

**OPINION 8**  
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WAY BACK IN NEPAL?**WORLD 11**  
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DOORS SHUT, FEARING OMICRON**HEALTH 12**  
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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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14 SPORT

## 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".

Suspended members



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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## 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.

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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 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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## 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".



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

PTI

## 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.

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

He also served as the

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

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

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.



# CM blesses 2,503 couples who tie the knot at Samuhik Vivah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

While extending his best wishes and blessings to 2,503 couples who tied the knot during Samuhik Vivah in Kushinagar on Monday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that ‘kanyadaan’ in the Indian tradition was the greatest gift and the biggest achievement for any individual and it was an honour for all to be a part of such an auspicious ceremony.

Congratulating the Labour and Employment Department, the chief minister said that his government was working on the mantra of ‘sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas aur sabka prayas’ as a result of which today government schemes were benefitting every needy and was uplifting every deprived without any discrimination on the basis of caste, language, religion and region.

Emphasising that his government was committed to serving the weaker sections, the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a gathering during Samuhik Vivah in Kushinagar on Monday

chief minister said that the aim of the Central and state governments was to uplift every poor, develop every village, benefit every crop-grower, provide employment to the youth and establish a safe environment for all the daughters and women in

the state.

He congratulated 2,503 newlyweds, including 138 Muslim couples who tied the knot at a mass wedding ceremony solemnised in his presence.

There was a buzz at

Buddha Park grounds in Kushinagar, where priests chanted Vedic vows under one roof, setting another example of communal harmony in the state. Each married couple was given financial aid, including insurance and social security

cover at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that through Samuhik Vivah not only malpractices such as dowry and child marriage were put to an end, but also, it conveyed a message of social har-

mony and unity.

Chief Minister Yogi, however, urged people across the state to strictly follow COVID-19 protocols and use hand sanitisers and masks. The marriage ceremony was organised in compliance with the Covid

rules, including physical distancing.

Stating that labourers were the builders of the nation, the chief minister said, “The foundation of a country lies in the strength of the labourers and workers. The stronger our workers are, the more well-built the nation will be.”

The chief minister further said that the government took every possible measure for the welfare of the poor as no state could develop without uplift of the weaker sections.

The government has ensured basics like food, water and shelter to provide relief to the street vendors and the poor with ‘sustenance allowance’. To cater to over 54 lakh vulnerable migrant labourers, the government initiated the concept of community kitchens. Besides, the government also distributed free-of-cost gas cylinders to the needy. Health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh is being given to

the workers.

“The Centre and the state are working in a phased manner to provide a better life to our workers,” the chief minister said.

Speaking about the Atal Residential Schools in all 18 divisions, Yogi said all the children of the registered labourers would be provided free facilities which would lead students towards self-reliance.

Labour and Employment Minister Swami Prasad Maurya said that the previous governments had not taken care of the workers who shed blood and sweat for building the nation.

The interests of the workers were taken care of by the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the Yogi government of the state. Today 18 schemes have been dedicated for the betterment of the workers. Workers are getting the benefits of these in a very transparent way, he said.

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

Meanwhile in Meerut, a 14-year-old boy accidentally shot himself in the head while taking a selfie with a loaded gun in the Lisari Gate area on Sunday. Uvaish Ahmed (14) was tinkering with a loaded gun and he positioned it at his temple as he posed for a selfie. Unfortunately, the gun was loaded and it went off killing the boy on the spot.

The police said that the victim’s elder brother, Suhail, was recently sent to jail in a theft case and had criminal antecedents and the handgun perhaps belonged to him. Investigations are on to ascertain as to how Uvaish got access to the weapon. The deceased boy’s father meanwhile said that his son did not have any enmity and he was in a state of complete shock after this tragedy.

## No party alone can take on BJP: Dinesh Sharma

PTI ■ GHAZIPUR

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma on Monday asserted that none of the opposition parties is in a position to contest the upcoming state assembly elections alone against the BJP and that is why they are stitching up alliances.

Speaking at a programme here to mark the death anniversary of former BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai, Sharma said unlike the previous governments who worked for their families, the BJP dispensation works for the people.

Rai, the then BJP MLA from Mohammadabad Assembly constituency here, was shot dead on November 29, 2005. A group of criminals armed with AK-47 rifles had fired more than 400 rounds on Rai’s cavalcade on a narrow bridge, killing him and six others.

“None of the (rival) political parties is in a position to contest (elections alone) against

the BJP, and hence various alliances are being stitched up,” Sharma said.

“The mafias, who were silent till now, are trying to raise their heads as elections are approaching. These forces have to be given a befitting reply and they should not be allowed to succeed.

“For this, votes have to be cast in favour of the BJP in the ‘mahayagya’ of democracy. This will change the direction and condition of the state and the country. The opposition has been making false promises to the people to win elections,” he said.

Last week, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav met Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary, AAP leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal (K) chief Krishna Patel in the run-up to the assembly polls. After the separate meetings, Patel said a tie-up with the SP has been “finalised”, while Singh indicated that the talks have begun.

Om Prakash Rajbhar’s

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Sanjay Chauhan’s Janwadi Party (Socialist) and Keshav Dev Maurya’s Mahan Dal are already with the SP, campaigning to make Yadav the state’s next chief minister.

Drawing a contrast between the BJP-led state government and the previous governments, Sharma said, “The governments of other parties used to work for their families, while the BJP government works for the people.”

“The previous governments have given only crime and criminals to Ghazipur. During their regime, the pious land of seers was deprived of development. The current government has given facilities of education, health, medical college and a four-lane road to Ghazipur,” he said.

“Crime was rampant here under the previous governments but the people do not want that Ghazipur,” he said.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections will be held early next year.

## 1.32 lakh metric tons of paddy purchased from farmers

**Lucknow (PNS):** Agencies of Uttar Pradesh government have so far procured 1.32 lakh metric tons (MT) of paddy directly from the farmers in the ongoing Kharif marketing season at minimum support price (MSP), thereby benefiting more than 1.62 lakh farmers across the state.

Official sources said the state government had ensured that the farmers were not harassed and adequate arrangements were made for the purchase of their produce at the official procurement centres.

Food Commissioner Saurabh Babu informed that the state government agencies and Food Corporation of India (FCI) have procured more than 24,400 MT of paddy in the last 24 hours and the process of paddy procurement is

being conducted smoothly across the state.

“At the MSP, the government has procured paddy worth Rs 2200.50 crore from 1,62,569 farmers,” he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had instructed officials to ensure smooth purchase of paddy and asked additional district magistrates, sub-divisional magistrate and tehsildars to monitor the purchase by conducting on-site inspection of purchase centres.

A total of 4,010 procurement centres have been set up across the state to facilitate direct purchase from farmers against last year’s 3,849 centres in 73 districts. The MSP of Grade A variety paddy has been fixed at Rs 1,960 per quintal while for common variety the MSP is Rs 1,940 per quintal.

## AKY promises compensation for deaths during farmers’ stir

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party announced that it would pay Rs 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 pur-

chase 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.

## Maya welcomes repeal of three farm laws by Centre

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Monday welcomed repealing of the three agriculture laws by the Central government and termed it as a victory of democracy.

“After a year of agitation by the farmers, the repealing of the three farm laws in both Houses of Parliament would give some relief to the farmers besides the move is a victory of democracy. My party would like the government to discuss with

the farmers and make a law also on Minimum Support Price (MSP), which the farmers have been demanding and the BSP fully supports,” tweeted Mayawati on Monday.

Meanwhile, the BSP also took a dig at the Samajwadi Party and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party stating that they were dreaming of coming to power based on the strength of expelled leaders from the Mayawati-led party.

Newly-appointed BSP Legislature

Party leader Uma Shankar Singh said that these leaders were expelled from the BSP for their poor image. Singh’s remarks came after several BSP leaders, including its former legislature party leader Lalji Verma joined other parties in the past.

Singh also claimed that the leaders were also expelled due to complaints against them for “illegally occupying land or about their involvement in other illegal activities”. He asserted that Mayawati “never tolerates illegal activities” by anyone in the

party and has hence rejected them.

“The BSP MLAs joining SP and BJP are the ones who have been expelled from the party. And BSP supremo Mayawati has expelled them from the party because of their poor image in society. There were many complaints against them of illegally occupying land or about their involvement in other illegal activities. The BSP chief never tolerates illegal activities of anyone. All these leaders joining the SP and the BJP have been rejected by Mayawati and the BSP.

The BSP has only emerged stronger after these leaders left the party. Other parties are decorating their bouquet with rejected items of the BSP and are planning to form the government in Uttar Pradesh. The status of these leaders was created by the BSP” Singh told reporters in Lucknow on Sunday night.

Uma Shankar Singh was appointed leader of BSP Legislature Party a day after Mubarakpur MLA Shah Alam resigned as leader of the BSPPL and also quit the BSP last week.

Public Notice

Be inform that my client DCB Bank Ltd. intends to provide a finance to one of its clients Sri Naushad Akhtar Moinuddin & Smt. Naushaba Khatun against his property Part of House No. 255D/11/15/10(PN-254), win land admeasuring 2025 sq. ft. i.e. 188.20 sq. mtr. only built over plot No. 232, being portion of Khazra No. 229, situated at Kalyanpur, (Shivani Vihar), Ward- Shankarpurva, Lucknow and in chain of title of said property being original sale-deed dated 08.10.2003 (document No. 12434) favoring the ex-owner Smt. Gauri Jahan. is allegedly lost and misplaced. If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within seven days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against owner shall be void and ineffective.

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REHABILITATION UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

# Guv urges students to inspire people for organ donation



Governor Anandiben Patel with medal winners

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Urging the students of the Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University to inspire and connect people to the idea of organ donation, Governor Anandiben Patel said that had organ donation been carried out three to four decades back, many students who are differently-abled would not have been so.

She was speaking at the 8th convocation of DSMNNU where a total of 145 medals were given away to 77 girls and 68 boys on Monday.

"It is the need of the hour to go into the society with these kinds of social responsibilities and inspire everyone. I will entrust all the universities with this responsibility," she said.

The governor told the students that the 12th Indian Organ Donation Day was celebrated on November 28. She urged the students to connect people to the social responsibility of organ donation to save lives.

"Inspire people for blood donation and organ donation. Through organ donation, a person can save 4-5 lives. As per a study, 4 lakh people die every year due to lack of organs. The government is mulling a policy for organ donation," she said.

The governor said SGPGI started an awareness programme on organ donation after identifying 30 schools and involving them in competitions. "Such awareness programmes should be held from time to time. People can donate

organs when there is a road accident or a heart failure, but there is complete lack of awareness," she added.

The governor recalled that when she was the chief minister of Gujarat, her sister died because of heart attack and her organs were donated after she was declared brain dead. "A woman who got the liver and a man who got the kidney are still alive," she pointed out.

Congratulating the students, the governor said the university is helping in the education of the differently abled and bringing them into the mainstream, thus encouraging and motivating them.

"In the Tokyo Paralympics held recently, 19 Indians won medals and created history. These sports persons were felicitated in a big way both at state

and national levels," she said.

She drew the attention of the students to the Greater Noida DM, who cleared UPSC exams despite his physical disabilities, and who is also a world-class badminton player and won a silver medal at the Tokyo Paralympics.

"Mayur Patil of Maharashtra started by improving the mileage of his motorcycle and reduced pollution. He then did the same with 15 buses in his and established a start-up with his four friends after getting a fund of Rs 90 lakh from the Central government," she pointed out.

She told the students that they can also take up such ventures as the Government of India gives money in crores under the start-up scheme.

Regarding the deteriorating environment, she said, "The threat to nature arises only when we disturb its balance or destroy its purity. Nature nurtures us like a mother and it is our responsibility to save nature and protect the water sources and not dirty the rivers."

The governor praised the efforts made by the residents of Barabanki in conserving the Kalyani river and appealed to all the universities to prepare a strategy jointly to save the Gomti river.

The chief guest at the convocation was Vikram Kumar from IIT-Delhi. He told the students to help improve the overall cleanliness standards and fight corruption.

Minister Anil Rajbhar said the state government is committed to welfare of the differently-abled.

## Studying with differently-abled learning experience for toppers



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The toppers who received their medals at the 8th convocation of Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University on Monday said that it was a learning experience being with the differently-abled.

Arpita Kumari, who won the Chancellor's gold, Chief Minister's gold medal and Vice-Chancellor's gold, said it was a great and happy moment for her. She won the award for securing the highest marks in the Bachelors of Electrical Engineering amongst all the departments. A resident of Lucknow, Arpita is now doing MTech from IIT and wants to give a shot to UPSC. She said she chose engineering because it gave her a lot of options.

"I want to bring improvement in the education sector. I studied with the differently-abled and saw the kind of problems they faced. I chose this university because I thought it would give me an inclusive atmosphere," she added.

Shivam Kumar won the



Chancellor's silver medal for securing the second position in overall academic performance in B'Tech and gold medal for standing first in the Civil Engineering department.

"There are a lot of distractions such as smartphones, but one must focus on goals. I want to become a teacher because I have seen what happens in villages where the poor children suffer," said Shivam, who is preparing for GATE to pursue MTech from some IIT.

Abhishek Kumar, who won the Vice-Chancellors gold and

Chief Minister's gold for securing maximum marks in the Arts section, is the son of an Aanganwadi worker. He calls his mother a warrior since she is making all the efforts to educate her four children.

"I have completed BA and will now be doing MA from BHU. I want to crack UPSC exams," he said. He added that he opted for this university to be with the differently-abled which was an experience in itself. He pointed out that there were financial issues but a good samaritan helped him.

## Teacher who won ₹1 cr in KBC awarded



Lucknow (PNS): Himani Bundela, a visually impaired teacher from Agra who studied from Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University and won Rs 1 crore at TV show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', was felicitated at the 8th convocation in Lucknow on Monday.

