

**OPINION 6**  
GREEN STAR  
OVER BENGAL

**WORLD 8**  
LAWYER, OTHERS ARRESTED BY HONG  
KONG NATIONAL SECURITY UNIT

**SPORT 12**  
INDIA'S CAMPAIGN ENDS  
IN THAILAND OPEN

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 16 Issue 14  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CHANDIGARH, FRIDAY JANUARY 15, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

PREITY HINTS  
AT NEW  
BEGINNINGS  
10 VIVACITY



## Vaccine makers liable for damages

No indemnity for manufacturers in Govt's vaccine purchase deals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has refused to give in to the request of Indian companies, particularly the Serum Institute of India (SII) which had publicly sought protection against all lawsuits for vaccines in case of any report of health risk or complication following inoculation of jab against Covid-19.

The purchase order executed by the Government with the vaccine makers stipulates that the companies will have to inform the Government authorities immediately in case of reports of any health risks or complications arising from the vaccine. It reads "Company shall be liable for all adversities as per CDSCO/ Drugs and Cosmetics Act/DCGI policy/approval."

Last month, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of SII whose Covishield vaccine has been given emergency use authorisation (EUA), had said that manufacturers needed protection against all lawsuits for vaccines, especially during the pandemic.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech also has been given EUA to supply Covaxin which initially the Government had said was being kept as a "back-



Medics during the launch of a first-of-its-kind Spicehealth Genome Sequencing Laboratory for all positive samples from international travellers at the airport in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

up plan".

Vaccine makers need to be protected against liability for serious adverse reactions to their shots during a pandemic scenario, Poonawalla had said. The Pune-headquartered company head during a virtual panel discussion on the challenges to vaccine development last month had also shared that he planned to propose this to the Government.

This is because such issues could potentially increase fear of getting vaccinated and also works to "bankrupt" or "distract" the companies making them, according to him.

"We need to have the Government indemnify manufacturers, especially vaccine manufacturers, against all lawsuits. In fact, COVAX and other countries have already started talking about that," he said during Carnegie India's Global Technology Summit.

On Thursday too at an event, Poonawalla asserted that the lawsuit against the firms

will hit the vaccine supply.

However, the Government seems to not be keen to take up their request.

"Indian vaccine makers will be held liable for any complications or adverse effects that arise from the administration of their jabs. The Government has not accepted their demand that they be indemnified against mishaps," said sources in the Union Health Ministry.

"The Government can act: the US, for example, has in fact invoked a law, to say that during a pandemic — and this is especially important only during a pandemic — to indemnify vaccine manufacturers against lawsuits for severe adverse effects or any other frivolous claims which may come about.

Because, that adds to the fear and also will bankrupt vaccine manufacturers or distract them if they have to just all day just fight lawsuits and explain to the media what is happening," Poonawalla had said.

## Exercise, enough sleep must for vaccine efficacy: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Depression, stress and loneliness can weaken the body's immune system, and lower the effectiveness of certain vaccines, like those against the Covid-19, scientists have said and suggested simple interventions, including exercise and getting a good night's sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination to maximise the jab's initial effectiveness.

The researchers in their report accepted for publication in the journal Perspectives on Psychological Science noted that even though rigorous testing has shown that the Covid-19 vac-

cines approved for distribution in the US are highly effective at producing a robust immune response, not everyone will immediately gain their full benefit.

Environmental factors, as well as an individual's genetics and physical and mental health, can weaken the body's immune system, slowing the response to a vaccine, they said.

"In addition to the physical toll of Covid-19, the pandemic has an equally troubling mental health component, causing anxiety and depression, among many other related problems," said Annelise Madison, a researcher at the Ohio State University in the

United States.

"Emotional stressors like these can affect a person's immune system, impairing their ability to ward off infections," said Madison, lead author on the paper.

The report sheds light on vaccine efficacy and how health behaviours and emotional stressors can alter the body's ability to develop an immune response.

Vaccines work by challenging the immune system. Within hours of a vaccination, there is an innate, general immune response on the cellular level as the body begins to recognise a potential biological threat.

## BKU president recuses self from SC's farm panel



Farmers stage a protest against Centre's farm reform laws at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After farmers' unions raised doubts over the composition of the committee by the Supreme Court, insisting that its members have been in favour of the three laws in the past, Bharatiya Kisan Union president and former MP Bhupinder Singh Mann recused himself from the SC-appointed committee saying he doesn't wish to "compromise farmers' interests".

According to sources, the SC-appointed committee members were scheduled to meet on Zoom on Thursday evening.

The matter will now go back to the court for further orders.

"I am recusing myself from

the committee and I will always stand with my farmers and Punjab," Mann said in an unsigned statement tweeted by the BKU.

While staying the implementation of the three contentious farm laws until further orders, the Supreme Court appointed a four-member committee to resolve the deadlock.

The committee comprised Anil Ghanwat, president of Shetkari Sangathan, Pramod Kumar Joshi, director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute, and agriculture economist Ashok Gulati, apart from Mann.

Mann was one of the few farm union leaders to have come out in support of the Centre's new farm laws.

## Trump makes history, 1st US Prez to be impeached twice

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump became the first president in US history to be impeached twice when 10 of his fellow Republican Congressmen joined Democrats in the House of Representatives to charge him with inciting an unprecedented insurrection at the US Capitol last week.

In a bipartisan vote, the Democratic-controlled House on Wednesday impeached Trump by 232 to 197 votes, exactly one week after pro-Trump rioters forced lawmakers to flee from the very chamber in which they cast ballots during the fourth presidential impeachment in US history.

Ten Republicans, including the House's No. 3 Republican, Liz Cheney, joined all Democrats to impeach 74-year-old Trump for "incitement of insurrection" for his actions on January 6, when he delivered a speech inciting his supporters to storm the US Capitol.

The violence temporarily halted the counting of Electoral College votes and resulted in



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi displays the signed article of impeachment against President Donald Trump in an engrossment ceremony before transmission to the Senate for trial on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday

AP

the deaths of five individuals, including a police officer.

Trump will now face a trial in the Senate, where if convicted he could face being barred from ever holding office again.

The Senate is adjourned till January 19, a day before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States.

All four Indian-American Democratic House members — Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Pramila Jayapal — voted in favour of the impeachment.

The House went ahead with the move after Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday refused to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office.

## Ban on sale, storage of poultry lifted in Delhi as test for bird flu -ve

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday directed the authorities to open the Ghazipur poultry market after all 100 samples collected from there tested negative for bird flu.

"Samples taken from poultry markets have tested negative with respect to bird flu. Have directed to open the poultry market & withdraw the orders to restrict trade & import of chicken stocks," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, municipal corporations in Delhi also withdrew the ban imposed on meat shops, meat processing units and any other places of poultry products.

North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said the ban on sale-purchase, processing and packaging of poultry meat and products, including serving of cooked or half cooked poultry products, in restaurants and hotels has been withdrawn

with immediate effect.

"The decision was taken after a discussion with Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh which was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia," he said.

South Delhi Municipal Corporation too withdrew its order to prohibit keeping live poultry birds, sale and purchase of poultry meat at shops and in restaurants and running processing and packaging units anywhere in the jurisdiction of the civic body from immediate effect.

Mayor of East Delhi Nirmal Jain said an order has been issued to lift the ban on poultry products after samples tested negative for bird flu.

Earlier in the day, a senior official of the Delhi Animal Husbandry unit said there is no spread of bird flu among chickens in Delhi as all the 100 samples taken from Asia's largest poultry market in Ghazipur have tested negative.

## Can give befitting reply to any 'superpower': Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Striking a tough posture against China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India is always in favour of peace but its soldiers are capable of giving a befitting reply if any "superpower" hurts the country's pride. His stern remarks came against the backdrop of the ongoing face-off between India and China in eastern Ladakh.

Underlining the point that India is a peace-loving country and does not want conflict, Rajnath, however, said, "We don't want war and we are in favour of protecting everyone's security but I want to say this in clear terms that if any superpower wants to hurt our pride then our soldiers are capable of giving them a befitting reply."

Making this point, he also reiterated that India has always maintained that it wants peace and friendly ties with its neighbours.

"It always wanted peace and friendly ties with its neighbours because it's in our blood and culture," he said at the fifth



Armed Forces Veterans' Day at the Headquarters Training Command of the Indian Air Force in Bengaluru.

On the ongoing tension at the border, Rajnath said the Indian soldiers displayed exemplary courage and patience and if that can be narrated then every Indian will feel proud.

He hailed the Indian soldiers who showed extraordinary courage in "eliminating terrorists on the Pakistan soil". Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat was present on the occasion.

The Defence Minister's observations came at a time when several rounds of military and diplomatic-level talks between India and China have

so far failed to break the logjam.

The Corps Commanders of the two armies have met eight times in the last few months to find ways to disengage and de-escalate. Similarly, the diplomatic-level talks are also on but no headway was made.

At present, more than one lakh troops from both sides are facing each other at the 1,700-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The Indian Army has ensured that its troops now manning the border in temperature dipping to minus 30 degrees are adequately provided with winter clothing and prefabricated heated huts to withstand the cold.

## In a first in over 50 yrs, R-Day to be celebrated without a chief guest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There will be no chief guest this year at the Republic Day parade at the Rajpath. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was earlier supposed to be the main guest but had to withdraw later due to emergency situation created by the new strain of corona in his country.

Incidentally, it will be the first time since 1966 that the Republic Day parade will have no chief guest. As it is, the celebrations this year will be on a subdued note due to the pandemic. The parade route is shortened and will now end at the National Stadium instead of the Red Fort in previous years.

Moreover, there will be restrictions on number of spectators desirous to see the parade

at the Rajpath and not more than 25,000 people will be able to attend it. In previous years, more than one lakh people used to throng the venue besides scores of them lining on each side of the parade route.

Addressing a Press conference, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said due to the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has decided that this year there will not be any foreign head of State or Government as the chief guest for India's Republic Day event.

The last time the parade did not have a chief guest was in 1966 when Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister on January 24 after the demise of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on January 11.

## World's oldest known cave art is 45,500 yrs old

New Delhi: Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art — a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. The cave painting uncovered in South Sulawesi consists of a figurative depiction of a warty pig, a wild boar that is endemic to this Indonesian island.

The findings, published on Wednesday in the journal Science Advances, also represents some of the earliest archaeological evidence for modern humans in the region.

"The Sulawesi warty pig painting we found in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongnge is now the earliest known representational work of art in the world, as far as we are aware. The cave is in a valley that is enclosed by steep limestone cliffs, and is only accessible by a narrow cave passage in the dry season, as the valley floor is completely flooded in the wet season," said Professor Adam Brumm from Griffith



University in Australia.

He noted that the isolated Bugis community living in this hidden valley claim it had never before been visited by Westerners.

The researchers noted that the Sulawesi warty pig painting, dated to at least 45,500 years ago, is part of a rock art panel located above a high ledge along the rear wall of Leang Tedongnge.

"It shows a pig with a short crest of upright hairs and a pair of horn-like facial warts in

front of the eyes, a characteristic feature of adult male Sulawesi warty pigs," Brumm said.

"Painted using red ochre pigment, the pig appears to be observing a fight or social interaction between two other warty pigs," he added.

The previously oldest dated rock art 'scene' at least 43,900 years old, was a depiction of hybrid human-animal beings hunting Sulawesi warty pigs and dwarf bovids.

It was discovered by the

same research team at a nearby limestone cave site.

Basran Burhan, an Indonesian archaeologist and Griffith University PhD student, who led the survey, said that humans have hunted Sulawesi warty pigs for tens of thousands of years.

"These pigs were the most commonly portrayed animal in the ice age rock art of the island, suggesting they have long been valued both as food and a focus of creative thinking and artistic expression," Burhan added.

The team sampled the art for Uranium-series dating, a technique to determine the age of calcium carbonate materials.

"Rock art produced in limestone caves can sometimes be dated using Uranium-series analysis of calcium carbonate deposits ('cave popcorn') that form naturally on the cave wall surface used as a 'canvas' for the art," said Professor Maxime Aubert from Griffith

University.

It was this mineral deposit that, after careful removal by Aubert, yielded an age of 45,500 years, indicating that the rock art scene had been painted sometime prior to this. A second Sulawesi warty pig image, from Leang Balajajia, another cave in the region, was dated to 32,000 years ago.

The scientists have now dated multiple examples of early rock art in Sulawesi, including depictions of animals and narrative scenes that are outstanding both for the quality of their execution and rarity worldwide.

"We have found and documented many rock art images in Sulawesi that still await scientific dating," said study co-author Adhi Agus Oktaviana, a researcher from Indonesia's leading archaeological research centre ARKENAS.

"We expect the early rock art of this island to yield even more significant discoveries," Oktaviana added.

PTI

## CAPSULE

### DELHI'S AIR QUALITY TURNS 'SEVERE'

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned "severe" on Thursday due to the prevailing "extremely unfavourable" conditions for dispersion of pollutants, Government agencies said.

### 41 WB MLAS READY TO JOIN BJP: VIJAYWARGIYA

Indore: BJP general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya claimed on Thursday that he has a list of 41 MLAs "who support" the Mamata Banerjee Government in West Bengal but are ready to join the BJP.

### DEVOTEES TAKE DIP IN GANGA ON SANKRANTI

Haridwar: Lakhs of devotees from different parts of the country took a holy dip in the Ganga at Har ki Pauri and other ghats here on Thursday on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.





# Evolve mechanism to sensitise drivers on road safety: HP CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday directed the officers concerned to evolve an effective mechanism to reach out to all the driving license holders of the state to sensitize them regarding road safety measures and ensuring safer road mobility.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the review meeting of preparedness of Road Safety Month celebrations here.

He said that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to observe road safety month from January 18 to February 17. The main objective for organizing this event was to sensitize all the stakeholders regarding road safety and pro-

mote various activities for mitigating the road accidents and injuries, he said.

Thakur said that involvement of public as well as NGOs must be ensured to make the programme a success.

He said that special thrust must be laid on road safety advocacy programme and Good Samaritans for ensuring better road safety. Good Samaritan is a person who without expectation voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident.

He said that the Government of India had made an amendment in the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 in September, 2020 to provide rights to Good Samaritans.

The Chief Minister said that a proper media campaign must be prepared to sensitize the people regarding road safety in the state. The optimum use of print, digital and electronic media must be ensured besides broadcasting radio talk shows with subject specialists, he added.

He also stressed on the need to organize painting, essay and slogan writing competitions amongst school students. The online competition could also be organized through Nehru Yuva Kendras for various Yuva Kendras of the state.

Thakur also said that newly elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as Urban Local Bodies must also be involved in mass awareness regarding road safe-



ty measures.

The Chief Minister further said that orientation programme must also be held for drivers of school vans as well as commercial vehicles. Special drive must be held to sensitize PWD and NHAI contractors so that black spots could be removed and improved at the time of construction of roads, he added.

He said that eye testing camps should also be planned for commercial drivers.

Thakur also directed the Transport Department to associate driving training schools and trainees by holding workshops for sensitizing them on proper procedure for obtaining driving licenses.

He said that workshops should also be organized for spreading awareness regarding DIGI-LOCKER and mPARIVAHAN application.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary Transport KK Pant said that the State level inaugural function of the national road safety month would be held at Shimla on 18th of this month which would be presided over by the Chief Minister.

He said that on this day, the Chief Minister would also flag off a cycle rally as well as various groups to different districts to sensitize the people regarding road safety. Director Transport Department Anupam Kashyap made a detailed presentation regarding month long events being held throughout the state on the national road safety month.

## Classifieds

### LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original certificate of 10th Examination Year 2005, Roll No. 2135463 & Original certificate of 12th Examination Year 2007, Roll No. 2640006 issued by CBSE has been actually Lost. Name of the Candidate - Abhimanyu Choudhry S/o Surender Kumar Address:- Village Dholra, PO Radaur, Distt. Yamuna Nagar (HR).

It is notified for the information that Original Allotment Letter 4492 Dated 24/7/2000, REALLLOTMENT 3865 Dated 17/4/2001 AND 16466 Dated 27/12/2005 In Favour Of Madan Lal Tayal with Conveyance deed Vasika 5896 Dated 19/10/2015 with Possession And PTM and Other Relevant Documents of Property No 1039-P Huda Sector 24 Panipat have been Lost somewhere by Axis Bank limited on 25 oct 2020.IN this regard a DDR also lodged Agt. No. 132340252100074. Any person found please please contact on Mob. 9991965654.

**I, Jogender Singh** Deshwal S/o balbir Singh r/o village mayawati teh.samakhal distt panipat declare missing my client vasika no.890 dt.21.11.2018 ,1167 dt.14.11.2017 ,1851 dt.6.2.2015 ,910 dt.16.11.2010, 687 and 688 dt.6.9.2010,1851 dt.6.2.2015 ,1346 dt.14.3.2000 of s.r.panipat at bus stand panipat dated 21.3.2020 if someone found plz contact my chamber no.356 distt court panipat.

**I, Jogender Singh** Deshwal S/o balbir Singh r/o village mayawati teh.samakhal distt panipat declare missing my client deed no.5749 dt.30.1.1995,8609 dt.6.3.2000,5897 dt.30.10.97,4288 dt.11.8.97, 501dt. 27.4.92,3057 dt.4.8.82 registered in the office of s.r.panipat at bus stand panipat dated 21.3.2020 if someone found plz contact my chamber no.356 distt court panipat.

**I, Jogender Singh** Deshwal S/o balbir Singh r/o village mayawati teh.samakhal distt panipat declare missing my client allotment letter dt.9.10.2015,conveyance deed vasika no.4980 dt.18.10.2017 of s.r.panipat of plot no.165 block-D TDI city panipat at bus stand panipat dated 22.3.2020 if someone found plz contact my chamber no.356 distt court panipat.

**I, Mohit Kumar** s/o Ram Sawrop village fatchpur PO. Bhurewala tehsil Narainghar (Ambala) my agriculture Reg.no 2150 dated 30.11.2016 have been lost in narainghar on dated 25.12.2020. I have lodged DDR no. 132210552100082 if anybody found please contact the above address.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**We Surjeet Singh** S/o Ronki Ram and Reshmi W/o Surjeet Singh R/o H.No. 1036/1 B.M.K Manimajra Chandigarh our son Gaurav and his wife Sumita are out of our control. We disown them from our moveable immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at his/her own risk.

**I, Sawinder Singh** S/o Sohan Singh R/o Vpo. Khadoor Sahib (Tarn Taran) declare that I have changed my name from Swinder Singh to Sawinder Singh and my actual DOB is 27-03-1996.

**I, Pallavi Maurya** D/o Brijendra swarup Spouse of Raj Kumar Maurya R/o AFS Halwara (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Pallavi Maurya to Pallavi Verma vide Affidavit No.3900 dated 12-01-2021 before Raikot.

**We Parveen Kumar** Aggarwal S/o Bihari Lal Aggarwal, Daya Rani W/o Parveen Kumar Aggarwal R/o 513-514,Kacha Bazar, Ambala Cantt declare that Sunny Aggarwal and his wife Pooja and grand Daughter Adivika are out of my Control. So We Disown them from My all Movable Immoveable Properties.

**We, Brij Mohan** S/o Panna Lal and Santosh Kumari W/o Brij Mohan both r/o # 55, Hill View Enclave, Peer Muchalla Road, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Punjab declare that our Son Manoj Sachdeva is out of our control. We disown him from our moveable / immovable properties. Anybody deals with him at their own risk.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Rajnish Kumar** S/O Sansar Chand R/O 450 A, New Shastri Nagar, Teh & Distt Pathankot Have changed my minor son name Nabrun To Nabrun Bhardwaj.

**I, JC No. 353427 K Sub** Karnail Singh BEG Pune-3 Kirkee S/o Sadhu Ram Village Raghalw PO Manhot Teh Dasuya Distt. Hoshiarpur (Pb.) declare that my son's name written wrongly Krishandeep Singh in my army record. According matric certificate his correct name is Krishan Singh be amended in my army record.

**I, Asha Rani Garg** W/o No. 690134G EX JWO Pawan Kumar Aggarwal R/O H.No. 227, Amar Enclave, Near Radha Swami Satsang, Village Sahi, Tehsil & District Ambala declare that in my husband's service documents record my name wrongly written as Asha Rani Garg instead of Asha Rani. Note all concerns.

**I, No. 3396063Y EX NK** Hardeep Singh R/o V.P.O. Kharkan, Tehsil Guhla, District Kaithal declare that in my service documents record my mother's name wrongly written as Sukhvinder Kaur instead of Sukhvinder Kaur & D.O.B. 04-05-1941 instead of 01-01-1935. Note all concerns.

**I, JC No. 811147X EX Sub** Roshan Singh S/o Sh. Ram Kishan R/o Amar Colony P.O. NIT, District Kurukshetra declare that in my service documents record my son's name wrongly written as Neeraj instead of Neeraj Singh. Note all concerns.

**I, Jagathampal W/o Late Sh** Kanan R/O # 3356, Sector 38D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Jagathampal to Jagdamba.

**I, Ajay S/o Sh. Dharan Pal** R/O H. No. 154, Valmiki Colony, B. C. Bazar, Ambala Cantt have changed my name from Nikantar To Ajay.

**I, Anit Datal S/o Vinod R/O** Village-Malvi, Tehsil-Julana, Distt. Jind (Haryana) have changed my DOB from 10-11-2000 to 10-11-2002, know my DOB in future

**I, Neha Bhadauria** W/o No.15796698P/LNk Subhendra Singh Bhadauria R/O VPO Maubha Tehsil & District Farrukhabad (UP) Declare that Have Changed My Name from Neha Bhadauria to Neha Vide Affidavit No. 33AE 079314 Notary Public, Farrukhabad (UP)

**I, Jagdeep Singh** S/O Dilbag Singh R/O Village Shrinagar, Po. Bhuthsala, Tehsil Pehowa Distt. Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name Jagdeep Surname Singh

**I, Balwinder Kaur** W/O Punjab Singh R/O Salpani Kalan, Po. Ajrana Kalan Distt. Kurukshetra I Have Changed My Name Balwinder Kaur.

**I, Vinni Sodhi** W/o Ashwani Sodhi R/o 545 Sec-9 Urban Estate Ambala city have changed my name from Venna Rani to Vinni Sodhi.

**I, Neelam Rani** W/O Balvinder Singh Village Durana, Tehsil/District Ambala, Haryana Declared that Neelam Rani And Neelam Is Same Woman. But My Correct Name is Neelam Rani.

**I, service JC-352104P Rank** Sub Name Sukhvinder Singh of 268 Eng Br Regt (PMS) C/o 56 APO have changed my son name Bikramjit Singh to Bikramjeet Singh.

**I, Nanci Sharma** D/o Badri Narayan Sharma R/o # 850, Sector 19, Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Nanci to Nanci Sharma.

**I, Gurdial Singh** S/o Sham Lal # 502 New Indira Colony, Manimajra Chandigarh, have changed my name to Gurdyal.

**I, Suman Bala** W/o Manjit Kumar, Guru Nanak Colony, Malerkotla, Distt Sangrur, have changed my name to Suman.

**I, Sunil S/o Sh. Nafe Singh** R/o Vill. Sisar PO Kharbla Teh. Bass, Distt. Hisar declare that I have changed my name from Sunil Deen S/o Sh. Nafe Deen to Sunil S/o Nafe Singh for all future purposes.

**I, Durgawati Devi**, Spouse of No. JC - 385773N, Sub, Birendra Prasad, Unit 48 Inf Bde Sig Coy c/o 56 Apo, Permanent Address at Village Jamanpur PO Pachrukha Hasan Bazar Katar Bhojpur Bihar 802204 have changed my name from Durgawati to Durgawati Devi.

**I, No. JC - 385773N, Sub, Birendra Prasad**, Unit 48 Inf Bde Sig Coy c/o 56 Apo, Permanent Address at Village Jamanpur PO Pachrukha Hasan Bazar Katar Bhojpur Bihar 802204 have changed my minor daughter name from Riya to Riya Kumari.

**I, Hansa Gauri** W/o (RIS) Dabhi Jagdish Arajan (No. JC-245101k) R/O VPO Chandawana Teh. Magrol, District Junagadh (Gujrat) Pin-362225 have changed my name Hansa Gauri to Dabhi Hansa.

