

**OPINION 6**  
IS INDIA WORKING ITS WAY BACK IN NEPAL?

**WORLD 8**  
WARY, WEARY WORLD SLAMS DOORS SHUT, FEARING OMICRON

**MONEY 9**  
NO PROPOSAL TO RECOGNISE BITCOIN AS A CURRENCY: FM

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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FEELS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT ALL:  
R ASHWIN  
12 SPORT

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## 12 Opp MPs suspended for RS session for unruly acts

Opp condemns suspension as 'unwarranted, undemocratic'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the very first day of the Winter Session of Parliament on Monday, 12 Opposition MPs were suspended from the Rajya Sabha through a motion brought in by the Government. The suspension will be for the remaining part of the session for their misconduct and unruly behaviour during the Monsoon Session. Leaders of the Opposition parties together condemned the "unwarranted and undemocratic suspension" of the 12 members and said this was done in "violation of all the Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha".



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

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

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

to post the excerpt of the Rule 256 of the suspension rule. Among the suspended members, six are from the Congress, two each from the TMC and the Shiv Sena

and one each from the CPM and the CPI.

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

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

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

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## Omicron Covid variant poses very high global risk: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday warned the new Covid-19 Omicron variant poses a "very high" risk globally and is likely to spread further despite uncertainties about the danger and contagion levels of the new strain.

It said the B.1.1.529 strain, first found in South Africa, is "highly divergent" and likely to spread internationally at a very high speed and could possibly have "severe consequences and surges of Covid infections" caused by the variant of concern.

Currently, the Omicron variant has not been reported in India.

"The use of masks, physical distancing, ventilation of indoor space, crowd avoidance, and hand hygiene remain key to reducing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 even with the emergence of the Omicron variant," the WHO said, urging countries to increase contact tracing of Covid-19 cases.

"Given mutations that may confer immune escape potential and possibly transmissibility advantage, the likelihood of potential further spread of Omicron at the global level is high," the WHO said in its risk assessment within a technical brief to its 194 member States.

"The overall global risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron is assessed as very high," it noted.

"Depending on these characteristics, there could be future surges of Covid-19, which



Passengers wait at a ticket counter at Johannesburg's OR Tambo's airport on Monday

AP

could have severe consequences, depending on a number of factors, including where surges may take place. The overall global risk related to the new VOC [variant of concern] Omicron is assessed as very high," the WHO said.

Earlier, it said it is "not yet clear" whether the newly-detected coronavirus variant Omicron is more transmissible or causes more severe disease compared to other variants, including the highly-transmissible and globally prevalent Delta variant.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said many uncertainties remain about just how transmissible and severe infection by the highly mutated Omicron might be.

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## RT-PCR for fliers from risk countries: DDMA

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the potential threat from latest Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) committee on Monday decided to conduct RT-PCR on all people arriving from high-risk countries, genome sequencing and mandatory isolation in the national Capital as per Centre's guidelines.

Manish Sisodia said, "Experts from the Centre have provided the DDMA details

that they have so far gathered about the new variant. The Centre said it is keeping a watch and States have to ensure the same. We should not drop our guard irrespective of how deadly the variant is, or how much effectiveness a vaccine has against it."

He said the Delhi Government has made necessary arrangements keeping in mind the Covid-19 crisis the Capital faced during the second wave of the pandemic in April and May this year.

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## Unanimous Houses OK Farm Laws Repeal Bill

Opp backs Bill but protests no debate on it

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on November 19



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

PTI

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

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

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

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

"thrown to the wind" parliamentary norms.

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2



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

PTI

## CAPSULE

### FOOD FOR REFUGEES: SC SEEKS GOVT'S RESPONSE

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking to ensure food security for the refugees and asylum seekers, which include Afghans, Rohingyas, and people from other nations residing in the country.

### AFGHAN NATIONAL FOUND DEAD IN DELHI

**New Delhi:** A 28-year-old Afghan national was found dead in a street in north Delhi's Wazirabad area, police said. The incident took place on Sunday night.

### THAROOR'S SELFIE WITH 6 WOMEN MPs SPARKS ROW

**New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday posted a selfie with six women MPs on Twitter with a caption: "Who says the Lok Sabha isn't an attractive place to work?", triggering a controversy with many netizens accusing him of sexism. Tharoor later apologised for offending "some people".

## SC seeks affidavit on Vista work during pollution ban

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to respond to issues related to construction activities, including the Central Vista project, under its domain besides asking Delhi and NCR States to file their replies to show compliance of directions issued by the commission on air quality management to curb pollution.

Observing that "intentions (of the Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR and Adjoining Areas) are good and directions are given but the result is zero", a special bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said forthwith compliance of directions of the panel by the States was needed and punitive measures like imposing a fine of ₹1,000 or ordering one day jail to violators are not going to work.

The bench, also comprising justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, was told by senior advocate Vikas Singh,

appearing for the petitioner, that construction activities for big projects like the Central Vista are going on in full swing and such a project cannot be "more important than the lives of citizens".

Taking note of the submissions, the bench, in its order, said, "Mr Vikas Singh

has raised certain issues regarding construction activities in Delhi, we direct the Solicitor General to file an affidavit or get instructions about the areas which fall under the Central Government domain."

The bench perused the affidavit of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and

Climate Change and referred to the long and short-term measures suggested by the commission on pollution and asked Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan to file affidavits by Wednesday evening about the compliance of the directions.

The apex court also asked

the Centre, Chairman of New Delhi Municipal Council, and others to file similar affidavits indicating the compliance of the directions given by the commission on pollution.

"We want to give an opportunity to the State Governments to respond to the averments made in the affidavit (of the Centre) indicating what are the directions complied with and what are the directions which have not been complied with. If not complied with, then we direct them to comply with forthwith and file an affidavit before Wednesday evening so that we hear it on Thursday," the bench said.

At the outset, Advocate Singh said, "Larger projects are the main contributors to air pollution. Central Vista cannot be more important than the lives of the citizens of this country. This project is going on unabated. Today I also checked this. When this court has imposed the ban then how is this going on?"

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A view of the Supreme Court of India shrouded in smog in New Delhi

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer File photo

## Rajya Sabha pays tribute to Pioneer Editor Dr Mitra

Mitra passed away on Sept 1 this year at the age of 66

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Dr Mitra passed away on September 1 this year at the age of 66 years. Hailing Dr Mitra's contribution, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he gave special attention to issues pertaining to climate change, urban and rural development, heritage and education.

Reading out the obituary reference to the late MP and eminent journalist soon after the House met for the day,



Naidu said his (Dr Mitra's) deep interest in social issues and culture, enabled Mitra to develop an all-encompassing and accommodative view of the world around him, a quintessential quality required in journalism.

He also served as the

Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce.

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

Tracking Dr Mitra's background, Naidu said he was born in December 1954 at Howrah in West Bengal. Dr Mitra was educated at St Stephen's College, Delhi University, and the Oxford University, the UK.

A journalist, Dr Mitra started his career with *The Statesman* in Kolkata and went on to serve as the Editor and Managing Director of *The Pioneer* newspaper.

Besides Dr Mitra, the Upper House on the first day of the Winter Session paid tributes to sitting MP Oscar Fernandes and former MPs KB Shanappa, Hari Singh Nalwa, Monika Das and Abani Roy.



# Parl panel wants FB whistleblowers to depose before it

**New Delhi:** Some members of a Parliamentary panel looking into the issue of hate speech on Facebook on Monday expressed the view that whistle-blowers Sophie Zhang and Frances Haugen, who have flagged bias and lack of proper regulation on the social media platform, be called to depose before it, sources said.

Top officials of Facebook India, including its Public Policy Director Shivnath Thukral, on Monday deposed before the panel on the subject of "safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security".

In the meeting, some members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology asked them questions about hate speech in reference to the dossiers shared by Zhang with the committee, sources said, adding that the parliamentarians did not get convincing response from the executives of the social media giant.

The members asked specific questions about the kind of mechanism and system the company has in place to identify and remove hate speech content from its various platforms, they said.

During the meeting, many members took the view that both whistle-blowers be called before the panel to brief it about their findings, they said. The panel is exploring the possibility of calling the whistle-blowers and is likely to seek the Lok Sabha Speaker's permission, they said.

Haugen, a former Facebook data scientist-turned-whistle-blower, has alleged that the social network giant's products harm children and fuel polarisation in the United States. She had testified before the US Senate Committee.

# Amid Omicron threat, Maha schools set to reopen tomorrow

**Amid threat of new virus Omicron looming over Maharashtra, the State Government has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to reopen all schools for offline classes in urban and rural areas from December 1.**

As per the SOPs, the classes for standards 1 to 7 in Urban areas and standards 1 to 4 will reopen on Wednesday. In one of the series of tweets put out on her official twitter handle, Maharashtra Education Minister Prof. Varsha Gaikwad said: "The focus in the first two weeks of school reopening will be to acclimatise and re-orient students towards attending physical classes. Schools to ease students into regular coursework." "The government is sensitive to the possibility of a third wave and no laxity in implementation of SOPs will be permitted. Our students are our future. Let us all come together to ensure their health, wellbeing and continued education. #BackToSchool," Prof Gaikwad said.

"In the event of sickness of the student or a family member, the student is advised to stay at home. It will be the responsibility of the school to ensure such a student's learning gap is compensated by the school," Prof Gaikwad tweeted.

