

**WORLD 6**UK CONFIRMS FIRST  
2 CASES OF OMICRON**MONEY 7**OVER 390 RCS-UDAN AIR  
ROUTES OPERATIONAL NOW**SPORT 8**NEW ZEALAND ALL OUT  
FOR 296 ON DAY THREE

Established 1864

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# Now, stubble burning to be decriminalised

Centre agrees to farmers' demand even as stubble burning remains a big cause of pollution in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After agreeing to repeal three farm laws, the Modi Government has agreed to meet the protesting farmers' demand to decriminalise stubble burning, a major source of air pollution in the national Capital.

Announcing this, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said this is the very first day of the Winter Session of Parliament on November 29.

On withdrawal of cases against farmers during the agitation, Tomar said this is in the domain of the State Governments and they can consider withdrawal of cases.

In the note on the farm law repeal Bill, sent to Parliament members, Tomar has defended



the three contentious farm laws and wrote "the Government has tried hard to sensitise the farmers on the importance of the farm laws and explain the merits through several meetings and other forums. Without taking away the existing mechanisms available to farmers, new avenues were provided for trade of their produce. Besides, farmers were free to select the avenues of their choice where they can get more prices for their pro-

duce without any compulsion". "...the farm laws are proposed to be repealed. It is also proposed to omit sub section (1A) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 which was inserted vide the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020," the Bill said.

"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 devel-

opment," reads the note written by the Agriculture Minister.

To repeal a law, a new law has to be enacted and a specific repealing clause is added to it. Therefore, the amendment bill for the three farm laws would have to be tabled in Parliament the same way as any other bill.

Once both Houses of Parliament pass the bill, it will be ratified by the President of India and the previous Act would be withdrawn.

# Modi: Maintain intensive containment, surveillance

## PM briefs about global trends on Covid, Omicron

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In wake of the new variant Omicron, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday convened a high-level meeting to review the situation relating to Covid-19 and vaccination.

Modi urged the officials to be proactive and maintain intensive containment and active surveillance and make people cautious. He also said States should be sensitised on the need to ensure that all those who have got the first dose are given the second dose timely. The Prime Minister also asked officials to review plans for easing international travel restrictions in the light of the emerging new evidence.

"The PM was briefed about the global trends on Covid-19 infections and cases. Officials highlighted that countries across the world have experienced multiple Covid-19 surges since the onset of the pandemic. The PM also reviewed the national situation relating to Covid-19 cases and test positivity rates.

"The Prime Minister was apprised of the progress in

vaccination and the efforts being made under the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign. The PM directed that there is a need to increase the second dose coverage and that States need to be sensitised on the need to ensure that all those who have got the first dose are given the second dose timely. The PM was also given details about the seropositivity in the country from time to time and its implications in public health response," said the PMO in a statement about the two-hour-long review meeting chaired by the PM.



PM Narendra Modi chairs a meeting on the situation relating to Covid-19 with top officials, through video conferencing in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

# Maha makes quarantine must for fliers from Omicron-hit nations

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the Maharashtra Government decided to screen air passengers arriving from at least 10 countries where a deadly new coronavirus variant has been detected, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday announced that all the passengers arriving here from the Omicron "high-risk nations" would undergo compulsory institutional quaran-



time. Making an announcement

about the civic body's plans to quarantine all those passengers from the ten Omicron-hit countries, Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said that the BMC — in consultation with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport — would make available a list of all the passengers who have arrived from abroad in the past 14 days to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

## CAPSULE

### DEAD MAN WINS PANCHAYAT POLL!

**Jamui (Bihar):** A dead man has won a panchayat poll held on Wednesday riding on a "sympathy wave" generated by his own death. The real-life tragicomedy was detected in this impoverished district, situated about 200 kms from the State capital, when officials were handing over certificates to candidates who won the polls held on November 24. Sohan Murmu, who won ward no. 2 of Deepakhar village, falling under Khaira block, was nowhere to be found. "On enquiry, we learnt that Murmu had died on November 6, more than a fortnight before voting took place," Khaira BDO Raghavendra Tripathi said with a sense of bewilderment.

### TWO VESSELS COLLIDE NEAR GULF OF KUTCH

**Ahmedabad:** Two merchant vessels (MVs) with at least 44 crew members from India and the Philippines on their boards collided in the Gulf of Kutch in the Arabian sea off the Gujarat coast but no casualty or oil slick has been reported in the incident.

# Farmers defer their march to Parliament tomorrow

## Ask PM to fulfil all demands, to meet on Dec 4 to decide their next course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days before the tabling of the farm Bill in Parliament to repeal the three legislations, protesting farmer groups on Saturday deferred their November 29 march to Parliament and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil their six demands.

The march to Parliament on November 29 was announced by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait.

The demands include written assurance about giving legal guarantee to procurement of crops at minimum



Farm leader Darshan Pal with others addresses a Press conference at Singhu border in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

support price (MSP) by December 4, sacking and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, and compensations to the family members of farmers who lost their lives during the protests.

Now, the farmer groups will wait for the Government's formal response to their demands and then meet again

on December 4 to decide the further course of action.

The decision of the framers to defer the march to Parliament has come as big relief to the Government, which is trying to buy peace with the farmers ahead of the crucial Assembly elections of UP, Uttarakhand, and Punjab.

# All schools in Delhi to reopen from Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday announced that schools for all classes in the city will reopen from November 29. Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of Education Minister, shared an official order on micro-blogging site Twitter and wrote, "All the schools in Delhi will reopen from November 29, 2011, for all classes."

The City Government has closed all schools and colleges in view of increased air pollution. Environment Minister Gopal Rai on November 24 gave orders to reopen schools mentioning Capital's air is improving.

On November 13, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced to close all schools and colleges till November 20 in view of the severe air pollution while allowing schools to conduct the classes in virtual



mode from November 15. Again, the City Government had shut down schools earlier from November 21, as no improvement in air quality was observed in the national Capital. However, the online classes will continue, the Directorate of Education (DoE) had said then.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air recorded at the higher end of the very poor category with overall air quality index (AQI) settling at 372 on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), due to unfavorable weather conditions.

# Uphaar cinema blaze: Court reserves order on 7-yr jail for Ansals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Saturday reserved for December 3 its order on whether to suspend the seven-year jail terms awarded to real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar cinema fire, which had claimed 59 lives.

Additional Sessions Judge Anil Antil reserved the order on appeals filed by the Ansals against their conviction and jail terms by a magisterial court. Besides challenging their conviction and punishment, the Ansals had urged the sessions court to suspend their jail terms till the appeal is decided.

The court heard the arguments of the accused as well as the victim and police and reserved the order.



Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT), had opposed the appeals and told the court that the offence of tampering with evidence is extremely serious in nature as it affects the entire criminal justice system.

The Delhi Police had also opposed the appeals filed by the Ansals and told the court that suspending the jail terms of the convicts would trigger the mental trauma and agony of the victims.



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# ‘More than tough, it was very exciting and fun’

MADHUR MITTAL, who plays Raju in MX Player’s Matsya Kaand, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his role, his experience of doing a thriller-con and how acting happened

**■ What is Matsya Kaand about?**  
It's basically a cat and mouse game between two equally intelligent and genius people. That's Matsya played by Ravi Dubey and Ravi Krishan *ji* is playing Tej Raj, the guy is trying to catch Matsya. It's just a brilliant back and forth, trying to out wit each other. Which I think is fabulous. It's more like brains over brawn, which is more interesting to watch and along with that you have an incredible ensemble of cast playing all of these characters that make the show come to life.

**■ What is your role?**  
I play Raju, who I think in some ways the heart of the show. In the sense that he is very *jugaadi*. The trait that leads him to meet Matsya and become a part of his team. The three people team where Raju is the glue that holds the team together. He is a little clumsy, he is very disarming, full of heart, warmth and very loyal. That's what attracted me to this character. A sweet boy that I don't think people have had the chance to see this character before. That's the main reason why I wanted to do this.

**■ How did you land this project?**  
Mr Gautam Talwar, who is the chief content officer of MX player was very kind enough to set up a meeting with me and Ajay sir. That's because he thought I was right for the character. We met and instantly clicked. I love Ajay sir's energy, the way he is so calm and incredibly supportive. With him, it felt free. We had a couple of meetings and he thought I was right for the part and I obviously loved it because I haven't done something like this before. The show was great and fantastic people in it from the creators to the cast.

**■ How tough was this role?**  
More than tough, I would like to say it was very exciting and fun. I mean every job is tough in its own way but for me, because I love acting so much, they seem like opportunities rather than obstacles. This was a team effort. You can make paintings alone, songs alone, most of the arts

alone but you can't make a show alone. You need a great team around you and luckily we found amazing people that all just fit like a Legos together. It was like clockwork and we were working. It was just a fantastic experience.

**■ How has your experience been with your co-stars?**  
Ravi *bhaiya* and Zoya are so fun to be with. All three of us bonded a lot after work. Zoya's mom was with us as well.

All of us would go out to so many dinners and lunches as much as we could during COVID with the places that were open. We had a tremendous time gorging on all sorts of food. I always made everyone jealous of my samosas because I would eat everything while Ravi *bhaiya* and Zoya would watch what they eat. That was my favourite thing to do. We had an incredible time. The whole show has been fantastic.

**■ You have been on screen from a very young age. How did acting happen?**  
Acting happened a little late. I started my career as a dancer. I won Boogie Woogie back in 1997. After that me and my father, we all came to Bombay so that I could have a career. Through dancing a lot of people suggested that because

I was very expressive in dance and I should try acting. I started giving a few auditions and then my first film was *One Two Ka Four*. I got another one with Salman called *Kahi Pyaar Na Hojaye*. So then the acting journey started and somewhere down the line I felt that I was a better actor than a dancer. So around the age of 14 I focused all my energy into acting and the universe has been kind. At the age of 18 I was at the Oscars with *Slumdog Millionaire*.

**■ You are known for Slumdog Millionaire and your role and acting is highly appreciated. How tough was it to get into that character of Salim?**  
For Salim, the main thing was, before that I had never played a grey character. Even now, people associate to that sort of characters. Before that I was this very timid sort of nice guy. I was a kid so I played a kid, all of the things that I had done before, there is nothing grey about that. So to get someone like Salim who was more complicated under the surface. It's not just a guy who is doing bad things to get money. There are layers there and obviously you get to see them as the film progresses. It was super intense and luckily Danny Boyle was a director who sat down with me

because I was a young actor. We had workshops with him for couple of months. Almost two and a half to three months before the film began. It was very guided, that time I wasn't even evolved enough as an actor to bring a lot of myself to the character. I did my fair share of research like I went out with some guys who had a similar vibe like Salim and I realised that people who do bad things aren't that bad inherently. Things have happened to them which doesn't really justify what they do but you can understand it in a way. That's how I started approaching that character.

**■ What has been the most challenging role till now?**  
I think the most challenging role that I have done was in this Disney film called *Million Dollar Arm*. That was difficult because I had done a sports film before *Slumdog Millionaire*. This was about baseball and I had no clue about it. I had never picked up a baseball in my life before, which was great in a way because the character also goes through the same journey. But physically, it was very enduring because for three months, we had coaches and rigorous training programme. I had to put up some muscle so, it was very physically demanding and that was one of the first times I had to do that.

I would say that because of the physicality of it and the second one would be this film called *Matr* which was after this life-ending car crash that I had been through. In which I had almost completely lost my face. I had to get multiple surgeries done to look like myself again. Because of the accident, I thought I would never act again. The film was super exciting but also very scary. That character took a lot out of me as well.

**■ What genre do you prefer?**  
I will always say yes to a genre that I haven't had the chance to do yet. Funny but yeah science-fiction is the one. A film like *Sunshine* by Danny Boyle or like the *Arrival*. I love films like that. I almost did get a show like that but I missed out on it due to date issues. Something in that realm, I would absolutely jump up.

## TELLYTALE

### ‘I WAS A LITTLE SCEPTICAL ABOUT TAKING IT’



Actor Sharad Malhotra says that he was a little skeptical about taking his latest show *Vidroh*, which is historical.

"Frankly speaking, when I was offered the show, I was a little skeptical about taking it, but not in a negative way. I had neither heard about my character Bakshi Jagabandhu nor much was written about him in history. But when I researched about him, I found out that he was the first man in history to have started a people's revolt in the country. I have not done too many shows, I am very choosy about the ones I do. It's been less but it has been good work. I have done just a handful of shows in the last 15 years but most of them did pretty well and were etched in people's memories," he said.

According to him, earlier actors had a demarcation between a TV actor and a film actor, which is not there anymore.

"The line has blurred and a TV actor is working in web shows and films and vice versa. As far as shelf life is concerned, it is a very subjective matter. When I started acting, I wanted to just give it a shot, I didn't plan on continuing for so long. I was taking each day as it came," he said.

"I have been extremely blessed to be getting lead roles even after 15 years. But that didn't happen overnight, I had to work towards it. It took a lot of blood, sweat, and hard work to be where I am today," he added. The *Bharat Ka Veer Putra – Maharana Pratap* actor calls himself a very greedy actor. "A lot of male actors on TV complain of the screen space as the industry is still governed by women. TV is said to be a medium ruled by the women, for the women, and of the women. But a few men have been lucky enough to not fall into that category," he said.

### SAY NO TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

In an actor's career, we don manyhats, but rarely do we come across characters that leave us shaken to the core. Not because it lets you explore more as an artist, but it wakes you up to a reality, you knew little about. This is exactly what hit me when I got to portray Koel in *Ziddi Dil Maane Na*, a character subjected to domestic violence and an agonizing past that continues to haunt her and her little son. Reprising Koel, I realized how home has a completely different meaning for many women across the globe and how big a menace is domestic abuse.

I wasn't oblivious to this peril before. The alarming number of cases for domestic abuse in our country startled and shocked me as well. But what my character made me aware of, is the intensity of the problem, its relevance amongst majority of women and how as a society, we all have our bit to do to cause change. You, me, and everyone!

So, today, on International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, I choose courage to talk about the grave issue of domestic abuse and appeal everyone out there to Say NO to violence and Stand-up against this social evil. I would also want to appreciate Sony SAB for raising this issue and spreading awareness around this serious subject.

I shudder in fear to think of the abuse, a lot of women in this country live through and endure till the time they can't anymore. Yet, this is just the tip of the iceberg. As much as we read such cases, there are many more lurking in the dark waiting to be heard. It's hard to imagine the trauma, the pain and the stigma surrounding this vicious practice that causes women to stay silent.

As I navigate the journey of my character Koel in the show *Ziddi Dil Maane Na*, the reality of domestic abuse is enveloping me tight. My heart goes out to the women who endure through it all, either out of helplessness, or lack of awareness or both. The sleepless nights, the fear of survival, the fear of your kid's survival is something I cannot even begin to measure. And not to forget, even if you happen to tide over this crisis, the shame and stigma that trails a woman is hard to put in words.

But dear women, just like Koel, that shouldn't deter you from battling this menace. The bruises that you carry on your skin, heart and mind are worth fighting for. Because we all deserve a world full of love, compassion and respect.

I understand the responsibility of portraying your side of the story as authentically as I can. I need you to know that you're not alone, today and always. You're a queen, you just need to awaken and take your stride as the world awaits you with open arms. I hope like Koel, you also find the strength to speak up and fight for your rights. Because if she can, so can you.

### HARSHALI ZINE ON TROLLS

It goes without saying that social media has redefined our lives. Things have become easier and good for us in more ways than one. However, many feel that the world of social media is fake, yet, at the same time, everyone wants that attention.

Actor Harshali Zine decodes the whole thing.

"One has to understand that social media isn't free, it costs you your focus. These free apps ask for permission to read your emails, text messages, listen to your phone calls, etc. The less apps you are on is better. Privacy is a myth in the age of smartphones and social media," says the actor known for TV shows, *CID*, *Diya Aur Baati Hum*, web series, *BOSS: Baap of Special Services*, and Marathi film, *Paach Naar Ek Bezaar*, among others.

Social media has become an ego massage tool and it disrupts the regular life of actors as they are expected to put new content on a daily basis.

What's your opinion on trolls and how do you deal with trolling? "I don't think anything about them. They should not be given importance to. Nobody has that kind of power over me to affect my peace of mind. It's them reflecting their diseased mentality. Why should I take it personally? It has nothing to do with me. I send them healing," she replies.



### LOMOTIF LAUNCHES IN INDIA

The Punjabi heartthrob and singing sensation Guru Randhawa rocked the stage at the launch of US-based Short-Format Video-Sharing App- *Lomotif* - Singer Shirley Setia, Big Boss Fame Asim Riaz, Popular actors Aadaa Khan, Anushka Sen and Bhojpuri superstars Ravi Kishan & Akshara Singh were also a part of the launch.

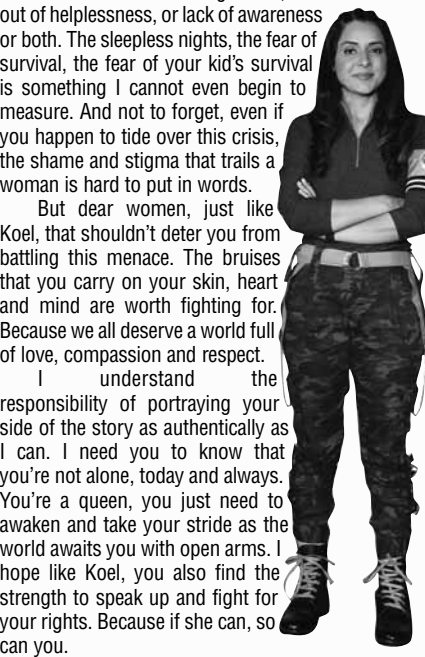
Lomotif has made its official entry into India. Ted Farnsworth, Chairman and Co-founder of ZASH Global Media

and Entertainment Corporation, spearheaded the launch in New Delhi. On this occasion, the app also unveiled Lomotif India, a brand-new channel. Users can also participate in Lomotif India's weekly challenges by posting their videos to win amazing prizes. Founded by Singapore-based Paul Yang, Lomotif was acquired by ZASH earlier this year. Its patent technology allows users to immerse themselves in a super-engaging reel format of content.

### SOS! ATHARVA GETS KIDNAPPED

Sony SAB's *Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peddhi Naye Kissey* continues to garner a massive fan following with its lighthearted and relatable content. The current series of episodes brings the biggest twist of all time in the story as the Wagle family goes through harrowingly trying times with Atharva's (Sheehan Kapahi) kidnapping.

