surgical procedures that can be utilized, the choice of which is influenced by the severity of your case. In a small percentage of patients, spinal instability may require that spinal fusion be performed - this decision generally is determined prior to surgery. Spinal fusion is an operation that creates a solid union between two or more vertebrae. This procedure may assist in strengthening and stabilizing the spine, and may thereby help to alleviate severe and chronic back pain. Decompressive laminectomy - The most common surgery in the lumbar spine is called decompressive laminectomy, in which the laminae (roof) of the vertebrae are removed to create more space for the nerves. A neurosurgeon may perform a laminectomy with or without fusing vertebrae or removing part of a disc. A spinal fusion with or without spinal instrumentation may be recommended when spondylolisthesis or scoliosis occurs with spinal stenosis. Various devices (such as screws or rods) may be used to enhance fusion and support unstable areas of the spine.

Time to get rid of dry skin



During winters, our skin loses its moisture to the dry air around us, causing dryness

and breakouts. DR AJAY RANA gives us tips to maintain healthy skin

As soon as the temperature drops, skin tightness, dryness, and seasonal breakouts can be very common in the winter season. A hot summer season and monsoon season has bestowed its mark upon our face with pigmentation from excessive tanning, travel-induced dehydration, and inflammation and the sudden drop in temperature can impact the way our skin performs, looks and feels.

During winter, impairment and fragility of the skin barrier is the most common thing which can manifest as symptoms of dryness, sensitivity and a lack of lustre look. During this time, the barriers of the skin become damaged and the pollution and other external aggravators penetrate deeper into the skin and can cause inflammation, sensitivity and redness.

- Treat dry skin**
- ◆ As temperature drops, humidity levels also drop and our skin loses its moisture to the dry air around us. So, during winters, switch to a more moisturising cleanser that can help to hydrate parched skin and support the skin's barrier to help protect the skin from the damaging effects of the cold weather.
 - ◆ Fundamental key to keep skin clean and free of accumulated dirt is cleansing morning and night. Cleansing also increases the blood flow and aids elimination of toxins so don't rush it.
 - ◆ Exposure to the heating and harsh, bracing winds during the winter season can lead to dry skin. Hydrate your skin always. For hydrating use a Hyaluronic acid.
 - ◆ Retinol is great for plumping and smoothing skin. Use retinol on your skin, retinol should always be followed up with a good SPF. It increases cell turnover, regulating oil flow and improving the appearance of pigmentation.
 - ◆ The biggest mistake you can make is not wearing SPF in winters. Our skin can be damaged by UV rays all round the year. Use a mineral-based SPF for its lightness, breathability, ocean-friendliness and ease of use.
 - ◆ Humidity levels and low temperature during winters can sometimes cause many skin problems. Use a mask that includes Clay and Seaweed Extract, which can help draw out impurities, calm spots, and exfoliate your skin.
 - ◆ Add Vitamin C To your skincare regime. It works effectively in winters and helps combat SPF rays that aren't fully blocked by the sunscreen. It helps to boost collagen production resulting in a brighter complexion.
 - ◆ Use a lip moisturiser and eye cream.
 - ◆ Indulge in a creamy body butter with must-have winter skin ingredients like strengthening shea and cocoa oils.
 - ◆ It is always important to complement a winter skin routine with a nutritional and seasonal diet with skincare regime. During this season, eat lots of squashes, like butternut and pumpkin, that are rich in beta-carotene that helps to aid cell renewal, normal skin function and collagen production.
- The writer is Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician, Founder, Director of ILAMED

Gendered stigma in TB care

The negative impact of stigma is felt worse by women, who already face challenges with autonomy and financial independence, says SHALINI SAKSENA

Tuberculosis is a major public health challenge. In India, the disease affects more than 1.8 million people annually. The country has the highest global TB burden, with more than 2.8 million cases of active TB and around 435,000 deaths every year. This, despite more than a million cases going unreported/undiagnosed. The challenge only worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns.