"School hours will be limited to 3-4 hours per day. No cultural or sporting events requiring a gathering will be permitted in schools. Schools to provide isolation facilities and to tie up with local health," the minister added.

Meanwhile, amid raising concerns over the new Covid-19 variant Omicron, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has sounded high alert to all its war rooms in the city wards across the metropolis, hospitals and jumbo centres.

The BMC said that it had traced 466 travellers who arrived at the airport in Mumbai from "countries of concern" in the past two weeks.

# CBI files case against Gujarat-based company for 'defrauding' UBI

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

It was further alleged that the account of the borrower was later classified as non-performing asset (NPA) on January 15 last year due to non-servicing of interest/installments, thereby, causing a loss of Rs 44.64 crore to UBI, it said. Searches were conducted at seven places including the official and residential premises of the accused at Upleta and Rajkot (Gujarat) which led to recovery of incriminating documents/articles, it further said.

# PEGASUS SNOOPING ROW SC appointed Justice Raveendran panel seeks personal devices for evaluation

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Supreme Court appointed Justice RV Raveendran led panel to probe into the Pegasus controversy has sent mails to the petitioners asking them to submit their personal devices for "technical evaluation". The panel in the mail stated that the petitioners would also be given the option of "making submissions under oath" before it.

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

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

# 70K personnel of Armed forces got coronavirus, 190 died

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Government on Monday informed Parliament nearly 70,000 armed forces personnel were infected by the corona virus in the last two years while 190 personnel died.

# 12 Opp MPs suspended for RS...

**From page 1**

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh Narayan Singh announced the suspension of the members and adjourned the House till Tuesday.

The motion was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi and passed by voice vote, even as the Opposition protested. The members will remain suspended for the rest of the current session.

# Unanimous Houses OK Farm Laws Repeal Bill

**From page 1**

The repeal of the farm laws notwithstanding, the agitating farmers have continued to demand that the Government brings a law in this very session to give legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 23 agriculture produce and adequate compensation to those "martyred" during the ongoing farm protests.

The Government is understood to have been "considering" the farmers demand on the MSP and has hoped in former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh for the "mediation", sources said.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury asked "why the Government was shying away from a discussion on the Bill", when the Opposition was supporting them.

# SC seeks affidavit...

**From page 1**

Solicitor General, appearing for the Centre, said that he will be justifying the position. As the senior lawyer for the petitioner kept pressing the alleged construction at the Central Vista project, the bench said that the Centre has been asked to apprise.

Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha, minister of state for defence Ajay Bhatt said 45,576 personnel of the Indian army, 14,022 personnel of the Indian Air Force and 7,747 personnel of the Indian Navy were affected by the pandemic.

Reading out the motion Joshi said, "This House takes cognizance and strongly condemns the utter disregard to the authority of the Chair, complete abuse of the rules of the House persistently, thereby willfully obstructing the business of the House through their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel on the last day of the 254th session, there by lowering the dignity of an august House."

Immediately after the session was adjourned sine die on August 11, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu had considered several options against the so-called unruly leaders.

The WHO also said researchers in South Africa and around the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and will continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available.

Tedros said WHO scientists and others around the world were working urgently to decipher the threat posed by the new variant, saying, "We don't yet know whether Omicron is associated with more transmission, more severe disease, more risk of infections, or more risk of evading vaccines."

As per extant Rules, no special compensation for deaths occurring due to infectious disease is provided to Armed Forces personnel by the Ministry of Defence, while they are in service."

The bench flagged the issue of late filing of the affidavit by the Centre saying "how do you expect us to read the affidavit. You gave the bunch of papers in the morning. Do they want judges not to read it?"

"I am sure this is in a lighter vein. We worked till 2 am and submitted the affidavit," replied the law officer.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

**No. Tender Online RWC - 24/21** Letter No.- 3501 Date - 26.11.2021

**e-Procurement NOTICE**

1. Name of the work : Bridge Works under Biju Setu Yojana for the year 2021-22 under Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.

2. Class of contractor : Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

3. Estimated cost more than Rs. 6.00 Crore & upto Rs.15.00 Crore : A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

4. Estimated cost more than Rs. 3.00 Crore & upto Rs.6.00 Crore : B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

5. Estimated cost more than Rs. 40.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : As specified in the Column-5 of the Annexure.

6. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online at RWC - 24/ 21	03.12.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	17.12.2021 at 05.00 P.M.	16.12.2021 up to 02.00 P.M.	18.12.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

**OIPR-25097/11/0020/2122**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

**Whereas** A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs), The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vishal Sharma/ Rajender Sharma/ Amit Malhotra/ LBDEL0001408004	Flat No 128, Block-C, PKT- 2, Sec 17 Rohini, New Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 23, 2021 Rs.5,00,290/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

**Date : November 30, 2021**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**Authorized Officer**  
**Secured Creditor**

# Omicron...

**From page 1**

The WHO also said researchers in South Africa and around the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and will continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available.

younger individuals who tend to have more mild disease — but understanding the level of severity of the Omicron variant will take days to several weeks.

# RT-PCR for fliers...

**From page 1**

As per the officials, the Chief Secretary was told to ensure continued coordination with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

special focus on surveillance, isolation of positive cases, contact tracing and strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour," an official said.

"In the meeting current situation in context of positivity rate, testing, hospital infrastructure, efforts towards vaccination, enforcement of Covid appropriate behavior was reviewed in detail and experts present in the meeting decided and advised to contain the virus spread it is pivotal to continue to strictly adhere to the test, track, treat strategy with

The high-level committee chaired by Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal stressed on the measures to curb the spread of new variant. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Sisodia, Health Minister Satyender Jain, Transport Minister Kailsah Gahlot, Chief Secretary of Delhi and other senior officials of Health Department, Director, AIIMS, Dr Randeep Guleria and V K Paul attended the meeting.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RESEARCH CIRCLE IRRIGATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ROORKEE**

Telephones: +91-1332-265174; Fax: +91 - 1332 - 262487 E-mail: [uttarkhandwr@gmail.com](mailto:uttarkhandwr@gmail.com)

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
(Two Envelope Bidding Process with e-procurement)

**e-Tender Notice No. 06/SE(R)/NHP/e-Tender/2021-22, Dated: 29.11.2021**

Superintending Engineer (Research Circle), Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item-wise rates through e-Tender for "Supply & Installation of Furniture in SWIC Building at Roorkee under National Hydrology Project (NHP)" under "Two Bid System". The details of work are as mentioned below:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	Supply & Installation of Furniture in SWIC Building at Roorkee under National Hydrology Project (NHP)	4000.00 + GST @18%	90 Days	3 Months

**Key Dates**

1	Date of calling	: 29.11.2021
2	Date of online publication	: 30.11.2021; 5:00 PM
3	Documents download start date	: 30.11.2021; 6:00 PM
4	Pre-bid meeting	: 09.12.2021; 1:00 PM
5	Bid Submission Start Date	: 23.12.2021; 3:30 PM
6	Last date for downloading of bid document	: 30.12.2021; 3:00 PM
7	Last date and time for bid submission/ uploading of bid	: 30.12.2021; 3:00 PM
8	Time and date of opening of Technical Bids	: 30.12.2021; 3:30 PM
9	Time and date of opening of Financial Bids	: To be Declared later

For more details please log on to: [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**Superintending Engineer Research, Circle Irrigation research Institute, Roorkee**

पत्रक 3567 / शोभा/एनएचपी/ दिनांक 29/11/21

**DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)/A.C.E.(M)-4  
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUR, DELHI-110054

**"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"**

**Short NIT. No. 38 (Item no. 1) (2021-22) E.E.(T)/A.C.E.(M)-4.**

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Boring and installation of 3 Nos. 1000 mm dia tube well at Model Town UGR/BPS in AC-04. (Rs-mt)	38,02,827/-	29.11.2021 12 PM. onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No. F4/2020-PPD and DJB endorsement No. DJB/2020-21/Misc-I/PT/71 Dated 23-12-2020	500/-	Technical bid will be received 04.12.2021, 1.00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 678/2021-22

(S.K. SINGH)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)



# AAP GOVT'S BID TO CLEAN DELHI'S AIR Construction ban extended

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To continue its fight against air pollution in Delhi, the city Government on Monday extended a ban on construction work till further orders.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that the entry of fuel-run trucks will be banned in Delhi till December 7.

"We held a meeting with officials of all departments to review the current pollution situation in Delhi. In the meeting, the experts suggested the possibility of pollution levels in Delhi remaining in the 'very poor' category. But if the Meteorological Department's prediction of rainfall is correct, then the situation might change. Under these circumstances, it was decided today that all construction and demolition work in Delhi will be banned till further orders. Under this, electrical work, interior decoration, plumbing, and carpentry can continue. Along with that, all construction workers will be given a compensation of ₹5,000," Rai said.

While essential services vehicles, CNG and electric trucks can enter Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government will start the third



phase of the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign on December 3 to curb vehicular pollution. The campaign will run till December 18.

Rai added, "Schools, colleges, and institutes have reopened in Delhi today. Along with that, the work-from-home directives for Government offices have also been lifted and people have started coming to their offices."

The Delhi Government will also start a bus service for colonies where Government employees live in huge numbers. There are 14 such major colonies - Gulabi Bagh, Mayur Vihar Phase 2, Motia Khan,

Delhi will continue. Until now, 8,480 sites have been visited and inspected by our teams under the open burning campaign, and violations were found in close to 1,000 places. The violating agencies, organisations, and individuals have been fined ₹28.76 lakh so far. Apart from that, the water sprinkling campaign by the PWD, all MCDs, and the fire brigade will continue. All departments have been directed to continue all campaigns until further orders.