The 25-year-old said she had high dreams and wanted to head the differently-abled department in future. "I had always been interested in taking part in KBC, and was shattered when I met with an accident in 2011 when my bike collided with another vehicle and the retina of my eye got detached. For six months, I was in a bad shape, but I soon gathered myself and am now teaching Mental Mathematics. With the money won in KBC, I want to establish an academy for the differently-abled," she said.

## Important for kids to know about behaviour of animals: CM Yogi



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Terming the hundred years of Lucknow zoo as grand, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said a detailed working strategy should be made to bring something new to the zoo and carry forward the memories to inspire the younger generations.

"Suggestion of former directors and other officials can be sought to put state zoos on the global map," Yogi said while speaking at the Centenary Day celebrations of Lucknow zoo on Monday. He also felicitated former zoo directors and gave away prizes to children.

Yogi said they have identified many areas where the work of eco-tourism has to be carried out, but the projects hanged fire due to the pandemic. "We have to work in a better manner in this direction and we can collaborate with the Tourism department to promote this venture. MOUs should be signed with various

organisations and efforts be made to invite children at the zoos so that they develop feelings towards wildlife. Various competitions should be organised routinely. If we can carry this forward, the perception of people towards wildlife can change," he said.

"No animal attacks human beings unless provoked. When we interfere in their territory, they also react. We need to understand this behaviour," the CM said.

He said special visits of children should be organised at the Lucknow zoo and national and international experts be invited to brief the kids about the behaviour of animals.

Congratulating the zoo authorities and others on the completion of 100 years, the CM said: "I have always believed that if you want to understand the basic character of people, you should study their behaviour towards animals. If a man is violent towards mute animals and

birds, he would be violent towards humanity. If he is sensitive towards animals, he would be capable of a sensitive behaviour towards human beings," he said.

He said he wanted to congratulate the Forest department for planting 100 crore trees in five years. "It was a challenging task and in the last 20 months, the department continued to work amidst a raging pandemic. When Covid hit the lions in Etawah, we were a bit concerned, but they all recovered in the end," he said, adding that work was done not only to save people but also animals during the pandemic in Uttar Pradesh.

"From 1947 to 2017, only two zoos had been established in UP in 70 years, but a new zoo has been established in Gorakhpur and it is attracting huge crowds even in Covid times. Thousands of people are visiting the Gorakhpur zoo to know the behaviour of animals," he said.

## Mumbai girl lured by trickster, exploited

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A trickster lured a Mumbai singer/actress into a love affair, exploited her financially and physically, and forced her to undergo abortion in Indiranagar. His sisters were also accused of setting up things for the accused through their sweet talks.

The woman lodged a case with police in September against the accused, identified as Divyansh Tiwari aka Rajan Pandit and his sisters Neha & Neetu, all of Manas Enclave in Indiranagar.

On Monday, the police arrested Divyansh Tiwari from Ghaziabad. He had shifted base to Sushant Golf City. The victim said she came in contact with Tiwari through social media in November 2019 and became friends. He, along with his friends, visited her Mumbai residence in January 2020 and stayed there for four days.

Later, the victim visited Varanasi to perform in a show and Tiwari, along with his friends, reached there too. The victim again hosted Tiwari and his friends and paid the bills (online) of the hotel where he and his friends stayed.

The victim again visited Lucknow for an event as the brand ambassador and this time, Tiwari reached the venue along with his sisters.

On their offer, the victim stayed with the accused in Indiranagar for two days before leaving for Kolkata.

"Tiwari and his sisters asked me to visit their house to

## President of political party accused of acting fresh with social worker

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman accused the president of a political party of criminal breach of trust and acting fresh with her in Ashiyana. She also accused a female friend of the accused of assisting him.

In her complaint, the complainant, who is a social worker and a native of Ayodhya, said she met Brij Mohan Singh aka Bablu to shape up her political future. The office of the party is located in Khazana Complex in the area. She said she was offered the post of president of women wing in Ayodhya which she accepted.

"I was asked to give Rs 5-10 lakh as party fund. I was also asked to rope in members under me," she said. She alleged that Singh's friend Mohini helped him by trapping her and other women like her.

She said she returned her hometown and started working as per Singh's direction. "I somehow managed Rs 2.5 lakh which I gave to the party," she said. She alleged that Singh proposed to her and would force her to visit Lucknow office frequently over one pre-text or the other. "I was made to sit with Singh in his SUV and he used to touch me indecently. When I objected, he threatened to get me abducted," she alleged.

The complainant said she gathered information about Singh and was shocked to know that he had exploited several women in the past. "Singh threatened to get me killed, saying several women complained against him but none could harm him," she alleged.

She further alleged that Singh had a good rapport with cops at the Ashiyana police station. The police registered a case for criminal breach of trust, molestation and threatening.

Meanwhile, a man was accused of harassing a woman banker in Gombinagar. In her complaint, the victim said her parents were eager for her marriage and placed an advertisement on a website.

"My brother got a request from a youth who introduced himself as Yogendra Pal Singh and said he worked as an excise officer," she said.

She said she had a talk with the man but she did not find him suitable. "However, he kept texting me even though I ignored his messages for a year. Recently, he sent a message and started talking nonsense. I blocked him and complained to WPL-1090. He then posted obscene comments about me and my family on social media. He is threatening me with dire consequences," she said.

FIR. She said Tiwari's sisters cajoled her into living with him as his wife even though she was unwilling. "I trusted them and was not in a frame of mind to decide what was right or wrong. They overpowered my senses through their extremely flattering behaviour. The

family took all my money while Tiwari sexually exploited me," she said.

The victim further said that she got pregnant in May 2020 and it was only then that they showed their true colours. "They forced me to go for abortion but I refused. However, I was forced to pop pills. It all made me mentally sick and I decided to shift to Mumbai. While I was leaving for Mumbai, Neetu took Rs 5.6 lakh from me to purchase a new car. I gave birth to a girl child on January 21," she said.

4 members of gang duping people by posing as cops arrested

Lucknow (PNS): Four members of a gang duping elderly people, especially women, by impersonating crime branch sleuths, were nabbed by police in Aminabad on Monday. Those arrested were identified as Mazloom Husain of Madhya Pradesh, Hasni Ali, Qamber Ali (both of Maharashtra) and Ali Abbas of Karnataka.

The police team that worked under DCP (West) Somen Berma and ADCP Chiranjeevi Sinha, recovered a country-made pistol, four fake IDs of journalists, a gold bangle, a silver bangle, two gold chains, two fake RCs of vehicles, coloured gems, two motorcycles bearing fake registration numbers and over Rs 11,000 in cash. "Their modus operandi was simple. They would pose as crime branch sleuths and dupe elderly people, especially women," the police said.

The accused had recently duped Kanak Kumar Rai (69) of Sunderbagh in Aminabad. The accused stopped Rai near Gandhi Ashram on November 8 and asked him about some address while pretending to be crime branch sleuths. They told Rai that a murder had been committed in the area and asked him to put off his gold rings, which they stole by a trick. The police said there could be other such gangs operating in the city. "Other members of the gang may also be active and targeting gullible people. We are interrogating the accused to extract more information about the kingpin and other members of the gang," the police said.

## 3,095 students conferred degrees at IU convocation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 3,095 students were given away degrees and 216 conferred diplomas at the 13th convocation of Integral University held on Monday. Top performers walked away with 73 gold and 72 silver medals.

Ahmed Sule, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to India, delivered the convocation address while chairman of TAAS, New Delhi, Dr Rajendra Singh Paroda addressed the students and alumni.

Sule encouraged the students not to give up and to keep pushing themselves to achieve success. Paroda said the name of the university symbolises the integration of society.

Madhurima Gupta (MTech) and Fariha Fatima



DLit (Honoris Causa) conferred on Jayant Krishna

(BTech) were the university's top-scorers.

Chancellor and founder of Integral University Prof SW Akhtar congratulated and praise the students, saying the

convocation heralds a new era of harmony and peace in the midst of diversity.

The university conferred DLit (Honoris Causa) on Jayant Krishna for his contribution to

India's science and technology space as well as the skill development sector over a distinguished career of over 35 years across industry, government, think-tanks and non-profit foundations. He is currently the CEO of Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) dedicated to enabling transformation in the science and technology landscape in India.

As one of the early professionals who ventured into India's information technology sector in 1986, Krishna played key global leadership roles at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Several lakh illiterates became literate using computer-based functional literacy steered by him in north Indian states. He also directly contributed to large scale IT-ITeS job creation in India.

## Youths made aware of govt schemes to start new business

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Rajiv Academy for Technology and Management (Mathura), organised a virtual session on 'Government schemes to start new business' on Monday.

The key objective was to educate the youth about the opportunities to start new business with the government's scheme in the current scenario and also the benefits they can leverage themselves with the entrepreneurship and the initiatives of SIDBI towards this, so as to improve standards of living and create wealth, not only for the entrepreneurs but also for the state.

## Over 16 cr Covid vaccine doses administered in UP

Lucknow (PNS): On a day when Uttar Pradesh state's overall vaccination coverage crossed 16 crore, meaning that almost 75 per cent of the population has taken at least one dose of the vaccine, the state recorded five fresh COVID-19 cases. This vaccination feat was accomplished in ten and half months since the rollout of the mass immunisation campaign on January 16 to vaccinate the entire eligible population aged 18 years and above.

Uttar Pradesh has administered 16,02,09,264 doses of the Covid vaccine. The state is followed by Maharashtra with 11,20,16,811 doses. In terms of percentage, over 33 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated and more than 75 per cent have received one dose of the

vaccine. In the light of the emergence of a new 'omicron' variant of the novel coronavirus, the government has expedited its vaccination coverage in the state.

Uttar Pradesh has administered 11,25,53,288 first doses of the Covid vaccine so far. In terms of second doses, Uttar Pradesh has administered 4,90,48,738 second doses.

Meanwhile, five new COVID-19 cases were reported across the state in the past 24 hours. The cases were reported from four districts. As many as nine persons recovered from coronavirus infection during the past 24 hours, taking the tally of recovered COVID-19 patients to 17.10 lakh, translating into a recovery rate of over 98 per cent. The active caseload in UP has come down to 79 now.



## Power employees to protest against Electricity Bill

**Lucknow (PNS):** The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) has said that 15 lakh power employees and

engineers across the country will resort to day-long nationwide demonstrations if the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 is introduced in the winter session of Parliament.

All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPF) Chairman Shailendra Dubey said here that it was a matter of grave concern that the Central government had maintained obstinate position to legislate Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the winter session of Parliament with the object of curbing rights of access to electricity for poor and rural

people of India. He said the agenda of the winter session of Parliament indicated that the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 would be introduced in this session of Parliament. "In these circumstances, the power employees and engineers have decided to organise massive nationwide protest demonstrations on the day, whenever the Bill is placed in Parliament," he said. He said all constituents of NCCOEEE would ensure participation of their members to the maximum extent possible. He said a future plan of action would be decided in a meeting on December 3.

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत**  
जानपद पारेषण मण्डल कक्ष सं० 223 से 226, प्रथम तल, पारेषण भवन, यूपी0एस0एल0डी0सी0 परिसर, विभूति खण्ड गोमती नगर लखनऊ-228010 उ0प्र0 पार पारमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 33/ECTC/2021-22 अओहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु धुमक-पृथक निविदाएं दो भागों (पार्ट-I) टेक्निकल बिड एवं पार्ट-II फाइनेंशियल में आमंत्रित की जाती है। 1. कार्य का नाम :- पारेषण भवन, लखनऊ के वार्षिक जानपदीय अनुषूचण कार्य कार्य। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत :- ₹0 9.69 लाख मात्र कार्याधि :- 12 माह उक्त निविदा की Technical Bid एवं अन्य शर्तें तथा मात्रा बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) पर देखा जा सकता है एवं <http://etender.up.nic.in> साइट पर देखा एवं प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक 28.12.2021 को दोपहर 14:00 बजे तक साइट पर डाटा / अपलोड किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 30.12.2021 को 14:00 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से निविदाएं खोली जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल, उ0प्र0 एस0एल0डी0सी0 परिसर, विभूति खण्ड गोमती नगर, लखनऊ पत्रांक 3885 दिनांक 29.11.21 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएँ

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that my client Sh. Rajesh Kumar Yadav S/o Late Mani Ram is owner of House with Land area measuring 1500 sq. ft., out of Khazra No. 1757 (Village Badheri Bahar Seemra) Pargana 8 Tehsil Nowalganj, Dist. Barabanki, U.P. by virtue of Sale-deed dated 24.10.2015 duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-Sadar, Barabanki, Lucknow vide Book No. 1, Volume No. 12623, Page 45 to 52, at serial No. 18121, dated 24.10.2015. In date and has lost/misplaced his original sale-deed dated 07.11.2005, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-Sadar, Barabanki, vide Book No. 1, Volume No. 2555, Pages 45 to 54, at serial No. 6945, dated 07.11.2005, which was executed by Sh. Digvijay Singh as attorney of Sh. Mani Ram (father) in favour of Sh. Santosh Kumar Chaturvedi S/o Sh. Shyam Behar Chaturvedi, and the same property is going to be financed by DCB Bank Ltd. Branch, Lucknow, U.P. (any person) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below. Failing which my client (i.e. DCB Bank Ltd. Branch, Lucknow, U.P. shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Navleen Kumar Verma, Advocate Mob-6204506185 Ch. No. 9, L.G.F., Krishna Tower, Quaser Bagh, Lucknow, U.P.

## EC focus on enrolling 18-yr-old youths

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Election Commission has asked the chief electoral officer of UP to focus attention on the enrollment of youth attaining the age of 18 years on January 1, 2022. The EC has also asked the state officials to ensure enrollment of the new voters with utmost efficiency and integrity.