Atharva and Vandana's (Pariva Pranati) day begins with a dispute as Vandana mistakenly blames Atharva for printing Dakku's (Deepak Pareek) picture with 'Wanted - Dead or Alive' written on it. Going about their usual day, the Wagle family is completely oblivious of the misfortune which looms over them. On his way to school, Atharva gets kidnapped by two goons. What has happened to Atharva is of complete mystery to the entire Wagle family as their simple lifestyle could not land them in trouble with goons.



## Classified

### Public Notice

**I, Meena Devi** W/o Govind R/o Burj Kotiyan, Chandimandir, Panchkula declare that in my Voter Card (No. MZH2103463) my husband's name is written as Balwan while my husband's name is Govind. Balwan and Govind are both the same person.

**I, Neel Kamal Rathore** resident of village Rampurbajju, Po. Chhibramau, Tehsil Chhibramau, District Kannouj (UP) in my service record my Mother name wrongly recorded as Bchchee Devi instead of Bachchi Devi vide affidavit No AK 950208 dated 27 Nov 2021 before notary public pathankot.

**I, Bhagwant Singh** S/o S. Dilbag Singh R/o Mahavir Medical Mission Dalhousie Road Pathankot (Punjab) my daughter Manmeet Kaur seeking admission in Sri Guru Ram Dass Institute of Medical Science and Research Vallah, Sri Amritsar my daughter belong to Sikh community notified Minority community in India.

**I, Rajbeer** S/o Diwan Chand, VPO Sulkhani Teh. & Distt. Hisar (Hry.) declare that my son Rahul is out of my control. I deprive him from my all moveable-immovable property, if any body deals with him, they shell do on their own risk, I & my family will not responsible.

**I, Kamlesh Devi** W/o Chand Ram R/o 174/21, Geeta Colony, Ward-1, Gohana, Distt.Sonipat declare that my son Naresh & his wife Minakshi @Komal and daughter Manju are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them shall do their own risk in future.

**I, Rachna Devi** wife of Kuldip Kumar Resident of Ward 13 Tibba Colony Ratia District Fatehabad (Haryana ) declared that my Son Harsh Kumar & his wife Sapna Rani are out of my control. I disown them from my all Moveable/ Immovable Properties. In Future I & my all family Will not be Responsible for their any Act/ Transactions. All concerned Please Note.

### Change of Name

**I, Satpal Singh** S/o Sultan Singh r/o village Berthala, Sub Tehsil Babain (Kurukshetra) have changed my name from Satpal Singh to Pal Singh.

**I, Aaryan** S/o Pardeep Kumar r/o VPO Charuni Jattan, Tehsil Shahabad Markanda (Kurukshetra) have changed my name from Aaryan to Aaryan Sharma.

**I, Balwinder Kashyap** S/O Darshan Singh R/O H. No. 1290, Jhoroa Ka Mohalla, Burail, Chandigarh, Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Babloo To Balwinder Kashyap. I Will Be Known As Balwinder Kashyap For All Future References.

**I, Reetu Juneja** W/o Rajiv Kumar R/o H.No. 1450/49, Ekta Vihar, Kurukshetra have changed my name from Reetu to Reetu Juneja. Note all concerns.

**I, Rimple Srivastava** W/o Shakun Kumar Srivastava, House-424, Tower D-3, Penta Homes, VIP Road Zirakpur, Mohali have changed my minor daughter name from Vanya to Vanya Srivastava.

**I, Vinay Chawla** S/O Late. Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O 6613/31 St. No. 1 Jagdeep Nagar Basti Jodhewal Ludhiana Declare That MY Father Name Ashok Kumar And Ashok Chawla Is One And The Same Person.

**I, Niti Popli** wife of Vikas Mahna R/O H. No. 49/14-O backside Gulmor Hotel, Sandeep nagar Ludhiana I have changed my name from Niti Popli to Preeti Mahna.

**I, No. 1494324L Rank** Hav Jaswinder Singh S/O Nahar Singh R/o Dhaler Kalan(Ahmedpur), P.O Jhuner, Tehsil Malerkotla, Distt. Sangrur.Have Changed my Mother Name from Surjit Kaur To Surjeet Kaur.

**I, Pramjit Singh** S/o Harbhajan Singh R/o Village Babawal, Amritsar have changed my name to Paramjit Singh.

**I, Sukhpal Singh** S/o Parkash Singh Bath R/o Village Bhoe, P.O.Mattewal Tehsil Baba Bakala, District Amritsar have changed my name to Singh is my Surname and Sukhpal is my given name.

**I, Rajinder Kumar** Sharma S/o Vidya Parkash R/o H.No.193, Gali No.2, Pawara Wali Gali, Harkrishan Nagar, Kale Road, Ghanupur, Chheharta, Amritsar have changed my name to Rajinder Kumar.

**I, Satyam Bhalla** S/o Sh. Pardeep Kumar Resident of H.No. 139, New Green Field, Majitha Road, Amritsar. That Satyam Bhalla and Satyam is one and the same person.

**I, Gurmeen Rakhra** and Gurmeen W/o Atamjit Singh R/o H.No.472, B-Block, New Amritsar, Amritsar have certified that above both names are mine one and same person.

**I, Giriraj Saxsena** S/O Mahesh Chandra Saxena R/O 44a Opp Gndu Guru Teg Bhadur Nagar Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Giriraj Saxsena To Giriraj Saxena.

**I, Sahil** S/o Bimal Rai R/o 242, Chopra Garden B, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Sahil Kaushal.

**I, Yogita** W/o Mohan Lal R/o 483/22, Durga Colony, Rohtak declares that before marriage I was known as Rama Rani D/o Kailash Chander Kathuria R/o A-313/1, Shastri Nagar Delhi But now after marriage I am known as Yogita. Both names i.e. Rama Rani & Yogita are mine & of one person.

**I, Geeta Devi** W/o Vinod Kumar, Army No.15693035K, Rank-Hav of Unit-WCSR C/o 56APO declare that my husband service records the name wrongly mentioned as Geeta. But my correct name is Geeta Devi.

**I, Shashi Prabha** W/o Rajiv Gupta R/o #575, Mamta Enclave, Dhakauli, Distt.SAS Nagar, Mohali (Punjab) have changed my name from Shashi Prabha to Shashi Gupta.

**I, Manpreet Singh** Ghotra S/o Joginder Singh R/o VPO Kharwan, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Manpreet Singh.

**I, Army no.15499832F** LD Surender kumar of unit 47 Armd Regt c/o 56 APO Declare that in my service record my son name is wrongly entered as Priksht instead of Priksht Sehrawat vide Affidavit no.AK 950276 Dated 25-11-2021 before notary Pathankot, Punjab.

**I, Sunil Kumar** S/o Churia Ram R/o Village Kawartan, Tehsil Siwan Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my son's name from Kayan Kumar Kashyap to Kayan Kumar. In future, he will be known by the name of Kayan Kumar. All concerned please note.

**I, Mandeep Kumari** W/o No. JC-422348H Sub Anand Kumar R/o Vill. Ritthal Post Office Ritthal Teh. & Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my name Mandeep Kumar wrongly mentioned in my husband Army record. But my correct & actual name is Mandeep Devi. vide affidavit dated 27.11.2021 before Notary Public Rohtak.

**I, Poonam Panday** spouse of 1548985SP Rank LD Name Dharmesh Kumar Pandey R/O Vpo Banari, Teh Janjgir, Distt Janjgir Champa, State Chhattisgarh 495668 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Poonam Panday to Poonam Pandey vide affidavit dated 27/11/2021 before Session Court, Hisar.

**I, Pritpal Singh** Kahlon s/o Gurnee Singh, R/o Vill. Talwandi Mehma, P.O. Nathu Chahal, Distt. Kapurthala, have changed my name from Pritpal Singh to Pritpal Singh Kahlon. All Concerned may please note.

**I, Pargat Singh** S/o Raj Singh # 2238/61 Gali No. 8 Shanti Nagar Manimajra, Chandigarh, have changed my minor daughter's name from Mandip Kaur to Mandeep Kaur.

**I, Baldev Singh** S/o Jaswant Singh R/o Vill. Gehri Mandi, Tehsil Amritsar-1, Sub Tehsil Jandiala Guru, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab declare that in my passport No. J0757309 my wife's name was wrongly written as Balwinder Kaur. Her correct name is Daljit Kaur.

**I, Sunil Kumar** Puri S/o Sudesh Kumar Puri R/o. F- 9/200, Gali No.4, Vijay Nagar B.S. Model School, Batala Road, Amritsar have Changed my name from Sunil Puri to Sunil Kumar Puri.

**I Sweety** W/O Vijay Kumar R/O H.No.F-7/454, Kashmir Avenue Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Sweety To Monika.

**I Shankarkumar** Maliram Kedia S/O Mali Ram R/O 314, Old Jail Road, Distt. Shopping Center, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Shanker Kumar.

**I Ricky Kumar** S/O Ravinder Kumar R/O K21/4092 Ekta Nagar Chamrang Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Ricky Kumar Hans.

**I Ravinder Kumar** S/O Tarsem Lal R/O K 40/92 Shri Guru Raviddass Marg East Mohan Nagar Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Ravinder Kumar Hans.

**I, Arvind Kashyap** S/o Service No. 256778G SGT. Late Jaipal Sharma r/o 671/6, Patel Nagar, Thanesar Distt. Kurukshetra (Haryana) have changed his name from Arvind Kashyap to Arvind Sharma.

**I, Priya D/o Budh Ram** R/o VPO. Dhuleta, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab Have Changed My Name From Priya To Priya Rani.

**I, Smt Satinder Kaur** W/O No.811663m Ex Sub Davinder Singh Bajwa R/O Village- Natt Po- Chahal Tehsil Batala Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed To My Name Satinder Kaur To Satinder Kaur Bajwa Vide Affidavit No.708 Dated 17-11-2021 Before Executive Magistrate Batala.

**I, No.Jc-811663m** Ex Sub Davinder Singh Bajwa S/O Sh Amar Singh Bajwa R/O Village Natt Po- Chahal Tehsil Batala Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Son Jasraj Singh Bajwa To Jasraj Singh And Date Of Birth Of My Son 30-11-2004 To 30-11-2003.

**I, No.Jc-811663m** Ex Sub Davinder Singh Bajwa S/O Sh Amar Singh Bajwa R/O Village Natt Po- Chahal Tehsil Batala Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Daughter Mehakdeep Bajwa To Mehakdeep Kaur And Date Of Birth Of My Daughter 13-02-2000 To 15-03-2000.

**I, No.4467910m** Ex Hony Nb Sub Surjit Singh Sc S/O Sh Kartar Singh R/O Vpo- Bhoma Tehsil Batala Distt- Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Daughter Saranjit Kaur To Sharanjeet Kaur And Date Of Birth Of My Daughter 29-06-1994 To 28-06-1994 And My Second Daughter Name Baljit Kaur To Baljeet Kaur.

**I, Ranjit Singh**, Son Of Amrik Singh, Holder Of Indian Passport No.L4528174, Issued At Dubai On 19/08/2013, Permanent Resident Of Village, Mangal Sain, Po- Gurdas Nangal, Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab, India And Presently Residing At 368, Carmergate Row Ne, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Do Hereby Change My Name From Ranjit Singh To Ranjit Singh Bajwa With Immediate Effect.

**I, Ranjit Singh**, Father Of Gurnoor Singh, Holder Of Indian Passport No.N7288484, Issued At Jalandhar On 25/02/2016, Permanent Resident Of Village, Mangal Sain, Po- Gurdas Nangal, Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab, India And Presently Residing At 368, Carmergate Row Ne, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Do Hereby Change The Name Of My Son From Gurnoor Singh To Gurnoor Singh Bajwa With Immediate Effect.

**I, Ravinder Kaur**, Daughter Of Lakhwinder, Holder Of Indian Passport No.N6380954, Issued At Jalandhar On 06/01/2016, Permanent Resident Of Village, Mangal Sain, Po- Gurdas Nangal, Distt- Gurdaspur Punjab, India And Presently Residing At 368, Carmergate Row Ne, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Do Hereby Change My Name From Ravinder Kaur To Ravinder Kaur Bajwa With Immediate Effect.

**I, No.3401698K Rank** Ex Nk Name Lakhwinder Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/O Village Gainipur Post Office Joura Chhattran Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur (Punjab), Have Changed The Name Of My Daughter From Harshpreet Kaur To Harshpreet Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 26 Nov 2021.

**I, No.3401698K Rank** Ex Nk Name Lakhwinder Singh S/O Baldev Singh R/O Village Gainipur Post Office Joura Chhattran Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur (Punjab), Have Changed The Name Of My Wife From Sarabjit Kaur To Sarbjit Kaur Vide Affidavit Dated 26 Nov 2021.

**I, Sirjan Multani** D/O Sarbjit Singh R/O Village New Shalla, Po- Pull Tibri Tehsil/Distt- Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name To Sirjan Kaur Multani.

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## ASSEMBLY POLLS

# Wipe out AAP, SAD from electoral scene: Punjab CM to people

**PNS ■ BARNALA**

Giving a call to wipe out AAP and SAD from the electoral scene in the ensuing Assembly polls, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Saturday said it is now crystal clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Captain Amarinder Singh and Badals are hand in glove to barter away the interests of Punjab be it agriculture, industry or common man's cause.

Addressing a public rally, Channi asked the people to identify these dubious politicians who are hell bent upon exploiting them emotionally to the hilt. Chiding AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal for making tall claims to provide financial assistance of Rs. 1000 per month to every woman above 18 years in the state, if voted to power adding he dared Kejriwal to come out with facts and figures to how many women he has extended this relief in Delhi. Likewise, Channi said people of Punjab are wise enough and they won't

be betrayed this time by his false promises as he and his party has been fully exposed on count of non-performance which is evident from the fact that 11 out of 20 AAP MLAs had already shifted their loyalty to other political parties. He also said that now NRIs have also realized that it is a party with hollow claims which is remotely concerned with the core issues of state.

Channi also asked Kejriwal to specify how many farmers have got the facility of loan waiver or getting free power in the agriculture sector in Delhi. He also blamed Kejriwal for making irresponsible utterances to pursue his vested interests by spreading misinformation about non-implementation of recent pro-people decisions taken by his government. Countering the false claims of Delhi CM, Channi challenged him to tell the people about the prevailing prices of petrol and diesel besides the rates of electricity being supplied to various categories of consumers in his state, which

are far more higher than in Punjab. He pointed out Punjab is the only state across the country where people are getting petrol/diesel and electricity at cheaper rates.

Training guns at SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal, he said that father-son duo along with his wife Harsimrat Kaur Badal were instrumental in getting the draconian laws enacted at Centre because SAD eventually laid the foundation of these anti-farmer laws by passing the Contract Farming Act-2013 in Punjab Vidhan Sabha of which they can't wash their hands from the onus to stab in the back of peasantry.

The Punjab chief minister asked Sukhbir Badal to desist from threatening the police and civil officers as they were discharging their duties with due diligence and it was none of his business to cow down them.

He said that he would not be buckled down with such tactics to launch a protest at his official residence to get him and his party workers arrested. He dared them to face the



music for their misdeeds during decade long misrule for the unpardonable acts of sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji besides the drug, transport and cable mafia which has virtually defunct the state's resources thus enriching their personal coffers. He said, "Now it is the turn of Cable Mafia as being run by the proteges of Badals across the state, who have looted the people through monopolizing this trade thus

depleting the state's financial resources."

Hitting at Captain Amarinder Singh for expressing gratitude to PM Modi for announcing to repeal three black farm laws, Channi said he failed to comprehend how a true Punjabi can rejoice over this decision since nearly 700 farmers have lost their lives during the year-long agitation at Delhi borders and in other parts of the state.

On the occasion, Channi announced Rs. 25 crore for the holistic development of Barnala Assembly Constituency including repair and widening of Rajgarh road to 22 feet besides upgradation of other roads. Addressing a public gathering earlier at Mehal Kalan, Channi also announced a sum of Rs.25 crore for the execution of development works in this assembly constituency, of which Rs. 15 crore would be spent on the development of villages and Rs. 10 crore for construction of roads. He also announced to upgrade Mehal Kalan as Sub-Division besides opening an ITI there. Likewise, he also announced Rs. 25 crore for overall development of Bhadaur Assembly.

Constituency besides opening a Government Nursing College, ITI and stadium in this assembly constituency.

Former Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu while addressing the public said that a sense of fear has gripped the AAP after Charanjit Singh Channi took over as Chief

Minister, which led to mass exodus from Kejriwal's party to Congress.

Taking a jibe at AAP Convener, he said that the failure of Mohalla Clinics can be gauged from the fact that during the peak of Corona time at least 4,000 patients travelled all the way from Delhi to Punjab to get themselves treated. This clearly shows the failure of Kejriwal governments' tall claims of providing medical facilities to Delhi residents.

PPCC General Secretary and former Barnala MLA Kewal Singh Dhillion said that the common people's government was established in Punjab only after the CM Channi took over. He also pointed out that Barnala has witnessed overall development only whenever Congress was in power and moreover it was elevated as district in 2006 during the Congress regime. Prominent amongst others who attended the function included MP Mohd. Saddique besides several senior leaders and party workers of Congress.

# Sukhbir Badal courts arrest along with senior SAD leadership

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

**S**hiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday courted arrest along with core committee members of the party to register their protest against what the party called Congress "conspiracy" to implicate senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a false drugs case.

Despite heavy security outside the MLA flats complex, senior leaders of the party overcame barricading to march to the chief minister's residence and courted arrest in front of it. Speaking on the occasion, the SAD President alleged that Pradesh Congress President Navjot Sidhu was resorting to extra constitutional measures by directing the State government to register a false case against Bikram Majithia. "The CM and the home minister have not only agreed to this demand in order to divert attention from the failures of the Congress government but have also directed the DGP to register the false case," he said.

# HP announces new pay scales for its employees

**PNS ■ SHIMLA**

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday announced new pay scales for the employees of the State Government with effect from 1 January, 2016. The pay of January 2022 would be payable in February, 2022 as per revised pay scales.

Addressing the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the Himachal Pradesh Non-Gazetted Employees Federation here, the Chief Minister said that all the pensioners and family pensioners would also be given revised pension and other pensionary benefits from 1 January, 2016.

The Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be given on revised pay scales and revised pension/family pension. He said that these new pay scales and revised pension would put additional burden of Rs. 6000 crore annually on the State exchequer.

Thakur also announced implementation of New Pension System (Invalid Pension and Family Pension ) from 15th May, 2003 according to Office Memorandum dated 5 May, 2009 of Central Government to the employees of the State Government. He said that this would put an additional burden of about Rs. 250 crore on the State exche-

quer.

He announced a reduction in the period of contractual employees of the State Government for their regularization from three years to two years, adding that one-year would also be reduced for regularization/daily wages conversion in respect of daily wage employees, part time workers, water guards and water carriers etc.

He announced release of additional Rs. 10 crore for clearance of pending medical reimbursement bills. The Chief Minister said that a Committee would be constituted for appointment on compassionate grounds under chairmanship of

Chief Secretary. The Committee would give its presentation in the next Cabinet Meeting. He said that the Government would also consider providing tribal allowance to daily wage and contract employees serving in the tribal areas of the State.

Thakur said that NPS employees would now have freedom to choose any Pension Fund for investment for ensuring better returns. He said that till now these employees have to invest in only those Pension Fund selected by the Government. He said that all the NPS employees were being provided Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity benefits.

and now the Government has decided to provide Gratuity to NPS employees deprived from this benefit from 15th May, 2003 to 22nd September, 2017.

Chief Minister said that the employees have been playing a major role in the development of the State as it was due to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the employees that the State today has emerged as a role model for other states of the country. He said that our State was also the first State in the country of population: employee ratio. He said that the covid-19 pandemic adversely affected the economy of the country and Himachal Pradesh was also

not an exception. He said that the employees of the State played a major role in fighting this pandemic and the State successfully managed to come out from this crisis.

Thakur said that the State Government was spending about 43 per cent of its total budget on employees and pensioners which would increase upto 50 per cent after the implementation of the 6th pay Commission. He said that during the last about four years the State Government had enhanced the DA of employees and pensioners of the State by 22 per cent and financial benefits of Rs 1320 crore were provided to them.

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Applications are invited from 28.11.2021 to 03.12.2021 upto 5:00 PM for the following Colleges of Education Recognized from NCTE & Affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh.		
SR.NO.	NAME & ADDRESS OF THE COLLEGE	CONTACT NO.
1.	<b>Babe Ke College of Education</b> V.P.O Dauchard, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	01636-253167, 253092, 81969-90390, 98559-52200, 97795-49287
2.	<b>Babe Ke College of Education</b> V.P.O Mukdi, Distt. - Ferozepur (Pb.)	98785-77614, 97818-08990
3.	<b>Baba Mangal Singh Institute of Education</b> V.P.O Bughpura, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	98143-44388, 98141-63415, 98144-90032, 94172-10901
4.	<b>Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial College of Education</b> V.P.O Dhudike, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	98727-26055, 98143-60329, 97680-00027, 97804-73500
5.	<b>Moga College of Education for Girls</b> Moga - Ferozepur, G.T. Road, Ghali Kalan, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	73475-23682, 98556-44064, 94639 -22122, 79736-67880
6.	<b>Satyam College of Education (Co-Educational)</b> Moga - Ferozepur, G.T. Road, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	98140-31326, 98140-32684, 97811-12434
7.	<b>Shukdeva Krishna College of Education for Girls</b> Moga - Ferozepur, G.T. Road, Distt. - Moga (Pb.)	98784-37030, 01636-26584, 98768-68180
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मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते संगोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥

# अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गीता महोत्सव

2-19 दिसम्बर, 2021  
मार्गशीर्ष शुक्लपक्ष

ब्रह्म सरोवर, कुरुक्षेत्र, हरियाणा

“गीता की पावन स्थली कर्मभूमि हरियाणा में आपका स्वागत है।  
आइए, गीता के इस महोत्सव से जुड़कर अपना और  
सम्पूर्ण मानव जाति के कल्याण का मार्ग प्रशस्त करें।”  
- मनोहर लाल

“गीता के विश्वरूप ने महाभारत से लेकर आज़ादी की लड़ाई तक,  
हर कालखंड में हमारे राष्ट्र का पथप्रदर्शन किया है।  
किसी के लिए गीता ज्ञान का ग्रंथ है, किसी के लिए सांख्य का शास्त्र है,  
किसी के लिए योग सूत्र है, तो किसी के लिए कर्म का पाठ है।  
गीता एक ऐसा ग्रंथ है जो पूरे विश्व के लिए है, जीव मात्र के लिए है।”  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

## मुख्य आकर्षण

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# Kejriwal presents 1L electricity bills with zero tariff Challenges Channi to show 1,000

PNS ■ MOHALI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday presented 1 lakh 'zero electricity bills' of Delhi consumers under the free power scheme by the Delhi government as documentary evidence to the people of Punjab and also challenged Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh to show the zero price bills of only 1,000 electricity consumers. According to Kejriwal, Charanjit Singh Channi only makes announcements but does not implement them.

"Channi is spending a lot of government money on various advertisements and hoardings for his fake publicity, but

they are not doing any work at the grass root level. Due to which today every section including unemployed teachers, employees, farmers, traders, doctors, nurses are sitting on dharna and protests," he alleged.

Kejriwal was addressing the program 'Janta nal Kejriwal ji di galbaat' organized by the party at Mohali in which people and party volunteers from different districts of Punjab were present. On the occasion, AAP Punjab president and MP Bhagwant Mann, Punjab affairs in-charge and MLA Jarnail Singh, Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema, MLAs Principal Budhram, Jai Singh Rodi, Amarjit Singh Sandoa were present on the occasion; while the stage was officiated by

MLA Aman Arora.

He said all the promises made by the Aam Aadmi Party to the people of Delhi have been fulfilled. Delhi's schools and education system, free and 24-hour power supply, good hospitals and cheap treatment are all facilities available to the people of Delhi. While in Punjab, the Congress and the Akali Dal Badal had promised a lot to provide facilities to the people, but did not provide any facilities by forming a government. Instead, they have built their own palaces, he added.

Kejriwal said, "We have guaranteed free electricity to the people of Punjab, 24 hours uninterrupted power supply, opening of 16,000 mohalla clinics, giving Rs 1,000 per month to women, improving



school and education system and building good hospitals and eradicating corruption. With the formation of the AAP government in Punjab, all the guarantees will be fulfilled at all costs."

The AAP supremo also appealed to the people of Punjab that they have repeatedly formed the Congress, Akali Dal Badal governments, but those running the govern-

ments have looted Punjab and harassed the people. So now give a chance to the Aam Aadmi Party to establish a state of common people. Kejriwal said that if Punjab had got free and 24 hours electricity, good schools, good hospitals, Ghar-Ghar Rozgar and five marla plots, then vote for the Congress party.

If nothing was provided and they want facilities like

Delhi, they must press the 'broom' button and give the AAP a chance to form the government. He appealed to the party volunteers to work hard for the betterment and prosperity of Punjab and prepare for elections with unity; because together we have to make Punjab a prosperous Punjab.

Earlier, AAP Punjab president and MP Bhagwant Mann in his address said, "The Congress party had made many promises to the people of Punjab by issuing 129-page election manifesto during the 2017 elections, but the Congress government did not implement even 29 words out of its manifesto. Although the Congress party has changed its Chief Minister for two-and-a-half months, the Congress party will be held accountable for a full 5 years, not two-and-a-half-months."

## Kejriwal meets unemployed teachers sitting on dharna and climbing atop water tank

PNS ■ MOHALI/CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday visited the dharna of the raw teachers in front of the Punjab School Education Board in Mohali and the unemployed PTI teachers at the overhead water tank in Sohana and listened to their demands seriously. Kejriwal assured the protesting teachers that with the formation of the AAP government in Punjab, the raw teachers would be regularised, so that an atmosphere of good education could be created in the state.

Arvind Kejriwal arrived in Mohali on Saturday morning from Delhi to meet the protesting teachers, especially in support of these unemployed teachers.

Kejriwal met the raw teachers who had been on dharna for 165 days in front of the Punjab School Education Board and listened to their problems. Addressing the teachers, Kejriwal said, "The Channi government has put up hoardings at various places for regularizing 36,000 raw employees, but neither the teachers nor hundreds and thousands of raw and out-sourced employees of sanitation and other departments were regularized."

Kejriwal said that the teachers should be in the classroom and not on dharnas and tanks. He said that raw teachers serving in government

schools for 10-20 years were being paid only Rs 6,000 per month in Punjab, which was a shame for the Punjab government and the society as a whole. He appealed to all the raw and permanent teachers of Punjab and the unemployed teachers and other unemployed youth along with the people of Punjab sitting on dharnas-protests to give a chance to the Aam Aadmi Party; as the Congress, BJP and the Badals have been repeatedly tested. Kejriwal said that with the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party government in 2022, revolutionary reforms would be carried out in the government schools and education system of Punjab as shown in Delhi.

The AAP national convener then met the unemployed PTI teachers who had been on dharna atop an overhead water tank near Sohana for 47 days and appealed to the protesters to get down from the tank. Kejriwal appealed to a newly-married unemployed teacher along with teachers who had been on the tank for 47 days, to come down and not to risk their lives for the present deaf government. He assured them that their problems would be solved with the formation of the AAP government. Arvind Kejriwal appealed to the Channi government of Punjab to immediately release the merit list of the recruitment process as per the demand of the unemployed PTI teachers and also to issue a waiting list with each merit list.

## Kashmiri traders 'thrashed', forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram', 'Pakistan Murdabad'

### Three suspects apprehended

PNS ■ RANCHI

A Kashmiri trader has lodged Aan FIR with Doranda Police Station against a group of locals for allegedly thrashing him and his fellow traders, and forcing them to chant "Jai Sri Ram" and "Pakistan Murdabad", police said on Saturday.

This is the second such incident reported in the Capital City in the past one month, police said.

The complainant, Riyaz Ahmed Wani, a Kashmiri trader, claimed in his complaint that he and his fellow traders have been facing such harassment by some youths in the city. They fear that more such incidents may occur in future if stern action was not taken against the perpetrators, Wani said.

The officer in-charge of Doranda Police Station, Siddeshwar Maltha said that investigation was underway to check if the accusations made by the complainant were true. Police have apprehended at least three suspects in connection with the case and they were being interrogated, he added.

"The complainant has accused some locals of thrashing him and his friends, and forcing them to chant Jai Sri Ram and Pakistan Murdabad," said Maltha. "This is only the version of the complainant. We will get to know more about the motive behind the attack after interrogating the

apprehended suspects," he added.

The three suspects apprehended in this case are Deepak Jha, Tarun Kumar and Arvind Kumar, all residents of colonies close to Sujata Chowk in Ranchi, said police.

Several woollen traders, mostly from Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, frequent Ranchi and other parts of Jharkhand with woollen garments between October and March. These traders have complained of repeated attempts at harassment by some locals during their stay in Ranchi lately.

Earlier this month, a similar incident was reported in Doranda locality of Ranchi where a few Kashmiri traders were beaten up by some locals and asked to return to their native state if they do not chant "Jai Sri Ram" and "Pakistan Murdabad".

Some Kashmiri traders have said that many more such incidents occurred in different parts of the city since October. They have also admitted that this was the first time that they were being targeted and harassed by some locals during their stay in Jharkhand.

A police official, requesting anonymity, said that jumping to conclusions only on the basis of accusations by a few men was not the right way to go about such cases. A thorough investigation, he said, was needed in order to find the real motive behind such attacks if all they happened.

## Devasthanam Board-Teerth Purohits hold protest in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In protest against the Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board the Teerth Purohits and the state holders held a march towards the state's secretariat on Saturday.

On the day a large number of Teerth Purohits and their sympathisers assembled at Gandhi Park.

They then started a protest march towards the state secretariat however a contingent of policemen stopped them at Subhash Road.

On being stopped the agitated Teerth Purohits shouted slogans against the government and demanded immediate repeal of the Devasthanam board.

Minor scuffle between the police and the agitators occurred when some of them tried to scale over the barricades and push the police personnel.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that share certificate no. 22496 for 1600 equity shares of rs.2/- ( rupees two only ) each bearing distinctive nos. 2745141 to 2745400 and 8959601 to 89597600 of DCM SHRIRAM Ltd. New Delhi, registered in the name of GS Sharda have been lost have applied to the company to issue duplicate certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares certificate should lodge such claim with the company at its registered office at 2nd floor (west wing) worli mark 1, Aero city New Delhi-110037, within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate.

**LOST & FOUND**  
I, Santosh Rani w/o late. Sh. Babu Ram R/o B6/1283 Vishal Nagar, bank colony, distt. Yamuna Nagar declares that it's sale deed no. 7511 dt. 13/01/2011 name of Alka Rani and sale deed no.1830 dt.16/06/2009 name of Rani Devi has been lost somewhere. The above said sale deed has not entered in any kind of dispute, if any person have any objection or found helshs contact advocate Sumeet Garg Mob: 9355345000

**LOST AND FOUND**  
I, Hardev Kaur w/o Gurdev Singh R/o #681 VPO Panjokhra Distt Ambala Haryana declare that original Reg copy Parlekh No. 544/1 dated 29.04.2013 Intal No. 4595 209 sq yard Plot no. 296 Jaggi Garden PH 1 Rakba Sultanpur has been lost near Panjokhra Sahib. DDR No. 132210642100445. If anyone found please contact : 9813322884

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE COURT OF SH. ROHIT GUPTA, PCS SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE (EAST) - CUM-MARRIAGE OFFICER, U.T., CHANDIGARH. Mr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav son of Sh. Ram Sewak Yadav Resident of House No. 1118, Near CRPF Line, Deep Complex, Hallamajra, U.T, Chandigarh and Ms. Ariadna alvarez Garreta Daughter of Sh. Miguel Alvarez Trincado Resident of Dwelling Place/temporary Resident of House No. 1118, Near CRPF Line, Deep Complex, Hallamajra, U.T, Chandigarh and Permanent Resident of C/Captain Arenas N-22, 1st Floor 08034 Barcelona, Spain have given Notice U/s 5 for Solemnization of Marriage to be Solemnized within Three Calendar Months, Under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

Whereas, the above named Parties have filed a Petition for the Solemnization of their Marriage within Three Calendar Months in this Court, Notice is, therefore, issued through this Publication to the General Public that in Case there is any Objection to it, the same be filed in this Court on or before 23.12.2021 failing which the Marriage shall be Solemnized under the Special Marriage Act in accordance with Law. Given under my hand and Seal of the Court on this 24th Day of November 2021.

**Sub Division Magistrate (E)-Cum Marriage Officer U.T, Chandigarh**

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday saluted the brave martyrs of Mewat and called it the land of martyrs or Shaheed-e-Zameen.

Addressing the Haryana Pragati Rally at Manhu Chopda in Ferozpur Jhirka assembly constituency, he said whenever invaders have attacked the country, the Mewatis kept the country supreme and sacrificed their lives for the country. Referring to the brave Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati, he said the martyr while showing supreme bravery fought for the country with foreign invaders along with 12000 Mewatis and laid down his life for the sake of the country's independence.

During the Rally, the Chief Minister announced various projects worth about Rs. 250 crore to strengthen the infrastructure of Mewat, pointing out that in the last five years, the present state government has spent Rs 1,300 crore for the development of Mewat.

Earlier, Naseem Ahmed, the organizer of Pragati Rally and State President of Minority Morcha, placed more than 50 demands for consideration of the Chief Minister, responding to which the Chief Minister announced to fulfill almost all the demands.

Khattar also gave approval to build a district level sports stadium at Nuh at a cost of Rs. 30 crore. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 2.50 crore was sanctioned for fruit production in Nuh, PWD rest house in Punhana, upgradation of Tigaon PHC

and an amount of Rs 3.50 crore for construction of new PHC in Agon. The Chief Minister also gave approval for installation of street light from Tijara Road to Shiv Mandir in Firozpur Jhirka, bypass from Tijara Marg to Sidhrawat, upgrading school in Manhu from Xth standard till XII, construction of community park in Punhana at a cost of Rs. 2.50 crore, rest house and sports stadium at Gheeda, Punhana.

Taking care of all the three assembly constituencies of Nuh district, the Chief Minister made all these announcements. He also announced construction of community building in Pingawan section of Punhana, construction and improvement of roads in Punhana and Firozpur Jhirka at a cost of Rs. 11 crore, library construction in Nagina, street lights from Badkali Chowk to Nagina, and four laning of much-loved Gurugram-Alwar highway.

The Chief Minister said that for rural development, the government has created a Gram Darshan Portal. He said that all the 96 demands of Mewat on the Gram Darshan Portal would also be fulfilled. The Chief Minister said that work has been done to fulfill the demands put forward by former MLA Naseem Ahmed. He said that demands worth Rs. 70 to 75 crore have been fulfilled on the spot.

He said that under Shividham Yojna, provision of water in all the crematoriums and graveyards of the state and the amount for construction of roads for them would also be approved. Khattar said

## PM's Advisor Amit Khare highlights NEP's importance at CUJ

**Ranchi:** A seminar on National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was organised at the Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ)

on Saturday. Advisor to the Prime Minister, Amit Khare was the Chief Guest of this event where he highlighted the importance of NEP.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion Khare said that this policy is very important towards building a knowledge based society which establishes a synergy between the global scenario and the Indian knowledge tradition.

The Advisor further said that its objective is to promote basic knowledge. "Great emphasis has been laid on

education in Indian languages for this reason. This education policy will bring a comprehensive change in the Indian education system in future through a multidisciplinary education system, internationalization of education, vocational and technology based education and research based knowledge," he added.

Khare emphasized that with the advent of this policy, its implementation is of paramount importance. Many neighbouring countries are seeing India as a hub in the field of education. He said that the role of the Central

University of Jharkhand is also important because other educational institutions of the state look at it as a mentor.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor, CUJ, Kshiti Bhushan Das while welcoming the chief guest said that CUJ has made many such efforts in the field of education and research, whose far-reaching results will be seen in the coming times. He said that this university is in the next stage of development which has some challenges. Everyone's cooperation is necessary to solve this.