"There are vehicles inside Delhi that are producing a lot of pollution and do not have a PUC certificate. The Transport Department and the police will continue checking for PUC certificates.

18 lakh PUC certificates were issued in October and November. The people who did not have a certificate and were caught violating the norms, 14,000 people have been fined in the last two months. Along with that, the transport department has also been instructed to carry out an awareness campaign.

A whopping 30 lakh people were sent SMS texts asking them to get their PUC certificates made or they will be fined a penalty of ₹10 lakh."

# Dengue cases mount to 8,200; more than 6,700 in Nov: Civic report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dengue cases in Delhi this season has jumped to over 8,200, with more than 6,700 of those being recorded in November alone, according to a civic report released on Monday.

On November 17, the city had recorded a total of 5,277 dengue cases, making it the highest number of cases of the vector-borne disease recorded in the national Capital in a year since 2015.

The number of cases had mounted 7,128 on November 22.

Nearly 1,148 fresh cases had been logged in the last one week, however, no fresh fatality due to dengue has been reported.

According to the civic report on vector-borne diseases released on Monday, a total of 8,276 dengue cases have been recorded this season till November 27. In the previous years, the total dengue cases reported were -- 4431 (2016), 4726 (2017), 2798 (2018), 2036 (2019) and 1072 (2020), the report said.

In 2015, the city had wit-

nessed a massive outbreak of dengue, when the number of dengue cases reported has crossed 10,600 in October itself, making it the worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease in the national capital since 1996.

The total number of cases this year till November 6 had stood at 2,708 and the official death toll due to dengue was then nine.

A three-year-old girl, a minor boy are among the nine persons who have succumbed to dengue recently. A 63 year-old man, a resident of Rohini, had also died due to dengue.

In September, 217 cases were logged, the highest count for the month in three years.

This is also the highest number of fatalities due to dengue recorded in a year in the city since 2017, when the officially reported death count was 10.

The number of deaths due to dengue in years preceding to 2020, had stood at -- 2 (in 2019); 4 (2018); 10 (2017); and 10 (2016), according to the official tally maintained by the SDMC.

The number of cases reported for the January 1-

# CEO Delhi urges citizens to enroll for elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, Dr. Ranbir Singh on Monday urged all left out eligible citizens of Delhi to enroll as a voter at the earliest.

The Special Summary Revision (SSR) - 2022 is in its final stage with the last date being on Tuesday, November 30.

Dr. Singh said, "We are encouraging citizens, especially the youth, to follow the official handles of @ceodelhioffice on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube and share content among their peers.

"The youth can also significantly boost electoral awareness, particularly through use of social media."

The CEO informed that during the SSR, any person of 18 years or more on or before 01.01.2022 is eligible to enroll as a voter.

Since a large number of young citizens will be first time voters, they are informed that Form-6 must be submitted by all new voters, as well as those who have been excluded

from the voting process by November 30.

All citizens with a voter identity card should check their names using the Voter Helpline app, texting SMS ECI Voter ID to 1950 or SMS EPIC Voter ID to 7738299899, visiting <https://electoralsearch.in>, or calling the 1950 Helpline for further assistance.

CEO Delhi also recommended Divyang residents to download the ECI's PwD app, which is a mobile app. www.nvsp.in also offers online voter registration options in addition to mobile apps. Citizens can contact the election helpline No.1950 for any questions or assistance from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on all days except national holidays.

Those who do not have access to the internet or are not well versed with its working, according to Dr. Singh, can file applications in person at Polling Stations, Voter Centres, or Common Service Centres.

Dr Singh stated that the SSR -2022 has been going on in full swing with the theme of "Chalo Voter Bane Hum" under campaign "Delhi ka Voter Utsav."

# Nadda slams Kejriwal Govt for 'obstructing' Centre's welfare schemes in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Slamming the Kejriwal Government for "obstructing" the Centre's welfare programmes such as the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme in Delhi, BJP chief JP Nadda on Monday urged people to vote for his party in the upcoming city municipal polls. Addressing the 'Jhuggi Samman Yatra' campaign at Anand Parbat here, he also accused the Aam Aadmi Party Govt of spreading "false information", blaming others for its problems and failing to address water supply issues in the slums of the city.

He also accused the Kejriwal government of indulging in "false advertisements" of development in Delhi and spending taxpayers' money on it. "Currently, 70 lakh people are deprived of the Ayushman Bharat health coverage benefit in Delhi. I had asked Kejriwal not to let his ego obstruct the scheme. You should go to each house and tell people that the Kejriwal government works against people," he said.

Ahead of the city municipal corporation polls due early next year, the Delhi BJP has

launched the 'Jhuggi Samman Yatra' and plans to cover slum clusters in 31 Assembly segments in the city. Nadda said the BJP is committed to ensure that slum-dwellers were empowered to live with dignity. "There is PM Awas Yojna under which pucca houses are constructed. Don't you want houses here? If you want houses then you must support the BJP," he said.

He cited various welfare schemes of Modi government such as the Ujjwala Yojna, Jan Dhan Yojna, e-Shram cards, PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna among others for poor and needy and asserted that the BJP was committed to serve them.

He also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in tackling COVID-19 and saving the lives of people by ensuring the government and the society were together in the fight against the pandemic. "The biggest and fastest vaccination programme in the world was launched by the Modi government. The Kejriwal government was adamant to procure the vaccines itself but within 10 days took a U-turn and asked the Centre to provide it free doses," he said.

# DMRC unveils first refurbished train after first-ever mid-life overhaul of old coaches



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a first-ever mid-life overhaul of its old rolling stock, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday unveiled its first refurbished train which was introduced into service 14 years ago as part of its Phase-I network.

This exercise is part of a special drive undertaken by the Delhi Metro to retrofit and upgrade to modern standards all 70 trains which were procured by the urban transporter between 2002-2007, and the plan is to complete refurbishment of the first set of 10 trains by September next year, a senior official said.

The first upgraded train, now equipped with LCD display, fire alarm system, CCTV cameras inside and outside

coaches and in train operator's cabins, emergency button, charging socket for mobile phone and laptops including via USB cables, new flooring and redone exterior, was unveiled by DMRC Managing Director Mangu Singh at the Yamuna Bank Depot here.

"We have unveiled today the first refurbished train which was introduced into service in 2007.

The upgrade process took about two years. An average life span of a metro train is about 30 years, and the trains procured during Phase-I, from 2002-2007 have already completed 14-19 years of their overall life span," Executive Director, DMRC's Corporation Communications, Anuj Dayal told reporters.

Hyundai Rotem is the

maker of the refurbished train that was unveiled today, he said, adding that the exercise has been carried out to "upgrade the old stock to modern standards and equipping it with latest technology, as many features we see in latest trains running on Phase-III network, were not present in 2002-2007 period".

"Also, this is being done to increase the comfort level of commuters as the flooring had become uneven and cracks had developed at some places. That has now been replaced with fibre composite boards to enhance amenities and aesthetic look," Dayal added.

He said the DMRC endeavours to maintain its trains in fine condition, through its three-day to eight-year maintenance regimen.

But, this is a "first-ever mid-life overhaul exercise" that the DMRC has taken, since it began operations, Dayal said, adding that electrical equipment has also been upgraded.

Delhi Metro had begun its commercial operations on December 25, 2002, a day after then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had inaugurated

DMRC's first stretch, spanning 8.2 kilometre from Shakhara to Tis Hazari, with just six stations.

## PICTALK



Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait with farmers after a Bill to cancel the three contentious farm laws was passed during the Winter Session of Parliament, at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Monday

# 'No Entry Permission slips for goods vehicles now'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday said the validity period of No Entry Permission (NEP) stickers for commercial goods vehicles for plying during restricted hours has been extended up to December 31.

The police said this circular applies only to those vehi-

cles which have been granted the NEP for 2019.

"The competent authority is pleased to extend the validity period of No Entry Permission stickers of year 2019 (valid up to 31.12.2019) for the commercial goods vehicles for plying during restricted hours up to December 31, 2021," the Delhi Traffic Police

said in a tweet. "This circular applies only for those vehicles which have been granted the No Entry Permission for the year 2019 as the process of inviting fresh annual NEP is yet to be started. This validity shall be subject to the validity of the documents submitted at the time of the application," it said on the microblogging site.

# 46 commercial outlets sealed for operating without licence

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The stretch leading from national Capital's CGO complex cut to Lodhi flyover has been blocked on Monday after a lane of Lala Lajpat Rai Marg caved in due to construction work of CRPF building.

In a tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police said that "One lane of Lala Lajpat Rai Marg is caved in due to construction work of CRPF building in CGO complex adjacent to Lala Lajpat Rai Marg opposite Shamshan Ghat, Lodhi Road. So, the stretch leading from CGO complex cut to Lodhi flyover is completely blocked by putting barricades."

The police said the traffic remains heavy on the stretch and one lane has been opened for light passenger vehicles.

"All traffic coming from Moolchand side is diverted through CGO complex towards Lodhi Road. Traffic remains heavy. Staff is regulating the traffic. Now, one lane has been opened for light passenger vehicles i.e. Two, three and four wheeled vehicles," traffic police tweet-ed.