Secretary General of the Election Commission of India, Umesh Sinha, on Monday made an online review of the revision of the electoral rolls in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. Sinha said micro monitoring of the assistant returning officers, booth level officers be conducted daily for rectification of wrong entries in the electoral rolls. Along with Chief Electoral Officer of UP, Ajay Kumar Shukla, all divisional commissioners attended the online review meeting.

The EC secretary general directed the state officials to ensure that electoral roll revision was comprehensive and no person eligible as a voter was left from enrollment. He said the objective of the EC was to ensure that all eligible names were included in electoral rolls.

# Praised by PM Modi, storyteller says it may help art of Dastangoi thrive

**PTI ■ LUCKNOW**

Words of praise from PM Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will help the art form of Dastangoi reach more people, storyteller Himanshu Bajpai said here on Monday.

Lucknow-based Bajpai and Pragma Sharma were in for some praise for their Dastangoi on Rani Durgavati by the prime minister on Sunday during his monthly radio broadcast "Mann ki Baat".

Later, the defence minister, who is also an MP from Lucknow, took to social media

to heap praise on the duo.

"With Prime Minister Modi mentioning our Dastan and Defence Minister Singh also tweeting about us, we were quite convinced that the art form of Dastangoi will reach more and more people," Bajpai, also known as Lucknauiya in poetic circles, told PTI.

Bajpai said he and Sharma hope Dastangoi, an oral storytelling form popularised in the medieval era especially in Urdu, would find more takers after the acknowledgement from highest echelons of politics in the country.

During the medieval era, Lucknow in north India was one of the most important locations where Dastangoi thrived, 34-year-old Bajpai said.

"Lucknow has produced Dastangos who were known worldwide among connoisseurs of the art, like Mohammad Hussain Jaah, Ahmad Hussain Qamar, Amba Prasad Rasa and Tasadduq Hussain," he said.

"It was the city of Lucknow only which introduced publication of Dastans with Naval Kishor Press bringing into books in print what were earlier long form stories shared

**"With Prime Minister Modi mentioning our Dastan and Defence Minister Singh also tweeting about us, we were quite convinced that the art form of Dastangoi will reach more and more people"**

orally," he added.

Dastangoi, however, lost its space as a popular medium of storytelling eventually but has again come to finding feet in Awadh with young proponents like Himanshu Bajpai and Pragma Sharma.

After PM Modi's "Mann ki Baat" on Sunday, Defence Minister Singh took to Twitter

to thank him for acknowledging the Lucknow's artists.

"I would like to thank the prime minister for discussing the works of Himanshu Bajpai and Pragma Sharma, who grew up and settled in the land of Lucknow. Also, I send my warmest wishes to Himanshu and Pragma," Singh had tweeted.

## Unemployed Raj youths on dharna outside UPCC

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Hundreds of unemployed youth from Rajasthan are staging a dharna outside the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters in Lucknow, demanding a meeting with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The protest, organised under the banner of Rajasthan Berojgari Ekikrit Mahasangh (RBEM), is aimed at pressuring the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan to accept long-standing demands made by the unemployed youths in Rajasthan.

The demands of the protesters include appointments in several government jobs for which recruitment exams have already been conducted, increase in the number of vacancies for state gov-

ernment jobs and formulation of a non-bailable law against those who leak question papers in competitive examinations.

"We are sitting on a dharna outside the UP Congress Committee office in Lucknow and have now started a hunger strike. For the past 47 days, we have been protesting in Jaipur. We want to meet Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and apprise her of our ordeal. The Congress has announced that it will give 20 lakh jobs in Uttar Pradesh. Before the 2018 assembly elections in Lucknow, we had lent support to the Congress. But promises made to us have not been fulfilled by the Gehlot government," said RBEM president Upen Yadav on Monday.

Earlier, the RBEM had declared that it would oppose the Congress at rallies

of its leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, ahead of the UP assembly elections. "The Congress has a government in Rajasthan. Despite this, they are not fulfilling the promises made to the unemployed youth and instead making tall promises to the youths of Uttar Pradesh. First, the ruling party should fulfill its promises made in Rajasthan," Yadav said.

Newly-appointed advisor to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, MLA Danish Abrar, reached out to the protesters and held talks in Jaipur on November 23. However, after no consensus could be reached, the protesters left for Uttar Pradesh on November 26 and after reaching Lucknow, they also accused the UP Congress workers of misbehaving with them.

The Bharatiya Janata Party was

prompt to corner the Rajasthan government over the protests by unemployed youth, with former chief minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje, Rajasthan state BJP chief Satish Poonia, deputy leader of opposition Rajendra Rathore, all slamming the Gehlot regime.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot said that the opposition was "inciting" the protesters.

"What is the logic behind staging a dharna at Lucknow? Our friends are staging dharna at Lucknow? Isn't this politics? The opposition is inciting them. What is the logic? You are sending them to Lucknow... where the government is run by the BJP" Gehlot said.

The Congress leaders in Uttar Pradesh have so far been silent over the issue.

**RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR**  
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निगम की नकारा-रुकेय ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट [Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc](http://Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc) एवं [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

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**LCB/4/TC/Works/2021-22**  
**Cantonment Board Office Lucknow** **Chief Executive Officer Lucknow Cantt.**  
**Dated 29 Nov. 2021**

पूर्वांचल विद्युत वितरण यथायोज्य सूटी0आर0 संख्या निगम ति0 ई-निविदा पे-इन-रुस्तिप की मूलप्रति (इस्यू बैंक सूचना विद्युत कार्य के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रति) मण्डल, प्रयागराज के अधीनस्थ ई-निविदा के साथ ऑनलाइन विद्युत माध्यमिक कार्य खण्ड अपलोड की जायेगी एवं सम्बन्धित प्रयागराज में सेमी टर्न की के आधार बैंक से पुष्टि तथा निविदा के प्रथम पर निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अनुन्वी भाग की शर्तों के पूर्ण होने के ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ऑनलाइन उपरान्त ही निविदा का द्वितीय भाग निविदाएं दो भागों में आमंत्रित की खोला जायेगा। निविदा के प्रथम भाग जाती है। निविदा का पूर्ण के खुलने पर फर्मों द्वारा सभी शर्तें विवरण/निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य पूरी करने वाले ठेकेदारों की सभी सम्बन्धित सूचनायें उ0प्र0 शासन की अभिलेखों की सत्यता की जांच इस ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाइट कार्यालय द्वारा करायी जायेगी। फर्जी <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखे अभिलेख/प्रपत्र पाये जाने पर एवं तत्पश्चात् ऑनलाइन भरे हुए सम्बन्धित फर्म के विरुद्ध काली सूची निविदा प्रपत्र स्वीकार्य होंगे। क्र0सं0 1 निविदा संख्या 02/EWCP/ शर्तें-1. फर्म को विद्युत सुरक्षा, उ0प्र0 2021-22 कार्य का विवरण 33/11 शासन द्वारा निर्गत 'क' श्रेणी का बैच 0क0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सड़का लाइसेंस प्रमाणपत्र की छायाप्रति चण्डिका से निर्गत 11 के0वी0 फीडर संलग्न करना आवश्यक है। 2. पूरबगांव के विभक्तीकरण (4.3 जी0एस0टी0 पंजीकरण एवं पैन कि0मी लाइन) का कार्य। निविदा नम्बर की छायाप्रति संलग्न करना प्रपत्र मूल्य (कर सहित) 1180.00 आवश्यक है। 3. समान कार्य के (1000+180) धरोहर धनराशि रु0 अनुभव के अनुबन्ध की छायाप्रति 18,000.00 क्र0सं0 2 निविदा संख्या संलग्न करना आवश्यक है तथा 03/EWCP/ 2021-22 कार्य का निविदादाताओं की आर्थिक स्थिति विवरण 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत सुदृढ़ होनी चाहिए। 4. निविदादाताओं उपकेन्द्र गौरा से निर्गत 11 के0वी0 द्वारा डाली जाने वाली दर कार्य फीडर नारीबारी के विभक्तीकरण (02 करायी जाने वाली अनुमानित धनरा. कि0मी लाइन) का कार्य। निविदा शि के विरुद्ध 10 प्रतिशत प्रपत्र मूल्य (कर सहित) 1180.00 नीचे/बिलो (Below) होने की दशा (1000+180) धरोहर धनराशि रु0 में धरोहर धनराशि के अतिरिक्त 11,000.00 क्र0सं0 3 निविदा संख्या 0.50 प्रतिशत प्रति 1 प्रतिशत कम 04/EWCP/ 2021-22 कार्य का दर पर तथा 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक विवरण 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत नीचे/बिलो (Below) के दरो पर 1 उपकेन्द्र कल्यानपुर से 33/11 प्रतिशत प्रति कम दर पर के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र कटरा सिक्कोरिटी/परफारमेंस गारन्टी गुलाब सिंह तक 03 कि0मी0 33 टी0डी0आर0/एफ0डी0आर0/के0वी0 लाइन के सुदृढ़ीकरण का सी0डी0आर0 के रूप में अधीक्षण कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य (कर अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य मण्डल, सहित) 1180.00 (1000+180) इलाहाबाद के पक्ष में अनुबन्ध से पूर्व धरोहर धनराशि रु0 13,000.00 जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। 5. कार्य वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करने की एक या कई फर्मों को आवंटित किया अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 30.12.2021 जा सकता है। 6. अओहस्ताक्षरी को 14:00 बजे तक निविदा खोलने की बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 31.12.2021 को असीकृत/निरस्त करने का 13:00 बजे तक निविदा के प्रथम भाग अधिका सुरक्षित है। 7. सशर्त में निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य एवं निविदा स्वीकार नहीं जायेगी। 8. धरोहर धनराशि (आर0टी0जी0एस0/ निविदा के खुलने की तिथि पर एफ0डी0एफ0टी0) द्वारा अधीक्षण सार्वजनिक अवकाश या अन्य कारणों अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य मण्डल, से कार्यालय बन्द होने की स्थिति इलाहाबाद के बैंक खाता संख्या- में अगले कार्यदिवस जिसमें कार्यालय 914020010003107 (IFSC Code- UTIB0000286, Axis Bank, 28-B, अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्य Civil Stationing, M.G. Marg, Civil मण्डल 177, एलनगंज, प्रयागराज Lines, Allahabad) में जमा होना पत्रांक 392 दिनांक 29.11.21 चाहिए। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएँ

## Allahabad HC gives Rs 15K to Dalit student to pay for allotment of IIT seat

**Lucknow (PTI):** In a humane gesture, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday gave Rs 15,000 for a poor Dalit student, who approached it after being unable to deposit the amount for allotment of a seat at IIT(BHU) after cracking the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advance.

It further directed the Joint Seat Allocation Authority and IIT (BHU) to admit the student in Mathematics and Computing course (Bachelor and Master of Technology, dual degree course).

The bench also instructed the BHU to create a supernu-

merary seat for the Dalit student, if there is no seat vacant now. It asked the student to report at BHU within three days, along with the necessary documents for admission.

A bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh passed the order on a petition moved by student Sanskriti Ranjan in person. She requested the bench that the Joint Seat Allocation Authority and IIT (BHU) be directed to grant her some more time to deposit the fee, which is a sum of Rs 15,000.

It was pleaded in the petition that she belonged to Scheduled Caste category. She secured 95.6 per cent marks in

Class 10 and 94 per cent in class 12. Ranjan secured 92.77 percentile in JEE Mains Examination and bagged a rank of 2,062 as an SC candidate. Thereafter, she applied for JEE Advanced on September 16 and cleared it on October 15, scoring 1,469 rank in the SC category.

"The petitioner was allotted a seat at IIT (BHU) Varanasi for Mathematics and Computing course in counselling. However, she could not arrange the meagre amount of Rs 15,000, the fees to be paid before the scheduled date," stated the petition.

Ranjan pleaded that her

father was diagnosed with a chronic kidney disease. He was advised to get a kidney transplant and also had to undergo dialysis twice in a week. In such circumstances, due to her father's ill-health and the financial crisis created by medical expenses and COVID-19, she could not arrange Rs 15,000 for allotment of a seat at IIT (BHU).

"The petitioner and her father have written many times to the Joint Seat Allocation Authority for extension of time indicating the precarious condition for which she could not deposit the fee, but did not get a reply," pleaded advocates

Sarvesh Dubey and Samta Rao, who were asked by the bench to assist the petitioner, who could not even engage a lawyer to plead her case properly.

Considering that a bright, young Dalit girl had appeared before the HC seeking equity jurisdiction to be able to pursue her dream of getting admitted to the IIT, the court on its own volunteered to contribute Rs 15,000, the fees for allocation of the seat, the bench said.

The amount was handed over to the petitioner after court hours on Monday, it said.

"As an interim measure, the Joint Seat Allocation

Authority and IIT (BHU) are directed to admit the petitioner in Mathematics and Computing course. If there is no seat vacant in the said discipline, BHU is directed to create a supernumerary post, which shall be subject to the admission of the petitioner being regularised in the event of any seat falling vacant in future as a result of exigency which may arise in the course of admission process," Justice Singh said.

If no seat falls vacant, the petitioner shall continue her studies for the course against a supernumerary seat, he ordered.

## Investors, workers of Sahara protest against SEBI

**Lucknow (PNS):** The workers and investors of Sahara India Pariwar protested against SEBI at Eco Garden in Lucknow on Monday.

"We, the workers and investors, are linked with Sahara through some scheme or the other, and have been earning for the past 25-30 years. But due to the embargo imposed on the entire Sahara Group by the Supreme Court over the past eight years owing to Sahara-SEBI dispute, a situation of delay in payments has arisen. This has impacted our earnings in a major way. So much so that the investors are not giving us new business as their old repayments are delayed. This has led to our income dwindling to near negligible. As a result, lakhs of our *karyakartas* are now on the verge of starvation and unemployment," the protesters said.