On this occasion, Ratan Kumar Dey who is the Director

of IQAC, presented a report related to the education and research of the university. He said that many steps have been taken in the context of the National Education Policy. Referring to various commitments, he said that they are related to the National Education Policy and are working on various qualitative aspects, whose implementation will be seen soon. At the end of the event, the Registrar of CUJ, SL Harikumar, gave the vote of thanks. All the Deans, heads, teachers and staff of the university were present during this event. **PNS**

## Union RD Secy fiat to expedite PMAY scheme implementation Asks officials to sanction PMAY houses by Dec 21 at any cost

PNS ■ RANCHI

Union Rural Development Secretary NN Sinha chaired a review meeting with all the Deputy Commissioners and Rural Development Officers of the State through video conferencing on Saturday.

The Union Secretary clearly instructed all the officers that all the houses should be completed in the current financial year only.

The Union Secretary also praised the MGNREGA scheme implementation in the State and said that its work is getting better, so all the DCs

should expedite the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

The Union Secretary said that the houses, which have not been approved between the financial years 2016 to 21, should be approved by December 2021 in any case.

The Secretary also directed to remove such beneficiaries from the list, who have temporarily migrated from the last one year.

In Palamu, Pakur and Garhwa districts, the beneficiaries of the priority list settled in the mining area, by providing them land at another place, directed them to approve the

housing. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -- Gramin, each beneficiary is given MGNREGA, toilets from Swachh Bharat Mission, free gas stove and connection, electricity connection and water connection through convergence.

Sinha directed all the Deputy Commissioners that the benefit of convergence should be ensured to all the beneficiaries. Apart from Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Rural, the Union Secretary also reviewed MGNREGA, PMGSY, MGNREGA M Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission Scheme.

The Secretary said that under MGNREGA, less employment has been received in proportion to the population of Scheduled Tribes and Castes. He directed to pay special

attention to this. DCs were instructed to ensure that all the beneficiaries get the benefit of social security and insurance schemes.

State Rural Development Secretary Dr. Manish Ranjan said that bringing progress in the housing scheme is the priority of the government. It should be ensured that the first, second and third installment amount is allotted to all the beneficiaries by sanctioning the houses at the earliest so that the work of construction of the house can be completed. He directed to provide employment to all the labourers and migrant labourers, while expediting the works of MGNREGA.

M G N R E G A Commissioner Rajeshwari B directed to connect everyone

with MGNREGA schemes. She asked to ensure that the work is done on time and their wages are paid on time, along with this, through the Area Officer App, all the Block Development Officers, Block Program Officers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers have been given 50-50 ongoing schemes per month. Strict instructions were given to inspect and upload its report on the app.

In the review meeting, Jharkhand Rural Development Secretary Dr. Manish Ranjan, MGNREGA Commissioner Rajeshwari B, JSLPS CEO Nancy Sahay, Additional Secretary Ramkumar Sinha, DC, DDC, Director of DRDA and other senior officials were present in the review meeting.



# Delhi HC nixes CRPF DG's plea on ₹20K fine waiver

**RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court has rejected CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh's plea for waiver of the ₹20,000 fine imposed on him in a contempt plea.

Earlier this week, Justice Najmi Waziri in an order said, "This application seeks waiver of the cost imposed vide order dated 29.10.2021. Since no ground is made out, the application is dismissed."

"An order is stated to have been passed on the petitioner's representation and the same has been communicated to him. However, costs of ₹20,000 has not been paid in terms of the previous order. Let the same be paid within two weeks. List for compliance on 21.12.2021," reads the latest order.

The contempt plea was filed by a serving deputy commandant for non-compliance of the court order dated June 9 on a writ petition filed by a group serving CRPF officers aggrieved by the discriminatory provisions and differential policy for promotion for medical officers and combatant officers.

Through an order on October 29, the Delhi High Court had slapped a fine of Rs 20,000 on CRPF Director General Kuldiep Singh in response to a contempt petition.

Through its order in June, the court had directed the CRPF chief to address the grievances of the combatant officers within 12 weeks.

The petitioners were aggrieved with the anomalies in the promotional entitlement of the medical cadre officers of the paramilitary who were getting a faster promotion than the combatant officers.



"Since the petitioner had to approach this court on account of non-compliance of the aforesaid order, costs of ₹20,000 is imposed upon the respondent (CRPF DG) to be paid to the petitioner on or before the next date," the court had said in its October order.

The petitioner Ranjeet Kumar Singh, a combatant in the rank of Deputy Commandant, and other serving officers had filed a contempt petition against CRPF Chief and had sought exemplary costs to be imposed on him on account of non-compliance of the court order.

The court posted the matter of the contempt petition after four weeks on November 24 and sought a compliance affidavit to be submitted by CRPF, Director General. However, the fine was not deposited as ordered by the court.

A division bench of the court had on June 9 directed the petitioner's representation dated March 28, 2020 to be disposed-off by the respondent (CRPF DG) within 12 weeks and failure of compliance led to the contempt plea..

"However, there is not even a whisper of compliance of the said order, thereby constraining the petitioner to

approach this court by way of instant contempt petition for which he has expended monies," the court had noted in its order while slapping the fine on the CRPF, DG.

Through the writ petition filed last year, the petitioner had sought quashing of a CRPF order dated June 10, 2010 and signal (internal message) dated February 21, 2019 relating to assignment of rank and badge to Medical Officers of CRPF in accordance with CRPF (Medical Officers Cadre) Rules.

But the CRPF, through its order in June 2010 and a Signal (internal communication platform of CRPF) message in February 2019 diluted the position postulated by the Ministry and made provisions to grant promotion to the medical officers without any link to the cadre officers getting a promotion.

After being slapped a fine of ₹20,000 by the Delhi High Court for failing to pass a reasoned order on discriminatory promotion policy of medical and cadre officers, CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh had subsequently trashed the petitioner's February 2020 plea to remedy the differential promotion of the two cadres in grant of badge and uniform.

# Factionalism led to HP poll debacle: BJP

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Reviewing the Himachal Pradesh bypoll debacle where it lost one Lok Sabha and three Assembly seats, the BJP has blamed wrong choice of candidates selection and "internal resentment" as the main causes for the Congress making a stunning comeback in the State.

The State BJP that reviewed the reasons of poll defeats this week from November 24 to November 26 also listed factionalism for the party's defeats in all four byelections held on October 30.

BJP president J P Nadra who hails from the State also addressed the BJP unit after the latter carried-out an extensive postmortem of the poll reverses.

The BJP lost the four Himachal seats that held bypolls — the Mandi parliamentary seat, and the Assembly constituencies of Arki, Fatehpur and Jubbals-Kotkhair.

The reports prepared by the State BJP said the party failed to gauge the sympathy for Pratibha Singh, the Congress candidate for the Mandi seat and widow of former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh. Selection of candidates for assembly bypoll "without ascertaining their local base" and internal resentment were assessed to be the factors weakening BJP's challenge to the Congress.

Besides pocketing the prestigious Mandi Lok Sabha seat, the Congress also bagged assembly seats of Arki, Jubbals-Kotkhair and Fatehpur in the state and managed to resurrect itself where the BJP held its sway for over one decade.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, BJP state president Suresh Kashyap, former chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, and state-in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna participated in the review meeting.

BJP is also in the process of reviewing party's performance in the byelections in the states like West Bengal and Rajasthan where it did not perform to the expectations and is likely to affect major changes in these state units in coming month.

The BJP lost the two bypolls in Rajasthan and ran third and fourth in the Dhariawad and Vallabh Nagar seats in Rajasthan.

The feud of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's differences with state unit president Satish Punia seem to have played a negative factor in the bypoll debacle that went on to strengthen hands of a 'shaky' Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot facing 'dissidence' from within his own party.

In West Bengal it Lost all four assembly seats including the one it held in the North Bengal

The remarkable comeback of the Congress in Himachal Pradesh had put question mark on the leadership of the Chief Minister Thakur who put blame on the "price rise" for the defeat instead of 'owning-up' the bypoll reverses in the state.

According to sources, Thakur would be allowed to make suitable changes in the party structure in the state and "continues" to enjoy the confidence of the central leadership.

Assembly polls are due in Himachal Pradesh in November, next year.



Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio, Minister of State for Tourism & Defence, Ajay Bhatt and MLA & Advisor Tourism, Government of Nagaland H Khehovi Yeputhomi jointly inaugurated the three-day long 9th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region at Kohima, Nagaland on Saturday. Union Secretary, Tourism, Arvind Singh, ADG Tourism, Rupinder Brar and other dignitaries of Central Government and North Eastern States were also present on the occasion

Pioneer photo

# CBI arrests ASI for accepting ₹20K bribe



**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Assistant Sub Inspector, Police Station Bishnah, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant who had approached the SHO for registering a case against certain persons who were trying to encroach and sell his land, the CBI said in a statement.

A case was registered on a complaint against the accused ASI Sham Lal on the allegations

of demanding a bribe.

It was alleged that in September, 2020, the complainant had submitted a complaint to SHO, Bishnah for registration of an FIR against certain persons who were trying to encroach and sell his land, the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the said ASI initially threatened and pressured the complainant to compromise with the encroachers and later, demanded a bribe of ₹50,000 for taking action on the complaint and for

clearing all disputes related to the complainant's land, it said.

Later, the bribe amount was allegedly negotiated at ₹20,000.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting negotiated bribe money of ₹20,000 from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused at Jammu.

The accused is being produced before the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu.

# Rahul terms new Covid-19 variant as 'serious threat'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday termed the new Covid-19 variant as a "serious threat" and said bad vaccination figures can't be hidden for long.

"New variant is a serious threat. High time the Government of India gets serious about providing vaccine security to our countrymen. Bad vaccination figures can't be hidden for long behind one man's photo," the Congress leader said in a tweet.

Rahul had on both the occasion, first wave and pre second wave claimed to have alerted the government to take preventive and precautionary measures against the covid. His party also on several occasions remarked that Rahul was the first one to have alerted the government on the pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, till now, 121.06 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive.



Amid rising concern about a new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' first detected in South Africa, India has also added several countries to the list from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing for infection.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare adds Hong Kong and Israel to the list of countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing considering the detection of the new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' in South Africa.

This variant is reported to have a significantly high number of mutations, and thus, has serious public health implications for the country, in view of recently relaxed visa restrictions and opening up of international travel.

# Robust regulatory mechanism and draft 'agreement for sale' prescribed under provisions of RERA: Centre to SC

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that there is a robust regulatory mechanism and draft 'agreement for sale' has already been prescribed under the provisions of RERA, which seeks to balance the rights and interest of home buyers and promoters in an accountable and transparent manner.

The Centre has filed an affidavit in the top court on a plea seeking direction to to frame model pacts for builders and agent buyers to protect customers and bring in transparency in the realty sector in line with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Act, 2016.

"There is a robust regulatory mechanism and a draft 'agreement for sale' has already been prescribed under the provisions of RERA, which seeks to balance the rights and interest of home buyers and promoters in an accountable and transparent manner," it said.

It said that according to section 84 of RERA, the appropriate government that is state government save in the instances involving its application in the territory of union territories has to notify rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. The union government said that it has shared the



draft 'agreement for sale' in 2016 itself after the enactment of RERA with all the states and union territories and currently, all the states and union territories have notified rules under RERA except Nagaland with which the Centre is in discussion.

"It must be brought before the consideration of this court that prior to 2014 Real Estate Sector was largely unregulated. Under the regulatory regime of RERA, the ongoing projects which have not received the completion certificate; need to get registered under RERA," it said, adding that RERA ensures transparency, accountability, and financial discipline in the real estate sector.

The affidavit said that RERA mandates for registration of projects before adver-

tising, marketing, booking, selling and the law ensures the timely delivery of real estate projects and the entire fund flow is also subject to strict monitoring by the regulator to avoid diversion of funds, which will also secure the interest of home buyers.

"The RERA seeks to address vital issues of fair transactions, timely delivery, and quality construction through speedy adjudication of disputes, thus empowering the home buyers," it said.

The Centre said that under the provision of RERA, if the developer fails to complete the project as per terms of agreement for sale, a home buyer can either seek a refund of paid amount along with interest or ask for interest for every month of delay, till the handing over of the possession.

# Kharge blames Centre for surrendering Indian territory to China

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Government on Saturday of surrendering Indian territory to China and said the BJP has transformed itself into the "Beijing Janata Party".

In Arunachal Pradesh, BJP government lets China to build villages. In Uttar Pradesh, BJP government showcases Chinese airport as its own. In Ladakh, government surrenders and cedes our territory to Chinese. BJP has transformed into Beijing

Janata Party," Kharge said. The Congress has been criticising the government over Chinese incursions in Ladakh and Uttarakhand and now in Arunachal Pradesh.

The opposition party has also been demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take action against China and reclaim Indian territory.

A meeting of parliamentary party group chaired by Party president Sonia Gandhi also decided to corner the government on this Chinese loopholes during the Winter Session beginning Monday.

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Modi Government constituted a five-member committee to ensure timely completion of various projects executed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Plan. The five-member committee will be headed by former finance secretary Ratan P Watal. Other members of the panel are Deputy CAG P.K. Tiwari, former director of L&T Shailendar Roy and IIT Delhi professor Mausam and the ministry's joint secretary.

The terms of reference of committee stated that the

panel will ensure continuous monitoring of the pace of execution of various projects of Central Vista with respect to targeted milestones to ensure their timely completion. The committee has been formed for next two years or next order (whatever is earlier) by the government.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's power corridor, envisages a new parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, new office and resi-

dence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave. The ministry said that the five-member committee will meet regularly and undertake site inspections for an independent review.

It will submit its reports and recommendations to the HUA ministry on a regular basis. Apart from this, it will also ensure that project is executed according to the approved scope of work and prescribed standards and specifications.

Earlier this month, infrastructure firm Kamladitya



Construction Pvt Ltd was awarded the contract for constructing the vice-president enclave

In October, Larsen & Toubro Limited had won the tender work for the con-

struction and maintenance of the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat under the Central Vista redevelopment project. Tata Projects Limited is constructing a new parlia-

ment building while Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited is executing the redevelopment work of the Central Vista Avenue from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.



# South Africa: Punished for detecting Omicron variant

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa complained on Saturday that it is being “punished” for detecting a new Covid-19 variant Omicron which the World Health Organization has termed a “variant of concern” and is more transmissible than the dominant Delta strain.

The decision by a number of countries around the world to ban flights from southern Africa following the discovery of the variant “is akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing and the ability to detect new variants quicker,” the foreign affairs ministry said in a statement.

“Excellent science should be applauded and not punished,” it said.

The ministry pointed out that new variants had been discovered in other parts of the world.

“Each of those cases have had no recent links with Southern Africa, but the reaction to those countries is starkly different to cases in Southern Africa,” it said.

Israel and Belgium announced after South Africa that they also had detected cases of Omicron.

Government insisted that South Africa’s “capacity to test and its ramped-up vaccination



A woman wearing a face mask to curb the spread of Covid-19 holds a child on her back on a crowded sidewalk in Pretoria, South Africa on Saturday. As the world grapples with the emergence of the new variant of COVID-19, scientists in South Africa — where omicron was first identified — are scrambling to combat its spread across the country

## The decision by a number of countries around the world to ban flights from southern Africa following the discovery of the variant ‘is akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing

programme, backed up by a world-class scientific community should give our global partners the comfort that we

are doing as well as they are in managing the pandemic.”

With more than 2.95 mil-

lion cases and 89,783 deaths, South Africa is the worst-hit country in Africa by the pandemic.

## GLOBE TROTTER

**2 DEAD AS POWERFUL STORM BATTERS UK**  
**London:** Two people were killed, thousands of homes cut off from power and drivers stuck on freezing roads overnight as a powerful storm hit the northern UK, authorities said Saturday. One woman tweeted a video of her flight from Paris struggling to land in Manchester, northwest England, in high winds late Friday. Passengers’ nervous laughter gave way to screams and sobs before the pilot aborted the landing, succeeding on a second attempt.

**DUTCH GOVT APOLOGIZES FOR TRANSGENDER LAW**  
**The Hague:** The Dutch Government made a public apology on Saturday for a now discredited and scrapped law that required transgender people to undergo surgery and sterilisation if they wanted to change their gender on their birth certificate. “Nobody should have experienced what you have experienced. I am truly sorry that it happened,” said Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science Ingrid van Engelshoven in an emotional speech at a ceremony in the historic Knights Hall in the Dutch parliamentary complex.

**MUSICAL THEATRE MASTER STEPHEN DIES**  
**New York:** Stephen Sondheim, the songwriter who reshaped the American musical theatre in the second half of the 20th century with his intelligent, intricately rhymed lyrics, his use of evocative melodies and his willingness to tackle unusual subjects, has died. He was 91. Sondheim’s death was announced by Rick Miramontez, president of DKC/O&M. Sondheim’s Texas-based attorney, Rick Pappas, told *The New York Times* the composer died Friday at his home in Roxbury, Connecticut.

**ALGERIANS HOLD LOCAL ELECTIONS AMID ANGER**  
**Algiers:** Algerians are voting Saturday to elect mayors and regional leaders amid widespread worry and frustration over rising prices for basic goods, housing and health care. The Government is hoping the election confirms support for President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who won election after his predecessor was ousted in 2019 by protests backed by the army chief.

**MACAO DETAINS SUNCITY BOSS OVER GAMBLING**  
**Beijing:** Macao police on Saturday detained the head of Macao’s biggest junket organiser and others after Chinese authorities issued an arrest warrant for them over accusations that they ran an illegal cross-border gambling syndicate. The arrests in the gambling enclave came after prosecutors in Wenzhou, in the eastern province of Zhejiang,

## SA President advances crucial Covid meeting

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has advanced an urgent meeting with the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) to Saturday, amid growing global concern about the potentially more contagious new Omicron variant, which was first detected in the country.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday.

The meeting comes as a growing number of European countries are following UK’s lead in banning travel to and from South Africa and neighbouring countries of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, as well as Lesotho and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), both of which are landlocked within South Africa.

The latest to impose the ban are Mauritius, the US, Israel, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands.

Speculation is rife that Ramaphosa will announce a stricter lockdown and other measures to curb the spread of the new variant.

The new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529, first detected in South Africa this week, was on Friday designated as a “Variant of Concern” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which named it “Omicron”.

A “variant of concern” is the WHO’s top category of worrying Covid-19 variants.

# UK confirms first 2 cases of Omicron

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Saturday detected two cases of the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, according to health secretary Sajid Javid as he added four more African countries to Britain’s travel red list.