The challenge continues due to several factors, including economic or gender inequalities, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation and lack of awareness, amongst others. While there are free TB testing and treatment options available at Government hospitals, Community Health Centers (CHC), Primary Health Centers (PHCs), people lack access to them due to lack of transportation or support.

Stigma is a major barrier to accessing TB care and leads to suffering. Even though the disease is entirely curable and preventable, there is neglect, delay in diagnosis and incomplete treatment adherence. This delay in diagnosis prevents access to life-saving drugs and improper treatment leads to many developing multidrug resistance, another condition highly prevalent in India.

The condition is more likely to affect men. Data from 2020 shows that out of a total 19,07,760 cases - 11,13,462 were men, and 6,91,238 were women.

However, the negative impact of stigma is felt worse by women, who already face challenges with autonomy and financial independence. The stigma and injustice faced by women with TB are a harsh reminder of how entangled these issues are with the role of women in Indian society, and the gender-based inequities that continue to be nurtured by age-old cultural norms, economic disparities, and lack of adequate social protection.

Young girls too get negatively affected by TB, and because of the stigma attached to the disease, are forced not to share their status and seek treatment which might affect their schooling and even future career opportunities. In the case of eighteen-year-old Mahima (name changed), a TB survivor, and a

champion posed a much bigger question of the right to live with dignity to those present and the society at large. Mahima raised a critical question on why should TB patients not be allowed to live with dignity and face such intense stigma?

Those diagnosed with the disease face difficulties in marriage prospects, education, employment opportunities, hurtful behavior by the society, accessing nutrition and social isolation. They are subjected to extreme persecution, where they receive little to no support, and are forced to eat or sleep separately from others. More than 15 per cent of women with TB in rural and urban areas face rejection from their families, friends and society. Spousal support, crucial in the treatment of any health condition, remains a challenge for many women with TB. Evidence from the Foundation of Research in Community Health, Pune found that men had a more definite anticipation of spousal support, however, it was conditional for women, worsening their vulnerability to tackle the disease.

Recently, the National

Framework for a Gender-Responsive Approach to TB-Care was released by the Indian government. It pushes for the need to mobilize, empower and engage women, men and transgender persons in the TB response at the health system and community levels to accelerate efforts to end TB in India. It is critical that the framework guides future action on TB care and is implemented in all sections of the society.

To achieve the goal of elimination, it is vital to incorporate campaigns to spread awareness about the disease, its prevention, and treatment, as well as to address the stigma associated with it. Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) recognising the dual burden of gender and stigma for women affected by TB, works on building a gender approach to equitable healthcare for all.

This can be made possible with the inclusion of people affected by the disease and their families or friends to share their experiences about challenges and successes as it will help to counter misinformation, decrease the stigma and motivate others to seek treatment.

INBRIEF

Nature is a way to nurture

Descended wholly from Cannabis Sativa, Sattiva is crafted exclusively to serve its customers the world's finest source of nutrients for skin and overall health. Sattiva formulates its products from the revolutionary hemp seed oil. Not only does it have tons of wealthy benefits, but hemp seed oil also happens to be a foremost contender in the health and beauty world today.

Namrata Hemp Company (NHempCo) is the parent company of Sattiva. The young and enterprising couple, Harshaavardhan Redi Sirupa and his wife, Namrata Reddy Sirupa have made it possible to bring out the best of nature to you.

Namrata Hemp Company introduced Sattiva in order to offer the natural preventives and therapeutic benefits of Industrial Hemp Seed Oil. The raw material is sourced from Govt. Approved vendors of the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, where hemp is cultivated and grown in natural surroundings.

Hemp Seed oil is purely made from the seeds of the hemp plant which is a Cannabis plant cultivated for non-drug use. Research has proved that hemp seed oil is a great ingredient in moisturising topicals. And even on its own, it can be a useful supplement.

It is one of the best sources of Omega and Amino acids that enhances skin cells' resistance to infection, minor cuts, and rashes.

SPREAD OF OMICRON

Nepal confirms presence of Omicron variant in 2

Kathmandu: Nepal on Monday confirmed the presence of Omicron variant of the coronavirus in two people, including a foreigner, in the country.