They further said that over the past eight years, SEBI has repaid merely Rs 125 crore, with interest, despite taking out four rounds of advertisements in regional and national newspapers.

"In a status report submitted at the beginning of this year with the Supreme Court, SEBI



had acknowledged it. In response to SEBI's advertisement published on March 26, 2018, it received repayment applications from 19,598 investors and the same came attached with original applications," they said.

They said that in response, SEBI repaid 16,663 applications which came to Rs 125 crore with interest.

"This shows that all investors didn't approach SEBI for repayment. Why would they when they have already received their dues. But due to

SEBI, lakhs of our *karyakartas* are facing darkness in their lives. When SEBI has no pending repayment left for any investor at present, it should submit an affidavit that it has no investors awaiting repayments. It may lead to the Supreme Court lifting the embargo on all the Sahara companies, and Sahara receiving the Rs 24,000 crore (with interest) from the Sahara-SEBI account. It will mean regular repayments to all esteemed investors and depositors," the protesters said.

**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 dateline 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. (file-invest) I.D. 2021_DBJ_211767.1	38,02,827/-	23.11.2021 12 PM onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No. F34/2020-PPD and DJB endorsement No. DJB/2020-21/Misc-II(PT)/971 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://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

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

Sd/-  
(S.K. SINGH)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)

e-mail:- [serw\\_ctc@yahoo.co.in](mailto:serw_ctc@yahoo.co.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK**  
O-1117

**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** :  
a) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.15.00 Crore : Special Class & Super Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.  
b) Estimated cost more than Rs.3.00 Crore & upto Rs.6.00 Crore : A & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.  
c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 40.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B & A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

3. **Time for Completion** : As specified in the Column-5 of the Annexure.

4. **Detail Projects** : As per Annexure attached

5. **Other Details**

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 RWC - 24/ 21	03.12.2021 at 11.30 A.M.	17.12.2021 to 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** Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Cuttack



# Mishra calls to follow path shown by Pt Deendayal Upadhyay

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra said that great thinker Pt Deendayal Upadhyay was not only a nurturer of Bhartiyata (Indianness) but an embodiment of Bhartiyata. ‘The achievement of an all-round development of the nation as well as an individual is possible with the thoughts of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay, so everyone should try to follow the path shown by him,’ he said while addressing a seminar and award ceremony organised under the auspices of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Peeth at Sambodhi auditorium of Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday.

He also talked about increasing production, restraint on consumption, equality in distribution based on Deendayal’s economic philosophy. ‘The thinking of Deendayal ji is the thinking of the totality of the society,’ Mishra said. The special guest and former Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Avadh University Prof Manoj Dixit said that by adopting the philosophy of Pt Deendayal, we have to create such a society which is ready to help and serve others.

In the presidential address, Officiating BHU V-C Prof VK Shukla said that Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Peeth of BHU is promoting the views of Pt Deendayal and informed



Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra attending a function at BHU in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

that the university is going to start the course of Masters in Hindu Studies. Presenting the outline of the programme, the FSS BHU dean and in-charge of the Pt Deendayal Peeth Prof Koushal Kishore Mishra said that the Peeth has decided to honour the people who believe in the views of Pt Deendayal and this was the second felicitation ceremony. The first ‘Antyodaya Samman’ was given to Sunil Ojha (co-in-charge, UP BJP) while the third cultural award would be given to Padma Shri Malini Awasthi and Additional Chief

Secretary (UP) Avinish Awasthi, informed Prof Mishra.

He further said that under the aegis of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ as many as 75 forgotten ‘Karmaveers’ would be honoured in the next three months. Out of these proposed awards, four including Surendra, Ramashish, Chandramohan and Nagendra were given Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Amrit Mahotsav Samman by the Rajasthan Governor during the function. Besides, the books written by Dr Ashutosh

Kumar and Dr Anup Kumar Mishra were also released.

Dr Satyendra Singh, Prof RP Pathak, Prof Keshav Mishra, Prof Shweta Prasad, Prof Binda Paranjpe, Prof Rajanna Sheel, Prof Pravesh Bharadwaj, Dr Priyanka Jha, Dr Sunita Singh, Dr Meenakshi Jha, Dr Seema Mishra, Dr Anuradha Singh, Dr Ashok Sonkar, Patanjali Pandey, Shubham Mishra, Arshiwad Dubey and others were also present. Dr Anoop Kumar Mishra conducted the programme.

# Various events to be held prior to corridor opening

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma reviewed the preparations for ‘Bhavya Kashi Divya Kashi’ programme under Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Yatra here on Monday. Just a couple of days ago, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave instructions for celebrating the opening of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in a grand manner during his visit. The DM said that apart from this month -long yatra after inauguration of the corridor, various cultural and other programmes would also be organised even prior to the inaugural function.

According to him, from December 1 to 11, various cultural events will be held at different places of the district by the Cultural department. The programmes will be held at Chintaharan Ganesh (Sonarpura) and Bada Ganesh (Lohatia) on December 1, while at Vishnu temple (Lalita Ghat) and Vrihaspati temple (Dashashwamedh) on December 2; Sheetla Mandir (Sheetla Ghat) and Shailputri Devi (Saraiya) on December 3;



DM reviewing preparations for inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

Ram temple (Khojwa) and Ram Mandir Chowk on December 4; Batuk Bhairav (Kamachha) and Kaal Bhairav temple on December 5; Mrityunjay Mahadev temple (Daranagar) and Kedarnath temple (Kedar Ghat) on December 6; Bankati Hanuman temple (Anand Park) and Kaudiya Mai Mandir (Kabir Nagar) on December 7; Gopal temple (Chaukhamba) and Sankatha Mandir Chowk on December 8; Kardameshwar Mahadev temple (Kandwa) and Gaibeshwar temple (Choti Gaibi) on December 9;

Annappurna temple (Vishwanath Dham) and Adikeshwar temple (Rajghat) on December 10 and Durga Mandir (Durgakund) and Sankat Mochan temple on December 11. These grand bhajan-kirtan programmes will be held from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Apart from this, Education department will organise various competitions including Rangoli at Assi Ghat on December 1; slogan writing on voter awareness in Government Girls Inter College (GGIC) at Maldahiya on December 2; painting on

ancient Indian cultural heritage at Agrasen Girls Inter College on December 3; debate on social networking ‘Vardan Ya Abhishap’ and quiz contest on history of Kashi at Queen’s Inter College on December 4 and Rangoli competition at Arya Mahila Inter College on December 6.

Besides, the Education department will also organise various competitions including debate on December 1; essay on December 2; Rangoli on December 3; painting on December 4; fancy dress based on Shiv-Parvati on December 6; shloka reading on December 7; street play presentation on December 8; Shiv tableau at school level on December 9 and antakshari, doha, chaupai, shlok etc on December 10. These competitions will be organized by the Education department at school, nyaya panchayat, block and district levels and later on, the winners will be honoured. Chief Development Officer Abhishek Goyal, Municipal Commissioner Pranay Singh and other departmental officers were also present in the meeting.

# Corruption behind question paper leak: SP workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Alleging that there was corruption behind the question paper leak in UPTET, the workers of the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Monday submitted a memorandum to the district administration to be forwarded to the Governor in favour of their demands including the financial assistance of Rs 5000 to each candidate who faced financial loss after the government cancelled the examination.

The SP workers in scores gathered at district headquarter here and submitted a memorandum of their demands to the district administration addressing to the Governor. The government should conduct the examination of UPTET within 15 days they demanded adding, the government should also make available the facility of train and bus free of cost for the candidates so that they could reach the examination centres conveniently.

The government should give Rs 5000 to each candidate as financial assistance to recover the loss what they suffered

due to the cancellation of the examination, the SP workers further demanded.

The ill-intention of the government to the youths and corruption were behind the leak of the question paper of the UPTET, they alleged adding, the paper leak showed that the persons in government wanted to benefitted to some it’s men and the state government is not serious to the future of the youths.

Kishan Dixit, Abhishek Mishra, Akhilesh Yadav, Satya Prakash Dinkar, Satish Yadav, Abdul Kalam and others were present on the occasion.

**LABOURER DROWNS:** In a tragedy, a labourer was feared drowned in sewage nullah near Lahurabir crossing under the Chetganj police station on Monday when he had gone inside to fit diversion valve at diversion point. The NDRF team was making hard to rescue the labourer till the last news came in.

According to the information, the diversion work of nullah was being carried out near Lahurabir crossing on Monday afternoon. A labourer identified as Nabab (20) of

Malda entered the nullah tying rope in waist to fit the diversion valve at the diversion point.

It was said that when he was working to fit the diversion valve, the rope broke and he came in the grip of sewage water flowing in speed. He raised an alarm and seeing his crying, the others outside the nullah informed the local police about this.

On being informed the police reached the site and tried to rescue the labourer but in vain. The NDRF was informed about this and it’s a team reached the spot. The NDRF personnel started rescue operation and entered the nullah with oxygen cylinder but failed in rescuing the labourer. The rescue operation of the NDRF was on till the news last came in. It was feared that the labourer drowned in the sewage water but anything certain could not be said at this moment and the effort was being made to rescue him alive, the police said.

**AROGYA HEALTH FAIRS HELD AT 52 PHCS:** Mukhyamantri Arogya Swasthya Mela was organised once again on Sunday at all

rural and urban primary health centres of the district. Free health check-up of patients was done apart from distribution of free medicines to them. Along with this, awareness was made about dengue, malaria, communicable and seasonal diseases at all health centres. During the day, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rahul Singh inspected Rural Primary Health Centres (PHCs) at Chiragaon, Harahua and Cholaapur.

The CMO said that the Arogya melas were organised in 52 PHCs of the district. The objective of the fair is to provide maximum health facilities, tests, treatment and medicines to the people under one roof, he said, informing that every person was screened before entering the fair premises and appealed to all to follow the COVID-19 guidelines.

He appealed to the people to prevent communicable diseases, dengue and malaria by now allowing water to stagnate in and around the house for a long time, because dengue mosquito breeds only in stagnant and clean water.

# HC denies bail to rape convict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court denied bail to a man convicted of committing rape on his cousin sister and observed that such offences demolish the social fabric.

Rejecting the plea for bail of the appellant Devesh of Pilibhit district while hearing his criminal appeal, Justice Anil Kumar Ojha observed, “It is an admitted position that appellant and victim are siblings (cousin brother and sister). Such offence demolishes the social fabric. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, particularly the fact that the victim has supported the prosecution version, I am of the firm opinion that appellant is not entitled to be enlarged on bail.”

The rape survivor had become pregnant and gave birth to a male child. While denying bail, the court took

into account the admitted position of the case that appellant and rape victim are siblings and the DNA of the child matched with the appellant.

Earlier, the appellant’s counsel submitted that he had been wrongly convicted and the trial court had misinterpreted the evidence on record.

There was an unexplained delay of one month and twenty-four days in the lodging of the FIR and the evidence of eyewitnesses is not admissible in the eyes of law, he said.

The counsel also argued that the victim was major at the time of the incident and the appellant has not committed the alleged offence.

The conviction of the appellant is not justified on the basis of simply matching the DNA of the appellant with that of the victim’s son because they are relatives and since they are descendants of one ancestor and from the same family

tree, they have the same DNA.

The state counsel opposed the bail application saying the victim became pregnant and gave birth to a child whose DNA matched with that of the appellant. The offence committed by the appellant is heinous and his bail application should be rejected.

After perusing the case records, the court in its decision dated November 10 noted that the victim had supported the prosecution story before the court and stated that she became pregnant on account of the rape and gave birth to a child.

**FORMER JNU STUDENT SHARJEEL IMAM GRANTED BAIL:** The Allahabad High Court granted bail to former JNU student and activist Sharjeel Imam in the sedition case registered against him for his speech at Aligarh Muslim University during protest against the Citizenship

Amendment Act (CAA) on January 16, 2020.

The bail was granted by Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh of the Allahabad High Court, but the detailed order is awaited, said Nikhil Mishra, the counsel of the applicant.

Sharjeel Imam was booked for spreading hatred against the government and Indian Armed Forces, creating enmity and hatred between two communities, and endangering the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The court has granted him bail in FIR no-55 of 2020 registered at Civil Lines police station in Aligarh.

However, as per sources, though the bail has been granted by the high court in one case registered by Uttar Pradesh Police against him, Sharjeel Imam would remain in jail as he was also booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in connection with Northeast Delhi riots.

# Labourer held in connection with Phaphamau incident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With the arrest of a person, police claimed to have worked out the sensational murder of four people in the same family in Phaphamau. The police arrested labourer Pawan Kumar Saroj for raping a Dalit minor in a village under Phaphamau police station area and killing the entire family.

Pawan Kumar, a resident of Korsand village in Tharvai, is a caterer and lives near a brick kiln, about a kilometer away from the house of the victims. On the basis of circumstantial evidence — his WhatsApp chats and non-cooperation in the investigation — the police claimed to have



ADG, IG and SSP producing the murder accused before media

worked out the case and arrested him. On Sunday evening, ADG Prem Prakash, IG Dr Rakesh Singh and SSP

# Strike by junior residents continues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The junior residents of Motilal Nehru Medical College, who are protesting against the delay in the recruitment of doctors, remained on strike on Monday as well. The OPD services remained paralysed but emergency services continued in Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. Doctors said that since the strike on the first day (Saturday), no response came from the government. The nationwide movement of junior doctors started on Saturday. The matter is related to the delay in counselling of candidates who cleared NEET held in September. Only 66 percent junior doctors in the



hospital are said to be handling the arrangements.