**I, Mayuri Ben** W/o RIS Maj: Chauhan Bharatkumar (No. JC-243722K) R/O H.No 203 Krishna Palace -2A-203 Colony TP-13, Chhianjikantnaka, PO FATEHGANJ, Teh. Vadodara District Vadodara (Gujarat) Pin-390002 have changed my name Mayuriben to Chauhan Mayuriben Bharatkumar.

**I, Sunil Sharma** S/o Roshan R/o Ward N. 14, Tehsil Assandh Distt. Karnal declare that Sunil Sharma & Sunil Kumar is One And same person.

**I, No. 4569154Y Hav** Gurdev Singh S/o Prem Singh R/O Havel Chang, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Nikta To Nitika.

**I Karmjit Kaur** W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Kot Gangu Rari Distt Ludhianahave Changed My Name Karamjit Kaur.

**I, Lovepreet Singh** S/o Parkash Singh R/O Vill: Bhaini Baringan (Ludhiana) changed my name to Lovepreet Dazzell.

**I, Vipran S/O** Parminder Kumar R/O Partabpura Tehsil Phillaur District Jalandhar Have Changed My Name To Vipran Sunder.

**I Harpreet Kaur** W/O Manpreet Singh Gill R/O Vpo, Pakhi Kalan (Faridkot) Have Changed My Name To Harpreet Kaur Gill After Marriage.

**I Geetika Rani** W/O Nitin Sharma R/O H.No.13510, St.No.15, Block-21 Vishkarma Colony Dholewal Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Geetika Sharma.

**I, Smt Davinder Kaur** Spouse Of Jc-501091k Rank Sub Name Daler Singh R/O Village- Bharyal P.O Rattanghar T/D Pathankot Have Change My Date Of Birth From 10.09.1978 To 13.08.1977 Vide Affidavit Dated 13.01.2021 Before Executive Magistrate Pathankot.

**I Rajinder Kumar** S/O Sh. Pahal Singh R/O Vill- Milkhaas , Teh-Bilaspur , Distt-Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) Declare That I Worked In Indian Army . Then Where Was Born My Real Son Aakash On 15 Dec. 2000 .Now I Changed His Name Aakash To Aakash Kumar .

**Disclaimer**

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

**Classified Advertisement Contact : 94174-19351**

## Himachal Governor to preside over Republic Day function at Shimla

**Shimla:**The State level Republic Day function to be held at the Ridge, Shimla on January 26 will be presided over by Himachal Governor

Bandaru Dattatraya. “The CM Jai Ram Thakur and Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj will also attend the function at Shimla,”

**न्यायालय तहसीलदार-कम-सब जस्टिस, जीन्द**  
निर्जन दास गुप्ता पुत्र श्री केवल कृष्ण अग्रवाल, सकना मकान नं. 155/5, गांधी नगर, जीन्द  
बनाम  
जनरल पब्लिक  
इस इस्तफा के माध्यम से हर आम व खास को सूचित किया जाता है कि निर्जन दास गुप्ता पुत्र श्री केवल कृष्ण अग्रवाल सकना मकान नं. 155/5, गांधी नगर, जीन्द ने एक रजिस्टर्ड वसीका ब्याद विलेन डीड नम्बर 15 मिति 03.04.2015 कार्यालय सब रजिस्ट्रार साहब, जीन्द में, बाबत मकान स्थान-नगर कानाने बारे में किया है तथा वसीका अनुसार मकान की मालिक श्रीमती प्रकाशवती पुत्री श्री नवल राम पत्नी निर्जन दास गुप्ता पुत्र श्री केवल कृष्ण अग्रवाल, निवासी गांधी नगर, जीन्द का स्वर्गीय दिनांक 20.10.2020 को हो चुका है। उन्होंने अपने स्वर्गीय से पहले चल व अचल सम्पत्ति बारे कोई विहित वसीका नहीं की थी। उक्त ब्याद विलेन डीड अनुसार उनके निम्नलिखित रिगली बरिस्तान व हकदार निम्न प्रकार से है, जिन्के नामों का बिबरण इस प्रकार से है:-  
1. निर्जन दास गुप्ता (पति वधू) 2. अनिल कुमार गुप्ता (लड़का) 3. अमित गुप्ता (लड़का) 4. नीलम गुप्ता (लड़की)  
उपरोक्त रजिस्टर्ड वसीका के तद्विरे जवाबदारी स्थान-नगर कानाने से पहले हर आम व खास को इस इस्तफा/नोटिस के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त मुक की जवाबदारी बारे अन्य किसी बरिस्तार/वकीलकारी के बाबत कोई रुक व देखावत हो तो तबहीं अधिकता के माध्यम से इस नोटिस के प्रकाशन के उपरान्त 30 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर इस कार्यालय में कार्य दिवस के दिन अपनी अवधि पेश कर सकते है। अन्यथा उपरोक्त तथ्यों के आधार पर दस्तखत का पंजीकरण कर दिया जायगा। यह नोटिस ब्याद इस्तफा आज दिनांक 11.01.2021 को भरिस्तफा व न्यायालय की मोहर द्वाय जारी किया गया है।

**तहसीलदार कम-सब रजिस्ट्रार, जीन्द**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Sub : Transfer of MIG H.No. 393, Housing Board Colony, Baldev Nagar, Ambala City in the name of Sh. Indrajit S/o Late Sh. Ram Lal R/o H.No. 393, HBC, Baldev Nagar due to death of Late Sh. Ram Lal S/o late Sh. Des Raj living infestate property. (Registered Will No. 119 dated 25.05.2015 Sub Registrar Ambala). In favor Sh. Indrajit S/o Sh. Ram Lal.  
It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No.393, HBC, Baldev Nagar, Ambala City which stands in the name of Late Sh. Ram Lal S/o Sh. Des Raj as per record of this office.  
It has been reported by the applicant (s) that Late Sh. Ram Lal S/o Sh. Des Raj who was the owner of this property died on 09.05.2020. Sh. Indrajit S/o Sh. Ram Lal H.No. 393/HBC, Baldev Nagar, Ambala city have claimed /applied for the transfer for the said property in his name on the basis of Registered Will of Late Sh. Ram Lal S/o Sh. Des Raj.  
If anybody have any objection for the transfer of the said property in favour of the applicant, Sh. Indrajit S/o Sh. Ram Lal R/o H.No. 393, HBC, Baldev Nagar, Ambala City they may furnish their objection in writing in the office of the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, this property shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter on.

**DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED**  
National Office: HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai- 400051.  
Branch Office: Mumbai Metro Branch  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable property)**  
Under Section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act and under Rule-8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002  
**Whereas**  
The undersigned is an Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 27/08/2020 under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the followings:  

Name & addresses of the Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgageors and description of Secured Assets of loan code No. 00033310
1. <b>Silver City Construction Ltd., H. No. R 3C, Gal No.6, R. Extension, Vikas Nagar Delhi-110059 Also at Silver City Construction Ltd., House No.89, Sector- 8A, Chandigarh (UT) 160 009 BORROWER/MORTGAGOR</b>
2. <b>Mr. Sital Singh Bains, House No.89, Sector- 8A, Chandigarh (UT)- 160008 And Also at 66 Breamore Road, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9ND United Kingdom. GUARANTOR</b>
3. <b>Mr. Rajit Kakar House No.121, Sector- 8A, Chandigarh (UT) 160008. GUARANTOR</b>
4. <b>BNK Investments Cosmo Mall, Chandigarh- Ambala, Highway, NH- 22, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali, (Punjab)- 140603 Also at House No.89, Sector- 8A, Chandigarh (UT)- 160008 Guarantor/ Mortgageor</b>
5. <b>Balwinder Singh Ghag V. P. O. Athouli Kapurthala- 144402 Punjab PRESENT DIRECTOR</b>
6. <b>Boota Singh Nijjer H. No- 89 Sec-8-A, Chandigarh 160009 (Director of Silvercity Construction Ltd &amp; Partner of BNK Investment)</b>

  
For Rs.44,38,000/- (Rupees Ninety Four Crores thirteen lakhs Ninety eight thousand and one Only), outstanding and payable as on 27/08/2020, with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 28/08/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the abovementioned demand notice.  
The Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgageors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Guarantor, Mortgageors and public in general that the undersigned has taken constructive Possession of the property described herein below on this date 08/01/2021 in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.  
The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgageors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property described herein below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of DHFL, for an amount of Rs.44,13,98,001/- (Rupees Ninety Four Crores thirteen lakhs Ninety eight thousand and one Only), incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc. from 28/08/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full of the Loan Account Code No. 00033310 of Mumbai Metro Branch.  
The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**  
**Details of secured assets:** Plot of land addressing 15 Bigha 7 Biswa 8 Biswas in the project "Cosmo Plaza" alongwith the present and future construction thereon (excluding constructed sold area as mentioned in Annexure-I) (Khasa no. 13/16, Khasra no. 445(1-18), Khasa no. 28/32, Khasra no. 458(5-4), Village Bishanghar, & khasa no. 69/102, Khasra No. 171(4-0), 175(3-15), 176(4-0), 177(4-0), 178(1-20), 182(4-0), 178(21-11), Village Bispanura, MC Zirakpur, Derabassi, on Chandigarh Ambala NH 22 District Mohali Punjab Annexure  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED/ HYPOTHECATED AREA FROM COSMO PLAZA TO DHFL**

Floor	Total Carpet Area of Cosmos Mall (As per Approved Plan)	Total Saleable Area of Cosmos mall (In Sqft.)	Unsold Saleable Area mortgaged to DHFL (In Sqft.)	Minimum sale rate per sq.ft. in rupees
Lower Ground Floor	55,859	69,823	59,173	4000
Ground Floor	71,510	92,248	47,340	5000
First Floor	64,274	82,814	54,442	4500
Second Floor	64,536	80,570	78,138	3500
Third Floor	56,471	70,588	35,701	3500
Fourth Floor	61,637	77,047	77,047	3500
Fifth Floor	38,988	48,735	46,735	3500
	4,13,275	5,22,025	3,98,576	

(We have deducted the unsold mortgaged area admeasuring 71,650 sq ft. for which DHFL has issued clear NOC/release letter from "Unsold Saleable Area Mortgaged to DHFL" and retain balance mortgaged unsold area in above table)  
(Please Note that the units may be excluded from the above table on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in support of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein.)  
**1. DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SILVERCITY CONSTRUCTION LTD**  
Plot of 101 A Area. 806 sq. yards. out total land measuring 38 bigha 18 purchased through sale deed no. 3942/1 dated 16/1/1997 along with the entire present and future construction thereon (as more particularly demarcated in Blue colour in Layout plan dated 24/8/2008 annexed thereto) comprising in khasa no. 20/31, khasa no. 469(6-14), 553/470(2-7), 471(4-0), 472(4-0), 473(4-0), 474(5-5), 475(1-11), 476(3-10), 477(4-0), 511/478(3-11) and as per latha plan/ AKS Sijra of halqa petwar, Bisanghar, Khasa No. 2/2, Khasra No. 471(4-0), 472(4-0), kitta 10, Village Bishanghar, Derabassi District Mohali Punjab 140603.  
The details of the abovementioned mortgaged properties and its receivables hypothecated with DHFL are more particularly described in Schedule of the 13(2) SARFAESI Notice dated 27.08.2020 which have already served you by post/courier and pasted at secured assets.

**Place: Mohali (Punjab)**  
**Date : 15-01-2021**  
**Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited**  
**Sd/-**  
**(Authorised Officer)**

PNS ■ SHIMLA

More than 400 kilograms of drugs worth over Rs 4 crore in the international market has been seized in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said on Thursday.

In an official statement, he said that the seizure of over 122 kg of charas, a form of cannabis, and 295 kg of ganja (marijuana) is one of the biggest in the state.

According to police four people were arrested.

A 27-member joint team of Kullu district police including personnel from the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and Banjar police station raided the drug mafia at Gharatgad and Sajahu of Banjar area on Wednesday, Superintendent of Police, Kullu, Gaurav Singh said.

The supplier and the person who was supposed to take delivery of the contraband were caught in Gharatgad and

## THE PRICE OF THE SEIZED DRUGS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET IS MORE THAN ₹3.35 CRORE,

about 111 kilograms charas was recovered from the latter he said, adding that both were locals.

The price of the seized drugs in the international market is more than Rs 3.35 crore, he said. Subsequently, police raided the houses of two more suspects in Sajahu village and arrested both of them, he said.

Over 11.5 kilograms of charas along with two unlicensed guns were seized from the first house and the accused was booked under section 20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) Act and Section 25 of the Arms Act, Singh said. The police seized more than 295 kg of ganja from the second house and the accused was booked under the NDPS Act, he added. The SP said that the operation lasted for about 20 hours.

**LOST & FOUND**  
I, Kuldeep S/o Sh. Amar Singh, R/o # 502, Sector 25-A, Dasmesh Colony, Mandi Gobindgarh, Tehsil Amloh, District Fatehgarh Sahib is owner and in possession of Godown Property, that the previous Sale Deeds of said property vide Vasika No. 1602 dated 01.12.1997 have been lost and could not traced out, information Regarding Lost of above mentioned Sale Deed Lodged with Police Station Village Nabipur Vide DDR No. 08 dated 13.01.2021 for sale deed no 1602 dated 01.12.1997, if I found it, I will be inform to Punjab & Sind Bank , Kukar Majra, Mandi Gobindgarh and Police Station Village Nabipur.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
That Dilawar Sidhu as Prop of MS D/S Infratech (hereinafter referred to as the Mortgageor) has purchased Property being Plot no 151, measuring 125 Sq yards bearing Khasat/Khatoni No. 484/730, comprised under Khasra No.28/23(7-16), 28/1(7), 30/2(1-8), 30/9(4), 4/8(5), 5/14(12), 6/1(18), 7/5(13), 15/1(1-7), 31/10(10-11), 10/2(0-8), 16/8(1-0), 16/3(0-2), Situated at Sigma City , Village Lohgarh, Hbadst No 46, Tehsil Zirakpur Tehsil Derabassi, Distt S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali-Punjab. (hereinafter referred to the property in question) According to the said Mortgageor, the below mentioned following documents are misplaced.  
1. Original Sale Deed 11.09.2018 bearing Vasika no. 1527 executed by Sh. Sahib Singh S/o Sh. Gurnam Singh in respect of the property measuring 00 Kanal 08 Marla 03 Sarsahi in favour of Dilawar Sidhu as Prop of MS D/S Infratech (Plot no. 151 and 152)  
That Mortgageor have agreed to create mortgage in favour of my clients L1 & Housing Finance Limited , Plot no 174 4th floor Industrial area Phase 2 Chandigarh, in respect of the mortgage of above mentioned property. In this regard DDR dated 09/01/2021 in Police Station- Sector 2 Panchkula, lodged by Dilawar Sidhu for the misplacement of Original documents. All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder 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 howsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to me/us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned herein below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and creation of mortgage in respect thereof. (Please contact Ashish Goel, Advocate, #2831, Sector 15, Panchkula, M. No. 9872333331)  
**DISCUSSION OF THE PROPERTY**  
House no. House no. 151, measuring 125 Sq yards bearing Khasat/Khatoni No. 484/730, comprised under Khasra No. 28/23(7-16), 28/1(7), 30/2(1-8), 30/9(4), 4/8(5), 5/14(12), 6/1(18), 7/5(13), 15/1(1-7), 31/10(10-11), 10/2(0-8), 16/8(1-0), 16/3(0-2), Situated at Sigma City, Village Lohgarh, Hbadst No. 46, Tehsil Zirakpur Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali-Punjab.  
So, if any individual/Institution will claim anything regarding the missing documents, then contact undersigned within 7 days.  
Ashish Goel & Associates, #2831, Sector 15, Panchkula, M. No. 9872333331



# Nothing short of repeal of farm laws will resolve crisis: Pb Govt

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Government led by Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday made it clear that nothing short of repeal of the Centre's black Farm Laws, which it described as anti-farmers, anti-nation and anti-food security, would resolve the present crisis.

The Central Government is out of touch with the ground realities, Capt Amarinder said at a meeting of the State Cabinet, whose members declared unequivocally that repeal of the Farm Laws was the only way out of the current imbroglio. The Council of



Ministers demanded that the Centre make MSP a statutory right of the farmers, who had been getting extremely low prices for their produce for the past several days despite being

responsible for feeding the nation.

At the start of the meeting, the Council of Ministers observed a 2-minutes silence in memory of farmers who have

died during the agitation. An estimated 78 farmers have so far lost their lives. Stressing the need for an early resolution to the agitation to prevent further loss of life, the Cabinet point-

ed out that the matter has already been debated and discussed in eight rounds of negotiations held between the farmers and the Government of India. Pointing out that even the Supreme Court had acknowledged the concerns of the protesting farmers, and had recognised their pain and anguish, the Council of Ministers said the Government of India should not stand on prestige and ego in this matter, which, if unresolved, could lead to devastating repercussions for the country for decades to come. If the Centre can make sweeping amendments to the laws then this

adamancy about not revoking the legislations is inexplicable, said the ministers, joined by Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar.

In a formal resolution, the Cabinet categorically reiterated its commitment to the Resolutions passed by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on August 28, 2020 and October 20, 2020, stressing that all the genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted. Urging the Government of India to "repeal the Farm Laws as Agriculture is a State Subject under the Constitution of India, and to make MSP a statutory right." It welcomed

the Supreme Court order staying the central legislations as acknowledgement of the concerns of the farmers of Punjab who are protesting against the Farm Laws, and recognition of their pain and anguish.

"There is need for broad-based dialogue and proper consultation with all stakeholders as these legislation's impact the future of millions of farmers across the country, and all genuine demands of the farmers must be accepted," said the resolution.

The Council of Ministers, after detailed discussion, took note of the Supreme Court order of 12th January 2021

staying the implementation of three farm laws namely, The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act. It also appreciated the peaceful protest by the farmers, which has also been taken note of by the Supreme Court of India, in keeping with the best of the democratic practices. The Cabinet meeting had been convened by the CM with the agenda of discussing the issue in the light of the SC orders.

## HARYANA PARIVAR PEHCHAN PATRA REGISTRATION

### Officers directed to ensure integration by Jan 26

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

All the nodal officers of Antyodaya Saral portal in Haryana have been asked to ensure integration of Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) by January 26, Project Director, Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates Programme, Rakesh Gupta said on Thursday.

Chairing a review meeting of the progress of all Departments in the Antyodaya Saral Project, Gupta said Antyodaya Saral platform has been developed with the vision to deliver all Government to Citizen (G2C) services and schemes on a single integrated

platform in a time bound and efficient manner.

Addressing the meeting, Gupta lauded the efforts of the team for working continuously so as to ensure seamless integration of all the government schemes and making it a one-stop digital platform for citizen services across the state.

He congratulated the nodal officers of all the Departments on receiving the Platinum Award under the category 'Excellence in Digital Governance - State/UT', Digital India Awards 2020, for Antyodaya Saral Portal recently where Haryana had emerged as a pioneer.

The award was presented

on December 30, 2020 by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of Minister of Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Antodaya Saral (<https://saralharyana.gov.in>) was envisioned by the Chief Minister, Shri. Manohar Lal in 2017 to build a citizen-centric service delivery system and to bring transparency by enabling citizens to monitor their application status.

While congratulating the officers he lauded the conjoint efforts of all Deputy Commissioners, nodal officers, NIC Haryana and the Chief Minister's Good Governance Associates

(CMGGAs) who ensured the on ground timely implementation of the project and have been striving for enhancing its efficiency since then.

Elaborating on it further he said that fulfilling the vision of the Chief Minister to ensure efficient and citizen centric governance multiple e-governance projects like "e-Office", "Parivar Pehchaan Patra" and "Human Resource Management System" are on the verge of completion and the state government is heading towards "paperless office".

Gupta appreciated the Departments who have improved their Ticketing Score (Citizen Grievances Redressal

Portal of Antyodaya Saral) and the Right to Service Score (RTS) regarding timely processing of service or scheme applications received on the portal.

He also asked the Departments with lower scores to work on improving them.

The Departments which have excelled while sharing the steps taken to improve their performance appraised Gupta that regular monitoring of the portal by a dedicated team of experts have been instrumental in ensuring their good performance.

It was apprised in the meeting that more than 540 government schemes and services

have been integrated on the platform, there are more than 6 lakh applications received on the portal every month, around 20 lakh messages are sent for tracking of application every month and on an average 1 lakh calls are received on the Antyodaya Portal helpline every month.

Sharing details of the Departments receiving maximum tickets Dr. Gupta said that Health Services, Urban Local Bodies and Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Board attract maximum tickets.

The meeting was attended by the Antyodaya Saral nodal officers of all Departments.

## Khattar launches aviation service between Chandigarh & Hisar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday launched aviation services between Chandigarh and Hisar at Chandigarh International Airport and handed over a boarding pass to the first passenger to board the aircraft.

This service has been started by Air Taxi Aviation Company. The CM said that a new chapter has started in the direction of aviation services in Haryana and congratulated everyone on Makar Sankranti on the commencement of air taxi service from Chandigarh to Hisar. He said that the Air Taxi Company has ordered four-seater airplanes. Besides the pilot, three passengers will be able to travel in these air taxis.

The distance from Chandigarh to Hisar will be covered by this aircraft in 45 min-

utes. This service has been started under the 'Udaan' scheme of the Government of India. Khattar said that the company has fixed a very economical fare of Rs 1,755 from Hisar to Chandigarh. Bookings can be made online at <http://flyairtaxi.in>.

The company has also provided the facility of private booking, the fare for which will be different. There will be a daily flight between Hisar and Chandigarh at its scheduled time even if only one passenger has booked a ticket. After starting Chandigarh-Hisar air service, the company will start air service from Hisar to Dehradun from January 18 and from Hisar to Dharamshala on January 23.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched aviation services between Chandigarh and Hisar at Chandigarh International Airport and handed over a boarding pass to the first passenger to board the aircraft



## Road safety workshops planned for taxi and food aggregators

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With an aim to ensure road safety for all in the city, workshops for taxi aggregators like Ola, Uber and food aggregators like Swiggy, Zomato will be organized by Chandigarh Traffic Police during the National Road Safety Month.

Traffic Police will observe the 32nd National Road Safety Month-2021 in Chandigarh from January 18 to February 17 under the theme of "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha", said an official spokesman.

He said that during the road safety month, various road safety awareness events will be organized by Chandigarh Traffic Police in

association with educational institutions, social organizations and corporate organizations.

Workshops for drivers of CTU, Haryana and Punjab Roadways, Auto Rickshaw drivers, NMTs drivers, Ola, Uber, Taxi Associations, school bus drivers, food aggregators i.e. Swiggy, Zomato, dominos, etc will be organized during the month, he said.

Among other programmes, cycle rally, female two-wheeler rider rally, webinar on various road safety issues, interaction with media on road safety, road safety skits or nukkad natak will be organized, the spokesman said.

First aid training to traffic and PCR officials, free health

checkup and eye checkup camp for commercial vehicle drivers, painting competition, blood donation camp, road safety awareness at various FM radios and PA Systems, joint awareness regarding parking for differently abled persons at various markets along with MCC officials and MWAs, observance of zero tolerance day, special campaign regarding unauthorized vendors, etc by team of Chandigarh Traffic Police and MCC officials will also be organized during the month long celebration, he added.

As per the official data, there were 48 fatal road accidents till December 29, 2020 and 51 deaths, less than half as compared to 2019, which



■ Traffic Police will observe the 32nd National Road Safety Month-2021 in Chandigarh from January 18 to February 17 under the theme of "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha

■ As per the official data, there were 48 fatal road accidents till December 29, 2020 and 51 deaths, less than half as compared to 2019, which recorded 104 deaths in 100 fatal accidents

recorded 104 deaths in 100 fatal accidents. The less number of road accidents in 2020 were attributed to curfew and lockdown restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Tirthan sanctuary, Great Himalayan National Park best performers

### RANKED AS BEST MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Great Himalayan National Park and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal have been ranked as the best managed protected areas in the entire country.

Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary is also placed among the top five list of best managed protected areas, said Forest Minister Rakesh Pathania.

He said the report on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in India was released by Prakash Javedkar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, recently at New Delhi.

The Forest Minister said that it is a matter of great sat-

isfaction and pride that three of the top five best managed Protected Areas in the country are from Himachal Pradesh and this shows the commitment and sustained efforts of the State Government towards conservation of its valuable forests and wildlife.

Congratulating the wildlife wing, park managers and frontline staff for achieving this distinction, Pathania urged them to keep on working hard and maintain the high standards of management.