# CGO Complex cut to Lodhi flyover stretch blocked

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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दिल्ली का वोट 30 नवंबर से 30 नवंबर 2021

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Farmers said the farm law is a tribute to those farmers who died during the protests and they would continue their protests till their other demands are not fulfilled. "The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021, passed by the Parliament is a tribute to those 700 farmers died during the ongoing protests which is constituted," Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said after the Parliament passed the farm laws repeal bill without any discussions.

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

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

Referring to their six demands, including legal guar-



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

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

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

## Govt ready to discuss all issues in House: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"Whatever voices are raised against the Government or

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

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

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

He said that citizens want Parliament to debate on issues



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

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

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

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

He said that the

Government wants questions in Parliament and also peace.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Anil Ghanwat challenges Tikait on farm reform issues

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

### TENDER NOTICE

No. CIID/SLR/Tender/2021-22  
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contracts of leasing of SLR Parcel space in the following trains originating from various stations over Delhi Division.

Tender Opening Date : 23.12.2021										
S. No.	Train No.	From	To	CC	Compt	Frequency	Reserve Price Per day (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost (including GST @18% in Rs.)	Tender No.
1	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	FI	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22472-Nov 21
2	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	FII	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22472-Nov 21
3	22472	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	BKN (Bikaner)	04	RI	Daily	8555	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22472-Nov 21
4	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	FI	Daily	11649	100000	1180	SLR-FI-20473-Nov 21
5	20473	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	04	RI	Daily	11649	100000	1180	SLR-RI-20473-Nov 21
6	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	FI	Tue, Thu & Sat	7899	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14021-Nov 21
7	14021	DEE (Delhi Sarai Rohilla)	JP (Jaipur)	04	RI	Tue, Thu & Sat	7899	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14021-Nov 21
8	14206	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	AYC (Ayodhya Cantt.)	04	RI	Daily	10711	100000	1180	SLR-RI-14206-Nov 21
9	14208	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	PBH (Parbhargarh Jn.)	04	FI	Daily	11368	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14208-Nov 21
10	15035	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	FI	Daily	6188	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15035-Nov 21
11	15035	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	KGM (Kathgodam)	04	RI	Daily	6188	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15035-Nov 21
12	15116	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	CPR (Chhapra)	04	FII	Sun	16466	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15116-Nov 21
13	15116	DLI (Delhi Jn.)	CPR (Chhapra)	04	RI	Sun	16466	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15116-Nov 21
14	15274	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	RXL (Raxaul)	04	FI	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15274-Nov 21
15	12330	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	SDAH (Sealdah)	3.9	FSLR	Wed	22076	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12330-Nov 21
16	22460	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	MOP (Madhupur Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Mon	19448	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22460-Nov 21
17	12488	ANVT (Anand Vihar (T))	JBN (Jogbani)	04	FI	Daily	21997	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12488-Nov 21
18	12040	NDLS (New Delhi)	KGM (Kathgodam)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	7728	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12040-Nov 21
19	12029	NDLS (New Delhi)	ASR (Amritsar Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun	10256	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12029-Nov 21
20	12005	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12005-Nov 21
21	12011	NDLS (New Delhi)	KLK (Kalka)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12011-Nov 21
22	12445	NDLS (New Delhi)	SVDK (Shrimata VD Katra)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11084	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12445-Nov 21
23	12034	NDLS (New Delhi)	CNB (Kanpur Central)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri & Sat	10256	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12034-Nov 21
24	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	FI	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15128-Nov 21
25	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	FII	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15128-Nov 21
26	15128	NDLS (New Delhi)	BSBS (Banaras)	04	RI	Daily	13430	100000	1180	SLR-RI-15128-Nov 21
27	20806	NDLS (New Delhi)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	28966	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-20806-Nov 21
28	12618	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FI	Daily	37665	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12618-Nov 21
29	12618	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FII	Daily	37665	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12618-Nov 21
30	12918	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ADI (Ahmedabad Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sat	17299	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12918-Nov 21
31	12284	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sat	44491	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12284-Nov 21
32	12963	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	UDZ (Udaipur City)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	12399	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12963-Nov 21
33	12191	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	JBP (Jabalpur)	04	FI	Daily	17134	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12191-Nov 21
34	12494	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	PUNE (Pune Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Fri	22944	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12494-Nov 21
35	12642	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	CAPE (Kanyakumari)	3.9	FSLR	Mon & Sat	35593	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12642-Nov 21
36	22692	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SBC (KSR Bengaluru)	3.9	FSLR	Daily	39220	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22692-Nov 21
37	12652	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	MDU (Madurai Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Tue & Thu	33729	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12652-Nov 21
38	12438	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SC (Secunderabad Jn.)	3.9	FSLR	Sun	30780	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12438-Nov 21
39	12754	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	NED (H. Sahib Nanded)	3.9	FSLR	Wed	24155	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12754-Nov 21
40	12782	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	MYS (Mysuru)	3.9	FSLR	Mon	33364	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12782-Nov 21
41	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FI	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22168-Nov 21
42	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	FII	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22168-Nov 21
43	22168	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	SGRL (Singrauli)	04	RI	Mon	17438	100000	1180	SLR-RI-22168-Nov 21
44	22868	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	DURG (Durg)	3.9	FSLR	Wed & Sat	20145	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-22868-Nov 21
45	12410	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	RIG (Raigarh)	3.9	FSLR	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat	24155	100000	1180	SLR-FSLR-12410-Nov 21
46	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FI	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12646-Nov 21
47	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	FII	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12646-Nov 21
48	12646	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	ERS (Ernakulam Jn.)	04	RI	Tue	35742	100000	1180	SLR-RI-12646-Nov 21
49	12804	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	FI	Wed & Sun	29227	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12804-Nov 21
50	12804	NZM (H. Nizamuddin)	VSKP (Visakhapatnam)	04	RI	Wed & Sun	29227	100000	1180	SLR-RI-12804-Nov 21

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-tendering i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for further details and submitting tender.

**Important Note:**  
1. Bidders who wish to participate in the E-tendering, will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from [www.cca.gov.in](http://www.cca.gov.in).  
2. Bidders, who want to participate in this E-tender will be required to register on Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) through a valid class-3 Digital Security Certificate (DSC), if not registered earlier. All information related to bidder registration and participation in this E-tender is available on the official website of Indian Railways [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these tenders/contracts at any point of time (or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these tenders/contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions) depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these tenders.  
4. Kindly carefully read and follow the General Instructions, Instructions to tenderers and "Terms and Conditions" (including certain new modified instructions/conditions) given in the Tender Document before submitting the ONLINE BID.

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## Unanimity among Govt, Opp parties on repeal of 3 farm laws: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday said that there was unanimity on the issue as both the Government and Opposition parties wanted to nullify the legislation.

Speaking after both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the Farm Laws Repeal Bill-2021 on the first day of the Winter Session, Tomar, however, suggested that a discussion on the bill could have started in Lok Sabha but protests by Opposition parties ruled it out.

Tomar said Speaker Om Birla repeatedly told Opposition members that he was ready for initiating a discussion if they went back to their seats. The Farm Laws repeal bill was approved in both the houses of the Parliament today without any discussion, even though the opposition parties kept demanding a debate on the bill.

Parliament passed the

Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 is now awaits the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind for the formal withdrawal of the three contentious laws against which farmers have been protesting for the past year at Delhi borders.

He defended the three laws, which were never implemented and are now set to be annulled, saying they were brought in for the benefits of farmers and regretted that the government could not convince the protesting farmer unions despite trying to convince them.

The Union Minister spoke about steps taken for the benefit of farmers and the agricultural sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and how the Minimum Support Price (MSP) has doubled under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also appealed to the farmers again to end their agitation against the bills and return home.

## 557 women officers granted Permanent Commission in Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed

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

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

Giving details in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for defence Ajay Bhatt said 63 eligible Women Officers have been granted Permanent Commission as on November 25 this year in compliance of the judgment of the apex court. The minister gave this information in a written reply to MP M Shanmugam.



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

The court also directed that all serving Short Service Commission(SSC) women officers be considered for permanent commission within three months, irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service. On November 12, hearing a plea filed by 11 women army officers, the court issued a warning to the Centre saying it was going to initiate contempt proceedings against the Indian Army for failing to grant permanent commission to the said women officers, in line with its previous orders.

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

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

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Sr. No. Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice NPA Date  
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# Dalit lekhpal, his wife murdered in Azamgarh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It is an extremely shock-

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

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

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

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

The deceased boy's father

# TMC to amend its constitution to get national presence

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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



## Didi on 3 day visit to Mumbai from today

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

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

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

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be on a three-day visit to Mumbai from November 30, during which he is scheduled to meet NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and her Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray. She is also expected to meet industrialists in Mumbai on December 1 and invite them to Bengal Global Business Summit, to be held in April next year.

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

Banerjee had last week visited Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press for various demands of the state. She, however, did not pay a visit to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, given the changed equation between the TMC and the grand old party.

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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



Lucknow on Monday.

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

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

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

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

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

refusing to grant interim relief to Wankhede.

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

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

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

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

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

# CYSS leader flays Yogi Govt for TET paper leak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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# Man dies day after police detention, kin blame cops

PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

She said it was not a case of custodial death.

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

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

The former Chief Minister accused the BJP of "murdering democracy" in the Union Territory, after abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, by rendering institutions, including newspapers, feeble and said it has rendered "hollow" India's slogan of being the biggest democracy in the world.

