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**CELEBRITY INFLUENCE TO
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 AS OMICRON ENTERS INDIA**

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RAIPUR, SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Booster shot for 40+, advises Govt body

INSACOG also suggests genomic surveillance, travel monitoring

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The recommendation for booster dose by the scientists



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

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

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

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

The scientists have also recommended monitoring travel to and from the known

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

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

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

No reports of Omicron Covid variant deaths yet: WHO

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

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

9 of family Covid +ve days after S Africa tour



PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

Trinamool ruffles Cong's feathers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

Batting rather strongly for Mamata, it said with the fall of the Congress and demise of the

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

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

They are looking up to her to fill the vacuum. She is presently the most popular opposition face in the country."

Earlier TMC MP Derek O'Brien too lashed out at the Congress. "We think where there is no concept of UPA, there has to be a fresh start," O'Brien said echoing Mamata.

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

CAPSULE

DELHI POLLUTION: RAIN BRINGS SLIGHT RELIEF
 New Delhi: The air quality in the national Capital improved marginally on Friday due to light rain in the city and adjoining areas. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index read 346. It was 429 on Thursday.

LANKAN LYNCHED OVER 'BLASPHEMY' IN PAK
 Lahore: Angry supporters of a hardline Islamist party attacked a garment factory in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday, lynching a Sri Lankan national and burning his body over allegations of blasphemy, police said. Priyantha Kumara, who was in his 40s, was working as the general manager of a factory in Sialkot district, some 100 kms from here, a Punjab police official told PTI.

NEW NAVY CHIEF BACKS THEATERISATION PLAN
 New Delhi: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said that his force is fully capable of confronting any security threat and fully backed the tri-services reforms that included setting up of a maritime theatre command.

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

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/ROPAR

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

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

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



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

Ropar SSP Vivekshel Soni said the protesters allowed the vehicle to move after the police intervened to resolve the mat-

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

Reinfection risk 3 times more in Omicron: Study

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

UP blames Pak for air pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

SC takes strong exception to claim



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

tions. In an affidavit, the commission told the bench, also comprising justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, that a five-member enforcement task force has been set up to contain air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

Forty such squads would monitor the implementation of measures suggested by it to deal with pollution, the panel said.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Controversial Punjabi singer Moosewala joins Cong

MET RAHUL GANDHI IN DELHI

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Booked by Punjab police in cases for promoting gun culture and also under arms act, noted Punjabi singer, rapper, and actor Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, on Friday joined the Congress party.

To induct the singer, having major sway among Punjabi youth, Punjab Congress' top leadership — Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, Punjab party affairs' general secretary in-charge Harish Choudhary, and three Cabinet Ministers, among others — were present.

Later, Sidhu and Transport Minister Amarinder Singh Raja Warring accompanied Moosewala to the national cap-

ital for a meeting with Congress' national vice-president Rahul Gandhi in the evening. Sidhu, after the meeting, said that Rahul Gandhi has asked Moosewala to stay in direct contact with him whenever needed.

"We are taking Sidhu Moosewala in the party fold. He will fight the election for us," said Sidhu, while inducting the singer in the Congress.

Even as the Chief Minister and other party leaders maintained strategic silence over the possible seat from where Moosewala can contest elections, the singer hinted at taking the electoral plunge from his home district, Mansa.

He said that after starting his music career four years ago, "I am now ready to take a new step in my life. I still live in the



same house in my village. My father is an ex-serviceman and my mother is a sarpanch. Residents of my area, Bathinda and Mansa, are associated with me. They have expectations from me."

"I am not entering politics for status or to earn praise. I want to become a part of the system to transform it. I am joining the Congress to raise the voices of the people. I am joining the Congress as the party has leaders who have come from common families. For instance, Cabinet Minister Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has risen from a common family," he said.

Moosewala's mother is Moosa village sarpanch in Mansa district, and has connections with the Congress party.

To rope in Moosewala in the party, Warring played an instrumental role, through his

satisfaction with whatever God has given to him.

MOOSEWALA'S BRUSH WITH CONTROVERSY

A popular Punjabi singer, with lakhs of followers in his various social media accounts, holds a major audience among Punjabi youth.

However, the singer remained the controversy's child, primarily for promoting gun culture and violence through his songs. Hailing from Moosa village in Mansa district, the singer was booked by the Punjab Police in 2020 under the Arms Act for promoting gun culture in his famous song Panj Goliyan.

Before 2020, he, along with five police personnel, were also booked in another case after a video of him firing an AK-47 assault rifle at a firing range went viral during Covid-19 lockdown. After the video went

viral, the then DGP Dinkar Gupta had directed Sangrur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to conduct a preliminary inquiry, which prima facie established that the DSP had facilitated the shooting at the firing range in Badra village at a time when the entire state had been under curfew.

During the farmers' agitation, Moosewala also became a part of the farmers' protest against the now repealed three controversial farm laws at the Delhi borders.

He shot to fame with his super hit single 'So High', which was released in 2017. He is also known for his hit Punjabi tracks such as 'Legend', 'Devil', 'Just listen', 'Tibeyan da putt', 'Jatt da muqabala', 'Brown Boys', 'These Days', 'Dark Life', and 'Hathyar' among many others. His name has also featured in the Billboard Canadian Albums in 2018.

Divyang Sports Corner will be built in stadiums in every district: Haryana CM

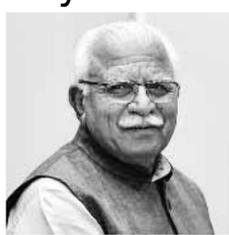
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday announced to set up a Divyang Sports Corner in one stadium in every district.

While giving a gift to the Divyangjans on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Chief Minister also announced the construction of a new building of Government Blind School, Panipat and to provide Braille printers to blind officers.

He also laid the foundation stone of Divyang Care Home in Ambala through video conferencing and launched the website of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and portal to apply online for Divyang Award especially developed for Persons with Disabilities.

The Chief Minister said



that persons with disabilities are also blessed with one or the other special qualities and talent. The example of this was highlighted when sports persons with Disabilities won medals in Paralympic Games. Despite being visually impaired, Surdas was called a great poet. Similarly, Louis Braille, despite being blind, created the Braille script, Helen Keller left an indelible mark even when she was deaf and blind, he said

Khattar said that for the care of the mentally challenged, a Divyang Care Home would be constructed in Ambala on 5 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 31.71 crore. In this home, adequate arrangement for clothes, food and proper care for 100 persons with disabilities would be ensured.

He said that there are about 50 lakh mentally disabled people in the country and the Haryana government is making efforts to provide facilities to the maximum number of such people.

The Chief Minister further said that now persons with disabilities can register their complaints with the State Commissioner for Disabilities portal. Along with tracking of complaints on the portal itself, they can get information about acts, schemes of the department, and case list, he added.

Covid vaccination made mandatory for MLAs, officers attending Haryana Assembly Session

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

At least one dose of Covid-19 vaccination has been made mandatory for MLAs, officers and employees attending the winter session of Haryana Legislative Assembly starting from December 17.

Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on Friday issued directions in this regard.

According to the new instructions, legislators and officials attending the session should take at least one dose of anti-Covid vaccination. Those who will not be able to get even one dose of vaccination by December 17 due to any reason will have to bring the negative report of RT-PCR test.

The Speaker said that the new variant of Coronavirus-Omicron- has reached India. In such a situation, it becomes necessary to ensure the safety of public representatives, officers and employees attending the winter session of the State Assembly, he said.

Gupta has also urged all the MLAs to follow the guidelines related to Covid with full responsibility.

The Business Advisory Committee of Haryana Vidhan Sabha will meet on December 16 to decide the duration of the session. The State Government has recommended to convene the Assembly session from December 17-21.

Haryana orders closure of schools in 4 NCR districts due to air pollution

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Keeping in view poor air quality in Delhi-NCR, Haryana Government has ordered closure of all schools in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, and Jhajjar districts till further orders.

The State Government has also ordered a ban on all construction activities except non-polluting activities such as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical work and carpentry in 14 NCR districts of Haryana.

"In view of the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, all schools in four NCR districts of Haryana adjoining Delhi, that is Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat and Jhajjar, shall remain closed," stated the order issued by the Additional Chief Secretary of the state's Environment and Climate Change Department.

The order said, "There shall also be a complete ban on all construction activities, except the non-polluting activities like plumbing works, interior decoration, electrical work and carpentry and those activities exclusively permitted by Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) for NCR and adjoining areas and it shall be strictly implemented in all 14 NCR districts of Haryana till further orders."

The 14 Haryana districts falling in NCR are Gurugram, Faridabad, Palwal, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sonipat, Karnal, Rewari, Panipat, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Mahendergarh, and Nuh.

Apart from this, there shall be a complete ban on the operation of all the diesel generator (DG) sets, except for the emergency purposes permitted by CAQM in 14 NCR districts of Haryana, till the weather condition (air quality) improves, the order said.

"The Power Department shall take all necessary and urgent steps to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply in NCR districts of Haryana to avoid use of DG sets by any consumer, even in case of an emergency. These directions shall be enforced strictly by all departments and agencies concerned," the order added.

Earlier also, Haryana Government had ordered closure of schools in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat and Jhajjar from November 14-17 due to poor air quality.

Notably, the Delhi Government had on Thursday also announced the closure of all schools in the national capital till further orders because of rising air pollution.

Ex-gratia assistance to be provided to next of kin of Covid deceased in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Government on Friday said that ex-gratia assistance of ₹50,000 per deceased will be given to the next of kin of the deceased by Covid-19 in the state.

"Applicant can submit their claim application through the online service 'Ex-Gratia assistance to next of kin of the deceased by Covid-19' available at Antyodaya SARAL portal alongwith two specified documents viz., copy of death certificate and copy of report diagnosing deceased as Covid-19 positive," said an official spokesman.

Till date, 10054 people have died due to Covid-19 in Haryana.

The spokesperson said that all application claims will be settled within 30 days of submission of required documents and assistance shall be disbursed through aadhaar linked direct benefit transfer procedures into the bank account of the beneficiary.

He said that the scheme will be within the preview of Haryana Right to Service Act,



2014. Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman District Disaster Management Authority of the district, in which the deceased was residing, will release the ex-gratia to the beneficiary after due verification, he said.

The spokesperson further said that in order to resolve the grievances of the public in such cases, the Government has also constituted two grievance redressal committees at the district level and the aggrieved person can submit his complaint to the concerned Deputy Commissioner or Additional Deputy Commissioner in his office.

OMICRON VARIANT State fully prepared: Haryana Health Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Friday said that the Health Department is fully prepared to deal with the cases of new Omicron variant of coronavirus.

"Genome sequence is required for the investigation of the Omicron variant of Corona and for this, a machine has been made operational at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The work of genome sequencing has also started through this machine," Vij said while talking to the mediapersons here.

He said that earlier all the samples had to be sent to Delhi for genome sequencing and there used to be a delay in the detection of variant of the virus.

Responding to a question regarding passengers coming from abroad, Vij said that all the records of passengers coming from abroad are being kept by the Central Government and the passengers testing negative from there are allowed to go out. The information about the districts related to Haryana

is given by the Central Government, after that we have instructed the health teams to monitor such passengers on a daily basis, he added. Vij said that these teams would monitor such passengers for a week and if they show symptoms of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) i.e. fever etc., they will be admitted to the hospital. He also informed that about 90 PSA oxygen plants have been set up in the state and orders have been given by him to make them operational.

The Health Minister added orders have been issued to all the Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner of Police, Inspectors General of Police and Superintendents of Police in the state to ensure that the Corona protocol is strictly followed.

They have been directed that challans should be issued to violators and the report of the challan should be presented to him, he said.

Apart from this, inspection of public meetings or social programs would also be done by any officer of the district, he added.

Punjab CM alleges Amarinder had myopic mindset

PNS ■ BHQA (PATHANKOT)

Slamming his predecessor Capt Amarinder Singh for "myopic mindset towards poor and common man", Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday said that as CM, Maharaja targeted him because he had raised issues of common man.

"As I come from a family with a humble background, I always impressed upon the former Chief Minister to safeguard the interests of common man. However, instead of resolving the issues to give reprieve to the poor and down-trodden, Maharaja started victimizing me," alleged Channi while addressing a public gathering.