Two individuals -- a 71-year-old Nepali and a 66-year-old foreigner -- have been found to have contracted the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, Health ministry deputy spokesperson Samir Adhikari told a press conference, without revealing their identities.

The foreign national had arrived in Kathmandu from South Africa, where the Omicron variant was first detected, he said.

The Nepali national, who came in close contact with the person, started experiencing similar symptoms on November 23, and subsequently tested positive for COVID-19, the spokesperson said.

According to the ministry, the presence of Omicron variant was confirmed on Sunday



night during gene sequencing of the two samples at the National Public Health Laboratory in Teku.

The foreigner had entered Nepal on November 19, MyRepublica news website reported.

The foreign visitor had produced a recent negative PCR report upon arrival, and was fully vaccinated, the Himalayan Times newspaper

reported. As many as 66 samples of people who had come in contact with the two individuals were tested, the results for which came negative, the health ministry said.

Both the infected persons are in isolation and are recovering. Nepal has so far reported 822,592 coronavirus cases and 11,541 deaths due to the disease. **PTI**

Russia reports its first cases of Covid-19 variant

Moscow: Russia has confirmed the first two cases of the omicron coronavirus variant in the country in travellers who returned from South Africa, health authorities said Monday.

The Russian public health watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, said a total of 10 people who returned from South Africa recently tested positive for COVID-19, but the new variant has only been confirmed in two cases so far, with other samples still being studied for omicron.

All those returning from South Africa in recent days have been quarantined in observation facilities, according to media reports. All travellers who tested positive for the virus have been hospitalized, Rospotrebnadzor said. It wasn't immediately clear if they were hospitalised as a precaution or because they were seriously ill.

Russia restricted entry for all foreigners travelling from countries in southern Africa. **AP**

Pak bans travel from 15 countries amid looming Omicron threat

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday banned travel from 15 countries, except under certain conditions, and tightened up travel restrictions on 13 other countries in wake of the threat of the new Covid-19 variant Omicron.

The National Command and Operation Center, the top anti-coronavirus body, reviewed the prevalent Covid-19 situation across the globe in order to revise the policy for categorization of air travel. According to a NCOC statement, the meeting revised categories based on disease profile and health protocols applicable to travellers from different countries, which have been placed in three categories, including A, B and C.

Category 'C' included 15 countries: Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Ukraine, Ireland, Slovenia, Vietnam, Poland, South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, Eswatini, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Next virus could be more lethal, warns Oxford University vaccine creator

London: The scientist behind the creation of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, administered in India as Covishield to protect against Covid-19, on Monday warned that the next virus to hit humankind may be even more lethal and contagious.

Professor Sarah Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology at the Jenner Institute of the University of Oxford who was made a Dame by Queen Elizabeth II for her pivotal role

in developing the vaccine, said there needed to be more funding for pandemic preparedness to prevent the advances made in the field from being lost.

She also warned vaccines could be less effective against the new Omicron variant, but noted that reduced protection against infection and mild disease would not necessarily mean reduced protection against severe illness and death. "This will not be the last

time a virus threatens our lives and our livelihoods. The truth is the next one could be worse. It could be more contagious, or more lethal, or both," Prof. Gilbert said.

"We cannot allow a situation where we have gone through all we have gone through, and then find that the enormous economic losses we have sustained mean that there is still no funding for pandemic preparedness," she said. **PTI**

Scientists developing chewing gum that could cut Covid transmission

Washington: Scientists are developing a chewing gum laced with a plant-grown protein that serves as a 'trap' for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, reducing viral load in saliva and potentially lowering transmission.

The researchers noted that people who are fully vaccinated can still become infected with SARS-CoV-2 and can carry a viral load similar to

those who are unvaccinated. "SARS-CoV-2 replicates in the salivary glands, and we know that when someone who is infected sneezes, coughs, or speaks some of that virus can be expelled and reach others," said Henry Daniell at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

"This gum offers an opportunity to neutralise the virus in

the saliva, giving us a simple way to possibly cut down on a source of disease transmission," said Daniell, who led the study published in the journal Molecular Therapy.