"Our case (for restoration of Article 370 before the Supreme Court) is very strong... We expected support from Opposition parties but they are silent. Our existence is linked to this article," said Abdullah, who is currently on a tour of the Chenab valley region, while addressing a public meeting at Kishwar town. Earlier, Abdullah, along



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

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

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

The NC leader said the Congressmen have taken a decision before the court which is yet to start hearing the petitions filed before it against the abrogation of Article 370.

"If they are not ready to fight this battle, no issue, we will single-handedly take it to its logical conclusion. We will fight because this fight is linked to the future of the people of J&K, its jobs and land which is the first priority of the locals," he said, adding that their fight is based on justice and for restoration of the honour and dignity which was snatched from them unconstitutionally.

The former chief minister said he is not comfortable with the word Union Territory and alleged that the people were told lies and misled by false promises and slogans when the erstwhile state was downgraded.

"We were told that Article 370 was an obstacle for industrialisation, generation of employment opportunities for our youth and the main reason for poverty, and its removal would pave the way for development and new projects... It stands exposed today," he said and questioned the claims that Article 370 was hollow, asking "then what was the need for its abrogation".

# 'Call your cop' mobile app launched in Nagaland

PTI ■ KOHIMA

Nagaland Police on Monday launched a mobile application for facilitating the users to get in touch with the law enforcers anywhere in the State.

Launching the mobile app, 'Call your cop', DGP T John Longkumer said it will enable citizens, especially those in distress, to give a call to the force that will now be just a call away.

The App has contact numbers of Nagaland Police officers, along with other features like alerts, emergency numbers, and police station details. He also said that stress is on stopping violence against women and making mothers and sisters realise that they can get in touch with the police easily.

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

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

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

PTI ■ PORBANDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Innovators from IIT, AIIMS Jodhpur develop 'Talking Gloves' for differently-abled

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Additionally, the device can be



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

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

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





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Cutting loose

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

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



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

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

## Govt's harvest

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

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

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



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# Is India working its way back in Nepal?



GEN ASHOK MEHTA

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

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

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



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

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

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



THE CHINESE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH OLI FOR NOT SAVING THE LEFT ALLIANCE THEY HELPED COBBLE UP AND INSTEAD TURNING TO INDIA FOR SALVATION. BUT THEY ARE STILL IN THE GAME, THOUGH SOME FEEL BEIJING HAS SHOT ITS BOLT

acceptance of the 2015 constitution. After Prime Minister Modi's 2014-15 visits and his captivating speeches, expectations from India were very high but the opposite happened. Fortunately, some of the anti-India feeling has ricocheted to China due to its unabashed interference in domestic politics while trying to rescue the Left alliance. Shortly, Nepal which in 2017 was load-shedding upto 18-hours a day, will be in a position to export power to India though only a modest 39 MW and increase its sale capacity as power transmission lines are developed southwards. A tricky Oli legacy issue is incorporation of India's Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in Nepali maps which was legislated by a full House. Nepal is consulting India on methodology for conducting its 12th national census there without trespass of territory. Oli said last Sunday at the UML convention that if returned to power, he will get the land back from India through dialogue. Some Nepalese told me that it is no longer a border issue but one of sovereignty. Like Pakistan sought J&K from India as a peace offering, Nepal also wants a grand gesture from India conceding Kalapani and other territory. They also complained about New Delhi suppressing the

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A LOOMING NEW THREAT

Sir — The Union Health Ministry revised guidelines mandating that all international passengers entering India have to submit 14-day travel details and upload a negative RT-PCR test report on the Air Suvidha portal before the journey. The new guidelines will come into effect from December 1. The RT-PCR test has to be taken within 72 hours of starting the journey. Travelers from countries 'at-risk', including the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore have created panic among Indian citizens and the Government is acting in full swing. There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants. The RT-PCR tests continue to detect infection with Omicron — which was first detected in South Africa earlier this month — and studies are ongoing to determine whether there is any impact on rapid antigen detection tests. Until more information is available, it has become utmost important that we follow COVID protocols diligently and avoid unnecessary travel because we have just started to come out of the danger of the Delta variant and now a new one is knocking on the door. MR Jayanthi Maniam | Ghaziabad

### POLITICAL FESTIVITIES IN GOA

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

## No debate in Parliament?



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

basic as debate. It took just a few minutes for the Government to get the Bill repealing the farm laws passed in the Lok Sabha by voice vote amid sloganeering by the Opposition, a record of sorts. Alas, the Government was unwilling to mend its ways! A democratic Government that refuses to allow or countenance debate cannot be said to be worth its salt and worthy of the adjective. The 'tyranny of majority', reflected in the repeal of laws without debate and the suspension of 12 Opposition MPs, does not equal democracy. The irony of it all is that the Parliament repealed the laws without a debate in utter disregard of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance in his customary brief address before the start of a session that his Government was ready to discuss all issues and answer all questions. The Parliament saw the inversion of Modi's counsel on 'debate and disruption'. G David Milton | Maruthancode

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

### DON'T BE SOCIAL MEDIA SLAVES

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

causes unhappiness and dissatisfaction without any significant reason. It also aggravates mental health issues such as anxiety and depression and can give rise to inferiority complex and even suicidal thoughts. It has become an issue of concern because it hampers students from achieving their goals. How can we break out of social media slavery? Deleting social media applications is not a solution but we have to control the urge to scroll for hours. Instead, we can open a book that is as addictive but far more knowledge-giving. We should remove our phone from our morning routine, try not to post our personal information, turn off unnecessary notifications and keep the phone away as much as possible. By making these little changes in our habits, we can stop the addiction of social media and be happy for what we are. Mitesh Rao | Ujjain

## SOUNDBITE

Corruption in recruitment and paper leak has become the identity of the BJP Government. Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

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

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

We have to have faith in our spinners and know they can really put the Kiwis under pressure. Indian batsman — Shreyas Iyer

We should do everything possible to prevent the new Coronavirus variant from entering India. Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN ON THE MOVE BUT REACHING WHERE?

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



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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



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

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

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

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



WITH THE REPEAL OF THE THREE LAWS, AGRI-MARKET REFORMS HAVE REACHED A DEAD END. THERE IS NO HOPE OF RESURRECTING THESE IN THE NEAR TERM. MEANWHILE, IN VIEW OF FARMERS' LEADERS RAISING MORE DEMANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE, THE COUNTRY COULD BE ENTERING A DANGEROUS ZONE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will Modi muster the courage to stem the slide?

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION. WE WANT QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND ALSO PEACE.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



HOLLOW WORDS, MR PRIME MINISTER. YOU RAN AWAY FROM DISCUSSING #PEGASUS AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISRUPTING THE MONSOON SESSION.

—TMC LEADER DEREK O'BRIEN

# India's super growth journey high on debt

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

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

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

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

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

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

The Government expanded the 'National Infrastructure



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

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

— the benefits become expensive to afford.

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

The IMF said risks to the fiscal outlook are elevated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



'Omicron shows need for global accord on pandemics'

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

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

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

“The emergence of the highly mutated omicron variant underlines just how perilous and precarious our situation is,” Tedros said, calling for a “legally binding” agreement that wasn't mentioned in a draft text seeking consensus on the way forward. “Indeed, omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics.” AP

Wary, weary world slams doors shut, fearing Omicron

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



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

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

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

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

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

Yet, many tried to do just that, even against the urging of the WHO, which noted that border closings often have limited effect and can wreak havoc on lives and livelihoods.

Some argued that such restrictions could provide valuable time to analyze the new variant. Little is known about it, including whether it is more contagious, more likely to cause serious illness or more able to evade the protection of vaccines.

Japan bans entry of foreign visitors as omicron spreads

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address, Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced, Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. It lists various borrowers and their defaulted loans.

Scotland detects 6 cases of Omicron

UK total rises to 11

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

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

Scotland detects 6 cases of Omicron

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

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

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

Australia delays relaxing border, 5th Omicron case reported

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

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

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

Portugal probes local transmission of omicron at soccer team

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Israeli PM urges world powers to resist Iran's 'blackmail'

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister on Monday called on world powers not to "give in to Iran's nuclear blackmail" as negotiations commenced in Vienna. Naftali Bennett said in a video statement that was delivered to representatives of nations opening negotiations with Iran that Tehran seeks "to end sanctions in exchange for almost nothing" and keep its

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

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

world powers and Iran in 2018. Israel vocally opposed that agreement, and Israeli officials now say Tehran is closer than ever to developing nuclear arms, something it will not abide. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is visiting London and Paris this week to discuss Iran with British and French officials. Defense Minister Benny Gantz will head to Washington this week with the same aim.

Iran nuclear deal talks resume in Vienna amid muted hopes

Vienna: Negotiators in Vienna resumed talks on Monday over reviving Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, with hopes of quick progress muted after a hard-line new Government in Tehran led to a more than five-month hiatus.

The remaining signatories to the nuclear deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — Iran, Russia, China, France,

Germany and Britain — convened at the Palais Coburg, the luxury hotel where the agreement was signed six years ago.

The US remains outside of the negotiations as it has for other talks since leaving the deal under then-President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. Other members will brief the US delegation later. AP

ON 2ND TRY, SWEDEN ELECTS 1ST FEMALE PM

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

OPPOSITION IN KYRGYZSTAN CHALLENGES POLL RESULTS

Moscow: Scores of Opposition supporters in Kyrgyzstan rallied to challenge the results of a parliamentary election that was swept by parties loyal to the country's President.

