

OPINION 6

IS INDIA WORKING ITS
WAY BACK IN NEPAL?

WORLD 8

WARY, WEARY WORLD SLAMS
DOORS SHUT, FEARING OMICRON

MONEY 9

NO PROPOSAL TO RECOGNISE
BITCOIN AS A CURRENCY: FM

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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FEELS ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING AT ALL:
R ASHWIN
12 SPORTLate City Vol.17 Issue 322
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

12 Opp MPs suspended for RS session for unruly acts

Opp condemns suspension as 'unwarranted, undemocratic'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the very first day of the Winter Session of Parliament on Monday, 12 Opposition MPs were suspended from the Rajya Sabha through a motion brought in by the Government.

The suspension will be for the remaining part of the session for their misconduct and unruly behaviour during the Monsoon session.

Leaders of the Opposition parties together condemned the "unwarranted and undemocratic suspension" of the 12 members and said this was done in "violation of all the Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha".



A view of the Parliament House during the Winter Session in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Suspended members alleged Parliament rule on suspension of members says a member may be suspended for "not exceeding the remainder of a session". Some of the

members took to social media to post the excerpt of the Rule 256 of the suspension rule.

Among the suspended members, six are from the Congress, two each from the

TMC and the Shiv Sena and one each from the CPM and the CPI.

The six suspended members from the Congress are Phulo Devi Netam, Chhaya Verma, Ripun Bora, Rajamani Patel, Syed Nasir Hussain and Akhilesh Prasad Singh.

Priyanka Chaturvedi and Anil Desai of the Shiv Sena, Dola Sen and Shanta Chhetri of the TMC, Elamaram Kareem from the CPM and Binoy Viswam from the CPI are the other members suspended for the rest of the session.

The Upper House had witnessed ugly scenes when the Opposition members were protesting against the three farm Bills during the Monsoon session.

Unanimous Houses OK Farm Laws Repeal Bill

Opp backs Bill but protests no debate on it

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament began on Monday with the repeal of the three controversial agriculture-related Bills with the passing of the Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 without any debate or discussion.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha passed the repeal Bills amid ruckus and protests by the Opposition for a debate on the issue. The rejection of the demand by the Government saw angry protest by the Opposition members, who unanimously backed the repeal Bill.

"During the Covid period, the farmers have worked hard to increase production and fulfil the needs of the nation. As we celebrate the 75th Year of Independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the need of the hour is to take everyone together on the path of inclusive growth and development," the repeal Bill said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on November 19



Parliamentarians in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

announced the decision to repeal the laws — the biggest policy rollback since he led the BJP to power in 2014.

The laws have been repealed just before Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, where it was feared that farmers' protests may dent prospects of the BJP.

Amid the noisy scenes, the Bill to repeal the three farm laws against which farmers have been protesting for over a year was passed within minutes of its introduction.

In the Lok Sabha, the repeal Bill was tabled by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar amid protest by the Opposition over the manner of the passing of the Bill without a discussion.

The Opposition members said the Government has

"thrown to the wind" parliamentary norms.

The Bill was then introduced in the Rajya Sabha where it was again approved by voice vote. The whole exercise was completed within less than an hour in the two Houses.

The Bill now awaits the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind for the formal withdrawal of the three contentious laws.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said "there is no need for a discussion" as the Opposition parties had been seeking repeal of the laws and the Government was now doing it. In both Houses, Opposition parties led by the Congress demanded a discussion over the repeal Bill but couldn't get it initiated.

Heavy rain warning: SRC directs safe paddy storage

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the IMD forecasting heavy rainfall in Odisha from December 3 under influence of a low pressure, the State Government on Monday directed district Collectors to ensure safe storage of the harvested crops. Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena directed the Collectors to take measures for shifting of harvested paddy to safe places. "In mandis or yards, necessary steps must be taken to protect paddy against the rains. The situation may be closely monitored and action as deemed necessary be taken in case any eventuality," he wrote. Weathermen predicted that heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Gaipati, Ganjam and Puri on December 3. Also, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are very likely to occur at many places over several other districts.

State adds 197 Covid cases, 2 deaths as 68 infected in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State registered 197 new Covid-19 positive cases in 19 districts and the State pool on Monday, with which the total tally increased to 10,48,880.

The new patients included 25 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

Notably, the State had recorded 191 cases on Sunday. Of the fresh cases, 115 were detected from quarantine and 82 local contacts.

Khordha district recorded the day's highest 94 cases followed by Sambalpur with 16 and Sundargarh 12.

The district which recorded less than 10 cases were Mayurbhanj nine, Jajpur eight, Cuttack six, Jharsuguda five, Dhenkanal four, Bhadrak, Deogarh and Nayagarh three each, Angul,

Bhadrak, Boudh, Jagatsinghpur and Khordha two each and Barh, Ganjam, Keonjhar and Rayagada one each.

Besides, 22 cases were detected from the State Pool. The active cases stood at 2,333. Two more persons succumbed to the disease in the State, pushing the total death toll to 8,412.

Both the fatalities were reported from Bargarh district. However, 221 person recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 10,38,306.

State Capital Bhubaneswar registered 68 of the State's 197 cases, with which the total tally in the city rose to 1,21,236. The active cases were 1,295.

Notably, 86 cases had been recorded in the city on Sunday.

CM dedicates 1,078 transformed schools in first phase

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday dedicated 240 transformed schools under the 5T scheme in Koraput, Gajapati, Dhenkanal, Angul, Bargarh and Jajpur districts on the last leg of inauguration of transformed schools.

The first phase of the 5T School Transformation Programme started in Hinjilicut in August and ended in Jajpur district.

While in the first phase transformation of 1,078 schools has been completed across 30 districts, the Government has put an ambitious target of transforming at least 3,300 schools by March 2022 before the late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik's birth anniversary.



"I want the children of my State to be at the forefront in all areas. Glorify Odisha in all fields including study, sports and music. Learn about new technologies. Dream big and walk with confidence to face all the challenges of life. That's the real objective of the school transformation programme," the CM said.

PTI



Indian Navy sailors participate in a rehearsal parade for the Navy Day at Gateway of India in Mumbai on Monday

PTI

Ganjam Constable has ₹2.16 cr assets

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday conducted a search in the houses of Sudarshan Pradhan, Constable at Bijepur TOP under the Brahmapur Town police station on the charge of possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

During the search, one triple-storied building at Lochapada in Brahmapur, three newly-constructed buildings at Nimakhandi, also in Brahmapur, nine plots of land at Lochapada, Nimakhandi and Tumbagada in Ganjam district, two two-wheelers, cash of Rs 5.17 lakh and other movable and immovable properties, all totalling over Rs 2.16 crore, were unearthed so far. Further searches were on.

Ahead of Assembly session BJP walks out of Speaker's all-party meet

The first sitting on Wednesday would start at 11 am and then be held at 5 pm

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In an indication that the State Assembly's Winter Session scheduled from Wednesday would be stormy, the BJP on Monday walked out from an all-party meeting called by Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro ahead of the session.

Deputy Leader of Opposition Bishnu Charan Sethi, who first joined the meeting and later boycotted, told reporters that the BJP is not being given proper weightage as the main opposition party.

While the Speaker permitted three BJD leaders to the meeting, the BJP's request to allow Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi and its MLA Jaya Narayan Mishra was denied, Sethi said.

The meeting was attended by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, BJD Chief Whip Pramila Mallik, CLP Leader Narasingha Mishra and BJD leader Devi Prasad Mishra.

The Speaker appealed to all legislators to maintain calm and allow the House to run smoothly.

It was decided that the House would sit everyday from 10 am to 1:30 am and from 4 pm to 6 pm. The first sitting on Wednesday would start at 11 am and then be held at 5 pm when the State's Supplementary Budget proposal would be moved.

A few legislators can join the session via videoconference from different facilities like the CM's official residence, Lok Seva Bhavan, OCCAC, LoP's house, MLAs' houses and District Collectors' conference halls.

Rajya Sabha pays tribute to Pioneer Editor Dr Mitra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Monday paid rich tributes to Dr Chandan Mitra, former MP and editor of *The Pioneer*.

Dr Mitra passed away on September 1 this year at the age of 66 years.

Hailing Dr Mitra's contribution, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he gave special attention to issues pertaining to climate change, urban and rural development, heritage and education.

Reading out the obituary reference to the late MP and eminent journalist soon after the House met for the day, Naidu said his (Dr Mitra's) deep interest in social issues and culture, enabled Mitra to develop an all-encompassing and accommodating view of the world around him, a quintessential quality required in jour-



nalism. Dr Mitra served as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from August 2003 to August 2009, and as a member representing the State of Madhya Pradesh from June 2010 to June 2016.

He also served as the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.

In the passing away of Dr Mitra, the country has lost a veteran journalist and an able parliamentarian, Naidu said.

EOW announces bounty on three fugitives

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch on Monday released a 'wanted' list seeking information on three fugitive scamsters, including Golden Baba, in connection with chit fund and fraud cases.

The self-styled godman Jyoti Ranjan Beura alias Golden Baba had been arrested by the Chandrasekharpur police on December 31, 2018 for duping people and several companies of crores on the pretext of sanctioning loans from finance companies.

The agency also sought information from people on two more absconders Tribeni Mohanty and Aditya Das in connection with chit fund cases.

EOW SP Dilip Tripathy

said Tribeni Mohanty is accused of duping investors of Rs 13 crore and is on the run from 2012. Aditya Das had allegedly defrauded depositors of Rs 20 crore promising them high returns on their investments and is absconding from 2013.

Golden Baba is absconding from 2019.

People can share information with the police on Mohanty by dialing 7008160114. They can contact the EOW on the phone numbers: 9437097662 and 9438129612 for any information on Das and Golden Baba, respectively, Tripathy said.

The informers would be rewarded by the EOW for sharing valid information about the three wanted accused, he added.

Odisha's Jaga Mission nominated for global award

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government's Jaga Mission has been nominated for an international award by the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum. It has been nominated for the award for 'Innovation in Public Policy'.

Citizens can vote online for the award till November 30 by clicking <https://aphousingforum.org/innovation-awards-vote/>.

In 2019, the Odisha Government had won the World Habitat Award for the Jaga Mission.

This award is given by the World Habitat, a UK-based organisation, in partnership with UN-Habitat every year in recognition of innovative, outstanding and revolutionary

ideas, projects and programmes from across the world.

The Jaga Mission is acclaimed as the world's largest slum land settlement programme benefiting a million urban poor living in the slums.

The mission is being executed in collaboration with the Tata Trusts and the Norman Foster Foundation. The State Government had rolled out the project on May 7, 2018, a first of its kind in the country, to give land titles to slum dwellers.

Odisha also won the Best State Award in the second edition of Janaagraha City Governance Awards for the Jaga Mission and for transforming urban slums into livable habitats.

Counselling for MBBS/BDS admission deferred

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Online counselling for admission to the MBBS/BDS courses, conducted by the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), has been postponed until further notice. The registration process was scheduled to begin on November 29.

Last week, the OJEE Board had announced that admission to the MBBS/BDS seats of different Government and Hi-Tech Medical (private) colleges would be carried out for the 2021-22 session on the basis of NEET (UG) 2021 merit list by following the rules and

regulations set by the State Government.

The MBBS counselling process will be conducted in three phases including a mop-up round, which is held only if seats are left vacant after the third round of Odisha NEET counselling 2021.

The counselling will be done in three rounds. The mop-up round will be conducted only if seats are left vacant after the third round of Odisha NEET counselling 2021. The counselling will be done for admission to around 1,950 MBBS and 363 BDS seats in private and Government colleges.

'CVOs' role crucial in anti-corruption fight

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A State-level conference of the Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) was inaugurated on Monday in State Vigilance Academy by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in the presence of Director General of Police Abhay and other senior officers.

On this occasion, Mahapatra also dedicated an auditorium of the Academy in name of late Dr Debashis Panigrahi and felicitated him for his outstanding services in State Police more particularly, in vigilance wing of the depart-

ment. Jhumki Ratha (Panigrahi), the wife of late Dr Panigrahi, received the felicitation on his behalf.

Addressing the CVOs conference, Mahapatra said, "CVOs have a very critical role in preventing and combating the corruption from the State."

He said the preventive-vigilance juxtaposed with punitive-vigilance would weed out corruption from public offices.

The Mo Sarkar approach of the Government rolled out under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is an effective step towards prevention of corruption, he said.

Govt sitting on Pipili gang-rape probe report: Accuses Congress

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Monday questioned why the State Government is not laying the Justice PK Mohanty Inquiry Commission report on Pipili's Bebina gang-rape and murder case.

Party State spokesperson Nishikant Mishra alleged that though 10 years have elapsed after the gruesome incident, the

accused are not convicted nor the commission report made public even though the commission submitted its report as far back as on March 30, 2016.

"Because of the involvement of high-level politicians and officials, police took one and a half months to file FIR; and after a State-wide outrage, the Chief Minister was forced to sack the concerned Minister," Mishra said.

Baleswar: Missing minor girl found dead in pond

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A minor girl, who had gone missing minutes before her Prathamastami celebration on Saturday at Nima village under the Basta police station in Baleswar district, was later found dead in a village pond on Sunday.

Umakant and Upamita Pradhan of Nima had made all Prathamastami arrangements for their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Saismita bringing new dress and preparing

pancakes and sweets. But Saismita went missing from 9 am. After failing to trace her, they filed a complaint with police. Cops started an investigation and, shockingly, found the girl dead in the pond.

Police are trying to find out whether Saismita died after drowning or someone dumped her body in the pond after killing her.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended on the village following the girl's death.

HC dismisses SVNIRTAR Director's plea

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court has dismissed the writ petition of Dr Shakti Prasad Das, Officiating Director of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Olaptur, Cuttack district seeking direction to the Government of India to extend his deputation as director for two more years.

Moreover, the court directed the Government to proceed for recruitment of a regular director as expeditiously as possible pursuant to the advertisement issued for the purpose.

The interim order passed earlier that there shall be no appointment of Director of SVNIRTAR without leave of the High Court was vacated. The court observed that Dr Das has no vested right to continue after his deputation of five years expired on January 27, 2021.

As per facts, Dr Das joined as SVNIRTAR Director on January 28, 2016 on deputation

The court observed that Dr Das has no vested right to continue after his deputation of five years expired on January 27, 2021.

for a period of three years; and on completion of the three years, the Government extended it for a further two years. When the five-year deputation was over, he applied for a further extension of two years. However, the Government did not allow it and asked him to continue as Officiating Director till appointment of a Regular Director or till further order, whichever is earlier. Moreover, the Government issued an advertisement inviting applications for appointment of a Regular Director.

The court verdict has paved the way for recruitment of new Director of SVNIRTAR putting an end to prolonged uncertainties.

French team led by envoy visits Smart City



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A high-level French delegation led by Consul General in Kolkata Didier Talpain on Monday interacted with Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Kumar Singh and discussed the progress of the City Investments to Innovate Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) Programme in the

city.

The delegation also toured the various project sites of CITIIS, including the Quick Win Project site of Urban Agriculture in the BDA City Centre (NICCO Park), the Mumtaz Ali Park at Suryanagar, the heritage area in Old Town and the Lingaraj Temple.

Notably, while addressing the issue of declining levels of physical activity, a Smart

Active Living Strategy is proposed to maximise the use of the open spaces for different assets (components) in the city, including streets, water, sports and playgrounds and heritage under the CITIIS Programme.

The proposal for Bhubaneswar, aptly named as B-Active, aims to prepare the citizens for a participatory role to make the city a future sports capital.

Will form govt in Punjab with BJP; Meets Haryana CM

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Self-assured about forming the next 'alliance' government in Punjab, the former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday claimed that "everything is going fine" in terms of his new political venture and shaping the coalition with the BJP and the breakaway Akali faction.

Even as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa-led Shiromani Akali Dal (Samyukta) had indicated

that "no formal talks" have so far been held to forge an alliance with Capt Amarinder, the veteran politician asserted that his new political outfit — Punjab Lok Congress — will form the next government in Punjab along with the BJP and a break-away Akali faction. He maintained that that he would soon be going to the national capital to call on the central BJP leaders to discuss the seat-sharing arrangement for Punjab elections, which is scheduled to be held in January-February next

year. At the same time, Capt Amarinder maintained that his party's membership drive is receiving a great response.

Capt Amarinder's assertions came after his surprise 'courtesy call' meeting with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday at his residence.

While Capt Amarinder claimed that there was "no political development", and he just shared "a very nice cup of coffee with the Chief Minister", the political observers believed that

INBRIEFS

263-GRAM BROWN SUGAR SEIZED; 1 HELD IN JALESWAR Baleswar: Following a tipoff, the Jaleswar police conducted a raid and seized about 263 grams of brown sugar from the possession of a drug peddler on Monday. The accused, identified as Mir Saifali of village Sasanbad, was forwarded to court after being booked under Section 21 of the NDPS Act.

LEPRA APPOINTS SCRIBE SAHOO ODISHA AMBASSADOR Sonepur: The LEPRA Society with its registered office in Hyderabad has appointed senior journalist of Sonepur Gorekh Nath Sahoo as LEPRA's Ambassador for Odisha State. LEPRA chief executive Prasant Naik wrote, "With your fame and popularity, we hope you can raise awareness about the diseases like leprosy and lymphatic filariasis in Odisha State and help in reducing the prejudice and discrimination amongst those who suffer from these diseases." The letter added, "You have an immense following among all the age groups, especially the western Odisha who look up to you as a motivational leader."

JAGATSINGHPUR SCRIBES FELICITATED Jagatsinghpur: As many as eight scribes working in Jagatsinghpur district were felicitated on the annual day function of the Odia vernacular daily, Sakala Sathi, held in Cuttack on Saturday. The scribes honoured include Nrusingha Charan Barik, Arakhita Swain, Pramod Kumar Mallick, Sakir Ali, Sarat Kumar Dash, Upendra Rayaguru, Pratap Chandra Mohanty, Abdul Nazim and Pratibharani Ray from different newspapers and web portals. Chief guest on the occasion was former MLA Prabhat Kumar Biswal while the other guests were Bharat Spices head Surendra Nath Panda and Professor Chitaranjan Panda. Editor Prasanna Kumar Dash bestowed the prizes.

TRL KROSAKI GETS GREENTECH ENVIRON AWARD Jharsuguda: TRL Krosaki has won the Greentech Environment and Sustainability Award 2021 from the Greentech Foundation, New Delhi in Environment Protection Category. Company Senior VP (Corporate Services) Dr Tarapada Dash received the award in a function at Mahabalipuram on November 26 from Rajeev Bhaduria, founder of Ebulent and ex-director HR of JSPL Group. Kamleswar Saran.



Face Omicron patiently: Dharmendra urges State to expedite vaccination

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

People should not panic about the Covid-19 variant Omicron. Instead, they should handle it patiently, said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in a social media message on Monday.

The people, who have not been vaccinated, should be encouraged to take the jab and everybody should adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour, he requested.

He said that though the WHO has termed this as

'Variant of Concern', there is no need to be fearful as the Central Government is fully prepared to handle a third Covid wave.

Pradhan said more than 60 lakh vaccine doses are presently in stock in Odisha. He requested the State Government to lay stress on the Prime Minister's 3T initiatives, testing, tracking and treatment, to prevent a third wave.

He said, "Only awareness can prevent lockdowns With Lord Jagannath's grace and strong resilience, we can tide over the crisis."

43 turtles seized; 1 held in Jaipur



PNS ■ JAIPUR

Forest officials on Monday seized 43 live freshwater turtles at Mulijhar village under the Dalijodi Forest Range in Jaipur district and arrested a wildlife smuggler, Arjun Das.

A joint team of forest and police officials stumbled on the turtle smuggling racket When the smugglers spotted the officials, they fled from the spot abandoning two sacks con-

taining the turtles.

Many wildlife traders and smugglers collect live turtles from local fishermen, who catch them from rivers and other water bodies in the district.

"We released all the 43 turtles into the Mahanadi at Cuttack. More people will be arrested in connection with this case. The turtles were being illegally trafficked to Kolkata," said Dalijodi Forest Range Officer Abhiram Jena.

there was much more than what meets the eyes.

The meeting came on a day when both the houses of the Parliament passed a Bill to repeal the Centre's three contentious laws, against which the farmers, especially from Punjab and Haryana, have been protesting for over a year. It is believed that with this meeting, Capt Amarinder is apparently working on solidifying his alliance with the BJP.

"I have met the Chief Minister does not mean that

when you meet someone, it is politically something. This is just a normal courtesy call," he said after the meeting responding to media queries if any talks were held regarding an alliance with the BJP.

In the photographs of their meeting released by the Haryana Government, Khattar is seen receiving Capt Amarinder with a warm hug. Notably, this was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders after Capt Amarinder's resignation from Congress.

Database for stray animals in offing in JSpur



KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

A meeting of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was held in the Collector's office here on Friday with Collector Parul Patawari chairing it. The Collector said the State Government has launched extensive schemes to provide adequate safety for stray and destitute animals. Financial assistance is provided to eligible organisations towards capital infrastructure support for establishing

Goshala, cattle shelters, homes for stray and abandoned and destitute animals, healthcare facilities, operation theatres, medicines and vehicles for transportation of animals. The animal birth control programme and animal helpline would be strengthened in Jagatsinghpur district. However, she said that a database would be prepared by counting the numbers of stray, destitute and sick animals. The schemes would be implemented under the supervision of the State Animal Welfare Board in close coordination

with the district Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department, urban local bodies, SPCA, and NGOs involved in animal welfare activities. Among others, CDVO Dr Birakishor Parida, ADM Satchidananda Sahoo, police personnel, Jagatsinghpur Municipality Executive Officer, members from the Goshalas functioning in the district and NGO activists viewed that these schemes would pave the way to ensure welfare of the stray and destitute animals.