He also asked the authorities to adopt management strategies and actions as per the needs.

The Minister said that MEE is a globally accepted norm of evaluating the effectiveness of the management of

the protected areas. The effectiveness of management is evaluated on the basis of multiple parameters and generally defines how well the National Park or Wildlife sanctuary is being managed.

The evaluation process was done by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and nationwide 146 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, including 13 protected areas of Himachal Pradesh, were assessed through a team of independent evaluators. The score is given for various parameters including staff position, provision of financial resources, degree of protection, peoples' participation and awareness of the communities towards the conservation values, he said.

Against a national average of 62 percent, GHNP and Tirthan WLS scored a high of 84.17 percent while Sainj recorded 82.5 percent, he said.



The Minister further said that Himachal Pradesh has a network of 5 National Parks, 28 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 3 Conservation Reserves covering 8391.42 km2 which is 15 percent of the total geographical area of the state.

Notably, the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) is located in the Banjar sub-division of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh in the far western Himalaya.

## BIRD FLU SCARE

### Pong records decline in birds mortality due to bird flu

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Since the confirmation of outbreak of bird flu at Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal's Kangra district on January 4, the area is now witnessing substantial decrease in mortality of birds.

"The mortality in birds has reduced in the last two days. Carcasses of 94 migratory birds of different species were recovered till Thursday afternoon.

Till now, 4836 migratory birds have died due to avian influenza- H5N1 at Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary," said a senior official of the Wildlife wing of Forest Department, Himachal.

He said that the wildlife wing of Himachal Forest Department is maintaining a

strict vigil on the wintering habitats of migratory birds in the state and active surveillance for avian influenza is being done to prevent its transmission.

The daily reporting regarding bird mortality numbers and measures being taken to control this outbreak is being done to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The Ministry has been apprized about the decline in mortality rate in birds due to bird flu in the last three days. The situation is under control, he added.

The official said that rapid response teams of wildlife wing continued their operations on Thursday to search, collected and dispose of dead birds at Pong.

The infected areas are also being disinfected as per protocol, he said.

Till now, maximum fatalities have been reported among Bar-Headed Goose at Pong. Apart from migratory birds, more than 230 native birds have also died since the outbreak of bird flu in the state.

As a prevention and control measure, samples from birds were also collected from zoological parks at Kufri, Renuka and Gopalpur and aviaries (pheasantries) at Sarahan and Chail for testing.

Notably, Himachal Government had imposed a ban on import of poultry products for a week from other states to prevent the spread of bird flu.

SAMPLES FROM CAR-

CASSES OF BIRDS IN CHANDIGARH TEST NEGATIVE FOR BIRD FLU

All the samples of dead birds sent from Chandigarh to the Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RDDL), Jalandhar have tested negative for bird flu.

"13 samples collected from one dead pigeon and 12 dead crows were sent to the RDDL for testing.

All samples have tested negative for bird flu," Debendra Dalai, UT Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden.

The carcass of a pigeon was found in Sector 49 while eight dead crows were found at Chandigarh Railway Stations. Dead crows were also found at Kaimbwala, Panjab University, Sector 45 and Forest area Sector

26 after which samples were sent for bird flu testing, as a precautionary measure, he said.

Dalai said that the situation is being closely monitored and analyzed in the city.

He said that active surveillance of avian influenza is being done at the Sukhna Lake and Wildlife Sanctuary area.

Earlier, it was in the year 2014 when bird flu was detected in ducks at Sukhna Lake and over 90 ducks were culled to prevent the spread of avian influenza, H5N1 in the city.

Amid the bird flu alert and nationwide effort to contain its spread, ten states namely Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat have reported cases of avian influenza.

## Punjab reports ten deaths, 214 fresh Covid cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ten more people succumbed to the Covid-19 in Punjab as 214 fresh positive cases surfaced on Thursday.

The death toll stood at 5473 while the state's infection count reached 169950, the state's health bulletin stated.

The mortality rate stood at 3.22 percent in the state.

Of the total ten deaths, two were reported in SAS Nagar and one death each was reported in Barnala, Bathinda, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Sangrur, SBS Nagar and Tarn Taran.

Among the fresh cases, the highest 43 were reported from SAS Nagar (Mohali) followed by 34 in Jalandhar. 22 cases each were reported in Ludhiana and in Amritsar, as per the bul-

letin. In the last 24 hours, a total of 253 patients were discharged after recovering from infection, taking the number of cured persons to 161710 in the state.

The state still has 2767 active COVID-19 cases. Of them, 9 critical patients are on ventilator support, while 99 are on oxygen support, the bulletin added.

**6 DEATHS, 187 CASES IN HARYANA**

Haryana on Thursday witnessed six more coronavirus deaths, taking the toll to 2972 even as 187 fresh cases pushed the State's infection tally to 2,65,803, a health bulletin showed. According to the state health department's daily bulletin, the fatalities were one each from Faridabad, Karnal, Panipat, Kurukshetra,

Yamunanagar and Jhajjar districts. Among other districts to report new cases included Gurugram (34), Faridabad (34) and Karnal (19).

The number of active cases in the state were 2266 while as many as 2,60,562 people have so far been discharged after recovering from infection. The recovery rate was 98.03 percent.

**1 DEATH, 23 CASES IN CHANDIGARH**

The Union territory of Chandigarh on Thursday reported one more COVID-19 related death as 23 fresh cases were detected.

"With this, the total case tally reached 20438 and the death toll stood at 330 in the city," as per the Chandigarh Health Department's evening bulletin.



Investigation trade-off

# CBI raids 14 locations, 4 of its own officials



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 14 locations including Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurgaon, Meerut and Kanpur on the premises of four of its own officials, including two Deputy Superintendents of Police, an Inspector and a Steno besides private persons, including advocates, on allegations of compromising the investigation of certain cases on “extraneous pecuniary considerations”.

In Ghaziabad, the searches were conducted at the CBI’s premier training academy.

The four CBI personnel, including two DSPs were booked for allegedly receiving bribes to compromise investigation against companies accused of bank fraud.

While the agency did not give out much details about the case in which its own personnel are under probe, sources said the accused personnel are being investigated for allegedly taking huge amounts of

bribe from the accused companies in bank fraud cases being probed by the CBI.

The CBI officials booked by the agency are DSPs R K Rishi and R K Sangwan, Inspector Kapil Dhankad and Steno Samir Kumar Singh, they said.

The searches led to an embarrassing situation for the agency as it had to even search the premises of Rishi, who is posted in the CBI Academy, Ghaziabad where the Central anti-corruption agency trains and prepares its officers for future roles in the organisation. In addition to CBI officers, cadets from foreign countries are also trained at the state-of-the-art academy in Ghaziabad.

Meanwhile, in a separate development the CBI conducted searches in an ongoing investigation of two separate cases which led to recovery of incriminating documents including alleged fake/forged ST certificates.

It was alleged in the first case that the accused Ramesh

Chand Meena, son of Chiranji Lal obtained job for the post of Lower Division Clerk in Employees Provident Fund Organisation on July 24, 1985 at the strength of alleged fake/forged ST certificate purportedly issued by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Hindaun, Sawai Madhopur. However, the accused was allegedly hailing from Mathura (UP). It was further alleged that he was promoted to the post of Account Officer/Enforcement Officer after his joining by using benefits of the said ST certificate, the agency said.

In the second case, it was alleged that the accused Ramesh Chand Meena, son of Govind Ram got a job with MTNL under ST quota on the basis of an alleged forged/fake certificate purportedly issued by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Deeg (Rajasthan). However, he was allegedly a native of Hathras (UP).

It was further alleged that the accused joined MTNL and was appointed as Junior Telecom Officer (JTO) through departmental examination under ST Category. He retired as Senior Manager (Telephone) on July 31, 2018 from MTNL, New Delhi. It was also alleged that the accused had managed to get allotment of a DDA Flat under the benefits of ST quota in the year 1987.

Investigation in both the cases is continuing, it added.

# Owaisi helped BJP in 2020 Bihar Assembly poll, claims Maharaj

Will do the same in upcoming UP, Bengal polls

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the denial of Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, BJP MP from Unnao, Sakshi Maharaj, has created a political controversy by claiming that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi had helped the BJP in the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections and that he would do the same in the coming elections in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Owaisi had contested the Bihar elections winning five assembly seats in the Muslim majority areas, denying advantage to the RJD-led opposition against BJP-JDU-VIP combination that won the assembly poll.

The outspoken Unnao MP said as in Bihar, AIMIM’s decision to contest the Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal elections will help the BJP register victory in both the States.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, had long alleged that AIMIM has been playing the role of ‘BJP’s B team’. The BJP MP’s comments have apparently confirmed the suspicion and the charges leveled by the opposition against the Owaisi and the BJP.

“Khuda unko taakat de “ (May God give him strength”,



said Sakshi Maharaj adding “ he helped us in Bihar and will help us (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh panchayat and Assembly polls and also in West Bengal,” he said at Kannauj while on way to the National Capital.

Owaisi had earlier denied the charges of collusion with the BJP and made his intent of contesting Assembly poll in Bengal and UP quite clear. He had said that the opposition should “look within” to find reasons for its electoral defeats instead of blaming his party for it.

The AIMIM is presently all set to contest the upcoming panchayat polls in UP in alliance with the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party.

Asked about the BJP MP’s admission of AIMIM tactically helping BJP, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi denied saying “tired and fatigued people are not helping BJP win as the party is scoring victories on its own strength”.

Owaisi’s party had recently contested Hyderabad Municipal elections and emerged as the third largest party winning 44 seats with TRS leading with 55, BJP second with 48 and Congress winning only two seats.

# Polio drops plan delayed due to mega Covid jab drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the country gears up to launch the mega anti-Covid-jab drive for health workers on January 16, children in the age group of 0-5 years will have to wait to get their share of polio drops with the Government rescheduling the polio immunisation programme from earlier January 17 to January 31 across India.

“The massive country-wide COVID-19 vaccination drive will be rolled out by the Prime Minister from January 16. This would be the world’s largest immunisation exercise. Therefore, it has been decided by the Health Ministry in consultation with the office of the President of India to reschedule the Polio vaccination day, also known as the National Immunisation Day (NID) or ‘Polio Ravivar’ to 31st January,” the Ministry said in the statement.

The decision is in keeping with the stated policy of the Union Health Ministry to ensure that COVID management and vaccination services as well as non-Covid essential health services proceed in tandem without adversely impacting each other, said the Union Health Ministry in a statement here on Thursday.

The President will launch the Polio National Immunisation Day on 30th January by administering Polio drops to some children at the Rashtrapati Bhawan at 11:45 am, the statement said.

# SC Bar body president Dushyant Dave resigns with immediate effect



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Dushyant Dave resigned from his post with immediate effect on Thursday saying he has forfeited his right to continue.

Acting SCBA Secretary Rohit Panday confirmed the development that the senior advocate has resigned with immediate effect.

Dave in his brief letter stated that the tenure of the Executive Committee of SCBA has already ended and it may not be possible to hold virtual elections as per schedule “due to reservations held by some lawyers”.

“Following recent events, I feel that I have forfeited my right to continue as your Leader and so I hereby tender my Resignation from the post of the President of the SCBA with immediate effect. Our term has already come to an end .

“We sincerely decided to hold virtual election to elect a



new body. Now I find it may not be possible to hold them as per the schedule declared by the Election Committee due to reservations held by some of you. I understand their position and have no quarrel with it but to me any further continuation as the President in these circumstances will be morally wrong,” the letter said.

Dave also expressed his gratitude to all the members of the SCBA.

“I must place on record my deep gratitude to each of you for being part of this EC and contributing immensely during Covid 19, perhaps the greatest challenge to mankind we will ever see in our lifetime. You have done proud to this Institution, the SCBA. It was a privilege to be with you. I wish you all lots of good luck for a better future,” Dave said in his letter.

# Priyanka appointed board member of Youth Innovation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi was on Thursday appointed as Board Member of the Stakeholder Panel, Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub, for a two-year term.

The Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub is a platform to develop human capital to drive economic and societal innovation, foster unity and transform societies through sustainable impact. The Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub was launched by the Prince of Wales during the 2017 Commonwealth Youth Summit in Malaysia. The hub also seeks to ensure that policy and government institutions are more effective contributors to development through the influence of youth voices.

The Commonwealth Youth Innovation Stakeholders Panel consists of Heads of Government, High Commissioners, Heads of International and Intergovernmental agencies. The stakeholder panel consists of Board Members, including the Chairperson of the Stakeholder Panel and Secretary of the Stakeholder

**Chaturvedi's appointment was done at the Board Meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub held virtually on January 6, 2021 from Kuala Lumpur**

Panel.

As a Board Member of the Stakeholder Panel, Priyanka Chaturvedi will participate in meetings of the Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub, represent the hub at meetings and events, and serve as an ambassador for the Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub to promote the hub’s vision and values.

Chaturvedi’s appointment was done at the Board Meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub held virtually on January 6, 2021 from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was attended by Dr. Kishva Ambigapathy, Esq – Global Chair - Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub & Sumedh Gaikwad – Country Head, Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub – India.

Chaturvedi is national spokesperson of Shiv Sena and was earlier in the Congress party.

# Review policy of ban on supply of poultry from other States, Centre asks States



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked States to review policy of banning supply of poultry and poultry products from other States as there is no scientific report available that infection of Avian Influenza or bird flu viruses spread through processed products as this would add to the negative impact on the poultry industry.

“Further, there is no scientific report available. Consumption of well-cooked chicken and eggs does not pose any risk to humans,” the ministry of animal husbandry and dairying said in its latest advisory to state governments urging state to review policy of banning supply of poultry products from other states amid scare of bird flu or avian influenza in 12 states across the country.

“Additional cases of avian influenza among crows have been confirmed in Dangs district of Gujarat. After successfully finishing the culling operations, Maharashtra and

Madhya Pradesh have completed sanitization activities. In Haryana, samples from four poultry farms have been confirmed to be positive for avian influenza (H5N8). The farms are: Maharaja poultry farm in Khatauli; Tara poultry farm, Batour and Singla poultry farm in Mauli village of Panchkula district of Haryana; the ministry said.

The ministry of animal husbandry and dairying has also requested Ministry of Civil Aviation to allow uninterrupted transportation of samples for expeditious testing of Avian Influenza in designated laboratories.

Meanwhile, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh on Thursday said the Delhi government’s decision to open Ghazipur poultry market will send a positive message throughout the country, even as it asked states to ensure that all precautions are taken to curb the spread of bird flu. Bird flu outbreak has been confirmed in Delhi, Maharashtra,

Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat so far. Singh said: “Hope the decision to lift the ban on Ghazipur mandi will send a positive message throughout the country. I urged them to take precautions and not to panic.”

He said the Centre had issued an advisory in October 2020 on bird flu and also set up control room.”Had the advisory been followed, there would not have been panic in Delhi or other states,” the minister said. Singh said he had a meeting with Delhi Deputy Chief Minister earlier in the day.

“There was positive discussion. Three mayors were also there in the video conference. The Delhi government has taken decision to open the Ghazipur mandi,” Singh said, adding that it was decided that the MCDs will also take back their direction issued on banning sale of chicken and eggs in hotels and restaurants.

# Annual adaptation cost to climate change for developing countries at \$70 billion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Annual adaptation costs in developing countries, including India, to the climate change are estimated at USD70 billion, but the figure could reach up to USD 300 billion in 2030, and whopping USD 500 billion in 2050.

However, while almost three-quarters of nations have some adaptation plans in place, most of them face financial and implementation fall “far short” of what is needed, said a UN report here, even as it called for stepping up public and private finance for adaptation on an urgent basis.

Though cumulative investment for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects under the four funds--the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund, and the International Climate Initiative (IKI)--stands at USD 94 billion, only USD 12 billion was spent on nature-based solutions, a tiny fraction of total adaptation and conservation finance, it added.

“Though countries have made progress in planning for climate change adaptation, significant gaps remain in financing such initiatives and bringing them the stage where they bring real protection against climate change impacts such as droughts, floods and sea-level rise”, said the United Nations environment report.

Released on Thursday by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the 2020 Adaptation Gap Report, pointed out that as temperatures rise and climate change impacts intensify, nations must urgent-



ly step up action to adapt to the new climate reality or face serious costs, damages and losses.

“The hard truth is that climate change is upon us,” Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, said in a news release announcing the findings.

“Its impacts will intensify and hit vulnerable countries and communities the hardest, even if we meet the Paris Agreement goals of holding global warming this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius and pursuing 1.5 degree Celsius.”

Annual adaptation costs in developing countries are estimated at USD70 billion, but the figure could reach up to USD300 billion in 2030, and USD 500 billion in 2050. Almost three-quarters of nations have some adaptation plans in place, but financing and implementation fall “far short” of what is needed, said the report.

Adaptation is a key pillar of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It aims to reduce countries’ and com-

munities’ vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts.

The UNEP report also underscored the importance of nature-based solutions as low-cost options that reduce climate risks, restore and protect biodiversity, and bring benefits for communities and economies.

The UNEP has now urged all nations to pursue the efforts outlined in its December 2020 Emissions Gap Report, which called for a green pandemic recovery and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that include new net-zero commitments.

“However, the world must also plan for, finance and implement climate change adaptation to support those nations least responsible for climate change but most at risk,” the UN agency said adding that “while the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to hit the ability of countries to adapt to climate change, investing in adaptation is a sound economic decision.”

# Modi to address Startup India Int’l Summit tomorrow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday interact with startups and address a global summit being organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, according to the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

The Prarambh: Startup India International Summit is being organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on January 15-16.

Prime Minister Modi will interact with startups and address the summit on January 16 at 5 PM via video conferencing, the PMO said in a

The two-day summit is being organised as a follow-up of the announcement made by the prime minister at the fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu in August 2018 wherein India committed to host the BIMSTEC Startup Conclave.

The summit marks the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative, launched by the prime minister on January 16, 2016.

With participation from over 25 countries and more than 200 global speakers, the summit will be the largest startup confluence organised by the Government of India since the launch of the Startup India initiative, the PMO said.

# UK new Covid strain cases in India reach 109

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of people infected with the new UK variant of SARS-CoV-2 in India has reached 109 at present, the Ministry of health and family welfare said on Thursday. On Wednesday, the number was 102 while till January 11, 96 people were found infected with the new strain which is said to be more lethal.

“The total number of persons found infected with the new UK variant genome stands at 109 on Thursday,” the ministry said in a statement here.

All these people have been kept in single room isolation in designated healthcare facilities by respective state governments, it said.

“Their close contacts have also been put under quaran-

tine. Comprehensive contact tracing has been initiated for co-travellers, family contacts and others. Genome sequencing on other specimens is going on,” the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the ongoing trend of contraction of India’s daily new Covid cases continues with India recording less than 20,000 daily new cases since the last seven days.

In the last 24 hours, only 16,946 persons were found to be infected with COVID in India. In the same period, India also registered 17,652 new recoveries ensuring a net decline of 904 cases in the Active Caseload.

Daily deaths in India are on a sustained decline. Less than 300 daily deaths have been registered for the last 20 days.

India’s Case Fatality Rate stands at 1.44 per cent with 22

# Portable testing laboratory for genome sequencing at IGIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure early detection of new mutant variants of Covid-19, SpiceHealth in collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) has set up a portable testing laboratory for genome sequencing at Delhi’s Indira

Gandhi International airport for all positive samples from international travellers. The lab was inaugurated by Dr VK Paul, Member (Health)NITI Aayog in the presence of Dr Anurag Agrawal, Director, CSIR-IGIB, Ajay Singh, CMD, SpiceJet and Avani Singh, CEO, SpiceHealth.

States/UTs have cases fatality rate less than the national average.

The active caseload of the country stands at 2,13,603. The share of active cases in the total positive cases has further shrunk to 2.03 per cent.

India’s Total Recoveries

# India airs concern over violence in Afghanistan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday described the targeted killing of journalists and civil society members in Afghanistan as an attempt to suppress freedom of expression and pitched for an “immediate and comprehensive” ceasefire to lay the ground for a meaningful peace process in the country.

Expressing deep concern over the killings, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India stands with the people of Afghanistan in their journey towards peace and these attacks are contrary to the spirit of the peace process and should immediately stop.

Asked about National

Security Adviser Ajit Doval’s two-day visit to Afghanistan, Srivastava said at a media briefing that his discussions with Afghan leaders focused on bilateral relations and the Afghan peace process.

Doval called on President Ashraf Ghani, and held talks with Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah, Afghan National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib, Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar and former president Hamid Karzai.

“In the past few weeks, we have received inputs of several attacks on journalists and civil society activists in Afghanistan. The targeted

# TMC MP Shatabdi joins rebel ranks

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Banners of rebellion continue to unfurl and flutter in Mamata Banerjee's Bengal with actor-turned TMC parliamentarian Shatabdi Roy becoming the latest in the line of rebels to sing in rebellious note.

The three-time MP from Birbhum has written on her Facebook handle that she might take the final decision in a couple of day's time citing reasons of being ignored in her own party.

If she quits the TMC she will be the fourth heavyweight leader to leave the party in a month's time. Roy's declaration comes within a month of Bengal Ministers Suvendu Adhikari and Laxmi Ratan Shukla and TMC MP Sunil Mandal quitting the party.

Expressing displeasure at being constantly ignored by a section of the leadership Roy has said that she would "take a decision about my future in a couple of day's time."

## Jammu school education directorate to set up digital studio for teachers to deliver online lectures

**Jammu:** The Directorate of School Education (DSE) will set up a digital studio in Jammu division for teachers to deliver online lectures, a senior official said on Thursday.

The Union Ministry of Education has sanctioned establishment of the digital studio under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, Director of School Education in Jammu Anuradha Gupta said.

"While the directorate will set up the studio very soon, various measures to improve quality of education through digital interventions need to be put in place for making learning more efficient and effective," she said.

"Delivering best online lectures through a control room at the studio shall soon be made possible. Besides, keeping in view the National Education Policy 2020 for art-integrated learning and holistic

development of school children, they need to be exposed to art, culture, sports and other activities which are now perceived to be part of curriculum," she said.

The directorate will also launch an official YouTube channel -- 'shiksha darpan' -- to broadcast video content and e-magazine 'shiksha patrika' for written content contributed by students, teachers and other stakeholders.

As information technology-enabled platforms are increasingly becoming an important medium of information dissemination and will continue to be so in the post-COVID-19 scenario, the Directorate of School Education intends to use various social media platforms to reach out to students, their parents, staff members and other stakeholders in an effective manner and provide them a platform to showcase their talent, she said. **PTI**

## Rahul hails Tamil tradition of Jallikattu in Madurai

**CHENNAI:** An unprecedented crowd gathered at Avaniyapuram near Madurai to greet former Congress president Rahul Gandhi who paid a day's visit to the State on Thursday to witness the traditional bull taming sport of Jallikattu.

Addressing the thousands who had turned up to welcome him, Rahul Gandhi said that watching the taming of bulls was like 'experiencing Tamil culture and history in action.'

The Congress in its election manifestos in 2009 and 2014 had assured the people that if voted back to power, the party would ban once and for ever the jallikattu sports.

While on his way back to the airport, Rahul Gandhi told media persons that he would continue to stand by the farmers of the country who are agitating against the Farm Bills. He lambasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his indifference to the woes of the farmers. **PNS**

## Bengal polls may be declared in Feb

**Kolkata:** The dates of Bengal Assembly elections may be declared as early as in the month of February, Election Commission sources said adding the election process might be wrapped up by the end of April.

A full bench of the Commission will visit Bengal anytime after January 18 during which it will take stock of situations before taking a final decision, sources said. Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain on Thursday held meeting with Bengal Health Secretary and senior officials of the Education Department sources added. **PNS**

## Mohan Bhagwat attends Pongal fest

**CHENNAI:** It was a Pongal with a difference for residents of Ponniammanmedu village, far away from Chennai city. An ordinary RSS worker in the village had a special guest for breakfast and it turned out to be none other than the Sarsangchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat who turned up dressed like a Tamilian in veshti, shirt and angavastram (shawl). Dr Bhagwat exchanged Pongal greetings with the family and had an interaction with the three-year old daughter of the RSS worker who was surprised by the fluency with which the Sarsangchalak spoke in Tamil. **PNS**

## NCP Min refuses to defend son-in-law held in drug case

**Mumbai:** A day after his son-in-law Sameer Khan was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Maharashtra's Minority Affairs Minister and NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said that "no one is above law"

"Nobody is above the law and it should be applied without any discrimination. Law will take its due course and justice will prevail. I respect and have immense faith in our judiciary, Malik tweeted.