Adding, Channi said that he continued his struggle for the common and underprivileged masses due to which "haughty Maharaja was ousted by the Congress party."

Channi said that only Congress can take a revolutionary decision to oust a Maharaja and bestow responsibility of the Chief Minister to a common man. "This revolution can sustain only if all the common and needy people stand united to support Congress. However, the powerful elite class is conniving to



destabilize this common man's government by dividing the poor on sectarian lines," he said. Lashing out at the Akalis, BJP and Capt Amarinder, the Chief Minister said that they are partners in crime against the people of Punjab.

"The trio of Modi, Badal, and Captain had connived to pass anti-farm laws for jeopardizing interests of the State. Akalis are mother of this anti-farm law as they had passed a bill on contract farming in Punjab assembly in 2013, which later became the basis of draconian farm laws," he said

adding that they were hand in glove with BJP to pass these black laws in the Parliament.

Slamming Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme Arvind Kejriwal for little knowledge about the state, Channi said that Delhi Chief Minister is groping in dark for fulfilling his lust of power.

"Besides being an outsider, Kejriwal is a rumour monger who knows nothing about the State but pokes his nose in everything. Such type of cheap politics will never be successful in the state," he said.

Striking an emotional chord with residents of Border areas, the Chief Minister said that though brave hearts reside in this area but then also successive state governments have ignored them.

He said that this area will be developed holistically by pumping in resources here and development will be accelerated at par with the areas that have witnessed growth under the Badals and Maharaja.

"It is my promise that border areas will witness unprecedented development in recent times," he added.

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Name of borrower(s) & Loan Account No.	Description of property mortgaged (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on Date of Demand Notice
Mr. Tonu Anand Dewangan Mrs. Keshar Bai Mr. Gajendra Dewangan Ms. Madhumati Dewangan Ms. Bindu Dewangan 853/1103 & 853/1299	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Part of Khasra No. 195/4, Part of Plot No. 19/3, Develved KH No. 980/1, PH No. 01, Tahsil Berla, Vill. and Post Devarbeeja, Dist. Bemetara and bounded by: North: Shankar Dhobi, East: Shraavan Sahu West: Kamdev Dewangan, South: Pakka Road	16.03.2020	29.11.2021	Rs. 18,65,669.27 as on date of Demand Notice Rs. 20,18,087.73/- as on 29.11.2021

Place: Bemetara Date: 04/12/2021

Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

Marathon meeting b/w Haryana CM, farmers' delegation remains inconclusive

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day ahead of a crucial meeting of Samyukt Kisan Morcha on December 4 to decide the future course of year-long farmers' agitation, a marathon-meeting between Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and a farmers' delegation on Friday evening remained inconclusive.

During the two rounds of meeting which lasted for more than three hours, the State Government and eight-member farmers' delegation could not reach a consensus on all three major demands raised by the farmers.

The three major demands of the farmers' unions include withdrawal of cases registered against farmers during the year-long agitation against the central farm laws, providing land near Singhu border to construct a memorial for 700 martyred farmers and providing compensation and a government job for families of those farmers who died during the protest.

After the meeting, SKM leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni while talking to the mediapersons said that the two rounds of meetings with the Chief Minister have remained inconclusive. The State Government has not given us any assurance over our three major demands, he said.

Chaduni said that as of now, no invitation has been given to us for another round of meeting with the Haryana Government. The proceedings of today's meeting will be appraised to the SKM in the meeting to be held on Saturday to decide the future course of action, he added.

Another farmers' leader said that the State Government has rejected the demand of providing land near Singhu border to construct a memorial for 700 martyred farmers.

Notably, the farmers' unions have claimed that more than 48000 cases have been registered against farmers in Haryana since the agitation started in November last year while the Chief Minister had said that the number given by them is vague.

The protesting farmers have been booked under sedition, attempt to murder, rioting, unlawful assembly, criminal intimidation, damage to public property among other related charges in various districts of the state.

C'garh bags 3 awards for Divyangs' empowerment



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh on Friday received three prestigious national awards from the Indian government for remarkable work done for the welfare and empower-

ment of Divyangs. Chhattisgarh Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhediya got the awards from President Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in a function in

New Delhi. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his best wishes to the winners. The Braille Press operated in Bilaspur by the Social Welfare Department bagged the award in the "Best Braille

Press" category. The press has done remarkable work in online education in e-library besides preparing textbooks, literature and informative books in Braille. It also printed Braille ballot papers to help visually impaired exercise their franchise.

The Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Development Authority received the award for outstanding work in creating a barrier-free environment (from roads to buildings and public places) in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar for Divyangs so that they can move around safely and freely.

The Nukkad Tea Cafe Ventures of Samta Colony in Raipur was conferred the national award in the "Best Employers and Placement Officers or Agencies" category.

The venture is doing outstanding work in connecting hearing impaired people with providing employment and creating positive environment in the society towards Divyangs.

Two minors killed in paddy straw fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ BASTAR

Two minors were burnt to death while playing on a pile of paddy straw which caught fire in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, police said on Friday.

The dead were Bijendra (5) and Sujeet (7), both of Murkuchi village, Bastar Superintendent of Police Jitendra Singh Meena said. The incident took place on Thursday when Bijendra and Sujeet along with another boy, Mukesh, were reportedly playing on a pile of paddy straw near a house when the fire broke out, he said.

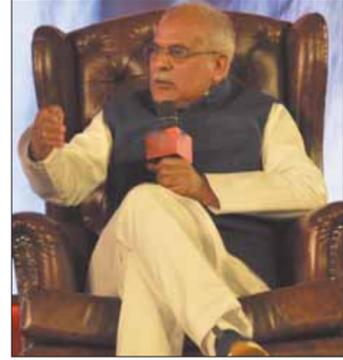
Mukesh escaped and alerted his parents and villagers but the two boys suffered serious burn injuries and died.

Some succeed, some fail: Baghel on rotating CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday said now that three years are going to pass, nothing has happened to change the head of the government on the basis of a rotational principle.

Talking to a private news channel, Baghel said "efforts are made by persons but some succeed and some do not". Without naming anyone, he said this



time success was not achieved by the Chief Minister's post. "The buzz over

rotation of the CM after two-and-a-half years is now over... Now three years have gone by," he

said. Baghel reiterated that the Chhattisgarh government had increased the income of farmers and tribals.

Regarding charges of withdrawal of PMAY, he said: "If the state was not able to contribute matching grants, it is because the Centre is not issuing the state's share in Central Excise, GST compensation and royalty as a penalty for allocation of coal mines in the state."

Bastar region likely to receive rainfall

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The India Meteorological Department on Friday predicted light to medium rainfall in Bastar region in Chhattisgarh due to the 'Jawad' cyclonic storm. Some parts of Northern Chhattisgarh including

Jashpur will also be affected. IMD weather scientist H.P. Chandra said depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal moved northwestward at 32 kmph on Friday evening, intensified into deep depression and lay centered about 580 km southeast of Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)

It is likely to continue to move northwestwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm during the next 12 hours. It is likely to reach west-central Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts by Saturday morning. Thereafter, it is likely to move along north coastal

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts with a maximum sustained wind speed of 80-90 kmph. The storm will affect Chhattisgarh where cloudy weather will persist and rainfall is predicted for Sukma and adjoining districts in Bastar, the IMD official said.

Seven IPS reshuffled



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Friday issued fresh posting orders for

seven Indian Police Services (IPS) officers and one state cadre police officer. A 2007 batch IPS officer, Deepak Kumar Jha, has been posted as Balodabazar-

Bhatapara Superintendent of Police while Parul Mathur (2008) has been appointed as the Bilaspur SP. Indira Kalyan Elesela (2011) has been made the

Commandant of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force's 11th Battalion in Janjgir-Champa and Mohit Garg (2013) has been Commandant of CAF's 14th Nattalion in Balod.

Arvind Kujur (2010) has been named Commandant of CAF's 3rd Battalion in Durg.

IPS officer Lal Umed Singh has been made the Kabirdham SP while IPS officer Dharmendra Singh Chhawai has been appointed as the Bemetara SP. State Cadre Police Officer Jhadu Ram Thakur has given responsibility as the Gariaband SP.



Delhiites on Friday enjoyed Chhattisgarh's folk music and dance, artefacts as well as cuisine at an exhibition at Bikaner House in the national capital. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was present on the occasion. Pioneer Photo

Culture Council to enrich C'garh's heritage



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has formed a Chhattisgarh Culture Council under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the state.

The council will establish a new cultural identity of Chhattisgarh at the national-level and provide an opportunity to bring out the state's hidden talents, a press communique said on Friday.

"The objective is to preserve, protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of the state, its literature, lan-

guage and dialects, folk music, dance-drama, theatre, art, cinema, tribal and folk arts, and folk festival besides honouring the subject experts and encouraging them to share their knowledge and expand their work in this field," it said.

One of the features of Chhattisgarh is that it was formed on a cultural basis unlike some other states which were born mainly on linguistic basis.

Surrounded by seven states, Chhattisgarh is one of the most diverse in terms of culture with tribals inhabiting more than one-third of its population.

The state government has also undertaken an ini-

tiative to organize the National Tribal Dance Festival.

The Chhattisgarh Culture Council has been assigned important responsibilities including undertaking initiatives to identify, promote, preserve and protect the cultural heritage and develop art museums and galleries.

Chhattisgarh is known for its rich culture and tradition. The tribal-dominated state is famous for its multi-ethnic culture comprising varied forms of traditional art and crafts, folk songs and dances, regional festivals, fairs and cultural festivals.

Govt opens 16 new paddy procurement centers

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

On Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's instructions, 16 new centers will be opened in Chhattisgarh to expand facilities for farmers and to ensure smooth paddy procurement.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has been given permission to start paddy procurement centers in Chandipur and Udanpur in North Bastar, Kumhi (Kharra) in Bemetara, Jangalpur and Madarali in Durg, Ranidongri in Kanker, Barvi and Bagarra in



Balrampur-Ramanujan, Narayanpur district, Khunteri (Mat) and Ruda in Ratanpur in Koriya district, Balod, Jorjai (M) in Kopra in Kondagaon district and Rajnandgaon, Salemata in and Tarekela in Mahasamund district. Bastar, Chandagaon in

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लो.नि.वि. , संभाग क्र0 3 डी-1/17, सेक्टर-17, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना			
क्रमांक	दिनांक	कार्य का विवरण	अमानत राशि (रु. में)
6945/ NIT- 18/2021-2022	25/11/2021	व ले लि	
छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य में बेरोजगार युवकों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से किये गये 'ई' श्रेणी पंजीयन ठेकेदारों से निविदा प्रपत्र AE में प्रतिशत दर पर ब्लॉक स्तर पर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है			
निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 14/12/2021 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक			
ठेकेदारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदाएं प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 22/12/2021 अपराह्न 5.50 बजे तक			
निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- 23/12/2021 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे तक			
क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	अमानत राशि (रु. में)
1	ग्राम कोटराभाठा में नवीन ग्राम पंचायत एवं शास. उचित मूल्य दुकान तक पहुंच मार्ग निर्माण कार्य	17.45	13100.00
2	ग्राम कुहेरा में पंचायत भवन एवं प्राथमिक शाला भवन पहुंच मार्ग निर्माण कार्य	17.31	13000.00
3	हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल भवन राखी नवा रायपुर पहुंच मार्ग निर्माण कार्य	12.63	9500.00

उक्त कार्य आरंभ त्वाक के ई श्रेणी पंजीयन ठेकेदारों हेतु आमंत्रित किया गया है निविदा संबंधी शर्तें एवं अन्य जानकारी हेतु संभागीय कार्यालय में संपर्क करें

कार्यालय अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग क्र0 03 रायपुर

G- 65538/4 Ryp/Dtd 2.12.21

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (1st Call)
e-Procurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
 System Tender No. : 87616/NIT No. : 07/SAC/2021-22, Gariaband, Dated : 29.11.2021
 Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 20.12.2021 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK EARTHWORK OF BUND FROM R.D. 0 TO 720 M. C.C. LINING FROM RD 1590 TO 3000 M AND RD 4200 TO 11400 M OF MAIN CANAL R.D 0 TO 570 M OF TALAIDADAR MINOR NO.1 R.D. 0 TO 780 M OF TALAIDADAR MINOR NO. 2 R.D. 0 TO 4140 M OF LOHJAR MINOR NO. 3 R.D. 0 TO 2910 M OF SUB MINOR OF LOHJAR MINOR NO.3 R.D. 0 TO 1230 M OF PANDRIPANI MINOR NO. 4. R.D. 0 TO 480 M OF PANDRIPANI MINOR NO. 5 R.D. 0 TO 3150 M OF KHATTI MINOR NO.6 AND TUMGAON SUB MINOR NO.1 (0-1620M) HARDI SUB MINOR NO.2 (0-1290M) HARDI SUB MINOR NO.3(0-1290M), KHATTI SUB MINOR NO.4(0-1170M) , HARDI SUB MINOR NO.5 (0-390M) CHHURA MINOR NO.7(0-150M), CONSTRUCTION OF 24 NO. STRUCTURE (04 NO.V.R.B.20 NO. FALL), 75 NO OUTLETS OF KHARKHARA TANK SCHEME IN BLOCK CHHURA OF GARIYABAND DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 850.43Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 06.12.2021, at 17:31 Hours.(IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 Water Resources Construction Division, Kasdol for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
 G- 65512/6 Ryp/Dtd 1.12.21 Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड, धमतरी (छ.ग.)