ITR walkathon: Residents urged to shun plastic

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The ITR, Chandipur, organised a walkathon at Baleswar on Sunday with a tag "No to single-use plastics (SUP)". The event was aimed at generating awareness among the denizens on the detrimental effects of SUP and avoiding the use of any products made of such material. A large number of ITR employees participating in it

began a march from the ITR Colony near Kendriya Vidyalaya, with banners and placards, urging the residents to phase out the use of SUP products. The members of IEEE Communication and Computer Societies Joint Chapter, Baleswar, also took part during the event. The participants marched up to FM Golai and culminated at Range Officers Mess and Institute (ROMI).

The walkathon was organised by ITR as a part of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. It is worth mentioning that the ITR community has always been very active when it comes to matters of societal and environmental concern. It regularly undertakes activities such as cleanliness drives and plantation programmes, etc to promote a clean and green environment.

Thousands throng Baruni Ghat for Bigrha Pratistha

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

Thousands of devotees thronged the Baruni Ghat to witness the Bigrha Pratistha Utsav held on the bank of the Rushikulya river close to the famous Lord Shiva's Temple at Pratappur under Purushottampur police limits. Devotees from different parts of the State as well as from the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh visited the famous "Baruni Ghat" and had darshan Maa Rushikulya Devi built on the bank of Rushikulya river. They took holy bath in the Ghat to fulfill their desire. Notably, Rushikulya river did not have a temple of Rushikulya Devi on the river bank and a safe Ghat for taking holy dip.

Especially, there was no place for female devotees in particular, to change their clothes after bath. However, it is because of the efforts of the former OLA Deputy Speaker Rama Chandra Panda, the long cherished desire of the devotees and the local public, of having a Maa Rushikulya Devi temple and concrete structure (hall) for the devotees on the bank of river Rushikulya could become a reality before last Kartika Purnima. According to local residents, when Panda was the Member of State Planning Board, he had laid the foundation stone for Baruni Ghata and Rushikulya temple on the river bank on March 18 last year. Now under the banner of Rushikulya Baruni Ghat Urnnayan Parishad, of which

Panda is the advisor and with the cooperation of Parishad president Sanata Panda, vice-president Surendra Kumar Panda, secretary Gouri Roula, and Sudarsan Nayak, the premises of temple of Rushikulya Devi and the Ghat/Snana Bedi has been fully completed. The temple Bigrha Pratistha ceremony was held under the supervision of Pandit Simanchal Triapthy on Wednesday. A large number of dignitaries, Khallikote MLA Suryamani Baidya, Chhatrapur MLA Subash Behera, Prof Bishnu Choudhury, Prof Banamali Panigrahi, Bijaya Biswal, former Block Chairman of Chatrapur Bhagaban Behera, Er Binod Padhi, former Ganjam Block Chairman Surath Pradhan were present.

Sexual harassment by teacher: Probe begins in K'pada

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

Marshaghai Block Education Officer (BEO) Satrugna Behera recently conducted an inquiry against a PET teacher of a high school on the allegation of the teacher giving vulgar messages to a class 8 girl student

The BEO conducted the inquiry by visiting to the school on the direction of the DEO

of the school and also making love plea to the minor girl. The BEO conducted the inquiry by visiting to the school on the direction of the

District Education Officer (DEO) Sanjib Singh. The allegation came to the fore following the victim girl's mother filed a complaint before the headmaster of the school against the PET teacher. The victim's mother alleged that the PET teacher used to send vulgar messages

DMF funds misuse: NCST puts S'garh DM on notice

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

Based on the complaint from a mining affected tribal resident with the National Commission For Scheduled Tribes (NCST) about misutilisation of DMF funds, the NCST has sent notice to the Sundargarh Collector to provide information on the utilisation of the funds. Rajendra Kumar Naik, a tribal and resident of Ratanpur of Hemgiri block, had written to the NCST on September 23 (Copy of the letter available with The Pioneer), alleging that funds of the District Mineral Foundation, meant for mining affected people, are not being utilized properly. He also alleged in his letter that during the pandemic over the last two years and a half under the supervision of Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, Chairperson-Cum-Managing Trustee of DMF (also District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Sundargarh), rampant misutilisation of DMF funds was

made. Naik, on behalf of the tribal community, had demanded an audit for the funds spent in the mining affected area in health, education and livelihood security and for beautification of urban area. He also demanded a comparative audit report both from urban and rural areas, to know the actual picture of utilisation of DMF funds. Taking action, the Deputy Director, NCST has written to Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan to submit the facts on the funds use and an action taken report on the allegation within 15 days of receipt of the notice. The Commission has also mentioned in its notice that if it does not receive a reply within the stipulated time, it may exercise the powers of Civil Court conferred on it under of Article 338A of the Constitution of India and issue summons for appearance in person or by a representative before it.

Farmer killed in jumbo attack in Balangir

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A person was killed in an elephant attack at Bhalupali village under the Loisingha Forest Range in Balangir district on Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Gopal Posh (40), who had gone to his paddy field when he was attacked by a jumbo. For the last three days, a herd of 35 elephants have strayed into the area and are destroying crops at night. The death of villager sparked tension in the village and people manhandled the

frontline forest staffs, though they tried their best to drive away the herd. "The death of the villager in the elephant attack is unfortunate.. We have already released 10 per cent of the compensation to deceased's family and the rest amount would be given after the necessary official process said Balangir DFO Nitish Kumar. "We have already started the process to install high-mast lights in the affected area and I appeal people to cooperate with frontline staffs in handling the situation," Kumar said.

Mumbai cops nab rape accused from JSpur

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

A Mumbai police team arrested an alleged absconder, Mustaqe Khan [25], from Mohiuddinpur village here on Sunday in a pending rape case. Khan had been living in Mumbai, where the rape case had been registered against him at the Oswari police station. After committing the crime he left for his native village. Earlier a Mumbai police team had come to Jagatsinghpur a few months ago but could not trace him.

Taking tipoff from the Jagatsinghpur police, on Sunday Mumbai cops reached here and raided Khan's house and arrested him. He was presented in a local court and Mumbai police sought his transit remand. He refuted the allegations claiming that a false case has been registered against him based on a complaint of a dishonest woman, who intended to marry him but he declined. However, the court allowed Khan's transit remand.

interview of the week

India will surely make economic strides after pandemic phase



A widely-acclaimed researcher, teacher of various universities in India and abroad, a prolific writer, a distinguished orator and an Indologist of repute, a globe-trotting management guru, Dr Kailash Chandra Mishra has added many feathers unto the cap of mother Odisha by his spectacular achievements in very many fields of human endeavour. A think tank of Indian economy, he is a former Director of the National Insurance Academy, Govt. of India, at Pune. He was the head of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi and thereafter he had also served as the founder-Vice-Chancellor of Sri Sri University, Cuttack. A Professor Emeritus, Dr Mishra has had been a visiting faculty to Columbia and many other universities of the world. His books include "The Game is Changing: Insurance Reloaded", "Insurance Demystified", "Reading beyond the Lexicon", "Medical Informatics: An Exploration". He has more than three hundred published papers in various national and international management journals. He continues to extend his advice to boost the ailing economy of many nations, including India. In an interview to The Pioneer, Dr Mishra spoke to Sugyan Choudhury on the pandemic economy.

economy. India is yet to assume export-led economy status. Every crisis presents an opportunity. Government should have utilised the stimulus across sectors to lift the economy out of slippages as also to address the existing inequalities



in income and wealth distribution. Since Q1 of 2018-19, quarterly GDP growth rate was sliding. The last quarter of 2019-20 saw a growth rate of 3.1%. Government economists wished away the downside blaming structural weaknesses as supply side bottleneck and cyclical problems as demand side. In the Q1 of 2020-21, GDP contracted by 23.9% coinciding with nationwide lockdown. Contraction was expected, but 24% was an international shock and national frustration. Pre-pandemic mismanagement had already created pathway to distress. Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee has said demonetisation and GST were plausible causes of the pre-pandemic slowdown coupled with agricultural distress. This momentum was accentuated in course of the pandemic to give the worst-ever economic de-growth of India. But Indian spirit will act as a miracle as economy can only bounce back from this bottom performance decoupled from political economics.

Programmes like Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) and other PDS measures should continue till end of the pandemic first because India has sufficient food grains in store; second, this will release purchasing power of masses to stimulate other consumptions; and third, India cannot afford a social unrest of hungry masses. Migration and reverse migration crises should teach lessons to governments. MGNREGA can at best give some relief in rural areas. But political leadership must exhibit its smartness to provide employment or self-employment to urban youths in particular. This alone can boost purchasing power and demand, which will create its own supply and virtuous circle of employment. Direct Cash Transfer is yet another consumption-stimulant and corruption-container. Differential tax relief to producers, in particular startups, MSMEs and other dispersed employment providers is a right step. As Minister Nitin Gadkari rightly emphasises, public investment in physical and social infrastructures will create a win-win situation giving sovereign guarantee to better return to public and providing bargaining edge to mobilise international capital. The FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management) Act restricts government ability for deficit funding of stimulus. This should be ignored in the initial years of post-pandemic revival as is done now. Coupled with this, government must be transparent about monetisation of fiscal deficit arising out of a genuine stimulus.

India is facing inflationary pressure, which makes Indian consumers more nervous. Banks are nervous to lend and put surpluses of Rs 7 lakh crore with RBI. Supply chain disruption is being assuaged slowly. RBI is failing in inflation targeting of 4%+/-2% as iys monetary policy committee has no clue to arrest imported inflation. When the USA goes for a genuine stimulus of 1.7 trillion dollars, money will obviously trickle to financial absorbers like India; and in absence of efficient manufacturing and supply chain to arrest commodity prices, inflation is imported. Monetisation of economy in India in agriculture, MSME and household sectors cannot be controlled to ensure growth despite 'cashless' noises.

What may be the major pain of post-pandemic economic growth in India?

India will surely make economic strides after pandemic phase. But ideal should be a "V"-shaped growth where all de-growth is recouped and a new asymptotic phase of growth begins. But signs are India will have a "K"-shaped growth, meaning rich and cronies will grow faster and due to jobless growth and imported inflation, large mass of Indians will still face de-growth in their personal wealth. This can be assuaged by dispersing production, generating employment, ensuring economic redistribution after creating distributive effect and finally punishing cronyism in capital formation and allocation.

What's the global response to the pandemic crisis in economic terms?

Commensurate with the scale and speed of the pandemic crisis, domestic and international policy responses of good governments have been large, non-pretentious, rapidly-deployed and speedily-recalibrated. Assuming the pandemic fades in the second half of 2022 and that policy actions taken around the world are effective in preventing widespread firm demise, job losses, and sovereign financial strains, global growth may resume to 6% to begin with. The cumulative loss to global GDP over 2020 and 2021 from the pandemic could be around 9 trillion dollars, greater than the economies of Japan and Germany combined. Flattening the spread of Covid using lockdowns allowed health systems to cope with the disease, which then permitted a resumption of economic activity. Tradeoff between saving lives and saving livelihoods was minimised.

Has India calibrated its economic response to wade through the pandemic?

To be candid, India has suffered from economic governance deficit during the pandemic. Indian economy in recent times can be viewed as pre-pandemic phase, pandemic course phase and post pandemic phase. Before the pandemic, the economy was already slowing down with deficiencies in both consumption and investment demand, the two prime drivers of Indian

Did Indian stimulus work to poise the economy for adequate growth in post-pandemic world?

Indian Government announced a headline-grabbing Rs 20-lakh crore fiscal stimulus package, meaning 10% of GDP, which was so poor in fiscal firepower to boost demand that the stimulus was globally suspected. Estimates of actual fiscal cost, as percentage to GDP, ranged from 0.75% to 1.30% but nowhere close to the claimed 10% of GDP figure. Making credit available and re-packaging existing government schemes were the highlights of the package. This was corroborated by Goldman Sachs, UBS, CRISIL, Barclays, Bank of America, Nomura, CLSA, Fitch, SBI and HSBC research. Agriculture, forestry and fishing showed positive growth. However, manufacturing did not respond. If consumer demand recovers, financial, real estate and services including construction sectors will move upwards. Retail trade, tourism, transport, communication suffered the most though the communication sector progressed selectively. Electricity, gas, water, public utility, public administration, Defence and other services were not as much affected due to nature of their consumers.

How should India prioritise now to survive social unrest, sustain existing economy and remain growth-ready?

Titilagarh-Dalits' socioeconomic situation to be surveyed

PNS ■ NUAPADA

The Dalit Development Mission (DDM), Nuapada has initiated a household survey for assessment of the socioeconomic situation of Dalits in Titilagarh block of Balangir district.

"The survey would include various aspects like their education, health, skill, occupational pattern, income and migration, land ownership, housing facilities, food availability and access to development," said DDM founder PK Naik.

"Our effort would be to identify the gaps where we could intervene to expedite development of Dalits by pro-



viding our support as well as linking eligible households to Government programmes and schemes," he said.

A Cadre Training programme of the youths who have been engaged for the survey was held on Saturday. "We have decided to complete the survey within a month," said Naik. A general body meeting of the DDM under the chair-

manship of Naik was held on Sunday to elect its office-bearers and discuss about the various problems faced by Dalits in the society. The meeting was addressed by former Nuapada ZP President Puspanjali Pandey, Dr PK Barik, social activist Lankesh Ravan, journalist Ajit Panda, Upendra Tandi, Dr Pranabandhu Jagdala, Ugrasen Tandi and Amar Singh Mahanand. Ugaesen Tandi was elected as president.

The DDM was formed in the year 2016 and has been working for Dalit empowerment. Several Dalit girls and boys have got financial support from the DDM to pursue their higher studies.

Spandan holds child-friendly event in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

Week-long child-friendly competitions and celebrations were conducted among slum children of Puri and Konark at Puri jointly by voluntary organisation Spandan and Bengalure-based tourism organisation EQUATIONS.

As the children are among the important stakeholders of tourism sector, they need to be made aware of their rights and privileges. Based on this theme, different events like race, high jump, long jump, quiz, art, etc., were conducted for children in various groups. The programme was inaugurated by District Child



Welfare Officer Manoj Tripathy and local sea beach police station officer Bidyadhar Bhol. The closing ceremony was organised on November 20 where the champions were presented with awards and certificates. The event was coordinated by Spandan chairperson Barsharani Mishra. Among others, District Child Welfare Committee Chairman M a h a v i r Rudranarayan Sahoo was present.

After farm law repeal, kisan for MSP; stir to continue: Tikait

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the repeal of the farm laws in Parliament a victory of the protesters, farmer leaders on Monday called an emergency meeting on December 1 to decide the further course of action even as they reiterated their demand for a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) of crops.

Farmers said the farm repeal law is a tribute to those farmers who died during the protests and they would continue their protests till their other demands are not fulfilled.

“The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021, passed by the Parliament is a tribute to those 700 farmers died during the ongoing protests which is constiuted,” Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said after the Parliament passed the farm laws repeal bill without any discussions.

Speaking about the repeal move of the government, Tikait said the farmers’ agitation will continue. “MSP (minimum support price) continues to be the bug. The protest will continue as other issues, including MSP, are pending,” he said.

The BKU spokesperson said farmer unions will not leave protest sites, mostly along the borders of Delhi, without talking to the Centre. Highlighting that the farmer unions will open up the avenues for these talks, Tikait said the Centre wants farmers to end their agitation without reaching out to them.

Referring to their six demands, including legal guar-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses media at Parliament House on Monday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

antee for MSP and withdrawal of cases against farmers and compensation for those who died during the agitation, the leaders of 32 farmer unions from Punjab during a press meet at the Singhu border said on Monday the Centre has time till Tuesday to reply.

“This is a victory for us. We want withdrawal of cases against farmers and a committee to be formed on the legal guarantee of MSP for crops. The Centre has time till tomorrow (Tuesday) to reply to our demands. We have called an emergency meeting of farmers’ groups on Wednesday to discuss the future course of action,” a farmer leader said.

Govt ready to discuss all issues in House: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed on Monday that his Government was “ready to discuss all issues” in Parliament even as he called for upholding the dignity of Parliament and the chair.

Addressing the newspersons outside the Parliament ahead of the start of the first day’s proceedings, the Prime Minister said that the Government would answer all questions asked in the Parliament.

“Whatever voices are raised against the Government or

Government policies, the dignity of Parliament and the Speaker’s Chair should be upheld. We should maintain the sort of conduct that will inspire younger generations,” Modi said.

“Voices against government policies should be forceful but the dignity of Parliament and the Chair should be upheld,” he said.

“Benchmark should be how the House functions and not how it was disrupted,” Modi said.

He said that citizens want Parliament to debate on issues



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the media at Vijay Chowk during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

of national interest and find ways for the development of the country.

“This is an important session of the Parliament. The citizens of the country want a productive session. They are fulfilling their responsibilities for a brighter future,” the Prime Minister said.

“Our Government is ready to answer all questions during the Winter Session of the Parliament. We should debate in the Parliament, and maintain the decorum of the proceedings,” he said.

He said that the

Government wants questions in Parliament and also peace.

The Prime Minister also urged people to stay alert in the wake of the new variant of Covid-19.

The first day witnessed the Government ‘retreating’ on the Farm Bills but going on an offensive on the other side as 12 opposition MPs stood suspended for the whole winter session for “unruly behaviour” in the last monsoon session.

The Winter Session of Parliament that commenced on November 29 would last until December 23.

Passing farm laws repeal Bill without debate shows Govt terrified, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties on Monday hit out at the Government over the passage of the Bill to repeal farm laws in Parliament without discussion.

While Congress chief Rahul Gandhi questioned the move to push through the repeal of Farm Bill in the Parliament in just few minutes without any discussion, saying it indicated that the Government was “terrified”, TMC member in Rajya Sabha Derek O’Brien called it a shame that the bill was taken up and passed without debate being allowed. “Not even a fig leaf of democracy. Shameless”.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said the farmer protests will continue. “This is a tribute to all 750 farmers who lost their lives during the agitation. The protest will continue as other issues including MSP are still pending.”

“We wanted to discuss MSP (issue), we wanted to discuss the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, we wanted to discuss the 700 farmers who died in this agitation and unfortunately that discussion has not been allowed,” Rahul Gandhi said.

“It is a reflection of the fact that this government is ‘terrified’ of having these discussions and ‘wants to hide’, he told media shortly after the Farm Laws Repeal Bill was passed by both houses of parliament. The bill is likely to be signed off by the President by late evening Monday itself.

In the Rajya Sabha Congress leader in the house Mallikarjun Kharge said all parties are agreed on the bill and no one is opposed to it but required a discussion on the

Anil Ghanwat challenges Tikait on farm reform issues

New Delhi: Anil Ghanwat, one of the members of the SC appointed committee on farm laws, challenged Bharatiya Kisan union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait on farm reform issues. “@RakeshTikaitBKU Dear brother, I will fight for your freedom to say whatever you like about me. But we are farmers, we want the same thing for India. Let’s have a debate. I invite the media to organise a TV debate so the country can decide,” Ghanwat tweeted. **PNS**

3-day India-B’desb border guarding forces’ meet ends on positive note

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The three-day Inspector General-level Border Coordination Meeting between IGs of BSF Meghalaya, Guwahati, Silchar and Tripura, and Region Commanders, Border Guard Bangladesh concluded on Monday in Shillong, with the two sides agreeing to address the concerns of each other.

The Indian delegation was led by Susanta Kumar Nath, IG, BSF Tripura Frontier, accompanied by IG Meghalaya. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Tanveer Gani Chowdhury Additional Director General, Region Commander, South East Region Chattogram of Border Guard Bangladesh accompanied by Region Commander NE Region Sarail, Sector Commanders of BGB Comilla, Sylhet, Mymensingh, and other BGB delegates, the BSF said in a statement.

The agenda points discussed during the meeting mainly focused on concerns of

both the border guarding forces like movement of insurgent/human trafficking, drugs, fake currency, arms smuggling which need greater cooperation, understanding and synergy to make the life of border population secure, the paramilitary said in a statement.

The BSF mainly emphasized on attacks/ assaults on its personnel and unarmed Indian civilians and other provocative actions by Bangladesh criminals. In addition, security-related issues and action against Indian Insurgents groups (IIGs) taking shelter in Bangladesh and trans-border crimes like smuggling of forest agro produce, drugs/narcotics cattle were also raised by the BSF. The BSF further emphasized joint efforts for prevention of smuggling of FICN and illegal migration/infiltration by Bangladesh nationals and confidence building measures to improve relations between two border guarding forces.

The BSF also provided to BGB with facts and figures like list containing details of hide-out camps of IIGs based in Bangladesh, list of Bangladeshi criminals involved in fence breaching, attack/assaults on BSF and Indian nationals, cattle smugglers, FICN racketeers, Bangladeshi traffickers and touts involved in drugs trafficking, human trafficking and sympathizers of Indian insurgents in Bangladesh.

IG, BSF requested Region Commander BGB to take effective measures to stop illegal migration of Bangladeshi nationals, prevention of trans-border crimes and take stringent action against IIGs whose camps still exist in Bangladesh.

Border Guards Bangladesh delegation mainly emphasized upon firing on Bangladesh nationals by Indian nationalists or BSF. Kidnapping/ apprehension of Bangladeshi nationals, Illegal trespassing by Indian nationals into Bangladesh territory and smuggling of various types of drugs/narcotics from

India to Bangladesh.

The BSF mentioned that the paramilitary along with Indian nationals are exercising maximum restraint and resort to firing as a last option in self-defence only.

It was also mentioned that Border Security Force (BSF) personnel are now using the non-lethal weapons like pump-action guns along the Indo-Bangla border, which has resulted in considerable change in the environment on the border. Apart from it, various developmental issues along the International Border were also discussed.

“Both the Border Guarding Forces agreed to look into each other’s perspective on border problems with an open mind and to increase sharing of actionable intelligence to curb trans-border crimes and to have a peaceful tranquil atmosphere along the International Border,” it said.