Malik's daughter Nilofar is married to Bandra resident Sameer Khan, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday

night after day-long grilling. Khan was produced before a Magistrate's court, which remanded him in NCB's custody till January 18.

Coming to Malik's defence, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said: "There are no personal allegations against Nawab Malik. The person conveyed (Malik's son-in-law) must cooperate with the concerned agency".

Sasmeer's arrest came a day after it arrested Ramkumar Tiwari, one of the brothers who own 'Muchhad Paanwala' shop at Kemps corner in south Mumbai, in connection of cannabis-related drugs. **PNS**

## Scanning laptop, hard disk of expelled BJP leader held for sexual abuse of children: Police

**Jalaun (UP):** Police are looking into the laptop, DVD and hard disc recovered from an expelled BJP office-bearer who was arrested on charges of sexually exploiting two children, an official said on Thursday.

Police said they have recovered several video clips in which Ram Bihari Rathore, who was removed from the post of the Konch BJP vice-president after his arrest on Wednesday, is allegedly seen sexually exploiting children. Some 15 to 20 videos have so far been found from the seized laptop, DVD and hard disc, in which the accused is seen exploiting young children, Konch SHO Imran Khan said on Thursday.

The SHO said Rathore used to lure young children by giving them money and made their obscene videos to blackmail them. He used to threaten and exploit them sexually, the SHO

said, adding that teams of the cyber-crime cell are looking into the matter in detail.

To a question, Khan said it would be premature to link this case with the Irrigation Department junior engineer, who was arrested in November last year for alleged sexual exploitation of children and selling their videos and photographs of nefarious acts on dark net to paedophiles across the globe.

The arrested junior engineer, a resident of Chitrakoot district, is alleged to have victimised about 50 children in the age group of 5-16 years in the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda and Hamirpur.

According to police, they had seized a laptop, hard disk, sex toys, eight mobile phones, Rs 8 lakh in cash and other digital evidence carrying huge amount of child sexual abuse material from the engineer. **PTI**

## Cabinet expansion: Take up grievances with BJP high command, says Yediyurappa

**Bengaluru:** Amid simmering discontent post His cabinet expansion, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday asked such sulking BJP leaders to take up the matter with the national leadership and urged them to refrain from making any remarks affecting the party.

The chief minister had expanded his cabinet on Wednesday after much deliberations and the exercise already saw some aspirants who could not make it publicly air their displeasure.

"If the BJP MLAs have any objection they can go to Delhi, meet our national leaders and give them all the information and complaints they have. I won't object to that but I ask them not to damage the party's reputation by talking ill," Yediyurappa told reporters in Bengaluru.

Noting that the central leaders will take a call on their complaints, he said the seniors in the party are aware of the facts.

Later, speaking to reporters in Davangere, he insisted he could do what was within his limits, on the matter and warned those speaking ill about him.

Yediyurappa, however, did not respond to queries on the non-induction of Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Munirathna, a former Congress man who joined the saffron party, despite the former's promise to induct him in his council of ministers.

Yediyurappa on Wednesday expanded his 17-month-old government by inducting seven new Ministers and dropping Excise Minister H Nagesh.

The other aspirants-- Basanagouda Patil, M P Renukacharya, Sathish Reddy, Thippa Reddy, S A Ramadass and A H Vishwanath, who could not make it have been quite vocal in expressing their displeasure.

Yatnal in particular has been critical of the chief minister and even alleged his family of 'hijacking' the party.

He had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to end dynastic politics from Yediyurappa's family in Karnataka, which has a chief minister, an MP (B Y Raghavendra) and a BJP state vice president (B Y Vijayendra).

The CM has made those who are black-mailing him as Ministers. **PTI**



Commuters move slowly on a street amid dense fog during a cold winter morning in Lucknow on Thursday

PTI

## Ganga conservation to be part of UP syllabus

**Lucknow:** Students of the Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Board (UPSEB) will now study the Ganga conservation subject at the high school and intermediate level.

This has been included as a subject at the initiative of the Namami Gange Department and Uttar Pradesh will be the first state to do so.

According to the government spokesman, a proposal to include Ganga conservation and prevention of water pollution in the curriculum has been prepared and the UPSEB has sent it to a committee of

Hindi experts for consideration.

Once the committee approves the proposal, the subject will be included in the syllabus. Students will learn ways to save the holy water of the Ganga from getting polluted and the journey of the Ganga from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal.

The idea is to link the Ganga cleanliness campaign with the youth and spread Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concept of 'Nirmal and Aviral Ganga' among children. **IANS**

## UP woman goes missing, cops lodge case against man under anti-conversion law

**Gorakhpur (UP):** Police have lodged a case against a Karnataka man for allegedly kidnapping a 19-year-old woman after befriending her, hiding his religious identity, police said on Thursday.

A missing report was lodged by the woman's father on January 5 after she did not return home from college, Station House Officer, Chiluatal police station, Neeraj Kumar Rai said.

"During an investigation and with the help of call records of the woman's mobile phone, it was found that she used to frequently talk to the man

whose name in the Truecaller app was mentioned as Mehboob and the location as Karnataka," he said.

A case was lodged against the man on January 11, following which a three-member police team was sent to Karnataka to trace the man and the kidnapped woman, Rai said.

On the basis of these inputs, the woman's father lodged an FIR against the man and accused him of allegedly kidnapping his daughter and hiding his Muslim identity, he said.

The woman's father, who is

a retired Army man, has mentioned in the FIR that last year the man had befriended his daughter through social media and wooed her on the pretext of providing a job.

Police said that everything would be clear once the accused and the kidnapped woman are traced.

The case was lodged under sections 366 (kidnapping, abduction or inducing woman to compel her into marriage ) and 363 (kidnapping) of the Indian Penal Code, besides the new anti-conversion law of the Uttar Pradesh government, the SHO said. **PTI**

## Is Bihar entering a phase of Jungle Raj 2.0?

**Patna:** While the police in Patna are facing criticism over the sensational murder of an Indigo state head, a section of people in Bihar are apprehensive that they might be entering into a phase of 'Jungle Raj 2.0'.

Indigo airlines station manager, Rupesh Kumar Singh (40), was allegedly shot dead by criminals near the Shastri Nagar police station area in Patna on Tuesday.

The murder of the Indigo state head brings back the fearful memories of Airtel GM's murder at Bahadurpur Gumti in Patna in 2005, the kidnapping of Bharat Singh and a series of criminal acts which took place during the Lalu Prasad-Rabri Devi regime between 1990 and 2005. The high crime rate during that period even led to the downfall of the RJD in 2005.

Now, the Nitish Kumar government is facing similar criticism over the growing crime graph in the state ever since he returned as Bihar Chief Minister for a seventh time in November 2020.

In a bid to bring down the crime graph, the Nitish Kumar government had started operation 'Ganga Snaan' during 2005-2007 when several notorious criminals were silently eliminated by the police or were put behind bars. On may recall the famous encounter of dreaded gangster Amresh Singh in Khagaria, or the killing of gangster Guddu Sharma in an encounter in Delhi. Many of Bihar's most notorious gangsters, such as Surajbhan Singh, Anant Singh and Mohamad Sahabuddin, were put behind bars during that period.

It was a secret operation

carried out by the Bihar police and the STF to eliminate the criminals, when the government had given a free hand to the police. Hence, there are no official records of the encounters that took place during that period.

Sources say that due to the impact of the operation, Nitish Kumar managed to attain the image of 'Sushashan Babu' in Bihar. Now the question is whether the Nitish Kumar government would again adopt a similar modus operandi to check the rising crime graph in the state.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the home portfolio, is under immense pressure following the murder of Rupesh Singh. The leaders of his alliance partner BJP in particular are making aggressive statements to corner the CM.

Janardan Sigrimal, BJP MP

from Maharajan, said: "Killers of Rupesh Singh should be hanged at the busy chowks of the city in broad daylight. If any amendment is required to do this, the government should proceed with it. Criminals cannot allowed to be let off. In the case of Rupesh Singh, Patna police have to expose the planer."

Earlier, Nitin Naveen, BJP MLA from Bankipur, had asked the Bihar government to endorse the Uttar Pradesh model of encounter.

Union Minister R.K. Singh said that the Bihar government should suspend callous police officers who have failed to control law and order in Patna.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has already said that Nitish Kumar has failed to control the law and order situation in Bihar and should resign from his post or give the home port-

folio to some other minister.

Retaliating to Tejashwi Yadav, Nikhil Anand, the chief spokesperson of BJP, said: "Law and order is a concern for us and the NDA government is capable of handling it. This is the same government that managed to put breaks on crimes between 2005 and 2007. During the Lalu-Rabri regime, criminals like Mohamad Sahabuddin operated freely."

Meanwhile, the Bihar police have claimed that they have got some leads in the Indigo case and the criminals will be apprehended very soon.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Rajesh Kumar Prabhakar said: "We have some clues about this case. Several teams of Patna police and STF are raiding different premises at the moment. The accused will be put behind bars soon." **IANS**

## Kerala reports 5,490 new Covid cases, 4,337 recoveries

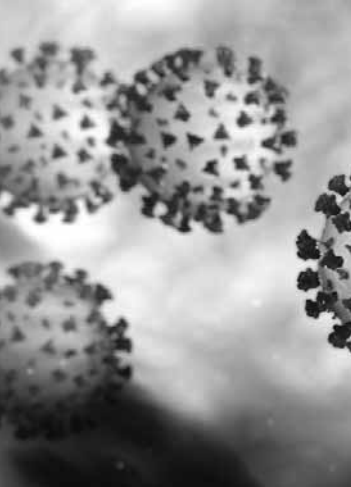
**Thiruvananthapuram:**Kerala on Thursday reported 5,490 new Covid-19 cases with a test positivity rate of 8.11 per cent, a press statement issued by the office of state health minister K.K. Shailaja said. On a positive note, 4,337 people recovered from the disease on Thursday.

Malappuram reported the maximum number of cases on Thursday at 712, while Kasargod reported the least number of cases at 72. As many as 67,712 samples were tested on Thursday.

Meanwhile, 19 deaths in the last 24 hours took the state's Covid death toll to 3,392.

Among those who tested positive on Thursday, 92 people had come from outside the state, 4,911 got the disease through contact while the source of contact of 435 people is unclear.

Fifty-two health workers tested positive on Thursday, 14 in Kozhikode, followed by Pathanamthitta (9), Kannur (7), Thrissur (5), Ernakulam and Wayanad (4 each), Idukki and Palakkad (2 each), and



Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram and Kasargod (1 each).

At present, there are 2,01,293 people under observation in the state, including 10,904 at various hospitals.

Meanwhile, 6 new hotspots on Thursday increased the state's tally to 420. **IANS**

## Wild buffalo kills man in Assam, angry mob sets forest office on fire

**Guwahati:** An irate mob on Thursday set a forest department office on fire after a wild buffalo killed a young man in Biswanath district in northern Assam bordering Arunachal Pradesh, officials said.

According to the police, hundreds of locals, including women, turned violent after Jayanta Das, a villager, was killed by a wild buffalo at Muttackgaon in Biswanath district. Accusing the forest officials of not taking adequate steps to prevent wild animals from entering into the human habitations and villages from the nearby forests, the angry villagers set on fire the office of the Central Range of the Biswanath Wildlife Division.

"A wild buffalo came to the Biswanath Ghat early on Thursday morning and tried to attack the villagers. We immediately informed the forest officials, but they reached the spot after the buffalo had attacked and killed Das," Prashanta Sharma, an eyewitness, told the media.

The villagers have demanded a compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the victim's family. The police and forest officials had a tough time in pacifying the angry mob. **IANS**



Devotees perform rituals on the bank of Ganga river during 'Makar Sankranti' festival celebration, in Varanasi on Thursday

PTI



## Go, India!

As the last Test of the Australia tour gets underway today, here's hoping that Team India will vanquish its demons



Courage and heroism are not restricted to the battlefield; there are times when these prized characteristics spill onto the cricket field too, among other unlikely arenas. Just as the valiant Indian cricket team showed with a great win in the face of adversity in Melbourne, especially coming as it did after the humiliation at Adelaide when India's vaunted batting line-up was bowled out for a truly embarrassing 36. And though we didn't register a win in the Sydney Test, India fought tooth and nail, battled pain and a hostile Australian bowling attack to prevent the hosts from moving up in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series that's currently tied 1-1. "...This one is a tough one to swallow. Our bowlers were superb but..." Australian skipper Tim Paine said after the match. By the time you read this, the Brisbane Test — the last Test of the series, an ultimate decider that will test the resilience, composure and physical fitness of the players — would have got underway. Australia need a win to regain the trophy but a draw will suffice for India to retain it for another couple of years. So what's in store for the Indian cricket fan? Of course, time alone will deliver the result but one thing we can be confident of: That the Indian players will leave nothing to chance to win this one and, will not only perform the best their bodies and spirit allow but hopefully go beyond, into the realm of the surreal. The Indian team's hotel may have turned into a mini hospital but the players, as well as members of the Indian diaspora, are walking with a lot of pride at their team's showing, especially since the time the atmosphere was soured by racist chants and abuses from a section of the spectators.

The injuries to key players are a clear and present threat. The list of prominent players who are nursing their wounds comprises pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja and Hanuma Vihari. Till late on Thursday, Team India had delayed naming the playing XI and there was word that the names would be announced only in the morning, just ahead of the beginning of the Test, thus giving the injured players the maximum time to recuperate and allowing them to take the field after assessing their condition. Notably, Ajinkya Rahane has been performing consistently in his new role after skipper Virat Kohli returned to India on paternity leave to be at the side of his wife Anushka Sharma for the delivery of their first child. Rahane was pushed into a leadership position he did not necessarily want but one where he has since been conducting himself brilliantly. Most importantly, all of India's players have dealt with the emotional deprivation of the 'bubble' well, steering clear of breaking it no matter what the temptations. They have battled it all in the ongoing Test series, within themselves and with the world outside: Issues with facilities, racial slurs, losing key players at crucial junctures, injury after injury, issues with bubble life for multiple months et al. Irrespective of the result, therefore, Team India can return with their heads held high. Meanwhile, Australian skipper Tim Paine urged the home fans to refrain from causing "any trouble". Gabba has been a fortress for the Aussies where they haven't lost a game since 1987-88.

## Virushka set the bar

The star couple has politely asked the paparazzi not to take pictures of their newborn daughter



One of the most photographed couples in the country, cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma have laid down the rules for the paparazzi and asked the pesky photographers, who often cross the line between the demands of "profession" and intrusion of privacy, to stay away from their newborn child. On Wednesday, in a sweetly-worded note, they urged the paparazzi to refrain from taking pictures of their baby girl. Anushka and Virat sent a note to the paparazzi fraternity in Mumbai, which read: "Hi, thank you for all the love that you have given us all these years. We are happy to celebrate this momentous occasion with you. As parents, we have a simple request to make to you. We want to protect the privacy of our child and we need your help and support." The couple clearly established that they will ensure that the paparazzi get the content featuring both the stars but requested them to steer clear of their child. "While we will always ensure that you get all the content you need featuring us, we would request you to kindly not take or carry any content that has our child. We know that you will understand where we are coming from and we thank you for the same." To their credit, the paps agreed to leave the child alone, in turn winning the appreciation of veteran actor Raveena Tandon who took the opportunity to thank them for respecting her wishes too when she was trying to protect her children, who were minors at the time. By reaching out to the paparazzi, Virushka, as the couple is popularly known, have shown the celebrity world how it is done because the relationship between famous people and the paparazzi has been tumultuous, to say the least. While most of the time the celebrities are fine with photographers clicking them as it increases their visibility, like every other human they, too, cherish their private moments and don't want them splashed on the front pages of tabloids and on websites.

Fame, they say, has a price but most A-listers don't want their children to pay the price for their parents' celebrity status. But there are always exceptions to the rule. Like Saif Ali Khan and Shah Rukh Khan don't have any issues with pictures of Taimur and AbRam being splashed all over the media and the internet. Even though the older children of both the actors were almost never photographed when they were growing up, both the fathers seem to have no reservation where these latest additions to the family are concerned, thanks to the changing times, one can suppose. As a result, Taimur and AbRam have become social media influencers at such a tender age, as have Aaradhya Bachchan, Misha Kapoor and Inaaya Naumi Kemmu. How these star kids will deal with the pressure of the paparazzi always following them, or maybe the lack of attention once they grow up, only time will tell. At the moment, they are obviously too young to be aware of the repeated violation of their privacy and the danger it entails to their well-being. After all, we live in a country where the five-year-old daughter of a cricketer got a rape threat just because her father was not performing well on the field. It is well that Virushka have decided to keep their private life private for the safety of their child. In fact, many celebrities around the world guard their children zealously from photographers and there have been instances where the paparazzi have been sued for crossing the line. A case in point is Hollywood actor George Clooney, who sued a pap and his publication for climbing over the walls of his villa and clicking photos of his child. Traditionally, the paparazzi are looked down upon as being a thorn in the side of celebrities. However, they alone cannot be blamed for what they do because the public has created a demand for such pictures. If people did not get voyeuristic pleasure out of the candid photos of celebrities and their families, the demand for such pics would not exist and publications would stop paying hefty sums to intrusive photographers.

# Green star over Bengal

As Mamata Banerjee's domain West Bengal is Asaduddin Owaisi's next election stop, the State can expect explosive electioneering



PRAFULLA GORADIA

Asaduddin Owaisi is a politician with blue blood, which has turned crimson by baristry, a surname imported from Arabia and the leadership of a century-old party founded by Nawab Mahmood Nawaz Khan. In 1944, Razakar leader Qasim Rizvi was selected as the party's leader, to also become the extra military force of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

In 1957, Rizvi was exiled to Pakistan but, before departing, he handed over the Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (MIM) to his right-hand man, Janab Abdul Wahid Owaisi. His son Sultan Salahuddin took over the party in 1975, and it was inherited by his illustrious son Asaduddin. The party headquarters are based in an impressive building, called Dar-us-Salam, near the famed Charminar.

Asaduddin inherited a single Lok Sabha seat, the Hyderabad city constituency. It is to his credit that the MIM is today an all-India name. It now threatens to bite off some Assembly seats in Bengal. Owais means "little wolf" in Arabic and, therefore, he is likely to hunt voraciously. By a stroke of coincidence, he was fielded against me in a television channel's programme. Our debate was on a communal controversy. The anchor asked for his comments first, to which I reacted that Owaisi's views might be coloured by those prevailing in a neighbouring country. His counter-reaction was explosive.

Thus, West Bengal can expect explosive electioneering. Mamata Didi too will not let Owaisi go quietly. She must know that for Muslim voters, there are no insiders or outsiders. Languages, other than Urdu, are unimportant. The sacred thread of Islam binds them all. Muslims are *mominis*; the others, however neighbourly, are "different". Hindu arguments do not cut ice with Muslims. The main fight between Didi and Janab will be in the eastern districts of West Bengal.

I imagine that the Hyderabad appeal will be: "Come and vote for me, because I shall do everything for you. I have no loyalty other than towards the *bandas* of Allah the Merciful, whereas my opposition has other communities too to cater to. My party will be exclusively for you while the opposing kitchen will have to cook vegetarian as well as non-vegetarian; *niraaamish*" as well as *'saamish'*."

The result of their secular dualism has been the Tareekh-e-Intekhab, or the history of elections in India: Flatter the Muslim, occasionally



frighten him with a riot and then protect him, going back to flat-tory. In the eyes of Allah the Merciful, he may be a *momin* but in the view of the vote harvester, he is a tiger in a circus cage; the only grouse being that he is too sparingly fed to attack. Jawaharlal Nehru once said that he was a Hindu only by accident; he was a Muslim by culture and an Englishman by upbringing. He, therefore, knew how to make a Muslim tick. And tick he had to, for the Congress was dominated by the Patelites. Nehru had to build his own support base. Muslims, traumatised by Partition, were his first choice. Reputedly, they voted nearly 90 per cent whereas, in the early elections, the rest of the voters polled not more than 45 per cent. The net result was that one Muslim voter was worth two Hindus.

With the passage of time, things have changed; more Hindus go to the polling booth now. Late Syed Shahabuddin once wrote in a national daily that for his community, if there were a choice between development and identity, it would go for identity. In Nehru's days, by electing him, the Muslim love for identity won. Although they were poor, India was a wonderful country. Lately, Hindu candidates are winning more because their community votes more. India has, therefore, become an "insecure" country.

For all these reasons, the Muslim clusters, wherever they be, are in search of new heroes; the parties of old ones appear to be folding up. One such superhero is Asaduddin, literally the

MAMATA MUST KNOW THAT FOR MUSLIM VOTERS, THERE ARE NO INSIDERS OR OUTSIDERS. THE MAIN FIGHT BETWEEN DIDI AND JANAB WILL BE IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL.

lion of religion. Didi's straight reply would be that Muslims alone cannot form a Government; they are too few. They have to combine with others and only then can they win a majority. Go back to the days and years of Babu Jagjivan Ram, who ended up as the Deputy Prime Minister. Never in his political career did he publicly discuss his caste. Had he done so, he might have got a maximum of

18 per cent votes. Wherefrom would he have gathered a minimum of another 33 per cent? The same will be the problem with Owaisi. Can he form a Government in West Bengal? Therefore, why waste your vote on such a party? As soon as the election is over, he would pack his *achkan* in a suitcase and take a flight to Hyderabad, bidding goodbye to the Bengalis and promising to see them in the next election. By all means, give him a *bhand/kulhad* of tea, but don't waste your vote. I have neither an *achkan* nor suitcase, nor any flight to catch. Therefore, vote for me. It is undeniable that the *umma* has given some votes in Bihar to Owaisi and elected five MLAs. It remains to be seen what these MIM MLAs do in Bengal.

After, say, one or two elections, in the event of an ascending path, whether Owaisi and his party could pose a threat to the integrity of the country, has to be seen. After all, we should not forget Partition. Soon after August 1947, HS Suhrawardy, former Premier of undivided Bengal, wrote to Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman in UP that the strategy for the Muslims staying behind in India should be to gather in clusters or mega ghettos. Incidentally, Khaliquzzaman became the president of the Muslim League in Pakistan after MA Jinnah passed away. This advice might imply that if several clusters gathered together, in due course, more partitions could be engineered. The Government of India should discourage cluster formations from now on.

There is one consolation that Owaisi hails from a land of

dreamers, like Nizam Mir Osman Ali. He had Ali Yavar Jung, then Secretary (Constitutional Affairs), give the view that the Portuguese considered Marmagao to be a dead-weight and would be willing to sell it at a reasonable price. The idea of buying Goa was too attractive to be dissipated by realism. When the World War ended, the prospects of success brightened. On Hyderabad's side, the prime mover was Sir Mirza Ismail with Sir Walter Monckton as a close second.

The parleys in Lisbon had become known in India. Once India gained Independence, it was unlikely to acquiesce for long to Portugal's rule over Goa, just as it rejected Hyderabad's claim to independence. Still less would it permit Hyderabad's transit rights over land or air space. If only Hyderabad had a port like Marmagao, it would add enormously to its political and economic importance.

The meeting between the Portuguese and Hyderabad negotiators, on November 1, 1947, was attended by Portuguese Prime Minister Salazar, Sir Alexander Roger and Antonio Bastroff Silva. In bitter retrospect, the devoted Hyderabad writer Zubeida Yazdani made two points. One was about Mir Osman Ali Khan's "megalomaniac notions" which caused him "to lose the balance of his mind". Her other grievance was that "the Nizam depended too strongly on the Muslim League for the achievement of his goal", an independent Muslim State in the south of India.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUNDBITE

Many congratulations to the countrymen on Makar Sankranti. I wish Uttarayan Suryadev to bring new energy in everyone's life.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

With the new state of emergency starting on Friday, the rule is to stay in a home-based retreat. However, schools will remain open as usual.



Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa

I wasn't loving myself in the way that I should from 20 to 40 — that's 20 years. I feel so sad that I did that to myself, just not loving yourself the right way.



Actor Rebel Wilson

I think Lyon has bowled okay. I thought in the first Test match at Adelaide, he created heaps of chances and didn't get a hand.



Australian cricketer Tim Paine

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Make affordable EVs

Sir — It refers to the editorial 'Welcome, Tesla' (January 14). Indeed, it is a positive move for the automobile industry in the country not only from the Electric Vehicle (EV) and environment perspective but also from the point of view of auto ancillary and suppliers chain.