Senior official of Junior Residents Association Dr Sarvesh said the results of the examination have been declared but due to no counseling, the recruitment is not being completed. They said the government should start the counselling process soon. The strike will continue till the decision of counseling is taken, he added. Principal Medical Superintendent of SRN Hospital Dr Ajay Saxena said no such information in writing has been given by the junior doctors. If the junior doctors do not come for work, senior doctors and residents will remain there and non-PG junior doctors will also be hired under the alternative arrangements.

# 4 of a family among 5 killed in mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Five people died in a road accident here on Sunday night near Shringverpur highway while returning from a marriage function to Nawabganj. The victims include four of a family. Residents of Budauna village under the trans-Ganga area of Nawabganj, Ramsaran Pal (60), his sons Lallu Pal (38), Samay Lal Pal (30), grandson Arjun Pal (11) and neighbour Ram

Chandra Pal went to attend a marriage function on Sunday. They were returning home by a motorcycle when a speeding vehicle knocked them down Shringverpur highway. Police reached the spot and informed the family members of the victims.

**MAJ GEN BEVLI PAYS HOMAGE TO MARTYRS:** Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, General Officer Commanding, Red Eagle Division, paid homage to martyrs on the

occasion of arrival of the Swarnim Vijay Mashaal in Old Cantt, Prayagraj. The Mashaal was received with full honours at the Abdul Hamid Gate of the Division HQ by all ranks of the Division and students of Army Public School, Old Cantt, Prayagraj with fervour and enthusiasm, among chants of ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’. The troops of the Division & school children lined up from the main gate to the War Memorial and paid respects to the Victory

Flame. The occasion was marked by wreath laying by Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, and all officers at the Red Eagle War Memorial. Red Eagle Division, the oldest Division of the Indian Army, has the singular honour of participating in World War-II, India-China War of 1962, India-Pakistan Wars of 1965 and 1971, Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka and Operation Vijay in 1999.

# Over 3.60 lakh people jabbed in week-long mega vax drive

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** Over 3.60 lakh eligible people were covered under the week-long mega vaccination drive in Sangam city. Those living in brick kiln centres, unapproachable villages and far flung areas were covered. The drive which started on November 22 was conducted in all 20 blocks of the district and concluded on November 28. While ramping up vaccination drive, health officials claimed to have focused to cover all rural areas and roped in hundreds of teams of CHOs (Community Health Officer) and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) separately with an aim to administer at least first dose in five

gram panchayats of all 20 blocks each that witnessed lowest vaccination. The health teams had covered miles of distance on foot to enter far flung villages and motivated over 300 families to take jabs who had earlier refused to take vaccines. With this, as many as 43,96,056 doses have been given to eligible recipients in Prayagraj district including 31,79,948 of first dose and 12,16,108 of second dose. District Immunization Officer (DIO) and Additional Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) Dr. Teerath Lal told newsmen, “We have covered a total of 3,60,983 eligible recipients under the six days mega vax

drive in the district”. He added, “On November 22 (51,487), November 23 (57,964), November 24 (53,296), November 25 (59,815), November 26 (60,591) and November 27 (60,953) recipients were given either first or second doses.” Lal added that health teams have worked on a micro plan, including formation of vaccination teams, survey of left recipients, public mobilization, routine monitoring, role and responsibilities of the vigilance committees to take up vaccination in rural belt of the district and yielded the desired results. Senior Medical officer (SMO) Dr Anupam Dwivedi, howev-

er, said that ground health workers – ANMs and ASHAs had played a major role to cover left recipients in villages. Till now, as many as 43,96,056 doses were given so far, including 22,96,506 men and 20,97,656 women (either first or both doses), in the Prayagraj district. Moreover, the four weeks of this month has also witnessed active participation from women for vaccination and this was aptly proved by the facts that out of 8,02,407 doses given between November 1-27, as many as 4,24,069 women recipients received the doses, while the number of male counterparts was restricted to 3,78,060.



# Bhumi poojan performed for installing 2 lifts at Green Park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The bhumi poojan for installation of two lifts, one with the capacity of eight persons (players, captains and commentators) and the other with capacity of six people (media persons) was performed at Green Park Media Centre by Sunil Gavaskar in presence of BCCI, UPCA, Sports department, Kanpur Smart City officers including Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar.

The Smart City has nominated UP Rajkaiya Nirman Nigam (UPRNN) for the work and the two lifts are to be installed in the next three months.

After the bhumi poojan, Gavaskar spoke to media persons and thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, UP government, Sports department of UP and Smart City officials for their initiative in the larger interest of sports, especially cricket in UP and at the national level.

The divisional commissioner said that the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur had more than 70 years of glorious history and had made contributions for the promotion of cricket in India.

The stadium has over 30,000 seating capacity and has hosted more than 42 international matches (Test, One-



Sunil Gavaskar along with Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar take part in bhumi poojan for lifts at the Green Park Stadium.

Pioneer

day and IPL) in the last 70 years.

The divisional commissioner said the media centre would be for media coverage of cricket matches and also for press briefings by players and captains, and for live commentary but despite having four floors his building did not have lift.

Former international cricketer and commentator Sunil Gavaskar during his last visit to the Green Park Stadium had mentioned the need for lifts at the media centre.

Keeping this in view the Kanpur Smart City Corporation Limited took the initiative for installation of

two lifts at the media centre. Mitsubishi Company is installing the lifts.

Others who took part in the bhoomi pujaan were Shivasharanappa GN, CEO Smart City Kanpur, Riyasat Ali of UPCA, Sanjay Kapoor venue director, Sanjeev Pathak and UPRNN officials and a few more.

# Soil scientist advocates crop diversification to save water

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Over 90 per cent of the water consumed is groundwater. The UP government has introduced policy incentives like free-electricity for agriculture to extract groundwater, highly subsidised canal water and cultivation of water-intensive and fertiliser-favoured crops like paddy, wheat and sugarcane, in water-scarce areas. Focus is being laid on low water consuming crops like pulses and oilseeds.

This was stated by noted soil scientist at CSA University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr Khalil Khan. He said the government initiative of free or subsidised power supply round the clock for agriculture had encouraged expansion of area under water-intensive crops, leading to over exploitation of groundwater and lowering of water table.

He said as a result farmers now installed deeper borewells by borrowing more and getting into deeper debt. He said crop diversification had not picked up in many states, including UP, and said the

high crop diversification in these states were attributed to successful implementation of rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation and watershed schemes and promotion of commercial crops.

He said from the point view of farmers, the biggest advantage of water-intensive crops like paddy was getting stable yields with guaranteed procurement arrangements at the minimum support price (MSP) at village levels. He said farmers, in spite of intensive persuasion, were not willing to switch from paddy to pulses, oilseeds and cotton that had the potential to replace the water-intensive crop in water-scarce regions. He said returns from such alternative crops also showed that the relative profitability of these crops fluctuated widely over a longer period of time. He said thus to promote alternative crops to paddy in water-scarce areas, the government must implement policies that made them relatively more profitable than paddy over a relatively longer period.

Dr Khan said the government should frame price poli-

cy to prevent farmers from getting trapped in this vicious cycle. He said one way to do this was announcing MSP backed by enough procurement so that farmers took acreage decisions based on MSP rather than prices in the previous year. He said in addition to the stable price policy, the government must focus on crop diversification, districts more dependent on groundwater should be the priority focus areas in crop diversification plans so that early results were visible. He said another intervention measure was shifting to water control systems in canal command areas to facilitate controlled release of water as per crop needs from the current practice of flooding the entire area. He said this would help farmers to choose the crops based on their profitability to increase crop diversification.

He said it must be noted that in high rainfall areas there

was a greater scope for not only increasing crop diversity but also cropping intensity by promoting rainwater harvesting structures (like village ponds or farm ponds) for providing irrigation. He said this would increase the scope for cultivation of vegetables and other irrigated-dry crops.

He said another important factor was better market infrastructure like rural roads, village storage infrastructure and well-connected markets that were a must. He said these would not only expand markets for all commodities but also help in crop diversification towards high-value, perishable horticultural crops like fruits and vegetables.

He said to put it in a nutshell, the strategy of "diversify crops, save water" could work only by introducing long-run stable price policy to make alternative crops profitable, with additional focus on the development and diffusion of profitable technologies for alternative crops, expansion of area under controlled irrigation; and expanding markets through rural infrastructure.

## I-Next CEO gives tips on branding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A brand is a product, service or concept that is publicly distinguished from other products, services, or concepts so that it can be easily communicated and usually marketed. A brand name is the name of the distinctive product, service, or concept. Branding is the process of creating and disseminating the brand name. It is an art of giving a product, company or product line a distinct personality and image through the name, packaging, logo, colours and messages. In simpler words it is one's promise to one's customer.

This was stated by CEO of I-Next, Ashok Sanwal, while addressing the technical session at JIMC on Monday. He said to make one's product a brand one should gain an understanding of who were potential customers and how the product could fulfill their needs. He said industry associations, census data or market research firms should put together a profile of a target consumer. He said to understand the positioning and branding of competing products one should pay particular attention to the distinct benefits their brands bring to consumers.

He advised students to use the information one had easily obtained about consumer and competition to determine how one should position a brand to the target consumers. He said one should develop a name for the brand, making sure that the name fitted with the image one wanted to portray to the audience. He advised students to keep the name as short as possible to help keep it top of mind with consumers. He advised students to create a slogan that was brief and sweet and within the five letter words and to ensure that it portrayed what one's brand was about. He said in addition to this one should include a logo, colours, font and packaging and ensure that all of these items were in line with the image one wanted to portray to one's customers.

Sanwal said advertisements alerted people about new products and services in the market that could potentially fulfill their needs or solve their problems. He said a typical advertisement would tell one what the service or product was, where it could be bought, for how much, by whom, and why it should be bought. He said through constant republishing and replay to large groups of people, the media popularised the brand and many people saw it multiple times, and it stuck to their heads. He said the target audience of advertisements was typically large, whether one was advertising in social media, print media, radio, or television. He said a well-crafted advertisement would convince the public that they should buy the product or subscribe to the service being advertised.

Director of JIMC, SP Tripathi and Animation Director Amardeep Singh were also present on the occasion.

## EPS95 pensioners to chalk out strategy in Lucknow convention

**KANPUR (PNS):** National vice-president of All India EPS95 Sangharsh Samiti, KS Tewari, while addressing a public meeting at Rawatpur Roadways bus station, said the final strategy of their movement to press the government for increase in pension amount would be decided in the national convention to be held in Lucknow in December. He said around 5,000 pensioners from Kanpur would participate in the proposed national convention to be organised at Govind Ballabh Pant Sanskritik Upvan at Nishatganj in Lucknow on December 19. National adviser and senior trade union leader Rajesh Kumar Shukla said there were around 11 lakh EPS95 pensioners in the state, including around 60,000 in Kanpur, and their annoyance may cost dearly to the ruling party if it failed to increase the pension amount. Jaiyur Singh, HS Shukla, RP Gupta, KS Shukla, BN Shukla, Abdul Rauf, KP Verma, SP Bajpai, ON Bajpai, Pawan Kumar, Shakoor Ahmad, Dharm Pal and PC Mishra were also present in the meeting.

# NCL celebrates 37th foundation day

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), miniratna company of Government of India (GoI) celebrated its 37th foundation day on Sunday. On the occasion its Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhat Kumar Sinha paid floral tributes at Saheed Smarak to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of fellow miners in ensuring the energy security of the nation. Coal legends and former CMDs U Kumar, VK Singh, TK Nag, Amal Kumar Das, Shantilata Sahu and BR Reddy along with Director (Technical/Operation) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance and Personnel) RN Dubey, CVO NCL AK Shrivastava were present on the occasion. In a slew of events a special 'Samvaad'-experience sharing session was conducted where veterans gave a 'success mantra' to team NCL. CMD NCL apprised about the recent success story of the company. Former CMDs appreciated the Team NCL for the overall stellar performance, including production and despatch in testing time. On the occasion Area General Managers of NCL, General Manager/HoD of NCL headquarters (HQ) were also present or connected through VC.

It may be pointed out here that NCL is the flagship subsidiary of Coal India Limited



(CIL), operating in Singrauli and Sonbhadra districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh states respectively with its 10 advanced highly mechanised open cast coal mines. The company's 15,000 miners are producing more than 115 million tonnes of coal annually which is contributing to the 10 per cent energy requirement of the nation.

### CELEBRATED

In NCL celebrated the Constitution Day recently. At a programme organised in the headquarters, the officers and employees of NCL headquarters under the leadership of Director (Technical/Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel)

RN Dubey, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) AK Srivastava, read the Preamble to the Constitution of India. In various coalfields and units of NCL, officers and employees also celebrated the Constitution Day with the reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution with the aim of promoting constitutional and democratic values. Constitution Day is celebrated every year on 26 November. The day is celebrated every year to remember the contribution of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, which played the most important role in making the Indian Constitution and to propagate the importance of the Constitution among the common people.

# Mechanical dept beats Stores

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the auspices of the North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA), in the match played between Stores department and

on Sunday the Mechanical department by registering a four wicket victory entered the next round. Batting first after winning the toss, Stores department scored 81 runs in 19.1 overs for the loss of all



Mechanical department on the second day of the Inter-departmental Cricket Tournament

wickets. Shubham contributed 16 runs, Santosh 10, Ajit and Sadat Khan contributed 12

# Road traffic to be closed

PNS ■ VARANASI

The deep screening and packing work of level crossing No-21B situated on Chandra Chauraha-Jalhpur route between Varanasi City-Sarnath stations is proposed to be done by BCM machine

from 23:00 hrs on November 30 till 08:00 am on December 1 and from 23.00 hrs on December 1 to 08.00 am on December 2. During the above work at level crossing No 21B the road traffic on the Chandra Chauraha-Jalhpur road route will be completely closed. From

the point of view of safety of rail transport and road traffic it is very necessary to do this work. Therefore, road users are requested to use other alternative road routes during the said work period, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said.

