

**OPINION 6**  
WHERE ARE ABDUCTED  
AFGHAN ACTIVISTS?

**WORLD 8**  
DESPITE RUSSIAN WARNING,  
UKRAINE TALKS GO ON

**SPORT 12**  
FINAL  
SHOWDOWN

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
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**DEEPIKA: IT'S  
LIKE COMING  
HOME**  
10 VIVACITY

## 5L Covid deaths in India, largest after US, Brazil

Death toll may be much higher than the official figure as many other unreported

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the two years since the Covid-19 was first reported in December 2019, India has officially lost more than 5 lakh people to the deadly virus, becoming the third country in the world to reach the grim milestone on Friday. The first death was reported in March 2020 in India. However, experts say that the death tally could be on the much higher side as many other cases have been left unreported.

The US, with over 9.1 lakh Covid fatalities, and Brazil (nearly 6.3 lakh) have officially reported more deaths from the virus so far. At 3.3 lakh, the toll from the pandemic in Russia is the fourth highest, ahead of Mexico, which has so far logged just over 3.07 deaths. India's death toll went past the 5-lakh mark 217 days after crossing 4 lakh on July 1, 2020.



This was the longest time taken for a 1-lakh increase in fatalities, indicating a decrease in deaths in the months after the peak of the devastating second wave. This was also a period when vaccinations rose steadily in the country, which helped protect lives.

India's cumulative tally of 5,00,055 deaths on Friday included 1,072 fatalities reported over the last 24 hours, according to the Union Health Ministry. Maharashtra tops the list of fatalities in the country followed by Kerala, Karnataka,

Tamil Nadu and Delhi. Out of this, 335 deaths were reported from the southern State of Kerala that has, for weeks, been updating data with deaths from last year.

Kerala, with less than 3 per cent of India's 1.35 billion population, accounts for nearly 11 per cent of the total deaths reported in the country.

"Some States such as Kerala are recording their backlog deaths under judicial pressure, although not all States have done that," professor of physics and biology at Ashoka

University near the Capital who has been tracking the spread of the virus, Gautam Menon, according to reports.

Rijo M John, health economist tweeted that "officially reported C19 (Covid-19) deaths in India crossed half a million (500087) although many studies estimate the true number to be between 3-4 million.

While the Government was quick to "debunk" most, if not all, studies estimating the true Covid-19 deaths in India, so far, they haven't come up with one of their own, either, said John.

## Kagzi samajwadis 100% parivarvadis, says Modi

**Dabang aur danga raj UP main nahin chalega, says PM**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asking voters to prevent the return of "kagzi samajwadis who are 100 per cent parivarvadis", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, barely six days before the first phase of poll in the State, urged people to again vote for the "double-engine Government" and reject those who have given tickets to criminals and mafias.

Launching a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP) via a virtual rally, Modi said "the Government, which has given a free hand to the rioters has done the biggest harm" to the people of UP.

He said this is an election "to keep history sheeters out and make history..." and expressed confidence that people will give a thumping majority to the Yogi Government.

Modi described the main challenger SP as the party as "fake Samajwadis who are 100 per cent dynast".

The Prime Minister was speaking at the "Jan Chaupal" event of the BJP organised for the voters of Meerut, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Hapur,



and Noida.

He regretted saying the rival party has given tickets to criminals and history sheeters and announced "dabang aur danga raj UP main nahin chalega".

Modi also spoke about the Government's efforts in providing better rates for sugarcane to the farmers.

"You need to be very careful while casting your vote. If they get a chance, these family-driven fake Samajwadis will stop the aid being provided to farmers..."

These fake Samajwadi will make you hungry," he said.

The PM added, "Today the Budget of

agriculture has become six times as compared to the previous Governments. Out of 70,000 crores of PM Samman Nidhi, small farmers of UP will get a huge part."

"This year too, the farmers of the country, including in Uttar Pradesh are going to get lakhs of crores of rupees as MSP. Yogi ji's Government has paid sugarcane of more than 1.5 lakh crore in the last 5 years," Modi said.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath files nomination from Gorakhpur in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah PTI

### CAPSULE

#### HARYANA CHALLENGES HC STAY ON QUOTA LAW

**New Delhi:** The Haryana Government on Friday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Punjab & Haryana High Court order granting an interim stay on a law providing 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs for residents of the State.

#### HOSHANGABAD TO BE NAMED NARMADAPURAM

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said that the Central Government has given its approval to the proposal by the State Government to rename Hoshangabad district in the State as Narmadapuram.