The patients were detected in Chelmsford and Nottingham, Javid was quoted as saying by the BBC.

He said that the cases are linked and the two people are self-isolating alongside their households while further tests and contact tracing takes place.

“We have been made aware by @UKHSA of two UK cases of the Omicron variant. The two cases are linked and there is a connection with travel to southern Africa. These individuals are self-isolating with their households while further testing and contact tracing is underway,” Javid said on Twitter.

“As a precaution we are rolling out additional targeted testing in the affected areas - Nottingham and Chelmsford - and sequencing all positive cases. This is a fast-moving situation and we are taking decisive steps to protect public health,” he said in another tweet.

The new variant has also been identified in South Africa, Botswana, Belgium, Hong Kong and Israel.

On Friday, the UK placed



South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini on the list.

In his announcement on Saturday, health secretary Javid said Angola, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia would be added to that list.

“We’ve always been very

clear that we won’t hesitate to take further action if that is what is required.

“Today I can announce one thing that we are doing immediately is carrying out targeted testing and sequencing of positive cases in the two areas that are affected,” he said.

“We are also adding Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Angola to the travel red list — effective from 4am Sunday. If you have returned from there in the last 10 days you must isolate and get PCR tests. And if you are eligible for your booster jab — now is the time to get it,” Javid tweeted.

## Top UK scientist says Omicron ‘not a disaster’, vax likely to protect

PTI ■ LONDON

The new potentially highly-transmissible variant of Covid-19, named Omicron by the WHO, is not a disaster as vaccines are still likely to protect against the serious disease from it, a UK scientist, who advises the government, said on Saturday.

Professor Calum Semple, a microbiologist from the UK government’s Scientific Advisory Group for

Emergencies (SAGE), struck a note of caution on the worldwide headlines around the new B.1.1.529 variant detected in South Africa.

The UK imposed travel restrictions on six southern African countries — South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia — as health authorities said that they are investigating the “most significant variant” which could be potentially more infectious and vaccine-resistant.

## Travel bans imposed on SA ‘draconian’, ‘misdirected’: Min

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The travel bans imposed on South Africa by a growing number of countries due to the new potentially highly-transmissible variant of Covid-19 in this country is “draconian” and “misdirected”, Health Minister Joe Phaahla has said.

The new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529, first detected in South Africa this week, was on Friday designated as a “Variant of Concern” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which named it “Omicron”.

“We feel that it’s a wrong

approach. It is misdirected and it goes against the norms as advised by the WHO. We just feel that some of the leaderships of (these) countries are finding scapegoats to deal with what is a worldwide problem,” Phaahla said at a news briefing late Friday evening.

A “variant of concern” is the WHO’s top category of worrying Covid-19 variants. It was first reported to the WHO from South Africa on November 24, and has also been identified in Botswana, Belgium, Hong Kong and Israel.

## High alert: World scurries to contain new Covid variant

AP ■ THE HAGUE

With each passing hour, new restrictions were being slapped on travel from countries in southern Africa as the world scurried on Saturday to contain a new variant of the coronavirus that has the potential to be more resistant to the protection offered by vaccines.

A host of countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Iran, Japan, Thailand and the United States, joined others, including the European Union and the U.K. In impose restrictions on southern African countries in response to warnings over the transmissibility of the new variant — against the advice of the World Health Organisation.

Despite the shutdown of flights, there was increasing



Travellers queue at a check-in counter at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg after several countries banned flights from South Africa

evidence that the variant is already spreading. Cases have been reported in travellers in Belgium, Israel and Hong Kong, and Germany also has a

probable case. Dutch authorities are checking for the new variant after 61 passengers on two flights from South Africa tested positive for Covid-19.

## Japan PM to step up defence amid China, N Korea threats

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at his first troop review Saturday, renewed his pledge to consider “all options,” including acquiring enemy base strike capability, and vowed to create a stronger Self-Defence Force to protect the country amid growing threats from China and North Korea.

Kishida said the security situation around Japan is rapidly changing and that “the reality is severer than ever,” with North Korea continuing to test-fire ballistic missiles while advancing its capability, and China pursuing a military buildup and increasingly assertive activity in the region.

“I will consider all options, including possessing so-called enemy base strike capability, to



Japanese PM Fumio Kishida

pursue strengthening of defense power that is necessary,” Kishida said in an address to hundreds of Ground Self-Defense Force members in olive-colored helmets and uniforms.

Kishida, who took office in October, served as top com-

mander for the first time at Saturday’s Self-Defense Force troop review held at the main army base Camp Asaka, north of Tokyo. About 800 troops gathered for the inspection, according to the Defense Ministry.

“The security environment surrounding Japan has been rapidly changing at an unprecedented speed. Things that used to happen only in science-fiction novels are today’s reality,” Kishida said. He said his government will lead “calm and realistic” discussions to determine what is needed to protect people’s lives and gain their understanding.

The possibility of possessing so-called enemy base strike capability has been a divisive issue because opponents say it violates Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution.

## Afghanistan's key Taliban leaders studied at Pak madrassa: Report

**Peshawar:** Darul Uloom Haqqania madrassa, one of Pakistan’s largest and oldest seminaries and dubbed as a ‘university of jihad’ by its critics for helping sow violence across the region for decades, has educated more Taliban leaders than any school in the world and its alumni now hold key positions in Afghanistan, according to a media report.

The seminary in Pakistan’s restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has had an outsize effect in Afghanistan. The seminary’s alumni founded the Taliban movement and ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s.

The school has argued that the Taliban should be given the chance to show they have moved beyond their bloody ways since they first ruled Afghanistan two decades ago, *The New York Times* reported on Friday. **PTI**

## Doctor killed by Taliban for not stopping at checkpoint

**Kabul:** Taliban have killed a young physician in Afghanistan’s Herat province, local media reported citing sources on Friday.

According to Khaama Press, the doctor, identified as 33-year-old Amruddin Noori was killed in Herat city after he did not stop at a police security checkpoint, the victim’s family members claimed while speaking to media.

According to sources, Noori used to have a small private medical clinic had newly got married. The Taliban came to power in Afghanistan after the seizure of the capital, Kabul, on August 15, which led to the collapse of the previous government and triggered mass evacuations of foreign workers and Afghan collaborators. **ANI**

## Cash-strapped Pak to get \$3 bn from Saudi

To park money in central bank

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan will soon get USD 3 billion as loan from Saudi Arabia as the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved an agreement to keep the amount in the country’s central bank, media reports said on Saturday.

The Saudi government had promised to maintain a reserve of \$3 billion at the State Bank of Pakistan, *Geo News* reported.

According to the agreement, the aid will remain in the SBP’s deposit account for a year.

“The SBP has finalised all arrangements and now everything is in place and the amount of the agreed deposit will be received within the next couple of days,” official sources told *The News*.

The federal Cabinet approved the agreement to keep the USD 3 billion aid from Saudi Arabia in the SBP, the reports quoted an official document as saying. The Cabinet approved the State Bank’s retention of \$3 billion from the Saudi Development Fund.

## Solomon Islands police find 3 bodies after violent protests

AP ■ CANBERRA

Solomon Islands police found three bodies in a burned-out building and arrested more than 100 people in this week’s violence sparked by concerns about the Pacific nation’s increasing links with China.

Australian media reported the bodies were recovered late Friday after riots and protests subsided. No other details were given. Authorities imposed a curfew in the capital Honiara, after a 36-hour lockdown ordered by the embattled Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare ended Friday.



This photo shows aftermath of a looted street in Honiara’s Chinatown, Solomon Islands on Saturday

Sogavare blamed outside interference for stirring up the protests calling for his resig-

nation, with a thinly veiled reference to Taiwan and the United States.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND	
ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES – 2022 SESSION	
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following postgraduate degree/diploma courses of Ranchi University commencing from May, 2022. An All India Entrance Examination will be conducted through ONLINE mode at the following cities of this Country (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore & Ranchi).	
GROUP A	
1. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology	: 4 seats- (NO RESERVATION)
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: M.Phil. (Medical & Social Psychology/ Clinical Psychology) from a University recognized by the UGC
2. M.Phil. in Clinical Psychology	: 21 seats (UR-09, EWS-02, OBC-05, SC-03, ST-02) (PH-01)
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology course from a University recognized by the UGC With minimum 55% marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST & OBC in aggregate.
GROUP B	
3. M.Phil. in Psychiatric Social Work	: 12 seats (UR-07, EWS-01, OBC-02, SC-01, ST-01)
Duration	: 2 years
Qualification	: Masters in Social Work course from University recognized by the UGC with minimum 55% Marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST and OBC in aggregate.
GROUP C	
4. Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing	: 17 seats (UR-07, EWS-02, OBC-05, SC-02, ST-01) (PH-02)
Duration	: One year
Qualification	: 'A' Grade Certificate or Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery.
Group A & B: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 25,000/- per month. Group C: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 2500/- per month. The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY on internet through CIP website: www.cipranchi.nic.in on or before December 31, 2021. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Online Payment fee of Rs.1000/-** for Unreserved, EWS and Rs. 500/-** for OBC, PwD, SC and ST candidates. (**Transactional charges will be extra from the above-said fee structure via Debit Card, Credit Card, UPI Payment, Net Banking & Mobile Wallets.)Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable. Online form will be available on our website (www.cipranchi.nic.in) from 01.12.2021. Online Examination will be held on 20.02.2022 and interview/practical would be held in person at CIP between 8 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022. Last date for joining the courses is May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022. Please visit www.cipranchi.nic.in for downloading the prospectus with requisite details before filling the ONLINE application form.	
Director Central Institute of Psychiatry	



# Over 390 RCS-Udan air routes operational now

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India has till date operationalised 395 air routes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme ‘Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik’ or RCS-Udan.

Under the scheme, which was launched in 2016, airlines are provided with a ‘Viability Gap Funding’ to keep fares affordable and accessible.

“Till date, 395 routes and 63 airports, including six heliports and two water aerodromes, have been operationalised under the UDAN scheme,” the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement came a day after domestic flight operations at the newly-inaugurated Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh commenced with the first flight operating between Delhi and Kushinagar under RCS-UDAN.

“The commencement of the flight operations on this route is in line with the commitment and perseverance of



the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to enable the country with better air connectivity under the UDAN scheme,” the statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the Kushinagar International Airport on October 20, 2021.

Kushinagar is an international Buddhist pilgrimage centre.

“The operationalisation of the Kushinagar airport will connect this region directly to

national and global visitors and pilgrims,” the statement said.

The Airports Authority of India has developed the Kushinagar Airport with a new terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs 260 crore in association with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The new terminal is equipped to handle 300 passengers during peak hours. SpiceJet was awarded the Kushinagar-Delhi route under the RCS-UDAN 4.0.

# Strong demand to improve textile sector’s YoY sales volumes in FY22

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Strong domestic as well as export demand will improve year-on-year (YoY) sales volumes of overall textile sector in FY22, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

According to the agency, domestic as well as export demand will sustain during the rest of FY22.

Besides, it has maintained the rating outlook of the sector at ‘Stable’ for the reminder of FY22, expecting a sustained improvement in the sector players’ profitability and the continued deleveraging of their balance sheets.

“The strong operating cash flows will lead to an improvement in their credit metrics, despite the likely increase in the working capital requirement on the back of the higher sales volumes and increased capital expenditure.”

“The benefits of integrated business operations, healthy balance sheet liquidity and operating efficiencies over FY22 have already been factored into the ratings.”

As per the agency, the domestic demand improved



over ‘2HFY21’ before declining marginally during ‘1QFY22’, due to the closure of malls and retail spaces in cities.

“The demand is likely to improve from ‘2HFY22’ with the easing of restrictions but remain vulnerable to any further restriction.

Also, the demand from spinning mills seems to be recovering ahead of festivities in India.”

“During ‘1QFY22’, players witnessed a rise in volumes YoY, although it declined marginally QoQ.”

Accordingly, segments such as cotton yarn and fabrics witnessed a higher YoY demand from downstream

players during ‘1HFY22’.

“The domestic demand for home textile has sustained, whereas that for woven fabric and apparels is likely to improve with the opening up of retail shops and malls from ‘2HFY22’.”

Furthermore, the agency expects the export demand to improve moderately in 2HFY22 on the back of accelerated vaccination and ‘China Plus One’ sourcing strategy.

“The demand is likely to improve further FY23 onwards. Furthermore, the ongoing impact of the sourcing restriction of China (Xinjiang) cotton, could play an important role in boosting the demand.”

# India shown as preferred destination partner for textiles at Dubai Expo

PTI ■ DUBAI

An Indian delegation at the Expo 2020 Dubai on Saturday described India as the preferred destination partner for textiles and clothing, and emphasised on the need for exporters to use the UAE as the gateway to Africa and Europe.

The delegation from India’s textile industry gathered here for a networking session - Deepening Engagement with UAE and the World - to highlight the opportunities in the sector.

It described India as the preferred destination partner for textiles and clothing and also emphasised on the need for Indian exporters to use the UAE as the gateway of exports to Africa and Europe.

The Ministry of Textiles officials also highlighted the Government’s Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, which aims to boost the production of Man-Made Fibre (MMF) fabric, MMF apparel and technical textiles. Several export promotion council officials were

present on the occasion.

Chandrasekhar Bhatia, Chairman of the Global Business Federation, said the textile industry can help India achieve its target of becoming a 5 trillion economy.

“I request all stakeholders in India’s textile industry here in the UAE and back home to play their role. With collaborations such as these, the target can definitely be achieved,” Bhatia said.

India’s Consul General in Dubai Dr Aman Puri said that India has traditional strengths in the textile sector and there are huge opportunities for it to grow.

“Since Expo 2020 is a six-month event, we would like to see over its remaining four months is more entrepreneurs, innovators, start-ups and women entrepreneurs in this sector to come and showcase their work,” he said.

Dr Puri also said that Indian textile sector entrepreneurs should look at Dubai as a gateway for their expansion in the Middle East and North Africa region and beyond.

# EDMC proposes hike in property tax

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) in its budget on Friday proposed to increase property tax on residential and commercial prop-

erties and suggested dropping taxation on cycle rickshaws, milch animals and those which pull vehicles.

EDMC Commissioner Vikas Anand presented the revised budget estimates for the

financial year 2021-22 and budget estimates for 2022-23 fiscal at the corporation headquarters in Patparganj.

The decision to not levy taxes on owners of milch animals like cows, buffaloes, and those which pull vehicles like horses, has been taken as, “it is not appropriate with changing times,” a senior official said.

These taxes were imposed during the British rule, he said.

Also, a professional tax, education cess and betterment

tax have been proposed in the budget, the official said.

Residential, commercial and non-residential plots are currently divided into multiple categories in the city, there are no residential properties in the A-B category, officials said.

The EDMC budget has proposed an increase in property tax for the residential category with 13 per cent for the C-E category and 10 per cent for the F-H category.



# Shippers prepare for another pandemic crush of holiday gifts

AP ■ PORTLAND

The last holiday season was far from the most wonderful time of the year for the U.S. Postal Service: Sick and quarantined workers, a flood of packages from shoppers loathe to set foot in stores and a last-minute dump of packages from overwhelmed private shippers.

Postal workers who recall packages and letters piled up in distribution hubs are better prepared this time as they gear up for another pandemic crunch. But low product inventories, and port and supply chain disruptions are creating new uncertainty about getting gifts delivered.

Already, workers are seeing a surge in holiday packages that began several weeks ago.

“A lot of the workers are saying, Oh no. Here we go again,” said



Scott Adams, local president of the American Postal Workers Union in Portland.

The U.S. Postal Service and private shippers UPS and FedEx are bolstering their hiring — bringing in about 230,000 temporary workers — and taking other steps to ensure they don’t become overwhelmed by packages.

Nearly 3.4 billion parcels

are expected to crisscross the country this holiday season, representing an estimated increase of about 400 million compared to last year, said Satish Jindel, from Pennsylvania-based

ShipMatrix, which analyzes shipping package data.

When cards and letters are included, the U.S. Postal Service said it’ll be delivering

more than 12 billion items.

“The pandemic is still here. The supply chain is a challenge that’s going to impact how people shop and how products move,” said Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, which represents more than 200,000 postal workers.

Despite the precarious situation, the Postal Service, UPS and FedEx are in better shape to handle the peak volume, and several trends could work in their favor, Jindel said.

More people are shopping in stores compared to last year, and people have been placing online orders earlier because they’re keenly aware of supply chain problems, Jindel said. Also, with workers returning to offices, there are fewer office supply shipments being made to homes, he said.



UJVN LTD.

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)

H.O. "UJJAWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun 248006  
Telephone: 0135 – 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO.No. 904

Tender Notice

Dated-27.11.2021

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:

**Tender No:** NIT- 67/EE(M)/MB-II/21-22

**Name of work:** Aluminium painting work at Dharasu power House.

**Estimated cost:** Rs. 782048/- Only (Taxes extra)

**Date of availability of bid document on website:** - 29.11.2021

**Last date for submission of tender:-** 20.12.2021 up to 11:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website"  
**www.ujvnl.com"**

Executive Engineer  
(Maintenance)

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**



UJVN LIMITED

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)

H. O. "UJJAWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
Tele.: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: www.ujvnl.com

No. 907

e-Tender Notice

Date : 27.11.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) SHP, UJVN Ltd., Guptkashi, invites online bids on from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Tender No.** NIT.No.02/EE(E&M-SHP)/Kalganga-I/2021-22

**Name of Work- Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning for modification of existing cooling water system to close loop cooling water system for Kalganga-I SHP (2x2 MW+15% COL),located in Tehsil Ukhimath, District- Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand**

**Estimated Cost-** ₹ 23,57,876.00 (Including GST)

**Date of availability of bid document on web site-** 25.11.2021 at 16:00 Hrs

**Last date for submission of bids on website-** 20.12.2021 up to 17.00 Hrs.

For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "**https://uktenders.gov.in"**

Executive Engineer (E&M)(SHP)

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 40 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue coloured Printed T-shirt, Blue coloured jeans and Black coloured coat, was found under Ring Road Flyover, New Delhi and was admitted in Hospital, during the treatment Doctors declared him brought dead on 23.11.2021 at about 05:30 PM Vide MLC No.362819/21. In this regard a **DD No.42A, dated 23.11.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi  
Ph.: 011-24106345, 24106346  
Mob. 7065036231

DP/933/SW/2021

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a man namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 04.11.2021 at Gagan Cinema Hall Park Bus Stop, Nand Nagri, Near SDM Court, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 20-A dated 04.11.2021** has been lodged at Police Station, Nand Nagri, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5', Built: Normal, Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Shirt & Pant.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO  
Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-22137761, 8750870733

DP/1201/NE/2021

# Democratic countries need to think about creating safe, accountable internet: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Democratic countries need to join hands to think about creating safety, trust and accountability on the internet which has no boundaries, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Saturday.