The next co-ordination conference will be held in Bangladesh.

CBI files case against Gujarat-based company for ‘defrauding’ UBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case on complaint from Union Bank of India (UBI), Ahmedabad against a Gujarat-based private company and others including its directors/partners, unknown public servants and others on the allegations of cheating the bank to the tune of Rs 44.64 crore. The agency also conducted searches at seven locations of the accused persons.

It was alleged that during the

period 2014 to 2020, the accused in pursuance of conspiracy induced the UBI to sanction various credit facilities including cash credit and term loans amounting to Rs 47.30 crore, the agency said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the account of the borrower was later classified as non-performing asset (NPA) on January 15 last year due to non-servicing of interest/installments, thereby, causing a loss of Rs 44.64 crore to UBI, it said. Searches were conducted at

seven places including the official and residential premises of the accused at Upleta and Rajkot (Gujarat) which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles, it further said.

Besides the firm, Mandeep Industries, the firm’s Directors/Partners Ashish B. Talaviya, Kishorbhai H. Vaishnavi, Ramjibhai H. Gajera, Kalpesh Pravinbhai Talaviya Bhavesh M. Talaviya and unknown public servants and unknown others have been listed as accused in the case.

PEGASUS SNOOPING ROW SC appoints Justice R V Raveendran to oversee expert committee probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court appointed Justice RV Raveendran led panel to probe into the Pegasus controversy has sent mails to the petitioners asking them to submit their personal devices for “technical evaluation”. The panel in



the mail stated that the petitioners would also be given the option of “making submissions under oath” before it.

SC retired Justice RV Raveendran panel’s technical committee consists Naveen Kumar Chaudhary of the National Forensic Sciences University, Professor Prabaharan Poornachandran, the Director at Centre for Internet Studies and Artificial Intelligence at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kolla, and Professor Ashwin Anil Gumaste from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Though the mail mentions that the devices, where the Pegasus software was allegedly installed, will be collected in New Delhi, it does not mention the exact address, one of the sources said, adding that “it could be informed later”.

557 women officers granted Permanent Commission in Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed Parliament 557 Women Officers were granted Permanent Commission in the Indian Army after the Supreme Court judgment on February 17 last year.

No delay has been made in granting Permanent Commission to any Women Officer, the government said.

Giving details in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for defence Ajay Bhatt said 63 eli-

gible Women Officers have been granted Permanent Commission as on November 25 this year in compliance of the judgment of the apex court. The minister gave this information in a written reply to MP M Shanmugam.

The Supreme Court last year had directed the Centre to grant permanent commission to women officers in the Army. Rejecting the Centre’s stand on “physiological limitations”, the court said it was based on “sex stereotypes” and “gender discrimination against women”.

The court also directed that all serving Short Service Commission(SSC) women officers be considered for permanent commission within three months, irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

On November 12, hearing a plea filed by 11 women army officers, the court issued a warning to the Centre saying it was going to initiate contempt proceedings against the Indian Army for failing to grant permanent commission to the

said women officers, in line with its previous orders.

Soon after, the Centre assured the court of rolling out the permanent commission option for all eligible Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army.

The Centre also assured the bench, headed by Justice DY Chandrachud, of a swift decision within ten days with regard to the 11 women officers, who have approached the top court, to grant permanent commission.



45,576 personnel of the Indian army, 14,022 personnel of the Indian Air Force and 7,747 personnel of the Indian Navy were affected by the pandemic.

As regards the number of casualties, he said the army recorded 137 deaths, the IAF 49 and the navy recorded four deaths.

He also said “As per extant Rules, no special compensation for deaths occurring due to infectious disease is provided to Armed Forces personnel by the Ministry of Defence, while they are in service. However, all such cases of death while in service are provided terminal benefits,” Bhatt added.



Dalit lekhpal, his wife murdered in Azamgarh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of the killing of four members of a Dalit family in Prayagraj, a 55-year-old Dalit government official and his wife were found murdered in their house in Azamgarh on Monday morning.

Circumstantial evidence suggested that their throats were slit with some sharp-edged weapon by the assailants.

Superintendent of Police of Azamgarh, Anurag Arya, after visiting the scene of crime, said that Ram Nagina (55), working as a lekhpal (revenue record keeper) in the Consolidation department in Mau district, and his wife Mansa Devi (51) were murdered late on Sunday night while they were sleeping in their village home at Tithaupur in Tarwan police station area in Azamgarh.

"Some unidentified miscreants barged into the couple's home late Sunday night and killed them by slashing their throats with some sharp-edged weapon and left the scene. On being informed by the victims' neighbours, the police learnt about the double-murder on Monday morning. A police

team rushed to the scene of crime with a dog squad and fingerprint experts and took the bodies in custody and sent them for autopsy," the SP said.

The deceased Nagina was the eldest among three brothers and had three daughters, one of whom is married. The double-murder of the Dalit couple in Azamgarh took place within days after four members of a Scheduled Caste family were murdered in their village home at Gohri in Phaphamau police station area of Prayagraj on Wednesday night. The victims included a 50-year-old man and his wife aged 45 years, their 16-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. The relatives of the slain family members have alleged that a lingering land dispute between the victims and their neighbour, belonging to upper caste, was behind the multiple murders.

Meanwhile, reacting sharply to the murder of the Dalit couple, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati asked the State Government to immediately check the recurrence of such incidents and take stern action against the guilty.

"It is an extremely shock-

ing, painful and condemnable incident of the murder of a Dalit couple by slashing their throats in Azamgarh within days after the Prayagraj killings. The government must immediately stop such atrocities on Dalits and take strict action against the culprits," the BSP president tweeted on Monday.

Meanwhile in Meerut, a 14-year-old boy accidentally shot himself in the head while taking a selfie with a loaded gun in the Lisari Gate area on Sunday.

Uvaish Ahmed (14) was tinkering with a loaded gun and he positioned it at his temple as he posed for a selfie. Unfortunately, the gun was loaded and it went off killing the boy on the spot.

The police said that the victim's elder brother, Suhail, was recently sent to jail in a theft case and had criminal antecedents and the handgun perhaps belonged to him. Investigations are on to ascertain as to how Uvaish got access to the weapon.

The deceased boy's father meanwhile said that his son did not have any enmity and he was in a state of complete shock after this tragedy.

TMC to amend its constitution to get national presence

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a bid to realize its dreams to become a truly national party the Trinamool Congress is amending its constitution. Among other things the Bengal ruling outfit will introduce provisions to accommodate leaders from other States in its working committee the supreme decision making body of the party.

This decision was taken in the Trinamool Congress Working Committee meeting held on Monday at the Kalighat residence of Mamata Banerjee. In another significant move the meeting, presided over by the Bengal Chief Minister, also decided to hold the next working committee meeting in Delhi.

Apart from the senior office bearers from Bengal those present in the Monday's meeting were "invitee" leaders from Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura Goa and other States. Among those present in the meeting were former JDU leader Pawan Verma, Meghalaya leader Mukul Sangma and former India tennis star Leander Paez.

These leaders who had joined the TMC during Banerjee's visit to Delhi were on Monday formally given the party membership in Kolkata. "The party working committee meeting was held today



and the main focus was on trying to evolve it as a truly national party which will provide a true alternative to the BJP ... this decision was taken in the wake of tremendous enthusiasm generated nationally around TMC and our leader Mamata Banerjee ... we have become the principal opposition party in Meghalaya, we are in the second position in Tripura and we are building up in a big way in Haryana and Goa ... this is the reason that the party has decided to be more proactive so that it can reach out to the people of the country," senior Trinamool leader Partho Chatterjee said.

The meeting also gave move powers to Banerjee to run the party at all-India level, sources said.

Another senior leader and MP Derek O'Brien said that "the TMC led by Mamata Banerjee has emerged as the only credible force in the country," adding the acceptance of the Bengal Chief Minister nationally was increasing because of her credibility and experience as a true fighter against the BJP.

Didi on 3 day visit to Mumbai from today

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be on a three-day visit to Mumbai from November 30, during which he is scheduled to meet NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and her Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray.

She is also expected to meet industrialists in Mumbai on December 1 and invite them to Bengal Global Business Summit, to be held in April next year.

"Mamata Banerjee will be on three-day visit to Mumbai from tomorrow. She will hold meetings with NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The CM also aims to attract investments to the state," a senior TMC leader said.

Banerjee had last week visited Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press for various demands of the state.

She, however, did not pay a visit to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, given the changed equation between the TMC and the grand old party.

CYSS leader flays Yogi Govt for TET paper leak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

State chief of Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti (CYSS) Vanshraj Dubey took a jibe at the Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh, saying that the Government had provided copying mafia the employment of leaking examination papers instead of job opportunities to youths who were left to push pens and prepare for exams.

"The Yogi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government has rendered Uttar Pradesh as the number one state in examination paper leak cases. After the recent leak of UP TET papers, it is evident that there is complicity of high level officials who ostensibly worked at the instance of the state government. The paper was leaked 12 hours before the start of the TET examination and went viral on social media. It indicated that the paper was leaked deliberately so that the government could save itself from initiating the recruitment process as the government is headed for assembly election within a month from now," Dubey said.

"The BJP had promised to provide jobs to 70 lakh youths at the time of forming government in the state in 2017. But look at the incidents of paper leaks during the past few years. The SI exam paper was leaked in August 2017, UPPCL exam paper in February 2018, UP Police recruitment exam paper in April 2018, SSSB exam papers in July 2018, Health department promotion papers in August 2018, tube well operator exam paper in September 2018, exam paper for recruitment of 41,520 constable, teachers recruitment paper in July 2020, BEd exam paper in August 2021, PET in August 2021, aided government school teachers/principal exam paper was leaked in October 2021, UPTGT in August 2021, NEET NDA, SSC and now the UP TET paper leak," the CYSS leader reminded.

"They travelled several hundred kilometres to reach the exam centres, spent the night out in the open and when they reached the exam centre they were told that the paper was leaked. The government should understand that the examinees returning to their homes had to face a lot of hardships," the young leader alleged.

Akhilesh promises ₹25 L compensation for deaths during farmers' stir

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party announced that it would pay ₹ 25 lakh as 'Kisan Sahadat Samman Nidhi' to the families of those farmers who died during the year-long agitation on Delhi-Haryana border where farmers had blocked national highways since November 26 last year.

"The Samajwadi Party will give compensation to the farmers as soon as the party's Government is formed in Uttar Pradesh after the 2022 assembly elections. The days of the Yogi Adityanath government are numbered and the farmers will wipe out the Bharatiya Janata Party from the state with the strength of their vote. Farmers have lost faith in the BJP government. Fearing electoral setback, the BJP rolled back the three farm laws after the year-long agitation by the farmers. The Narendra Modi government is still reluctant to address the fundamental issues like Minimum Support Price. The farmers will give a befitting reply to the BJP as the Modi government is more interested in protecting the interests of the corporate houses rather than the farmers," SP president Akhilesh Yadav said in



Lucknow on Monday.

The SP chief further alleged that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh was still playing tricks with the farmers, which was visible at the paddy procurement centres set up by the state government for the purchase of paddy at MSP from the farmers. He said that the officials at purchase centres were hand in glove with the middlemen and traders and were harassing the farmers, forcing them to sell the produce far below the MSP.

Akhilesh charged that the farmers were demanding legal guarantee for the MSP only to get rid of the middlemen and traders and the BJP government was reluctant to concede the just demand. He claimed that with the legal guarantee for the MSP, the multi-national companies (MNCs) and big companies would be compelled to purchase agricultural produce from the farmers as per the MSP.

Mumbai court grants bail to Malik in libel case filed by BJP leader

Sr Wankhede grants consent to Malik's proposal to quash single judge's order in another libel case

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In twin developments relating to Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, a Mumbai court on Monday granted bail to him in a defamation suit filed by city BJP leader Mohit Bharatiya, while NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede's father Dhyandeve Wankhede told the Bombay High Court that he had no objection to his (Malik's) plea granting interim relief to Wankhede in a defamation suit filed against the NCP leader.

The Metropolitan Magistrate court, Mazgaon, granted bail of Rs. 15,000 to Malik and scheduled the next hearing of the case for December 30.

Acting on a complaint against the minister filed by Bharatiya who had alleged that the former had defamed and his brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdeva and that the NCB was under the influence of the BJP, the court had earlier issued a notice to Malik and asked him to remain present on Monday.

On his part, Malik had responded to the notice issued by the court and remained present in the court as directed by the Metropolitan Magistrate at the previous hearing.

At Monday's hearing, Bharatiya's lawyer Faiz Merchant moved an application before the court seeking that an order of contempt be issued against Malik for having allegedly attracted a mob outside the Court where he appeared today.

However, Malik appeared personally before the Magistrate and prayed for bail con-

sidering the offences alleged against him were bailable, the court granted bail to the minister.

In his complaint made against Malik before the court, Bharatiya had among other things alleged that the minister had allegedly urged his supporters to assemble in large numbers before the court adn that Malik's intent was to "obstruct in the administration of justice" which is apparent form his tweets. In doing so, he lowered the authority of the court.

Bharatiya had also also filed a complaint with the Mumbai Police seeking registration of a First Information Report under Section 188 (disobedience to order of public servant), 269 and 270 (malignant act leading to spread of dangerous infection) of the Indian Penal Code.

On his part, talking to media persons, Malik said that he had appeared before the court by responding to the court's notice in the defamation suit filed by Bhartiya. He denied all the allegations by Bhartiya.

"We have also brought on record how Bhartiya himself is a fraudulent person involved in a scam of Rs.1,100 crore and the raids by the Central Bureau of Investigations on him... When the scam started coming out, he changed his name from 'Kamboj' to 'Bhartiya', we have submitted all evidence to the court and will provide more later," Malik alleged.

Meanwhile, in a defamation suit filed against Malik before the Bombay High Court, Sameer's father Dhyandeve Wankhede told court that he had no objections to the plea by Malik to quash the single-judge order

refusing to grant interim relief to Wankhede.

In an application filed before a two-member HC bench, Mallik had proposed quashing of the single-judge order as it had many adverse observations against him as well. After quashing of the order, Malik had urged the high court to send the interim application back to the single-judge for rehearing on the case.

Taking cognisance of Sr Wankhede's submission that he had no objection to Malik's plea, the HC bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and Milind Jadhav recorded in its order that the single-judge order has been consensually set aside.

The HC bench also granted Malik time till December 9 to file his reply to the interim application in Wankhede's defamation suit. Wankhede has to file the rejoinder by January 3, 2022. The high court asked the lower to decide Sr Wankhede's defamation suit within 12 weeks.

Malik has among other things alleged that the raid on the rave party on board Goa-bound luxury cruise was "fake," that the former has been targeting Bollywood in drug-related matters, that he has extorted money from film personalities, that he has forged a caste certificate to join IRS and that he was enjoying "lavish lifestyle" from the proceeds of extorted money.

The Bombay High Court on November 18 took on record several of his documents, including the copy of the latter's School Leaving Certificate (SLC) -- which mentioned that he was a Muslim and not Hindu Dalit as he has been claiming.

Man dies day after police detention, kin blame cops

PTI ■ JAIPUR

A man who was detained by a police in Alwar on the suspicion of involvement in burglary and later released died under mysterious circumstances on Sunday night.

His family members and relatives held a demonstration outside the NEB police station, holding policemen responsible for his death.

Alwar SP Tejaswani Gautam said on a tip-off about a gang of burglars from Madhya Pradesh, a search operation was conducted on Saturday night and 43 people were picked.

The one who died, Amar Singh, was among the 43 persons.

"Their names and addresses were noted and they were allowed to go after some time. Yesterday, one of them was taken to a hospital by his family members and he was declared dead in the hospital. His family members have now alleged that policemen are responsible for his death," she said.

The SP said it was not yet clear what was the cause of the death and it will become clear in the post-mortem report, which is awaited.

She said it was not a case of custodial death.

Over one dozen villages in UP decided not to vote if road demand not met



PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

People from over one dozen villages here have threatened not to cast their votes in the upcoming state assembly elections if their demand for constructing a road was not met.

Hundreds of people from the neighbouring villages held a panchayat (community meeting) in this regard in Chandsamad village under Khatoli Block of the district yesterday.

It was decided in panchayat that if their demand for constructing dilapidated Khatoli-Falvada road was not met they will not cast their votes in the assembly polls, said the panchayat convenor Samey Singh.

People from several villages in the district including Anterpura, Aadampur, Chandपुरi, Chandsamad, Fahimpur, Jasola, Kathli, Mochdi, Mandwadi, Nagli, Sadharan, Shahpur, Sikhedra and Sikanderpur participated in the panchayat.

NC will continue to fight alone for Article 370's restoration: Omar Even if Cong not ready for it

PTI ■ JAMMU

Slamming the Congress for its silence, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday said his party will single-handedly continue its fight for the restoration of Article 370, if the grand old party is not ready to fight this battle.

J&K's future is linked to the special status guaranteed by the Constitution, he said, adding that the case for restoration of Article 370 is very strong.

The former Chief Minister accused the BJP of "murdering democracy" in the Union Territory, after abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, by rendering institutions, including newspapers, feeble and said it has rendered "hollow" India's slogan of being the biggest democracy in the world. "Our case (for restoration of Article 370 before the Supreme Court) is very strong... We expected support from Opposition parties but they are silent. Our existence is linked to this article," said Abdullah, who is currently on a tour of the Chenab valley region, while addressing a public meeting at Kishitwar town. Earlier, Abdullah, along



with other senior party leaders, including general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, paid obeisance at the famous shrines of Hazrat Shah Farid-ud-Din Bagdadi and Hazrat Shah Asrar-ud-Din Wali and prayed for lasting peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the reported remarks of senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad that it is meaningless to speak about Article 370, Abdullah said, "I'm disappointed by his statement as he is a senior leader and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir."

"If Article 370 is our heritage, it is also your party's legacy more than ours. It was first prime minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru of the Congress who brought Article 370 and today Congressmen are not willing to safeguard their legacy. So, how can one expect it to save the people," he said.

‘Call your cop’ mobile app launched in Nagaland

PTI ■ KOHIMA

Nagaland Police on Monday launched a mobile application for facilitating the users to get in touch with the law enforcers anywhere in the State. Launching the mobile app, 'Call your cop', DGP T John Longkumer said it will enable citizens, especially those in distress, to give a call to the force that will now be just a call away.

The App has contact numbers of Nagaland Police officers, along with other features like alerts, emergency numbers, and police station details.

He also said that stress is on stopping violence against women and making mothers and sisters realise that they can get in touch with the police easily.

Pointing out that the state police have launched a community outreach programme (COP), Longkumer said, this app is a beginning towards interactive communication between the law enforcers and people.

Meanwhile, with the onset of the festive season and the Hornbill celebrations starting December 1, the DGP said a Tourist Police Control Room will be launched on Tuesday.

ICG seized drugs worth ₹ 5,516 cr from Jan 1-Oct 31

PTI ■ PORBANDAR

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized drug consignments worth ₹ 5,516 crore from boats and ships during the first 10 months of 2021, its spokesperson said on Monday.

"Drugs seized since inception (2009) has been worth ₹11,524 crore. From January 1, 2021, to October 31, 2021, value of of narcotics seized was ₹5,516.25 crore," ICG's spokesperson said in a statement here.

ICG Director General K Natarajan had on November 25 said most of the drug consignment comes to India through the Makran coast (in Pakistan).

"We have a certain amount of information and intelligence towards that," he had said.

The ICG works in close synergy with various agencies and as a result of which, it continues to maintain the surveillance of sensitive borders, be it with Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Bangladesh, he noted.

"Our presence has always been there and we continue to put almost 40-44 ships and 10-12 aircraft to maintain surveillance over 2.1 million sq km," he added.

As a result of which, in the last two years, the ICG has apprehended more than 3.5 tonnes of drugs coming through the sea route, he had noted.

Natarajan had said the drug smuggling activities that used to take place to the Gujarat coast and off the Lakshadweep coast have moved away beyond the equator.

"That is the success, not just for the ICG but various other agencies such as the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), state fisheries authorities, port authorities and state intelligence agencies," he mentioned.

Innovators from IIT, AIIMS Jodhpur develop ‘Talking Gloves’ for differently-abled

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur and the All India Institute Of Medical Science (AIIMS), Jodhpur have developed low-cost "talking gloves" for people with speech disability.

The patented device costs less than ₹ 5000 and it uses principles of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to automatically generate speech that will be language-independent and facilitate communication between mute people and non-disabled people.

According to the team, the device can help individuals convert hand gestures into text or pre-recorded voices, making a differently-abled person independent and communicating the message effectively.

"The language-independent speech generation device will bring people back to the mainstream in today's global era without any language barrier. Users of the device only need to learn once and they will be able to verbally communicate in any language with their knowledge," said Sumit Kalra, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Jodhpur.

Additionally, the device can be



customised to produce a voice similar to the original voice of the patient, which makes it appear more natural while using the device, Kalra said.

In the device, electrical signals are generated by a first set of sensors, wearable on a combination of a thumb, fingers, and a wrist of a first hand of a user. These electrical signals are produced by the combination of fingers, thumb, hand and wrist movements. Similarly, electrical signals are also generated by the second set of sensors on the other hand.