Though it would be too early to predict Tesla's future in India, if it remains confined to its research and development unit in Bengaluru, it may not serve the purpose we want it to for the country.

Needless to mention that cost is one of the most critical parameters for Indian buyers and before launching an India-specific product, Tesla had better conduct a thorough market research to arrive at an acceptable price point; otherwise this entire exercise will be futile. India's commitment to environment is second to none and Indian buyers will happily accept green cars. But even after factoring in the Government's tax incentives to set up an industry here, products have to be economically viable for Indian buyers.

Bal Govind Noida

### Resume normal services of Mumbai local trains

The Maharashtra Government should allow resumption of the Mumbai local train services for all categories of commuters without further delay. The local train services are the city's lifeline and Mumbaiers rely on these for their daily commute.

It seems that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is least bothered about the difficulties facing the citizens while they go to their workplaces, offices, schools and so on. Even the famous *dabbawalas* who deliver lunch-boxes to people, use local train services. We all have suffered a lot due to the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown but citizens have rendered their full cooperation to the Government in the fight against the pandemic. It is the responsibility of the State Government to take care of citizens now and take a decision in the larger public interest.

However, after its initial shutdown in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the suburban train services have been partially resumed. As of now, the suburban railway system is open only for certain categories of commuters, including those providing essential services, lawyers and women. Railway officials



claim that they have not received any directives from the State Government regarding the opening of services for general public. Any further delay in allowing the full-scale operation of suburban trains will prove counterproductive to the image of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi Government and a setback to the popularity of Thackeray.

Jubel D' Cruz Mumbai

### COVID threat persists

Sir — It was indeed a welcome sight to see the excitement and joy of movie buffs returning to cinema halls in Kerala after many months since the theatres stopped screening movies due to the pandemic. The crowd really welcomed, celebrated and enjoyed Tamil actor Vijay's

movie 'Master' which is the first to hit the silver screen after several months.

But what gives the real jitters is the way the crowd behaved at the theatres. They completely forgot COVID-related precautions and, at many places, social distancing went for a toss as fans arrived in huge numbers and had all sorts of celebration inside

and outside the cinema halls. Many persons were not even wearing masks. We must not forget that we are still fighting the contagion and there is no way to keep it at bay other than taking precautions and wearing masks. The vaccination drive has not yet started.

M Pradyu Nagarjuna Kannur

### Improve bank services

Sir — The Union Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should take note of the malpractices by banks with respect to credit card payments.

Banks are levying extraordinary interest rates on credit card payments. Many banks also don't send credit card statements and any shortfall in payment attracts heavy penalty. The penalty imposed for over-the-limit use of credit cards should not be allowed. Instead, banks can refuse payment on reaching the limit. It is ridiculous that an over-payment of just ₹100 may attract a heavy penalty of ₹500 plus the GST.

The Centre and the RBI should bring necessary amendments to make uniform rules with respect to credit cards, including interest rate and penalties. These malpractices by the banks will eventually spoil the image of the Government and also have an adverse effect on customers' faith in the banking system.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal Delhi

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

There has to be some equity

The UN has failed to acknowledge the rise of atrocities against Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. Till this selectivity exists, the world can never truly foster a culture of peace, says **KOUL JALALI**

In yet another incident of human rights violations 11 Hazara coal miners in Baluchistan province of Pakistan were abducted by terrorists and killed recently. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for this heinous act and the relatives of the miners have refused to bury them till their demands for justice are met. The Hazaras are a Persian-speaking ethnic group whose homeland is Hazarajat in Central Afghanistan. In Pakistan they live mostly in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. They are Shia Muslims and in Pakistan they are suspected of loyalty towards Iran.

These latest atrocities have again drawn the attention of the global community towards the persistent killings of Hazaras and have been condemned widely. There have been protests at many places in Pakistan. Because of their somewhat Mongolian features the Hazaras are easily identifiable and in recent years thousands of them have been murdered in Pakistan. However nobody has been ever punished for these persistent ruthless crimes.

Atrocities against the minorities in Pakistan began soon after the country came into existence in 1947 but got intensified once Islamisation started there under General Zia-ul-Haq. Initially, persecution was mostly confined to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Christians. But later these rights violations got extended to the Shias, Ahmadiyyas, Sufis, Hazaras, Seraikis and other similar sects and groups living in different parts of Pakistan.

These persecutions assume the form of abductions, murders, mass murders, bombings, suicide bombings, forceful conversions to Islam, extrajudicial killings, threats of violence and killings on allegations of blasphemy that are mostly based on personal vendettas and religious bias. The motivating force behind atrocities against these minorities almost in all cases is faith. Whereas the Ahmadiyyas have been declared heretics long back, there is a deep religious divide between the majority Sunni population and the Shia minority.

The worst is that attacks on and desecration of places of worship of minorities have turned into recurring incidents. For instance, on December 31, 2020 a Hindu temple including the Samadhi of a religious leader in Karak District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were set on fire by a mob led by some clerics and supporters of radical Islamist Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party (Fazal ur Rehman group). According to the police, 100 people including seven leading clerics were arrested. India lodged a strong protest against this act and sought strict action against the perpetrators of the crime.

This heinous incident draws attention to the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement arrived at between the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan in New Delhi in April, 1950. The Partition had resulted in exchange of populations between the two countries. Under the agreement, among other matters, minority rights in both the nations were confirmed and both the States set up their minority commissions. But seeing the plight of the minorities in Pakistan, it is obvious that the minority commissions have not worked.

Rejecting the Opposition's criticism of the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Indian Parliament in December 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah clearly stated that the pact has failed. He said that had the spirit of the agreement been followed by Pakistan there would have been no need to bring the Bill.

In any case, the obvious fact cannot be contended that after the Partition the population of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Christians who lived in areas which later became a part of Pakistan has dwindled drastically whereas the population of Muslims who lived in areas which later became a part of the Indian Union has grown exponentially. The reasons for this are not far to seek. While in India rights and security of the minorities have been continuously and effectively safeguarded, Pakistan has persistently contravened the provisions of the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement through consistent neglect and persecution of members of minority communities. This is despite the fact that the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement required each country to ensure that its minorities enjoyed complete equality of citizenship with others and received treatment identical to that available to other nationals of their country.

In another such incident trampling on the rights of the minorities, ignoring the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution, the Pakistani Government decided to transfer the management of the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara to a non-Sikh body. India strongly protested and the incident has been resented all over the world. In a speech at the UN session on 'Culture of Peace' in December 2020, the First Secretary to India's Permanent Mission to the UN agreed with the fact that anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and anti-Christian acts need to be condemned but stated that UN resolutions on such important issues speak only of three Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He said that the august body has failed to acknowledge the rise of hatred and violence against Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs and referred to the shattering of the iconic Bamyan Buddhas by the Taliban in 2001 and the killing of 25 Sikh worshippers in a terrorist bomb attack on a Gurudwara in Kabul in March 2020. He said that in such resolutions these religions also need to be added to the list because till this selectivity exists, the world can never truly foster a culture of peace.

(The writer is a journalist, producer and director. The views expressed are personal.)



KOTA **SRIRAJ**

In a healthy and vibrant democracy, people participate politically not only during but between elections by means of protests and sit-ins. These demonstrations usually play a vital role in influencing public opinion and altering the Government's viewpoint, which eventually has a bearing on policymaking and its implementation.

India being the largest democracy is home to a variety of protests that take place across the nation every now and then for one reason or the other. The ongoing farmers' protest against the three contentious farm-laws is one such instance, where lakhs of cultivators have laid siege at Delhi's borders for

the last 50 days. Their determination to make their voice heard forced the Government to come to the negotiation table.

Besides, the Supreme Court, too, has stayed the new legislation and has constituted an expert committee to comprehensively examine the three laws. However, the farmers are not satisfied and are adamant on their demand for the repeal of the laws and a legal guarantee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

However, amid all the attempts to reach a viable solution, the environment and the health of the protesters are suffering collateral damage. Inadequate sanitation facilities to cater to the needs of the sea of protesters, are not only causing a health crisis but also compromising the well-being of the ecosystem. It is having a cascading impact on the ambient environment of the region that suddenly finds itself subjected to mounting piles of garbage and unplanned disposal of sewage.

This rapid deterioration of the local ecosystem is evident from the fact that a large number of scavenging

birds can be seen hovering and circling in the sky in search of food. The flora and fauna of the region are under extreme pressure due to the sudden rise in human population and an increase in the waste and sewage generated. The demonstrating farmers have inadvertently pushed the ecosystem to its limits and the condition is only deteriorating day-by-day.

Spurred by the worsening situation on ground zero, the Jan Swasthya Abhiyaan (JSA) conducted a study that revealed that three out of five protesters or nearly 57.7 per cent have no option except to defecate in the open. This may eventually result in an outbreak of an epidemic if the authorities don't rectify the situation soon.

In the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the situation at the protest site is alarming as social distancing and other protocols are not being followed. Even the apex court enquired from the Government regarding the steps that are being taken to prevent the area from becoming a COVID-19 hotspot. Now, the pathetic sanitary conditions in the area are adding to the

woes of the farmers and the worries of the authorities.

The protest sites at Singhu, Tikri, Shahjahanpur, Palwal and Gazipur are facing an enormous human and vehicular influx. The air quality is fast deteriorating in these areas due to the cumulative effect of vehicular exhaust, smoke from open kitchens and bonfires lit by the farmers to protect themselves from the biting cold. As the deadlock between the growers and the Government continues, respite for the environment is nowhere in sight. The survey also noted that more than 50 per cent of the respondents said that sewage water stagnation is becoming a major problem.

The plight of the farmers who have travelled long distances to participate in the protests is deplorable, to say the least. According to the farmers, over 60 of them have died during the protests including those who have committed suicide. A few others succumbed to the cold.

The condition of women at the protest site is worse. They are actually forgoing food and water for long stretches in order to avoid going to the

toilets that are poorly provisioned. Ironically, such a situation exists in a democracy where the right to protest is as sacrosanct as the freedom of speech.

At a time when our economy is facing a serious crisis due to the contagion, the ongoing protest is adding to the country's problems. According to the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) the economies of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir are bearing a daily loss of ₹3,500 crore due to the demonstrations.

Given that the stakes are so high, the Government must provide better facilities to the cultivators and create a conducive environment on the ground so that neither the protesters nor the ecosystem remain at the receiving end. It should focus not only on resolving the deadlock but must give equal weightage to finding solutions to some of the pressing sanitation and environment-related issues at the protest sites.

First and foremost, effective, clean and adequate toilet facilities must be provided to the farmers at these locations. However, the Government should

bear in mind that the toilets provided or installed for the farmers should not have a poster or picture of any political party or a particular leader. For instance, the toilets supplied by the a particular party were left unused by the farmers as they bore its advertisement. This annoyed the already miffed farmers further as they have been trying to keep all politicians out of their protest. The objective of the Government should be to keep the environment clean and not to promote a party or a leader.

Similarly, garbage collection must be stepped up and the huge amounts of stagnant sewage water must be cleared with immediate effect before it starts polluting the groundwater.

The protesters themselves can take the lead and help the Government in cleaning up the protest sites and curtailing the damage to the environment. At the end of the day, the farmers are a simple and hardworking community that is close to nature. Their dedication to the environment is second to none.

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOLD SMUGGLING CASE ACCUSED, SWAPNA, HAD ATTENDED YOUR DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE.  
—CONGRESS LEADER PT THOMAS



THE MARRIAGE WAS CONDUCTED IN A BIG HALL IN CLIFF HOUSE AND ONLY CLOSE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES PARTICIPATED. SWAPNA WAS NOT THERE.  
—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Make cyberspace safe for kids

Online harassment can take a serious toll on their mental health. The words, pictures, video clips or any form of data stored on the internet stay forever, haunting the victim



ROBIN RATNAKAR **DAVID**

The nationwide lockdown necessitated by the pandemic forced people to work from home. Schools and colleges, too, shifted to remote and online functioning. While this protected children/teenagers from exposure to the Coronavirus, migration of classrooms to remote learning environments increased the time they spend online, both for education and entertainment purposes. Prolonged online presence during the lockdown exposed minors to unsupervised interaction with strangers and third parties. Consequently, within a few months of the lockdown in India, the Boi Locker Room scandal broke out on social media where a group of teenagers accessed photos of women and girls from social media pages. The group posted lewd comments on the photographs on an Instagram group and issued rape threats to women/girls who demanded action against them. Fortunately, Delhi Police and its Cyber Cell took action against the group under the Penal Code and Cyber laws.

Cyberbullying, cyberstalking, online impersonation, catfishing, doxxing, trolling, revenge porn, sexting, grooming and sexual exploitation are some common forms of online harassment. According to a study published by Child Rights and You, 9.2 per cent of 630 adolescents surveyed in Delhi-NCR experienced cyberbullying and half of them did not report this to either their teachers, parents or guardians. Further, it found that children aged 13-18 years, who use the internet for more than three hours in a day, are more prone to risks. Online harassment can take a serious toll on their mental health. The words, pictures, video clips or any form of data stored on the internet stay forever, haunting the victim. This spreads fast and cannot be erased or forgotten.

In October 2020, the Delhi High Court (HC) while directing Google, YouTube and Facebook to remove objectionable material posted by a woman's former schoolmate without her consent, also ordered the police to use the protocols and resources available with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and other agencies to identify people sharing/viewing the offensive content in India and take action against them. The victim said that in 2012, as a 16-year-old, she was emotionally blackmailed by the accused into sending him intimate photographs. He threatened to commit suicide if she did not comply with his demands. The harassment continued until 2017 in the UK where the Magistrate Court held him guilty of stalking and physically assaulting her. The court passed orders restraining the accused from contacting the victim by any means and banned him from entering the city of Bath for two years. In late 2019, the victim found that the accused had posted her intimate pictures on various social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and so on and reported the matter to the Cyber Crime Cell in Delhi. The cyber police registered cases against the accused under Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act. The victim also sent notices to Google and social media networks, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram urging them to remove her photographs. However, the URLs/webpages were not removed. The court acknowledged that the offending images had been widely distributed and that they were being uploaded by several people other than the accused. The court ordered the police to identify the people sharing the images.

According to the UNICEF, a child goes online for the first time in his/her life every half a second. The digital world provides easier access to child sex offenders in search of prey/potential victims and also

“YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE LESS LIKELY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ONLINE HARASSMENT AND KNOW THAT THEY MUST SEEK HELP. THE LACK OF SUPPORT NETWORKS IN SCHOOLS AND THE INCREASE IN THE TIME SPENT ONLINE, TOO, ARE REASONS FOR THE SPIKE IN CYBER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC”



enable them to share information about victims with perpetrators of sexual crimes. Recent surveys reveal that at least one in four adolescents have seen a morphed image or video of themselves and, a half of them have not reported it to the police.

In 2019, Facebook published that it had removed 11.6 million posts related to child nudity and sexual exploitation from its webpages and 7,54,000 from Instagram. For the first time, Facebook published figures related to self-harm and suicide revealing that it had removed 2.5 million posts related to suicide and self-harm and 8,45,000 from Instagram. Among the users of the internet, children are highly likely to be exposed to violence since they have fewer opportunities than adults to leave the house and access help, according to a report published by the WHO on June 17, 2020. Smaller children are less likely to understand that they have been subjected to online harassment and know that they must seek help. The lack of support networks in schools and the increase in the time spent online, too, are reasons for the spike in cyber crimes against children during the pandemic.

**Laws:** The substantive equality approach adopted by India and expressed in Article 15(3) of the Constitution empowers the State to make special provisions for children. Article 39 provides that the State shall direct its policy towards securing children and ensure that they are not abused and their childhood and youth are protected against exploitation. It further emphasises the need to provide facilities for them to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

The international instrument, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) prescribes a set of standards to be followed by all parties to secure the best interests of children. States are required to undertake all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral

measures to prevent inducement or coercion of a minor to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual conduct and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and material. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, is a gender-neutral law that came into force exclusively to protect children from sexual assault, harassment and pornography. The POCSO Act recognises the fact that minors are vulnerable to repeated abuse and at risk of secondary victimisation during the justice delivery process and hence, emphasised on the need for the establishment of special courts for them. Sections 13, 14 and 15 of the Act, particularly address the crime of using a minor for pornographic purposes and punishes any person who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child.

Human rights begin at birth, as envisaged in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Human and child rights are inalienable ones, which means that no State-run entity or the State itself cannot deprive children of their rights. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the legislations that were promulgated in the member States have often been misconstrued as rights of children based on their needs. But these rights are independent in a true sense and recognise children as independent citizens with a voice.

**Keeping children safe:** Child rights are congruent with the obligations imposed on the State and caregivers and their accountability. Schools, parents and guardians must ensure that the online safety of children is not compromised and they don't befriend strangers online. The police, who are responsible for law enforcement must keep a watch out for offenders in cyberspaces and must strive to keep it safe for children. Schools and

caregivers must ensure that safety and security of children are of paramount importance. They must train children to report suspicious accounts. Electronic devices must be used under the supervision of a trusted adult, and the privacy settings of the devices must be checked regularly to keep minors away from online predators.

Children must be encouraged to take screenshots of any content that makes them feel uneasy and report it to the parents/authorities to take it down from the internet. They must be made aware by their parents/guardians that sharing of personal information such as location, phone numbers, date of birth and addresses must not be done. Children must be encouraged to seek help in times of distress. Parents and caregivers must assure minors that they are not alone and that the adults in their life are always available to address their worries and concerns.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a toll-free 24-hour telephonic helpline service 1098, which operates in regional languages to reach out to children in distress across India. A trained contact officer answers the calls on the helpline and forwards the message to a field partner on the ground. The field partner sends a member to the rescue of the child within an hour or two from the time they receive the call and ensures the safety of the child.

Overexposure to the internet during the pandemic had resulted in the extension of child helpline services to children using the internet to ensure their online safety and psychological well-being. Schools and caregivers must take the responsibility to make children aware about the toll-free child helpline service. Counselling facilities, too, must be made available for children who have been subjected to online harassment and bullying.

(The writer is Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Partner, Dua Associates. The views expressed are personal.)

The Govt must clean up the mess

The demonstrating farmers have inadvertently pushed the ecosystem to its limits and the condition is only deteriorating day by day



A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

Globally, only six countries executed more people than the US last year: China, Iran, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia and North Korea. In Europe, Belarus is the only State to retain the death penalty. Russia imposed a moratorium in the 1990s. The federal execution of a woman who was mentally ill was the act of a morally bankrupt administration. (The Guardian editorial)

# Biden hopes Senate will conduct Trump’s impeachment among critical issues

**Washington:** Terming last week’s violence at the US Capitol a planned criminal act, President-elect Joe Biden has expressed hope that the Senate will be able to conduct the impeachment trial of Donald Trump while working on other critical issues after a House of Representatives vote made him the first American president ever to be impeached twice.

The House voted 232 to 197 on Wednesday to impeach Trump.

Ten Republican lawmakers joined the Democrats to impeach Trump for “incitement of insurrection” exactly one week after rioters stormed the US Capitol as the House certified Biden’s election victory, making him the first American president to be impeached twice.

Trump was impeached the first time in December 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for his attempt to pressure Ukraine to investigate Biden’s family.

Biden, a Democrat, alleged

on Wednesday that the violence was carried out by political extremists and domestic terrorists, who were incited by Trump.

“This criminal attack was planned and coordinated. It was carried out by political extremists and domestic terrorists, who were incited to this violence by President Trump. It was an armed insurrection against the United States of America. And those responsible must be held accountable,” Biden said in a statement after the House of Representatives impeached Trump, a Republican.

The violence on January 6 temporarily halted the counting of Electoral College votes to certify Biden’s win in the November 3 election and resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including a police officer.

“Last week, we saw an unprecedented assault on our democracy. It was unlike anything we have witnessed in the 244-year history of our nation,” he said.

Windows and doors were destroyed. Offices ransacked. A Capitol Hill police officer was murdered. Another lost his life a few days later. Four other people died in the senseless mayhem of that day, said the next American president.

Biden said that the members of the House of Representatives exercised the power granted to them under the US Constitution and voted to impeach and hold the president accountable.

“It was a bipartisan vote cast by members who followed the Constitution and their conscience. The process continues to the Senate,” he said.

“This nation also remains in the grip of a deadly virus and a reeling economy. I hope that the Senate leadership will find a way to deal with their Constitutional responsibilities on impeachment while also working on the other urgent business of this nation,” Biden said.

“From confirmations to key posts such as Secretaries for

Homeland Security, State, Defense, Treasury, and Director of National Intelligence, to getting our vaccine program on track, and to getting our economy going again. Too many of our fellow Americans have suffered for too long over the past year to delay this urgent work,” he said.

“I have often said that there is nothing we can’t do, if we do it together. And it has never been more critical for us to stand together as a nation than right now. So we must remember who we are as Americans and what we stand for and believe. It’s time for us to be what at our best we have always been,” Biden said.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris said the storming of the Capitol Hill by supporters Trump last week marked an inflection point for America.

“Last week, of course, marked an inflection point for our country. I was horrified. As I know you all were by the attack on our Capitol, on our

nation’s Capital,” Harris said at a virtual finance event for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Harris said the President-elect Biden called it an attack on democracy.

“It was an attack on the rule of law itself. And one of the lessons I hope that all of us take away from it is that our democracy is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it, our ideals are only as strong as our willingness to make them real,” she said hours after Trump’s impeachment.

“At that time, that meant certifying the results of this election, and to send a message, strong and clear that we will not be deterred, that our democracy will not be derailed. My hope is that the bipartisan spirit, the patriotic spirit that prevailed that night, will mark the beginning of a new era for our country,” Harris said.

She said that the American people had been through difficult moments like wars, depressions and great upheavals before.

## UN watchdog confirms another Iranian breach of nuclear deal

**Berlin:** The United Nations’ atomic watchdog agency confirmed on Thursday that Iran has informed it that the country has begun installing equipment for the production of uranium metal, which would be another violation of the landmark nuclear deal with world powers.

Iran maintains its plans to conduct research and development on uranium metal production are part of its “declared aim to design an improved type of fuel,” the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said.

Uranium metal can also be used for a nuclear bomb, however, and research on its production is specifically prohibited in the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed with world powers in 2015.

The ultimate goal of the deal is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, something Iran insists it does not want to do. Iran now has enough enriched uranium to make a bomb, but nowhere near the amount it had before the nuclear deal was signed.

IAEA inspectors visited the Isfahan plant where Iran has said it plans to conduct the research on Jan. 10, and officials were informed by Tehran on Jan. 13 that “modification and installation of the relevant equipment for the mentioned R&D activities have been already started,” the agency said.

Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, repeated that in a tweet on Wednesday, adding that “natural uranium will be used to produce uranium metal in the first stage.”

He told Iran’s official news agency IRNA that the move will elevate Iran to the level of “progressive nations in production of new fuels.” It was the latest in a string of violations of the JCPOA that Iran has undertaken since President Donald Trump pulled the United States unilaterally out of the deal in 2018, saying it needed to be re-negotiated.

Tehran has been using the violations to put pressure on the other signatories — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — to provide more incentives to Iran to offset crippling American sanctions reimposed after the U.S. Exited the deal.

President-elect Joe Biden, who was vice president when the JCPOA was negotiated, has said he hopes to return the U.S. To the deal. Britain, France and Germany said last week, however, that Iran “risks compromising” chances of diplomacy with Washington after Tehran announced another violation — that it was starting to enrich uranium to 20 per cent purity, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

## 13 WHO scientists arrive in Wuhan to probe Covid origins; 2 barred after testing positive

**Beijing/Wuhan:** Thirteen international experts of the WHO arrived in Wuhan on Thursday for the long-awaited probe into the origins of the deadly coronavirus pandemic, while two others did not board the flight from Singapore to the central Chinese city after they tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

“The international team of 13 scientists examining the origins of the virus that causes #COVID19 arrived in Wuhan, #China, today. The experts will begin their work immediately during the 2 weeks quarantine protocol for international travellers,” the World Health Organisation said in a tweet.

“Two scientists are still in #Singapore completing tests for #COVID19. All team members had multiple negative PCR and antibody tests for COVID-19 in their home countries prior to travelling,” it said.

“They were tested again in #Singapore and were all negative

for PCR. But two members tested positive for IgM antibodies. They are being retested for both IgM and IgG antibodies”, the WHO said.