#### 'MAKE SOCIAL MEDIA MORE ACCOUNTABLE'

**New Delhi:** Social media needs to be made more accountable and stricter rules in this regard could be brought in if there is political consensus on the matter, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

#### 'MAMATA'S POLL AGENT RUNNING FROM PROBE'

**New Delhi:** The CBI on Friday told the Supreme Court that Trinamool Congress leader SK Suiyan, who was the election agent of Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram during the last year's Assembly elections, has been running away from the investigation in the murder case of a BJP worker being investigated by the Central agency

## Triple vaccination help fight Omicron effectively: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People who are triple-vaccinated against Covid-19 develop a high-quality antibody response that can neutralise the Omicron variant efficiently, according to a study.

This also applies to people who are infected with the virus thrice, to those having recovered and then received two vaccinations, and to double-vaccinated individuals who experience a breakthrough infection, the researchers said.

The study, published recently in the journal Nature Medicine, tracked the antibodies of vaccinated and recovered individuals for two years. The participants comprised 98 recovered persons and 73 people without prior infection. Both groups were offered vaccination with the mRNA-based Pfizer vaccine.

The researchers from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany found that a total of three exposures to the viral spike protein lead to the



production of virus-neutralizing antibodies that are high in quantity as well as quality.

These high-quality antibodies bind to the viral spike protein more vigorously and are also capable of effectively fighting the Omicron variant.

The spike protein is used by the SARS-CoV-2 virus to enter and infect the cells.

The team found the same effect in triple-vaccinated people, in those who had recovered from Covid-19 and then had two vaccinations, and double-

vaccinated people who then had a breakthrough infection.

"The immunity built up or strengthened by means of vaccination is key to effective protection against future variants of the virus," said Percy Knolle, professor at TUM.

"A recent breakthrough infection — as irritating and undesirable as it is — has in fact the same effect as an additional vaccination on this important arm of the immune system," Knolle said.

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## Schools to reopen step by step from Mon in Delhi

**Gyms, swimming pools to resume op with conditions**

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

All schools, colleges and other educational institutions in the national Capital have been allowed to reopen in a phased manner from the coming Monday, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) announced on Friday.

Gyms, swimming pools and spas will also be permitted to function again from next week but with some restrictions. Private sector offices can now remain open with 100 per cent attendance.

Briefing the media after the DDMA meeting with Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that life and happiness will be returning to Delhi's schools and colleges and the Government is ready to welcome students in educational institutes.

In the first phase, classes



for grades 9-12 will be resumed in a hybrid model, and in the second phase classes for nursery to eighth will resume from February 14 (Monday).

All classes at Delhi colleges will be conducted in offline mode from February 7 onwards. The State Government took this call to resume academic activities, keeping in mind the declining

cases of Covid-19. Delhi schools' administration has been asked to prepare for the return of students.

"The administration must ensure that all staff is fully vaccinated at the campus, especially those dealing with students of Class nursery to 8," said Delhi Education Minister Sisodia.

"Timing of the night cur-

few has been changed and it will be enforced from 11 am to 5 am. This will also have an impact on restaurant hours, as they are now permitted to operate until 11 pm," said Sisodia, adding, "We have also decided to reopen gyms, spas, and swimming pools on Monday. All offices, both private and Government, can now operate at full capacity. B2B

#### Guidelines for educational institutes

- Schools, colleges and coaching centres have been allowed to reopen
- In-person classes for classes 9-12 will resume from February 7 while schools will reopen for nursery to class 8 on February 14
- Unvaccinated teachers will not be allowed to take classes
- Both Government and private offices have been permitted to operate with 100 per cent capacity
- Gyms have also been allowed to reopen with certain restrictions
- Restaurants can operate till 11 pm
- Drivers in car with no other passengers to be exempt from mask rules
- Night curfew shifted to 11 pm to 5 am from 10 pm to 5 am
- Restaurants to still operate with 50 per cent capacity
- Weddings still have a maximum limit of 200 guests
- Bars and cinema halls to function at 50 per cent capacity

(Business to Business) exhibitions are also permitted. Easing these Covid restrictions will help us bring lives back on track and will help in recouping the losses that occurred during Covid lockdown."

## Covid to turn endemic in Maha by 3rd week of March: Health Min

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Friday predicted that given the declining number of infections in the State, the third wave of Covid-19 might get over by the second or third week of March "when in all likelihood pandemic will turn into endemic", even as the number of daily cases dropped further to 13,840.