RUSSIAN TEST-FIRES HYPERSONIC MISSILE

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

Pak initiate probe against model for bareheaded photoshoot at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Pakistan Police on Monday launched an investigation against a Pakistani model and a clothing brand for hurting the religious sentiments of the Sikh community by conducting a bareheaded photo shoot at the revered Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur following an Indian

Sikh journalist's criticism of the pictures. Noting that the pictures have been uploaded on the social media, independent journalist Ravinder Singh in a tweet highlighted the disrespect shown to the community and also tagged Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in his post.

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited



# No proposal to recognise Bitcoin as a currency: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

without any intermediary.

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

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

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

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

of India had launched

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

period in last fiscal.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated Omicron as a 'variant of concern', the health body's top category for worrying coronavirus variants, although South African health authorities said symptoms of the new strain were mild so far. No case of the Omicron variant has been detected in India yet.

Stabilising after Friday's brutal sell-off, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 153.43 points or 0.27 per cent to finish at 57,260.58. The index had tanked more than 500 points or over 1 per cent in opening trade in line with weak global cues. On similar lines, the

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

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

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries jumped 1.26 per cent a day after its telecom arm Jio announced a hike in prepaid tariffs from the next month. Gains in HCL Tech, TCS, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Tech Mahindra also helped Sensex close in the green.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Axis Bank, Nestle, Bajaj Auto, SBI and Dr Reddy's were among the major drags, dropping up to 2.03 per cent. "Domestic indices trimmed its early losses to trade modestly higher backed by IT and healthcare stocks, amid lingering worries over the emergence of the new COVID variant. Global markets traded mixed as investors were torn between buying on dips and the uncertainties over the impact of Omicron on economic recovery.

# Rupee trips 18 paise to hit 5-week low

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

# DGCA drafts new rules for mandatory certification of defence airfields

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

DGCA has sought comments from all stakeholders by December 23.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, at the outset, said that it would not go into the merits of the case and would rather like to give some more time, over and above the time granted by the Delhi High Court, to the US firm to put forth its case before the CCI.

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

As senior advocate Mukul

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

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

stood at ₹51,798 crore, he said. This includes ₹13,153 crore pending to Maharashtra, ₹5,441 crore to Uttar Pradesh, ₹4,943 crore to Tamil Nadu, ₹4,647 crore to Delhi and ₹3,528 crore to Karnataka.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Total GST compensation pending till September 2021

stood at ₹51,798 crore, he said. This includes ₹13,153 crore pending to Maharashtra, ₹5,441 crore to Uttar Pradesh, ₹4,943 crore to Tamil Nadu, ₹4,647 crore to Delhi and ₹3,528 crore to Karnataka.

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

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

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

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

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

# Amazon infuses ₹650 cr in Amazon Wholesale (India)

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

and shared by market intelligence firm Tofler showed.

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

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

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

# Steel demand drops by 5 pc in FY21: Union Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Prasad Singh said while replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha. According to the information shared by Singh to the house, the building and construction sector consumed 41 MT steel in 2020-21 as against 43.4 MT in 2019-20. The demand in infrastructure sector also fell to 23.8 MT from 25.1 MT a year ago.

# RBI supersedes Reliance Capital board; to start bankruptcy proceedings

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank on Monday superseded the board of Anil Ambani promoted Reliance Capital Ltd and will shortly initiate bankruptcy proceedings against the debt-ridden NBFC in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues. Nageswar Rao Y

has been appointed as the administrator of the company, the RBI said in a statement. This is the third large NBFC against which the central bank will initiate bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code recently.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava is the present owner of Residential Plot No. 46 & 21, area measuring 42 Sq. Yards i.e. 45.11 Sq. Meters, Khata No. 30, Situated at Akshay Nagar, Village Indragrahi Majra, Darsna, Tehsil & District Ghazibabad U.P. vide Sale Deed Dated 22.08.2017 as Regd. No. 5109, who intends to give loan from Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. Branch Noida by creation of mortgage. The Original Sale Deed Dated 26.06.2013 registered vide doc. No. 5846, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and FIR has been registered vide LAR No. 202/1000/18279 with U.P. Police on 29.10.2021. If any person has any claim on the aforesaid property, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property documents, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.  
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)  
Ch. 630, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001  
Mob.: +91-8076188328

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Our clientless Mr. Asha Khanna, who Late Shri. Yashwant Lal Khanna, aged about 76 years resident of A-39, DTC Colony, Hans Nagar, New Delhi-110054 hereby notifies that his son, Shri Bhupesh Khanna along with his family have left and separated themselves from the family with all their goods and articles since September, 2021. They are residing separately from our clientless, since then without any information to our clientless. Our clientless have got no contact with them whatsoever with them and the public is hereby informed accordingly. Our clientless or her family will not be responsible for any liabilities, acts and deeds of their said son and his family. Any liability/claim/ demand action against the aforesaid son or his family shall be their sole responsibility. Any person dealing with them shall be at their own risk and responsibility.  
**Mittal & Mittal Co. Advocates**  
614, 6 Floor, R.G. Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034  
E-mail: mittal782004@yahoo.co.in

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

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

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

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

**RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR**  
**E-BID NOTICE**  
निगम कि नकारा-स्क्रेप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट [Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc](http://Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc) पर [rsrtc.procure247.com](http://rsrtc.procure247.com) के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-

S. No.	Event's Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	SCRAP GROUP A	25-11-21	08-12-21	09-12-21	10-12-21
2	SCRAP GROUP B	25-11-21	08-12-21	09-12-21	10-12-21

नोट:-  
1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD सचिप जमा करना अनिवार्य है।  
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, निगम एवं शर्तें वेब-साइट पर उपलब्ध है।  
राज.सं.वार / सी / 21 / 8888 तिथि 150/2021-22 Financial Advisor

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

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ramesh Kumar Jha/ Suchitra Jha/ LBDEL00005057478	DDA LIG, Flat No- 634 3rd Floor, Pkt - Gh - 1 Sector - 28, Rohini/ November 26, 2021 Delhi/	July 06, 2021 Rs. 15,77,359/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Ram Gopal Kotlia/ Jitender Kotyia/ LBDEL00004723938	Property No- 109, Block- I Pocket - 4 Sector- 16 Rohini Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 13,88,784/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Rattan Lal Soni/ Bimla Devi/ LBDEL00002364860	Flat No 30, Block B 11 Sector 34 Pocket 1 2nd Floor Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 10,39,386/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Seema Suri/ Virender Suri/ LBDEL00001790872	Flat No- Su 156 Ground Floor, Pitampura Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 9,56,251/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Varun Saini/ Rekha Saini/ LBDEL00004951130/ LBDEL00005052638	Prop Na 57, 3rd Floor With Roof Block D, Pocket 16 Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 15,07,765/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Raman Kalia/ Vinod Kumar Kalia/ LBDEL00000361194	House No: 15B, Him Kunj Apartment, Plot No: 8 Sector- 14, Rohini, New Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 2,33,385/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Satish Kumar/ Surman Kumari/ LBDFB00002381308	Flat No 32, S.F. Block B12 Pocket 5 Sector 35 Rohini Delhi/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 9,14,762/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Rajiv Kumar Jain/ Monika Jain/ LBGHZ00001610544	Flat No. A-407, Tower-A, Rishabh Paradise Indrapuram, Ghaziabad/ November 26, 2021	July 06, 2021 Rs. 8,33,490/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	SIDDHARTHA TALWAR / SARIKA TALWAR / LBND00002882293	Flat No 831, 8th Floor, Gaur City Mall, Gaur City, One 6th Avenue, Plot No Gh 01, Sec 4, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 26, 2021	March 22, 2021 Rs. 9,24,050/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : November 30, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR  
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

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

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anita Gupta/ Amit Gupta/ LBGHZ00005228674	Plot No-861, Ground Floor Shakti Khand- Iv, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ November 25, 2021	June 23, 2021 Rs. 39,92,983/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Ashutosh Pallawal/ Rohit Tayal/ LBND00002138178	Flat No-1502, 14th Floor, Tower-T, Prateek Wisteria Plot No-gh-01, Sector-77, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ November 25, 2021	June 25, 2021 Rs. 35,95,954/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Sanjay Gupta/ Parul Gupta/ LBDEL00002999992	DDA LIG Flat No- 405, 4th Floor Pocket-C, Block-E, Molar Bandh, Delhi- 110076/ November 25, 2021	June 25, 2021 Rs. 35,28,233/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Sushma Kumari/ Ankush/ LBND00003260195	Flat No-110, 1st Floor, Block/ Tower-B, 5th Avenue, Gaur City, Plot No-gh-1, Sec-4, Greater Noida/ November 25, 2021	June 25, 2021 Rs. 33,73,899/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Sanjay Bhatnagar/ Vandana Bhatnagar/ LBDEL00002513056	Flat No 606, 6th Floor, Plot No Gc-7/Gh-01, Sector-04, Gaur City-1, Block A, Greater Noida, Noida/ November 25, 2021	June 25, 2021 Rs. 32,25,530/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : November 30, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR  
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 23.11.2021 at footpath, Monkey Bridge, Ring Road, Yamuna Bazar, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 41-A, dated 23.11.2021 U/s 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at Police Station, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.