"These electrical signals are received at a signal processing unit. The magnitude of the received electrical signals is compared with a plurality of pre-defined combinations of magnitudes stored in a memory by using the signal processing unit," Kalra added.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cutting loose

After centuries under the British monarch, Barbados finally cuts ties to become a Republic

Barbados, in the Caribbean, is now a Republic, the world's latest. Importantly, it cuts off its ties with the British monarchy and with it, the last link to a brutal colonial past dating back to the 17th century. Barbados is the land of pristine beaches and glorious cricket, of Everton Weekes and Gary Sobers, Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, and Malcolm Marshall and Joel Garner. The Republic now shapes a new legacy, of democracy, and is a beacon light for the handful of countries that still remain tethered to their past colonisers. In 1627, Barbados became a British colony, dependent on a plantation economy run by slaves from Africa. Slavery was outlawed only in 1807. It became an independent State in 1966 but remained part of the Commonwealth Realm. The Realm, not to be confused with the Commonwealth of Nations, is a sovereign State with British Queen Elizabeth II as its monarch and Head of State. As of date, there are 15 such realms excluding Barbados. It severs its ties with its former coloniser on the 55th anniversary of its independence. The last Governor-General is now the first President of the country. Both are titular posts, but the latter represents the free will of the Barbadians. Its Prime Minister indicated the direction in which Barbados is moving and expects the world to move: "Barbadians want a Barbadian Head of State. This is the ultimate statement of confidence in who we are and what we are capable of achieving." Other Caribbean countries that exited the Realm are Guyana,



Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica. The new Republic rises at a time when Britain's colonial past is coming under scrutiny from its people and the Queen's family itself. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have urged the country to acknowledge its colonial past, however uncomfortable it might be, in order to move forward.

There are still several countries, many of them blips on the map, even today under the jurisdiction of the United States, France, Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and New Zealand apart from the UK. It is the emergence of these countries as independent republics that will conclude the clash between the colonists and colonies that spread a wave of decolonisation in the world throughout the 20th century, freeing so many colonies and restoring their independent rule, dignity and identity. Colonialism is exploitative and runs counter to the principle of equality and sovereignty, the cornerstones of the United Nations. The fact that the archaic mode of exploitative governance is still in vogue in some places even though it should not be, needs to be iterated in light of the Barbados example. The agenda of decolonisation is based on one principle alone: independence of a country from any form of external governance and independence of its people to have a free association with any form of Government. The 21st century expects the remaining countries to follow the Barbados model and embrace independence along with the human right of self-determination.

PICTALK



Indian Navy sailors participate in rehearsal parade for the Navy Day at Gateway of India, in Mumbai

PTI

Govt's harvest

The Government was hoping to browbeat the farmers but it got caught in its own game

The BJP-led Union Government has, as promised, passed a Bill to repeal the farm laws. But it must ask itself that one year down since the nation's farmers — especially those belonging to Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, and then their number went on rising steadily — rose virtually in revolt against the passage of the three farm laws, was all the trouble worth it? There was a siege at the Capital's entry points; there was vandalism and lawlessness on the ramparts of the Red Fort on a momentous day like the Republic Day and then, the biggest shocker proving the Centre's cavalier attitude, the Lakhimpur Kheri incident which claimed the lives of at least nine people. In the interim, several farmers committed death by suicide and a few were allegedly murdered while protesting on Delhi's borders against the "devilish" laws. Quite recently, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha leaders and Bharatiya Kisan Union chieftain Rakesh Tikait, during a rally in Lucknow, warned the Centre that their agitation would be prolonged unless their demands on issuing a guarantee on the MSP and sacking Union State Minister for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, besides doling out suitable legal punishment to his relatives, were not met.



The angry leaders had gone to West Bengal prior to the Assembly elections there and the embarrassing drubbing the Trinamool Congress handed out to the BJP is a matter of record. In the same vein, the still-unsatisfied farmers have now hinted that they would pool in their resources and might in the UP elections against the BJP. No wonder then that the Opposition parties have been overtly siding with the farmers and, now that the Centre has been forced to repeal the contentious farm laws right at the start of the winter session of Parliament ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls, are quick to jump at the chance and taunt the Government. While Congress president Sonia Gandhi and other leaders staged a protest outside Parliament on Monday before the Bill repealing the laws was passed, AIMIM supremo Asaduddin Owaisi mocked the BJP-led Government, saying it had repealed the laws now as it feared losing political capital and electoral advantage in the upcoming elections. All said and done, it now appears that the Government was indulging in upmanship and hoping to browbeat the farmers but it got caught in its own game and didn't know when to get off the ride. There is a lesson in this for all the stakeholders.

Is India working its way back in Nepal?



GEN ASHOK MEHTA

The black hole in India-Nepal relations remains the economic blockade of 2015 and New Delhi's grudging acceptance of the 2015 Constitution

Returning to Nepal after a 20-month COVID lockdown was not easy given the erratic flight schedules and hassles in border entry. A clear blue sky, glistening sunshine and a majestic Himalayan parade led by Machapuchhare and Annapurna welcomes us back to Pokhara. The two-year long power struggle in the largest communist alliance failed to deliver the political stability it was congenitally endowed with (two thirds majority) after Prime Minister KP Oli and former Prime Minister Prachanda parted ways much to the chagrin of China, paving the way for the ruling five-party democratic alliance led by Nepali Congress Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. The two governance issues, however, trouble the Government: the crisis in judiciary over impeachment of Chief Justice Cholendra Rana; and divisions over US Millennium Challenge Corporation award.

Dominating the political landscape are ongoing and forthcoming general conventions of CPN UML (Oli), Nepali Congress (Deuba) and CPN Maoist (Prachanda). The leaders named against parties are sure to return as chairman/president. In the next elections, the NC is aiming to emerge as the single largest party as Defence Minister Minendra Rijal explained: "we have a 36 per cent vote share which, by next year, will grow to nearly 40 per cent and with PR, we will win nearly 160 seats (in 275-member house)." The UML, which is the single largest party today with 93 seats, remains the most popular and stable party with a solid electoral base and Oli's charisma all intact. According to an Indian diplomat, the UML and NC could be neck and neck. Prachanda is accused of breaking the Left alliance giving the sympathy vote to Oli. Prachanda has urged the other breakaway faction — now CPN (Unified Socialists) led by former Prime Minister Madhav Nepal — to consider a pre-poll alliance so that they can emerge as the third largest party though Maoists have always aspired for second position. Some fear they may decline to fourth position if the



Janata Samajwadi Party (Upendra Yadav and Mahanta Thakur) can re-unite. But it is early days as the election is due only at the end of 2022.

The Chinese are very disappointed with Oli for not saving the Left alliance they helped cobble up and instead turning to India for salvation. But they are still in the game, though some feel Beijing has shot its bolt. Nepal is quite scared of China, especially after ominous warnings by President Xi Jinping from Kathmandu during his first visit in 2019. He said to the effect that anyone who dares to split China will be 'crushed' and those who attempt anti-China activities will have 'their bones shattered'. Two recent books by Nepali authors — Sanjay Upadhyay's *How India Lost Nepal to China* and Amish Raj Mulmi's *All Roads Lead North* illustrate China's high stake game in Nepal. While Beijing's capacity in reconstructing the Left alliance seems limited, as it is pitted against India and the US, it will not give up. Many see the MCC as part of the Indo-Pacific strategy to contain China which is why it is unlikely to pass muster in the present Parliament.

The black hole in India-Nepal relations remains the economic blockade of 2015 and New Delhi's grudging

acceptance of the 2015 constitution. After Prime Minister Modi's 2014-15 visits and his captivating speeches, expectations from India were very high but the opposite happened. Fortunately, some of the anti-India feeling has ricocheted to China due to its unabashed interference in domestic politics while trying to rescue the Left alliance. Shortly, Nepal which in 2017 was load-shedding upto 18-hours a day, will be in a position to export power to India though only a modest 39 MW and increase its sale capacity as power transmission lines are developed southwards. A tricky Oli legacy issue is incorporation of India's Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in Nepali maps which was legislated by a full House. Nepal is consulting India on methodology for conducting its 12th national census there without trespass of territory. Oli said last Sunday at the UML convention that if returned to power, he will get the land back from India through dialogue.

Some Nepalese told me that it is no longer a border issue but one of sovereignty. Like Pakistan sought J&K from India as a peace offering, Nepal also wants a grand gesture from India conceding Kalapani and other territory. They also complained about New Delhi suppressing the

Eminent Persons Group report. Meanwhile, Baba Ramdev was in Kathmandu last month and hosted by Nepal's cabinet. Although Deuba and Prachanda inaugurated the Patanjali TV station dedicated to yoga, Ramdev is seen as a Trojan horse for revival of Hindu rashtra. But the nationalists, Maoists and other republicans will obstruct restoration of any form of monarchy and Hindu State, even though Oli had announced last year that Ram was born in Chitwan Nepal. Many State and public buses carry bills that Buddha was born in Nepal to remind the Southern neighbour of the sanctity of ownership: be it Ram, Buddha or Kalapani. Still, strategic geography compels Kathmandu to discreetly follow an India first policy — like Maldives more openly and Sri Lanka cautiously — though China's shadow is a speed-breaker. Beijing would give its right arm to break the ruling democratic alliance and restore Left's primacy validating Upadhyay's theory that India has lost Nepal to China.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A LOOMING NEW THREAT

Sir — The Union Health Ministry revised guidelines mandating that all international passengers entering India have to submit 14-day travel details and upload a negative RT-PCR test report on the Air Suvidha portal before the journey. The new guidelines will come into effect from December 1. The RT-PCR test has to be taken within 72 hours of starting the journey. Travelers from countries 'at-risk', including the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore have created panic among Indian citizens and the Government is acting in full swing.

There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants. The RT-PCR tests continue to detect infection with Omicron — which was first detected in South Africa earlier this month — and studies are ongoing to determine whether there is any impact on rapid antigen detection tests. Until more information is available, it has become utmost important that we follow COVID protocols diligently and avoid unnecessary travel because we have just started to come out of the danger of the Delta variant and now a new one is knocking on the door.

MR Jayanthi Maniam | Ghaziabad

POLITICAL FESTIVITIES IN GOA

Sir — Midnight trysts, vocal denunciations, some detectable undercurrent of animosity and a fair amount of absurd theatrics seem to have added a splash of colour to the on-going election campaign in Goa. While such oddities tend to break the monotony of having the same set of faces staring down from election hoardings across the State term after term, the indecisive nature of all the parties with regard to the selection of its candidates is throwing up various possibilities. Moreover, with improved statistics of the arrivals and departures' to and from its folds, most of the parties should be pardoned for predicting their invincibility in the ensuing polls. Yet, despite the availability of so many alternatives at its disposal, the elec-

No debate in Parliament?



What transpired in Parliament on the first day of the winter session did our democracy not proud. Rigorous debate on issues of public importance and interest on the floor of Parliament is a salient feature of a vibrant democracy. But the Modi Government thought otherwise and repealed the farm laws at breakneck speed without any debate whatsoever in both Houses of Parliament and gave it the dubious distinction of being the fastest repeal ever in the annals of India's parliamentary history. It showed its scant respect for something as

basic as debate. It took just a few minutes for the Government to get the Bill repealing the farm laws passed in the Lok Sabha by voice vote amid sloganeering by the Opposition, a record of sorts. Alas, the Government was unwilling to mend its ways!

A democratic Government that refuses to allow or countenance debate cannot be said to be worth its salt and worthy of the adjective. The 'tyranny of majority', reflected in the repeal of laws without debate and the suspension of 12 Opposition MPs, does not equal democracy. The irony of it all is that the Parliament repealed the laws without a debate in utter disregard of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance in his customary brief address before the start of a session that his Government was ready to discuss all issues and answer all questions. The Parliament saw the inversion of Modi's counsel on 'debate and disruption'.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

torate continues to harbour the feeling that it has so little to choose from. These sentiments seem to stem from the fact that none of the political dispensations in the State, including the ruling, are absolutely certain of their electoral chances. Depending more on the rhetoric rather than an unpretentious approach, their leaders too have failed to put it across to the body of voters that they mean business. Basically it is the wish to remain a part of the winning combination, and also have an effective say in its affairs, that is driving most of the heavyweights, their party affiliations notwithstanding, to hold their cards close to their chests.

Pachu Menon | Margao

DON'T BE SOCIAL MEDIA SLAVES

Sir — Nowadays, most of the youngsters spend a lot of time on social media due to which they have, knowingly or unknowingly, become addicted to social media. Excessive use of social media applications such as Facebook, Instagram etc affect their daily routine and studies and

causes unhappiness and dissatisfaction without any significant reason. It also aggravates mental health issues such as anxiety and depression and can give rise to inferiority complex and even suicidal thoughts. It has become an issue of concern because it hampers students from achieving their goals.

How can we break out of social media slavery? Deleting social media applications is not a solution but we have to control the urge to scroll for hours. Instead, we can open a book that is as addictive but far more knowledge-giving. We should remove our phone from our morning routine, try not to post our personal information, turn off unnecessary notifications and keep the phone away as much as possible. By making these little changes in our habits, we can stop the addiction of social media and be happy for what we are.

Mitesh Rao | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Corruption in recruitment and paper leak has become the identity of the BJP Government.

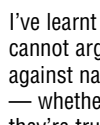


Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi



A very happy Chanukah to Jewish people in the UK and around the world who will be lighting the menorah this week.

UK Prime Minister — Boris Johnson



I've learnt that you cannot argue against narratives — whether or not they're true. People have a certain fixed notion.

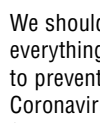


Actor — Saif Ali Khan



We have to have faith in our spinners and know they can really put the Kiwis under pressure.

Indian batsman — Shreyas Iyer



We should do everything possible to prevent the new Coronavirus variant from entering India.



Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN ON THE MOVE BUT REACHING WHERE?

The islands of prosperity will find it difficult to survive in a sea of deprivation and dissonance



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Globally there are several health and economic crises. They are not always stable geographically. As the health crisis of one region recedes, it could surface in another. Same with economic crises. Not enough data is available for any cogent reflection or scientific analysis. Yet, for insights, analyse we must. The bottom line is clear: health crises and economic crises are in many ways inter-linked. The economic crises reduce the resources available and the health crises impede any long-range view. In such a situation, power play becomes inevitable and unabashed. The sectors and conglomerates which have gained out of the pandemic are being increasingly identified. The pharmaceutical industry has gained like never before. Some financial investors with a flair for investment have struck it rich, again, like never before. In spite of the understandable push for vaccination, there are patches in the African sub-continent which are still relatively immune from the virus even without vaccination. The data which the media feeds is often focussed on territories where tools of analysis can be applied. The territories outside this framework of analysis are large. This would definitionally make a global pattern read-



ing a huge challenge. Add to this the normal economic need of food, shelter and clothing. They have their own logic and one could say compulsions. In the case of India, the growth rate between 2019 and 2020 has been five per cent. In the preceding five years, it was seven per cent. If the forecasts have to be believed, the likely rate will probably go down for the current year to the lowest level since 1991. This kind of situation will have a direct or ripple effect on everyone. Even the organisations, entities and business groups who have struck it rich in the last two years are going to be affected. Putting it simply, islands of prosperity will find it difficult to survive in a sea of deprivation and dissonance. While the above is a derivation of simple logic, in the present context, logic itself appears to be a bit of a casualty.

This is so because the tools to do a logical think-through are probably inadequate. The seemingly contradictory evidence which keeps surfacing, even with reference to the virus, will take time to settle down. The implications of that kind of situation are comprehensible for policy formulation. This holds true even in relatively removed sectors, like farming. There is no apparent correlation between the virus effect and the framing of the three farming laws. The withdrawal of the farming laws and the reasons which led to it are still in the domain of speculation, debate and what can at best be called my-guess-is-better-than-yours. Evidence-based policy formulation is not always possible in times such as the present one. The scientific method further goes for a bump in the absence of any precedence of the present context. Yet, this cannot be the reason for giving up an attempt to be logical. What one does know is that in the first wave of COVID-19 in India, around April 2020, there was evidence of a two-speed economy. During that time, the rural sector was flourishing. There was technology upgradation; low ticket electronic items graduated to become essential commodities; mobile phones moved centre stage. As compared to this, the urban sector was floundering. Interestingly, the agricultural/rural sector which had no restrictions and no hindrances registered a 3.6 per cent growth in that period. Where was the disruption? The best which can be said is that that the present situation is of work-in-progress.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

Repeal of farm laws: PM Modi's volte-face



UTTAM GUPTA

The arthiyas, large farmers and traders have successfully protected their turf while small farmers, who constitute the overwhelming majority, have lost

On November 19, 2021, announcing his Government's decision to repeal the contentious three farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologized for not being able to convince a section of the farmers about the benefits that these laws would bring them. Are these laws so complex as to become incomprehensible to the farmer?

The "Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land and Livestock Holdings of Households in Rural India", SAS in short, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), covering the period July 2018 to June 2019, reveals widespread dissatisfaction among farmers with the price realized from sale of their produce. Their highest dissatisfaction is with sales in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee or APMCs mandi (marketplace notified under the State APMC Act) followed by sales 'private local market'. Nearly 83 percent farmers sell their produce in these two outlets.

The low price from sale in APMC has to do with extant State laws under which farmers can sell their produce only in the 'designated' mandi. In the mandi, the arthiyas — local term for commission agents — arrange for the auction and delivery of the produce. They and the licensed trader/buyer rule the roost. The duo ensure that the farmers get a low price and even then faces problems like rejection of crop, crop deliberately weighed less, payments delayed, etc. Levies such as market fee, arthiyas' commission and rural development cess (RDC) further add to their woes.

As for sales in the private local market, though legally it is barred, small farmers who normally donot have access to the APMC are forced to sell to the very traders who dominate the mandi and at throw-away prices. The latter have the blessings of corrupt bureaucrats and politicians and hence, do not face any action for violating the State law.

In short, under the existing State APMC laws, farmers face a raw deal. The only way they can get a fair deal is to give them a chance to sell in other outlets. In the past, States had made some moves in this direction: 20 States have allowed contract farming; 23 States allow 'direct purchase' from farmers; 22 States/UTs allow private wholesale markets, while 15 have excluded fruits and vegetables from the APMC Act. These are piecemeal efforts and are far from giving unfettered access especially to small farmers who account for over 80 per cent of the total. The three central laws fill the existing void as these legitimize sales on all non-APMC platforms without disturbing the APMC mandis.

There is nothing in these laws that farmers do not understand. Even if there was anything that was too complex, that must have been understood during the



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



marathon talks the Union ministers had with them. The latter had even agreed to make several amendments as demanded by the former. Besides showing willingness to make more amendments, the Prime Minister went a step ahead to offer to defer implementation of the laws for a period of up to two years.

Despite so much accommodation shown by the establishment, if the farmers' leaders wanted nothing less than 'repeal', it has to do with the stony desire of a certain class of farmers (those with large land holdings) from Punjab and Haryana and the arthiyas to maintain their dominance in sale and purchase and keep potential competition from other entities at bay.

The central agencies procure 30 percent of wheat and rice produced in the country albeit at the minimum support price (MSP). Nearly 30 percent of wheat production comes from Punjab and Haryana whereas in rice, their share is 14 percent. However, in their total procurement, the agencies pick up 60 percent of wheat and 35 percent of rice from these two states alone. Furthermore, almost all of this comes from large farmers. This class of farmers apprehends, if the field is opened for all, they will lose this privilege.

As for arthiyas, they too have a vested interest in protecting their commission as well as exercising control over the small farmers. If the latter get a chance to sell at non-APMC outlets, the former will lose control over what we may term as

the golden goose (taking grains from the small farmers at throw-away price and making a windfall by selling at high rates; they also lend money to those very farmers at high rates and earn huge interest income).

The arthiyas and big farmers and traders have succeeded in protecting their turf even as the small farmers who constitute the overwhelming majority have lost. A collateral damage is in terms nipping in the bud any chance of increasing private investment in agri-infrastructure — a pre-requisite for ensuring sustainable growth of this most crucial sector. This is baffling but it has happened. Here are the plausible reasons.

First, while staying implementation of the laws in January, 2021, the Supreme Court had set up a Committee to recommend the way forward after consulting all stakeholders including farmers. In its report submitted in March, 2021, the Committee reportedly favored the three laws. But the court has kept the issue hanging.

Second, in public discourse, the farmers are projected as a homogenous entity, without recognizing the vast disparity between the large and small farmers in terms of assets, income, etc. This enables the large farmers to call the shots. The small farmers being unorganized, their voice is not even heard.

Third, the big farmer/trader lobby has also succeeded in obfuscating the issues. For instance, they aver 'a wheat farmer receives

just about half the MSP of Rs 1975 per quintal' thereby signaling that this is what the Centre's laws have delivered. The reality is that 'the laws are not even in force, courtesy the stay granted by the SC'.

Four, they have managed to distract the attention of small farmers from the 'real cause' behind their plight namely the oppressive State APMC laws and making them believe that MSP guaranteed by a Central law is a panacea for all their woes.

To conclude, with the repeal of the three laws, agri-market reforms have reached a dead end. There is no hope of resurrecting these in the near term (a Committee set up by Modi to see 'how MSP can be made more effective' is a sheer cosmetic). Meanwhile, in view of farmers' leaders raising more demands and Government being on the defensive, the country could be entering a dangerous zone.

A legal guarantee for MSP has the potential of making the national exchequer bankrupt, overstraining the handling and storage facilities, increasing wastage manifold and embarrassing India at the WTO as food subsidy (albeit trade distorting) to farmers balloons. The exemption for farmers from the Electricity (Amendment) Act will lead to bleeding power distribution companies and ever-increasing stress on State finances. Their exemption from laws on climate will not only add to pollution but also send a wrong signal to the world community.

Will Modi muster the courage to stem the slide?

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION. WE WANT QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND ALSO PEACE.
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



HOLLOW WORDS, MR PRIME MINISTER. YOU RAN AWAY FROM DISCUSSING #PEGASUS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISRUPTING THE MONSOON SESSION.
—TMC LEADER
DEREK O'BRIEN

India's super growth journey high on debt

Steering the country is not easy. It is true that international organisations are cautious while the Government feels that its efforts are being stymied

India joins the world aiming for a super growth on a high debt and infra push for an economic panacea.

India's heavy investment over ₹233.08 lakh crore investment in infrastructure, including ₹10,500-crore Jewar airport adjacent to Delhi, is officially expected to give a major boost to the economy.