The two experts failed to clear the screening procedures and were blocked from travelling to China, the Wall Street Journal reported. “Chinese officials involved in the screening process blocked the two delegation members from boarding their plane to the central Chinese city of Wuhan after both tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies in blood-based serology tests during transit in Singapore” the report said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian defended the denial of permission to the two scientists saying that “relevant epidemic and control requirements and regulations will be strictly enforced”.

“We will also support and offer convenience to WHO experts’ travel to China,” he told

a media briefing replying to a question about the denial of permission to the two scientists and referred the media to competent authorities for details.

China requires passengers flying from Singapore to take a nucleic acid test and an IgM antibody test up to two days before boarding China-bound flights.

The 13 WHO experts would go through a 14-day quarantine. They are set to interview people from research institutes, hospitals and the seafood market linked to the initial outbreak.

The WHO team includes virus and other experts from the US, Australia, Germany, Japan, Britain, Russia, the Netherlands, Qatar and Vietnam. The United States and Australia have led the charge in criticising China’s handling of the initial stages of the pandemic, accusing Beijing of downplaying its severity and preventing an effective response until too late.

## Vaccines and masks: Biden plan aims to break pandemic cycle

**Wilmington (US):** A coronavirus action plan being unveiled by President-elect Joe Biden centers on a mass vaccination campaign and closer coordination among all levels of government.

The Biden plan comes as a divided nation remains caught in the grip of the pandemic’s most dangerous wave yet. So far, more than 380,000 Americans have died.

Biden hopes his multidimensional strategy, expected to be detailed in a Thursday evening speech, will put the country on the path to recovery by the end of his first 100 days. “It’s going to be hard,” Biden said Monday after he got his second vaccine shot.

“It’s not going to be easy. But we can get it done.” A more disciplined focus on vaccination is the new and widely anticipated game-changing element, but that’s far from the whole story.

Biden is asking Americans to override their sense of pandemic fatigue and recommit to wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings, particularly larger ones.

## Europe’s rights court accepts Ukraine case against Russia

**Moscow:** Europe’s top human rights court agreed on Thursday to look into Ukraine’s complaint against alleged human rights violations in the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

The Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights, or ECHR, concluded that Ukraine’s case against Russia is backed by sufficient evidence and decided to start looking into the case. It wasn’t clear when the court would deliver a verdict.

Ukraine has argued in its complaint that Russia was responsible for a variety of human rights violations in the Black Sea peninsula. Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea hasn’t been

recognized by a vast majority of nations and drew U.S. And EU sanctions against Moscow. International human rights groups long have pointed at numerous rights abuses in Crimea, including restrictions of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and harassment of pro-Ukraine activists and members of the Crimean Tatar community.

Moscow has charged that it rightfully took over Crimea after an overwhelming majority of local residents voted to secede from Ukraine and join Russia in a referendum. It has continuously rejected accusations of human rights violations in the region.

## Lawyer, others arrested by Hong Kong national security unit

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong police on Thursday said they arrested 11 people on suspicion of assisting offenders who are believed to be the 12 Hong Kong activists detained at sea by mainland Chinese authorities while attempting to flee the city last year.

District counselor and lawyer Daniel Wong Kwok-tung posted on his Facebook page early Thursday that national security officers had arrived at his home. He was later taken to his office, where police conducted a search.

Wong, a member of the Democratic Party, is known for providing legal assistance to hundreds of activists arrested during antigovernment protests in 2019.

The fresh wave of arrests comes a week after 55 activists were apprehended in the largest move against Hong Kongs democracy movement since Beijing imposed a new national security law last June to quell dissent in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The clampdown has intensified concerns that Beijing is asserting more control over the city and breaking its promise of Hong Kong maintaining separate civil rights and political systems for 50 years from the handover from Britain control in 1997.

Police said in an emailed statement that those arrested Thursday were eight men and three women aged 18 to 72. The identities of those

arrested were not revealed.

Local media reports said those arrested are suspected of helping the 12 Hong Kong activists who were detained at sea by mainland Chinese authorities while attempting to sail to Taiwan last August.

Some of the fugitives were wanted in Hong Kong for offenses related to the 2019 protests.

Last month, 10 of the activists detained at sea were sentenced to prison in Shenzhen for illegally crossing the border, with sentences ranging between seven months to three years. The two other detainees, who are minors, were handed over to Hong Kong and could face further charges in the city for absconding, authorities said.

## Search expands for victims of Indonesian plane crash

**Jakarta:** An aerial search for victims and wreckage from a crashed Indonesian plane expanded on Thursday as divers continued combing the debris-littered seabed looking for the cockpit voice recorder from the lost Sriwijaya Air jet.

The Boeing 737-500 disappeared Saturday minutes after taking off from Jakarta with 62 people aboard. The other black box containing flight data was recovered Tuesday, and search personnel have also recovered plane parts and human remains from the Java Sea.

The aerial search is being expanded to coastal areas of the Thousand Island chain “because plane debris and victims may be carried away by sea currents,” said Rasman, search and rescue mission coordinator for the National Search and Rescue Agency, who uses one name.

Navy officials have said the two black boxes were buried in seabed mud under tons of wreckage between Lancang and Laki islands in the Thousand Island chain north of Jakarta. At least 268 divers were deployed on Thursday, almost double the previous figure.

Rescuers increased to 4,100 personnel, supported by 13 helicopters, 55 ships and 18 raft boats.

So far, searchers have sent 141 body bags containing human remains to police identification experts. Families have been providing DNA samples to the disaster victim identification unit, which on Wednesday said it has identified six victims, including a flight attendant and an off-duty pilot.

The 29-year-old flight attendant, Okky Bisma, was buried on Thursday.

Relatives and friends carried his coffin to the cemetery in eastern Jakarta, followed by dozens of people, most wearing masks and maintaining social distancing because of the pandemic.

The airline said both pilots flying the plane were experienced and had good safety records.

Capt. Afwan, who uses one name, began his career as an air force Hercules pilot and had several decades of flying experience. He was known as a devout Muslim and preacher. The co-pilot, Diego Mamahit, was equally qualified.

Nurchayyo Utomo, an investigator with Indonesias National Transportation Safety Committee, said the crew did not declare an emergency or report any technical problems before the plane nosedived into the sea.



**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani, Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones : 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website : www.ujvn.com

R.O. No.: 39 Dt: 13.01.2021


**e-Tender Notice**


Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), BBCGPP, UJVN Ltd., Kashipur, invites online tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :  
NIT No: 02/NDH/2020-21  
**Name of work** : Project Management Consultancy for 16 MW Co-Generation Power Project along with concurrent modernization of Sugar Mill at Nadehi. **Estimated cost** : ₹ 134 Lac (GST extra)  
**Date of availability of bid document on website** : 14-01-2021from 18:00 hrs., **Last date for submission of bid on website**: 05-02-2021 up to 18.00 hrs.  
For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **"https://uktenders.gov.in"**  
(Executive Engineer E&M-II, Kashipur)  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead near Shop No. 51, Bagichi Madho Dass, Red Fort, Delhi on **10.01.2021**. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 37A, dated 10.01.2021** at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under-  
**Age:** About 30-35 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Hair:** Black, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** White-blue colour T-shirt, grey colour coat & pant and bare feet. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Kotwali, Delhi**  
**DP/881/N/2021** **Ph: 011-23977100, 8750870121**





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)]  
**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/	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.	Sharad Mahawar (Borrower) Neha Mahawar (Co-Borrower) LBDL00003103265	Flat No.8-E, 4th Floor, Pocket- C, Sector-3, Phase-I, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075. Area- 307Sq.Ft.	Rs. 16,29,835/- (as on January 5, 2021)	Rs. 12,45, 000/- Rs. 1,24,500/-	February 02, 2021, From 12:00 Noon To 02:00 PM	February 15, 2021, 12:00 Noon Onwards
2.	Biijender Kumar (Borrower) Sunita (Co-Borrower) Lan No. LBSNP00002385175	LIG Flat No. 16, 3rd Floor, Sec-G-2, Pocket- 2, Block A-5, Narela Delhi. Area is 344 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 1775343/- (as on January 5, 2021)	Rs. 11,16, 000/- Rs. 1,11,600/-	February 03, 2021, From 11:00 AM To 01:00 PM	February 15, 2021, From 12:00 Noon 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 **February 12, 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 there after they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **February 12, 2021** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase 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 **February 12, 2021** before **05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/P.O 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 8584874809/ 8657476284** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/ 9810029926/ 01244233933**

Please note that Marketing agencies1. **NexXen Solution Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC** 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](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

**Date: January 15, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

## Bangladesh: Fire destroys hundreds of homes in Rohingya refugee camp

**Dhaka:** A fire raged through a sprawling Rohingya refugee camp in southern Bangladesh on Thursday, destroying hundreds of homes, officials said. No casualties were reported.

The UNHCR said more than 550 homes sheltering about 3,500 people as well as 150 shops were either totally or partially destroyed in the fire.

The fire broke out early Thursday in Nayapara Camp in Cox's Bazar district, where more than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are staying. Nayapara is an old camp that was started decades ago.

Mohammed Shamsud Douza, a senior refugee official, said firefighters took two hours to bring the blaze under control.No serious injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire was not immediately known.

A video showed many refugees searching through charred corrugated iron sheets for valuables. "This is another devastating blow for the Rohingya people who have endured unspeakable hardship for years," Save the Children's country director in Bangladesh, Onno van Manen, said in a statement.



# Wholesale inflation moderates to 1.22%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation moderated to 1.22 per cent in December as prices of kitchen staples onion and potato eased, as per a government data released on Thursday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation was 1.55 per cent in November 2020, and 2.76 per cent in December 2019.

“The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index decreased from 4.27 per cent in November 2020, to 0.92 per cent in December 2020,” as per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

The rate of price rise on wholesale basis in the vegetables basket declined to (-) 13.2 per cent in December, as against 12.24 per cent inflation in the preceding month.

The data showed onion prices contracted by 54.69 per

cent in December, as against a decline of 7.58 per cent in November. The inflation in potato eased to 37.75 per cent in December from 115.12 per cent in November. According to the data, rate of inflation in cereals, paddy, wheat and pulses, also eased in December over the previous month. The wholesale prices of fruits were however higher in December compared to November. While inflation in food prices eased, the rate of price rise in manufactured goods rose to 4.24 per cent in December. It was 2.97 per cent in November. Manufactured products, include food products, beverages, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and cement.

The WPI-based inflation in fuel and power segment too increased marginally during the month under review.

It is to be noted that retail inflation too had dropped sharply to 4.59 per cent in December, mainly due to

declining food prices.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA Limited said WPI inflation recorded a pull-back in December 2020, driven by a disinflation in primary food items and lower inflation for primary non-food articles, even as core inflation spiked to a 24-month high of 4.2 per cent, injecting concern regarding the trajectory of the WPI going forward. “The sharp 1.5 per cent rise in the core-index in month-on-month terms, partly reflects higher commodity and metal prices, as well as a rise in pricing power, in line with the revival in global demand with the COVID-19 vaccines roll out,” she said. The surge in the core-WPI inflation has completely doused any lingering hope that the dip in the December 2020, CPI inflation would be adequate for rate easing to recommence in the upcoming policy review, she added.

# Sensex, Nifty dart up to record highs; TCS stands tall amid IT selloff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex resumed its record-setting streak on Thursday after a day's pause as gains in index major TCS offset profit-book-ing in the IT pack following strong results by Infosys and Wipro. A broad upmove in global equities and a recovering rupee further propped up the bourses, traders said.

Recovering from a shaky start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum during the day to end at its new lifetime high of 49,584.16, up 91.84 points or 0.19 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 30.75 points or 0.21 per cent to finish at a record 14,595.60.

TCS topped the Sensex gainer's chart, spurring 2.89 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, ITC, Reliance Industries, HUL and Sun Pharma.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Infosys and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards, declining up to

2.63 per cent. Infosys on Wednesday posted a 16.6 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 5,197 crore for the December 2020 quarter, and increased its revenue growth guidance for FY21 to 4.5-5 per cent on the back of large project wins and strong deal pipeline. Wipro posted an about 21 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,968 crore for the December 2020 quarter, and said the demand environment is improving steadily. Domestic equities witnessed a brisk recovery from the day's low mainly led by a rebound in FMCG and pharma stocks, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

IT index has been the most surprising as profit-book-ing was visible in many IT stocks despite strong Q3 numbers and upbeat guidance shared by the managements, he added. “We believe underlying strength of the market remains intact and any correction in the market is likely to be bought out. Sustained recovery in key economic data for Dec'20, better-than-expected 3Q .

# Rupee logs 3rd straight gains, up 11 paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained for the third straight day and closed 11 paise higher at 73.04 against the US dollar on Thursday, supported by sustained foreign fund inflows and weak American currency. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.18 and hit an intra-day high of 72.97 and a low of 73.18. It finally finished at 73.04, higher by 11 paise over its last close.

Over the last three days, the rupee has added 36 paise in its valuation against the American currency. “Rupee caught another bid by logging its third green finish in last four days moving closer to monthly highs.

# Modi to address Startup India International Summit on Saturday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday interact with startups and address a global summit being organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The Prarambh: Startup India International Summit is being organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on January 15-16.

Prime Minister Modi will interact with startups and address the summit on January 16 at 5 PM via video conferencing, the PMO said in a statement.

The two-day summit is being organised as a follow-up of the announcement made by the prime minister at the fourth BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu in August 2018 wherein India committed to host the BIMSTEC Startup Conclave.



The summit marks the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative, launched by the prime minister on January 16, 2016.

With participation from over 25 countries and more than 200 global speakers, the summit will be the largest startup confluence organised by the Government of India since the launch of the Startup India initiative, the PMO said.

It will witness 24 sessions with focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation and engagement with countries from around the globe to collectively develop and strengthen the startup ecosystems, it said.

# Unsold housing in Noida, Greater Noida down 12% in 2020, reports Anarock

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Amid restricted new supply in 2020, unsold housing inventory in Noida and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh reduced by 12 per cent in the year, a report by Anarock Property Consultants said.

The unsold inventory declined from 64,010 units as at 2019-end to nearly 56,620 units at 2020-end.

In contrast, Gurugram saw its unsold stock increase by 7 per cent in the same period to around 61,880 units at 2020-end.

From a new launch perspective, the whole of National Capital Region saw launch of around 18,540 units in 2020, of which Noida and Greater Noida accounted for a mere 15 per cent share, or around 2,800 units.

While Gurugram saw supply of nearly 11,180 new units during the year, denoting a significant 60 per cent overall share.

Faridabad saw launch of more new housing units in the year -- around 3,050 units -- compared with both Noida and Greater Noida.

# Trump admin announces final rule that will raise prevailing wage rates for H-1B workers

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has announced a final rule that will significantly raise the minimum wages the employers in the US must pay to foreign workers on visa programmes like the H-1B as part of the efforts to protect American workers from being undercut by cheaper labour from abroad.

Days before the exit of the administration of President Donald Trump, the US Department of Labor said that the final rule would help protect the wages and job opportunities of American workers by reforming the wage method-

ology it uses to set prevailing wage rates to prevent potential abuses of its Permanent Employment Certification, H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 Visa foreign worker programmes. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The final rule will improve the accuracy of prevailing wages paid to foreign workers by bringing them in line.

# Coal India's supply to power sector drops 5% to 318 MT in Apr-Dec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal supply by state-run Coal India to the power sector declined by 5.3 per cent to 318.04 million tonnes (MT) in the April-December period of the ongoing fiscal.

The state-owned company had supplied 335.92 MT of coal to the power sector in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to official data. In December 2020, the fuel supply by Coal India (CIL) dropped to 40.25 MT against 43.04 MT in the same month last fiscal year.

# India's automobile exports drop 18.87 pc in 2020: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile exports from India declined 18.87 per cent in 2020, a year marked by coronavirus pandemic induced disruptions across the globe, according to the latest figures

by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Overseas shipments of vehicles in the January-December period last year stood at 38,65,138 units as against 47,63,960 units in the same period in 2019, SIAM

said. One of the main reasons for the drop in automobile exports was the dip in shipments of passenger vehicles, which were down 39.38 per cent last year at 4,28,098 units as compared to 7,06,159 units in 2019.

## IN BRIEF

**FIRST MILLET PROCESSING UNIT IN KEONJHAR**

First millet processing unit in Keonjhar inaugurated by Collector and District Magistrate in Keonjhar town. “The unit is being managed by Krushna SHG supported by Mission Shakti. The unit has a capacity of cleaning about 2 qtls per hour and can clean over 500 qtls in a month, thus providing a consistent source of livelihood to the SHG. The unit has been established to ensure supply of clean Ragi for the flagship ICDS Ragi Laddu programme of the District Administration. The unit has been provided under the Odisha Millets Mission, supported by the District Mineral Foundation. Technical support is being provided by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment and WASSAN

**NFL PROVIDES COLD STORAGE EQUIPMENTS FOR COVID VACCINE**

**Noida:** Under its CSR initiative, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) provided 8 Nos. Cold Chain Equipments to State Health Department, Chandigarh to strengthen the Government's efforts to develop cold storage facilities for anti-Corona Vaccine. The equipments include 4 Ice Lined Refrigerators and 4 Deep Freezers, which are designed to store the COVID-19 vaccine. Under this project, one more Deep Freezer shall also be delivered by the Company shortly. On behalf of NFL, Sh. Dilbag Singh, DGM (Marketing), Chandigarh handed over these COVID Vaccine storage equipments to Dr. V K Nagpal, Medical Superintendent, Government Multi Speciality Hospital, Chandigarh. The company acted promptly to cater to the urgent need for cold storage devices for Government's vaccination programme and delivered the equipment well within the timelines.

**FARIDABAD CIVIL HOSPITAL GETS ANTI-COVID FACILITIES AS CSR INITIATIVE**

Faridabad: As part of its corporate social responsibility initiative during the Covid-19 pandemic, Goodyear India Limited, in association with Americares India Foundation, is donating Faridabad Civil Hospital with PPE and quarantine equipment. The equipment includes bedside ventilators, multipara monitors, pulse oximeters, PPE kits, N95 mask. “Our objective is to help enable a safer and healthier country. These are indeed challenging times and therefore, a collaborative and participatory approach is needed to address the challenges that this pandemic has unleashed upon us,” Goodyear India MD Sandeep Mahajan.

# Tesla CEO Elon Musk confirms India entry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has confirmed the company's plans to enter the Indian market, within days of the electric vehicle maker registering its arm in the country.

“As promised,” Musk tweeted in response to a thread linked to a blog that analysed how India could still be a market to be developed for Tesla cars despite its high prices.

Earlier this week, it emerged that US electric car maker Tesla has registered its Indian arm amid indications that the company is set to enter the country's automobile market.

According to a regulatory filing, the firm has registered Tesla India Motors and Energy Pvt Ltd with Registrar of Companies (RoC) Bangalore.

The company has been registered as an unlisted private entity with a paid-up capital of Rs 1 lakh.

# Public Issue of Debentures amounting to ₹5,000 crores by Power Finance Corporation Limited opens on Jan 15

**Mumbai:** Power Finance Corporation Limited, is one of the leading financial institutions in India, focused on the power sector will open its Rs 5,000 crores public issue of secured, redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures on January 15, 2021. The base Issue size is Rs. 500 crores with an option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs. 4,500 crores aggregating up to 5,000 crores which is within the shelf limit of Rs 10,000 crores. The NCDs are of face value of Rs 1,000 each. The Tranche I Issue

is scheduled to close on January 29, 2021 with an option of early closure or extension as decided by PFC's Board of Directors or a duly constituted committee thereof.

The Tranche I Issue offers options for tenures of 3, 5, 10 and 15 years. The 3-year tenure NCD in Series I will offer a fixed coupon rate of 4.65% p.a., while the 5 year tenure NCD in Series II will offer fixed coupon rate of 5.65% p.a. to 5.80% p.a. depending on the category of investors.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Khushboo, D/o Shri Sonu, R/o House No. B-7, Gopal Vihar, Vijay Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi. Age 18 yrs., Height 4'2", Shallow complexion, Medium built, Long face, wearing black colour suit salwar and black colour chappal in feet has been missing since 24.12.2020 from the area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

**Khushboo**

In this regard a DD No. 32-A, Dt. 25.12.2020 has been lodged at PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Fax: 011-23011334  
Ph.: 011-23014046  
011-23015218  
DP/601/RD/2021

S.H.O.,  
PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27061294, 27061295

**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा (eefcbbagaha@gmail.com)**

**शुद्धि-पत्र - 2**

सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमण्डल के पत्रांक-696 दिनांक-30.12.2020 द्वारा निर्गत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-01 / 2020-21 जिसका पीओ आरओ नं-010421(WRD) 2020-21 है, में निम्न प्रकार आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है-

क्र.सं.	कड़िका सं०	कड़िका	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
03	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय।	दिनांक 07.01.2021 के 10.30 पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक-12.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 07.01.2021 के 10.30 पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक-18.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 07.01.2021 के 10.30 पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक-18.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
05	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक : 15.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।	दिनांक : 22.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।	दिनांक : 22.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।
06	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
15	अग्रधन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता  
**बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमण्डल, बगहा**

PR No. 11179(W.R.D) 2020-21

किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, बेतिया।**

**Mail I.D - ee.drainagedivision.bettiah@gmail.com**  
**Mob - 7463889644**  
**शुद्धि पत्र -02**

सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमंडल के पत्रांक 1445 दिनांक 30.12.2020 द्वारा निर्गत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-2/SBD / 2020-2021 जिसका पीओ आरओ नं-010489(WRD) 2020-2021 है, में निम्न प्रकार आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है-

क्र.सं.	कड़िका सं०	कड़िका	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
03	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय।	दिनांक 08.01.2021 से 11.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 08.01.2021 से 15.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 08.01.2021 से 15.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।
05	निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय।	दिनांक 12.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 16.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 16.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।
06	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय।	दिनांक 14.01.2021 के 15:30 बजे तक।	दिनांक 19.01.2021 के 15:30 बजे तक।	दिनांक 19.01.2021 के 15:30 बजे तक।
15	अग्रधन की राशि की मूल प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय।	दिनांक 13.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 18.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।	दिनांक 18.01.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।

**इसे इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत् लागू रहेगी। (लाल बहादुर गुप्ता)**

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,  
**जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, बेतिया**

PR No. 11178(W.R.D) 2020-21

किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

**Himalaya Food International Ltd**

(Formerly, Himalaya International Limited)  
**CIN: L70102DL1992PLC047399**  
**Regd. Office:** 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008  
**Tel.** +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178  
E-mail id: cs@himalayafoodinternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4.00 p.m. at Company Head Office at Shubhkhera, Paonta Sahib, H.P - 173025, arrangement is made for participation of Board members electronically through video-conferencing facility, inter-alia, to take on record the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended 31st December, 2020.

In terms of the Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading in Securities of Himalaya Food International Limited, the Trading window is closed from 1st January, 2021 to 23rd January, 2021.

The said notice may be accessed on the stock exchanges websites at www.bseindia.com.