Prior to the pandemic, Daniell had been studying the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) protein in the context of treating hypertension. **PTI**

27 still missing after Indonesia volcanic eruption kills 15

Sumberwuluh (Indonesia): Rescuers dug out the body of 13-year-old boy with their bare hands on Monday, as improved weather conditions allowed them to resume their search after the highest volcano on Indonesia's Java island erupted with fury, killing at least 15 people with searing gas and ash and leaving 27 others missing.

Mount Semeru in Lumajang district in East Java province spewed thick columns of ash as high as 12,000 metres (40,000 feet) into the sky in a sudden eruption Saturday triggered by heavy rain. Villages and nearby towns were blanketed by tons of volcanic debris.

Searing gas raced down the sides of the mountain, smothering entire villages and killing or seriously burning those caught in its path.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said 56 people had been hospitalised, mostly with burns. He said rescuers were still searching for 27 villagers reported missing. Nearly 3,000 houses and 38 schools were damaged, Muhari said.

The body of the 13-year-old boy was recovered in the worst-hit village of Sumberwuluh, where houses



Evacuation and rescue efforts have been hampered by choking smoke, a power blackout **AFP**

were buried to their rooftops and cars were submerged. Crumpled roofs, charred carcasses of cattle and broken chairs covered in gray ash and soot dotted the smoldering landscape.

Search and rescue efforts were temporarily suspended Sunday afternoon because of fears that heavy rain would cause more hot ash and debris to fall from the crater.

The eruption of the 3,676-metre-high (12,060-foot) mountain eased pressure that had been building under a lava dome in the crater. But experts warned that the dome could further collapse, causing an avalanche of blistering gas and debris trapped beneath it.

More than 1,700 villagers escaped to makeshift emergency shelters after Saturday's powerful eruption, but many



Mount Semeru, the highest volcano on Indonesia's Java island, erupted on Sunday **AP**

others defied official warnings and chose to remain in their homes to tend their livestock and protect their property.

Semeru, also known as Mahameru, has erupted many times in the last 200 years. Still, as on many of the 129 volcanoes monitored in Indonesia, tens of thousands of people live

on its fertile slopes. It last erupted in January, with no casualties.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines. **AP**

Top UAE adviser makes rare trip to Iran amid nuclear talks

Tehran: The national security adviser of the United Arab Emirates met Monday with his Iranian counterpart and the country's hard-line president in Tehran, a major visit for the Gulf Arab federation that has long viewed the Islamic Republic as its main regional threat.

The visit by Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan comes as the Emirates and Saudi Arabia are both negotiating with Iran amid efforts in Vienna to save Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

The UAE, home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, reached a

diplomatic recognition deal last year with Israel, increasing tensions with Tehran. The UAE has long served as a lifeline to the outside world for Iran amid international sanctions.

Sheikh Tahnoun, wearing a navy-blue thobe, black suit jacket and his signature aviator sunglasses, met with Ali Shamkhani, the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. The two men smiled and shook hands in front of journalists before their meeting, a large map of Iran and the Persian Gulf looming behind them, with just a sliver of the Emirates visible on it. **AP**

Aid group says tribal violence kills 24 in Sudan

Cairo: Tribal clashes between Arabs and non-Arabs killed at least 24 people Sunday in Sudan's western Darfur region, an aid group said.

It was the latest bout of intercommunal violence to rock the conflict-stricken region.

The fighting grew out of a financial dispute late Saturday between two individuals in the Krinding camp for displaced persons in West Darfur province, said Adam Regal, the spokesman for the General Coordination for Refugees and Displaced in Darfur.

Regal said Arab militias known as Janjaweed attacked the camp early Sunday, torching and looting properties.

At least 35 others were wounded, he said. A hashtag



that reads "Krinding is bleeding" in Arabic was trending on Twitter on Sunday, with users posting footage purportedly showing burned houses and bodies wrapped in burial shrouds.

The camp is located around four kilometres (some 2.5 miles) east of the provincial capital of Genena, and houses displaced people from the African Masalit

tribe, who have been forced to leave their homes during the Darfur conflict.