E-mail ID-eedha-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone Number-07722-238719

// ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना //

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र - "ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर जल जीवन मिशन के सिंगल बिलेज नलजल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत निर्माण कार्य हेतु निम्नलिखित ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र./ दिनांक	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
01	211/01.12.2021/ 87973	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम डुमरपानी +नारधा SVS	173.36
02	212/01.12.2021/ 87977	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम परसवानी+तुगे SVS	192.54
03	212/01.12.2021/ 87978	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम परसबुड़ा +अमलीडीह SVS	177.97
04	213/01.12.2021/ 87979	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम धौराभाठा (न)SVS	92.21
05	214/01.12.2021/ 87980	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम नवागांव (धौ)SVS	90.98
06	215/01.12.2021/ 87981	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम भोथा +भरदा SVS	189.23
07	216/01.12.2021/ 87982	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम कुलहाड़ीकोट SVS	81.76
08	217/01.12.2021/ 87983	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम चारभाठा SVS	56.55
09	218/01.12.2021/ 87984	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम कर्मरौद SVS	93.12
10	219/01.12.2021/ 87985	विकासखंड मगरलौड के ग्राम वेल्तरदोना +गाझडीह SVS	190.53
11	220/01.12.2021/ 87986	विकासखंड धमतरी के ग्राम माटेगहन SVS	53.66

नोट :- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि की विस्तृत निविदा, विज्ञापित निविदा, दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई- प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) से दिनांक 07.12.2021 से देखा जा सकता है एवं दिनांक 21.12.2021 सायं 5.30 बजे तक निविदा में भाग ली जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड धमतरी (छ.ग.)

G- 65595/5 Ryp/Dtd 03.12.21

Forces, police alerted against honey trap

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

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Following an intelligence input, Central paramilitary forces, Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police and Delhi Police have been alerted to guard their ranks against a honey-trap bid by a Delhi-based advocate, aged 35 years. The suspected advocate allegedly honey-traps officials and later uses them to get sensitive information as also transfer and postings of the armed forces and police officials. The advocate originally hails from Bhiwani, Haryana and is currently based at Dilshad Colony here and is allegedly involved in "activities prejudicial to national interest." "It has been reported that(the advocate) is taking interest in developing connec-

tions with the officers of Indian Army and CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces or paramilitary forces). She is using her relations with these officers in seeking personal favours like transfer/posting and elicitation of sensitive information from prominent government officials," reads the alert. She has also allegedly formed close connections with both retired and in-service officials of various Government ministries as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Jammu and Kashmir Police and Delhi Police, according to the alert. "She is known to honey trap officials and later use them to get her work done," reads the communication that also attached a detailed profile of the advocate, including her photographs. The armed forces have been asked to sensitise the ranks and file about her indulgence in undesirable activities detrimental to the security interest of the country.

The agencies have also been asked to ensure that the entry of the advocate is barred from their respective premises. In the last one year, she has travelled extensively to Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. She is interested in connecting with influential people and takes a lot of interest in news related to Jammu and Kashmir, transfer of senior officials of paramilitary forces and also in the personal lives of her connections. "She has now shown interest in developing similar connections in the Indian Army, preferably (posted) in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi," the advisory added. She uses three mobile phones and a landline for networking and honey-trapping activities. The identity of the suspect advocate is being withheld so as not to disturb the surveillance mounted on her by the agencies.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As tension persists at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh for the last one and half years, security scenario has become complex, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said here on Friday. He also said China has built more than 138 warships in the last ten years and India has factored in this development to ensure operational preparedness. The Navy chief's remarks came in the backdrop of China increasingly flexing its muscle in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific. Assuring that the Indian Navy continues to keep a close watch on the movement of the Chinese ships in India's zone of interest, Kumar said China is present in the Indian Ocean

region since 2008. At any given time there are eight Chinese ships there and sometimes the number goes down to three, he said while addressing the annual press conference on the eve of the Navy Day on Saturday. Elaborating upon the sequence of events since last year when trouble broke out at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, the newly appointed Navy chief said Indian warships were deployed in all the sensitive zones and continue to be mission deployed even now. He admitted situation along India's northern border (LAC) has added to the "security complexities" at a time the country was reeling under COVID-19 and that the "dual" scenario continues. The Indian Navy continues

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

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

IN SHORT

RAILTEL, CSC SIGNS MOU TO BOOST DIGITAL SERVICE
New Delhi: RailTel and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited have signed an MoU to leverage each other's strength for increasing broadband penetration in rural and semi-urban areas for bridging the digital divide.

ED ATTACHES ASSETS OF PRAKASH INDUSTRIES
New Delhi: The ED has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 227.95 crore of Prakash Industries Ltd. Hisar, Haryana under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a coal block allocation case. The attached assets are in the form of land at Hisar, Delhi, Noida and various parts of Chhattisgarh.

CA HELD IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE
New Delhi: The ED has arrested Ravi Kumar, Chartered Accountant, HAR Associates, New Delhi in a case of laundering of Rs 1,100 crore to Hong Kong by sending Foreign Outward Remittances from select bank branches of SBI and SBM at Mumbai by using forged Air Way Bills and fabricated Cloud CCTV Storage Rental charges.

SC REJECTS BAIL PLEA OF BIZMAN WADHAWAN
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain the bail plea filed on health grounds by jailed businessman Rakesh Wadhawan, accused of money laundering in the multi-crore rupees Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank fraud case, saying that he has been in hospital more than the jail.

'Pak to let India transport wheat, life-saving drugs to Af on Afghan trucks'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD

As the two countries are working out modalities to ferry wheat and life saving medicines to Afghanistan through Pakistan land route from India, Islamabad has suggested the goods may be ferried in Afghan trucks. So far, India was insisting that 50,000 metric tons of

wheat and medicines should be transported to Afghanistan in Indian trucks but Pakistan said its trucks will take the consignment from Attari-Wagah border in Punjab. Incidentally, Pakistan allows exports of goods from Afghanistan to India by road but does not allow India to export goods through the land route. On Thursday, India said

discussions with Pakistan are going on to finalise the modalities for the transportation of its aid to Afghanistan through Pakistani soil and insisted that no conditionalities should be attached for sending the humanitarian assistance. On Thursday, Pakistan turned down India's wheat transit proposal. However, the Foreign

Office said in a statement on Friday the decision to let New Delhi send wheat and life-saving drugs to Afghanistan through Pakistan on Afghan trucks was formally conveyed to India. "With a view to further facilitate Pakistan's decision to allow transportation of 50,000 MT of wheat and life-saving medicines from India to

Afghanistan via Wagah border on an exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes, it has been decided to also allow the use of Afghan trucks for transportation from Wagah border to Torkham," it said. The Foreign Office said the decision was conveyed to the Charged Affairs of India at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. India wants to ensure that

the aid reaches the intended beneficiaries without being diverted and wants the distribution of the relief materials through a credible international agency. The Pakistani statement said the Indian government was urged to take necessary steps to expeditiously undertake the delivery of the humanitarian assistance. It said the

decision demonstrates the commitment and seriousness of the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the proposed humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Pakistan last week formally informed India about its decision to allow the transportation of wheat and life-saving drugs to neighbouring Afghan through its territory.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Gauba chaired the second meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee to review the preparedness of States and Central Ministries/Agencies to deal with the cyclone "Jawad". IMD director general Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra on Friday said the cyclone would come closest to land near Puri

district around noon on Sunday. The maximum impact will be when the cyclone intensifies to the 'Severe Cyclone' category, bringing with it very heavy rainfall and gusty winds with speed picking up to 110 kmph between the mornings of Saturday and Sunday. "The cyclonic storm is likely to reach the west-central Bay

of Bengal off the coast of north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha by Saturday morning. Thereafter, it is likely to recurve north-northeastwards, move along the coast of Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh and touch the coast around Puri by December 5 noon," he said. "A low-pressure area had developed over the Andaman Sea on November 30. It intensified into a depression on December 2 and further into a deep depression on Friday morning. It turned into a cyclone on Friday noon," Mohapatra added.

Decision on booster dose will be based on scientific evidence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that a decision on booster dose and Covid jabs for children will be taken on the basis of scientific guidance from experts. He also said that India has stepped up surveillance for Omicron variant of the coronavirus. Replying to a two-day-long debate on Covid-19 pandemic, the Health Minister blamed Opposition parties for "playing politics" during the calamity. Mandaviya said RT-PCR tests have been conducted on 16,000 passengers from "at-risk" countries, of whom 18 have tested positive for Covid-19. The Minister said the swab samples of these 16 passengers have been sent for genome sequencing to screen for the Omicron variant of the virus. The Health Minister hit out at the opposition for making a political issue on the availability of ventilators, which were

funded through the PM-CARES Fund, and hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the testing times. He said orders were placed for the supply of 58,000 ventilators, mostly with public sector companies, and 50,200 breathing machines had been delivered to states and 48,000 have been installed at various hospitals. Besides ventilators, the Government also ensured availability of Covid protocol medicines across the country to ensure that the states did not appear wanting in the fight against the pandemic. Mandaviya also slammed the opposition parties for creating doubts about homegrown vaccines which affected the vaccination drive. "Opposition-ruled states promised support during meetings with the prime minister, but went back on their words and tried to weaken the nation's fight against COVID-19," the Minister said. To questions on the vaccination drive, the Minister said the

Government was committed to fully vaccinate all the eligible beneficiaries.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that this person **Namely: Ahsan Alam, S/o Sameem Ansari, R/o Ho. No. RZ-32/350, Gali No. 04, Jagdamba Vihar, West Sagarpur, New Delhi, Age: 28 Years, Height: 5 feet 7 inch, Build: Strong, Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red Colour Shirt, Black Colour Jeans, Black Coat and Sandal in feet,** has been missing since 12.11.2021 at about 10:00 AM from his residence in the Area of P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 56A, dated 15.11.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Sagarpur, New Delhi
Ph No. 011-28522653, 7065036228
DP/939/SW/2021

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (GMVN)

(A Govt. of India Undertaking) (Incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 1956)

TENDER NOTICE Date: 04.12.2021

GMVN invites Tenders from Reputed Vendors to operate the selected TRHs/TICs of GMVN on Rent for performing tourism activities for the period of three years. Tender document is available at Head office of GMVN, www.gmvnonline.com and nearest TRH of GMVN from the respective TRHs/TICs where bidder wants to bid. Last date of submission of Bid is 22.12.2021, upto 1400 Hrs. Bids should be submitted in physical mode at Office of the General Manager (Tourism), Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited, 74/1, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Further updates will be available only on the website where interested parties are advised to visit the websites regularly.

Managing Director

UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)

Short term e-Tender Notice Date: 03.12.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: Tender No. 11/EE (CM)/DDN/2021-22

Name of work: Repairing of boundary wall and maintenance/beautification works of school building at Bhawani Inter Collage, Ballapur, Dehradun.