## Omicron Variant

The Union Health Ministry on Sunday revised the guidelines for the international arrivals in the wake of new COVID variant, Omicron — designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by the World Health Organization (WHO). The new guidelines will be effective from December 1.



## DOCYARD

DR SHWETA GOSWAMI

Medical Director

ZEEVA FERTILITY CLINIC



## Keep infections at bay



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

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

♦ **Avoid using scented soaps and fragrances for your vagina.** The artificial scents which soaps usually have can be really dangerous for the vagina as they contain several chemicals and harsh ingredients. Also, these artificial scented soaps and body washes do not have a proper pH balance for the vagina. A woman must always use intimate washes that are pH balanced and are totally safe for use.

♦ **Change sanitary pads at regular intervals:** please do change your sanitary pads at regular intervals to keep vaginal infections and viruses at bay. Keeping the single pad for long causes itching and rashes. Also, failure in doing so results in a host to infectious diseases.

♦ **Clean your vagina after having sex:** cleaning vagina after having sex is very important as this shall significantly reduce spreading of bacteria. Also, it is essential to use a condom while having sex as this will certainly reduce the risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Also, make sure that you and your partner always wash hands before getting laid. Most infections happen to couples who escape this process since the bacteria contained on the hands is transferred to other parts of the body like urethra and vagina.

♦ **Do not wipe your vagina from back to front:** Do not ever wipe yourself down there from back to front as it leads to the diffusion of bacteria and infections in the vagina. It is highly advised to wipe it from front to back always.

♦ **Wear comfortable undergarments:** Wear clothes that are looser in the crotch, wear cotton-crotch underwear rather than synthetic.

♦ **Avoid using dirty public toilets:** Avoid using public toilets as they are mostly dirty in case of emergency, do it in a standing position or you can also carry disposable or portable urinating devices with yourself.

♦ **Urinate well:** It is important to use the washroom whenever you feel urge to do so. Refraining yourself from urinating for too long can put unnecessary pressure on your bladder which can also result in infections.

♦ **Keep yourself hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day and keep yourself hydrated. This shall prevent urinary infections and shall evade all the waste from your system.

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

## WARMFOOD

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

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



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

## ENHANCE YOUR VISION



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

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

♦ **Protect your eyes:**  
♦ **Green leafy vegetables in the diet**

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

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

**SIMPLE EYE EXERCISES LIKE EYE-ROLLING, BLINKING AND PALMING CAN BE TAUGHT TO CHILDREN TO HELP THEM REDUCE EYE STRESS. AND IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER YOUR CHILD COMPLAINS OF EYE PROBLEMS OR NOT, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO TAKE THEM TO A PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGIST FOR ROUTINE EYE CHECK-UPS**



Dr. Jitendra Jethani  
Paediatric Ophthalmologist  
Baroda Children Eye Care & Medical  
Consultant for Entod

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

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

♦ **Limit screen time & encourage outside activities**  
Playing video games, watching

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

♦ **Eye exercises**  
Simple eye exercises like eye-rolling, blinking and palming can be taught to children to help them reduce eye stress. It may not improve their eyesight or reduce glass power. While blinking comes naturally but as an exercise, you should ask your kids to close their eyes for two seconds and then open their eyes and blink rapidly for five seconds. This should be repeated five times. Palming is easy as you just have to tell them to rub their hands and place the palms gently on the eyes. This can also be repeated five times. All these exercises help increase blood flow to the eyes and promote good eye health.

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

## How important is COVID vaccine?



People with Diabetes are at an elevated risk of growing problems associated with COVID-19. DR DANENDRA SAHU tells us how to keep safe

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

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

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

♦ **Post-vaccination care:**  
♦ Consume a healthy, nutritious diet  
♦ Drink plenty of water  
♦ Get adequate sleep (of at least 7 to 8 hours)

♦ Avoid consuming alcoholic beverages  
♦ Avoid smoking tobacco  
♦ Avoid performing any strenuous exercise for one or two days after vaccination

♦ Avoid warm fomentation or applying an ice pack at the site of injection  
♦ Monitor blood glucose levels regularly

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

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

♦ **Side effects post-vaccination:**  
♦ Redness, pain or swelling at the site of injection

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

♦ **Precautions:**  
♦ Staying indoors  
♦ Wearing a mask when stepping out of the house  
♦ Maintaining social distance while outdoors

♦ Washing hands regularly  
♦ Sanitising one's home and surroundings frequently  
MD, DM, Associate Consultant, Diabetes & Endocrinology, Fortis Hospital, New Delhi

## Role of community in addressing TB

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

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

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

Now, more than ever, the role of community participation has

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

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

Government or civil society organisation should conduct capacity building to ensure active involvement by ensuring proper information dissemination, developing linkages to health service schemes and establishing supportive monitoring systems. Karnataka Health Promotion Trust

(KHPT) has been working continuously with community structures to build their capacity to ensure awareness regarding tuberculosis and designs patient-centric innovations.

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

Many stories are testament to the power that community structures hold in addressing public health crises like TB by providing support to those who need it most. One such is Nagaraj's story from Channasandra village,

Bangalore. A daily-wage worker with deteriorating weight and other TB symptoms, he was identified by the members of a self-help group, Sri Sharada Swasahaya Sangha, working on TB awareness. They helped him get screened, and it was found that he was TB-positive.

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

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

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

## INBRIEF

### CFS plans for better eye care



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

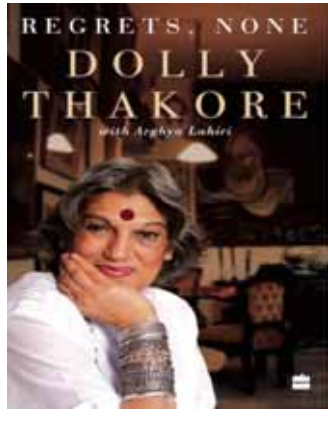
Under the banner of CFS Vision, the Centres will provide complete eye wear solutions showcasing leading international brands as also private labels of 'Admyra' and 'Avanta'. CFS Vision aspires to be the largest and comprehensive eye wear and eye care chain in the country, by ensuring that anyone who needs eye wear or eye care knows where to go. The synergy of having world-class eye wear and the best-in-class clinical care in this field, will make CFS Vision stand out from the other Optical chains.



# REGRETS, NONE

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

We usually congratulate people on their recent achievements. But when I got the opportunity to talk to one of the most celebrated faces of the literary and theatrical world, Dolly Thakore, I congratulated her on the tremendous life that she had created for herself.



"Thanks, darling, why do you think I wrote about it", came the immediate and witty response from the most charismatic voice I had heard.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Stitch across time

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Kantha* is now available on kurta and dresses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

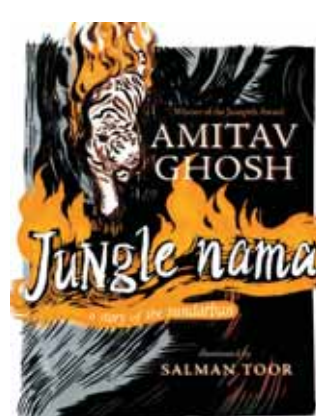
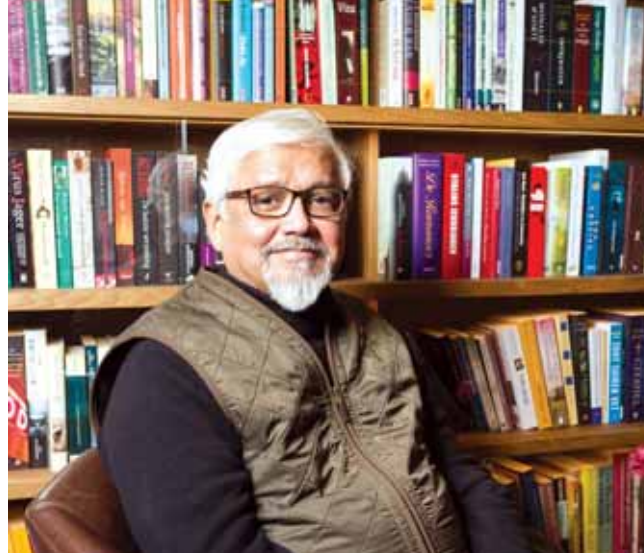
The first-ever book-in-verse by Amitav Ghosh, *Jungle Nama* evokes the wonder of the Sundarbans through its poetry and is accompanied by artwork by the artist Salman Toor. Now, Audible, a leading creator and provider of premium audio storytelling, has come up with an audio edition of the folktale performed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

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

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

## Changing times

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



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

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

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

### BUDDHAS OF GANDHARA

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

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

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

### OF CERAMIC BOWLS AND PLATTERS

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

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

### PIERCED BY THE LIGHT OF THE STARS

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

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

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

### MERGING METAMORPHOSIS

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

While in his current series, Inamdar allows his canvas to participate in its own creation, allowing it to slowly and whimsically absorb the colour and chart its own path, Davis's art pushes the viewer to see these seemingly finite natural elements in a more solid and statement form.  
**When:** December 6 - January 9, 11 am-7 pm  
**Where:** <https://www.taartgallery.com/book-appointment>



INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

Indians defy India!



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

Feels absolutely nothing at all: Ashwin

PTI ■ KANPUR

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

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

After India could not close out the game against New Zealand, Ashwin was asked what the milestone made him feel. "Absolutely nothing at all. These are milestones that are constantly kept on tab, it's wonderful. Ever since Rahul bhai has taken over, he's kept saying how many wickets you take, how many runs you make in 10 years time, you won't remember them," Ashwin said.