# Youth killed in accident

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A youth died in a road mishap under Lalganj police station on Sunday. Ashok Kumar (24), a resident of Mavayi Khurd village under Halia police station, was going on the Mirzapur-Rewa highway on his motorcycle when a car suddenly hit it near Lahangpur village. On being informed the police reached there and found the victim dead. Taking the body into custody the police informed the victim's family and completed the necessary legal formalities after registering a case. Meanwhile one person died in a road accident which took place under Chilh police station on Saturday. Anil Kumar Gupta (34), a resident of Mohansaraya of Varanasi district, was on Chilh-Gopiganj road on his motorcycle when a truck hit it near Mavaiya village under Chilh police station. Police reached the spot and with the help of the locals sent the injured to the Trauma Centre in Varanasi. He succumbed to his injuries there. After registering a case the police completed the legal formalities.

**HELD:** City Kotwali police arrested a woman along with jewellery and ₹1,41,550 cash on Friday. Bhupendra Kumar Dubey, a resident of Veershaipur village under Dehat Kotwali police station, had lodged an FIR at City Kotwali that three gold lockets

and one silver jewellery had been stolen from the purse of his wife. A team comprising women constables and other police personnel was formed. On being tipped off by an informer the police arrested a woman and recovered 75 grams of jewellery of yellow metal and 701 grams of white metal, including ₹1,41,550 cash. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail. On the other hand, Lalganj police arrested three accused in a dowry death case on Sunday. The police arrested the husband of the deceased, her brother-in-law and father-in-law belonging to Amoi Purava village under Lalganj police station on Sunday. Meanwhile an earlier report said that Padari police had caught a truck carrying bovine cattle in Kotwaan village recently. The police recovered 23 head of cattle, registered a case in this connection and sent the cattle to Dagmagpur cow shelter home. Meanwhile Lalganj police arrested an accused of rape on Saturday. As per the reports, one person had lodged a named FIR on September 21st alleging that the accused had enticed his minor daughter away. While investigating the case the police added the section of rape. The police on being tipped off by an informer about the presence of accused at Dubar turn on Lalganj-Kalwari road raided the place and nabbed him.

After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

**RESHUFFLE:** As per the order of Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh late on Sunday night Neeraj Pathak has been made station house officer (SHO) of Vindhychal Kotwali, Arvind Mishra – SHO City Kotwali, Ramnarayan Ram – SHO Katra Kotwali, Vijay Saroj – Station Officer Jigna, Madhav Singh – SHO Padari, Shailesh Rai – SHO Kachhawaan and Arvind Saroj – SO Jamalpur.

**DIES:** A woman who had been assaulted along with her two sons by her nephew under Katra Kotwali police station a few days ago died during treatment. Puneeta Kesarwani was attacked in her house located on Penhati Ka Chauraha under Katra Kotwali police station a few days ago. During investigation the police had nabbed the accused who had committed the crime inspired by a mobile game. The kids are still undergoing treatment, last reports received here said.

**BABY FOUND:** A newborn baby was found in unclaimed condition in a field under Madihan police station on Sunday. Police reached Pidaria village and recovered the baby from a field. After getting a medical examination done, Deepa Kol was handed over the baby for care. The police was busy in completing legal formalities, last reports received here said.

# Kalbeliya group enthralls at CSJMU folk dance event

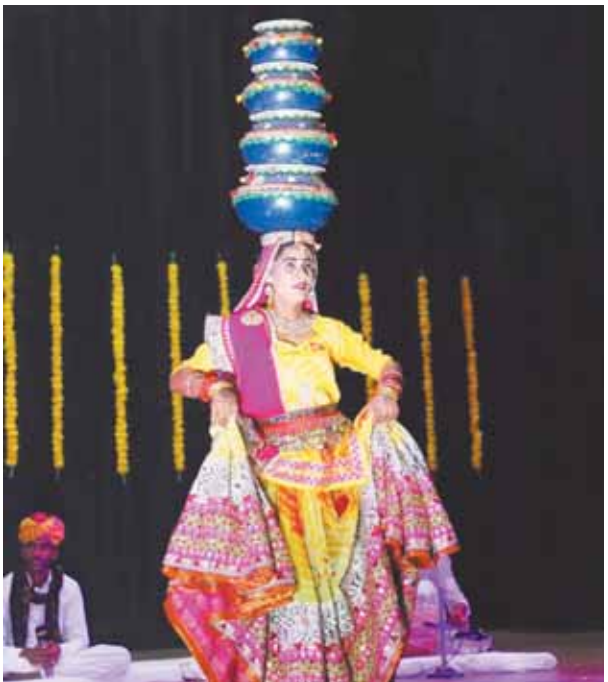
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The fine arts department of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University organised a folk dance performance to mark the opening of the CSJMU chapter of SPIC MACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Musical and Culture among Youth) at the university auditorium on Sunday.

The programme was presided over by CSJMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak. Chief guest Dr Vandana Pathak inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp along with special guest Dr Shalini Ved Tripathi and yoga and nature cure specialist Om Prakash Anand.

The Kalbeliya group led by performer Suraj Nath Kalbeliya presented captivating performances of Rajasthani Kalbeliya folk songs and dances like 'Kesariya balma padharo mhare desh', 'Nimora nimoda, horiya ma ude re gugal', 'Rangela mado dholna' and 'Dama dum mast kalandar'.

Prof Pathak said SPIC MACAY would not only aid the development of academics but also cultural programmes



that were being organised by the university from time to time.

Dr Vandana Pathak said that the opening of this chapter of SPIC MACAY in the university would benefit the students to perform as well as learn the art hidden inside

them.

Conveners of this event were Dr Richa Mishra, Prof Suvigya Awasthi, security in-charge Dr RP Singh. Head fine arts department Dr Brijesh Katiyar and students were also present in this opening event.

**RASHTRA GAURAV**

**YATRA TAKEN OUT IN CITY:** Members of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organising committee of Kanpur South took out a Rashtra Gaurav Yatra in the city on Sunday. It was given a rousing welcome by people of different localities with the flowers. The key attractions of the Yatra were the exhibits of revolutionaries of the freedom struggle, including Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Rani Laxmi Bai. People on four-wheelers and two-wheelers, holding tri-colour, raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh Amar Rahe' etc. as they moved in the Yatra which was flagged off from Saraswati Shishu Mandir at Anandpuri and ended near Deep Talkies trisection after passing through Transport Chauraha, Kidwai Nagar, Bara Devi, Govind Nagar and Barra.

President of Govind Nagar Vyapar Mandal, Prakash Veer Arya, corporator Navin Pandit, Rajesh Srivastava, Surendra Gera, Rajesh Bajpai (advocate), Anubhav Mishra, Neet Singh Senger, KK Mishra, Vishal and Pramod welcomed the Yatra with flowers at different places.



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The BKKU 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 Khari 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

## 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. "@RakeshTikaitBKKU 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**

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 agony incurred by the farmers over last years.

The contentious laws were scrapped at the end of a year-long protest by farmers, who held out for complete cancellation despite the Government's offer of various other options.

"It took 700 farmer deaths for the Prime Minister to change his mind. The fact is that the Central Government could not face the strength of the Indian people represented by farmers in this case. The upcoming state elections must have also played on their mind," Rahul added.

The Congress, which supported the farmers' demand all along, held protest in front of the Gandhi statue in the parliament House complex earlier carrying banners that read "We demand repeal of black farm laws".

RJD member Manoj Jha expressed his complete unhappiness over the way the government repealed a law within a week of celebration of Constitution Day. "Now I lack words to condemn their routine murder of the need for a democratic nation. Unconstitutional, unlawful activities have been going on. As a Parliamentarian and as an educationist, it pains me a lot," Jha said.

## 3-day India-B'desh border guarding forces' meet ends on positive note

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India to Bangladesh.

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

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

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

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

## 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.

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.

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

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

## 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 induced the UBI to sanction various credit facilities including cash credit and term loans amounting to Rs 47.30 crore, the agency said in a statement.

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

Searches were conducted at

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

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

## PEGASUS SNOOPING ROW

## SC appoints Justice R V Raveendran to oversee expert committee probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

SC retired Justice RV Raveendran panel's technical committee consists Naveen Kumar Chaudhary of the National Forensic Sciences University, Professor Prabakaran 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".

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

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Ph.: 0512-2215171 • Mob.: 8601875614  
e-mail : recovery.kanpur@bankofbaroda.co.in

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**Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [ See Proviso to rule 6(2) & 8 (6) ]**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of **Bank of Baroda** as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured assets/dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date and time. EMD and Bid increase are mentioned below.

Date of e-Auction : 31-12-2021		Last Date of EMD Submission : 30-12-2021 upto 4.00 PM					
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	<b>Borrower: M/s Kohinoor Jewellers</b> , Address : A-364, Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur, Proprietor: Shri Nitin Kumar Verma S/o Shri Kedar Nath Verma, R/o : A-930, Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur. <b>Guarantor:</b> Shri Sachin Kumar Verma S/o Shri Kedar Nath Verma, R/o : A-930, Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur.	House No. A-250, Site & Service Yojna No. 2, Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Kanpur in the name of Shri Nitin Kumar Verma S/o Shri Kedar Nath Verma, Area : 30.10 Sq. Mtr., Bounded North : House No. A-255, South : 4 Mtr. Wide Road, East : House No. A-251, West : House No. A-249	<b>Rs. 11,91,338.07</b> +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	31-12-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 10,22,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 1,03,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	29-12-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
<b>Branch : Kalyanpur, Kanpur</b>							
2.	<b>Borrower : Sri Prakash Chaubey &amp; Smt. Sheela Chaubey</b> W/o Sri Prakash Chaubey, Both R/o : EWS 143, Awas Vikas-03, Panki Road, Kalyanpur, Kanpur. <b>Branch: Sarai Maswanpur, Kanpur</b>	House No. EWS 143, Awas Vikas Yojna No.3, Panki Road, Kalyanpur, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Sheela Chaubey W/o Sri Prakash Chaubey, Area : 44.925 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North : House No. 164, South : 4 Mtr. Road, East: House No. 144, West: House No. 142,	<b>Rs. 3,65,070.00</b> +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	31-12-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 13,50,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 1,35,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	29-12-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
3.	<b>Borrower : Smt. Niraj Devi</b> W/o Shri Narendra Kumar Gupta, R/o : 1/46, Nawabganj, Near Gyaneshwar Mandir, Katari Jijora, Kanpur Nagar. <b>Branch: Sarai Maswanpur, Kanpur</b>	Residential House No. 146, Nawabganj, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Niraj Devi W/o Shri Narendra Kumar Gupta, Area : 126.788 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North : House No. 144, South : 10 Ft. Wide Govt. Road, East : House No. 145, West: House No. 147	<b>Rs. 13,49,297.03</b> +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	31-12-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 35,71,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 3,58,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	29-12-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
4.	<b>Borrower : Shri Atul Kumar Asthana</b> S/o Late M.L. Asthana, R/o : House No. 26/7, Ram Hall, Birhana Road, Kanpur. <b>Branch : Sarai Maswanpur, Kanpur</b>	Plot No. 21A, in Part of Arazi No. 10, Mauza Kalyanpur Kalan, Tehsil & Distt. Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Atul Kumar Asthana S/o Late M.L. Asthana, Area : 41.80 Sq. Mtr., Bounded- North : Part of Arazi, South : 20 Ft. Wide Road, East : 20 Ft. Wide Road, West : Plot No. 21B	<b>Rs. 8,53,491.56</b> +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	31-12-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 5,35,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 54,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	29-12-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
5.	<b>Borrower : Smt. Neha Sengar</b> W/o Shri Ravendra Singh & Shri Ravendra Singh S/o Shri Maan Singh, Both R/o : 1/233, Jarauli Phase-2, Barra, Kanpur. <b>Guarantor : Shri Vivek Ponwal</b> S/o Shri Om Prakash Ponwal, R/o Ward No. 12, Azad Nagar, Rasoolabad, Kanpur Dehat	House No. E-52, Block No. 1550, EWS Scheme No. 40 Situated at Ratanpur Colony, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Neha Sengar W/o Shri Ravendra Singh. Area : 47.64 Sq. Mtr., Bounded- North : House No. 53, South : House No. 51, East : 7.50 Mtr. Wide Road, West: Plot No. 844 & 845	<b>Rs. 33,50,360.40</b> +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	31-12-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 7,63,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 77,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	29-12-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
<b>Branch : Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur</b>							

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. [www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm](http://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm), & e-bikray, <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 8601875614  
**Date : 30-11-2021** **Place : Kanpur / Kanpur Dehat** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**



## 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.



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.

# Is India working its way back in Nepal?

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 Chandra 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-union. 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



GEN ASHOK MEHTA

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 rashttra. 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 Suvaidha portal before the journey. The new guidelines will come into effect from December 1. The RT-PCR test has to be taken within 72 hours of starting the journey. Travelers from countries 'at-risk', including the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore have created panic among Indian citizens and the Government is acting in full swing.

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

MR Jayanthi Maniam | Ghaziabad

### POLITICAL FESTIVITIES IN GOA

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

Yet, despite the availability of so many alternatives at its disposal, the elec-

## No debate in Parliament?



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

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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

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

Pachu Menon | Margao

### DON'T BE SOCIAL MEDIA SLAVES

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

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

Mitesh Rao | Ujjain

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

## SOUND BITE

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 that we can really put the Kiwis under pressure.

Indian batsman — Shreyas Iyer

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

Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal



FIRST COLUMN

ON THE MOVE BUT REACHING WHERE?

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



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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



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

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

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

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

As for sales in the private local market, though legally it is barred, small farmers who normally don't 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 melt-down 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 difficult.

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.