Speaking at the first ever India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) organised by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI), he said India is becoming one of the largest connected nations with 800 million people online.

With the world's largest rural broadband programme,

India would soon have more than 1 billion people on the internet, he noted.

“Given the size of the internet and cyberspace, which does not have boundaries, it needs cooperation. The world needs to think about it, especially democratic countries and societies,” Chandrasekhar said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Digital India Mission with 3 major objectives -- to transform lives of Indians, expand economic opportunities with digital entrepreneurship, and enhance strategic capabilities in certain technologies including the internet so that the future of internet is shepherd by countries that are open soci-

eties and share the same set of democratic values and respect citizen rights.

“IIGF in a lot of ways was about talking and having more stakeholders around the big roundtable i.e. India about how do we keep the internet open? How do we make sure that the internet is safe and trusted by all those people who use it, and safety and trust being extremely important attributes because there are whole new demographics that were not foreseen many years ago which are children, women and the elderly,” Chandrasekhar said.

He said the government is committed to connecting all Indians to the internet.

# Specialised groups to address exporters' banking challenges: Minister Karad

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Centre's specialised groups will address banking challenges faced by exporters, said Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad.

Speaking at the 'Banking Conclave on Exports' organised by FIEO in Mumbai on Friday, the minister announced formation of various groups to address the problems raised by exporters and other stakeholders consisting of FIEO, leading banks, IBA, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance including one on challenges of e-commerce retail exports.

He highlighted the importance of banking sector in promoting and facilitating exports.

He informed that several reforms related to the banking sector have taken place in the recent past, and all the banks have implemented it in a successful manner.

# Paytm posts Q2 results, revenue from ops up by 64% to ₹10.9 bn

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India's leading digital ecosystem for consumers and merchants, Paytm announced its second quarter earnings report. The digital payments and financial services platform saw its revenue from operations grow by 64 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹10.9 billion in Q2 FY 2022, driven by 52 per cent growth in non-UPI payment volumes (GMV) and more than 3 times growth in financial services and other revenue.

The company's contribution profit grew to ₹ 2.6 billion in Q2 FY 2022, year-on-year increase of 592 per cent. The contribution margin jumped to 24.0 per cent of revenue from 5.7 per cent the previous year.

Paytm posted an improved Adjusted EBITDA margin to (39 per cent) of revenues in Q2 FY 2022 (₹4,255 million), from (64 per cent) of revenues Q2 FY 2021 (₹ 4,267 million), along with increased investments in technology and merchant base expansion.

“The growth of non-UPI



GMV has driven continued payments revenue growth, and our UPI-led payment volume growth is translating to a significant ramp up of our financial services offerings. We are driving digital payments and financial services penetration and widespread adoption across India.

Paytm has seen a strong second quarter of FY22, which is a testimony to the strong two-sided ecosystem of consumers and merchants that we have built.

We have maintained the growth momentum in our payments services business, expanded our financial services business aggressively and are on our way to pre-Covid volumes for Commerce and Cloud services,” said the com-

pany's management on the second quarter earnings.

Paytm's Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) growth was driven by active user engagement & adoption across businesses. The company's GMV for Q2FY2022 was ₹1,956 billion, up by 107 per cent Y-o-Y and the growth momentum continued in October 2021, where the GMV at ₹832 billion was up 131 per cent Y-o-Y.

The company's average Monthly Transacting Users (MTU) in Q2FY2022 is up by 33 per cent Y-o-Y to 57.4 million and the trajectory has continued in October 2021 with 63 million MTUs, growth of 35 per cent Y-o-Y compared to 47 million MTUs in October 2020.

# US dollar falls amid rising risk aversion

IAN S ■ NEW YORK

The US dollar recorded a deep decrease in late trading on Friday as demand for a safe haven shot up.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major peers, decreased 0.75 per cent at 96.0468 in late trading. The discovery of a new Covid-19 variant in South Africa sent jitters across global markets on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported. Surging demand for a safe haven drove 10-year Treasury bond yield to 1.479 per cent on Friday, down 16.2 basis points from the previous trading session. Commodity-based currencies were in a free fall on Friday morning as the price of commodities plunged with global equities, said a note by foreign exchange and international payment solutions provider Tempus, Inc.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general Public is hereby informed that my client Pawan Kumar S/o Matu Ram R/o C-112, Yadav Nagar, Samai Pur, Delhi-42, have disowned/debarred his son namely Nitish Aggarwal (age 30 years) from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their quarrel/some character and bad behaviour towards my client. My client shall not be at all responsible of any act done by them in what so manner in future.

**NAZIA PARVEEN**(Advocate)  
13, Hargovind Enclave,  
Bhartendu Harish Chandra Marg, ND-110092  
Mobile: 9278993921

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform to all concerned that Smt. Usha Kapoor W/o Shri Anil Kumar Kapoor R/o 121, Chander Nagar, Block-A, Janak Pur, New Delhi, owner of property No. F-17, Sector-56, Noida had executed a general power of attorney in favour of Mrs. Lata Jain W/o Shri Sushil Kumar Jain on 07-12-1987 regd. with S.R. Noida Dt. 07-12-1987 as document No. 2178, and the agreement to sell is not registered because an agreement to sell is not registered so it is publicly notified that the transfer application of the said property is going to apply for transfer through G.P.A. holder in favor of Smt. Suman Lata W/o Shri Shankar Pal Singh R/o F-17, Sector-56, Noida if someone has any objection he should move her/his/their objection with proof within 30 days from this notice in Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority.

Lata Jain

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Subject:** Plot bearing No. K-14, admeasuring around 502 Sq. Mt., situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, New Delhi

**WHEREAS** Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain was the owner of Plot bearing No. K-14, admeasuring around 502 Sq. Mt., situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, New Delhi.

**WHEREAS** the said Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain has died on 31.10.1984.

**WHEREAS** Mr. Krishan Kumar and Mr. Narender Kumar sons of the said Late Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain are the only legal heirs of the said Late Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain.

**WHEREAS** Mr. Krishan Kumar and Mr. Narender Kumar sons of the said Late Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain intend to apply for the transfer of the said property in their favour being the only legal heirs of the said Late Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain.

If any person is having any objection against the transfer of Plot bearing No. K-14, admeasuring around 502 Sq. Mt., situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, New Delhi in favour of Mr. Krishan Kumar and Mr. Narender Kumar sons of the said Late Mr. Anand Swarup Gosain, he/she/they can submit objection in writing to the office of the undersigned, along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the concerned Authority may sanction the mutation of the property as per the records & may not entertain subsequent claim, thereupon.

**Mr. Subash Bhat (Advocate)**  
**Add: Trinity Legal Partners, C-401, The Courtyard, Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurgaon, Haryana.**  
**subash.bhat@trinitylegalpartners.com**



# AXAR's high 5! NZ out for 296 on Day 3

PTI ■ KANPUR

Axar Patel continued his golden run in favourable home conditions, grabbing another five-wicket haul to put India in the driver's seat after New Zealand were bowled out for 296 despite an opening stand of 151 on the third day of the first Test here on Saturday.

The left-arm spinner had a couple of dream sessions when he finally found the ideal pace and turn off the surface to completely derail New Zealand's steady first innings. His final figures read 34-6-62-5 as India got a crucial 49-run first innings lead, which increased to 63 at stumps.

Ravichandran Ashwin was also on the money as he bowled 42.3 overs to finish on 3 for 82, inching closer to becoming the third highest Indian wicket-taker in Test cricket.

Gujarat man Axar has been terrific since he donned the India whites at the start of the year and now has as many as 32 wickets in just three and half Tests.

The five-for was his fifth having already got four in the three Tests against England.

However, he will cherish this one a bit more considering that the track was not as diabolical as the ones in the England series (second Test in Chennai and the Pink Test in Ahmedabad).

At stumps, the hosts were 14 for 1 after losing Shubman Gill (1) for the second time to Kyle Jamieson, who again found a gaping hole between his bat and pad.

With the deliveries keeping wickedly low, New Zealand's chances of fighting it out in the fourth innings will be pretty low unless skipper Kane Williamson produces one of his steady knocks.



On the day, however, he managed just 18 and when Umesh Yadav's in-cutter brought about his downfall at the stroke of lunch, the wheels of fortune turned in favour of India.

This was after openers Will Young (89 off 214 balls) and Tom Latham (95 off 282 balls) added 151 for the opening stand but both, despite their dogged display, missed out on hundreds.

It was the second new ball that did the trick just before lunch as Umesh (1/50 in 18 overs) pitched one on off-stump, which cut back enough to find Williamson's pads.

The next two sessions belonged to India as they got eight wickets for just 99 runs.



Axar's perseverance paid off as he changed his line from leg-middle to off-middle and the release was at a greater speed when compared to what he did on the second evening.

He removed Ross Taylor

(11), Henry Nicholls (2) and Latham within a space of 13 runs to completely upset Black Caps' rhythm.

It was in the post-lunch session that Axar finally sent down a classical left-arm spinner's

delivery.

There was a delivery that had a bit of air and pitched on length drawing Taylor forward and then turned enough to take an outside edge which went to substitute keeper K S Bharat. Bharat came in after regular stumper Wriddhiman Saha complained of a stiff neck.

Nicholls also tried sweeping a much fuller delivery which turned back in and he was found leg before.

Having understood that on a slower track like this one, the pace off the pitch needed to increase, Axar gave it a tweak at decent clip which saw Latham beaten all ends up. Bharat fumbled before he could effect the stumping.

Prior to that, Latham hard-

ly had any lapse of concentration as he played 47 overs of the New Zealand innings.

Later on, Axar got Tom Bundell (13 off 94 balls), who looked to merely survive and finally got a 'shooter' that cleaned his defence.

Southee became his fifth victim trying to play inside an arm ball which turned enough to hit the off-stump.

The pitch on the third day didn't change its character as it stayed low and slow but the Indian spinners did better as the time progressed by varying the pace of their deliveries.

During the session, Ashwin was seen involved in an animated discussion with umpire Nitin Menon after he decided to come round the wicket against

## Scoreboard

INDIA 1st INNINGS: 345

NEW ZEALAND 1st INNINGS: (OVERNIGHT 129/0)

Tom Latham st sub (KS Bharat) b Patel	95
Will Young c sub (KS Bharat) b Ashwin	89
Kane Williamson lbw b Yadav	18
Ross Taylor c sub (KS Bharat) b Patel	11
Henry Nicholls lbw b Patel	2
Tom Blundell b Patel	13
Rachin Ravindra b Jadeja	13
Kyle Jamieson c Patel b Ashwin	23
Tim Southee b Patel	5
William Somerville b Ashwin	6
Ajaz Patel	5*

Extras: (B-6, LB-4, NB-5, W-1) 16

Total: (all out in 142.3 overs) 296

Fall of wickets: 1-151, 2-197, 3-214, 4-218, 5-227, 6-241, 7-258, 8-270, 9-284

Bowling (India):

Ishant Sharma	15-5-35-0
Umesh Yadav	18-3-50-1
R Ashwin	42.3-10-82-3
R Jadeja	33-10-57-1
Axar Patel	34-6-62-5

INDIA 2nd INNINGS: 14-1

Mayank Agarwal	4*
Shubman Gill b Jamieson	1
Cheteshwar Pujara	9*

Extras: 0

Total: (1 wkts, 5 Overs) 14

Fall of Wickets: 2-1

Bowler (New Zealand):

Tim Southee	2-1-2-0
Kyle Jamieson	2-0-8-1
Ajaz Patel	1-0-4-0

Williamson and cautioned for walking on the dangerous area on his follow-through, which also obstructed the umpire's view.

The intention was to create a few roughs with his bowling spikes in the region.

Menon, having understood the motive, had a word with Ashwin and skipper Ajinkya Rahane and after some discussions, normalcy prevailed.

Later at the fog end of the day, Ashwin cleaned up the visiting team's tail.

# Star players, new teams and Auction!

From the 2022 season onwards, the IPL is going to be a 10-team affair after the inclusion of two new teams from Lucknow and Ahmedabad. But before the action begins on the cricket field, the ten teams will battle against each other on the auction table to get the star players in their ranks. And the process of it has started, with the existing eight franchises having the option to retain as many as four players from the previous squad. While the two new teams will have the right to pick three players before the mega auction. The Pioneer's DRITI ATRI tells about the players that can be retained by their sides.

## MUMBAI INDIANS

The Mumbai Indians are the most successful IPL team, having won five trophies and two back-to-back titles in 2019 and 2020. They will have to let go many star players like Quinton de Kock, Trent Boult, Suryakumar Yadav, or even Hardik and Krunal Pandya from that winning squad. But they will retain skipper Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kieron Pollard and, most likely, Ishan Kishan. Rohit and Bumrah are irreplaceable players in the MI line-up and have played a big role in the Mumbai Indians' success over the years. Pollard has represented MI for 12 years now and is one of the most experienced 3D players in T20 history. As for Ishan, he is a young, explosive batsman who can serve the franchise for many more years to come.

## RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Sanju Samson is the first player the inaugural champions would like to keep for the upcoming season, and they can only choose two from the English trio of Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, and Jofra Archer.

All three are among the best players in T20

## ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

Virat has represented RCB since the inaugural season of the IPL and, despite his decision to step down from the captaincy, he is the most important player for Bangalore.

With Ab de Villiers' retirement from cricket, Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, on the back of his strong IPL 2021 performance, could be retained by the franchise. Apart from the duo, Yuzvendra Chahal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohammed Siraj, and 2021 edition purple cap winner Harshal Patel could be retained.

## KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy, Shubman Gill, and Venkatesh Iyer. KKR will have to choose between the five, and the rest of the previous season's squad is likely to go to auction. Shubman is a young, talented Indian batsman who is one for the future and could also be the next captain for the Kolkata side. While Venkatesh Iyer has impressed every-one in the second phase of the IPL 2021, he has also been selected to represent India in the New Zealand T20s.

While Sunil Narine and Andre Russell are KKR legends and have served the franchise for almost a decade now, they have played a major role in two title wins.

cricket and it will be a tough call to decide between them. But RR can go with Buttler and Archer over Stokes because of the impact they had on the franchise during their stint.

Both Archer and Stokes are struggling with injuries at the moment, and the RR management will keep a keen eye on that injury development as well ahead of making any decision.

## CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Despite struggling for form in the previous two seasons, the Chennai Super Kings have all but confirmed that MS Dhoni will play for the four-time IPL champions again in the upcoming season.

Another player who Chennai would like to keep is Ravindra Jadeja. The ace all-rounder is one of the best finishers in world cricket at the moment and is also an exceptional fielder.

Also, the 2021 season's leading run getter, Ruturaj Gaikwad, and his opening partner, Faf du Plessis, could be retained by the yellow army. Sam Curran and Moeen Ali's names are also in the fray, but Suresh Raina is likely to part ways with CSK now after more than a decade of bonding.

## PUNJAB KINGS

KL Rahul is the most in-form batsman in the IPL since he joined the Punjab Kings in 2018. He scored 659 runs in 2018, 593 in 2019, 670 in 2020 and 626 in 2021 for the Mohali-based side. But despite that, the team has failed to make any major impact in the tournament and is still struggling for its maiden IPL title.

If KL Rahul decides to leave Punjab, it will be a huge blow for the team.

In the event that KL leaves, Punjab can retain Mayank Agarwal and Mohammed Shami. Apart from being Indian players, the duo have performed well in the last few seasons and are the key players in the PBKS setup.

## DELHI CAPITALS

DC, in all likelihood, will retain local lad Rishabh Pant ahead of Shreyas Iyer, who is likely to go in the auction pool, as he is looking for an opportunity to lead an IPL team and he will not be short of suitors as well, particularly after his impressive stint as DC captain in the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

According to reports, DC will retain young opener Prithvi Shaw, all-rounder Axar Patel and South African pacer Anrich Nortje ahead of the mega auctions, which means Shikhar Dhawan, Ravichandran Ashwin and Kagiso Rabada will go to the auction pool. Shaw and Axar are young and have made a name for themselves in the IPL circuit and can serve DC for many more years to come.

## SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad finished last in the 2021 IPL and are likely to undergo major changes in their team combination ahead of the new season.

With the BCCI stating that only two overseas players can be retained, one of David Warner, Kane Williamson, or Rashid Khan must depart, and it is most likely that David Warner will be the one to go, especially after being dropped from the squad during the second phase of the 2021 IPL.

Even though he redeemed his pride by being the Man of the Tournament in the 2021 T20 World Cup, SRH is unlikely to retain him.



# Never saw myself as a white ball specialist: Axar

PTI ■ KANPUR

Thirty two wickets in only seven Tests innings is no mean feat and Axar Patel says the secret of his success lies in enjoying his craft and believing that he can't be 'pigeon-holed' as a T20 specialist.

The left-arm spinner took 5 wickets for 62 runs to bring India back in the first Test against New Zealand.

It was his fifth fifer in just seven completed Test innings, an incredible feat in its own way even if he bowled in spin-friendly conditions.

"Whenever I have played first-class or India A, I have done well. I have never seen myself as a white ball specialist," Patel made it clear that he doesn't like being bracketed.

For the left-arm orthodox from Gujarat, it's all in the mind. "It's all in mind-set as to what you perceive yourself as - a white ball specialist or red ball specialist. I always had the belief that whenever I get a chance I will do well. "Obviously, I give credit to team members for having faith in me and I have been able to stand up to their expectations."

But does he feel extra pressure that two

world class spinners in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are also in the same eleven? "Whenever I go to the ground, I try and enjoy and not think about whether Ashwin bhai and Jaddu are there," he made his thought-process clear.

"When I have ball in my hand, I just try and see to it that I am enjoying my bowling, trying to read the wicket and understand what's happening, how it's behaving and plan accordingly," he elaborated.

He is not at all bothered whether he has a lead role or a supporting one. "I don't think about whether my role is a lead one or whether there are senior bowlers around me, I only think about my bowling and what is required to be done in that particular spell," he added.