India is not alone. The entire world is trying to do that. The result is hyper-growth in world debt to \$226 trillion. In its 2021 Fiscal Monitor report, the IMF said India's debt increased from 68.9 per cent of its GDP in 2016 to 89.6 per cent in 2020. It is projected to jump to 90.6 per cent in 2021 and then decline to 88.8 per cent in 2022, to gradually reach 85.2 per cent in 2026.



SHIVAJI SARKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Jewar has accelerated a process of development in UP with an eye on the state elections. It may make this part of the National Capital Region one of the most crowded places inviting large number of migrants that may stretch local resources.

The severe crash in the stock market has added a new concern. The nation hopes to fly on expectations but airport projects, high altitude Himalayan development, large-scale tree felling and acquisition of farm lands raise ecological concerns. But a nation striving hard to come out of the Coronavirus pandemic is looking for faster development so that there is cash flow.

The Government expanded the 'National Infrastructure



Pipeline (NIP)' to 7,400 projects. According to Department of Industry and Internal Trade, 217 projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore (\$ 15.09 billion) were completed as of 2020. Through the NIP, the government invested \$ 1.4 trillion in infrastructure development as of July 2021.

However, the more investment is made in infrastructure, the more the nation's cost to deliver. Unless there is an overall growth in activities — from industry to agriculture

— the benefits become expensive to afford.

The IMF says that constraints on financing are particularly severe for poorer countries. Noting that in 2020, fiscal policy proved its worth, IMF director for fiscal affairs Vitor Gaspar says the increase in public debt in 2020 was fully justified by the need to respond to COVID-19 and its economic, social, and financial consequences. But the increase is expected to be one-off, he said. So how to bring down the debt is the question. Debt dynamics are driven by a strong contribution from nominal GDP growth, accompanied by a much more gradual reduction in the primary deficit, he said.

The IMF said risks to the fiscal outlook are elevated.

This calls for India to review its policies. Let us not forget that the 2007-08 global meltdown followed an unsustainable financial behaviour.

The results would be high inflationary tendencies that would add to costs further and create an unstable global economy leading to more conflicts. India's inflation has risen to 12.5 per cent. Prices are rising, wages too would be rising and a cycle of inflation may continue.

This is also being seen in a regime of high taxations and high penalties on cars and car uses across the country. The silliest is the clampdown on outside state registered vehicles in Bihar, and HSRP plates. These are ignored as small issues but these small things are making lives of people dif-

ficult. User charges are being recklessly increased. At some private railway stations, parking charges are going through the roof. Ostensibly, nobody can be blamed as 'the prices are rising' but that needs a holistic review.

The IMF projects growth at 9.5 per cent in FY2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in FY2022-23. Headline inflation sees elevated price pressures. The contraction in economic activity, lower revenue, and pandemic-related support measures are estimated to have led to a widening of the fiscal deficit to 8.6 and 12.8 per cent of GDP in FY2020-21 for the central and state governments, respectively.

But the IMF is concerned that despite policy support, bank credit growth has

remained subdued, while large corporates have benefited from easier conditions in capital markets. Net inflows and improvement in the current account have supported an increase in foreign exchange reserves. The current account balance is projected to remain in deficit as oil prices rise.

The overall toned down IMF report indicates not an easy situation in the coming years.

Steering the country is not easy. It is true that international organisations are cautious while the government feels that their efforts are being stymied. India hopes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts belie the IMF and infra push takes the country to the targeted growth.

‘Omicron shows need for global accord on pandemics’

Geneva: The World Health Organization on Monday is pushing for an international accord to help prevent and fight future pandemics amid the emergence of a Omicron.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said many uncertainties

remain about just how transmissible and severe infection by the highly mutated Omicron might be. Tedros joined leaders like outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera for a long-planned and largely virtual special session of

the UN health agency’s member states. The gathering is aimed at devising a global action plan toward preventing, preparing and responding to future pandemics.

“The emergence of the highly mutated omicron variant underlines just how per-

ilous and precarious our situation is,” Tedros said, calling for a “legally binding” agreement that wasn’t mentioned in a draft text seeking consensus on the way forward. “Indeed, omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics.” **AP**

Wary, weary world slams doors shut, fearing Omicron

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Taking an act-now-ask-questions-later approach, countries around the world slammed their doors shut again to try to keep the new omicron variant at bay on Monday as more cases of the mutant coronavirus emerged and scientists raced to figure out just how dangerous it might be.

Japan announced it would bar entry of all foreign visitors, joining Israel in doing so just days after the variant was identified by researchers in South Africa. Morocco banned all incoming flights. Other countries, including the US and European Union members, have moved to prohibit travelers arriving from southern Africa.

Travelers infected with the new version have turned up in a cascading number of countries over the past few days, and new cases in Portugal and Scotland have raised fears that the variant may already be spreading locally.

“Many of us might think we are done with Covid-19. It’s not done with us,” warned Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO.

The infections showed the near impossibility of keeping the genie in the bottle in a globalised world of travel and open borders.



People wearing protective masks to help curb the spread of the coronavirus take photos as they walk through the row of ginkgo trees along a sidewalk as the trees and sidewalk are covered with the bright yellow leaves on Monday in Tokyo **AP**

Japan bans entry of foreign visitors as omicron spreads

Tokyo: As cases of a new coronavirus variant are confirmed around the world, Japan announced Monday that it will suspend entry of all foreign visitors, joining an increasing number of countries that are tightening their borders as fear spreads of yet another extension of pandemic suffering.

Japan, which has yet to detect any cases of the recently identified omicron variant, reimposed border controls that it eased earlier this month for short-term business visitors, foreign students and workers. **AP**

Scotland detects 6 cases of Omicron

UK total rises to 11

London: Six cases of the new Covid-19 Omicron variant have been identified in Scotland, taking the UK’s total to 11 following three cases in England last week and two in London on Monday. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said the latest two cases found in Camden and Wandsworth areas of London have links to travel in southern Africa.

Earlier on Monday, the Scottish Government said four cases have been found in Lanarkshire and two in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. While all of England’s detected cases have a travel link with southern Africa, some of the people identified in

Scotland have no travel history and may have caught the potentially highly transmissible variant in the community.

“On some of the cases, we are aware that there is no travel history involved. So, what that tells us is that there must be a degree of community transmission of this particular strain of the virus,” Scotland Deputy First Minister John Swinney told the BBC in reference to the cases detected in Scotland.

But the Minister reiterated that it is too early to say whether even tougher social distancing norms may be required against what is feared to be a potentially highly infectious variant and its response to current vaccines is yet to be fully determined. **PTI**

Australia delays relaxing border, 5th Omicron case reported

Canberra: Australian authorities announced on Monday that they would delay plans to relax border restrictions by at least two weeks, as the country reported its fifth case of the omicron Covid-19 variant.

New South Wales state authorities reported on Sunday that two travelers from South Africa to Sydney had become Australia’s first cases of the new variant. Both were fully vaccinated, showed no symptoms and were in quarantine in Sydney.

On Monday, another two Sydney cases were confirmed after arriving in Australia’s most populous state on a flight from southern Africa on Sunday, the State Government said. **AP**

Portugal probes local transmission of omicron at soccer team

Lisbon: Portuguese health authorities on Monday identified 13 cases of Omicron, the new coronavirus variant spreading fast globally, among members of a top soccer club and were investigating whether it was one of the first reported cases of local transmission of the virus outside of southern Africa.

The Ricardo Jorge National Health Institute said that one of those who tested positive was a player from the Lisbon-based Belenenses SAD soccer club who had recently traveled to South Africa, where the omicron variant was first identified. The others had not reportedly traveled to southern Africa, where most of the cases have been recorded so far. **AP**

Israeli PM urges world powers to resist Iran’s ‘blackmail’

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel’s Prime Minister on Monday called on world powers not to “give in to Iran’s nuclear blackmail” as negotiations commenced in Vienna.

Naftali Bennett said in a video statement that was delivered to representatives of nations opening negotiations with Iran that Tehran seeks “to end sanctions in exchange for almost nothing” and keep its

nuclear program intact while receiving hundreds of billions of dollars once sanctions are lifted. The video was obtained by *The Associated Press*.

Negotiators from Iran and world powers were meeting in Vienna on Monday to resume talks aimed at reviving a 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has ramped up its uranium enrichment since the United States withdrew from the landmark nuclear agreement between

world powers and Iran in 2018.

Israel vocally opposed that agreement, and Israeli officials now say Tehran is closer than ever to developing nuclear arms, something it will not abide. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is visiting London and Paris this week to discuss Iran with British and French officials. Defense Minister Benny Gantz will head to Washington this week with the same aim.



ON 2ND TRY, SWEDES ELECT 1ST FEMALE PM
Copenhagen (Denmark): Magdalena Andersson, who last week was Sweden’s first female Prime Minister for a few hours before resigning because a budget defeat made a coalition partner quit, was elected again on Monday as the Nordic nation’s head of Government. In a 101-173 vote with 75 abstentions, the 349-seat Riksdag elected Andersson, leader of the Social Democrats, as Prime Minister.

OPPOSITION IN KYRGYZSTAN CHALLENGES POLL RESULTS
Moscow: Scores of Opposition supporters in Kyrgyzstan rallied to challenge the results of a parliamentary election that was swept by parties loyal to the country’s President.

RUSSIAN TEST-FIRES HYPERSONIC MISSILE
Moscow: Russia’s navy successfully test-fired a prospective hypersonic missile, the military. The Defence Ministry said on Monday that the Admiral Gorchkov frigate in the White Sea launched the Zircon cruise missile, hitting a practice target 400 kilometers away.

PUBLIC NOTICE					
		Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005			
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date	
1.	Rakesh Bansal, Renu Bansal, Rajesh Bansal, Bansal Traders, F 26/99 Sector -7 Gf, Rohini, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002063291	Property No 65 B, Block-F Pocket-26 Sec-7 Rohini Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 17,83,837/-	31/01/2021	
2.	Shyam Verma, Pooja., B-80-A Nand Gram, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBGHZ00004040968	Flat No E 502, 5th Floor, Tower-E, Brave-Hearts, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs.16,04,287.99/-	31/12/2020	
3.	Bharat Bhushan, Sonia Dutta, C1926 Sushant Lok-1, Chakarpur 74, DLF Qe Gurgaon, DLF Qe, Gurgaongurgaon A/c No:- LBGUR00002889490	Flat No B1 102, 1st Floor Aagan Tower B1 Sec 88a and 89 A Gurgaon	17/07/2021 Rs.16,51,030/-	31/01/2021	
4.	Upendra Singh Marwaria, H- Skytech Matrott 204 Flr, Noida, A/c No:- LBDEL00004797942	Unit No H 204, 2nd Floor Skytech Matrott Plot No Gh 01/ D L Sector 76 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/08/2021 Rs. 17,24,379/-	31/01/2021	
5.	Amit Kumar Mathur,supriya Mathur, Sumit Kumar Malviya , Vision India Ayurved (P) Ltd, B 298 Block B Dda Flats, Binda Pur New Delhi, DDA Flats, Bind Pur, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002440117	Flat No 298, Type A, Block B, PKT 3, Bindapur, Delhi	03-07-2021 Rs. 15,96,683/-	06/02/2021	
6.	Anurag Dwivedi, Vandana Dwivedi, B-123 Panchwati Appt., Plot No B 09/9 Sec-62, Near Fortis Hospital, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00001948871	Flat No-0102, Floor-1, Tower-A6, Unihomes-3, Plot No- Gh001, Sector-113, Noida	17/07/2021 Rs. 17,29,545/-	02/12/2020	
7.	Shafkat Ahmed Qadri, Afza Qadri, F-4, Lajpat Nagar-II, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00001056903	FLAT NO. II- F-/95, SECOND FLOOR, LAJPAT NAGAR-2, DELHI	04/08/2021 Rs.18,62,664.07/-	31/01/2021	
8.	Neeraj Jaiswal, Mulchand Jayaswal, House No 112 B, Bonjha Patel Nagar, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBGHZ00003603575	Flat No 1008, 10th Floor Moti Residency Tower C And D Village Morta Ghaziabad	17/07/2021 Rs.15,21,267/-	31/01/2021	
9.	Krishna Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, 29 3rd Floor, Sunlight Colony No 1, Behind Darshana House, Delhimaharani Bagh A/c No:- LBFBD00002892673	Plot No B 103, 1st Floor Sec 82 Floridaa Group Housing Scheme Bhatola Faridabad	17/07/2021 Rs. 15,16,051/-	31/01/2021	
10.	Vishal Sudera, Vijay Kumar Sudera, 69 3rd Floor Amrit Nagar South Extn, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002312134	Flat No 1105 11th Floor Tower C3, Golf Village Ts 05 Sector 22d Yamuna Expressway Gautam Budha Nagar Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,90,909/-	28/02/2021	
11.	Kumari Sonam, Amit Kumar, H No- 719 Sector- 10, Gurgaon, Haryana, 122001, Gurgaon, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBGUR00004280382	Flat No F102, 1st Floor Suncity Avenue 102 Tower F Sector 102 Gurgaon	31/07/2021 Rs. 14,43,502.99/-	24/02/2021	
12.	Pankaj Saxena, Namrata Asthana, 81-C Pocket -2 , Sector-6, Delhidwarka A/c No:- LBDEL00001718135	81-C, Second Floor, DDA SFS Flat Cat-2 Pocket-2 Sec-6 Dwarka Delhi	17/07/2021 Rs.15,20,636/-	31/12/2020	
13.	Vidya Singh, Hemant Kumar Singh, R 21 Rail Enclave Sector 12 Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBGHZ00002240339	G/Uh-1108 11th Floor, Tower-G Urban Homes Nh-24 Village- Shahpur Bhameta Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 15,28,767.99/-	31/12/2020	
14.	Sharad Yadav, Shashi Yadav, A 768 Gd Colony Mayour, Vihar 3 Vashundhra Enclave Del, Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002963186	Flat No KI 10, 2nd Floor Tower Plaza Plot No CS 04/ Gh 01 Sec 04 Galaxy Plaza Greater Noida Noida	31/07/2021 Rs. 14,43,623.74/-	18/02/2021	
15.	Rahul Singh, Devyani Rajan, R S Construction, Flat No. 1405, 14th Floor, Block-0simo, Mahagun, Mansion-II, 1/4, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBGHZ00001490694	1405, Mahagun Mansion, 1/4, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 17,96,393/-	31/01/2021	
16.	Abhishek Madan, Sonia Madan, 6th Avenue Gaur City, 1 Gr Noida W, G B Nagar Up, Noida, A/c:- LBDEL00003053873	Flat No 692, 6th Avenue Gc 06 Gaur City Plot No Gh-01 Sec 4 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301	28-06-2021 Rs. 14,50,093/-	30/12/2020	
17.	Ravin Agrawal, Yatin Agrawal, Flat No 302 Acc 1903 Prp 22846 Unit, Dubai, A/c No:- LBGHZ00004093949	Flat No 1001, 10th Floor, Plot No- Gc-03K, Sector 16c Vip Homes-merideain B Greater Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,89,070/-	31/01/2021	
18.	Pramod Sharma, Rajender Prashad, H No-32, Rasulpur Nawada, Sec-62 Airtel Tower, G.B Nagar, Noida, G.B Nagar, A/c No:- LBNOD00005208952	Plot No 19, Block P Sector 63A Noida	31/07/2021 Rs. 14,33,730/-	22/03/2021	
19.	Alok Dwivedi, Richa Dwivedi, 229 Asha Pushp Vihar Kaushmbi, Radisson Blue Hotel, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad- 201010 A/c:- LBDEL00004911625	Flat No -2633, 25th Floor Furtune Tower, Mahagun Montage Dundhahera Plot No Gh 3 Crossing Republik Village Ghaziabad- 201010	25-06-2021 Rs. 14,25,224.31/-	31/01/2021	
20.	Om Singh, Awanish Kumar, Ward Pama Anchal Patargha Kali Mandir Pa, Saharsa, Saharsa A/c No:- LBDEL00004978476	Unit No 710, C/o Om Prakash Singh At Mauza Pama Registry Saharsa Ward No 16 Thana No 145 Tauzi No 5820 Thana Saur Bazar Saharsa Khata No 741 Khesra No 710 Sub Madhepura	17/07/2021 Rs. 14,64,616/-	31/01/2021	
21.	Rajan Ahuja, Preeti Ahuja, Villa No-66 Block-5, 2nd Floor, Eros Garden Charmwood Village, Faridabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00001765203	Flat No 1-1 Second Floor, Block-5th, Plot No-66 Eros Garden Colony, Suraj Kund Road Haryana Faridabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,82,292/-	31/01/2021	
22.	Yogendra Pal Singh, Suneeta Pal, B 9 Jal Nigam, Colony Raj Nagar- Ghaziabad, A/c No:- LBNOD00002271959	Flat No D/ Uh 602, 6th Floor Tower D Urban Homes Village- Shahpur Bamhetta Nh-24 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,16,375/-	31/01/2021	
23.	Seema Bhatia, Gourav Sharma, K 009 Vivek Vihar Sector 82 Noida, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00002388355	Flat No 808, 8th Floor Tower-A1 Supertech Up Country TS-01 Sec-17A Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,86,771.99/-	31/01/2021	
24.	Shailendra K Singh, Sangeeta Singh, Pollucon Technologies Limited, B-3/248, Noida, Sector-34, Noida, A/c No:- LBDEL00001925548	105, Plot No-10, PKT- P2, Sector- Omega-I, Ph- I, Greenwood, Govt Officers, Welfare Society, Greater Noida Noida	31/07/2021 Rs. 15,29,946/-	12/01/2021	
25.	Dharma Veer Singh, Dinesh Chandra, Alka., 481/12, Geeta Bhawan, Krishna Colony Sec 7 Ext, Gurgaon, Gurgaon A/c No:- LBDEL00003660283	Flat No-10014, 10th Floor, Tower- D2 Raheja Krishna Housing Tower D1A, Village Raisika Sector 14 Gurgaon	17/07/2021 Rs. 13,14,642/-	31/12/2020	
26.	Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Pooja Gupta, H No 355/a/c 3rd Floor Budh Vihar Munirika Village, Munirika Village, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00005038042	Flat No 21, Ground Floor Pockt 2 Block A6 Sector G2 Nareladelhi	03/07/2021 Rs. 12,74,048/-	31/10/2020	
27.	Sharad Anurag Pandey, Vani Vilas Pandey, NPCC Po Box-2058 Badge-14872 Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, A/c No:- LBNOD00003021487	Flat No-1901, 19th Floor Crossing Republik Plot No Gh-04 Gaur Global Village Dundahera Ghaziabad	04/08/2021 Rs. 14,11,377/-	06/02/2021	
28.	Sujit Saha, Sumana*, Flat No- 704, 7th Floor Tower, Parsvnath Edens- II, Plot No- Gh- 05, Sector-Alpha- II Greater Noida, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00001849487	Flat No- 704, 7th Floor, Tower- A, Parsvnath Edens Plot No:- Gh- 05, Sector-Alpha- II Greater Noida, Noida	14/07/2021 Rs. 13,65,044.5/-	31/01/2021	
29.	Veena Malik, Shalender Malik, A2/772 Block A2 Keshav Puram Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBGHZ00002361296	Flat No 51, LIG Second Floor Pocket C Sector 82 Group 1 Narela Delhi Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 13,58,848/-	31/12/2020	
30.	Amit Tiwari, Gitanjali Sharma,1/4 New Moti Nagar New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002024415	Flat No-810 8th Floor, Tower-H Plot No- Gh-12/2 Sector Zeta A-1	31/07/2021 Rs.12,83,796/-	31/12/2020	
31.	Sunil Kumar Upadhyay, Chetali Sharma, 307 H No 505, Premnagar Sector 12 Opp, Raj Cinema Gurgaon, Gurgaon, A/c No:- LBGUR00002098015	C2-00-0004, Block C Unittech South Park, No C2-00-0004 Gurgaon	04/08/2021 Rs.12,99,383/-	11/01/2021	
32.	Akash Mishra,indra Mishra, Flat No- B 1/26 SF-2 DLF Ankur Vihar Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00004963351	Flat No 140199, 12th Floor Tower-V 14th Avenue Plot No Gc 12 And Gc 14 Gh03 Sector 16cgreater Noida Noida 201307	28-06-2021 Rs. 12,73,948.98/-	31/01/2021	
33.	Warsha Kumari Singh, Abhishek Anand,125-A/2, 2nd Floor Govind Puri Kalkaji New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBNOD00002198808	Flat No 907 9th Floor, Block-B Gayatri Aura Plot No Gh-11 Sector-1 Greater Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 13,13,463/-	31/01/2021	
34.	Narinder Kumar, Sunita Kumari, B /39, Humayun Pur Village, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002372428	Flat No 54, 4th Floor Block B 10 Pocket 8 Sector 23 B Dwarka Delhi	17/07/2021 Rs.13,12,454/-	31/01/2021	
35.	Santosh Kumar Awasthi, Manju Awasthi, 80, Tilak Khand, Giri Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00001342686	Flat No Ske 106, 1st Floor, Shipra Krishna, 14 Ahinsa Khnad, Ghaziabad	23/07/2021 Rs.1251177.11/-	31/01/2021	
36.	Satendra Singh, Arpna Singh, B-82 Meadows Vista Raj Nagar Ext Morta N H 58 Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBGHZ00002862052	Flat No 082, 8th Floor Tower B Meadows, Vista Village, Morta Parganadasna, Jalalabad, Kh No 240, Ghaziabad	14/07/2021 Rs. 13,45,534/-	31/01/2021	
37.	Rakesh Chaudhary, Madhu., Flat No.-1087 Block-D, Type-A DDA Flat, Bindapura Uttam Nagar, D.K Mohan Garden Dwarka, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00004411684	DDA LIG, Expandable Flat No 1087 Block D Pocket-3 Type-A Bidnapur Delhi	04/08/2021 Rs. 12,78,246.2/-	11/01/2021	
38.	Veena Sharma, Lalit Kishore Sharma, A-63, Second Floor, South City-II, Sohna, Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon, Gurgaon A/c No:- LBDEL00001491747	Flat No.2004, Type-A, 2nd Floor, Block A Srikrishna Lok, Vrindavan Mathura	14/07/2021 Rs. 12,44,387/-	31/12/2020	
39.	Rama Shanker,abhishek Raghuvanshi, B-10A/61B Udaigiri Apartment Sector 34 Noida, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00002901976	Flat No-1403, 14th Floor Block A2, Ecovillage 1 Plot No 8 Sector-1 Greater Noida Noida	04/08/2021 Rs. 13,82,550.17/-	31/01/2021	
40.	Rajeev Bahuguna, Ipsita Bahuguna, L 1204 Prateek Wisteria, Sec 77, Noida, Noida, A/c No:- LBNOD00003418712	Flat No 1204, 12th Floor, Tower L, Prateek Wisteria Plot No Gh 01 Sector 77 Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/08/2021 Rs. 11,98,589/-	31/07/2020	
41.	Poonam Vijaykumar Mishra, Vijaykumar Deonath Mishra, 12 D, Mesh, New Navy Nagar, Colaba, Mumbai, Mumbai, A/c:- LBMUM00002907494	Flat No 402, 4th Floor, Cosmo City Silvassa Khanvel Road, Dadra Nagar, Havelis No 537 538, Silvassa	14/07/2021 Rs. 12,06,586/-	31/01/2021	
42.	Arun Kumar, Sushma Devi, Vijay Kumar, C-96-B Gali No-2 Madhu Vihar, Gali No. 2, Madhu Vihar, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002383746	Flat No 27, First Floor Block-C11 Pocket 4 Sector-34 Rohini Delhi Delhi	17/07/2021 Rs.11,80,054/-	11/01/2021	
43.	Deepa., Shekhar Upreti, 105/A Jindal Colony, Samalaka Extn, Samalkha, South West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00004503290	Flat No-914, 9th Floor Tower 2 Grand Iva Tower 2 Village Daultabad Sector-103 Gurgaon	17/07/2021 Rs.11,64,691/-	11/01/2021	
44.	Satya Prakash, Shyam Lal, M-36 Aruna Nagar Civil Lines, Civil Lines North Delhi, North Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002377664	Flat No-9, Second Floor Block-B 13 Pocket-1 Sector-34 Rohini Delhi Delhi	31/07/2021 Rs. 11,18,709/-	06/03/2021	
45.	Praveen Kumar Arora, Vandana Arora, Chand Arora, G-3/22 Block G Pocket-3, Sector 11 Rohini, New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:- LBDEL00002914333	Property No 22, Block G3, First Floor Without Roof Rights, Pocket- G Sector 11 Rohini Delhi	31/07/2021 Rs. 11,29,085.8/-	11/01/2021	
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.					
Date : November 30, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR				Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited	