# 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, spurring 2.92 per cent, after LIC received RBI approval to raise its stake in the private sector lender to nearly 10 per cent.

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

# Rupee trips 18 paise to hit 5-week low

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

PTI

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

New Delhi (PTI): 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 hear-

ing 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.

NIFTY 50						BSE 500																								
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	COROMANDEL	741.20	762.25	730.10	736.75	AFLE	1180.00	1180.00	1065.60	1117.00	19501.30	19665.80	19100.05	19199.95	GILLETTE	5420.00	5491.70	5373.05	5489.35	
NIFTY 50	17055.80	17160.70	16782.40	17053.95	27.50	IDEA	11.94	12.39	11.05	11.20	AMARAJABAT	608.00	623.05	607.00	610.70	ALLCARGO	330.00	338.45	302.85	319.90	STITECH	267.00	272.35	260.30	265.35	HATHWAY	20.50	20.50	19.80	19.90
CIPLA	974.00	998.00	956.00	962.00	62.05	IRCTC	786.25	801.60	750.05	775.55	POWERGRID	200.00	203.90	198.45	199.95	PETRONET	219.20	221.65	215.40	219.00	BAJAJHLNG	5045.00	5075.00	4890.60	4975.00	VGUARD	234.95	236.20	224.05	233.85
DIVISLAB	4965.55	4990.00	4810.10	4923.00	123.20	TATAMOTORS	454.20	470.35	442.90	461.25	TATACOMM	1299.60	1313.15	1250.60	1284.00	WELSPUNIND	1255.00	1255.00	1103.85	1119.00	IFEL	298.05	299.60	294.15	296.05	BALMALAWRIE	118.00	118.50	114.90	115.70
DREDDY	4850.00	4885.00	4665.60	4690.00	98.40	TATAPOWER	224.15	226.80	213.30	218.65	AARTIIND	900.00	945.90	900.00	925.95	THYSPOINDE	138.10	142.80	135.10	136.95	KRBL	238.00	244.55	232.55	235.80	LAXMIMACH	8480.05	8646.85	8131.10	8216.25
TCS	3447.15	3529.35	3406.45	3503.50	57.60	RELIANCE	2412.00	2500.00	2400.00	2442.50	LUPIN	927.00	929.85	888.10	893.30	KPITTECH	450.00	461.65	425.90	439.30	FINOLEXIND	200.00	203.70	187.10	196.00	MAHLIFE	238.80	251.00	227.75	242.00
HCLTECH	1101.10	1145.00	1100.10	1134.00	9.20	IOX	736.70	750.10	702.00	731.25	INOXLEISUR	350.00	387.50	344.15	377.35	GLAND	3503.00	3630.70	3426.35	3582.30	DBL	494.00	512.15	488.70	489.00	PNCINFRA	287.00	289.15	264.30	284.45
ASIANPAINT	3131.00	3178.90	3071.90	3138.00	-6.25	SBIN	469.80	477.00	454.40	464.65	IDBI	45.60	46.70	43.90	44.25	MINDAIND	816.00	888.65	719.00	870.95	MFSL	939.30	950.60	910.30	937.15	BAYERCROP	4640.10	4686.90	4519.90	4649.60
WIPRO	616.55	632.85	603.95	631.15	-5.55	TATASTEEL	1112.25	1136.95	1075.50	1114.75	COALINDIA	159.85	159.85	151.95	154.30	STAR	501.00	519.50	486.00	493.75	1780.00	1767.05	1662.70	1682.70	RALLIS	259.00	259.05	247.20	254.60	
HDFCLIFE	669.60	686.00	638.80	682.35	-6.45	BAJFINANCE	680.00	698.00	667.80	690.00	TVSMOTOR	651.00	694.65	651.00	685.00	PIDILITIND	2225.00	2232.65	2170.00	2215.40	IOLCP	485.00	485.00	449.15	454.05	DCBBANK	89.40	89.80	85.15	88.20
HINDUNILVR	2334.40	2342.25	2284.70	2322.00	-27.05	HDFCBANK	1485.15	1507.30	1461.50	1501.20	SUNPHARMA	771.00	775.50	749.30	750.80	INDIAMART	710.00	7441.50	6978.60	7366.45	CENTRALBK	21.65	22.05	21.30	21.50	GODFREYPHP	1179.50	1186.60	1137.30	1175.00
KOTAKBANK	1995.00	2045.00	1937.20	2011.00	-24.10	DMART	4650.00	4718.75	4385.75	4675.30	IPCALAB	2016.35	2142.20	1965.90	2117.80	SBILIFE	1120.00	1147.60	1104.05	1136.45	ROSSARI	1201.20	1339.90	1201.20	1307.70	AARTIDRUGS	517.00	518.05	493.60	503.15
NESTLEIND	19050.00	19162.00	18800.00	18930.00	-248.05	INDUSINDBK	920.00	956.00	889.10	895.60	BATAINDIA	1839.15	1914.00	1839.15	1900.90	J&KBANK	37.90	37.90	35.90	36.20	MTM	37.45	38.50	34.85	37.20	POWERINDIA	2495.00	2495.00	2391.80	2416.15
INFY	1691.00	1712.00	1669.15	1696.20	-26.20	CIPLA	975.00	998.00	956.00	964.20	LTI	6525.00	6792.00	6396.55	6748.75	JSL	164.10	168.30	155.90	159.00	CEATLTD	1175.00	1182.00	1119.90	1167.10	UTIAMC	1067.90	1067.90	999.50	1002.00
TECHM	1515.00	1545.50	1479.40	1535.00	-24.35	HINDALCO	411.00	432.20	407.00	420.10	SRTRANSFIN	1423.50	1444.55	1387.80	1395.55	RCF	73.40	73.40	66.45	69.50	HEG	1901.90	1901.90	1759.60	1800.00	GPPL	97.10	102.25	97.10	99.10
HDFCBANK	1494.80	1507.65	1462.00	1499.05	-26.90	IBULHSGFIN	243.45	245.30	228.20	231.15	METROPOLIS	3080.00	3259.40	3061.45	3141.00	KPRMILL	495.00	513.75	446.00	494.00	KEC	440.10	443.10	422.15	433.65	HEIDELBERG	226.50	230.45	219.80	221.55
BRITANNIA	3550.00	3550.00	3469.10	3510.00	-63.40	BHARTIARTL	746.00	754.60	727.45	739.70	NAVINFLOOR	3401.00	3647.35	3374.05	3562.00	ADANIGREEN	1364.00	1364.00	1303.75	1351.15	ECLERX	2231.00	2274.50	2100.00	2131.00	NATCOPHARM	845.00	845.00	820.10	820.50
SBIIFE	1112.00	1147.85	1103.75	1135.00	-24.50	ICICIBANK	724.55	726.80	710.80	718.20	ULTRACEMCO	7399.00	7432.00	7203.05	7392.80	REDINGTON	144.55	147.25	140.85	142.55	HUDDCO	39.75	40.35	38.50	39.60	SUDARSCHEM	568.00	568.00	533.00	559.50
COALINDIA	1559	1566.5	1491.50	1552.00	-3.35	ZEEL	344.00	349.75	328.60	329.95	LICHSGFIN	370.50	379.40	367.45	375.05	BOSCHLTD	1060.00	1042.65	15717.20	16208.35	TATNAVINSTE	1419.05	1430.00	1370.00	1414.70	CAPPL	766.40	771.25	725.50	737.50
RELIANCE	2439.10	2500.00	2399.10	2437.70	-55.25	BPCL	370.00	375.30	367.00	367.75	ADANIPORTS	208.20	210.30	208.70	210.50	NESTEIND	2080.00	2145.00	2062.45	2123.20	SIVN	27.75	28.10	27.25	27.55	GMDCILTD	66.00	67.05	64.35	65.00
POWERGRID	199.00	204.00	198.80	199.50	-4.75	DEEPAKNI	2001.00	2103.95	2061.00	2087.50	ZENSARTECH	420.35	432.00	395.00	416.50	ASTRAL	280.00	2145.00	2062.45	2123.20	GSPL	296.25	302.60	292.45	300.20	CRISIL	3037.00	3083.40	2955.55	3025.60
BAJAJFINSV	16670.00	17098.00	16273.65	16880.10	-488.75	ADANIAPORTS	707.25	714.65	682.05	702.65	INDUSTOWER	282.50	286.25	269.90	280.70	NESTEIND	19170.00	19170.00	18802.00	18950.90	AAVAS	2573.80	2886.00	2573.80	2780.10	PGHH	15115.00	15219.90	14900.20	15072.00
TITAN	2290.00	2334.40	2231.20	2330.20	-67.60	SAIL	103.95	105.95	100.35	102.65	FORTIS	283.05	295.45	282.20	287.05	CENTURYPLY	60.20	62.80	58.00	58.50	ISEC	730.10	767.00	725.05	739.00	ERIS	756.35	763.65	727.95	730.00
BAJAJ-AUTO	3321.00	3354.35	3260.20	3296.00	-95.70	TCS	3445.65	3530.00	3407.55	3500.70	EXIDEIND	161.00	165.40	160.25	163.65	LUXIND	3953.10	3953.10	3747.60	3813.70	KNRCORP	250.40	269.05	242.05	265.10	FORCEMOT	1360.00	1374.55	1334.50	1337.05
ULTRACEMCO	7354.50	7434.95	7201.40	7392.95	-215.85	ASIANPAINT	3105.10	3177.70	3061.15	3143.50	FSL	163.00	165.25	158.65	163.50	TATACOFFEE	207.05	207.05	192.40	199.65	ASTERDM	208.45	208.50	190.90	199.90	VINATIORGA	1929.00	1964.10	1820.45	1931.00
BAFINANCE	6767.00	6980.00	6678.30	6910.00	-215.80	MINDTREE	441.80	451.60	422.60	447.35	PERSISTENT	180.00	4036.50	3738.70	4010.65	HDFCAMC	2490.00	2526.25	2427.10	2506.55	GODREJIND	565.00	594.35	541.95	590.10	3MINDIA	24680.00	25027.90	24131.85	24955.90
BHARTIARTL	752.00	755.00	727.10	738.05	-27.10	M&M	845.00	867.60	828.90	849.50						CHALET	235.00	240.30	220.00	234.00	BAJAJALEC	1030.00	1036.65	937.00	1024.00	JBCEPHARM	1685.00	1685.00	1585.60	1665.00
EICHERMOT	2433.90	2447.60	2365.30	2419.85	-100.55	ADANIENT	1635.00	1697.00	1608.95	1668.35						RAJESHXPO	795.00	795.00	690.95	713.00	ICAJIGE	1453.70	1457.85	1418.85	1435.50	TCSNBRANDS	808.00	837.85	786.85	810.00
ITC	222.00	223.65	220.20	221.70	-9.60	SBICARD	950.00	964.15	918.45	936.70						ABFLR	260.00	262.05	246.30	254.00	INFIBEM	41.05	41.45	39.70	39.90	AJANTPHARM	2150.00	2150.00	2061.30	2076.00
HEROMOTOCO	2525.00	2528.95	2446.15	2485.00	-109.70	BANKBARODA	87.60	88.60	85.05	86.20						TRITURBINE	171.05	184.40	158.60	180.90	BRIGADE	41.65	46.05	44.15	45.00	HAWKINKOOC	6266.05	6275.00	6024.00	6105.00
SHEREECP	22900.00	22925.00	2198.25	22540.05	-1130.45	AXISBANK	658.00	665.00	649.30	650.85						CONCOR	603.05	610.50	582.40	599.10	BIRLACORPN	1349.50	1349.50	1218.00	1300.00	THERMAX	1739.00	1739.00	1645.00	1675.00
SUNPHARMA	773.00	775.00	749.05	749.40	-33.50	ASHOKLEY	123.70	123.75	118.80	121.15						SYNGENE	570.25	592.60	570.25	587.60	EMAMILTD	523.50	538.20	511.20	513.60	ENDURANCE	1600.00	1685.05	1595.80	1680.00
M&M	845.20	867.80	828.35	838.00	-38.20	INDHOTEL	178.75	182.00	171.15	172.50						ASHOKA	97.00	98.70	92.30	94.55	MHRIL	210.00	211.95	198.00	203.35	SPANDANA	421.55	421.55	394.35	402.00
ICICIBANK	726.75	727.75	710.50	718.25	-32.80	KOTAKBANK	1985.00	2043.55	1936.75	2020.20						SOLARINDS	2674.00	2674.00	2527.40	2602.20	AVANTI	531.00	535.00	493.05	519.70	GDL	265.00	282.00	260.45	277.25
ASIANBANK	665.05	665.45	649.35	649.70	-30.20	DELTACORP	246.60	242.80	244.75	248.65						SOBHA	815.05	851.00	761.50	817.20	FLUOROCHEM	2040.00	2062.45	1953.90	1985.00	BLUEDART	6600.05	6889.95	6527.55	6834.30
LT	1778.00	1790.05	1735.15	1767.10	-82.80	DIXON	490.65	516.45	483.40	500.00						JAICORPLTD	119.15	125.05	115.15	116.70	CARBORUNIV	90.00	91.60	88.05	89.60	SUNPHENAR	502.00	502.00	476.90	495.90
GRASIM	1680.00	1720.10	1642.70	1682.00	-84.75	LALRAUSLABS	520.00	533.00	496.25	502.05						APOLLOH	887.00	910.00	824.30	898.90	SUNTECK	431.00	438.05	411.05	416.55	TEAMLEASE	3934.15	4072.80	3746.85	3972.05
TATACONSUM	766.75	774.90	749.25	766.50	-41.10	BHEL	58.80	59.85	56.80	57.75						HSLC	45.10	46.00	44.00	44.80	PHOENIXLTD	937.00	966.55	891.15	935.50	SCHAEFFLER	7405.10	7700.35	7240.25	7619.00
UPL	704.00	712.05	679.25	689.20	-38.80																									



## ‘Omicron shows need for global accord on pandemics’

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

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also said many uncertainties remain about just how transmissible and severe infection by the highly mutated Omicron might be. Tedros joined leaders like outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera for a long-planned and largely virtual special session of the UN health agency’s member states. The gathering is aimed at devising a global action plan toward preventing, preparing and responding to future pandemics.