## USING THE CREASE

Axar made subtle changes while bowling on Saturday compared to his first spell on the second day and the key was to play with varied angles, mixing the pace of his deliveries. "I used the crease much more today and I didn't use the crease a lot in the 10 overs that I bowled yesterday.

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Name of the NPA Accounts	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding	
(1) Sh. Mohinder Pal Singh S/o Sh. Darshan Singh and Sh. Maninder Singh S/o Sh. Mohinder Pal Singh	All that part and parcel of Property comprising of Private Plot no. 100-A, measuring 88 sq. yards Khasra no. 831/2 min, situated at area Sultanwind Sub Urban Abadi Ganda Singh Nagar, Tarn Taran Road, Amritsar Registered vide Vasika no. 12430, Bahi no. 1, Jild no. 8311, Page no. 9/10 dated 10-03-2000 and bounded as North : Plot no. 100, South : Plot no. 101, East : Plot no. 98, West : Rasta 16 feet.	04-09-2021	23-11-2021	<b>Rs. 5,29,771/-</b> - as on 10-09-2021 + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 11-09-2021 and less recovery if any, till date affected	
(2) Sh. Sandeep Singh S/o Sh. Rajinder Singh and Smt. Bhupinder Kaur W/o Sh. Sandeep Singh	(i) All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Plot no. 390 min measuring 50 sq. yards (covered area 170 sq. feet) comprising, Khasra no. 972 min, Khatoloni no. 1203/2604 Rakba Sultanwind Urban, Abadi New Shaheed Udhm Singh Nagar, Amritsar, standing in the name of Sh. Sandeep Singh S/o Sh. Rajinder Singh, Registered vide Vasika no. 3957 dated 28-07-2006 by Sub Registrar Amritsar and bounded as East : Property no. 389, West : Remaining Part of Property no. 390, North : Property of Others, South : Gali 16 ft. (ii) All that part and parcel of the Property bearing Plot no. 390 min measuring 47.39 sq. yards (covered area 170 sq. feet) comprising, Khasra no. 972 min, situated at Sultanwind Urban, Abadi New Shaheed Udhm Singh Nagar, Amritsar, standing in the name of Smt. Bhupinder Kaur W/o Sh. Sandeep Singh, Registered vide Vasika no. 9159 dated 21-01-2014 by Sub Registrar Amritsar	05-09-2021	23-11-2021	<b>Rs. 12,61,914/-</b> + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 26-08-2021 and less recovery if any, till date affected	
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It is hereby notified to the information of general public and all the concerned that the following applicant has applied for transfer of Share/Flat and issue of NOC/ Permission for execution of Transfer of Lease Hold Rights before the Managing Committee of the Society/ Registrar, Cooperative Societies, U.T. Chandigarh, as per notification issued by Finance Department, Chandigarh Administration:-

Name of Original Allottee / Transferor	Name of Transferee / Purchaser	Flat No.	Category	Remarks
Smt Sreelatha Nair W/o Sh Radhakrishanan Nair	Sh Bhupinder Singh and Sh Mohinder Pal Singh S/o Sh Jaswant Singh	273	B, 3rd floor	On Agreement to Sell Basis

If anybody has any objection upon the transfer of Title, Right or interest in above mentioned flats of the society in favor of the applicant, then, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing along with relevant document to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the ownership of the above said flat shall be transferred in favor of the applicant No. further claim in any manner whatsoever shall be entertained later on.

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# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

## Exquisite prose poetry

Anita Nahal probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being & nothingness & of identity & subjectivity

2



4

## Choice sets premise of destiny

Once choice option is there, the probability of its use and misuse becomes equal. One has to will upon to make a particular choice



Learning is the most important thing, no matter how you do it, or where you do it, or who you do it with  
— Saoirse Ronan

The starting point of being an impact champion who sets the organisation on a socially oriented path is your own social consciousness and willingness to drive transformative innovations’ write  
PRIYA NAIR RAJEEV & SIMY JOY

# TIME TO AWAKEN CORPORATE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



The 2019 Global Wealth Databook from Credit Suisse reports that 73 percent of Indians have a net worth of less than \$10,000 (compared to just 19 percent in China), while 2.3 percent have a net worth of over \$1 million. India ranks fourth in the world in ultra-high-net-worth individuals (4,593), making us one of the fastest-growing yet unequal nations.

Private sector corporates often do not see addressing developmental inequities as their problem. Access to food, water, healthcare, and education is commonly understood as ‘poor people’s problems that the government and social sector organisations must solve. No doubt that the poor are the first to be hit, that too very hard, as we saw in a mass exodus of the migrant workers during the first wave of the pandemic. The middle class and above believe that they can access basic necessities by private means and from the private sector. The second wave of the pandemic showed us how false that sense of security is! With the relatively well-off scrambling for medical care, medicines, oxygen, and ventilators, it was apparent that none of us would be spared from the ill effects of our developmental shortcomings.

## IMPACT CHAMPIONS: THE FLAGBEARERS OF CHANGE

If we were to survive together, the corporate sector organisations must enact social consciousness. This mindset understands and accepts the interconnectedness of the economic, social, and natural worlds. Socially conscious organisations do not come into existence without socially-conscious managers. We see such managers as ‘Impact Champions’ having the intent and capabilities to help their organisations positively impact the economy and society, and the environment.

Enamored by the glitz of the corporate careers in the liberalized Indian economy, MBA aspirants in the 1990s readily bought into the mantra of ‘profit maximisation. But many Gen Z and Millennial MBA aspirants are a little more skeptical about whether that is the best way forward, as it has become apparent that their generation would bear the consequences of the social and environmental damage left by the unbridled pursuit of profits. Many of them harbor pro-social inclinations during their student days; however, they are unsure how to take it forward once they start a corporate career. In the ‘big, bad world of corporates’, beating competition and exceeding performance expectations are the basis for career advancement. Hence, they feel that there is little room for social ideals.

Time has never been more right for aspiring Impact Champions in the corporate sector to get into action. The UN has been driving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) to tackle the development challenges and climate change. SDGs urge the private sector to collaborate with the civic society and governments, to which influential corporates world over have

responded positively. In the global business circles, ‘Triple Bottom Line’, with its focus on 3Ps — People, Planet and Profit, is widely discussed as a replacement for the traditional ‘bottomline,’ focusing singularly on ‘profits.’ With avid support from the likes of Klaus Schwab (Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum) and Jack Welch (ex-CEO, GE), ‘shareholder capitalism’ has begun to make way for ‘stakeholder capitalism,’ which gives equal priority to the employees, customers, suppliers, and the community.

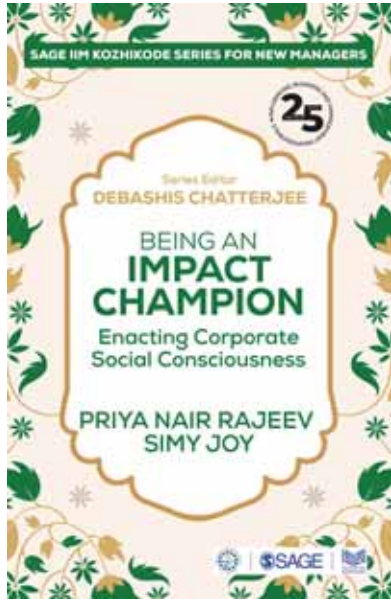
Indian corporates are slowly beginning to catch up with this global trend. However, they are in dire need of managers who can champion this transition.

## HOW TO BE AN IMPACT CHAMPION?

● **Self-appoint yourself as an ‘Impact Champion’:** Most corporate jobs would demand you to mind only the impact on profit, not people or the planet. To be an impact champion, you have to self-appoint yourself as one and be sure that you do not leave your social consciousness at home while coming to work. When you operate with a ‘corporate mindset’ in a regular day’s work, you would accept and get on with decisions that look perfectly sensible and acceptable from the corporate and legal standpoints. It takes social consciousness to recognize when stakeholders or environmental interests are being compromised among what looks like business as usual. An impact champion not only recognises issues but also takes personal responsibility for action. New managers aspiring to impact champions may be unsure how to navigate organisational processes and culture in enacting social consciousness. They can find support in like-minded managers and mentors at the Impact Champions Forum, a seedbed for individuals who intend to transform organisations into socially conscious ones at CESI, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode.

P P Sukumaran (ex-HR Head, Murugappa group) had to retrench 200 plant workers post-TQM implementation. A perfectly legal decision, arrived at in consultation with the Union, still left him worried about the ‘social debris’ that this decision would leave — what were the chances that 200 middle-workers in a northern Kerala village find alternate jobs; even with the severance money will their families have financial security in a social setting where alcoholism was rampant. P P Sukumaran was determined to do something about it. However, he was not required either by law or by his organisational mandate to address this.

● **Get partners:** You have to do it yourself, but you cannot do it alone. Irrespective of where you are in the organisational hierarchy, you would need partners. Partners are people inside (sometimes even outside) of the organisation committed to addressing societal or environmental problems that you seek to solve through organisational means. In addition to moral and emotional support (which you will need aplen-



ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND ENERGY INVESTED IN CSR AND CORPORATE SOCIAL INNOVATION IS GOING UP EACH YEAR, ENSURING THAT THEY DELIVER ACTUAL SOCIAL IMPACT SOMEHOW HAS TAKEN A BACKSEAT



ty), partners bring in legitimacy to the cause (especially if they are higher in the hierarchy or hold formal or informal positions of influence), knowledge and skills resources to develop a deeper understanding of the issue from multiple perspectives as well as potential solutions, access to networks and organisational resources, and political backing to elicit favorable decisions.

In the example, P P Sukumaran engaged in active discussions with his contacts within and outside his organisation. One of them directed him to Dr.Nalini Gangadharan, Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS) of Dr. Reddy’s Foundation. LABS had a skilling model that Sukumaran found appropriate for retraining their redundant workers to suitably place them in alternate jobs or start their ventures. The model was later replicated in Chennai in partnership with other corporates for skilling at-risk urban youth, creating a corporate consortium model for financing such initiatives.

● **Explore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Most corporates support CSR activities which are perhaps the easiest way to initiate action. If your company already has CSR departments and programs, you can get involved in that. If current CSR activities do not address pressing social issues close to your heart, you can always pioneer new activities. Given that CSR has been mandated by law since 2013 and many companies are struggling to identify worthwhile projects, you may not find it too hard to get buy-in for your ideas.

You can implement them through any of these four different formats:(a) as a foundation, otherwise known as a Section 8 company(e.g., Infosys Foundation); (b) in partnership with NGOs, trusts, or registered societies with a proven track record (e.g., ITC and Pratham working together in the Reach India Plus initiative; (c) in partnership with other companies (e.g., Mphasis and Uber launched Uber Assist and Uber Access that retro-fitted vehicles to help Persons with Disabilities as their joint CSR initiative); and (d) following an employee volunteer model (e.g., Calpine Technologies runs Engage — their CSR program that builds leadership skills in school children through football with the help of employee volunteers).

● **Pursue Corporate Social Innovation (CSI):** Business models can generate societal benefits by changing their perspective (e.g., including marginalized groups in the supply chain, new products for the old and disabled). As an impact champion, you can tweak the current models in innovative ways that generate social and/or environmental impact while serving corporate interests.

For example, ITC launched ‘e-Choupal,’ one of the most extensive Internet-based interventions in rural India, enhancing earnings and transforming the livelihoods of over 4 million farmers in over 35000 villages through 6100 kiosks across ten states. e-Choupal deploys information technology to virtually cluster all the value chain participants and vertically integrate various actors in the agriculture supply

chain. Village internet kiosks set up to access information are managed by farmers, who get information on the weather, market prices, scientific farm practices, and risk management in their mother tongue. They can use the kiosks to purchase farm inputs and get them at their doorstep. Real-time information has made it possible for farmers to make better decisions aligned with market demand, significantly reducing transaction costs.

● **Track ‘Impact’:** Although the amount of money and energy invested in CSR and Corporate Social Innovation is going up each year, ensuring that they deliver actual social impact somehow has taken a backseat. Even after introducing mandatory reporting of impact, most companies focus on the inputs (e.g., amounts spent) or outputs (e.g., the number of rooms built in a rural hospital, pieces of equipment they bought). Some try to pass on the number of beneficiaries that they have been able to reach as impact. But this is not the same as tracking if and how the initiatives have created tangible differences in the lives of the beneficiaries. Without a robust impact tracking mechanism, attempts to make an impact may not be as effective as you would have imagined.

We conducted an impact assessment for the Vidhyadhan Scholarship program, run by the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation (SDF). Since 1995, SDF Foundation has provided scholarships to academically bright children, primarily from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families who completed high school (class 10 in India) to pursue higher education. Thus far, the program has provided 13,500 scholarships, with over 10,000 beneficiaries currently pursuing their higher studies across ten states. The basic premise of any scholarship program is that the monetary support would enable them to build human capital in academic qualifications, which will help them find employment and thus lift them out of poverty. We found that this undeniably was the case for those who were able to find jobs. However, we also found that finding a job and future career progression depended on social capital in terms of networks. It was hard for those who were low on social capital to get jobs. This led to the realisation that in addition to monetary support, the students from disadvantaged backgrounds also would need support to build their social capital through mentoring and networking.

The starting point of being an impact champion who sets the organisation on a socially oriented path is your own social consciousness and willingness to drive transformative innovations. If you ever feel shaken by the scale of what you have to achieve, take a cue from a climber scaling a peak: You need to focus on where to place your next step. Then, step by step, you would reach there.

*The writers have recently published Being an Impact Champion: Enacting Corporate Social Consciousness, with SAGE Publications India, under the SAGE IIM-Kozhikode Series for New Managers*





# EXQUISITE PROSE POETRY

In her prose poems, *What's wrong with us Kali women?* Anita Nahal probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being and nothingness and of identity and subjectivity, writes SWATI PAL

You open the book to the title piece and you are hooked. In the first short passage, Anita Nahal puts together the oppositions that we live with, that we have internalised, that we resist, that we surrender to, that we challenge and in our hearts, rebel against. Be it the colour of the dark skin that is abhorred though ironically people try to tan theirs, the rapaciousness of men from which there is no reprieve, the double speak of worshipping women as goddesses and then tearing them down, all this and much more does Anita forcefully, poignantly and poetically put to the reader. And the haunting line that she repeats, 'Don't think she's not watching', stays with you as you turn the page.

And when you turn the page, she paints in words the picture of who really a goddess is. Fiercely alone whether among strangers or with those she knows, fending for her children herself, taking on a world that would judge a divorcee, that is the human and Hindu goddess that Anita would want us to see. And to be.

The next piece on 'How easy it is for a Black life to be taken' is a slice of real life. Real, living beings, non whites whose life was extinguished. Just like that. Snuffed out. As a reader your hair will stand on end and your eyes will prick with unshed tears even as your heart will smoulder with rage. Anita makes you think of the dead. And with them. In this piece of writing as well as the next when she wonders what happens to the clothes of those who died. Especially now, of Covid. How quickly they are bundled away while their clothes hang in the cupboards, mute testimony to the existence of their wearers.

Watching, seeing, observing, gazing — the whole idea of looking, of voyeurism, takes on a new meaning as Anita focuses on the jungle in Smooth operators and questions, who is looking at whom? As a reader, I have often wondered too. We create wild life sanctuaries and zoological parks, what do animals, caged or free, think of us humans. Do they see us as caged or free? Do they know we are humans or do they see us, in our herds, as two legged animals? Anita prompts you to think along these lines. Her writing about the animals makes them so much more human than us humans. The beautiful story about consideration rather than sex, which the male sloth understands is touching indeed.

Anita probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being and nothingness and of identity and sub-



jectivity. Her words reveal a quest to really go into the heart of our 'self', almost particle by particle as we see in 'Hard: Us, animals and the aliens' or in 'Greatest warrior is metamorphic Mother Earth'. She has a knack of self analysis so keenly felt in some of the poems such as 'A sip of wine'. There is also a sense of being pummeled by the world, of being trapped in a space that is claustrophobic which one comes across in many images including the one just mentioned and the next entitled 'Chase away demons left behind'. A characteristic poetic device that she uses so effectively is personification as we see in the way she personifies the concept of patriarchy.

While most of the prose poems are dark and somber, there is a playful yet serious look at the way women deal with ageing in

the frothy piece 'A woman's age is kicking and alive'.

Another poem that looks at the body, at age, in a brief recall is 'Mom's shoulders'. Anita can see the flip side of things and so her look at the Corona struck situation where nature blooms even as some foolish people continue to be callous about safety measures, is an honest review of a contemporary issue. While her engagement with the pandemic can be seen in several of her pieces, she is also clear that the concern for this abnormal time can make one lose sight of the eternal wheel of time with its larger questions as we see in 'Know your wheel, Homosapiens' or in a different sense, in 'Breathe' or 'Covid 19's inverted triangle' or 'Reclaim your space'.

Anita's selfhood is clearly shaped by her

location as an Indian Immigrant and she acknowledges that in many of her pieces such as 'Spilt milk in native and foreign lands' and 'Fallacy of a single, immigrant mom'. While she is alive, as immigrants are, to the traumas of being one, and to repeat, we see that so starkly in 'How easy it is for a Black life to be taken', one does not get any nuance of self pity or even of being forlorn. In fact, one of her prose poems is 'Pity, go take a hike' — she shuns pity entirely.

Anita is alive to the choices she has made and in her writing we see a kind of acculturation; she is aware of the multicultural, pluralistic world she inhabits and is absolutely unapologetic about any aspect that shapes her multidimensional self.

In fact she points out quite assertively that we are all in a sense immigrants in her

piece, 'You are an immigrant too'. There is a sense of a kind of acceptance of cultures and thus her calm assertion that her son would cremate her in America and scatter a few ashes in the Ganges, as her repayment of debt to the two lands, America and India that she has been a part of. This we see in 'Paying my debt to two lands'. She is critical of both, especially of the way women are treated in both countries, either seen as easily available if found in miniskirts and dancing or outraging society for doing so which we see in 'Babylon, my sinful dance music'.