The violence in Krinding was the latest to rock West Darfur in recent weeks. Last month, a land dispute between Arabs and non-Arabs in the Jebel Moon area led to bloody clashes that left at least 17 people dead and 12 others wounded. **AP**

Remains of Sri Lankan national lynched by mob in Pak arrives in Colombo

Colombo: The remains of a Sri Lankan national, who was lynched by a mob in Pakistan over allegations of blasphemy, were brought to Colombo on Monday, even as authorities in the Pakistani province of Punjab arrested more suspects involved in the grisly incident.

The wooden coffin carrying the remains was brought to Sri Lanka from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport on a Sri Lankan Airlines flight. "Human remains of late Don Nandasri P Kumara Diyawadanage. From Lahore to Colombo" was transcribed on the coffin. **PTI**

Suu Kyi convicted in further blow to democracy

Bangkok (AP): Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader of Myanmar who was ousted in a de facto coup this year, was convicted of incitement and another charge Monday and sentenced to four years in prison in a trial widely criticised as a further effort by the country's military rulers to reverse the democratic gains of recent years.

Hours later, state television reported that her sentence had been reduced to two years in an amnesty and indicated she would not serve it in prison but instead where she is currently being detained.

The convictions serve to cement a dramatic reversal of fortunes for the Nobel Peace

laureate, who spent 15 years under house arrest for resisting the Southeast Asian nation's generals but then agreed to work alongside them when they promised to usher in democratic rule.

Monday's verdict was the first in a series of cases brought against 76-year-old Suu Kyi since her arrest on Feb. 1, the day the army seized power and prevented her National League for Democracy party starting a second term in office.

If found guilty of all the charges she faces, Suu Kyi could be sentenced to more than 100 years in prison. She is being held by the military at an unknown location.

The court earlier offered a

10-month reduction in the sentence for time served, according to a legal official, who relayed the verdict to The Associated Press and who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities. The state TV report did not mention any credit for time served.

The army seized power claiming massive voting fraud in the November 2020 election, which Suu Kyi's party won in a landslide. Independent election observers did not detect any major irregularities.

Opposition to the takeover sprang up almost immediately and remains strong, with armed resistance spreading

after the military's violent crackdown on peaceful protests. The verdict could inflame tensions even further.

The cases against Suu Kyi are widely seen as contrived to discredit her and keep her from running in the next election since the constitution bars anyone sent to prison after being convicted of a crime from holding high office or becoming a lawmaker.

Yanghee Lee, the former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar, described the charges as well as the verdict as bogus, while UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called the proceedings a sham trial.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
 No.SSA/Esst/IE-AD/403/2021/7723 Date: 03.12.2021
 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacture of computer & laptop/ authorised dealer of the manufacturer for supply of Laptop.
 To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
 The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable bid processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
 Sd/-Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
 Janasanyog/CF/2235/21

जिम्मेदार बनें यातायात नियमों का पालन करें

कार चलाते समय सीट बेल्ट का सदैव प्रयोग करें

सड़क सुरक्षा सप्ताह 06-12 दिसम्बर, 2021

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INDIA DEMOLISH NZ BY 372 RUNS CLAIM SERIES 1-0

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India carried out a decimation of New Zealand, winning the second Test by a record-breaking 372-run margin to clinch the two-Test series 1-0 with comeback-man Jayant Yadav cleaning up the visiting team's lower half on the fourth morning here on Monday.

At exactly 10.13 am, 43 minutes to the start of the day, Ravichandran Ashwin (4/34) benefitted from a reflex stumping by Wriddhiman Saha and also completed his 300th wicket on Indian soil to finish the proceedings in a jiffy as New Zealand were all out for 167 in 56.3 overs.

The margin of victory is India's highest ever on home soil.

For a team that had fought tooth and nail in Kanpur, the extra bounce and turn did pose familiar problems for the Kiwis in a match they will try to remember for Ajaz Patel's 10-wicket heroics.