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

“Our current system disincentivizes countries from

alerting others to threats that will inevitably land on their shores,” he said, saying that South Africa and Botswana — where the new variant was detected in southern Africa — should be praised and not “penalized” for their work. That was an allusion to travel restrictions announced by many countries on air travel to and from the region.

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.”

The world should now be “wide awake” to the threat of the coronavirus, “but omicron’s very emergence is another reminder that although many of us might think we are done with COVID-19. It’s not done with us,” he added.

A draft resolution set to be adopted by the World Health Assembly stops short of calling for work toward specifically establishing a “pandemic treaty” or legally binding instrument” sought by some, which could beef up the inter-

national response when — not if — a new pandemic erupts.

European Union member countries and others had sought language calling for work toward a treaty, but the United States and a few other countries countered that the substance of any accord should be worked out first before any such document is given a name. A “treaty” would suggest a legally binding agreement that could require ratification — and would likely incur domestic political haggling in some countries.

Outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose 16-year tenure is likely to end next week, called for “reliable financing” for WHO and increased contributions to the U.N. agency from its member states — while alluding to the EU position in favor of a binding agreement.

“The catastrophic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of health and the economy ought to be a lesson to us,” she said by video message. “Viruses know no national borders. That’s precisely why we should lay down measures to be taken to improve prevention, early detection, and response in internationally

binding fashion.”

Britain’s ambassador in Geneva, Simon Manley, tweeted a copy of the draft text that was agreed by consensus — as required under WHO rules on such issues — and praised Chile and Australia for their work as co-chairs.

“The #Omicron variant shows yet again why we need a common understanding of how we prepare for and respond to pandemics, so we’re all playing by the same rules,” he wrote. The draft makes no reference to the word “treaty” but, among other things, calls for the creation of an “inter-governmental negotiating body” among WHO member states to work out a possible deal to improve pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The three-day meeting that opened Monday amounts to a long-term approach: Any U.N.-backed agreement is likely to take many months, if not years, to be concluded and come into effect. But it comes as many countries have been scrambling to address the emergence of omicron that has led to travel bans across the world and sent tremors through stock markets on Friday.

## Wary, weary world slams doors shut, fearing Omicron

**AP ■ BRUSSELS**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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 exten-

sion of pandemic suffering.

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

## GLOBE TROTTER

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

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

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

## 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 insists its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. It has blamed the breakdown of the agreement on the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw from it and restore crippling sanctions. Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed country in the Middle East, though it maintains a policy of ambiguity about its own program.

## Iran n-deal talks resume 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.

The talks came as Austria is a week into a lockdown imposed because of a surge of coronavirus cases. **AP**

## FROM PAGE 1

## 12 OPP MPS SUSPENDED FOR RS SESSION FOR UNRULY ACTS

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh 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.

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 bringing disrepute to this august House.”

Suspended member from Shiv Sena, Chaturvedi, said the scared Government is silencing the Opposition by twisting Parliament rule book. “If speaking for the people of this country is considered unruly by the Government then the BJP owes an apology for blocking Parliament year after year as Opposition under the garb of ‘disruption being part of parliament procedure,’ she stated soon after her suspension on Monday.

The last day of the Monsoon Session had witnessed chaotic scenes with marshals being called in as Opposition members had protested over various issues. The Government had accused the Opposition of not only creating unruly scenes in the Well of the House, but also accused some of them of manhandling a woman marshal in the House.

The Opposition had alleged that additional people were called in and some leaders attacked.

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. A delegation of seven Ministers had submitted a memorandum to him demanding action against these Opposition members for “unprecedented, extreme and violent acts in the House.”

These were Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Prahlad Joshi, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupender Yadav, Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muralledharan. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh was also present during the meeting.

Among the options that Naidu had considered included setting up a special committee to look into the incident and recommend action, allowing either the Privileges Committee or the Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha to take up the matter.

The Vice President had consulted former and serving senior officials of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to look at what the precedent allows, and what kind of a committee can recommend action.

Naidu had also met panel Vice Chairman Sasmit

Patra of the BJD, who was in the Chair when the alleged incidents took place in the Rajya Sabha on August 11.

CPI leader Binoy Viswam had also written to the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General, stating that the government had leaked CCTV footage of Rajya Sabha selectively, which is privileged property of the House. He had demanded a fair probe into the issue, as, he claimed, outsiders were brought into the House and he was man-handled by them.

## UNANIMOUS HOUSES OK FARM LAWS REPEAL BILL

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 roped 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.

Chowdhury said in the past 14 Bills were repealed after discussion and same should be done with this Bill.

Speaker Om Birla said he was “ready for conducting a full-fledged discussion” provided proper order is restored in the House and the Opposition members go back to their seats. The slogan-shouting continued in the House.

The Lok Sabha was first adjourned by the Speaker within 12 minutes of proceedings until 1200 hrs after obituary references to ex-members, including late Kalyan Singh and Oscar Fernandez, and thereafter the House proceedings lasted for 10 minutes that involved passing of the farm repeal Bill.

The Speaker adjourned the House till 2 pm and when it resumed the Chair adjourned it for the day within minutes.

The Repeal Bill passed by the Parliament annulled the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmer’s (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

In Rajya Sabha, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu rejected notices given by the Congress and other Opposition MPs under rule 267 seeking setting aside of the business to discuss farmer issues and adjourned proceedings briefly as Opposition members persisted with their demand.

But this was not before the House was informed of the passage of the repeal bill by the Lok Sabha and a copy of it being laid on the table of the House.

When the Upper House assembled, Tomar intro-

duced The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Government was forced to take back the three farm bills after suffering setbacks in the recent by-polls and fearing its fallout on BJP’s electoral prospects in the ensuing elections in five States. He said over 700 farmers lost their lives during the protests over the farm bills in the last year. But his speech was cut short for exceeding his allotted two minutes time by Deputy Chairman Harivansh who then gave the floor to Tomar.

The Minister said the Government could not convince the agitating farmers about the benefits of the three laws. He also attacked the Congress for adopting “double standard” on the laws, as its own election manifesto talked about the need for reforms in the farm sector.

## OMICRON COVID VARIANT POSES VERY HIGH GLOBAL RISK: WHO

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.

“There is currently no information to suggest that symptoms associated with Omicron are different from those from other variants,” the WHO said.

It added that initial reported infections were among university studies — 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. 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.”

## RT-PCR FOR FLIERS FROM RISK COUNTRIES: DDMA

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

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

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.

According to the minutes of meeting the Health Department has been advised to be in a state of preparedness and ensure adequate availability of beds, medicines, oxygen etc to tackle any emergent situation that may arise. It was emphasised that the pace of vaccination should be enhanced for maximum coverage.

“It was stressed that necessary institutional mechanism be put in place for rigorous surveillance of international passengers, isolation of positive cases, monitoring of person in-home quarantine, timely genome testing of positive samples and effective dissemination of evidence based information to avoid any panic,” an official from L- G office said.

On Sunday, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop flights from countries that have been affected by the omicron variant.

“Our country has fought a tough fight against coronavirus for the last one-and-a-half years. We should do everything possible to prevent the new variant of concern from entering India,” Kejriwal said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

He added that a delay in stopping flights might prove to be harmful if a variant-infected person enters India. The omicron variant of Covid-19 had been initially identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a variant of concern. However, the WHO said on Monday that the risk related to the variant is very high.

The variant was first detected in South Africa, the omicron variant has a higher number of mutations and has been spreading very quickly. So far, India has not reported any cases of the variant. However, the Centre confirmed that two clusters are under investigation in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

## SC SEEKS AFFIDAVIT ON VISTA WORK DURING POLLUTION BAN

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.

“The question is now we are struggling as to how to control the pollution and whether it is Central Vista or polluting industries or the States... Do you think that we do not know anything? We also know everything. The Centre is filing the response, States are filing...Don’t flag certain issues which ultimately lead to a situation where the main issue is diverted,” the bench observed.

The CJJ referred to the AQI and said that it was 419, saying “There is another problem of the virus, how do we deal with it”. “We can deal with the virus separately,” the law officer said.

## 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.

“Modelling bareheaded for ladies’ attire, in the premises of Gurdwara Sri Darbar Sahib at #KartarpurSahib in Pakistan, by a Lahorite woman has [severely] hurt the religious sentiments of Sikhs,” he said in the tweet.

Covering one’s head in a gurdwara is mandatory and considered as a way of showing respect for the revered place.

The Punjab province’s Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government got into action following the criticism on social media about the photo shoot.

Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar issued a statement saying he has taken notice of the incident and ordered an inquiry into the matter.



**DOCYARD**

DR SHWETA GOSWAMI

Medical Director

ZEEVA FERTILITY CLINIC



## Keep infections at bay



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

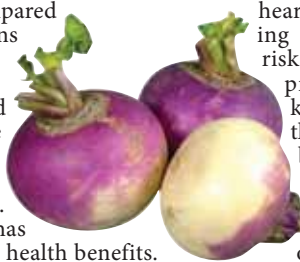
## WARMFOOD

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

One medium turnip has 233mg of potassium.

That mineral is required by your body for a variety of

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



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.

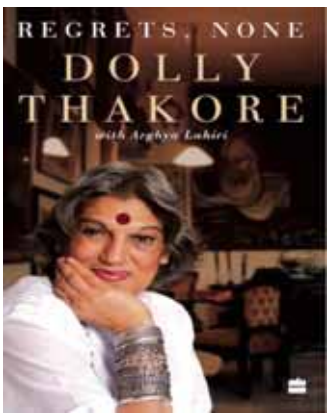
By KHUSHBU KIRTI

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 phenomenon, are fantastic. "How many new writers have emerged, and the fact that we get to know them and read them and that their books are accessible — it's amazing. Some very good works by lovely writers have come up. And they've gotten a voice through these festivals and platforms. I just came back from Gulmarg and I cannot tell you how wonderful it was. I didn't know a soul, of course, they were much younger than me but, oh, what brilliant young ideas they had!" she shared.



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

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

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

## Gara

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

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



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

## PETIT POINT

Petit point embroidery originated in France in the 18th century and is still quite common in Europe.

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

## Kantha

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 weighty silk. *Zardozi* is one of the must-haves for bridal wear and couture.

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

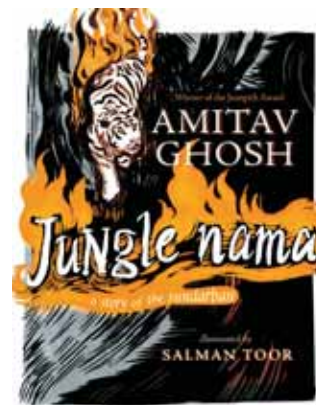
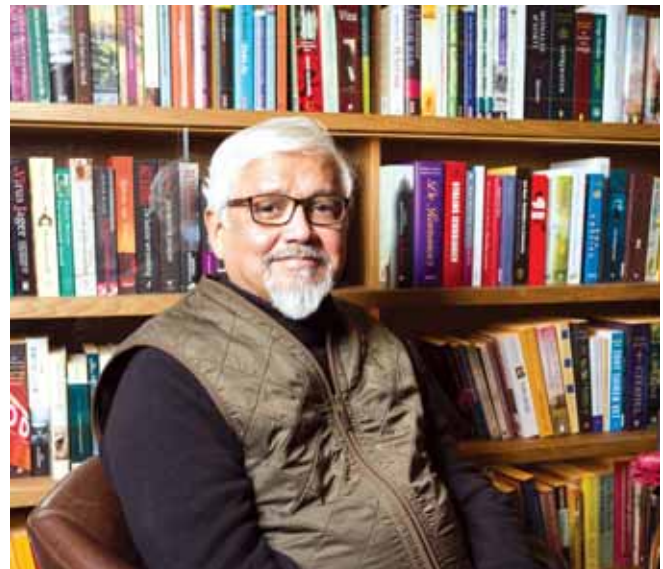
## Chikankari

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

(The author is CEO, Prastuti Designs.)

# 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.

—JANS

## BUDDHAS OF GANDHARA

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

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

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



## OF CERAMIC BOWLS AND PLATTERS

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

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

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

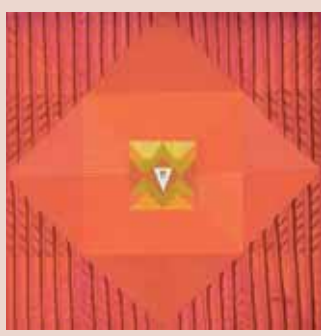


## PIERCED BY THE LIGHT OF THE STARS

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

The artwork illustrates the entire aspect of human life as viewed through 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 artists but also the genesis of the artist's becoming.

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

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





## INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND

# Indians defy India!



# 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



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



PTI ■ KANPUR

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

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

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

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

"It's the memories that matters so I want to have some special memories going 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 complaints. Couldn't get the job done but we stuck together well."

## MOST WICKETS FOR INDIA IN TESTS

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

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

PTI ■ KANPUR

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

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

out a memorable draw for New Zealand in fading light.

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

done anything different," said Rahane at the post-match presentation.

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

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

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

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

## 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 leaptfrogged 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 coun-

tries 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

## Vinicius' late strike script Real's win

AP ■ MADRID

Vinicius Júnior 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 come-from-behind win over Sevilla on Sunday in a match between two of the best teams in Spain at the moment.

Vinicius Júnior 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 Júnior, 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 Fabián 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 Argentina 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

## 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."

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