PUBLIC NOTICE
“To be known to all that I Rajeev Kaushal S/o late Dharan Pal R/o 54-B, UNA CGHS Ltd. Plot No.11, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091 have inherited flat No.54-B, UNA CGHS Ltd. Plot No.11, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091 on the basis of regd. Relinquishment Deed dated 24.02.2021, after the death of Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Late Amar Chand Choudhary, who was the actual owner of the above flat and was died intestate having no Class-I legal heirs. I have applied to the DDA for substitution/mutation and conversion freehold of the aforesaid flat vide application dated 05.10.2021. Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection, may write/contact with above named person at above address/Mobile No.7982523858 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. This person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to the Dy. Director, (GH) or Director(RL), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi. (Rajeev Kaushal).

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS P.P. Jayaprakash was the owner of Residential Flat No. T1-301 B2, admeasuring around 1025 Sq. Ft. of super area, on Third Floor in Type B-2, situated in the Residential Complex known as “Parsvnath Majestic Tower”, Plot No. 18 A, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Uttar Pradesh. WHEREAS the said P.P. Jayaprakash has died on 25.09.2020. WHEREAS Mrs. Sudha Jayaprakash, Ms. Kirthy Jayaprakash and Mr. Nikhil Jayaprakash are the only legal heirs of the said Late P.P. Jayaprakash. WHEREAS Mrs. Sudha Jayaprakash, Ms. Kirthy Jayaprakash and Mr. Nikhil Jayaprakash, legal heirs of the said Late P.P. Jayaprakash intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the only legal heirs of the said P.P. Jayaprakash. If any person is having any objection against the transfer of said property Residential Flat No. T1-301 B2, admeasuring around 1025 Sq. Ft. of super area, on Third Floor in Type B-2, situated in the Residential Complex known as “Parsvnath Majestic Tower”, Plot no. 18 A, Vaibhav Khand,

No proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has no proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency in the country, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a reply to the Lok Sabha on Monday.

She also informed the House that the Government does not collect data on Bitcoin transactions.

Whether the Government has any proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency in the country, the Finance Minister said “No, sir”.

Bitcoin is a digital currency that allows people to buy goods and services and exchange money without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties.

It was introduced in 2008 by an unidentified group of programmers as a cryptocurrency as well as an electronic payment system. It is reportedly the first decentralised digital currency where peer-to-peer transactions take place

without any intermediary.

Meanwhile, the government plans to introduce the Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill 2021 in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. The Bill seeks to ban all but a few private cryptocurrencies to promote underlying technologies while allowing an official digital currency by RBI.

In reply to another question, Sitharaman said, ministries and departments have spent Rs 2.29 lakh crore as capital expenditure during the April-September period of the current fiscal.

This is 41 per cent of the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs 5.54 lakh crore for 2021-22. The actual expenditure during current fiscal is about 38 per cent higher than the corresponding expenditure in FY 2020-21, she said.

To accelerate capital expenditure for creation and upgradation of infrastructure in the economy, Government

of India had launched the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) with projected infrastructure investment of Rs 111 lakh crore during the period 2020-2025 to provide world-class infrastructure across the country, and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

NIP was launched with 6,835 projects, which has expanded to over 9,000 projects covering 34 sub-sectors. NIP is expected to improve project preparation, attract investments into infrastructure, and play pivotal role in economic growth, she said.

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) was also launched on August 23, 2021 to unlock the value of investments in public sector assets by tapping private sector capital and efficiencies for delivering infrastructure services, she said, adding, the monetization proceeds are envisaged to be ploughed back to augment existing/ create greenfield infrastructure to boost the economy.

Net direct tax revenue rises 68% to ₹6.92 lakh cr till Nov 23

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The net direct tax collection grew nearly 68 per cent during April 1 to November 23 to more than ₹6.92 lakh crore, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday.

“The Net Direct Tax Collection figures for the FY-2021-22 as on 23.11.2021 are at ₹6,92,833.6 crores showing a growth of 67.93 per cent and 27.29 per cent over the net collection figures for the corresponding period FY2020-21 and FY 2019-20,” he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

The net collection between April 1 - November 23 in 2020-21 and 2019-20 fiscals was over ₹4.12 lakh crore and over ₹5.44 lakh crore respectively.

The gross direct tax collection (before adjusting refunds) as of November 23 stood at over ₹ 8.15 lakh crore, a 48.11 growth over the collections in the corresponding

period in last fiscal.

Chaudhary further said that the gross GST collection in the current fiscal (April 2021-March’22) post Covid-19 outbreak is showing an increasing trend.

The gross GST collection for full 2020-21 ended March 2021 was over Rs 11.36 lakh crore, while the same in the current fiscal till October stood at Rs 8.10 lakh crore.

In reply to a separate question on whether incidents of tax evasion are increasing in Delhi and other parts of the country, Chaudhary said there is no evidence to suggest that incidents of income tax evasion are increasing in Delhi and other parts of the country.

“In terms of cases detected under Goods & Service Tax (GST) and Customs, there is no increasing trend in such evasion noticed in Delhi, although, there is overall increase in detection of GST and Customs evasion cases in the country,” he added.

Markets eke out gains amid Omicron jitters; RIL spurts post Jio tariff hike

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices made a positive start to the week on Monday following gains in RIL, bank and IT stocks, even as investors remained jittery over the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Governments across the world raced to impose fresh travel restrictions as cases of the new variant emerged in multiple countries.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated Omicron as a ‘variant of concern’, the health body’s top category for worrying coronavirus variants, although South African health authorities said symptoms of the new strain were mild so far. No case of the Omicron variant has been detected in India yet. Stabilising after Friday’s brutal sell-off, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 153.43 points or 0.27 per cent to finish at 57,260.58. The index had tanked more than 500 points or over 1 per cent in opening trade in line with weak global cues. On similar lines, the

broader NSE Nifty edged higher by 27.50 points or 0.16 per cent to 17,053.95.

Kotak Bank rose the most among Sensex scrips, spurting 2.92 per cent, after LIC received RBI approval to raise its stake in the private sector lender to nearly 10 per cent.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries jumped 1.26 per cent a day after its telecom arm Jio announced a hike in prepaid tariffs from the next month. Gains in HCL Tech, TCS, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Tech Mahindra also helped Sensex close in the green. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Axis Bank, Nestle, Bajaj Auto, SBI and Dr Reddy’s were among the major drags, dropping up to 2.03 per cent. “Domestic indices trimmed its early losses to trade modestly higher backed by IT and healthcare stocks, amid lingering worries over the emergence of the new COVID variant. Global markets traded mixed as investors were torn between buying on dips and the uncertainties over the impact of Omicron on economic recovery.

Rupee trips 18 paise to hit 5-week low

Mumbai:The rupee on Monday dived 18 paise to close at a five-week low of 75.07 against the US dollar as fresh worries over new coronavirus variant weighed on already weak investor sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.84 and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.82 and a low of 75.16 against the US dollar in a highly volatile trading session. The local unit finally settled at 75.07 a dollar, down 18 paise over its previous close.The Indian rupee depreciated for the third straight session against the US dollar weighed down by greenback demand from oil companies and fresh long dollar positions amid concerns over a new coronavirus variant, said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

PTI

DGCA drafts new rules for mandatory certification of defence airfields

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a draft of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) for certification of defence aerodromes where international scheduled air transport services are being conducted. As per the draft, these aerodromes are required to be operating procedures and systems in the line with the DGCA requirements. It said that inspection of defence aerodromes will be carried out by a team consisting of members from the DGCA and the concerned defence aerodrome authority before the issue of certificate for undertaking scheduled civilian flights. There are 26 defence aerodromes in India which are also being used for scheduled air transport services.

“For scheduled operations at defence aerodromes, there are two authorities involved in the operations at the aerodrome. First, the Defence authorities which shall control most part of the airside areas like runway, taxiways & associated facilities and CNS facilities”.

“Second, the civil authorities which shall have control over part of taxiway(s) connecting the civil apron, apron management and civil enclave (Terminal Building). The responsibilities of Defence and Civil authorities in their respective areas shall be exclusive and absolute,” the draft said. The

There are 26 defence aerodromes in India which are also being used for scheduled air transport services

DGCA has sought comments from all stakeholders by December 23.

The certification process requires the DGCA to ascertain through a systematic process whether or not a defence aerodrome has minimum facilities and required procedures in place for operations of safe, secure, efficient and regular scheduled air transport services.The draft said there are number of defence aerodromes in India which are also being used for scheduled air transport services. These aerodromes are constructed and designed by Defence authorities with the establishment of civil enclave to accommodate civil aircraft and passenger facilitation but primarily to meet their own strategic requirements.

“It is also a fact that the Defence authorities have their own systems in place to operate these aerodromes including their own safety oversight systems. However, these systems or operating procedures at defence aerodromes are required to be in line with the DGCA requirements for licensing of these aerodromes,” it said.

SC grants two weeks more to Amazon to put its case before CCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted two weeks more to e-commerce giant Amazon to appear and argue before the Competition Commission of India (CCI) which had declined adjournment of hearing in a case related to revocation of approval given to the US company for investment transaction with Future Coupons Pvt Ltd (FCPL).

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima

Kohli, at the outset, said that it would not go into the merits of the case and would rather like to give some more time,

over and above the time granted by the Delhi High Court, to the US firm to put forth its case before the CCI.

“We are not going into the details. We will grant two more weeks’ time. You use the time and appear and argue before the(CCI). You raise all your objections,” the Bench said and disposed of the appeal of Amazon against the Delhi High Court verdict.

As senior advocate Mukul

Rohatgi, appearing for a Future group firm, attempted to justify the refusal to postpone the hearing in the CCI at the request of Amazon, the bench said, “What was the tearing hurry which led the CCI to conclude the proceedings. Please do not invite us to make a statement on the merits of the case.”The bench then disposed of the appeal of the US firm against the order passed by the Delhi High Court.

On November 24, the CCI declined to grant the US-based company extra time and postponement of the matter as they had sought. Before this, the Delhi High Court had directed the CCI to decide this matter within two weeks.

Amazon infuses ₹650 cr in Amazon Wholesale (India)

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US-based ecommerce giant Amazon has infused fresh capital to the tune of ₹650 crore into one of its India units, Amazon Wholesale (India), according to regulatory documents.

Amazon Corporate Holdings Private Limited and Amazon.Com.Incs Limited have made the ₹650 crore investment in the wholesale B2B arm of Amazon India, documents filed with the Corporate Affairs Ministry

and shared by market intelligence firm Tofler showed.

The date of allotment was October 26, 2021, it added. According to the documents, a significant share of the funds (over ₹649.94 crore) came from Amazon Corporate Holdings Pvt Ltd.

The fresh funds will provide more arsenal to Amazon in India to bolster its wholesale B2B business in India.

Amazon has been aggressively investing across various business units in India.

Steel demand drops by 5 pc in FY21: Union Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Demand for steel from sectors like infrastructure, automobile and engineering fell by more than 5 per cent to 94.9 million tonnes during the financial year ended on March 31, 2021, Parliament was informed on Monday. Building and construction sector along with infrastructure, automobile, engineering and packaging and defence had consumed 100.2 million tonne (MT) steel during 2019-20 fiscal, Union Steel Minister Ram Chandra

About ₹52,000 cr GST compensation pending to States till Sept: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly ₹52,000 crore of GST compensation was due to the states as of September 2021, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Giving details of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation released and pending to be released as on November 24, 2021, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in the Lok Sabha that ₹1,10,208 crore and ₹1.59 lakh crore was released to the states as back to back loan in 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscals, respectively.

Total GST compensation pending till September 2021

stood at ₹51,798 crore, he said.

This includes ₹13,153 crore pending to Maharashtra, ₹5,441 crore to Uttar Pradesh, ₹4,943 crore to Tamil Nadu, ₹4,647 crore to Delhi and ₹3,528 crore to Karnataka.

States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland do not have any GST compensation pending from the Centre. In reply to a separate question, Chuadhary said the Centre has released ₹17,000 crore on November 3, 2021, towards GST compensation to states from the compensation fund.

This is in addition to GST compensation of ₹43,303 crore released to states and ₹1.59 lakh

crore as back to back assistance during the current financial year.

“During 2020-21 (April 2020- March 2021), the Centre had released compensation of ₹1,36,988 crore and back to back loan assistance of ₹1.1 lakh crore,” he said. Under the GST law, states are compensated for any loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for five years till June 2022.

The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund which is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that **Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Khub Singh** is the present owner of Residential **Plot No. 44 & 21**, area measuring 42 Sq. Yards i.e. 35.11 Sq. Meters, Khata No. 30, Situated at **Kakshi Nagar, Village Indraghahi Majra, Dasna, Teesil & District Ghazibabad U.P.** vice Sale Deed Dated 22.08.2017 as Regd. No. 5109, who intends to avail loan from **Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.** Branch **Noida** by creation of mortgage. **The Original Sale Deed Dated 26.06.2013** registered vide doc. No. 5846, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR has been registered vide LAR No. 202/10001/02279 with U.P. Police on 29.10.2021. If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ct. 830, Patila House Courts, New Delhi-110001
MO:- +91-8076188328

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hereby inform to the Public at large that my clients **(1) Shri Vinod Sharma** S/o Shri Lakshmi Chand & **(2) Mrs. Rajni Sharma** W/o Shri Vinod Sharma R/A-56, Suraj Park, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have severed off/ disconnected all their relations/ connections with their daughter **Ms. Aakriti**, as she is out of their control and have **debarred / disowned her from their all moveable and immovable properties**, for all intents and purposes. If anybody deals with her, he/ she shall be fully responsible for all future consequences.
Niranjan Singh Tomar (Advocate)
En. No. D-1543/2008

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our clientless **Ms. Asha Khanna**, who Late **Shri. Yashwant Lal Khanna**, aged about 76 years resident of A-39, DTI Colony, Near 'Nagar', New Delhi-110054 hereby notifies that his son, **Shri Bhupesh Khanna** along with his family have left and separated themselves from the family with all their goods and articles since September, 2021. They are residing separately from our clientless, since then without any information to our clientless. Our clientless have got no contact with their whatsoever with them and the public is hereby informed accordingly. Our clientless or her family will not be responsible for any liabilities, acts and deeds of their said son and his family. Any liability claimed/ demand action against the aforesaid son or his family shall be their sole responsibility. Any person dealing with them shall be at their own risk and responsibility.
Mital & Mittal Co. Advocates
614, 6 Floor, R.G. Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034
E-mail : mital782004@yahoo.co.in


NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE
Shri Vijay Minz S/o Shri Ranthu Oraon Minz, App JE/P.way/HNZM working under ADEN/HNZM is unauthorized absent from duty since December-2016. In this regard a 14 day Show Cause Notice was issued on 01.10.2021 and send to his residence address: House no. 41-A, Bosco Colony 'B' Gopal Nagar, Near Indira service Station, Najafgarh (South West Delhi), New Delhi-110043 through registered post. He failed to submit reply till date. Through this press notification he is once again informed to attend the office of ADEN/Nizamuddin within 15 days after publication of this notice. In the event of failure Railway, would be Ex Parte decession and that will be binding on Shri Vijay Minz. 2782/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Sweta Mishra W/o Mr. Deep Narayan Mishra is owner in respect of Residential Plot of land area measuring Area 75 Sq. Yards, i.e 62.70 Sq. Mtr, Out of Kharsa No. 306, Situated in Vandana Enclave, Khora, Tishti Cadtr, Distt. Ghaziabad - U.P vide registered gft deed dated 17.11.2021 registration No. 13941. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Sweta Mishra W/o Mr. Deep Narayan Mishra has approached HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LTD to take a Loan. Borrower has informed our client that the sale deed dated 31.05.1995 (Document No 1424) favor to Mrs Vidya Devi lost somewhere. If anybody has any charge/interest/tittle in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.
For Mrs. Prasoona Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mrs. Sunita Luthra W/o Mr. J.K. Luthra is power of attorney holder in respect of Property Bearing No. D-3,Built on Plot No. 3, Area Measuring 35Sq.Yards, Part of Kharsa No. 16/24, Situated at Mahendra Park, D-Block, Village: AsiatPur New Delhi, vide registered general power of attorney dated 07.05.2007 registration No. 6129. All persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Hemlata and Mr. Ashok Kumar has approached Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd to take a Loan. If anybody has any charge/interest/tittle in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.
For Mrs. Prasoona Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 23.11.2021 at footpath, Monkey Bridge, Ring Road, Yamuna Bazar, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 41-A, dated 23.11.2021 U/s 174 Cr.PC** has been lodged at Police Station, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Dead Body of the deceased has been preserved in mortuary Subzi Mandi, AAA Govt. Hospital for identification for 72 Hrs. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: Approx. 35-40 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Mehndi Colour T-Shirt & Grey Pant and Bare Footed.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/1747/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR
E-BID NOTICE
निगम की नकारा-स्क्रेप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साईट **Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc** एवं **rsrtc.procure247.com** के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-
S. Event's Name EMD Deposit EMD Deposit BID Start BID End no. Start Date End Date Date Date
1 SCRAP GROUP A 26-11-21 08-12-21 09-12-21 10-12-21
2 SCRAP GROUP B 26-11-21 08-12-21 09-12-21 10-12-21
नोट:-
1. ई-ऑक्शन से शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD चार्ज जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें वेब-साईट पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.सं.वार / सी / 21 / 8888 दिनांक 15/01/2021-22 Financial Advisor

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below- mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ramesh Kumar Jha/ Suchitra Jha/ LBDEL00005057478	DDA LIG, Flat No- 634 3rd Floor, Pkt - Gh - 1 Sector - 28, Rohini/ November 26, 2021 Delhi	July 06, 2021 Rs. 15,77,359/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Ram Gopal Kotia/ Jitender Kotiyal/ LBDEL00004723938	Property No- 109, Block- I Pocket - 4 Sector- 16 Rohini Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 13,88,784/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Rattan Lal Soni/ Bimla Devi/ LBDEL00002364860	Flat No 30, Block B 11 Sector 34 Pocket 1 2nd Floor Delhi Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs.10,39,386/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Seema Suri/ Virender Suri/ LBDEL00001790872	Flat No- Su 156 Ground Floor, Pitampura Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs.9,56,251/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Varun Saini/ Rekha Saini/ LBDEL00004951130/ LBDEL00005052638	Prop Na 57, 3rd Floor With Roof Block D, Pocket 16 Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 15,07,765/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Raman Kalia/ Vinod Kumar Kalia/ LBDEL00000361194	House No: 15B, Him Kunj Apartment, Plot No: 8 Sector- 14, Rohini, New Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 2,33,385/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Satish Kumar/ Surman Kumari/ LBDFB00002381308	Flat No 32, S.F. Block B12 Pocket 5 Sector 35 Rohini Delhi Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 9,14,762/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Rajiv Kumar Jain/ Monika Jain/ LBGHZ00001610544	Flat No. A-407, Tower-A, Rishabh Paradise Indrapuram, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 8,33,490/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	SIDDHARTHA TALWAR / SARIKA TALWAR / LBNOV00002882293	Flat No 831, 8th Floor, Gaur City Mall, Gaur City, One 6th Avenue, Plot No Gh 01, Sec 4, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 26, 2021	March 22, 2021 Rs. 92,4050/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : November 30, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited


DOCYARD

DR SHWETA GOSWAMI

Medical Director

ZEEVA FERTILITY CLINIC

Keep infections at bay



We often don't talk about vaginal infections openly, many women feel shy and often do not feel comfortable talking about it but actually it is a very important topic to be discussed about. The vagina can often be prickly, dry, or may produce excessive and discoloured discharge and smell bad too. It is indeed the most sensitive organ and requires proper care and attention too.