"I think it was good to finish the series as winners, came close in Kanpur, not able to get that last wicket, had to work

hard here.

This result seems one-sided, but right through the series, we were made to work hard," India coach Rahul Dravid said after the demolition act.

"There have been phases where we were behind and had to fight back, credit to the team. Great to see the boys stepping up and taking their opportunities," he added.

Funnily, Patel bowled 73.5 overs across two innings for New Zealand and his team, in total, batted 84.4 overs which would signify abject capitulation.

Apart from this, there was nothing much to write home about in an insipid performance from a usually gutsy side.

Starting the day at 140 for five, the victory target of 540 was simply out of reach for the Black Caps but Jayant, who had not looked in good rhythm on the third evening, suddenly found his mojo with a career-best spell of 14-4-49-4 having last played a Test match in 2017.

"In the morning, the mois-

ture in the wicket helped. You could see the difference between last evening and this morning, it was getting much more bite," Yadav said explaining his performance.

"It was just important to get the ball in the right areas," he added.

The win in which India ticked almost all the boxes save their middle-order woes will give skipper Virat Kohli lot of confidence going into the away series against South Africa starting in three weeks' time.

It was Yadav's first five-wicket haul in a Test and considering that he hasn't had a great run in first-class cricket, plagued by injuries and poor form, head coach Rahul Dravid's confidence in his abilities certainly bore fruit.

He didn't turn the ball a lot but bowling from Tata End, he used the rough to good effect as he pitched it on the cracks and got extra bounce bringing both inside and outside edges into the equation.

Rachin Ravindra edged one to second slip after he was drawn forward by the flight

while Kyle Jamieson tried to play an off-break on the backfoot to be plumb in-front. It was a delivery for which he should have used his giant stride to smother the spin.

Tim Southee went for a slogger's hoick to be bowled and Kanpur Test's hero Will Somerville gave a simple bat pad catch at forward short-leg.

While the series will definitely be a confidence booster but at the same time, everyone knows what awaits in South Africa and the most pressing issue will be the lack of form of three key batters in skipper Kohli, his vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and No.3 Cheteshwar Pujara.

On current form, all three can't be accommodated in the playing eleven and with Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill showing good form and Hanuma Vihari, with some useful knocks, waiting in the wings, there are some tough selection calls to be taken.

Another concern is veteran pacer Ishant Sharma, who no longer fits in the four-pronged pace attack with Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Siraj way ahead of him.

India return to top of ICC Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India on Monday reclaimed the top spot in the ICC rankings after winning the two-match series against New Zealand, the reigning World Test Champions.

India beat New Zealand by 372 runs in the Mumbai Test on the fourth day after drawing the opening match in Kanpur.

India had lost to New Zealand in the World Test Championship final in June.

The Virat Kohli-led side now has 124 rating points and is followed by New Zealand (121), Australia (108), England (107), Pakistan (92), South Africa (88), Sri Lanka (83), West Indies (75), Bangladesh (49) and Zimbabwe (31).

On the WTC table, India are third with 42 points and win percentage of 58.33.

Sri Lanka lead the standings with two wins in as many games and Pakistan are second with win percentage of 66.66.

ICC TEST RANKINGS				
As on Dec 6, 2021				
Rank		Matches	Points	Rating
1	India	28	3,465	124
2	New Zealand	25	3,021	121
3	Australia	17	1,844	108
4	England	35	3,753	107
5	Pakistan	27	2,481	92
6	South Africa	19	1,675	88
7	Sri Lanka	30	2,485	83
8	West Indies	33	2,480	75
9	Bangladesh	16	779	49
10	Zimbabwe	11	342	31

B'desh, Pak 2nd test hit by rain; draw likely

AP ■ DHAKA

The third day of the second and final cricket test between Bangladesh and Pakistan was called off Monday due to persistent rain without a ball being bowled.

The announcement came about 90 minutes after the scheduled lunch break as there was no sign of an end to the rain that was caused by Cyclone Jawad. Rain has fallen heavily on each day of the match so far.

The third session of the first day was lost to rain and bad light and only 6.2 of 98 overs were possible on day two.