Nothing escapes Anita's eagle eye and pen including the discomfort faced by women during their menstrual cramps as we see in 'Feeling down, being down'. The woman reader will find every word resonat-



ing. Betrayal looms in a lot of her writing, the betrayal of democracy, the betrayal by blood relations, and the betrayal in relationships. While it is the underlying motif in many of the poems, 'Family Blood', 'Democracy in decline' and 'Koala and judases' echo the theme more sharply. It is interesting to point out as with 'Koala and judases' that some of Anita's writing is inspired from Australian art and culture. Undoubtedly then, her writing is bound to strike a chord in the hearts of people across the world.

The *Kalis*, the *Durgas*, the *Sitas*, indeed all the Hindu Goddesses whom Anita invokes in her writing are none other than Anita, you and me — the modern Indian woman, an immigrant or a persona in a multicultural world. She questions, she mocks, she laughs at, she rages, she refuses to 'fit the bill', she speaks out and will not be silenced or choked, she breathes, dances, sings, makes love, drinks and even while falling into depths of despair, never gives up on hope. And as we read Anita, we agree. There's nothing wrong with us Kali women.

The book is here to stay. You will find it unputdownable. It is powerful, poignant and of course, exquisite prose poetry.

The reviewer, Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College (DU), has been an educator since the last twenty seven years

## NEW ARRIVALS

### THE GREATEST TAMIL STORIES EVER TOLD

selected and edited by Sujatha Vijayaraghavan and Mini Krishnan

Aleph, ₹699

The Greatest Tamil Stories Ever Told showcases some of the best short fiction to emerge out of Tamil Nadu, dating from the last century to the present day. Two of the earliest stories included here are Subramania Bharati's 'The Story of a Crow Learning Prosody', a satirical tale about the exaltation of language, and 'Kalki' Krishnamurthy's 'The Governor's Visit', about how bigwigs in little places pandered to the British rulers during the time of the Raj. While some stories in this volume wrestle with the idea of public justice, as in Father Mark Stephen's 'Penance', others, such as Ambai's 'Journey 4', hide secrets that could destroy lives and relationships if they are ever revealed. Featuring memorable works by, among others, Bama, Perumal Murugan, and Poomani, the 30 stories in this collection come together to paint a striking picture of the Tamil people.

### SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY: A GUIDE FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY INDIAN WOMAN

Sindhu Rajasekaran

Aleph, ₹699

From beauty, body politics, and sexuality, to caste, power, and the paradox of choice, the book explores a wide range of women's issues and draws important connections between these. Taking its inspiration from multi-disciplinary theories, grounded and deepened by interviews with a variety of experts and numerous women, Smashing the Patriarchy is an astonishingly insightful exploration of the collective psyche of modern Indian women.



# From uncertainty to probabilities

*God or No God: Awareness Enriches Life* is a ratified statement claimed by many but understood by very few & Bharat Bhushan Padmadeo is among a few who dares to demystify the basic system of enquiry, writes PRADEEP

Someone asked Swami Vivekanand: "Can we become Godlike?" "First become a man," he answered. It literally implies that if full human potential (mind-power) is unfolded, one would know no limits. And it is very much achievable through conscious efforts, as did Ancient India's learned masters, to have captured subtle realities of life operative at even intangible level. So, raising human capital is more important than exploring and seeking God. That remains the real human calling, is how the book concludes, which makes the book an interesting read.

*God or No God: Awareness Enriches Life* is a ratified statement claimed by many but understood by very few. Bharat Bhushan Padmadeo is amongst those few who dared to accept the challenge and demystify the basic system of enquiry.

In modern times or precisely in this industrial age, every idea or belief demands an objective explanation. In this new framework of understanding, the concept of GOD is a most vulnerable idea. Leaning to some particular idea or school to rationalise existence is a matter of abandoned schools. Science sets up new logic and premises of rationals to support or reject conceptual realities. Whole discussion of existence is evolving around uncertainty, probability and unpredictable circumstances and tools to gauge them perfectly.

This book is remarkable because it changes the very basis of argument about existence from uncertainty to probabilities. It states that the process of understanding is far more important than the modes of happening or object itself. Writer argues that perception itself lies within the realm of being and awareness about it.

Significant character of twentieth century philosophy was departure from any faith unexplained or underexplained. It was rated as blind faith or fundamentalism to a large extent. Renowned philosopher J Krishnamurti argues, if you are free from sorrow and hate you don't require God. Whereas Gandhi's whole philosophy of non-violence is centered



around God. So the space of argument is divided between the two premises: "God or No God". Many more fell in line either rejecting or accepting the existence of a super controller as GOD.

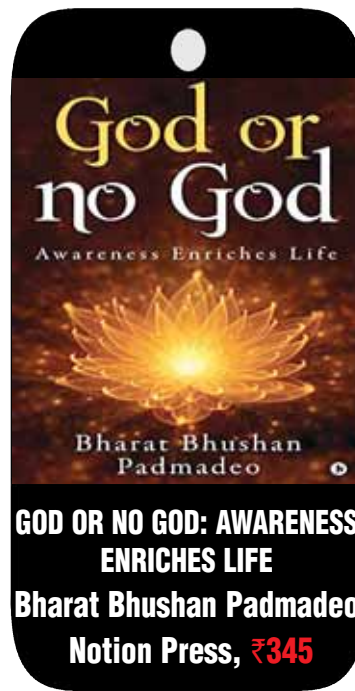
Padmadeo in this book argues that precursor to both is the same. The bearer of belief is consciousness, and understanding its existence is awareness. So, it is not important whether you believe or not, important is that you are aware or not. He wrote: "Consciousness, in fact, rightly deserves to be marked as fourth

dimension, vital to creation. It should not be seen as being in conflict with the perception of modern science, which assigns the fourth dimension to space and time. This particular fundamental element has been named as consciousness because it grants us with the power of knowing, besides granting necessary intelligence to other functional aspects of our individual and collective organism."

While frequently quoting scientists like Max Plank and excerpts from Kashmiri Shaivism, he kept on building

necessary bridges between science and theology. In other words, instead of dividing the argument into science or believing, he is indicating the science of awakening.

Explaining uncertainty and unpredictability, the book postulates that mind which itself is an area of study by itself creates most paradoxical results. It explains explicitly that consciousness is the prime mover. While exploring the construct of mind and body-mind connect, writer explains its extra cerebral



existence as an interactive phenomenon which comprehends undiscovered psycho-landscapes. Dr. Karan Singh writes precisely in the foreword of the book that writer has reinterpreted our ancient spiritual verities in the light of contemporary intellectual scene, paying attention to the infinite potentialities of human mind, which if unfolded in full would know no limits The basic take home message of the book may be comprised as raising level of consciousness leads to the fact that "Existence is God". This process may be called as enriched awareness.

As conclusive remark this extremely engaging book demands an independent and fearless conviction to internalize the source and negating the fundamentalism of believes and faiths. It sets a new mode of enquiry within. This book is an invitation to quite undulating and challenging experience like awakening itself might be.



# Mangolia: Hard choice between China and Russia

Mongolia is all set to build its nuclear energy. With the ascendance of the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) and the rise of Ukhnaaгийн Khurelsukh as the leader of this hermit nation, the nuclear future of Ulaanbaatar has become more pronounced. Khurelsukh, a former Prime Minister, is currently the sixth democratically elected President of this East Asian nation. His longstanding interest in generating nuclear power, backed by the country's abundant uranium deposits, is gaining more political and economic currency in recent times.

Barely a month of his victory in July 2021, Khurelsukh had an agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping to continue the already existing strategic relations between the two nations, especially in critical sectors like the mining.

Known as the "Land of the Horse and the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky", this East Asian nation has a rich reserve of uranium. The country is large and sparsely populated. It is the world's second largest land-locked country just behind the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan. Mongolia has proven uranium reserves of about 80,000 tons which ranks the country among top ten in the world. This is also making the nation one of the top mining giants in the world, and it has been attracted by others for having world-class deposits like the huge Oyu Tolgoi copper gold project. In fact, way back in 2011, Mongolia was planning to have its first nuclear power plant by 2020. The State-owned MonAtom LLC had the aim to build nuclear fuel production capacity by tapping the country's own uranium deposits. However, it could not materialise. Even the Mongolian Government had the plan to supply nuclear power plants across the countries of Northeast Asia with nuclear fuel. Ulaanbaator was expecting huge investments from top global giants such as the US, Russia, France and China.

As per the Vision 2050 of Mongolia, the country is committed to shift to cleaner technologies. But leveraging its uranium reserves to produce nuclear energy and lessening

the continued reliance on traditional sources of energy to cut back emission levels, Ulaanbaatar has arrived at a catch-22 situation. That is to choose between Moscow and Beijing.

The chilling new nuclear arms race has already begun in Asia. China is quietly building nearly 250 nuclear silos along the border of Mongolia mostly in Xinjiang, Gansu and Inner Mongolia Province. Independent analysts reveal that these silos are in close proximity to some of the richest uranium deposits on the other side of the Mongolian border. This seems to be one of the biggest nuclear expansions of Beijing in recent years under Xi Jinping, the man who is known for his gargantuan agenda. This nuclear build up revives the rivalry between Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong when the latter deployed about 60,000 to 70,000 troops near the border of Mongolia. Then China on one hand was apprehensive about Soviet social imperialism and on the other, from the brutal Japanese militarism.

However, today China is different from Cold War days. Primarily China's economic might accompanied by continued decline of the Western powers, particularly the might and engagement of the US, has largely emboldened the country to surge ahead.

Way back in September 1992, Mongolia unilaterally declared herself as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ). Then Mongolia's decision was hailed both by the nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states alike. Subsequently, in 1993 and 1994, the five nuclear weapon states made unilateral statements in support of this announcement by Ulaanbaatar. Ironically, this support was not a clear recognition of its single-state nuclear weapon free status, nor did it provide the legally binding security assurances that are normally provided to traditional nuclear-free zones. This has forced Mongolia to consistently pursue its goal to institutionalise itself as a single state nuclear weapons free zone since then. Again, non-nuclear weapon



states at the UN expressed full support not only for Mongolia's policy in general but also for its efforts to institutionalise that status. It was believed that unless the five nuclear weapon states accepted the concept of a single state nuclear weapon free zone, Mongolia could well be considered as a state with a unique nuclear weapon free status. Thus, it was agreed to use the word "status" instead of zone. And the content of the status could be defined by the states concerned.

Now what role China can play in Mongolia going nuclear power? Being its closest neighbour, China is in full force to influence Mongolia to grab the opportunity to develop its nuclear industry. With Xi, China is fast building its capabilities as an economic and military juggernaut. Hence, Ulaanbaatar would certainly fall into the clutch of Xi and his Communist cronies in no time.

China has been consistently increasing its nuclear capabilities. This entire nuclear build-up must be estimated in

the context of the Chinese Communist Party's ambition to have, in Xi's own words, "a world class military". And Beijing is harbouring a wild dream of achieving global domination, especially to torpedo US leadership from the global governance system. Further, several recent reports indicate that China is constructing 120 missile silos for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) near Yumen in Gansu, up to 110 silos near Hami in the eastern part of the restive and Uighur-Muslim dominated Xinjiang province, and up to 40 silos in Ordos in Inner Mongolia. This rightly shows that China is pushing its nuclear agenda right up to the border of its quiet neighbour Mongolia.

How reliable Russia would be in developing Mongolia's nuclear future? Putin while whipping up nationalist frenzy within Russia and its neighbours is simply undermining the power of the declining global liberal order. He absolutely misjudged the West's

resolve in imposing effective financial sanctions on the Russian corporate sector and NATO's strategic plans in Europe. Hence, moving closer to Putin and allowing the state owned Russian Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom to develop Mongolia's nuclear apparatus would be a dangerous game for the latter.

Who would be more reliable — Xi or Putin? It seems, both Putin and Xi are equally risky. Both are equally greedy, and they are just waiting for a power grab in Mongolian nuclear development industry. Lurching between opportunity and crisis, Mongolia is forced to anchor a clear policy about the engagement of its only two power-hungry neighbours — Russia and China — in the development of its nuclear power capability.

Chinese offensive is looming large. Its outreach in the form of subtle economic diplomacy supported by adventurous military is on the top agenda of the Communist Party of China under Xi. His

approach is to reach out to the critical geopolitical points within a very short span of time. His intention is ever clear: simply fend off the US primacy in global corridors of power. Therefore, it is quite clear why Beijing wants to grab the opportunity of developing nuclear projects in its neighbourhood.

Further, Xi is also wary of Russia's traditional influence over Ulaanbaatar for long. Moscow's old linkages with Ulaanbaatar are on the wane. But the Communists in China do no way want to take any chance. With China's massive nuclear build-up supported by wolf warrior diplomacy, one can easily make out that this is nothing but the display of dysfunction, naivete and dogmatism of Xi who is already thinking about the great decline of the global firepower of the US.

Consequently, Mongolia is walking a tightrope. Khurelsukh's nuclear ambitions may push this East Asian nation into the arms of age-old

rivalry of big and competing powers. Already, Khurelsukh has been accused of turning the nation into heavy militarisation fully funded by the Communists in Beijing. Considering the recent pledges made at COP-26 at Glasgow in the UK, the global trend is to stay away from using more fossil fuels so as to reduce carbon emissions. So, the road ahead for Khurelsukh is to go nuclear to reduce the choking environment in its Capital city Ulaanbaatar. But then, Mongolia will have a hard choice between two anti-West big powers — aggressive China and a resurgent Russia.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

Mongolia is walking a tightrope. President Khurelsukh's nuclear ambitions may push this East Asian nation into the arms of age-old rivalry of big and competing powers. Already, Khurelsukh has been accused of turning the nation into heavy militarisation fully funded by the Communists in Beijing. Considering the recent pledges made at COP-26 at Glasgow in the UK, the global trend is to stay away from using more fossil fuels so as to reduce carbon emissions. So, the road ahead for Khurelsukh is to go nuclear to reduce the choking environment in its Capital city Ulaanbaatar. But then, Mongolia will have a hard choice between two anti-West big powers — aggressive China and a resurgent Russia



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# AI powered drone new tool of warfare

Command, control, communications and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) are becoming a most essential element in modern military operations. Countries with artificial intelligence powered drone have baffled their enemies in the war zone. AI powered drone swarms are the new tool of warfare and as of now are unregulated by weapons control regulations.

Though Israel and Turkey have successfully used them, India too is not far behind. On November 17, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) demonstrated offensive capabilities of its drone swarms at a three-day "RashtraRakshaSamarpanParv" in Jhansi. It was impressive.

The country that makes advances quickly joins an elite club that might evade future restrictions. "The DRDO demonstrated fully operational decentralised UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) swarm comprising 25 drones flying coherently with minimal human intervention, during Rashtriya Raksha Samarpan Parv during Jhansi Jalsa," reported PTI.

In mid-May 2021, the latest developments on these weapons systems occurred when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), during the recent clashes in Gaza, used a swarm of AI drones for the first time to geolocate, target, and strike Hamas members.

Israel is making major advances in AI-driven technology.

The IDF did debut "drone swarms to seek and attack hidden targets" in the May war in Gaza. The

Ghost Unit, which is part of the Paratroopers Brigade, has been using "packs of drones". The IDF used a swarm of AI-guided drones and supercomputing to comb through data and identify new targets within the Gaza Strip. It is thought this is the first time a swarm of AI drones has been used in combat."

The drones used so far are navigated in two ways — either remotely piloted or autonomously piloted with GPS and inertial navigation systems.

Autonomous drones have terrain matching capability. They use information from the cameras along with AI for navigation without being dependent on GPS, which is vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

A drone swarm can be modelled as a flying wireless grid, where each drone is capable of using and sending information to the others in the swarm. Converting data into actionable real-time information is done using AI. The reaction time in a battlefield must be less than the reaction time of the enemy elements. Therefore, swarm drones assess the threat to the swarm and at the same time identify the target to manoeuvre to achieve the desired strike, adjusting according to any losses they suffer.

There can be some sort of task sharing, where some of the drones would undertake target detection, others to counter the enemy air defence, some more counter the interference of enemy radars and electronic signals, and others will carry out the attack by bombing. In



a dynamic environment, this autonomous coordination is done with the help of AI technologies.

**Some inferences:**

1. Drone warfare is asymmetric and is almost mainstream. A bit like guerrilla warfare as it is low cost. Drones are dispensable, off the shelf commercial technology can be used.
2. Autonomous drone systems separate the big boys from the rest. A study in the USAF found that remote drone piloting for long hours induces fatigue. Fatigue leads to suboptimal performance. Fire and forget autonomous drone systems are therefore huge force multipliers.
3. Real-time systems using AI for navigation and guidance, coordina-

tion, self-healing, target identification and acquisition & munition delivery systems are therefore a strategic asset.

Jyoti Sinha, CTO at Omnipresent Robot Technologies Pvt. Ltd, explains how DRDO's demonstration is significant. Omnipresent leverages and augments its experience of working on DARPA LAndroid programme to develop palm size ground swarm robots while working in the US.

"I congratulate DRDO for developing the first fully functional swarm drone network for tactical and real time support to our armed forces. We would be happy to collaborate with DRDO and leverage our experience of swarm robotics where we have

extensively tried to provide solutions to the swarm formation, ad hoc network and drone autonomy piece."

She adds, "In tactical warfare, AI powered swarm drones can carry out simultaneous destruction and dismantling of multiple targets using precise swarm configurations and hover localisation even when less sophistication is available with guided defence equipment. In other situations, it can even be an 'omni-directional attack' where the swarm drones can target one attack from numerous angles. While targeting enemy frontlines, even if some of the drones are attacked, the cognitive AI algorithms kick in and reconfigure the drone network positioning to

maintain situational awareness and aid in completion of mission. Using AI, any individual drones in a swarm network can be trained to operate in offensive or defensive mode by switching roles such as decoy, sensor, attacker or just communicator depending upon its positioning and remaining resources."

(Bhargav is an ex-IAF officer from the Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics) branch, and is now an M&A adviser for tech companies. Aavek Sen is an independent journalist working on cyber security and the geopolitics of India's neighbourhood, focussing on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Bangladesh.

Real-time systems using AI for navigation and guidance, coordination, self-healing, target identification and acquisition & munition delivery systems are a strategic asset. Drone warfare is asymmetric and is almost mainstream. A bit like guerrilla warfare as it is low cost. Drones are dispensable; off the shelf commercial technology can be used, say

BHARGAV AND AVEEK SEN





**Lucky number** 9  
**Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Friday

**Lucky number** 4  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Wednesday

**Lucky number** 18  
**Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Saturday

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Monday

# Choice sets premise of destiny

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