"It's the memories that matters so I want to have some special memories going for-

ward in the next 3-4 years," he added after the drawn game.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOST WICKETS FOR INDIA IN TESTS

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

1st Test ends in draw

PTI ■ KANPUR

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

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

A lot of credit should also go to night-watchman Will Somerville (36 off 110 balls), who played the entire fifth morning and to first raise visions of the improbable draw.

A victory target of 284 was always out of question but the gutsy New Zealanders didn't lose any wicket in the first session of the last morning before the Indian spinners, who had saved their best for the last, finally showed their skills but couldn't end on a winning note. The result at Green Park is the first time that New Zealand has gone 10 Test matches undefeated (eight wins, two draws) with the current streak starting against India at the start of 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scoreboard

INDIA 1ST INNINGS: 345  
NEW ZEALAND 1ST INNINGS: 296  
INDIA 2ND INNINGS: 234-7 DECLARED  
NEW ZEALAND 2ND INNINGS: (OVERNIGHT 4-1 IN 4 OVERS)

Tom Latham b Ashwin 52  
Will Young lbw b Ashwin 2  
Somerville c Gill b Umesh 36  
Kane Williamson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 24  
Ross Taylor lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 2  
Henry Nicholls lbw b Axar 1  
Tom Blundell b Ashwin 2  
Rachin Ravindra 18\*Kyle Jamieson lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 5  
Tim Southee lbw b Ravindra Jadeja 4  
Ajaz Patel 2\*Extras: (B-12, LB-1, NB-4) 17

Total: (For 9 wicket, 98 overs) 165

Bowling (India)

Ravichandran Ashwin 30-12-35-3  
Axar Patel 21-12-23-1  
Umesh Yadav 12-2-34-1  
Ishant Sharma 7-1-20-0  
Ravindra Jadeja 28-10-40-4



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

PTI ■ KANPUR

India failed to bowl out New Zealand on a deteriorating track on day five of the first Test but skipper Ajinkya Rahane praised his players saying they tried their best and couldn't have done anything different.

Mumbai-born Ajaz Patel (2 not out off 23 balls) and Karnataka-born Rachin Ravindra (18 not out off 91 balls) consumed 8.4 overs after the fall of ninth wicket to eke

out a memorable draw for New Zealand in fading light.

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



have done anything different," said Rahane at the post-match presentation. He was also asked if he could have declared earlier in the final session on day four but Rahane replied in the negative.

The light metre was out after every over in the last 30 minutes of play on Monday, Rahane said the right call was

made under the circumstances. "The (frequent) chat with the umpires was about the light. They made the call and I think they were right. I thought on this wicket the spinners have to bowl long spells. It was all about rotating the bowlers."

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

DRAVID SPEAKS

Pitch was quite unresponsive on fifth day, outside edge was out of equation: Dravid

Kanpur: India head coach Rahul Dravid on Monday commended his spinners for putting up a great show on "quite an unresponsive" fifth day track with outside edges not coming into play in the drawn first Test against New Zealand. The Indians got nine New Zealand wickets but failed to dislodge the last pair of Rachin Ravindra and Ajaz Patel as the vis-

itors managed a creditable draw after being down and out in the post-tea session. "We showed great composure and fighting spirit and worked really hard in that final session. It was quite an unresponsive pitch on the fifth day and really good effort to have taken eight wickets after lunch, three in that session and five in last session. PTI

Phenomenal achievement: Dravid on Ashwin's feat

Kanpur: India coach Rahul Dravid on Monday drew attention to the manner in which Ravichandran Ashwin has "grown" and "evolved" into a champion off-spinner, who has now become the country's third highest wicket-taker in Tests. Ashwin dismissed Tom Latham to claim his 418th Test wicket and go past Harbhajan Singh on the fifth and final day of the opening Test against New

Zealand here. He is now only behind Anil Kumble and Kapil Dev in the overall standings. "I think it's a phenomenal achievement. I think you know Harbhajan Singh was a really fine bowler, someone I played a lot of cricket with; terrific bowler for India and what Ashwin has done, to be able to go past him in just 80 Test matches is phenomenal achievement," Dravid said. PTI

Satwik-Chirag pairing qualifies for BWF World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BALI

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

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

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

Satwik and Chirag needed to beat World No. 1 pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sukamuljo in the semifinals to make the cut but they ended up losing 16-21 18-21. Akira and Taichi had lost to fellow Japanese duo of Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 22-20 21-14 to pave the way for the Indian pair.

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

India A face South Africa A in 2nd unofficial Test

PTI ■ BLOEMFONTEIN

Cooped up in a bio-bubble while a new COVID-19 variant causes panic all across here, the India A cricket team will take on South Africa A in the second unofficial Test from Tuesday with some senior side aspirants hoping to make an

impression. The first four-day game ended in a draw due to inclement weather on Friday last week even as the detection of the B.1.1.529 COVID-19 variant, which was named Omicron by the WHO, forced many countries to impose international travel restrictions on South Africa. The uncertain situation

also led to the Netherlands abandoning their last two ODIs against South Africa which were scheduled at Johannesburg.

However, India A have stayed put in Bloemfontein inside a bio-bubble.

The matches are being played without spectators and India senior team is also due to

arrive in the country by December 9 for a nearly seven-week assignment starting December 17. If the situation deteriorates, it can jeopardise the tour which involves three Tests, three ODIs and four T20Is across four venues — Johannesburg, Centurion, Paarl, and Cape Town.

US eliminated from Davis Cup Finals after loss to Colombia

Washington: US captain Mardy Fish hinted at a lack of passion within his team after the record 32-time champion Americans were eliminated from the Davis Cup Finals by following up a lopsided loss to host Italy with a humbling defeat to Colombia.

The Americans left Turin 0-2 when Reilly Opelka and Jack Sock retired from the decisive doubles match while trailing 3-0 in the opening set against the accomplished Colombian pair of Juan-Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah. AP

Pakistan closes in on victory in 1st test with Bangladesh

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vinicius' late strike script Real's win

AP ■ MADRID

Vinicius Junior ran to the corner and performed some samba moves by the flag before his teammates rushed in to embrace him.

The young Brazilian forward had just scored another decisive goal for Real Madrid. His beautiful late strike sealed a 2-1 comeback-behind win over Sevilla on Sunday in a match between two of the best teams in Spain at the moment.

Vinicius Junior neatly controlled the ball with his chest by the sideline before making a run past a couple of defenders. He fired a well-placed shot into the top corner from outside the area for an 87th-minute winner which delighted Madrid fans at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.

It was the second goal in the last three matches for Vinicius Junior, and the 11th in total in what has been his best season by far since joining Madrid.

He has already scored more



goals now than in his previous three seasons in total. Karim Benzema, another red-hot player for Madrid, also scored to give the league leaders a four-point advantage at the top over defending champion Atlético Madrid, which won 4-1 at Cádiz.

Real Sociedad dropped to third after losing 1-0 at Espanyol, while Sevilla stayed fourth, five points off the lead. Sevilla, which had been unbeaten in six consecutive league

games, opened the scoring with a header by Rafa Mir in the 12th. Benzema equalized from close range after a blunder by Sevilla goalkeeper Bono in the 32nd.

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois came up with a big save in stoppage time to guarantee the win for the hosts and keep Sevilla winless on the road against Madrid since 2008.

Napoli tharsh Lazio 4-0 Dries Mertens scored twice as Napoli beat Lazio 4-0 to take the outright lead of Serie A on the night it paid tribute to football great Diego Maradona.

As well as Mertens — who has taken over several of Maradona's records at Napoli — Piotr Zielinski and Fabian Ruiz also netted to help Napoli move three points clear of second-place AC Milan, which earlier lost 3-1 at home to Sassuolo.

It was a special night for Napoli fans as the match came three days after the one-year anniversary of Maradona's death. Maradona led Napoli to its only

Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990 and is considered a god-like figure in the southern city.

A statue to the former Argentine player and coach was unveiled in the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, while the players wore special shirts.

Man Utd appoint Rangnick as interim boss

Manchester United announced on Monday they had appointed Ralf Rangnick as interim manager until the end of the season following the sacking of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The 63-year-old German joins from Lokomotiv Moscow, where he was manager of sports and development. At the end of the season Rangnick, whose appointment is subject to work visa requirements, will take on a consultancy role at Old Trafford for a further two years.

He takes over from first-team coach Michael Carrick, who has been in caretaker charge for two games since Solskjaer was sacked

FIGURATIVELY

100 Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui has managed his 100th LaLiga (W55 D24 L21). Against any other team has he managed more league games without a win than against Real Madrid in the competition (G5 D1 L4 — also five against Barcelona — G5 D2 L3).

10 Real Madrid have won more points from losing positions than any other team in La Liga this season (10 points, two more than Atlético de Madrid).

9 Vinicius Junior has scored nine goals in 14 La Liga games this season, one more than in his previous 82 games for Real Madrid in the competition.

18 Only Mohamed Salah (19, 11 goals and 8 assists) has been involved in more goals in Europe's five major leagues this season than Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema (18, 11 goals and 7 assists).

33 With his goal against Cádiz, Antoine Griezmann has now scored against 33 of the 34 teams he has faced in La Liga (159 goals), only failing to score against his current club Atlético Madrid (12).

just over a week ago following a terrible run of results for the 20-time English champions.