With more rain or thun-



dershowers being predicted in many parts of Bangladesh in the next 24 hours, a draw looks like the only possible result.

Pakistan, which opted to bat first, reached 188-2 in 63.2 overs with captain Babar Azam batting on 71 and Azhar Ali on 52.

Pakistan won the first test by eight wickets and leads the two-match series 1-0. Earlier, the visitors swept the three-match T20 International series.



Clear communication with players will be key while making tough selection decisions: Dravid

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India coach Rahul Dravid on Monday indicated that the team management may take some tough selection decisions going forward and emphasised on the need to have clear communication with the players.

Opener Rohit Sharma was rested for the entire Test series while skipper Virat Kohli skipped the opening match. Mayank Agrawal and Shreyas Iyer hit a ton each and Shreyas Iyer too had good starts in India's series win, which was first for Dravid after taking over the reins of the side from Ravi Shastri.

Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara are under pressure to save their places in the side ahead of the South Africa tour and in that context, Dravid's comments assume significance.

"It's a good (selection) headache to have and see

young boys perform well. There's a great desire to do well and everyone's pushing each other," Dravid said after the match.

"I hope we have more headaches to have, we may have to make some tough decision but as long as we have clear communication and we explain to the players why, don't see it to be a problem," he said.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel proved his worth with ball and bat.

He took a five-for in the first innings of the first Test and batted with aplomb in India's second innings of the second Test to help India set New Zealand a mammoth target.

Jayant Yadav took five wickets in second Test, including a four-wicket haul in first innings.

Dravid said it will be a mistake to read the Test series win as a lop-sided result in India's favour.

Medvedev-led Russia wins Davis Cup after 15-yr wait

AP ■ MADRID

Russia's 15-year wait for a Davis Cup title ended after another clutch performance from Daniil Medvedev.

Medvedev capped his amazing year with a 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Croatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006.

"It feels amazing," Medvedev said. "But I'm more happy for the team than for myself. We have an amazing team, amazing atmosphere."

"I'm happy to be part of it and bring the points we need."

It was the fifth consecutive straight-set victory in the Davis Cup for the No. 2 Medvedev, who three months ago defeated Novak Djokovic to win the U.S. Open for his first Grand Slam title.

"Pretty amazing two weeks," Medvedev said. "It's never easy to come here at the end of the season but they were some of the best weeks of my career."

Andrey Rublev earlier had beaten Borna Gojo in straight sets to put the Russians ahead at the Madrid Arena.

Russia's other Davis Cup title was in 2002. Croatia also was seeking its third title after triumphs in 2005 and 2018.

"I still can be proud with the effort," Cilic said. "We are just sorry we couldn't get one



point to get the doubles guys in the court."

The doubles, where Croatia has the top-ranked pair, were not played.

Russia, which had four top-30 players on its team, completed a sweep of team events after the women's team won the Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Prague last month. The last nation to do the double had been the Czech Republic in 2012.

The triumph also capped a special week for Russia captain Shamil Tarpishev, the longest-serving Davis Cup captain. He first captained in 1974, and appeared in his 100th match as captain in the semifinals against Germany.

The Russian team is officially being called RTF (Russian Tennis Federation) in the competition amid its ongoing doping suspension in international sport.

After a tight first set,

Abhishek wins men's singles title at Int'l Challenge

PTI ■ DHAKA

India's Abhishek Saini defeated compatriot Rithvik Sanjeevi in straight games in the summit clash to claim the men's singles title at the Bangladesh International Challenge badminton tournament here.

In the final played on Sunday, Saini beat Sanjeevi 21-15 21-18 in 34 minutes.

Earlier in the semifinals, Saini had quelled the challenge of fellow Indian Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 17-21 21-15 21-15, while Sanjeevi, a trainee of Hatusun Badminton Centre in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, edged out Indonesia's Sulistio Tegar 21-13 19-21 21-14.