**For Himalaya Food International Ltd.**  
**Sd/-**  
**Surabhi Maheshwari**  
**Company Secretary**

**Date:** January 14, 2021  
**Place:** Delhi

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**

**e-Tender Call Notice**  
No.TD/TM/GCN-235(Vol-IV)/2053 dtd.11.01.2021  
Name for the work "Allotment of 10 (Ten) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License fee : Rs.2,76,66,870/-, Wharfage Charge : Rs.15,20,430/-. Last Date & time of Bid submission : Dt.01.02.2021, 1700 Hrs., Bid Opening Date and time : 02.02.2021, 1600 Hrs. Refer our Website for details : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager  
PPT/PR/368/20-21, DT.14.01.2021

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**

1, DELHI  
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.  
OA No. 715/2016  
ICICI Bank Limited ..Applicant versus Sh. Arun Kumar & Ors. ...Defendants  
To, Sh. Arun Kumar S/o. Sh. Brahm Deo Singh R/o: House No. C- 44, Krishna Park, Devil Road, New Delhi- 110062.  
And also at: Flat No. 502, 5th Floor, Tower- 01, KSB Royal Height, Group Housing Colony, Sector- 126, Greater Mohali (Kharar), Mohali- 160055 (Punjab)  
2. Smt. Madhuri Singh, W/o. Sh. Arun Kumar R/o: House No. C- 44, Krishna Park, Devil Road, New Delhi- 110062.  
And also at: Flat No. 502, 5th Floor, Tower- 01, KSB Royal Height, Group Housing Colony, Sector- 126, Greater Mohali (Kharar), Mohali- 160055 (Punjab)  
3. Smt. K. Soni Builders & Promoters (P) Ltd. Having Its Zonal Office At: KSB Royal Homes, SCF- 13- 14, Chajji Majra Road, Sector- 126, Greater Mohali (Kharar), Mohali- 160055 (Punjab)  
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 32,72,255/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred And Fifty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is Given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Hon'ble. on 24.02.2021 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website [www.etribunal.gov.in](http://www.etribunal.gov.in) Phone Number: 011- 23748473).  
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.  
**Due to ongoing pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-**  
(i) All the Advocates/ Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/ Software;  
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by 'Registrar/ recovery Officer- I/ and Recovery Officer- II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "[drt.gov.in](http://drt.gov.in)" under the Public Notice Head.  
(iii) In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/ Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.  
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 07th day of January 2021  
By Order of this Tribunal For Registrar



# Trend Blazer

## Aahana to make her podcast debut

Actor **AAHANA KUMRA** is all set to make her podcast debut. She will narrate a story on the audio web series titled *MnM Talkies*. “I have recently started working on this podcast, which is produced and directed by Mantra,” said Aahana, about the audio story called *I Hear You*, which tells the story of a detective named Priyamvada Parmar. “I am entering the voicing industry and I think Mantra is the best person to hold my hand through this. Am excited to enter the new phase of my life. This is a new chapter and I am happy to begin 2021 with this,” she added.





**'I have had a lot of second seasons this year. It's been interesting to revisit them and experience how they might have changed as people. Reprising a character for a new season is like meeting an old friend — you basically know them and understand how they are wired, but they are not exactly who they were when you met them last.'**

**—Rasika Dugal**

Bollywood actor **PREITY ZINTA** teased fans saying lots of exciting news was coming up in the year ahead. She asked fans to take a guess.

The Los Angeles-based actor shared a throwback photo where she poses with a cricket bat.

“This is definitely the year of new beginnings. Lots of exciting and interesting news coming up. Any guess folks ? Watch this space for more.... till then keep guessing *aur bolo kya?*,” she captioned the image.

Reacting to her post, netizens started speculating about what new beginning the actor was referring to.



## Shakira sells rights of her songs

Singer **SHAKIRA** has become the latest artiste to sell publishing rights of all her songs. The Grammy winner's catalogue includes 145 songs.

Shakira's catalogue includes hits like *Hips don't lie*, *Whenever, wherever*, *She wolf* and *Waka waka (This time for Africa)*, and the Board of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited, a UK-based investment company, has acquired 100 per cent of her music publishing rights.



In the year 2020, the world has seen people shifting from offline to online for many life requirements. The year somewhat became the watershed moment for various digital platforms like Video OTT, Edutech, Pharma, Fintech etc., which saw an unexpected surge in numbers. As a country, we are brilliant at adapting to change, look at how we embraced fintech & edu-tech both so important for our survival. The adaptation which was slowly happening in 2019 got expedited due to the spread of pandemic and the followed lockdown.

The most significant need for the bottom of our social pyramid has always been '*roti, kapda aur makaan*' or succinctly put, education (read knowledge) and financial stability, even more so when pandemic was reaping havoc.

Today, learning is the fastest-changing landscape with a virtual race among various organisations to deliver knowledge and up-skilling content through latest and complex technologies. However, this approach may only work well for the metros of India with upwardly mobile TG. If we consider the TG living in tier two, three and four towns and villages, the requirement might be very different. Bharat makes up the most significant part of Indian digital users accessing the internet on mobile devices. The real issue is not the availability of high-quality content and implementation of complex/fancy tech to deliver it to TG but the ease with which the TG can consume the content on devices. To summarise, the key challenges would be :

- Increased screen time on low-end devices with battery challenges.
- Patchy internet to be able to watch videos seamlessly.
- Not truly vernacular.
- Cost of content and hence the high subscription.

**NEED OF THE HOUR**

What is more relevant and need to be made available to young India is a platform/medium which will make it spontaneous for people to access decent quality content (even if it is non-exclusive) effortlessly with minimal tech and underlying infrastructural requirements. It is only then, we will be able to see the next billion users using digital learning platforms to learn and get empowered to achieve their learning goals.

**AUDIO IS THE ANSWER**

Audio is the only way to provide all of the above without compromising the quality of learning except for a few specific subjects requiring live/visual session for better understanding. Audio will democratise the learning ecosystem from every aspect. It will allow the masses to acquire knowledge and learn the subjects of their interest without paying beyond their financial capacities



# A great drive

At the conclusion of *The Pioneer's* leg of Hyundai's 'Great India Drive,' a word of thanks to the all new Hyundai i20

This is not about our adventures in and around Bhopal visiting some tremendous historical sites at the heart of India and then discovering that Madhya Pradesh's capital has some of India's finest museums and collections of artifacts. But this is about the car we took there, the third-generation Hyundai i20 and a sort-of re-evaluation of the car. I owned a first-generation i20 and it was a superb drive but it was never asked to do what we made this little car do, driving close to 2,000 kilometres over six days, a total of nearly 36 hours of drive time.

Usually, a little hatchback like the i20 is not the ideal car for a long road trip, with luggage and for those like us trying to document the journey. Not only did the car surprise me with its spaciousness, it was more impressive in the way it tackled the roads. Now, the roads, both, those run by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the state government



where in small towns of India nobody follows any rules. And to make matters worse after Vidisha, for a long time we were on a love road constructed under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, which suddenly ended. One minute tarmac, next minute a path which wasn't really a road but where tractors went. It was barely in between the fields, in fact, the mustard and rice crops on either side of this path often had the odd group of plants growing between the ruts. And it was rutted and wet. It was not a path that you would want to take a small SUV-shaped vehicle let alone a hatchback. But somehow, this i20 with its dual-clutch gearbox, an automatic gearbox isn't the ideal way to go through such paths, but it made it, and not once did I hear the heartbreaking clank of the

car bottoming out. Again, there was never a struggle for grip in muddy and rutted roads, other than maybe once or twice but within a second or two, the traction control kicked in and the car effortlessly lifted itself out.

I believe that 99.9 per cent of the i20's in this generation that will be sold in India over the next four-five years will never be able to do what this particular car has seen and done in the past week. And it did these in the crowded roads of Vidisha, the narrow lanes of the old city in Bhopal, the broad boulevards of the new city, the state highways with some crazy drivers and the most entitled people in India, wrong-side motorcyclists and tractor drivers, as well as in some brilliant highways. A big shout-out to NHAI for the brilliant

NH46 between Bhopal and Gwalior, which other than the bypass at Guna was one of the best highways I have driven on in India.

The i20 did all this and averaged 15.4 kilometres per litre, which with an extremely smooth dual-clutch box and the 120PS 1-litre Turbo was impressive. This engine could be a bit thirsty in the city but it was impressive because it delivered all this power, with economy and comfort. More importantly, it did so without complaining even once. I liked this car when I drove it in Delhi for the first time, but after this past week I love it now. It is in my opinion the finest mass-produced hatchback ever sold in India. Because it doesn't pretend to be something it is not with its body style and delivers everything and more. Impressive.

# FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

In the fast-changing landscape of education, we shall soon see audio taking over traditional and video learning to educate young India





ious courses like workplace communication, investing, accent reduction, Chinese history and many more.

Last year the company had served seven million customers, and none of the content was free. Audio courses drive more than 50

per cent revenue for Ximalaya FM and QingTingFM. Screen-based learning competes with distractions like

Facebook and Netflix for users' attention. By making audio their primary learning consumption mode, people can fit courses into busy lives and easily allow for a habit.

## FUTURE TRENDS IN KNOWLEDGE AND AUDIO

India is the youngest country with 850mn people below the age of 35 years. For this young population, the most significant need is education and financial security. To get better economic opportunities, people need to up-skill, but being engaged in the daily job they have limited time to learn and up-skill themselves.

For example, Uber driver or Swiggy delivery person work eight to 10 hours a day and have no time to learn and upgrade themselves. While their hands and eyes are engaged, they can leverage their ears to boost their skills by converting their non-learning time into learning time.

Audio has its merit over other mediums without imbibing the negatives of respective mediums like video and print. It provides various benefits to the user, some important ones are as follows:

- Reduces screen time without reducing learning.
- Passive listening provides for more extended content consumption throughout the day.
- Creation and consumption of content are both much easier in audio format.
- Minimal hardware and connectivity required.

## YEAR 2021 WILL BE A YEAR OF AUDIO PROVIDING FOR:

**Reduction in screen time:** Students would not sit in front of screen for long hours to gain knowledge. Parents & teachers both have been concerned with excess screen time for their kids.

**Easy access to knowledge in local languages:** Users across India will be able to get easy access to the best of educators, that too in their local language.

**Offline to online classes:** Local and small-time educators will reach millions and teach them in their local language. Thanks to the ease of content creation with audio.

**Up-skill with one click:** Small courses targeted to unlocking better financial opportunity will become a trend.

**User convenience and ease:** People will not migrate to larger cities to gain or share knowledge, creation of content and consumption as both are much easier in audio format.

We shall soon see audio taking over traditional and video learning and will have a much larger mass appeal and usage to educate young India users this year.

(The writer Pulkrit Sharma is CEO & Co-founder of Khabri.)

## Strongly opinionated about my choices: Mithila



Actor Mithila Palkar says she is aware that she has the freedom to make her own choices, adding that she is strongly opinionated about the choices she makes.

These are traits that helped her relate to her character of Masha in the forthcoming film *Tribhanga: Tedhi Medhi Crazy*, says Mithila, although she doesn't think she is similar to Masha at all.

“The choices that Masha made were the ones that I would never make, but having said that I won't judge her for that because I know where she came from and why she made those choices,” Mithila said.

The actor continued: “I think the one thing that binds us together is that whatever decisions we take, we are going to be judged for some of them. I feel we both are aware that we have the freedom to make a choice and are

very strongly opinionated about the choices that we make — whether or not they fit in anybody else's build or is in sync with anyone else's ideas, principles or values.”

“We know that it's a choice that is going to make us happy and we've taken this call being very self-aware of what may or may not happen. I think that is the one thing that binds us together but otherwise I don't think there is anything similar. She is quite peaceful actually and a quiet person to herself. I am quite the opposite of that — (I am) loud,” she added.

The film, written and directed by Renuka Shahane, also features Tanvi Azmi and Kajol. It is a family drama about three distinct women, and their unconventional life choices.

(The film releases on Netflix on January 15.)

—JANS



Winters call for some warm exotic dishes, but what about the drinks? Don't settle for your usual soft drinks when you can prep-up for something fancy in little to no time! As we enter the new year, why not add some lip-smacking healthy mocktails to the list?

Yes, with a pinch of the fruity element, your mocktails can be safe and healthy! The key is to use high-quality ingredients and fresh fruit pulp. Most of these mocktails require similar ingredients like lime juice, mint leaves, ice cubes, soda or sparkling water. And trust us; it's as easy as you could think of! So, make a toast, with these easy-peasy mocktails, shared by Kimaye Health, INI Farms.

Here's how to go about it in four

# With a pinch of fruity element

Don't settle for your usual soft drink when you can prep up something fancy in little to no time! Here are a few lip-smacking healthy mocktails

- simple steps:**
- ❑ Muddle the fruit and lime juice with a few mint leaves.
  - ❑ Pour the mixture in a glass with two to three ice cubes, and honey if needed.
  - ❑ Add soda or sparkling water to the brim and mix.
  - ❑ Garnish them with a fruit slice and mint leaves to make them festive ready!

Some of the fruits that go well are:

### Peppy pomegranate

Goes perfectly with the winter vibe as the blend of maroon with soda looks splendid for a celebration drink. Along with pomegranate juice, you can also throw in a few seeds to garnish and add sweetness to your mocktails. The best part is that you don't need any added sugar as the nat-

ural flavour of pomegranate makes it a wonderful delight!

### Tangy orange

In this citrusy mocktail, you can mix up multiple citrus fruits to flavour up the taste. Oranges are abundant during winter, so make full use of this tangy winter fruit! The fresh orange pulp is a healthier escape from your regular soft drinks or alcohol. A



thin slice of orange on the brim will surely make it an instaworthy click!

### Blissful blueberry

Go all blue with your winter theme! The delicious blueberries have always been a sweet delight. Crush and blend them into a smooth mixture. This is something new that you can easily try for your next family get-together. Pair it up with blueberry cheesecake and get into the celebration mode!

### Cucumber lemonade

While cucumbers are most adored in summers for their cooling effect and they also make a refreshing drink during the winters. The freshness of cucumbers with lime soda is surely something you wouldn't want to miss. Don't just slide them into your salads, instead turn them into a sweet fresh mocktail!

### Striking strawberry pineapple

Blend in two fruits for some incredible flavour. Pineapple and strawberry go well together because of their sweet and soft nature. With these two fruits, there's barely any need for added sugar. You can play with the quantity of each fruit to get the desired shade of the drink.

These are some of the best and easy combinations to try for that random get together. Always go for fresh and good quality fruits for better results. Additionally, you can also freeze some small fresh-fruit chunks in ice cubes and drop them in to give your mocktails a flattering look. With these ingredients and tricks in mind, you can add a unique charm to simple parties! —JANS