There are several mistakes that a woman makes unintentionally with her vagina which can often lead her to several harsh effects in the long run. These mistakes can often be made while urinating or otherwise on a normal day, during menstruation or even before and after having sex. It is very necessary that a woman takes care of her health, hygiene and well being.

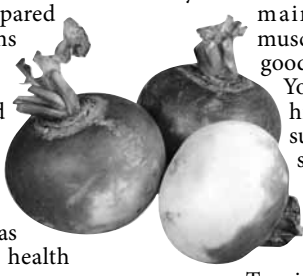
- ◆**Avoid using scented soaps and fragrances** for your vagina. The artificial scents which soaps usually have can be really dangerous for the vagina as they contain several chemicals and harsh ingredients. Also, these artificial scented soaps and body washes do not have a proper pH balance for the vagina. A woman must always use intimate washes that are pH balanced and are totally safe for use.
- ◆**Change sanitary pads at regular intervals:** please do change your sanitary pads at regular intervals to keep vaginal infections and viruses at bay. Keeping the single pad for long causes itching and rashes. Also, failure in doing so results in a host to infectious diseases.
- ◆**Clean your vagina after having sex:** cleaning vagina after having sex is very important as this shall significantly reduce spreading of bacteria. Also, it is essential to use a condom while having sex as this will certainly reduce the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Also, make sure that you and your partner always wash hands before getting laid. Most infections happen to couples who escape this process since the bacteria contained on the hands is transferred to other parts of the body like urethra and vagina.
- ◆**Do not wipe your vagina from back to front:** Do not ever wipe yourself down there from back to front as it leads to the diffusion of bacteria and infections in the vagina. It is highly advised to wipe it from front to back always.
- ◆**Wear comfortable undergarments:** Wear clothes that are looser in the crotch, wear cotton-crotch underwear rather than synthetic.
- ◆**Avoid using dirty public toilets:** Avoid using public toilets as they are mostly dirty in case of emergency, do it in a standing position or you can also carry disposable or portable urinating devices with yourself.
- ◆**Urinate well:** It is important to use the washroom whenever you feel urge to do so. Refraining yourself from urinating for too long can put unnecessary pressure on your bladder which can also result in infections.
- ◆**Keep yourself hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day and keep yourself hydrated. This shall prevent urinary infections and shall evade all the waste from your system.

Whenever you feel that there is a vaginal discharge which is heavier or smells different, or if you notice any itching, burning, swelling, or soreness around or outside of your vagina; or it feels like a burning sensation when you pee and when sex is uncomfortable then please do not delay and please visit your doctor as it could lead to some serious problems. Untreated bacterial infections in vagina can result in pelvic inflammatory disease which further leads to infertility also.

WARMFOOD

TURNIP :


When was the last time you had a strong desire for a turnip? Never? That's all right. In compared to its cousins kale, cauliflower, arugula, and cabbage, the turnip isn't a common ingredient. However, it has innumerable health benefits.



One medium turnip has 233mg of potassium. That mineral is required

by your body for a variety of functions, including helping your nerves relay signals and maintaining your muscles and heart in good operating order. You're at risk for high blood pressure, stroke, kidney stones, brittle bones, and high blood sugar if you don't receive enough. Turnips have plenty of other benefits too like cancer prevention, eye health and bone health.

ENHANCE YOUR VISION



Kids are also prone to eye diseases resulting from too much time spent watching TV, using mobile to play games and reading on digital devices. DR JITENDRA JETHANI tells us how to take care

Whether at home or school, children should be taught to maintain good posture while reading, writing or using the computer. It is important to make sure that they maintain a straight spine with the computer screen at eye level and the brightness adjusted to reduce eye stress or strain.

It is indeed troubling to see the alarming rise in the number of children using eyeglasses nowadays. Similar to adults, kids are also prone to eye diseases resulting from too much time spent watching television, using the mobile to play games and reading on digital devices. The situation has further worsened during the recent pandemic as children are confined inside their homes and even attending their classes via digital mediums. However, the good part is that you as parents can adopt different ways to protect your kid's eyes and keep them healthy.

◆**Protect your eyes:**

◆**Green leafy vegetables in the diet**

Green leafy vegetables are a rich source of carotenoids and Vitamin A. Carotenoids help keep the eyes away from free radicals. Apart from that, they also contain minerals and vitamins like calcium, vitamin B12 and vitamin C. Zeaxanthin and lutein present in green veggies also help protect the eyes from cataracts and macular degeneration. Therefore, you should start giving your children generous helpings of veggies like spinach, broccoli, kale and collard to help them maintain good eyesight.

◆**Good posture and light**

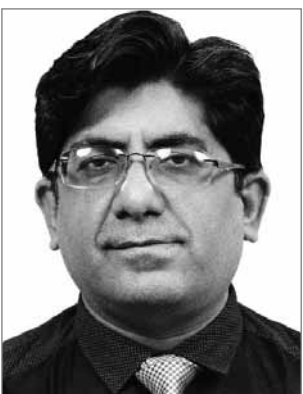
◆**Avoid eye infections**

Kids should always be taught good hygiene habits especially when it comes to avoiding eye infections or irritations. Being parents you should teach them never to touch their eyes without washing their hands as bacteria can spread from the fingers to the eyes. Also, you should suggest they use safety goggles while cleaning their rooms to avoid dust from getting into their eyes.

◆**Limit screen time & encourage outside activities**

Playing video games, watching

Simple eye exercises like eye-rolling, blinking and palming can be taught to children to help them reduce eye stress. And irrespective of whether your child complains of eye problems or not, it is essential to take them to a pediatric ophthalmologist for routine eye check-ups



Dr. Jitendra Jethani

Paediatric Ophthalmologist

Baroda Children Eye Care & Medical Consultant for Entod

Ask them to sit in the outdoor light to protect and myopia rise. Also the kids should be having good indoor light to avoid any strain on the eyes

◆**Routine eye check-ups**

Irrespective of whether your child complains of eye problems or not, it is essential to take them to a pediatric ophthalmologist for routine eye check-ups. In some cases of eye diseases, the symptoms are not immediately visible which is why a doctor's check-up holds crucial importance. A pediatric ophthalmologist is a specialist for eye diseases in children. Just remember that a child is not a small compressed adult.

YouTube videos and constantly texting friends exposes your child to blue light, which can lead to digital eye strain. Digital eye strain can cause headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes and other discomfort. To avoid this, reduce your child's screen time with digital devices instead encourage them to play outside. Outdoor plays can reduce the chance of developing myopia and improve overall health.

Role of community in addressing TB

Involving community means working with local structures that people are familiar with, like youth groups, Panchayati Raj Institutes and self-help groups, says SHALINI SAKSENA

Despite being curable, tuberculosis continues to affect and cause the death of millions across the world. India contributes to over a quarter of the global TB burden and has the highest TB-related mortality in the world. We have set the goal of TB elimination by 2025 and early intervention and adherence is crucial for TB cure. Over the years, there has been considerable progress in addressing the disease and related challenges, issues like the stigma associated with the disease, inequality of coverage, lack of access or awareness, and the high cost of private care continue.

The people do not declare their condition or seek treatment most times out of fear, and thus, it leads to a growing number of cases. The challenge of addressing the disease has only worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. In 2020, there were 1812526 total cases identified, while in 2019 a total of 2400540 cases were screened, translating to a 27 per cent decrease.

Now, more than ever, the role of community participation has become indispensable in addressing the growing challenge of tuberculosis as the success of any public health intervention heavily depends on the involvement of the people. Incorporating local communities and their structures would allow us to reach groups that were not accessible before as they hold experience working with the people, have common backgrounds, and a comprehensive understanding of ground realities.

Involving the community means working with the local structures that people are familiar with, like youth groups, Panchayati Raj Institutions, self-help groups, and TB champions, among others. Working with them allows credibility to the information, provision of psychological support, and dispelling of myths and misinformation related to the disease.

Government or civil society organisation should conduct capacity building to ensure active involvement by ensuring proper information dissemination, developing linkages to health service schemes and establishing supportive monitoring systems. Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has been working continuously with community structures to build their capacity to ensure awareness regarding tuberculosis and designs patient-centric innovations.

The active participation of the community would facilitate bringing the services to people's homes, reducing the cost of care, help in the identification of cases that are usually missed and get diagnosed more quickly, thus developing better quality care. It also leads to the improvement of treatment adherence, health-seeking behavior and allows those affected by the disease to make decisions about the kind of care that suits them the best. This is considered the best model for self-reliance. Using a community model allows for an integrated approach and delivers innovative solutions to a larger group to ensure deeper engagement.


Many stories are testament to the power that community structures hold in addressing public health crises like TB by providing support to those who need it most. One such is Nagaraj's story from Channasandra village, Bangalore. A daily-wage worker with deteriorating weight and other TB symptoms, he was identified by the members of a self-help group, Sri Sharada Swasahaya Sangha, working on TB awareness. They helped him get screened, and it was found that he was TB-positive.

Due to a lack of finances, he could not be admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, so he reached out to the Sangha members. The Sangha members counselled Nagaraj's friends about the disease to raise awareness and dispel any myths to ensure support.

To continue their support, the members monitor his health routinely and provide support for emergencies. We must also remember that the impact on mental health and gendered social factors must be accounted for any effective intervention.

To end the epidemic, the voices of all people affected by TB must form the core of intervention to ensure people-centered and integrated care. While policies and schemes may be developed, the power of people is essential to bring change.

How important is COVID vaccine?



People with Diabetes are at an elevated risk of growing problems associated with COVID-19.

DR DANENDRA SAHU tells us how to keep safe

COVID-19 creates additional concerns for people with Diabetes and requires more planning. If the blood glucose levels are kept unchecked, there is an increased risk of developing severe complications of Coronavirus. Therefore, people with diabetes must get vaccinated against the disease as soon as possible.

It is not that people with Diabetes are more susceptible to infection, but the risk lies in the fact that the severity of the COVID-19 illness can be greater in those with diabetes. Whether the person has type 1 Diabetes, type 2 Diabetes or gestational Diabetes – they are at increased risk of complications if they get infected.

The Indian Government has undertaken an arduous task of immunising its citizens against the contagious COVID-19. The nationwide vaccination drive is currently going on at a rapid pace in India, enabling adults over 18 years to get vaccinated. Vaccination has shown a ray of hope for overcoming the coronavirus disease, especially in people suffering from comorbidities such as Diabetes.

Post-vaccination care:

- ◆Consume a healthy, nutritious diet
- ◆Drink plenty of water
- ◆Get adequate sleep (of at least 7 to 8 hours)
- ◆Avoid consuming alcoholic beverages
- ◆Avoid smoking tobacco
- ◆Avoid performing any strenuous exercise for one or two days after vaccination
- ◆Avoid warm fomentation or applying an ice pack at the site of injection
- ◆Monitor blood glucose levels regularly

Soon after vaccination, many people with Diabetes may report a spike in blood glucose levels. To avoid developing complications, they must talk to their doctor if they notice a frequent fluctuation in blood glucose levels.

It is a common misconception that people with Diabetes must stop their medicines before vaccination as it may hamper the vaccine's efficacy. People should not get misled with this incorrect information. If one feels the need to change or discontinue their diabetes medications, they must consult their doctor before doing so.

Side effects post-vaccination:

- ◆Redness, pain or swelling at the site of injection
- ◆Mild to high fever

Some people may also experience fatigue, body aches, or develop a mild rash based on the vaccine received. The side effects of the second dose can be more intense than the first dose.


Precautions:

- ◆Staying indoors
- ◆Wearing a mask when stepping out of the house
- ◆Maintaining social distance while outdoors
- ◆Washing hands regularly
- ◆Sanitising one's home and surroundings frequently

MD, DM, Associate Consultant, Diabetes & Endocrinology, Fortis Hospital, New Delhi

INBRIEF

CFS plans for better eye care



With decades of excellence in serving millions of people for better eye care, one of India's largest Private Eye Care Chain, Centre for Sight Group of Eye Hospitals, in collaboration with Mahindra Group has planned to expand its footprints throughout India with a bold idea which intends to disrupt the Indian Eye Wear market in the coming five years.

Under the banner of CFS Vision, the Centres will provide complete eye wear solutions showcasing leading international brands as also private labels of 'Admyra' and 'Avanta'.

CFS Vision aspires to be the largest and comprehensive eye wear and eye care chain in the country, by ensuring that anyone who needs eye wear or eye care knows where to go. The synergy of having world-class eye wear and the best-in-class clinical care in this field, will make CFS Vision stand out from the other Optical chains.

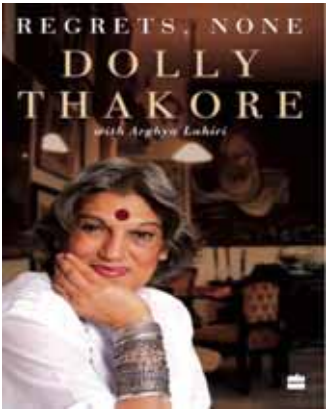
REGRETS, NONE

Theatre personality and veteran actress, DOLLY THAKORE, wanted to put it all out there and give the message that everyone can become popular through her book. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

We usually congratulate people on their recent achievements. But when I got the opportunity to talk to one of the most celebrated faces of the literary and theatrical world, Dolly Thakore, I congratulated her on the tremendous life that she had created for herself. “Thanks, darling, why do you think I wrote about it”, came the immediate and witty response from the most charismatic voice I had heard.

Thakore has shown time and again that one could excel in all aspects of life, in whatever roles one wanted to undertake. For her, the list never ends — a newscaster, television host, a casting director, a theatre enthusiast, and so on. On asking her the reason for the dynamic shift in life, she answered, “Darling, nobody starts off life knowing that this is what they want in life. It just fell into my lap and I took advantage of whatever was being offered to me. I never stretched my hand for anything nor did I run after anything, but opportunities came my way and I used each of them to the best of my ability.”

Talking about her memoir *Regrets, None*, Thakore elaborated on the reason for putting it together, “I wrote it because I knew I had achieved so much. Now, people of my age know all about me and have journeyed with me but the younger generation doesn't know much about it. I knew my life was interesting, so I



wanted to give an insight as to what goes into a person's life, to make them what they are, to render them confidence, security, the courage to continue with their life, no matter what. It's human nature to suffer from hurt, pain, neglect, and disconnect in rejection — doesn't mean you give up on life. I want to make life better for them.”

She continued about the book, “There's not a single thought in the memoir that is untrue, not believable, not credible or creditable. I wanted to put it all out there. I think I have achieved a bit of popularity or fame. And it is possible for everyone to do that — this is the message I wanted to give.”

Commenting on her background, Thakore explained, “I didn't



come from a family of wealth or one which ran a business, had property or any advantages like politics or others. I came from a very middle-class home and I survived. I think I survived very well (smirks) and that's what I wanted to share with people. I never hesitated. I did it all with a sense of acceptance. I got the energy. I didn't know that I will be a broadcaster or that my voice will develop the way it has.”

“Today, a lot of people, particularly in their 50s, come to me and say ‘we hated you when we were 10-years-old.’ I was reading the news 45-50 years ago. They tell me their parents used to wake them up at 10 pm at night because the English news was broadcast at that hour. And the parents used to force these poor kids to

watch the news at that hour. But the fact that they still remember and still have the courage to come up and say that, it feels so good,” she added.

Thakore has been completely upfront and honest in the memoir. She had once said that her life is an open book. On asking her if there was any downside to being open, she responded, “I have not had a downside. I have not been rejected by anybody. I have always been accepted. Okay, there were heartbreaks and tears. It always happens, when the person you like finds somebody else attractive and leaves you and goes. But that's fine! I didn't take to drinking or chasing after men or going to drugs. It happened. I cried for a while, shared it with a few friends but that didn't stop me from doing the

work I was meant to do, because I had to earn money, pay bills, and I believe I survived admirably. We took the bus everywhere we went until I could afford a taxi, and then a car. It makes you stronger. I have absolutely no regrets in life. And I think that's the advice that I'd like to give to all young men and women.

“I wanted to go through what all women should experience. Whether that is pregnancy, child-birth, or bringing up a child — I've done everything and I'm proud of my son who gives good messages to society and the way his friends think, it shows the kind of upbringing you give to kids. Some people have the advantage of a family that accepts, some don't. So, give them a shoulder to lean on and talk to you openly.”

Since Thakore fought her way through and found her space in this male-dominated world of authoritarian figures, the question that pops up is, how difficult the path was. “Look, nothing is difficult if you're willing to try and if you have the courage to face it. When I started doing films division's commentaries, most of the important ones were given to the male voices. We confronted the authorities and received equal pay and equal opportunities. Similarly, in other areas of work — when we started writing to the press or reviewing films — the human mind was conditioned to discriminate between men and women. And women were, unfortunately, made to be inferior, but we showed to them that we were equal. We didn't go on *morchas* or processions or have breakdowns but we confronted them and we proved it to them by our own energy and our own talent. Now, as you can see, almost everywhere, there's a woman. All male-dominated professions are now being explored and excelled at by women. And I think a lot of it is owed to women like me (chuckles). Remember, I am now 78 years old. We've managed to make furrows for people to follow.”

Spaces are shrinking for women who are outspoken in the given set-up of social media, on asking her if it was easier when social media didn't exist, she explained, “Well, it is a part of society. Yes, a lot of politics has come in and communalism that has become a part of it, which — I must mention — is destroying the equilibrium. But hopefully, we'll overcome that also and will be back to normal.”

She continued, “A lot of people still have rigid, old-fashioned limit-ideas and that still surprises me. Admittedly, I was brought up with Jesuit form of education but no religion teaches you to be mean. It teaches you honesty and helps form a clear conscience. It doesn't matter what colour you are, what language you speak, what clothes you wear, what religion you follow, what prayers you say, your conscience has to be clear

and you have to accept them. Just be accepting and tolerant. Life gives you time to concentrate on the important things. I do believe education plays a very significant role in one's life. But, also, read books and authors, and works of liberal-thinking individuals and you will learn. I wished there were more people with a clean mind, an open mind, a better conscience, and who were more accepting.”

On asking her which part of life she enjoyed the most and still cherishes, a slightly nostalgic Thakore replied, “I loved being a newsreader. Throughout my life, I think I wanted acceptance and recognition. I've been on stage since I was five years old. That gave me a great deal of confidence and knowledge because we had to study thoroughly for the topics of our debates. I'm happy I read so much. I loved the applause, and of course, I've made mistakes.

I can never forget that I was debating at Loreto convent about the Mutiny of 1857. I was very well-prepared and stood there boldly and said, ‘The cows of fat and pigs.’ and obviously I made a fool of myself and people got a good laugh out of it (laughs heartily) and Mother pointed it out in front of the entire school, but I continued. I had the good fortune of debating with the biggest names of the times. Confidence and hard-work will get you everywhere.

As Thakore's memoir, *Regrets, None*, is being displayed at the Tata Literature Festival in Mumbai, she held the opinion that lit fests of these sort, although a fairly new phenomena, are fantastic. “How many new writers have emerged, and the fact that we get to know them and read them and that their books are accessible — it's amazing. Some very good works by lovely writers have come up. And they've gotten a voice through these festivals and platforms. I just came back from Gulmarg and I cannot tell you how wonderful it was. I didn't know a soul, of course, they were much younger than me but, oh, what brilliant young ideas they had!” she shared.



One of the most enduring artistic traditions in India is its myriad embroidery forms. Each state and region possesses its style, but needlework is not just a way of decorating it. These textiles are also intertwined with community stories, with motifs emerging from their natural, financial, and socio-political environments.

Many of those old and occasionally overlooked embroidery styles are revived and popularised as hand-made items are re-applied as new embodiments of luxury. Not only designers in India, but also international labels are popular among these techniques.

In reverence to the country's assorted weaving customs, here is a portion of the procedures that have discovered new articulation in the progress of contemporary style creators.

Gara

Vital to the closets of Parsi women, *gara* is a fusion of embroidery from India, China, Persia and Europe. Customary at weddings, *gara* saris have multifaceted themes — from pagodas and mythical serpents to roses, lotuses, chickens and peacocks.

Known for its striking beauty over several centuries, depicting the Parsi's culture and tradition, *gara* is aesthetically colourful and delicately presented. It is characterised by style and elegance. These sarees take more than six months as embroidery

Stitch across time

ANSHUL GUPTA talks about some Indian embroidery traditions that have evolved to make a style statement even today



work is done on all four sides, making it truly tedious and complex.

Kashida

Kashida is a well-known Kashmiri embroidery technique, customarily done on clothing like stoles, woollen *pherans* and carpets. Birds, blooms, products of the soil especially the *chinar* are made. One more type of Kashmiri weaving is *aari*, wherein flower propelled themes are woven in a fine chain with a hooked needle.

Kashmir embroidery is mainly done on regional shawls and garments such as *pheran* (wool *kurtas*),



gabba (bigger wool rug) and *namdaah* (small wool rug) and stoles. Today, *kashida* is also used to decorate household items such as bed-sheets, pillowcases, lampshades, bags and other accessories.

Kantha is now available on kurta and dresses.