Barcelona, AC Milan among teams seeking last-16 spots in CL



AP ■ LONDON

Barcelona's first Champions League campaign without Lionel Messi in nearly two decades may come to an end in the group stage if it doesn't find a way to beat Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

It would be the first time since the 2003-04 season that the Catalan club didn't play in the knockout stage of the competition. Barcelona is second in Bayern in Group E, and two points ahead of third-place Benfica.

But a draw or a loss in Germany would allow Benfica to advance with a home win

against already eliminated Dynamo Kyiv. Atlético Madrid is another Spanish club in danger of not advancing, as it sits last in Group B.

It has to win at second-place Porto on Tuesday and hope that AC Milan draws or loses at home against group-winner Liverpool.

Villarreal can advance in Group F on Wednesday if it avoids defeat at Atalanta, which will move on with a win. In Group G, Lille, Salzburg, Sevilla and Wolfsburg can still advance, with Lille and Salzburg needing draws. Lille is at Wolfsburg and Salzburg plays Sevilla.

Hamilton's win takes thrilling F1 season to final showdown

AP ■ JEDDAH

The increasingly tense Formula One title fight between defending champion Lewis Hamilton and his formidable challenger, Max Verstappen, will head to the last race of the season with the fierce rivals level on points.

Next weekend's Abu Dhabi showdown will see Hamilton crowned for a record eighth time — or Verstappen win his first title.

Hamilton's nail-biting win at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on Sunday was his third straight to pull him level with Verstappen on 369.5 points.

The British veteran is within touching distance of title No. 8 to move one ahead of Michael Schumacher and stand alone among F1 greats.

Verstappen still leads by a hair's breadth, only because he has more wins: 9-8.

"Of course it's exciting," said Verstappen, who won last year in Abu Dhabi. "We're starting again like we started the season."



Hamilton's win in the heat and humidity of Jeddah saw him pass Verstappen with six laps remaining of a chaotic race, as the pair tangled again this season following high-octane crashes at the British GP and

the Italian GP.

"It was clear that others around were willing to take it to all sorts of levels to overtake," Hamilton said after the race, with Verstappen sat right next to him.

"We've seen multiple incidents this year," Hamilton is in no mood to back down with the finish in sight, but Verstappen has drawn out the street fighter in him.

The race on the street circuit under the lights on the 30-kilometer (18.6-mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah will go down as one of the more memorable events of the season — if not the last several years.

It saw three standing starts, a pair of restarts, multiple safety cars, and an intense back-and-forth between the title contenders including a minor late collision.

Red Bull was allowed to negotiate a penalty for Verstappen, Mercedes head Toto Wolff slammed his headset in rage, and Hamilton drove into the back of his title rival before ultimately passing Verstappen for the win.

Verstappen was dejected and incredulous after finishing second.

"What happened today is unbelievable," he said. "I'm just trying to race. This sport is more about penalties than racing. So for me this is not Formula One but at least the fans enjoyed it."

Verstappen is exasperated at some decisions that stewards have made this season. "Not just this race (but) in general, lately, (it's) the trend in F1," said Verstappen, whose father Jos was Schumacher's teammate.

"That's not how I grew up watching Formula One."

Hamilton needed a few moments to recover after one of the most draining of his record-extending 103 career wins in the heat and humidity of the Middle East.

He sat on a chair

next to his physical trainer, with his face buried into a towel as he waited for the podium ceremony.

"That was incredibly tough," said Hamilton, who will be 37 next season. "I tried to be as sensible and as tough as I could be." Verstappen was penalized for going off course on the second restart, was later told to yield position to Hamilton, but Hamilton ran into the back of his Red Bull to damage the front wing on his Mercedes.

The two differed on what happened, and Verstappen was summoned before the stewards post-race.

"I didn't understand why all of a sudden he hit the brakes quite heavily then I moved into the back of him," said Hamilton, who wasn't told by Mercedes that Verstappen was going to let him by for the lead. "All of a sudden (Verstappen) slowed at a really rapid pace."

I feel really grateful that I didn't take us both out." Stewards ruled against Verstappen and gave him an additional 10-second time penalty. It did not change the standings as he had enough of a gap over third-place Valtteri Bottas.