Estimated cost: ₹ 26,04,587.00 (Exclusive of GST)

Date of availability of bid: From 17:00 hrs of 03.12.2021 document on website

Last date for submission of bids on website: Up to 17:00 hrs of 17.12.2021

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://ktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

APPENDIX IV A

(See proviso to Rule 8(6))

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Dhani Loans and Services Limited (Formerly Indiabulls Consumer Finance Ltd.) [CIN: U74899DL1994PLC062407] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on **10.01.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.** (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs. 2,67,74,486/- (Rupees Two Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six only)** pending towards Loan Account No. HILALAJ00427280 by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **25.11.2021** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **26.11.2021** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **BRAHAM PAL SINGH (PROPRIETOR, SATYAM STEEL) and RAJ BALA**.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be **Rs. 2,70,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs.27,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **DHANI LOANS AND SERVICES LIMITED**, Account No. 609000828261 with RBL Bank (IFSC: RATN000116), having its branch at Unit No. 7 & 14, Ground Floor, Bloc ABW Towers, IFFCO Chowk, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
PLOT/HOUSE NO. 1341-P MEASURING 420 SQ. METRS. (502.32 SQ. YARDS), IN SECTOR 21D, URBAN ESTATE FARIDABAD-121010, HARYANA.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.dhani Loansandservices.com and www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 30.11.2021 Sd/
Place: FARIDABAD Authorized Officer
DHANI LOANS AND SERVICES LIMITED

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

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

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-I/45/2021-22

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given:-

S. N.	UBN No	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	JDA2122WSOB00449	224.72	271/2021-22	EE-PHE-I, OCEMS supply, installation & maintenance work	27.12.2021

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

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-I

Raj.Samwad/C/2021-22/9121

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

In order to strengthen the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Railway has decided to undertake the Pre-interlocking and Non-interlocking work in connection with 4th line connectivity at Belpahar station between Belpahar-Hemagiri on Champa-Jharsuguda section of Bilaspur Division. To execute this work, Railways will take suitable traffic blocks from 06.12.2021 to 10.12.2021. During this period the following trains will be temporarily be affected as under:-

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
20807 Visakhapatnam - Amritsar Jn Superfast Express	07.12.2021 & 10.12.2021
20808 Amritsar Jn - Visakhapatnam Superfast Express	08.12.2021 & 11.12.2021

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

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

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139	Please join us at Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY

STORES DEPARTMENT

e-AUCTION SALE DURING JANUARY, 2022 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in January, 2022 as per program given below:-

1st Round	2nd Round	Depot/ Divn.	Depot/Divn. Officer In-Charge	Contact No.
03/01/2022	17/01/2022	Bhavnagar	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Bhavnagar	02782444360 09724097750
04/01/2022	18/01/2022	Sabarmati	Deputy Chief Materials Manager Sabarmati	07927500080 09724093774
05/01/2022	19/01/2022	Mahalakshmi	Deputy Chief Materials Manager Mahalakshmi	022-24929571 09004495750
06/01/2022	20/01/2022	Vadodara	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Vadodara	02652641592 9724091750
07/01/2022	21/01/2022	Rajkot	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Rajkot	02812476943 09724094770
10/01/2022	24/01/2022	Ratlam	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Ratlam	07412230080 09752492750
11/01/2022	25/01/2022	Ahmedabad	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Ahmedabad	07922205888 09724093750
12/01/2022	27/01/2022	Dahod	Deputy Chief Materials Manager Dahod	02673241295 09724090455
13/01/2022	28/01/2022	Mumbai Central	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Mumbai Central	022-23094142 09004499006
17/01/2022	29/01/2022	Pratapnagar	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager Vadodara	02652641592 9724091750

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot/Divisional Officers. Note : (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-auction. (2) e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officers. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

(No. S/III/Auction Programme-1/Jan,2022 Dated 03/12/2021)

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client RUCHI KUMARI is purchasing the property i.e Plot area measuring 50 sq. ft. (Plot No. 85, Khatori no. 129, Mu. No. 47, Kila no.16/8-0,17/8-0), Surya Vihar, Part I, Agawapur, Faridabad, Haryana from Ram Kumar and mortgaging the same with DMI Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Ram Kumar was the owner by virtue of SPA registered at Dohra, Simla (H.P.), vide No. 3573 on 22.08.2021 whereas said property belongs to Haryana. It is informed that any deal with said documents by a person except my said client RUCHI KUMARI and said inductor regarding said property shall be deemed as null and void if any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwaika Court Sector-10, Dwaraka, New Delhi-75
MO:-9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that DAVENDER SINGH is the owner of Plot No. 58, area measuring 209 sq. mtrs. in Block-B, Pkt-4, Sec-23, Dwaraka, New Delhi vide Sale on deed 7/8/2021 (document No. 7107) executed by Bhagwan, Mahinder Singh and Dharampal (legal heirs of Late Laxmi Devi) read with relinquishment Deed dated 22/5/16 (Doc No. 4173) and Rectification Deed dated 21.5.2016 (Doc No. 4816).

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER STRUCTURE OF NEW MAJOR BRIDGES

Tender Notice No. : CON/2021/Nov/04; Dated: 30-11-2021. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:-

SN-1. Tender No. CE-CON-A-G-MB-2021-13. Name of work: Construction of super structure of new major Bridge No. 51(X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 1840.00), Bridge No. 61(X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 2070.00), Bridge No. 73(X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 2600.00), Bridge No. 11(X 1 x 61.0m Steel Through Girder at Ch. 4750.00), Bridge No. 12(X 1 x 76.20m Steel Through Girder at Ch. 5160.00), Bridge No. 14(2X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 5853.00), Bridge No. 16(1X 18.30m Composite Girder at Ch. 7350.00), Bridge No. 27(2X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 10280.00), Bridge No. 28(2X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 10800.00), Bridge No. 31(1X 45.7m OWG at Ch. 11590.00), Bridge No. 39(1 x 12.2m Composite Girder at Ch. 14320.00), Bridge No. 40(3 x 30.50 Composite Girder at Ch. 14700.00), Bridge No. 51(3X 30.50m OWG at Ch. 18540.00), Bridge No. 51(X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 2105.00), Bridge No. 70(1X 45.70m OWG at Ch. 26480.00), Bridge No. 79(1X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 29932.00), Bridge No. 90(2X 45.70m OWG at Ch. 34860.00), Bridge No. 94(1X 30.50m OWG at Ch. 36560.00), Bridge No. 102(2X 30.50m OWG at Ch. 39400.00), Bridge No. 109(2X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 43180.00), Bridge No. 115(1X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 45480.00), Bridge No. 121(2X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 47470.00), Bridge No. 127(1X 18.30m Composite Girder at Ch. 48497.00), Bridge No. 143(5X 45.70m OWG at Ch. 54220.00) between Araria Court and Teragach Halt and Bridge No. 6A(1X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 2325.00), Bridge No. 8A(3X 30.50m Composite Girder at Ch. 2895.00) between Araria and Rahmatpur station of V.C. section of Patna - Araria railway works in connection with Araria - Galgolia new BG line project of N. F. Railway (Construction). Approx. value: ₹903196241.40. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 24-12-2021. For details visit www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con/3
Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

GANGRAPE OF A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL Chargesheet filed against 33 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

The investigations have revealed that in January this year, the victim's boyfriend



had reportedly indulged in forcible sex with her and had video-graphed the incident.

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

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

The accused had allegedly blackmailed and threatened the victim girl that if she told her

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Congress leader also questioned the Government for treating the deceased farmers and earlier people who died of Covid as nonexistent. "This is not the way a Prime Minister should behave. This is an unpleasant, immoral, and cowardly way to behave," Rahul said.

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

He said the Congress also has a list of 100 farmers from outside Punjab who died during the farm laws agitation and another list of about 200



deceased farmers has been compiled based on public records.

Rahul's attack was against the backdrop of the Government's statement in Parliament a day earlier. "No record is available on the matter (death of farmers) so the question does not arise," the government maintained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Krishnaiya, who was the District Magistrate of Gopalganj, was beaten to death after being dragged out of his car while it was passing through Muzaffarpur district where a procession was being taken out in support of dreaded gangster Chhotan Shukla

upon his murder. Interestingly, Singh had always been daggers drawn with Lalu Prasad, who was then the Chief Minister of Bihar and is now the president of the RJD.

Brij Bihari Prasad, then a powerful RJD minister of the state, was allegedly involved in the murder of Shukla, who had got associated with the Bihar People's Party floated by Singh. Brij Bihari Prasad was also shot dead in a Patna hospital where he was undergoing treatment in 1998.

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

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

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

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

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

"The FIR clearly speaks of sufficient evidence at hand against Athiya, a nephew of Leshi Singh, who is a cabinet member and a confidante of the chief minister. Why is not the minister being even interrogated?" asked Yadav.

The RJD leader also showed a video purportedly showing Athiya pulling the trigger on the deceased Rintu Singh and returning to check whether the latter had died. Yadav, who claimed that Rintu Singh was killed because he was considered close to the RJD, also alleged that his "question pertaining to the murder did not get listed because the government entertains no question on the floor of the House which relates to the department of home and general administration, both retained by the chief minister".

UP ELECTIONS AND POLITICS

Bundelkhand will throw out BJP out of power: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

"The Yogi government has only changed the names of places. Very soon people in Uttar Pradesh are going to change this government. Youth, farmers and businessmen in Uttar Pradesh have decided to get rid of the Yogi government.

Farmers in Uttar Pradesh are going to benefit if Samajwadi Party comes to power," he said. Akhilesh further said that Uttar Pradesh was one state where the maximum number of cases of crime against women in the country was registered and the state also topped in custodial deaths across the country.

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

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

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

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

Mayawati asks people to beware of poll promises of BJP, SP, Cong

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati alerted the people of Uttar Pradesh, asking them to be cautious on the election promises being announced by different political parties ahead of the 2002 assembly polls.

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

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

Fear engulfs Keralites as water level in Mullaperiyar Dam rises

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

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

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

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

"I as the chairman of the petition committee of Kerala Legislature had recommended thrice the decommission of this dam and cancellation of the 1886 Mullaperiyar Agreement signed between the then British Government and the Travancore Maharaja. The agreement has become null and void as all agreements signed between the British colonial masters and the princely States in India got cancelled by the night of August 14, 1947 with the implementation of the India Independence Act 1947," said George.

The controversial dam, built with lime and surki (before cement and concrete mixture came into vogue) is 53.66 meter (176 ft) high, 1200 ft in length and has a depth of 142 ft. "Though Tamil Nadu claims that its Kallanai Dam in Thanjavur was built during the 2nd century AD, the truth is that it is a dwarf of a dam compared to Mullaperiyar. Its



height is just 5.4 meters and there are no structural defects detected in it unlike Mullaperiyar Dam which has many flaws in its construction," said George.

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

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

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

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan returns as Kerala CPI(M) chief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

The ruling CPI(M) in Kerala which has been facing a series of allegations in connection with murder of political rivals, corruption in high places and religious appeasement, got a major relief on Friday as the party's State Secretariat decided to give back the charge of secretary to polit bureau member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan who was on leave on health grounds since November 2020. The decision to hand over the post of secretary to Balakrishna comes at a time when there is a strong demand by the party cadre to elevate him as all India General Secretary.

Though Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, who has been secretary of the Kerala unit of the party since 2014, was on leave reportedly due to health reasons, it was the arrest and imprisonment of his younger son Bineesh Kodiyeri that made him temporarily vacate the party post. Bineesh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with drug trafficking and related financial issues.

The younger son of Balakrishnan was in Bangalore's Parappana Agrahara Prison for one year and was released on bail only in October 2021. Balakrishnan's elder son Binoy is also facing charges of sexual abuse and financial impropriety.

HC tells NIA to get Varavara Rao medically examined, extends date of surrender till Dec 18

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to get poet-activist Varavara Rao medically examined at Nanavati hospital in the city to check if he suffered from any ailments that warranted extension of his medical bail.

The HC also extended till December 18 the time for Rao to surrender before the Talaja prison authorities.

As per HC's previous order, Rao was to have been medically examined on November 18, but the NIA told the court on Friday it was yet to get his medical check up done.

The NIA counsel Sandesh Patil said the delay was caused because several doctors were required to check Rao since the 83-year-old was "taking advantage of the court's order" and trying to get a comprehensive health check up done.

"At the time of seeking medical bail earlier this year, he (Rao) had complained of cataract, hernia, and appendix. Now appendix and hernia are over and only cataract remains. But he is taking advantage of the court's order and trying to get all tests done," Patil said.

A bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and SV Kotalw, however, questioned the NIA's submission and said the agency must take a practical approach and consider Rao's advanced age.

60L parents wait for UP Govt grants for school uniforms

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

On October 30, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had declared that ₹1,800 crore would be transferred through DBT in the bank accounts of parents of more than 1.60 crore students for the purchase of winter uniforms. He had claimed that the scheme would benefit students of primary, upper primary schools and non-government aided primary/pre-secondary schools.

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

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



school. "Who will do it?" asked a leader of the Shiksha Parishad. "The teachers and officers of the Education department are deployed in the revision of electoral rolls. There is no one in schools to carry out the clerical work of confirming the bank details of the parents," he said.

Officials said that the first lot of money was transferred to the accounts of over one crore

parents but over 60 lakh parents were still waiting for the funds to purchase uniforms, sweaters, shoes and school bags.

An employees' union leader said that the argument given by the official was that the direct transfer of money would ensure a transparent system as well as develop a market at the local level which in turn would generate self-employment opportunities in

rural areas.

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

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

1 in 100 Covid patients likely to develop central nervous system complications

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"Much has been written about the overall pulmonary problems related to Covid-19, but we do not often talk about the other organs that can be affected," said study lead author Scott H. Faro, M.D., FASFN, professor of radiology and neurology and director of the Division of Neuroradiology/Head & Neck Imaging at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

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

The patients had been admitted between September 2019 and June 2020. Their average age was 66 years old, and there were twice as many men as women.

The most common cause of admission was confusion and altered mental status, followed by fever.

There were 442 acute neuroimaging findings that were most likely associated with the viral infection. The overall incidence of central nervous system complications in this large patient group was 1.2 per cent.

"Of all the inpatients who had imaging such as MRI or a CT scan of the brain, the exam was positive approximately 10 per cent of the time, a Faro said.

SUSPENSION OF 12 RAJYA SABHA MPS BJP MPs stage dharna in front of Gandhi statue against unruly behaviour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the protest on suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs from Opposition camp entering its fifth day, the ruling BJP MPs on Friday too staged a dharna adjacent to them in front of the Gandhi statue on the Parliament premises against the "unruly" behaviour of the opposition MPs.

There were some tense moments as BJP members, carrying placards, marched towards the opposition members near the Gandhi statue to condemn their "undemocratic actions" inside the House.

"We are here to highlight the duplicity of the opposition parties," BJP member GVL Narshima Rao said.

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

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

The issue came up in the House when RJD member Manoj Kumar Jha said in the Rajya Sabha that some BJP members "gatedashed" the site in Parliament complex where the 12 suspended members were staging an agitation. "Gatedashing amounts to taking away the democratic values," Jha said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

What's next?

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

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

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

PICTALK



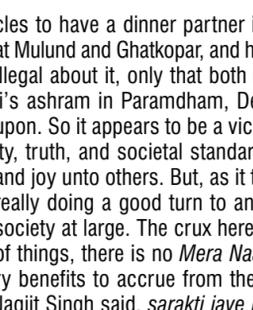
Indian Navy personnel display their skills during the Navy Week at the Gateway of India, in Mumbai

Saboteurs

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

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

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



Celebrity influence to sell products fair?



HASAN KHURSHID

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DELHI'S AIR POLLUTION AND PAKISTAN

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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

E-LEARNING CAN'T COMPARE WITH SCHOOLS

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

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

Indian athlete makes a long jump



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

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

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

A DIVIDED OPPOSITION IS GIFT FOR THE BJP

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Arvind Kejriwal — Delhi Chief Minister



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

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken



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

Actor — Kriti Sanon



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

Former Indian footballer — Bemben Devi



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

Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN
NOBODY IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS SAFE

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



GWYNNE DYER

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



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

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

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

Can doctoral degrees make better teachers?



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

tude will destroy the questioning nature of students.

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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

Delhi's response to air pollution needs a rethinking

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

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



TANUSHREE GANGLY MILAN GEORGE JACOB

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

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

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

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



these systems are not in sync with the GRAP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHO says measures used against delta should work for omicron

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kasai warned: "We cannot be complacent."

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

AP

WHO says no reports of omicron Covid deaths yet

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

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

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

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

"We're collecting all the evidence and we will find much more evidence as we go along."

"The more countries...keep testing people, and looking specifically into the Omicron variant, we will also find more cases, more information, and,

hopefully not, but also possibly deaths."

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

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

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

AP

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

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

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

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

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

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

Malaysia detects first omicron case in S African student

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

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

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

New York confirms at least 5 omicron cases

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

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

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

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

AP

Taliban bans forced marriages of women in Afghanistan

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

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

the economy.

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

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

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

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

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

AP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

Trump faces flurry of investigations beyond Jan 6 probe

New York: As Donald Trump's lawyers try to block the White House from releasing records to the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, the former president faces a flurry of other investigations that could come to a head in the coming weeks and the new year. That includes two major state criminal investigations — one in New York and one in Georgia — and lawsuits concerning sexual assault allegations, a fight over an inheritance and questions of whether he should be held personally liable for inciting the insurrection. Trump has long dismissed the investigations as nothing more than a politically motivated "witch hunt" that began with the probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election. But while Trump has spent most of his life dodging legal consequences, he is no longer shielded by the protections against indictment enjoyed by sitting presidents.

Ukraine says Russia amassed over 94,000 troops at border

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

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

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told lawmakers Friday that the number of Russian troops near Ukraine and in Russia-annexed Crimea is estimated to be 94,300. "Our intelligence service analyzes all scenarios, including the worst ones. It notes that a probability of a large-scale escalation on the part of Russia exists. The most probable time when (Russia) will be ready for the escalation is end of January," Reznikov said. The minister noted an escalation "is a probable scenario, but not certain, and our task is to avert it."

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE (SOUTH EAST), OLD GARGI COLLEGE BUILDING, BEHIND LSR COLLEGE LAJPAT NAGAR-IV, NEW DELHI NOTICE

Whereas, earlier, vide notification No. F- ADM/SE/LAC/2016/506 dated 02.09.2019, the land bearing Khasra No. 6min (6727.05 Sq. Mtr.), Khasra No. 8min (1150 Sq. Mtr.), Khasra No.13min (3164.5 Sq. Mtr.), Khasra No. 40min (2360 Sq. Mtr.), Khasra No.156min (9401 Sq. Mtr.), Khasra No. 221min (7440 Sq. Mtr.) of village Nagli Razapur in the Sub Division Defence Colony of District South East Delhi were notified under section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) for infrastructure project i.e. construction of 3rd Phase of Elevated Road on Barapulla Nallah from Sarai Kale Khan to Mayur Vihar, New Delhi and published by the Collector in the part I of the NCT of Delhi Gazette, dated 5th September, 2019 (copy at Annexure- I)."

And whereas, the declaration and summary of Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme were published under section 19 of RFCTLARR Act 2013, vide Gazette Notification no 208 dated 26 August 2021 (copy enclosed as Annexure- II)** and also published in newspapers on 29 August 2021.

As such now, in accordance with section 21 of RFCTLARR Act 2013, notice is being given for intimating to all concerned that the Government intends to take possession of the land mentioned above which is required for "public purpose" and that claims to compensations and Rehabilitation and Resettlement in above land may be made by all interests by appearing personally or by agent or advocate stating the nature of their respective interests in the land and amount and particulars of their claims to Rehabilitation and Resettlement along with their objections if any, before the Collector on 05.01.2022 at 11.30 AM, in the Conference Hall of the Office of District Magistrate (South East)

-sd- Vishwendra DM, South East Dist

DIP/Shabdarth/0462/21-22

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, Sh. Rajneesh Khanna S/o Late Sh. R.P. Khanna & his Wife Smt. Monika W/o Rajneesh Khanna both R/o A-278, Derawal Nagar, Delhi-9, have disinherited and disowned their son, Mr. Aprit Khanna from their all movable & immovable assets due to his involvement in anti family activities and have severed all their relations with him. Anybody dealing with the above Aprit Khanna shall do so at their own cost, risk and responsibility for which my client and/or his family members will not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.

KIRTI LUTHRA, Advocate Ch.No. C-1 & C-2, 1st Floor, C.L. Joseph Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: SL No. 1011 Tender No.: Engg/28/2021-22. Name of the work: Structural Stability Testing of the buildings and factory shed including foundation with special reference to the machinery, plant etc inside workshop as per Factory Act, 1948 & West Bengal Factory Rule, 1958 at ELAALU, CLW/Dankuni. Advertised value (Rupees): 22,17,787.31. Period of completion (in months): 150 days. Date of closing: 31.12.2021 at 12:00 hrs. Note: (i) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.irops.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in. (ii) Contact Number: 9136640201. Dy.Chief Engineer/CLW/CRJ PR-1-277

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Navendu Dax, Mr. Parmod Dax & Mr. Karan are intending to sell FIRST FLOOR, RIGHT SIDE WITHOUT ROOF/TERRACE RIGHTS, PART OF PROPERTY No. 376-A, KHASRA No. 2255/1342/624, KHEWAT No. 1, BUILT ON PLOT No. 223, VILLAGE CHANDRAWALI ALIAS SHADHARA IN ABAD OF BHOOLA NATH NAGAR GAZI NO. 3, NEAR PRIMARY SCHOOL, BILKALI, SHADHARA DELHI - 110032, to Mr. Sankar Kumar Parshad, to be financed by Hero Housing Finance Limited. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Late Jai Bharat S/o Late Shri Jai Narayan (deceased) (1) Mr. Vinay Kumar (2) Mr. Sudeep Kumar (3) Mr. Rajeev Kumar (4) Mrs. Kiran (5) Mrs. Rashmi and Death Certificate & Surviving member certificate is not available. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghu Thurai (Advocate) Ch. No. 839, Pallaia House Courts, New Delhi-110011 Mob: +91-8078188228

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that following share certificate of Eicon Engineering Company Limited having its Registered office at Anand Sajira Road, Vallabh Vidyanagar-388220 registered in the name of the following shareholders have been lost by them. Name of Shareholder - Ashok Kumar Wahi Folio No. A011537, Cert. No. 9826, Dispositive Nos. 31012321-31012350 No of Shares 322 (FV Rs 21) The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificate. Any person who has claim in respect of the said share certificate should lodge such claims with the company or its registrar and transfer agent Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. (Unit: Eicon Engineering Company Limited), B-1028, 103, Shrapati Complex, First Floor, Opp. Hdfc Bank, Near Radhakrishna Char. Rasta, Akola, Vadodra-390020 within 15 days of publication of this notice which will be deemed to be accepted and the company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate. Place- Delhi Sudha Wahi Date-02-12-2021 (Name of legal claimant)

NOTICE

I informed that the power of attorney of Seema Kaul W/O-Rajeev Kaul R/O-Flat No- B9-44A, Sector 34 Noida has gone missing, whose complaint has been registered on 29.11.21 in PS-Crime Branch Delhi. Is. Therefore, if any person gets the original documents or has in his possession any of the original documents, or has in his possession any kind of right objection in this regard, then within 10 days from the date of publication, please register it at Noida Authority or the following address, in case of failure to do so, any person. The claim made on the said document shall be deemed to be completely free of charge and abandoned. SEEMA KAUL Flat No- B9-44A Sector 34, Noida

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Cheena Gupta (Borrower), Manav Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBLUD0002382529	Flat No. T 10/2003, Floor 20th Tower 10, Sunworld Arista GH-01/C, Noida Express Way Noida Uttar Pradesh 201301. Area 615 Sq Ft	Rs. 52,66,676/- (as on Nov 29, 2021)	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	December 15, 2021 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	December 27, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay Mehta (Co-Borrower) LBDL00002432219	Flat No. 307, 3rd Floor Tower 10 Sunworld Arista, Plot No GH 01/C Sector 168, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301. Area 615 Sq Ft	Rs. 54,84,661/- (as on Nov 29, 2021)	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	December 15, 2021 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	December 27, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards
3.	Archana Gupta (Borrower), Sharad Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBFDB0002378934	Flat No. 2501, 25th Floor Tower 10 Sunworld, Arista Plot No Gh 01/C, Noida, Noida 201301. Area- 615 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 44,46,404/- (as on Nov 29, 2021)	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	December 15, 2021 From 11AM to 1:00 PM	December 27, 2021 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 24, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before December 24, 2021 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before December 24, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494/7304914763 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt.Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: December 04, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable property(ies)

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. (CIN: U65933DL2002PLC1157691) ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 05.01.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 1,92,80,282/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Two only) pending towards Loan Account No. S01400X (earlier being Loan Account No. HLLND00248127 ("old Loan Account")), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 29.11.2021 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 30.11.2021 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from MRS.SARITA KHANDELWAL and MR. ANIL KUMAR GUPTA @ A K GUPTA @ ANIL GUPTA.