Zardozi

Zardozi, a form of metallic weaving, utilises fine metal wires or strings in gold and silver (or copper wires and engineered strings), to make designs on textures like velvet, silk and weighty silk. *Zardozi* is one of the must-haves for bridal wear and couture.

While this embroidery used to be a sign of the rich but using gold coloured plastic threads has made this art form more affordable. The elegance of sarees, suits, blouses and lehengas has been upped by zardozi.

Chikankari

Chikankari, from Lucknow, started with white embroidery on white fabric but today it is available in every colour imaginable. It is the act of sewing white untwisted yarn on fine textures like muslin, cotton or voile. Now, the embroidery is being done on splendidly tinted textures or by utilising hued strings. It is an integral part of the life and culture of the city of Nawabs. From sarees to suits, from *lehengas* to *palazzos*, *chikankari* is suitable for everyday wear as well as special occasions.

Kantha

Initially made by ladies in rural Bengal and Odisha, *kantha* was

utilised to make covers. Utilising a straightforward running stitch, it is themed around day to day existence, botanical and creature themes and mathematical shapes.

Kantha is now available on kurta and dresses.

Petit Point

Petit point embroidery originated in France in the 18th century and is still quite common in Europe. The European colonialists and missionaries brought it to India. It is a stitch constructed diagonally across the intersection of each horizontal and vertical thickness of a canvas mesh, on which the base matter is placed. The stitches are so small, that a myriad of details, colours and shades can be found in a very small area. The number of points per sq inch can be as high as 1,000. *Petit point* hand embroidery has now made its way to sarees, kurtas, dresses, dupattas, cushions, clutches and evening bags.

Kantha is now available on kurta and dresses.

Chikankari

Chikankari, from Lucknow, started with white embroidery on white fabric but today it is available in every colour imaginable. It is the act of sewing white untwisted yarn on fine textures like muslin, cotton or voile. Now, the embroidery is being done on splendidly tinted textures or by utilising hued strings. It is an integral part of the life and culture of the city of Nawabs. From sarees to suits, from *lehengas* to *palazzos*, *chikankari* is suitable for everyday wear as well as special occasions.

(The author is CEO, Prastuti Designs.)

A few days back, when author Amitav Ghosh was doing an event for his book *Jangal Nama* in Mestre, Italy, some of Ali Sethi's songs were played. Later, everyone wanted to know where they could get them. “We are now actually developing a stage performance of *Jungle Nama* with the help of the University of Pennsylvania,” Ghosh shares.

Amitav Ghosh's verse adaptation of an episode from the legend of *Bon Bibi*, a tale popular in the villages of the Sundarbans, which also lies at the heart of the novel *The Hungry Tide* (2004). It is the story of Dhona, the avaricious rich merchant, Dukhey, and his mother; it is also the story of Dokkhin Rai, a mighty spirit who appears to humans as a tiger, Bon Bibi, the benign goddess of the forest, and her warrior brother, Shah Jongoli.

The original print version of this legend, dating back to the 19th century, is composed in a Bengali verse metre known as *dwpodi* poyar. The book is a free adaptation of the legend, told entirely in a poyar-like metre of 24 syllable couplets that replicate the cadence of the original.

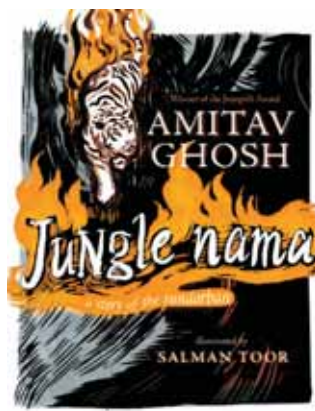
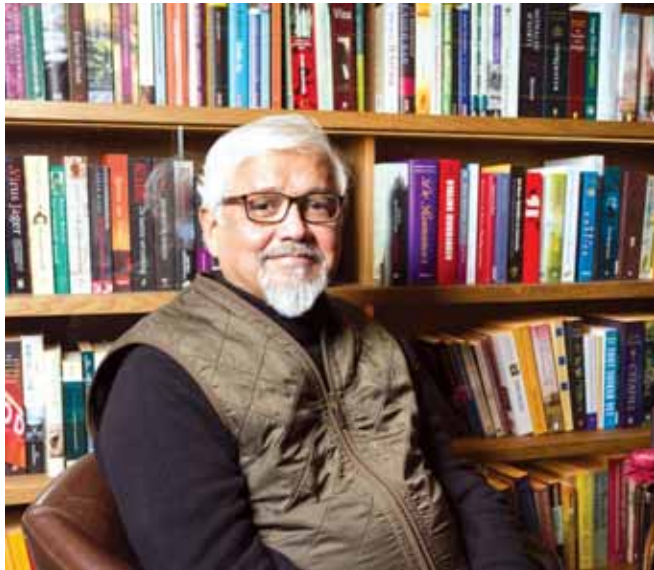
The first-ever book-in-verse by Amitav Ghosh, *Jungle Nama* evokes the wonder of the Sundarbans through its poetry and is accompanied by artwork by the artist Salman Toor. Now, Audible, a leading creator and provider of premium audio storytelling, has come up with an audio edition of the folktale performed by Ali Sethi.

There is something about the Sunderbans that makes Ghosh visit them again and again. “What interests me the most is that these stories are frequently about non-humans as well as humans, as is the case with *Jungle Nama*,” says this Padma Shri honoree.

Sethi, Ghosh says, lives a very cerebral and thoughtful life, so he was able to completely enter into the spirit of *Jungle Nama*. “The songs he has composed for the audiobook are at once catchy and

Changing times

AMITAV GHOSH talks about the culture of audiobooks as his work, *Jungle Nama*, is set to turn into a stage production



musically interesting,” he adds.

Speaking about the culture of audiobooks, he says, “I think that we will be hearing about books much more in the years to come. This has already become a major part of the book market, and I

think this will continue.

The writer's latest book, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* was released in October.

The author, who has been writing on the subject of climate crisis in many of his works, and even pointed out in *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* that not enough contemporary novels were addressing climate change as a central issue of our time, feels that the principal reason for the lack of media coverage of the climate crisis around the world is the fact that mainstream media is largely controlled by big corporations and billionaires, who have a vested interest in playing down the seriousness of the crisis. “Of course, there are some honourable exceptions,” he adds.

—IANS

BUDDHAS OF GANDHARA

A solo exhibition of paintings, *Buddhas of Gandhara*, by artist Ma Prem Anubodhi is open to the public at Oshodham.

Inspired by the teachings of Osho — To be creative is to be in love with life — these paintings (oil on canvas) are an attempt to capture the essence of Greco-Buddhist art of Gandhara. The diversity of people in the regions of Tibet, China, Persia, Greece, India, and numerous local tribes is promptly reflected in the art of that time.

When: Till December 11, 11:30 am to 7pm
Where: Oshodham 44, Jhatikra road, Pandwala Khurd, near Najafgarh, New Delhi



OF CERAMIC BOWLS AND PLATTERS

Delhi Blue Pottery Trust presents ten ceramic artists in an exhibition of bowls and platters. The artists have endeavoured to create pottery for everyday use in beautiful colours and glazes. They have each used a different technique to produce these decorative bowls and platters. Be it a textured surface or painted pattern, or simply dipped in a single colour glaze. They are utilitarian, decorative and beautiful to behold, and will make excellent gifts for friends and family during this festive season.

Come and indulge in a visual treat and put the pandemic behind you. These have been hard times for potters/artists and patrons alike. Let's lift the pandemic gloom and let the galleries come alive.

When: December 2-10, 11:30 am to 7 pm daily
Where: Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, New Delhi



PIERCED BY THE LIGHT OF THE STARS

To stimulate an individual's thoughts, one needs to connect with their beliefs, emotions and thoughts. The artist, Shikha Sinha, has shown a highly diverse range of her engagement in creating visual, auditory, or performed artifacts that reflect her power of imagination and passion.

The artwork illustrates the entire aspect of human life as viewed through micro lenses. Sinha believes that everything in this world is abstract and what we see is limited by the resources we have. To see beyond this point requires a depth of knowledge that is beyond the physical. As the sky has no shape, the birds that fly in the sky leave no marks of their passage.

When: December 1-30, 11 am-7 pm
Where: Gallery 1000A -210 D, Old M B Road, Lado Sarai, New Delhi 110030



MERGING METAMORPHOSIS

This show, of abstract artworks by Rahul Inamdar and sculptures by Alex Davis, brings together two independent mediums, exploring their common experience of the creation of art. Both intrinsically interact with the pieces they make: molding, nourishing, creating, destroying and then ultimately reviving. The works are alive incarnations of the artists but also the genesis of the artist's becoming.

While in his current series, Inamdar allows his canvas to participate in its own creation, allowing it to slowly and whimsically absorb the colour and chart its own path, Davis's art pushes the viewer to see these seemingly finite natural elements in a more solid and statement form.

When: December 6 - January 9, 11 am-7 pm
Where: <https://www.taartgallery.com/book-an-appointment>





1st Test ends in draw

PTI ■ KANPUR

Two Indian-born cricketers, Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra, showed remarkable resilience under fading light and on a deteriorating track to defy India's famous spinners, eking out a thrilling draw for New Zealand in the opening Test here on Monday.

Indian spinners, led by Ravindra Jadeja, put up one of their most persevering performances in recent times but Mumbai-born Patel (2 off 23 balls) and Karnataka-born Ravindra (18 not out off 91 balls) consumed 8.4 overs after the fall of the ninth wicket to keep New Zealand on even keel in the two-match series.

A lot of credit should also go to night-watchman Will Somerville (36 off 110 balls), who played the entire fifth morning and to first raise visions of the improbable draw. A victory target of 284 was always out of question but the gutsy New Zealanders didn't lose any wicket in the first session of the last morning before the Indian spinners, who had saved their best for the last, finally showed their skills but couldn't end on a winning note. The result at Green Park is the first time that New Zealand has gone 10 Test matches undefeated (eight wins, two draws) with the current streak starting against India at the start of 2020.

The last half an hour was a thriller with umpires Nitin Menon and Virender Sharma checking light and Ravindra appreciating Patel for every copybook forward defensive stroke. Ashwin (30-12-35-3), Jadeja (28-10-40-4) and Axar Patel (21-12-23-1) had to really push hard but it once again showed that Indian spinners might not be completely effective on tracks that don't start cracking from at the least second day. There was low bounce for sure but the slow turn made it easy to negotiate and also the failure of the two senior pacers put immense pressure on the

spin troika who still took 17 of the 19 Kiwi wickets to fall. But they couldn't take the all-important final one. It was one of India's most hard-fought Test matches at home in recent times and no one would grudge the 'Good Men' from New Zealand again showing their wares in adversity.

Indian batter Shreyas Iyer deservedly and expectedly walked away with the Player of the Match honours for his assured debut which yielded him a century and a half century. The only thing that went in favour of India on the final day was the low bounce as defending for a very long period wasn't an option.

After this draw, there are some probing questions for the team going into the next Test. There will be serious question marks regarding stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane's place in the playing eleven with skipper Virat Kohli coming back in the next game.

Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma (22 wicket-less overs in match) is looking completely off-colour since England and his place in the eleven ought to be questioned. Tom Latham (52 off 146 balls) scored his second fifty and, along with Somerville, became the key man to in taking the game deep into the fifth day. In the final context, even Kane Williamson's (24 off 112 balls) would mean a lot and so would Tim Blundell and Kyle Jamieson playing 30-odd balls each. These were little contributions that mattered and in the end, a little bit of luck also went their way.

However, the low bounce did him in as he dragged one back during the post lunch. With that scalp, Ashwin in his 80th Test, crossed Harbhajan Singh (417 in 103 games) to become the third highest wicket-taker for India in the five-day format.

"I would like to congratulate Ashwin on his milestone. Well done and hope he wins many more matches for India," Harbhajan told PTI.


Dravid gives ₹35,000 to groundsmen for preparing sporting pitch

He has always been different from the rest and India's new head coach Rahul Dravid proved it once again by giving Green Park's groundstaff, led by Shiv Kumar, ₹35,000 for preparing a sporting pitch for the first Test against New Zealand.

The Indian-born Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra showed remarkable resilience under fading light and on a deteriorating track to defy India's famous spinners and eke out a thrilling draw for New Zealand after an engrossing fifth and final day of the opening Test here on Monday.

Scoreboard

INDIA 1ST INNINGS: 345			
NEW ZEALAND 1ST INNINGS: 296			
INDIA 2ND INNINGS: 234-7 DECLARED			
NEW ZEALAND 2ND INNINGS: (OVERNIGHT 4-1 IN 4 OVERS)			
Tom Latham b Ashwin			52
Will Young lbw b Ashwin			2
Somerville c Gill b Umesh			36
Kane Williamson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja			24
Ross Taylor lbw b Ravindra Jadeja			2
Henry Nicholls lbw b Axar			1
Tom Blundell b Ashwin			2
Rachin Ravindra			18*
Kyle Jamieson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja			5
Tim Southee lbw b Ravindra Jadeja			4
Ajaz Patel			2*
Extras: (B-12, LB-1, NB-4) 17			
Total: (For 9 wicket, 98 overs) 165			
Bowling (India)			
Ravichandran Ashwin	30-12-35-3	Umesh Yadav	12-2-34-1
Axar Patel	21-12-23-1	Ishant Sharma	7-1-20-0
		Ravindra Jadeja	28-10-40-4

O-1037

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BALLIGUDA

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/07/SERWD BLG/2021-22


rw_balliguda@yahoo.cc
Tel-06846-243114

Letter No: 6096

//RWDB

Date: 22.11.2021

1	Name of the work	::	Road Works
2	Estimated cost	::	Rs.10.00 Lakh to Rs.32.50 Lakh
3	Period of Completion	::	2 (Two) calendar months as per Annexure
4	Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	::	From 01.12.2021 at 10.00 AM to 08.12.2021 upto 5.00 PM
5	Last Date/ Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	::	08.12.2021 upto 5.00 PM
6	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	::	Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Balliguda

b-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, N.H. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR

e-mail:eenhbam@gmail.com
INNVTATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) (e-Procurement)
Bid Identification No. EE-NH-BAM/04
No. 5408/Date:25.11.2021

1) The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, N.H. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road/Building works as detailed in the table below.

2) Nature of work : Roads/Buildings

3) No. of work : 3 Nos.

4) Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/- and Rs. 4,000/-

5) Class of Contractor : B' Class, C' Class, D' Class

6) Availability of Bid document in portal : 01.12.2021 to 05.00 PM of 07.12.2021


7) Date of Opening of Bid : 08.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in

9) Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Executive Engineer
NH Division, Berhampur

OIPR-34082/11/0004/2122

O-1101

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Tel. No.06752222092, e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com

TCN NO. TENDER ONLINE - 15 OF 2021-22

No. /DT.

The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 5 Nos. of work for the year 2021-22 in the district of Puri.

1.Total no. of works: 5 nos.

2.Tender cost of packages: Amount varies from Rs. 4.45 lakhs to Rs. 37.00 lakhs

3.Class of contractor: As per DTCN.

4.Period of completion: 2 (Two) Calendar months.

5. Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending, Rural Works Division, Puri.	Online- 15	06.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	14.12.2021 up to 3.00 P.M	10.12.2021 up to 1.00 P.M	15.12.2021 at 11.30 A.M. Office of the S.E.,R.W. Division, Puri.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Superintending Engineer,
R.W. Division, Puri.

OIPR-25065/11/0040/2122

- The draw breaks a sequence of 14 successive result Tests in India, the longest such streak. Between 1988 and 1994, there were 13 successive results in Tests in India. India were 12-1 in those Tests, with the only defeat coming against New Zealand in Mumbai, which was the last time they won a Test in India
- Ashwin in his 80th Test, crossed Harbhajan Singh (417 in 103 games) to become the third highest wicket-taker for India in the five-day format



PTI ■ KANPUR

Feels like absolutely nothing at all." With these words off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Monday played down his milestone of becoming India's third highest wicket-taker in Test cricket.

Ashwin dismissed Tom Latham to claim his 418th Test wicket and go past Harbhajan Singh on the fifth and final day of the opening Test against New Zealand here. He is now only behind Anil Kumble and Kapil Dev in the overall standings.

After India could not close out the game against New Zealand, Ashwin was asked what the milestone made him feel.

"Absolutely nothing at all. These are milestones that are constantly kept on tab, it's wonderful. Ever since Rahul bhai has taken over, he's kept saying how many wickets you take, how many runs you make in 10 years time, you won't remember them," Ashwin said.

"It's the memories that matters so I want to have some special memories going forward in the next 3-4 years," he added after the drawn game.

The match lasted full five days though bad light played a part every evening. Ashwin was diplomatic while talking about the surface.

"Anytime pitches are being spoken about and I am asked a question, it turns into a controversy. So, I'll try and keep a tab on that." Mumbai-born Ajaz Patel (2 not out off 23 balls) and Karnataka-born Rachin Ravindra (18 not out off 91 balls) consumed 8.4 overs after the fall of ninth wicket to eke out a memorable draw for New Zealand in fading light.

"Getting down to the last session, last mandatory over, I think it's played its part, some wonderful Test cricket. The young boy, Ravindra, batted beautifully, showed great composure, Ajaz Patel with his defence," Ashwin said.

"It just tells you a story. Everybody hangs in there, everybody can defend well these days, so it's not as easy as it used to be once upon a time getting these tail-enders out. Great day of Test cricket, I hope people who

watched it enjoyed it." It was a close game and Ashwin was all praise for the traditional format.

"The beauty of Test cricket is that you need to want it. It's really hard, it's not one of those formats where you turn up, have a good day, have a good four-over bowl or have a good 20-overs bat.

"There is a lot of pain, there is a lot of hard work, there's a lot of tenacity you need to bring into play. Definitely I am someone who wants to play this format and I enjoy it."

He added that they bowled well on the final day though the last New Zealand pair denied them a win.

"We were actually keeping things under control. We were bowling in good areas and we knew if we had the time to go on and put some pressure on them, we could get the job done but light was always going to come in the last session.

"There has been bad light in every single day of this Test match so we did expect it, so no complains. Couldn't get the job done but we stuck together well."

MOST WICKETS FOR INDIA IN TESTS

Bowler	M	I	Balls	Runs	Wkts	Avg	S/R	5WI	10WM	Best
Anil Kumble	132	236	40,850	18,355	619	29.65	65.99	35	8	10-74
Kapil Dev	131	227	27,740	12,867	434	29.64	63.91	23	2	9-83
R Ashwin	80	150	22,105	10,261	419	24.48	52.7	30	7	7-59
Harbhajan Singh	103	190	28,580	13,537	417	32.46	68.53	25	5	8-84
Zaheer Khan	92	165	18,785	10,247	311	32.94	60.40	11	1	7-87
Ishant Sharma	105	188	19,160	10,078	311	32.40	61.60	11	1	7-74

Don't think we could have done anything different: Rahane

PTI ■ KANPUR

India failed to bowl out New Zealand on a deteriorating track on day five of the first Test but skipper Ajinkya Rahane praised his players saying they tried their best and couldn't have done anything different. Mumbai-born Ajaz Patel (2 not out off 23 balls) and Karnataka-born Rachin Ravindra (18 not out off 91 balls) consumed 8.4 overs after the fall of ninth wicket to eke

out a memorable draw for New Zealand in fading light.

"It was a very good game of cricket, they played really well. We came back really well after the first session. "We wanted to get that partnership going. We were looking to bowl 5-6 overs in the end, but we needed that partnership to carry on. I don't think we could have done anything different," said Rahane at the

post-match presentation.

He was also asked if he could have declared earlier in the final session on day four but Rahane replied in the negative.

The light metre was out after every over in the last 30 minutes of play on Monday. Rahane said the right call was made under the circumstances. "The (frequent) chat with the umpires was about the

light. They made the call and I think they were right. I thought on this wicket the spinners have to bowl long spells. It was all about rotating the bowlers."

Rahane, who has been short of runs for a while now, also praised debutant Shreyas Iyer but did not divulge who would make way for Virat Kohli in the next Test in Mumbai.

Satwik-Chirag pairing qualifies for BWF World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BALI

World no 11 duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has become the first Indian men's doubles pair to qualify for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals starting here on Wednesday.

Satwik and Chirag had finished at the semifinals of the Indonesia Open last week but made the cut after Japanese pairing of Akira Koga and Taichi Saito also lost in the last four at the Super 1000 tournament.

The Indian pair thus leapfrogged the Japanese pair in the Road to Bali to book the berth at the year-ending event.

Satwik and Chirag needed to beat World No. 1 pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sukamuljo in the semifinals to make the cut but they ended up losing 16-21 18-21.

Akira and Taichi had lost to fellow Japanese duo of Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 22-20 21-14 to pave the way for the Indian pair.

"Fell short in the end against Kevin/Marcus today. But nevertheless happy with the way we played this week. On the positive side we have qualified for the World Tour Finals!" Chirag wrote on his instagram page.

Pakistan closes in on victory in 1st test with Bangladesh

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed 5-32 as Pakistan closed in on victory in the first cricket test against Bangladesh on Monday.

Afridi's fourth five-wicket haul in tests wrapped up Bangladesh's second innings for 157 on Day 4, setting Pakistan a 202-run target to win. Openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique then helped Pakistan reach 109-0 at stumps, leaving the team needing 93 more runs on the final day.

Ali, who scored 133 in the first innings, was on 56 and debutant Shafique was unbeaten on 53 when bad light ended play early for the fourth consecutive day.

Bangladesh had a 44-run first-innings lead after posting 330 and then bowling Pakistan out for 286.

"We just had a terrible last session yesterday which put us under a lot of pressure in the game," Bangladesh coach Russell Domingo said.

"They (Pakistan) need another 93 runs, so it will need something really special. Anything is possible in test cricket. We have to come tomorrow morning believing we still have a chance. If we can pick up one or two wickets in the first half an hour, anything is possible."