<div><div></div><div>AXIS BANK</div></div>		PUBLIC NOTICE FOR - AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS			
<div>ABO HAR BRANCH ADDRESS - KHASRA NO 1275 CIRCULAR ROAD ABO HAR AMLOH [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS KHATA NO. 24/1 - 44 &amp; 24/1/45 - 51, KHASRA NO. 65/4/2/3, 4/2/1, 4/2/2, 4/1, 154, 65/3, 235/1, 65/1, 64, 65/2, 235/2 BY-PASS ROAD, AMLOH 147203 DIST. FATEHGARH SAHIB, PUNJAB AMRITSAR BRANCH-29, KENNEDY AVENUE, COURT ROAD, AMRITSAR BATHINDA-BRANCH ADDRESS, BATHINDA, PUNJAB,POCKET NO16, MC BUILDING NO 2089,, TP SCHEME, THE MALL,BATHINDA PUNJAB BEGOWAL [PB] BRANCH - KHEWAT NO. 812 987, 812 988BEGOWAL -TANDA ROAD, BEGOWAL DIST. KAPURTHALA, PUNJAB, PIN 144621 DERABASSI BRANCH ADDRESS-SADASHIV COMPLEX, CHANDIGARH AMBALA ROAD, DIST PATIALA DHILWAN [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, DHILWAN, KAPURTHALA, PUNJAB, 144804 FATEGARH CHURIAN [PB] BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR, KHEWAT KHATUNI NO.771 1066, KHASRA NO. 102 3 2 1 (3-2), WARD NO. 11, AJNALA ROAD, FATEGARH CHURIAN, TEHSIL BATALA, DIST. GURDASPUR, PUNJAB, PIN 143602 GARDHIWALA [PB] BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR, KHATA NO. 1241 1437, KHASRA NO. 70 28, HADABAST NO.19, HOSHIARPUR - DASUYA HIGHWAY, GARDHIWALA, DIST. HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB, PIN 144207 GORAYA [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS GORUND FLOOR, GT ROAD, SARGUNDI, JALANDHAR, PUNJAB, 144409 JAGRAON [PB] - KHASRA ROAD NO. 937 TEHSIL ROAD PUNJAB JALANDHER, BRANCH- SCO 30-31, GURU RAM DASS DIVINE TOWER, OPP MINISCRETARIATE, LADOWALI ROAD, JALANDHAR, PUNJAB KHADAURSAHIB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, JANDIALA ROAD, F, DIST. TARN TARAN, PUNJAB, MALERKOTLA BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO. 1948, OPP BUS S TAND SATTA BAZAR RD, SANGRUR MANSA [PB] QUILA NO. 1088, KEWAT NO.1507 WATER WORKS ROAD MANSA MOGA [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS S.C.F. NO. 26 AND 27, G.T. ROAD, MOGA MUKTSAR, BRANCH- GROUND FLOOR SHOP CUM FLAT NO. 2, 3 &amp; 4 NEW GRAIN MARKET, MUKTSAR MUNDIAN KALAN, LUDHIANA [PB] BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR, VILLAGE- MUDIAN KALAN, DIST. LUDHIANA, PUNJAB, PIN 141015 PATANHAKOT BRANCH - KHATA NO. 438/484, PATEL CHOWK SIALI ROAD, PATHANKOT, DIST. GURDASPUR PUNJAB, PIN 145001 PHULLANWAL BRANCH ADDRESS PHAKHOLA RD, OPPOSITE TO SOUT H END GARDEN, PHULLANWAL, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB TALWANDI BHAI FZR PB GROUND FLOOR, KHEWAT NO. 958, KHATAUNI NO. 153, KHASRA NO. 295 MIN. TALWANDI BHAI, DISTT. &amp; TEHSIL. FEROZEPUR, PUNJAB, PIN 142050 TARN TARAN [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS - MC NO 52/5 &amp; 254 NEAR PRATAP TALKIES AMRITSAR ROAD, PUNJAB 143401 ADDADAKHA [PB] - OPPOSITE IOC PETROL PUMP, NEAR JYOTI RESTAURANT AND BSNL OFFICE, FEROZPUR ROAD, AGAMPUR RUP PB BRANCH ADDRESS NEW DELHI 110 026, PUNJAB, 142038 AJNALA [PB] GROUND FLOOR, BALNAGAR, AMRITSAR ROAD, AJNALA, DIST. AMRITSAR, PUNJAB, PIN 143102 BANGA BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO. 7018PHAGWARA -BANGA MAIN ROADBANGA 144 505, DIST. NAWANSHAHR, PUNJAB BIKIHWIND [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS - GORUND FLOOR, AMRITSAR KHEMKARAN RD, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB</div>		<div>JALALABAD JLB PB BRANCH ADDRESS PLOT NO. 9171, BANK ROAD, NEAR STATE BANK OF PATIALA, DISTRICT - F. JALALABAD, PIN-152024 JHABAL KALAN [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, AMRITSAR ROAD , JHABAL KALAN, DIST. AMRITSAR, PUNJAB, PIN 143501 KHADAURSAHIB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, JANDIALA ROAD, KHADAUR SAHIB, DIST. TARN TARAN, PUNJAB, LAMBRA [PB] - GROUND FLOOR, KHATA NO.17 17, 18, KHASRA NO. 19 1 2 MIN, 2 1 MIN,HADABAST NO.267, CHITTI ROAD,NEAR GRADUATE SUPER MARKET, LAMBRA, DIST. JALANDHAR, PUNJAB, PIN144026 LUDHIANA, BRANCH-LOWER GROUND FLOOR, SHOP NO.AG-01, 02, 03, 3 A, 04, 05,05-A, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11.UNIT NO. 1 &amp; 2, THE BOULEVARD, PLOT NO.105, MALL ROAD,LUDHIANA MALERKOTLA BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO. 1948, OPP. BUS STAND SATTA BAZAR RD, SANGRUR MALOUT [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS G. T. ROAD DIST. MUKTASAR MUKERIAN BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO.855/4,KHATA NO. 246/32, GURDASPUR ROAD,MUKERIAN, DIST. HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB, PIN144211 RAJPURA [PB] 1-2 CALIBER MARKET,RAJPURA DISTRICT PATIALA RUPNAGAR BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO. 49/1, DASHMESH NAGAR,NEAR BELA CHOWK,(ROPAR) 140 301, AGAMPUR RUP PB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHEWAT/KHATAUNI NO.284/337, SAMANA-BRANCH ADDRESS, KHASRA NO. 135 28 3 2, MAIN ROAD SAMANA PUNJAB, DISTT. PATIALA SIDHWAN BET JAG PB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR VILLAGE SIDHWAN BET-142033 TEH-SIL JAGRAON DIST LUDHIANA PUNJAB JAGRAON SUNAM SRR PB - GROUND FLOOR, KHEWAT NO. 1060/928, KHATAUNI NO. 1980, JAKHAL ROAD, SUNAM- 148028,DISTRICT SANGRUR THREEKE [PB] BRANCH - FEROZPUR ROAD, THREEKE DISTRICT LUDHIANA ZIRAKPUR ZRK PB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR &amp; BASEMENT, BALAJI ENCLAVE, PATIALA ROAD, BARNALA PB BRANCH ADDRESS - NO. B1/2443, MEHRAJ &amp; SONS BUILDING COLLEGE ROAD, BARNALA, 148101 DEVIGARH PB BRANCH ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, KHATA NO. 1100 &amp; 1125, MAIN PEOHWA ROAD NEAR BUS STAND, DEVIGARH, DIST. PATIALA, PUNJAB KATAR SINGHWALA BTA PB BRANCH ADDRESS KHASRA NO 7027/04, GROUND FLOOR, GULABGARH, KATAR SINGHWALA , BATHINDA, PUNJAB, 15100 TALWARA HOSHI PB BRANCH ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BAZAR, TALWARA, TEHSIL MUKERIAN, DIST. HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB, PIN 144216 FEROZEPUR [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS ES - 30/3, HARJI NIWAS , 1- THE MALL, FEROZEPUR CITY PATIALA [PB] BRANCH ADDRESS SCO 6, BANK SQAURE, CHOTTI BARADARI, PATIALA, PUNJAB, 147001 PATTI [PB] BRANCH KHASRA NO 116/26/2/50, WARD NO 16, PATTI, TARN TARAN, PATTI, PUNJAB PHILLAUR [PB] BRANCH GROUND FLOOR, KHATA NO. 287/352, 353, KHASRA NO.1182/355, 1183/355, MUNICIPAL NO.B - 848, VILLAGE RAMGARH, NURMAHAL ROAD , PHILLAUR, DIST. JALANDHAR</div>		<div>SRI HARGOBIINDPUR [PB] BRANCH KHASRA NO.62/41/3, WARD NO. 11 OPP. PUNJAB AGRO FOOD GRAIN CORPORATION LTD. AMRITSAR, SRI HARGOBIINDPUR 143515 DIST. GURDASPUR SU DHAR [PB] KHASRA NO/48/18, KHALSA COLLEGE, RAIKOT ROAD, SU DHAR, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB, 141104 PAYAL LUD PB MUNICIPAL NO 1915, GROUND FLOOR, MALERKOTLA ROAD, PAYAL, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB, QUADIAN [PB] ADDRESS UNIT NO 8 2/3, GROUND FLOOR, MOHALLA KRISHAN NGR, THIKRIWALA RD, BATALA, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB, BALACHAUR BLC PB ADDRESS KHEWAT NO 117/140, GR OUND FLOOR, SIANA, GARHSHANKAR ROAD, BALACHAUR, NAWANSHAHR, PUNJAB CHOGAWAN [PB] ADDRESS KHEWAT NO 117/140, GR OUND FLOOR, SIANA, GARHSHANKAR ROAD, BALACHAUR, NAWANSHAHR, PUNJAB ADAMPUR [PB] ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, RAILWAY ROAD, ADAMPUR, DIST. JALANDHAR, PUNJAB, BAGHAPURANA [PB] ADDRESS - KHASRA NO 1487/1/3, MUDRI ROAD, BAGHA PURANA, MOGA, PUNJAB BHOGPUR [PB] ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, C- 38/1, WARD NO.5, VILLAGE DALLI, GT ROAD, BHOGPUR, DIST. JALANDHAR, PUNJAB, PIN 144201 BU DHLADA [PB] ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, UNIT NO. 198, MANGAL BHAWAN, MUKHERJEE MARG, BU DHLADA, DIST. MANSA, PUNJAB, PIN 151502 DERA BABA NANAK [PB] ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, PHAKHOKHE, DERA BABA NANAK, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB, FATEHGARH SAHIB [PB] ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHEWAT/KHATAUNI NO.4574, KHASRA NO. . 49/1/2/3 -2), 49/1/4(0-11), 49/1/6(5-14), KARTAR COMPLEX, OPP D.C. OFFICE, FATEHGARH SAHIB 140407, PUNJAB FAZILKA, FEROZEPUR [PB] ADDRESS KHASRA NO 852/1/21, GROUND FLOOR, ABOHAR FAZILKA ROAD, FAZILKA, PUNJAB, 152123 GURDASPUR [PB] ADDRESS KHASRA NO 292 TO 298, AP PALACE, TIBRI ROAD, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB, 143521 JHANDUKE MNS PB ADDRESS GROUND FLOOR, KHATA NO 537/1199, JHANDUKE, SAROULGARH, MANSA, PUNJAB, MAJITHA AMR PB ADDRESS AXIS BANK LIMITED GROUND FLOOR, MAIN ROAD, NEAR BUS STAND MAJITHA-143601, EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME AMRITSAR [PB] NANGAL NNG PB ADDRESS KHATAUNI NO 79/141, 79/144, GROUND FLOOR, SABZI MANDI, RAILWAY ROAD, NANGAL, NANGAL, PUNJAB, 140124 PUTLIGHAR AMR PB PLOT NO 3, GROUND FLOOR, GT ROAD, PUTLIGHAR, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB, 143001 SANGRUR [PB] SCF NO 17 TO 19, KAULA PARK MARKET, SANGRUR, PUNJAB, 148001 GARHSHANKAR ADDRESS - GROUND FLOOR, KHASRA NO. 368/31, 369/1 GARHSHANKAR - CHANDIGARH ROAD, NEAR LIC OFFICE, GARHSHANKAR 144527, DIST. HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB KAPURTHALA ADDRESS KHEWAT NO 148/276, GROUND &amp; 1ST FLOOR, KHASRA NO 9514/6223/48/81, MALL ROAD, KAPURTHALA, PUNJAB, 144601 KOTKAPURA ADDRESS NO B1/359, FARIDKOT ROAD, KOTKAPURA, FARIDKOT, PUNJAB, SULTANPUR LODHI ADDRESS UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BER SAHIB ROAD, VILLAGE. ALAHDAD CHAK, SULTANPUR LODHI, DIST. KAPURTHALA, PUNJAB, PIN 144602 RAMPUR HPBRANCH ADDRESS GR FLR H NO 51 KHASRA NO 599 604 MAJUA KHANERI RAMPUR DIST SHIMLA</div>	
THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE GOLD ORNAMENTS (HERE IN REFERRED TO AS THE ASSETS) IS TO BE AUCTIONED ON * AS IS WHERE I S * BASIS. THE GOLD ORNAMENTS ARE PLEDGED TO THE BANK BY THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS/ AND GUARANTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOAN FACILITY AVALLED AGAINST PLEDGE OF THE SAID GOLD ITEMS.					
NAME/ADDRESS/LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER/TOTAL OUTSTANDING -EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES		NAME/ADDRESS/LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER/TOTAL OUTSTANDING -EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES			
GOLD (ASSETS) NET WEIGHT IN GRAMS/BASE-RESERVE PRICE		GOLD (ASSETS) NET WEIGHT IN GRAMS/BASE-RESERVE PRICE			
NAME RAJNISH KUMAR ADDRESS R/O DHANAULA DISTT BARNALA OLD NO 95/ND1, BARNALA PUNJAB 148105 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91906007945136 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 425778 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME BARNALA [PB]		NAME SATNAMDEEP SINGH ADDRESS S/O RASHPAL SINGH LALTON KALAN LUDHIANA LALTON KALAN PUNJAB NR PAMAL ROAD LUDHIANA PUNJAB 142022 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060094190380 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 121504.65 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME PHULLANWAL [PB]			
NAME JATINDER SINGH ADDRESS S/O MANJEET SINGH TEHSIL MALERKOTLA MUBARKPUR SANGRUR PUNJAB NEAR HATHAN ROAD SANGRUR PUNJAB 148023 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060049852616 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 303171 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MALERKOTLA [PB]		NAME HARPREET SINGH S/O GURDYAL SINGH ADDRESS H NO 107, VILL URDHHAN, TEH AJNALA, DIST AMRITSAR , PUNJAB 143806 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 917060084724682 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 115568.14 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME FATEGARH CHURIAN [PB]			
NAME RAKESH KUMAR ADDRESS VILL. NURPUR P.O RERU DISTT. JALANDHAR NEAR RERU CHOWK JALANDHAR PUNJAB 144012 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91706007111234 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 313183.01 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME JALANDHAR [PB]		NAME PANKAJ KUMAR JHA ADDRESS PLOT NO-81 NEW LAXMAN NAGAR OPP JAIN COLONY MUNDIAN KALAN BHAMIAN ROAD BHAMIAN KALANOPP JAIN SCHOOL LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141015 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060059209183 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 104218 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MU NDIAN KALAN, LUDHIANA [PB]			
NAME MAINPREET KAUR ADDRESS R/O VILL AKALPUR TEH PHILLAUR (JAL) PHILLAUR PUNJAB 144410 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060108653161 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 247761.81 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME PHILLAUR [PB]		NAME RUPINDER KAUR ADDRESS D/O JUGRAJ SINGH GALI NO 4 MILAR AVENUE KALE GHAMPUR AMRITSAR, AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143105 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920080019253298 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 91774 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME AMRITSAR [PB]			
NAME LAKHWINDER SINGH ADDRESS S/O GURPAL SINGH VILL DAKOHA GURDASPUR00 GURDASPUR PUNJAB 143514 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060112685492 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 215159 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME SRI HARGOBIINDPUR [PB]		NAME MOHIT KUMAR ADDRESS HOUSE NO-5497, STREET NO-06, SAHIBJADA FATEH SINGH NAGAR, NEW SHIMLA PURI, SHIMLA PURI, LUDHIANA LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141003 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 917060054901990 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 85672 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME PHULLANWAL [PB]			
NAME PRABHUJEET KAUR ADDRESS W/O TEJIBIR SINGH PARTAPGARH GURDASPUR BATALA PUNJAB - GURDASPUR PUNJAB 143505 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060046416099 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 203718.41 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME AMRITSAR [PB]		NAME SWARAN SINGH ADDRESS S/O BALWANT SINGH, VILLAGE KHAIR DIN KE, BOHRU, AMRITSAR, - AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143009 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060079394329 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 92681.26 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME JHABAL KALAN [PB]			
NAME HARVINDER KAUR ADDRESS W/O: BALJINDER SINGH - DERA BASSI, SAS NAGAR MOHALI, MUBARKPUR- MUBARKPUR PUNJAB 142021 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060064677532 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 200166.9 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME DERABASSI [PB]		NAME MEWA SINGH ADDRESS S/O:RANJOODH SINGH, SITARPUR, SAS NAGAR (MOHALI), SARSONI, PUNJAB- PATIALA PUNJAB 140501 LOAN A COUNT NO 918060096709739 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 92268 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME DERABASSI [PB]			
NAME ARTI VERMA ADDRESS D/O KAMALJIT VERMA OLD TALWARA, HOSHIARPUR, TALWARA - HOSHIARPUR PUNJAB 144216 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060090970117 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 208824 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME TALWARA HOSHI PB		NAME HARJINDER SINGH ADDRESS BARAMAD SHER SINGHWALA . JALALABAD PUNJAB 152024 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060087722125 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 85773 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME JALALABAD JLB PB			
NAME AMARDEEP SINGH ADDRESS RUPNAGAR PUNJAB 140113 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060076203086 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 186392 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME RUPNAGAR [PB]		NAME KARAMJEET SINGH ADDRESS S/O SURINDER SINGH, VILLAGE MAHADIPUR, MAHADIPUR, AMRITSAR NEAR FILLING STATION AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143606 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060099382865 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 92592 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MAJITHA AMR PB			
NAME GURDEEP SINGH ADDRESS S/O PATEL SINGH SADDI SINGH WALA GHALL KALAN MOGA . MOGA PUNJAB 142048 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920080049808477 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 163356.8 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MOGA [PB]		NAME GURPREET SINGH SOKHI ADDRESS HOUSE NO 121 STREET NO 9 BHAI RIMMAT SINGH NAGAR DURGAI DUGRI ROAD MODEL TOWN LUDHIANA LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141002 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91906008012514 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 102550.09 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUDHIANA [PB]			
NAME SURINDER SINGH MONGA S/O JASWANT SINGH MONGA ADDRESS H NO 156 ROAD MANDI MULLANPUR DAKHA LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141101 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 91806009807324 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 17420.53 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME ADDADAKHA [PB]		NAME SACHDEV SINGH ADDRESS S/O SUKICHAIN SINGH JOEBALA JOEBALA JEOWALA TARAN . TARN TARAN PUNJAB 143302 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060032144275 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 84587.24 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME TARN TARAN [PB]			
NAME MANDIJ SINGH ADDRESS S/O KARAJ SINGH 49 CHOGAWAN BLOCK MUDD BHILOWAL, NEAR GURUDWARA AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143110 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060049817658 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 153273 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME AMRITSAR [PB]		NAME DHEERAJ HEER ADDRESS H NO 320 MOH NATHU NAGAR SHIV MANDER PATHANKOT PB PUNJAB 145001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 920060033224647 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 93829.27 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME PATHANKOT [PB]			
NAME JASPAL SINGH ADDRESS AJNALA VILL CHAK SIKANDER AJNALA AMRITSAR , AJNALA PUNJAB 143606 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060002598683 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 156379.89 (E XCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME FATEGARH CHURIAN [PB]		NAME JATINDER SINGH ADDRESS S/O MANJEET SINGH TEHSIL MALERKOTLA, MUBARKPUR SANGRUR PUNJAB NEAR HATHAN ROAD SANGRUR PUNJAB 148023 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060097082245 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 74593.77 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MALERKOTLA [PB]			
NAME NARANJAN SINGH ADDRESS VALTOHA VALTOHA ZIRAZIRA ZIRA PUNJAB 142047 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060004591032 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 167836 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME TALWANDI BHAI FZR PB		NAME MANMOHINDER SINGH ADDRESS S/O SURJIT SINGH KHALIL RAIPUR PIR BUX WALA KAPURTHALA PUNJAB 14481900 KAPURTHALA PUNJAB 144819 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 917060076373803 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 77814 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME BEGOWAL [PB]			
NAME SUMAN BALA W/O NIRMALJIT ADDRESS VPO JANDIALA DISTT S B S NAGAR . PUNJAB 144505 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060080789546 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 144885.47 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME BANGA [PB]		NAME EMMUNUEL MASIH ADDRESS GLI FLAT NO 439 CHANDIGARH ROAD NEAR KARMA HOSPITAL SECTOR 32 LUDHIANA NEAR GREENLAND SCHOOL LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141008 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060027447612 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 28071 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME LUDHIANA [PB]			
NAME SARUP SINGH ADDRESS S/O MAAN SINGH VILL ALWALI, BIR BHUNER NEIR BHUNERHEER DT PATIALA . PATIALA PUNJAB 147111 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060090113916 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 131928 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME DEVI GARH [PB]		NAME PANKAJ KUMAR JHA ADDRESS PLOT NO-81 NEW LAXMAN NAGAR OPP JAIN COLONY MUNDIAN KALAN BHAMIAN ROAD BHAMIAN KALANOPP JAIN SCHOOL LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141015 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060059209183 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 104218 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MUNDIAN KALAN, LUDHIANA [PB]			
NAME GERMANJIT SINGH ADDRESS PATTI DH R KI NEAR GOVT HOSPITAL VPO VAROPAL NEAR GOVT HOSPITAL AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143001 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060032708899 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 148164 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME KHADAUR SAHIB [PB]		NAME SANDEEP SINGH ADDRESS VILL ISSI, MEEMSA TEH DHURI DISTT SANGRUR NEAR BUS STOP DHURI PUNJAB 148024 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060048627381 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 88325 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME MALERKOTLA [PB]			
NAME AMRITPAL SINGH ADDRESS S/O: DARSHAN SINGH ABUWAL RAIKOT, LUDHIANA, ABBOWAL - , PUNJAB 141105 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 919060080722965 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 124701.76 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME SU DHAR [PB]		NAME GURPREET SINGH ADDRESS S/O HARJINDER SINGH AWANLAKHA SINGH MUDKHOHKHAR AMRITSAR PUNJAB AAWANLAKHA SINGH AMRITSAR PUNJAB 143110 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060097206169 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 79837 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) BRANCH NAME CHOGAWAN [PB]			
NAME PALWINDER SINGH ADDRESS S/O JAGIR SINGH VILLAGE CHUNGH BHAGWANPURA, NEAR GURDWARA SAHIB TARN TARAN PUNJAB 143304 LOAN ACCOUNT NO 918060054862267 TOTAL OUTSTANDING 135544 (EXCLUDING UN-APPLIED INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCIAL CHARGES, FEE AND DEMAGES) B RANCH NAME BIKIHWIND [PB]		NAME VEER DAVINDER SINGH S/O HARBHAJAN SINGH ADDRESS VPO JASSOWAL LUDHIANA PUNJAB 141116 LOAN ACCOUNT NO			



# Bruised India face temperament test

PTI ■ BRISBANE

After denting the ego of mighty Australians with their bruised and battered bodies in a Sydney epic, Ajinkya Rahane’s wounded India will take no prisoners in a ‘winners take all’ fourth Test, starting Friday on the liveliest of tracks in the series.

Australia need a win to regain Border-Gavaskar Trophy but a draw will be enough for India to retain it for another couple of years.

There are times when the human body responds differently to the adrenaline rush and the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant and Hanuma Vihari have given their million fans a reason to believe in their gumption that was on display in Sydney.

Jasprit Bumrah played with an abdominal strain and didn’t want to come out even though the experience was painful and Ravindra Jadeja with a broken thumb was ready to do what Malcolm Marshall did with a fractured wrist three decades back.

They battled against everybody — the racist ones in the galleries, the abusive one behind the stumps and those lethal ones with the shiny red nut that broke a few bones but could not shake the steely resolve of the Indians.

The new India that Virat Kohli so raved about is now ready to battle a whole new set of adversities at a venue where Australia hasn’t lost a Test since 1988.

There won’t be a Jadeja and Bumrah and on one of the most difficult tracks, it couldn’t have gotten more worse for India. And insult to injury is Mayank Agarwal being hit on the forearm in the nets and Ashwin battling back spasms.

“We will take a call tomorrow. The medical team is working with all the injured players. If Bumrah is fit, he plays, if he is not fit, he doesn’t play,” batting coach Vikram Rathour



Indian players chat during warm-up session on the eve of fourth Test against Australia at the Gabba

BCCI/Twitter

said at the pre-match conference.

For Tim Paine, the series-decider couldn’t have been played at the better venue than the bouncy Woolloongabba or Gabba for fans around the world.

“From a distance it looks like it always does,” you could gauge the confidence in Paine’s voice even as he gave the news of young Will Pucovski’s shoulder injury ruling him out of playing eleven.

“We love playing here, and one of the main reasons is because that wicket. This is a good place to come and play, because I don’t have to go and look at it, I know what is going

to be like,” he said and it was like warning to Indian team that looks more like a second string A team save three senior batsmen.

But Ajinkya Rahane will still smile, Cheteshwar Pujara will be uncomplaining and trust Rohit Sharma to still go for the pull shot if Pat Cummins digs one short.

There will be no Vihari in Sydney but he has set a different bench-mark for the ‘walking wounded’ and expect Rishabh Pant to play another blinder in the only way he can.

The combination has all gone for a toss and Rahane would only understand that discretion is the better part of val-

our.

India might just want to use the option of playing only four bowlers instead of a regular five in order to take the game deep with their batting.

If Agarwal is available, expect him to go in at number three after Rohit and Shubman Gill with Pujara and Rahane coming a notch down.

There is an option of playing Prithvi Shaw or Wriddhiman Saha in place of Ravindra Jadeja but off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar’s name is also doing the rounds.

It’s the bowling attack that India will be worried about. Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj with just three Tests in

their kitty and Shardul Thakur, who bowled all of 10 balls in his debut Test two years back, do not exactly inspire confidence.

While Rathour kept cards close to his chest, it’s more about trying to deny opposition psychological advantage by playing the guessing game on Bumrah when world knows that his participation is highly unlikely.

That too against a batting line-up where three of the top four batsmen respond to the name of David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith.

The second and third batters have shown what they can do with Indian attack and Warner is not known to fail in too many innings.

TEST MATCHES AT GABBA						
Team	P	W	L	T	D	Success%
Australia	62	40	8	1	13	75.80
India	6	-	5	-	1	08.33
HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS						
India	409 in 120.1 overs vs Australia					2003-04
Australia	645 in 158.6x8 overs vs England					1946-47
TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORES						
India	144	Sourav Ganguly vs Australia				2003-04
	144	Murali Vijay vs Australia				2014-15
Australia	259*	Michael Clarke vs South Africa				2012-13
BEST BOWLING (INNINGS)						
India	6-104	Erapalli Prasanna vs Australia				1968-69
Australia	8-71	Shane Warne vs England				1994-95
Faisel Features						

4th Test. Day 1  
Live from 5:00am IST  
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

It’s a very difficult task at hand and whatever the result, this Indian team under Rahane

has covered itself in glory with bare minimum resources.

“The toughness that you see has come after years of preparations. From coaching staff perspective, we keep telling them that, you can’t let doubts

## ‘Overworked’ Bumrah should be given a breather during Eng series: Gambhir

New Delhi: Former opener Gautam Gambhir believes the Indian team management needs to take good care of its pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and if required, the right-arm pacer should be given a break during the upcoming home series against England.

On the road for nearly five months since this year’s IPL, Bumrah has finally succumbed to the rigours of non-stop international cricket as he has been ruled out of the series-deciding fourth and final Test against Australia after suffering an abdominal strain during the preceding match in Sydney.

And Gambhir feels it would be unfair to force Bumrah to play in all the matches against England, starting February 5.

“... You got to look after him (Bumrah) as well, because he is going to be the leader of the attack for a very long time, so him being fit is very important,”



the World Cup-winning left-handed batsman told *Star Sports*.

“So when India plays England in the 4-Test match series...I know, yes, Mohd Shami is unfit, Ishant Sharma is unfit, Umesh Yadav is unfit but you can’t afford to play Jasprit Bumrah in all the 4 Test matches, it will be very unfair on him,” he added.

Gambhir, however, feels Bumrah will be more menacing in Indian conditions. “See again,

creeping after one bad innings (36 all out in Adelaide),” Rathour said.

In end, “No Guts, No Glory, No Stress, No Story”.

There is a story to be told and Indians are scripting it.

### TEAMS

**Australia XI:** Tim Paine (captain), David Warner, Marcus Harris, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade, Cameron Green, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon and Josh Hazlewood.

**India (from):** Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Rohit Sharma (vc), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Navdeep Saini, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, T Natarajan, Washington Sundar.

## Bess’ fifer puts Eng in control

AFP ■ GALLE

Off-spinner Dom Bess claimed five wickets to help bowl out Sri Lanka for 135 and give England the advantage on day one of a Test that took 10 months to start on Thursday.

Bess, who returned figures of 5-30, combined with paceman Stuart Broad, who took three wickets, as Sri Lanka were all out in two sessions as the two-Test series resumed in Galle after the original tour was aborted over the coronavirus in March.

England lost their openers early but skipper Joe Root, on 66, and Jonny Bairstow, on 47, steered the tourists to 127 for two at close of play. They still trail Sri Lanka by eight runs.

The batting duo put on an unbeaten partnership of 110 after Dom Sibley, for four, and Zak Crawley, for nine, fell to Lasith Embuldeniya’s left-arm spin.

Root, who successfully reviewed an lbw call in his favour after being given out by the on-field umpire on 20, reached his 50th fifty in 98 Tests. He has 17 centuries.

Bess though remained the hero of the day with his second five-wicket haul in his 11th Test as the venue witnessed its lowest first-innings score, well



below Sri Lanka’s 181 against Pakistan in 2000.

Sri Lanka suffered a pre-match jolt when skipper Dimuth Karunaratne was ruled out of the first of the two Tests with a fractured thumb.

Stand-in-captain Dinesh Chandimal scored 28 and put up some resistance in a 56-run stand with Angelo Mathews, who made 27 on his return from a hamstring injury.

Broad struck twice in an

over to send back opener Lahiru Thirimanne, who had scored four, and Kusal Mendis for nought — his fourth straight duck — to spell early trouble for the hosts.

Spin was introduced in the 11th over and Bess, with his second ball, got Kusal Perera for 20 when the batsman top-edged a reverse sweep to England captain Joe Root at first slip.

Sri Lanka had slumped to 25 for three but Mathews and Chandimal stood firm till lunch.

Broad came back in the second session to break the stand as he got Mathews caught at slip and Chandimal, who survived a dropped catch by debutant Dan Lawrence before lunch on 22, departed two balls later off Jack Leach.

Mathews, whose hamstring injury kept him out of the 2-0 Test series defeat in South Africa, went past 6,000 Test runs during his knock before Bess soon ran through the middle and lower order.

In reply, the tourists slipped to 17 for two after Sibley was caught at first slip and Crawley also back in the pavilion inside nine overs.

Root and Bairstow then batted cautiously to bring up England’s best partnership for all wickets at the venue.

## Bayern suffer shock German Cup exit



AFP ■ KIEL

Bayern Munich were knocked out of the German Cup on Wednesday as second division Holstein Kiel won a nail-biting penalty shoot-out 6-5 after the second round tie finished 2-2 after extra-time.

This is the first time holders Bayern have been knocked out of the cup by a non-

Bundesliga club since losing to then fourth-tier Magdeburg in 2000/01.

After Bayern midfielder Marc Roca was the first player to miss with his team’s sixth penalty, Kiel’s former Bremen forward Fin Bartels converted the winning spot-kick to spark wild celebrations.

The upset means this is the first time European champions Bayern have been eliminated from a cup competition since head coach Hansi Flick took charge in November 2019.

Bayern were 2-1 up thanks to goals by Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sané, either side of a superb Bartels strike, before a last-gasp header by Kiel captain Hauke Wahl on 95 minutes took the game to extra time, then penalties.

Bayern fielded a near-full strength side with only top-scoring striker Robert Lewandowski and centre-back Jerome Boateng rested.

## Pochettino wins 1st trophy as manager

AFP ■ LENS

Neymar scored on his return to action for Paris Saint-Germain as they beat arch rivals Marseille 2-1 to win this season’s Champions Trophy.

The Brazilian rolled home an 85th minute penalty to put PSG two goals ahead following Mauro Icardi’s first-half opener to give new coach Mauricio Pochettino the first trophy of his reign in the French capital, and managerial career.

The Champions Trophy is the French equivalent of a Super Cup, usually contested at the start of the season by the league champions and French Cup winners.

With PSG winning both last season, Marseille had been selected as their opponents at the Ligue 1 runners-up.

Hopes were high for a feisty tussle in Lens after Marseille’s league win at PSG in September ended with five red cards and Neymar accusing Marseille centre back Alvaro Gonzalez of racism in the aftermath.

However it was a largely tame encounter in northern France, with the most note-

worthy incident being substitute Neymar’s goalscoring return after a month away.

The 28-year-old hadn’t featured for the French champions since being stretched off with an ankle injury during a 1-0 defeat to current league leaders Lyon on December 13.

Icardi thought he had given PSG the lead with a 22nd minute tap-in, only to have the goal ruled out for offside after Kylian Mbappe strayed past Marseille’s back line to collect Leandro Paredes’ defence-splitting pass.

Seven minutes later it was Mbappe’s turn to have a goal chalked off when he started his run too early to connect with a long pass from his captain Marquinhos.

Icardi finally put dominant PSG ahead six minutes before the break with a goal typical of his poacher’s style, first meeting Angel Di Maria’s raking long ball with a close-range header that Steven Mandanda pushed onto the post.

The Argentine was quickest to follow up as the ball dribbled back out from the goal, and he tapped in his second goal as many games since returning from injury.

## India’s campaign ends in Thailand

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Star India shuttler Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the Yonex Thailand Open Super 1000 event after losing the women’s singles second round to Thailand’s Busanan Ongbamrungphan here on Thursday.

In a battle of attrition, Saina managed to grab the opening game but ran out of steam in the end, losing 23-21, 14-21, 16-21 in a match that clocked 68 minutes. It was Saina’s fourth straight loss to the world number 12 Busanan.

In the men’s singles, former world number one



Kidambi Srikanth was forced to give a walkover to his eighth seeded Malaysian opponent Lee Zii Jia after pulling up his right calf muscle.

Indian men’s doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also bowed out of the competition after suffering a 19-21, 17-21 defeat against second seeded Indonesian combination of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Later, Satwik and his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponnappa went down 12-21, 17-21 to Hong Kong pairing of Chang Tak Ching and Ng Wing Yung to draw curtains on India’s campaign.