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the immovable property(ies), had been assigned to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting in its capacity as Trustee of ACRE-102-Trust, vide Assignment Agreement dated 26.04.2021.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property will be Rs. 73,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Three Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 7,30,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of ACRE-102-TRUST, Account No. 09010200038988 with IDBI Bank Limited (IFSC: IBKL000901), having its branch at IFCI TOWER, 61, NEHRU PLACE P.B. NO. 4499 NEW DELHI - 110 019, before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)

FLAT/UNIT No-T6/0903, SUPER BUILT UP AREA ADMEASURING APPROX. 2100 SQ. FT. (195.09 SQ. MTR.), 9TH FLOOR, TOWER NO.-6, SUNWORLD ARISTA AT PLOT No. GH-1C, SECTOR-168, NOIDA EXPRESSWAY, NOIDA-201305, UTTAR PRADESH ALONGWITH ONE COVERED CAR PARKING.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.aceindia.in and www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 29.11.2021
Place : NOIDA

Sd/
Authorized Officer
ASSET CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.
TRUSTEE OF ACRE-102-TRUST

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date/Time
1	निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि	02.12.2021
2	ऑनलाइन प्रकाशन की तिथि	06.12.2021, 12:00 बजे।
3	दस्तावेज डाउनलोड : प्रारम्भ तिथि	06.12.2021, 12:00 बजे एवं अंतिम तिथि 20.12.2021, 17:00 बजे।
4	प्री बिड बैठक	08.12.2021, 13:00 बजे।
5	बिड अपलोडिंग : प्रारम्भ तिथि	09.12.2021, 10:00 बजे एवं अंतिम तिथि 20.12.2021, 17:00 बजे।
6	दस्तावेज को ऑफलाइन जमा करने की तिथि	21.12.2021, 17:00 बजे।
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि	22.12.2021, 17:00 बजे।

निविदा की पूर्ण जानकारी, शुद्धि-पत्र निरस्तीकरण आदि हेतु-
www.uktenders.gov.in, वेबसाइट पर लॉग-इन करें।

अधीक्षक अभियन्ता

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

Gist of e-tender (Short-term)
NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2021-22/217/e-tendering
Dated: 02.12.2021

On the behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited from original equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ representatives or reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned works:

Name of Work:- Servicing of DG sets of various capacities at Govt. GB Pant Hospital, Srinagar
Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 1.20
Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200
EMD Amount (In rupees) :- 2400
Time of completion (in days) :- 04
AA Accorded Vide No: 46 GMCS of 2021 Dt:- 13.09.21
TS No :- 149 of 12/21
Position of Funds :- Available

1. Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.uktenders.gov.in from 02.12.2021 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 02.12.2021 (18.00 hrs).

2. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 03.12.2021 (10.00 hrs) to 08.12.2021 (15:00hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 09.12.2021 at 15.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

No. DIPK-14107/21 Dated:- 03.12.2021

Sensex crashes 765 pts as Omicron enters India

Mumbai: Domestic markets lurched lower on Friday after India reported its first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, prompting investors to dial back risk exposure.

The Centre on Thursday said two cases of Omicron have been detected in Karnataka. Both the patients are men, aged 66 and 46 years, with mild symptoms. Severe symptoms have not been noted, an official said.

The Government has asked people not to panic and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. It also said while there is no evidence to suggest that existing vaccines do not work against Omicron, some of the mutations reported may decrease the efficacy of the jabs.

Snapping its two-session rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex nosedived 764.83 points or 1.31 per cent to end at 57,696.46.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 204.95 points or 1.18 per cent to 17,196.70. **PTI**

Gold prices decline by ₹196; silver tanks ₹146

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Friday dipped ₹196 to ₹46,581 per 10 gram in line with fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹46,777 per 10 gram. Silver also declined ₹146 to ₹59,878 per kilogram from ₹60,024 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,767 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.30 per ounce.

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Prime Minister emphasized that now it is time

to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution.

"A revolution that helps to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country", Prime Minister said.

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

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

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

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

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

"Consequently, the number of pending failed transactions was reduced to 8.19 lakh during the 2020-21 fiscal. But in the ongoing 2021-22 fiscal, the number of pending failed transactions stood at 9.11 lakh till November 30", the Ministry of Agriculture data showed. The amount that was pending for reprocessing due to failed transactions was ₹182.78 crore during 2019-20 fiscal, ₹163.99 crore in 2020-21 fiscal, and ₹28.47 crore till November of 2021-22 fiscal. The total amount that is pending for reprocessing from 2019-20 till November 20 of this year under the PM-KISAN scheme stands at 374.78 crore, the data showed.

In a written reply to the Upper House, the agriculture minister said failed transactions remained less than one per cent so far since the launch of the PM-KISAN scheme. "Under the PM-KISAN scheme, the total number of transactions that have taken place is 80,27,44,674, of which the number of failed transactions is less than one per cent," he noted. Tomar said the cumulative number of failed transactions of PM-KISAN were at 69,02,227 from February 1, 2019, till November 30 of this year. Out of which, 32,02,408 transactions were successfully reprocessed, Tomar said.

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

New Delhi: The Government on Friday sought Parliament's nod to infuse over ₹62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India after its privatisation, as part of over ₹3.73 lakh crore additional spending planned in the current financial year. The extra spending would include ₹58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy; ₹53,123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and ₹ 22,039 crore to rural development ministry for transfer to National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund.

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

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

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

Difficult for India to achieve climate goals without compromising economic targets: Oxford Economics

New Delhi: India's new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising the country's stated economic targets and its ambition to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25, according to global forecasting firm Oxford Economics.

It further said India's pledge to achieve 'net zero' emissions by 2070 is admirable, but the path announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 toward achieving that goal is ambitious.

"We think the new climate goals will be difficult to achieve without significantly compromising India's stated economic targets and its

ambition to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024/25. Indeed, it may not even be possible," Oxford Economics said.

In 2019, Modi envisioned to make India a USD 5 trillion economy and global powerhouse by 2024-25. Last month, the Prime Minister announced a bold pledge that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and asserted that it is the only country that is delivering in "letter and spirit" the commitments on tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement.

According to Oxford Economics, financing the transition will also be a big challenge.

to convert these fintech initiatives into a fintech revolution. "A revolution that helps to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country", he said.

The Prime Minister emphasized that now it is time

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Debashish Malik, Mandira Mallick, Pankaj, H No D-343, Block-D, DDA Flats Bindapur, New Delhi, Delhi/ A/c No:- LBDEL00002406345	Flat No 10, 2nd Floor DDA Sector G-B Pocket 3 Block B4 Narela Delhi Delhi	17/07/2021 Rs. 11,81,080.53/-	31/01/2021
2.	Ved Prakash Pal, Shashi Kala Pal, C 14129 Nanki Public School, Sangam Vihar, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGUR00002478851	Appt No 17031, 3rd Floor Block 17 Zara Aavaas Sec 104 Gurgaon	04/08/2021 Rs. 11,44,914/-	06/02/2021
3.	Yogender Singh Singh, Mohan Lal, A-165 Gali No-11, Chander Vihar, Mandawli, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002380026	Flat No 6, 1st Floor, Block G7, Pocket 3 LIG Sector-G8, Narela, Delhi	14/07/2021 Rs. 10,62,946/-	05/08/2020
4.	Rupam Khare, Shalini Singh, 11 Panchsheel Park, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00004036565	Flat No A 308, Tower K 10, Koyal Enclave Code 847 Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 11,59,682/-	31/01/2021
5.	Santosh Kumar Sharma, Geeta Sharma, A-9 3rd Floor Jaggi Wali Gali, Amritpur A Garhi East Of Kailash, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGHZ00001746986	Plot No 446 Second Floor, Shakti Khand- III Indrapuram Ghaziabad Ghaziabad	31/07/2021 Rs. 11,48,170/-	11/03/2021
6.	Chetan Deopa, Hari Singh Deopa, Vill Pratap Pur Po, Chakaluwa Haldwani, Nainital, Haldwani A/c No:- LBGHZ00002871234	Flat No D 905, Floor 9 Tower D Bulland Calisto Sec 10 Plot No Gh 02 B 1 Greater Noida	17/07/2021 Rs. 11,07,775/-	02/01/2021
7.	Dip Kumar Das, Sarabani Karmakar Das, 1607 Ground Floor, Outram Line, Near Kingsway Camp, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00001202412	Flat No B 254, Sector B, 1st Floor, Left Side Green Field Colony Faridabad	17/07/2021 Rs. 11,55,920/-	31/01/2021
8.	Sailesh Kumar, Seema Srivastava, Flat No 2B, 011, Gc Grand Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBGHZ00001942742	Flat No S-2, Plot No.-296, Sec-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs. 13,92,526/-	30/09/2020
9.	Ravi Kumar, Babita Aggarwal, D-11/76, Sector-08, Rohini, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001943553	Unit Reference No KS3-09-503, Kassia Jaypee Greens Sport City Gautam Budh Nagar Gautam Buddha Nagar	04/08/2021 Rs. 12,94,219/-	31/01/2021
10.	Sohaib Khan, Afsana Begam, H-94 Second Floor H Block, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002356912	Flat No 28, First Floor DDA LIG Flat Block D7 Pocket 03 Sector 34 Rohini Delhi Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 11,72,208.3/-	31/01/2021
11.	Narmada Devi, Vinod Meena, B-136, Khanpur Colony, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002382316	Flat No 15, 3rd Floor Pocket 3 Block C7 Sector 34 Rohini Delhi	17/07/2021 Rs. 10,96,171/-	28/02/2021
12.	Usha Devi, Ramnayan Yadav, H No P 192A Pillanji, Village Sarojini Nagar, Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002368843	Lig Flat No 60, 4th Floor Sec 34 Pocket 3 Block A 3 Rohini Delhi Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,90,759.5/-	31/01/2021
13.	Vineet Kumar Rattan, Sarita Sharma, House No-A-62, new Palam Vihar, Phase-1 Gurgaon, Gurgaon, 122017 A/c No:- LBFDB00004810598	Flat No-1101, Happy Homes Grand- Tower 3 Floor 11 Sector-85 Faridabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,37,550/-	11/01/2021
14.	Asha Nayal, Reva Nayal, C-38/A, Flat No 404 2nd Floor, Shiv Park, Delhi, Khanpur, A/c No:- LBDEL00002358174	Flat No 28, 1st Floor Block D2 Pocket 3 Sector G8 Narela Delhi Delhi	31/07/2021 Rs. 10,14,898/-	11/03/2021
15.	Surender Kumar, Anamika Singh, H No 612 Flat No 11, Block A Yamuna, Apartment, Second, Delhi Floor Devi Village A/c No:- LBDEL00005106504	Flat No 2408, Floor 24, Migsun Vilaasa- Sun-6, Plot No- GH-1B(2), Sector Ela-2	14/07/2021 Rs. 9,80,969/-	11/02/2021
16.	Virendra Singh, Bangali Babu, H 167 Ground Floor, Patarganj Village, Patarganj Village, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002357724	Flat No-10, LIG 2nd Floor Block D2 Pocket 3 Sector-G-8 Narela Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,91,579/-	31/01/2021
17.	Reena Verma, Mukul Verma, Reena Verma, 201 Plot No-1075 Sector-1 Vasundhara, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBDEL00005259497	Plot No-20 And 21, Kambhipura SKC, Ranbow, Layout, Bangalore Karnataka	05/07/2021 Rs. 10,69,442/-	31/01/2021
18.	Dilip Bhatnagar, Minni Bhatnagar, E-1584 Sainik Colony Near Bhadkal, Lake Sector-49 Faridabad Nit, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00002953098	Flat No 101, 1st Floor Block-B Antriksh Valley Plot No Gh-15D Sector-1 Greater Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,32,515/-	31/01/2021
19.	Shaukat Alam, Nastha Khatoun, S/o Md Alam House Number, 414 D Block, Pocket 11, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00005207048	DDA Janta Flat No C-814, Frist Floor Pocket-11 Jasola Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,33,717.99/-	31/01/2021
20.	Seema Bhandari, Sanjay Bhandari, Dja Appartments, Plot No-1A Flat No-515, Sector-13 Dawarka, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGHZ00001246637	G/3, 60th Floor Plumeria Garden Estate, Greater Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,88,512/-	31/01/2021
21.	Manas Khanna, Kshama Khanna, B-149 Gail Society Sector-56, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBDEL00001392063	11/2, 1st Floor Maha Nagar Extn. Na Lucknow	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,59,798/-	31/01/2021
22.	Devender Kumar Panwar, Dinesh Kumar, Archana., H No H-363 Block 10, Kali Bari Marg Gol Market, Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002377774	Flat No 37, 4th Floor Sector 34 Pocket 3 Block E 1 Rohini Delhi Delhi	03/07/2021 Rs. 9,41,081/-	31/12/2020
23.	Sarojini., G Senthil Kumar, H No 766, Sec 3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Faridabad- 121004, A/c No:- LBFDB00004405051	Flat No-706, 7th Floor Auric City Homes Tower 8 Sector-82 Faridabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,23,554.99/-	31/01/2021
24.	Manish Kumar, Vinod Kumar, 160 Rajeev Garden, Sangam Vihar Loni, Loni, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00002378225	Flat No 13, Third Floor DDA LIG Flat, Block A1, Pocket 2 Sector G-2 Narela Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,56,838.4/-	31/01/2021
25.	Sudhir Kumar Chauhan, Flat No-F-1, Flat No-F-1, F.F Plot No-B-1/17, DLF, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBDEL00001409345	Flat No-F-1, Flat No-F-1, F.F Plot No-B-1/17 DLF, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs. 10,07,128/-	31/12/2020
26.	Gaurav Bansal, Preeti Bansal, Flat No 1903, Tower Cm 2, SuperTech Capetown, Sec-74 Noida, Up, Noidasec 74 Noida A/c No:- LBDEL00003535073	Flat No:- 1903, 19th Floor Plot No:- Gh-01/ Asector- 74 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	03/07/2021 Rs. 9,81,494.78/-	11/01/2021
27.	Santpal Singh, Rajesh Singh, D-1/123 2nd Floor, Sector 16 Rohini, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001987766	Plot No.-123, Pocket-D-1 2nd Floor With Roof Sector-16 Rohini Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,00,464.5/-	31/12/2020
28.	Gopinath Nayak, Aratee Nayak, H. No: 135, Block-D, Sector-Beta-1, G.B. Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Noida, A/c:- LBDEL00001727736	H. No: 135 Block-D, Sector- Beta-1 G.B. Nagar, Uttar Pradesh	09/07/2021 Rs. 9,51,131/-	31/01/2021
29.	Aditya Bansal, Amit Bansal, Flat No 153 PKT B New Mig Flat, DDA Matur Vihar Ph 3, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002422662	Flat No 2107 21st Floor Unibera Tower 4 Sec 1 Gautam Buddha Nagar	04/08/2021 Rs. 9,66,695/-	31/01/2021
30.	Rajesh Shukla, Suman Shukla, Prashant Shukla, 204, Richmond Park, Gautam, Sahakari Awas Samiti, Plot No. Gh 9, Sector 6, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00001257864	Plot No-9, Gautam Sahkari Awas Samiti Ltd Sec-6, Vasundhara Awasai Yojana Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 10,53,403.15/-	31/01/2021
31.	Upendra Singh Marwaria, H- Skytech Matrott 204 FLR, Noida, A/c No:- LBDEL00004797936	Unit No H 204, 2nd Floor Skytech Matrott Plot No Gh 01/D Sector 76 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/08/2021 Rs. 9,97,011/-	31/01/2021
32.	Jyoti Datta, Praveen Datta, Rahul Dutta, D-1, 902 A, Venus Apts, Mehrauli, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002146773	House No-259, Surya Nagar, Phase- II, Sector 91 Faridabad Faridabad	17/07/2021 Rs. 11,61,013/-	31/01/2021
33.	Shabina Parvej, Mohammad Sajid Ahmad, 143 Ground Floor, Hari Nagar, Na, Ashram, New Delhi 110014, Na, Delhi, A/c No:- LBNOD0000051078774	Shop No 135, 1st Floor GYC Runway Plot No MPC 01 Gaur Yamuna City Pocket 3 Mirzapur Site Sector 19 Yeida Shops/ Studios Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 9,46,852/-	31/01/2021
34.	Vinay Arora, Anuradha Arora, 151, 1st Floor, Gaur Homes, Elegente Block-E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBDEL00001822560	151, 1st Floor, Gaur Homes Elegente, Block E, Govind Puram, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs. 9,86,677.3/-	11/03/2021
35.	Rajesh Kumar, Swati Barnwal, H No 4091, Sector 4c, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBDEL00001805241	H No 4C/4091, 3rd Floor Sector-4C Vasundhara Enclave Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 9,54,093.4/-	31/01/2021
36.	Ashwani Kumar, Gunjan Kumar, C-43, Surya Nagar, Near Ram Mandir, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00001078774	G-1, Plot C 43 Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs. 9,62,209.03/-	31/01/2021
37.	Yakshi Singh, Sourabh Singh, Flat No 506 Tower 10 Lotus Panache Plot No Gh005, Gautam Buddha Nagar, A/c No:- LBNOD00002416884	Office Space No 8120, 8th Floor Gaur City Mall Gaur City Gh-01 Sec-4 Greater Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 8,27,303/-	31/01/2021
38.	Jaideep Nandi, Sohini Nandi, 267 B-14 Himgiri, Sector- 34, Noida, A/c No:- LBDEL0000358587	Parsvnath Estate- 902 Plot No. Brs- 08 Sector Omega Building No T-3 Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 9,19,201/-	31/01/2021
39.	Anup Kumar Mishra, Jagdish Narain Mishra, Anoop Kumar No E 452 Sec Bita 1, Narayan International School, Greater Noida, Noida, A/c No:- LBDEL00004931108	Plot No 855, Block 7D Sec 18 Yedia Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 8,05,285/-	31/12/2020
40.	Rajesh Kumar, Swati Barnwal, H No 4091 Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBGUR00002443141	H No 4C/4091, 3rd Floor Sector-4C Vasundhara Enclave Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 8,19,697/-	31/01/2021
41.	Poonam Bhardwaj, Rohit Bhardwaj, 302, Prem Building, Amar Prem App, Andheri West, Mumbai, A/c No:- LBDEL00001749420	Flat No. 504/1, Bldg 5th Floor, N.G. Paradise Mira Road (E) Mumbai	04/08/2021 Rs. 8,63,926/-	31/01/2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : December 04, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited



भारतीय थल सेना

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अधिकारी प्रविष्टि

तकनीकी स्नातक कोर्स (टी जी सी-135) (जुलाई 2022 में निर्धारित) के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। आवेदन 06 दिसम्बर 2021 से 04 जनवरी 2022 तक खुले हैं।

OFFICER ENTRY

Online applications are invited for Technical Graduate Course (TGC-135) (scheduled in Jul 2020). Applications are open from 06 Dec 2021 to 04 Jan 2022.

- नोट:**
- सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से सावधान रहें।
 - विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

- Note:**
- Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
 - For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

davp 10601/11/0029/2122

NOTICE

Invitation for Empanelment of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery
No. Agri Engg/4972/EM/SMAM/2021 -22/171 Dtd. 07/12/2021

Applications are invited from Manufacturers of Agricultural Machineries, who are registered in the DBT portal www.agrimachinerv.nic.in, for empanelment to facilitate community procurement under different Schemes for the year, 2021-22. Application forms along with Terms & Conditions and list of Agricultural Machinery shall be available in the office of the undersigned from 04/12/2021 and this is also made available in the departmental website www.diragri.assam.gov.in. Last date of submission of applications along with required documents, certificates, test reports etc. is 18/12/2021.

Empanelment Security for an amount of **Rs.1,00,000.00/-** (Rupees One Lakh) only in the form of FD/TDR pledged in favour of the 'Chief Engineer, Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22' and with minimum **3 (three) years validity** shall have to be submitted along with application form.

Chief Engineer Agriculture
Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22
Janasanyog/CF/2190/21

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION AND VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) III, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 invites e-tender as per the details given as follows: E-Tender No. Dy.CE/III/BRC/DB-KEW/40. Name of Work: Construction of D-Class into B-Class Station Building, Pump Room & Water Supply Arrangement at New B-Class Stations of Morya, Tilakwada & Kundhela including cover shed and platform Earth Work and safety fencing with extension of pipe bridge etc. in connection with material modification of Dabhoi-Chandod Gauge Conversion with extension upto Kevaldiya Project. Approximate Cost of Work: ₹ 1994.56 Lakhs. EMD: Nil. Availability of Online Tender for Bidding: From 08/12/2021 at 11.00 hrs. to 22/12/2021 up to 15.00 hrs. Date of Opening & Time: 22/



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

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

SHORTCIRCUITS

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



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



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



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

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



BOLLYWOOD

Not just glitz and glamour



DISCOVERING REAL SELF

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking about one instance where his diary bailed him out of the troubled waters of uneasy days, Soni concluded, "When I received my first award and my name was announced, there was rock silence. There was no one clapping for me but my diary helped me get through such days. I have put myself out there despite such lows, but in the end, I am also thankful for my highs, and my diary has truly helped me through all of it."

—IANS

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

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

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

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



designers and the celebrities on the jury panel.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

◆What role do you play in your daily life?

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

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

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

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

Road less travelled

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Put on your dancing shoes

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

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

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

Badshah on his new track for discovery+'s *Say Yes To The Dress India*, said, "The song hits the right notes for each bride, and it was absolutely fun to envision its playlist as they *Say Yes To The Dress*."

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



the amount of love it deserves", shared Payal.

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

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

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

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

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

TRAVEL BUG

ROAD LESS-TRAVELLED

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



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

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

Rest assured, we are here to help you!

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



DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

KOLKATA

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

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

who wish to take the basic course in rock climbing. The name might be somewhat misleading as it is a small plateau, surrounded by hills. If you are feeling particularly lucky, and railway services recommence, you can catch the train to Barabhum from Howrah. Barabhum is a short distance from Bagmundi which is one of the main entrances to Ayodhya Hill. If this is the route you take, seek directions from locals to Bamni Falls on the way. Don't forget to catch a full view of the creek and the beauty of the scene from the watchtower for an enchanting experience.

The region has great religious significance since, according to mythology, Rama and Sita lived here during their exile. Sita was thirsty and Ram pierced an arrow through the Earth's crust and a pristine fountain gushed out. The place where Sita quenched her

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

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

CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mayank makes statement with 100 as India score 221/4

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

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

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

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Worse, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli failed to trouble the scorers and it was a hundred that came under pressure with India being 80 for 3 and 160 for 4 at different stages of the game.

Had the Indian team management been forced to play Rahane, who is likely to fall on Agarwal and it's never a great feeling to go out there in such a situation.

He was jittery to begin with as a streaky boundary through slips came early on but once he marched down the track to loft

Ajaz Patel (29-10-73-4) for a straight six, his nerves had all but vanished. The boundaries --- 14 in all and four sixes, all off Patel showed his class as he got his fourth hundred in Tests.

In fact, Patel, who was by far the best New Zealand bowler in view, having reduced India from 80 for no loss to 80 for three, did look pedestrian in front of Agarwal at times.

When an airborne Agarwal punched the air after a square driven boundary off part-time seamer Daryl Mitchell, one could sense that pressure weighing a thousand tones must have come off his chest.

Agarwal was the first choice opener during the England series but before the first game, he got hit on the head and KL Rahul coming in his place, grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

With Rohit also having his best overseas series as Test opener, Agarwal was confined to the reserves.

He could again be back in the reserves but he made a statement of intent with his strokeplay as he dominated the 80-run fourth wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (18).

Along with another reserve player in Wriddhiman Saha (25 batting, 53 balls), Agarwal added

another 61 runs before the close of play.

New Zealand had erred in not playing Neil Wagner on a track where there was a lot of bounce on offer.

If Agarwal showed discretion, the same couldn't be said about Shubman Gill (44, 71 balls), who was dazzling till he was around in their 80-run opening stand before Patel snuffed him out.

Gill looked fluent before paying for his impetuosity which led to a mini collapse.

Mumbai-born left-arm spinner Patel also picked up Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in quick succession with both failing to trouble the scorers. Patel became the second Mumbai-born cricketer after legendary England captain Douglas Jardine to play against India in his city of birth.

He altered the length cleverly and the extra bounce, which is always a speciality of Wankhede, helped him immensely.

He had Gill on the mat when he flighted one to entice him to come out and the ball turned and jumped with keeper Tom Blundell making a hash of a stumping.

However, the very

next ball saw him shorten the length as Gill tried jabbing at it and it turned enough to take the outside edge into Ross Taylor's palms.

Pujara's confidence has hit nadir after too many failures and he survived a DRS appeal from New Zealand before he jumped down the track to york himself. Patel, very wisely, fired one with an angle straight into his toes and what happened with Pujara often happens with out-of-form batters.

For skipper Kohli, it was a delivery that straightened after pitching as the Indian skipper tried to play a forward defensive stroke. Straight umpire Anil Chaudhary gave him out and Kohli immediately asked for a review.

The replay was inconclusive on whether it hit the bat first or pad and as per rule, TV umpire Virender Sharma went with his on-field colleague, leaving Kohli absolutely livid.

He had a word with leg umpire Nitin Menon and was seen expressing his displeasure.

The TV cameras then caught him standing in the dressing room balcony, visibly upset with the decision, which was a touch and go one.



India vs New Zealand
DAY 1

Scoreboard

INDIA 1ST INNINGS:

Mayank Agarwal batting	120
Shubman Gill c Taylor b Patel	44
Cheteshwar Pujara b Patel	0
Virat Kohli lbw b Patel	0
Shreyas Iyer c Tom Blundell b Ajaz Patel	18
Wriddhiman Saha batting	25

Extras: (b-9, lb-5) 14

Total: 221/4 in 70 overs

Fall of wickets: 80-1, 80-2, 80-3, 160-4

Bowling (New Zealand):

Tim Southee	15-5-29-0
Kyle Jamieson	9-2-30-0
Ajaz Patel	29-10-73-4
William Somerville	8-0-46-0
Rachin Ravindra	4-0-20-0
Daryl Mitchell	5-3-9-0

MOST DUCK BY INDIAN TOP ORDER (1-4) IN TESTS

PLAYER	M	I	N.O	RUNS	AVG	H.S	100	50	0
Virender Sehwag	98	169	6	8129	49.87	319	22	29	15
Pankaj Roy	43	79	4	2442	32.56	173	5	9	14
Dilip Vengsarkar	99	151	16	5533	40.98	166	15	26	14
Virat Kohli	80	126	7	6348	53.34	254*	23	18	12
Sunil Gavaskar	120	204	13	9843	51.53	236*	34	42	11
Sachin Tendulkar	179	276	27	13507	54.24	248*	44	58	11
Cheteshwar Pujara	89	150	9	6486	46.00	206*	18	31	10

FAISEL FEATURES

Rahul bhai told me to make it 'big': Mayank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mayank Agarwal knows that he might be confined to the sidelines once KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma are back in the mix but what has helped him stay focussed is words of wisdom from coach Rahul Dravid, who told him to control what's in his domain.

Agarwal, who has been in and out of the squad in recent times, scored a fine 120 under pressure on the opening day of the second Test before which he watched legendary Sunil Gavaskar's batting videos and slightly changed his stance.

"When I was picked, Rahul bhai spoke to me. He asked me to control what is in my hands and said, 'go out there and give it your best,'" Agarwal said at the end of the day's play.

"He had told me 'When you get set, make it big'. I am happy to have capitalised on the start that I had. But that message was very clear from Rahul bhai, that I should make it count," he added.

The Bangalore based opener lamented that it was his misfortune that he got hit on the head during a net session in England and then

there was nothing in his hands.

"It was unfortunate for me to not have played in England. I got hit and there's nothing much I could do about that. I accepted it and continued to work hard and work on my process and my game."

Gavaskar on the day during his commentary session spoke about how he had advised Agarwal to reduce his pronounced back-lift into a shorter one and the opener said that as of now, he is trying to ape the iconic former India captain's side-on stance.

"He told me that I should consider keeping the bat a bit low initially in my innings. I have a tendency to hold it high. I couldn't make that adjustment in this short period of time. When he was saying that, I noticed his shoulder position and basically picked up that I need to be more side on."

On the day, he hit four sixes off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, who was New Zealand's best bowler by a distance with four wickets to his name. He said it was a "conscious decision".

"He was bowling exceedingly well. But each time anything was in our half (our arc), the plan was to be a bit more attacking.

Anything that came a little towards us in length, we were going to go for it.

"He had that phase when he tied us down, so it was a conscious decision to make it count when we could or each time he bowled it in our spot," he explained.

For Agarwal, this innings was more about "grit and determination" and he was prepared to look ugly as long as he got results. "That is something I have thought about, but this innings was more about grit and determination, just to stick with the plan, be disciplined. I know I didn't look good sometimes but I got the job done," he said.

India hasn't still reached a commanding score and Agarwal reckoned that the first session on Saturday will be crucial. "How we start is crucial, the focus is that. The first session we want to play it out, the wicket is going to get harder and harder to bat on."



Afghanistan will face pressure from ICC over women's cricket: Ramiz

PTI ■ LONDON

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja has said that the ICC will put pressure on Afghanistan to clarify its position on the ban of women's cricket after the Taliban took control of the government in Kabul. Raja is part of an International Cricket Council working group reviewing the state of the game in Afghanistan.

"Pressure will be put on Afghanistan. I'm sure they will have to decide in the next six months how they deal with the ICC," Raja told Stumped on the BBC World Service.

It is an ICC requirement for full members to also have a national women's team, besides the men's side. But the return to Taliban rule has led to the prospect of women being forbidden to play cricket in Afghanistan. "Like everybody else, we are giving them time. They are in a difficult situation," said Raja. Afghanistan is one of 12 full members of the ICC. Afghanistan's men took part in the T20 World Cup that was played in the UAE and Oman in October and November.

Sri Lanka completes test series sweep vs West Indies

AP ■ GALLE

Spinners Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya took five wickets each to propel Sri Lanka to a crushing 164-run win over West Indies in the second test Friday and a 2-0 series sweep.

Chasing 297 to win, the West Indies reached 65-2 in the second innings at lunch on the fifth day but the tourists were bowled out for 132 in the third session. They lost their last eight wickets for 40 runs.

Embuldeniya had best figures of 5-35 while Mendis recorded 5-66, and collected 11 wickets in the match.

Sri Lanka was still batting when play started on the final day and they declared their second innings on 345-9 in the morning session.

Sri Lanka had scored 204 in its first innings and the West Indies made 253, taking a 49-run lead.

Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 155 and his overnight partner Embuldeniya was out for 39 bowled by Jason Holder.

De Silva faced 262 balls and hit two sixes and 11



boundaries in scoring his eighth test century.

Left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul had the best bowling figures of 3-106 while offspinner Roston Chase took two wickets.

West Indies lost its first second-innings wicket with the total on 15 when captain Kraigg Brathwaite (6) was trapped lbw by Mendis.

Then Nkrumah Bonner joined Jermaine Blackwood

and the pair added 50 runs for the second wicket before Blackwood (36) was caught by de Silva off Embuldeniya in the last ball before lunch break.

When Mendis had Shai Hope (16) caught by Lakmal, West Indies' score stood at 92-3, but it triggered the late collapse.

Bonner top scored for the West Indies with 44.

Sri Lanka won the first test at the same venue by 187 runs.



Axelsen, Tzu Ying named BWF Male and Female Player of the Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Tokyo Games silver medalist Tai Tzu Ying were named the BWF Male and Female Player of the Year respectively in recognition of their stellar runs this season.

It was the first season-ending award in this category for both Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying -- the All England champions of 2020.

All eight winners were honoured in a virtual broadcast on Friday.

Axelsen was rewarded for his extraordinary run starting from the Barcelona Spain Masters in February 2020.

The Dane made 10 finals in 11 individual tournaments, winning seven of those, including gold at the Tokyo Games. "This means a lot to

me," said Axelsen in a release. "Thank you to my team, my coaches, my friends, my family, my competitors.

This year has been really eventful. A few downs, but a lot of ups, with the Olympics being the biggest win, a dream coming true. This award gives me a lot of motivation to work harder."

Tai Tzu Ying won the All England 2020 and then struck a rich vein of form at the three-tournament Asian Leg in January 2021, making all three finals, and clinching the BWF World Tour Finals 2020.

The Chinese Taipei player then made the final of the Tokyo Olympics, going down in a thrilling match to China's Chen Yu Fei.

"It's a pity I can't be in Indonesia for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals," said the world No.1.

Medvedev puts Russia back in Davis Cup semifinals

AP ■ MADRID

Daniil Medvedev maintained his perfect record at the Davis Cup Finals to put Russia into the last four.

Medvedev defeated Mikael Ymer 6-4, 6-4 Thursday to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Sweden in the quarterfinals of the revamped team event.

Andrey Rublev earlier ousted Elias Ymer, Mikael's older brother, in a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (3) win at the Madrid Arena. With Russia having secured the win after the two singles matches, the doubles match was-



n't played.

Russia will face Germany in the semifinals on Saturday. Serbia and top-ranked Novak Djokovic will face Croatia in the other semifinal on Friday.

It was the third consecutive straight-set victory for the second-ranked Medvedev after group-stage wins over Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta and Ecuador's Emilio Gomez.

Medvedev broke serve twice in the first set and three times in the second against No. 94 Mikael Ymer, Sweden's top-ranked player.

Argentina end France's dream run to book final berth in Junior Hockey WC



PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former champions Argentina ended France's dream run in the FIH Junior Men's Junior Hockey World Cup by registering a hard-fought 3-1 win in penalty

shoot-out of the first semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

The display from both teams was not worthy of a semi-final but 2005 champions Argentina kept their composure in the shoot-out after the regulation 60 minutes ended goalless.

In the penalty shoot-out, Lucio Mendez, Bautista Capurro and Franco Agostini scored for Argentina while only skipper Timothee Clement found the target for France.

The match ended on a bad note as tempers flared after Lucas Montecot missed

France's fourth attempt, resulting in almost fistcuffs but officials of both teams and on-field umpires rushed quickly to handle the situation.

The first semifinal turned out to be a sedate affair, at least in the first two quarters as both the teams failed to create any clear cut chances from field play. Argentina were by far the better side on display and attacked French goal on quite a few occasions.

The South Americans secured two penalty corners inside the first 10 minutes but, on both occasions, France goalkeeper Guillaume de Vaulcelles denied the opposition.

Qualified for semis, Sindhu loses final group match



PTI ■ BALI

Already Assured of a semi-final berth at the BWF World Tour Finals, India's P V Sindhu on Friday suffered a three-game defeat to top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in her third and final group A women's singles match here on Friday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, couldn't apply enough pressure on the world no. 10 Chochuwong to go down fighting 12-21 21-19 14-21 in a match that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

This was Sindhu's third loss to the 2016 world junior champion Chochuwong in seven meetings.

Sindhu thus finished in the second position in group A, behind Chochuwong and her opponent of the semifinal stage will be decided in a draw later in the day.

Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth

bowed out of the season-ending tournament after losing to second seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia 19-21 14-21 in 37 minutes in his third and final group B match.

It was Srikanth's second loss to the world no. 8 Malaysian, who had defeated the Indian at Hylo Open in straight games.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too ended their campaign though they eked out a hard-fought 21-19 9-21 21-14 win over England's Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in the inconsequential third and final group match.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, was quite erratic and couldn't control the rallies against Chochuwong, who rode on her quality of strokes to stay a step ahead.

In the first game, Sindhu erred in her lengths early on as Chochuwong led 5-3. The Indian managed to collect a few points but she never looked in control.

Chochuwong took the initiative and kept things under her control, leading 11-6 at the interval.

The Thai player got rewarded for her angled and crisp returns, while Sindhu lacked consistency as Chochuwong took 17-9 lead.