Talking to media persons at Jalna in Marathwada region of the State, Tope said, "We are noticing that the third wave of Covid-19 is receding across the state. At one stage, the number of daily cases had gone up to 48,000. Now the daily cases have come to 10,000 to 15,000 in the State. The infection curve is flattening in major

cities like Mumbai, Pune, Thane and Raigad district".

"Going by the downward trend we are witnessing, I have a strong reason to believe that the pandemic will turn into an endemic by March. There may be some rise in some places. But, the infections will come down once again. That being the case, the State Government's focus will henceforth be on reducing the Covid-19 restrictions in the State," the Health Minister said.

Tope said that the pandemic restrictions would be reduced in phases. "I have already discussed this issue with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The restrictions will be eased in phases in the State," the Minister said.

Continued on Page 2

## Punjab CM's nephew held for sand mining money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Bhopinder Singh, alias Honey, nephew of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, in a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal sand mining in the State.

Honey was arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) late on Thursday after several hours of questioning at the agency's office in Jalandhar, officials said.

During the questioning, he was evasive in his replies, leading to his arrest, sources said, adding his custody is being sought from the court in order to subject him to custodial interrogation. Honey is the son of Channi's sister-in-law. On January 18, the agency had searched his premises and



claimed to have seized about ₹8 crore in cash and "incriminating" documents. Properties of a few others linked to the case were also searched, they said.

The move comes before Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to announce the party's Chief Ministerial candidate in the poll-bound State. Rahul is expected to make this announcement during his virtual rally in Ludhiana on Sunday. Channi has reported-

ly emerged as the front runner for the prospective post. Punjab will go to polls on February 20.

Post the searches in January, the agency had recovered over ₹10 crore in cash and several documents, of which ₹8 crore and most of the papers were seized from premises linked to Honey alone.

About ₹2 crore cash was seized from the premises linked to a person identified as Sandeep Kumar.

## Govt will form panel on MSP after polls: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre will form a committee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of agricultural produce after completion of the upcoming Assembly polls in five States.

"The Union Government is committed to forming a panel on MSP and the Election Commission has said it can be done after the polls are over," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday said in the Rajya Sabha while replying to a query during the Question Hour.

Incidentally, this assurance comes after the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a joint platform of farmers unions, appealed to farmers not to vote for the BJP in the Assembly polls and accused the Government of not fulfilling its



promise of setting up the committee on MSP and other commitments made in its letter dated December 9, last year.

On January 31, farmers' leaders had observed "Betrayal Day" against the Centre's alleged not keeping its words made to them.

"The entire country knows that the Prime Minister has announced the formation of a committee to make crop diversification, natural farming, and MSP effective and transparent. The Government is committed to the announcement made by the PM. The matter is under consideration of the Ministry,"

Tomar said.

Tomar said since the election process in on, the Government had written to the EC for its approval. "The EC's reply has come. It has said that the committee should be formed after the elections conclude," the Minister said. While announcing the repeal of three farm laws in November last year, the PM had promised to set up a committee to discuss the farmers' demand for a legal guarantee on MSP.

In his written reply, Tomar said, "As per the changing requirements of the country to change the cropping pattern, to make MSP more effective and transparent, and to encourage a natural farming method of agriculture, the process of setting up a committee is under process."

Continued on Page 2



# Union Minister's son sent to judicial custody till Feb 10

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After he spent two days in Apolice custody in the much-discussed attempt to murder case, a Sindhudurg court on Friday remanded Maharashtra BJP MLA and Union Minister Narayan Rane's son Nitesh Rane to judicial custody till February 10.

Rejecting the Prosecution's plea to extend his police custody for eight more days, the Sindhudurg court sent Nitesh to judicial custody for 14 more days.

On his part, Special Public Prosecutor Pradeep Gharat had urged the Sindhudurg district court to extend Nitesh's police custody for eight days on the ground that he was required to be taken to Pune to investigate the financial angle in the crime.

However, Nitesh's Satish Maneshinde and S. Desai objected to the Prosecution's plea on the ground that though their client had already spent two days in police custody, there was no progress in the investigations and urged the court to send to judicial remand.

After the district court rejected the Prosecution's plea and sent Nitesh to judicial custody Nitesh, his lawyers Maneshinde and Desai moved a bail application before the court. Nitesh's bail application would be heard on Saturday.

Nitesh, had surrendered before the Sindhudurg district court on Wednesday, a day

after the court rejected his rejected his pre-arrest bail plea in an alleged attempt to murder case. The development had come on six days after the Supreme Court gave him protection from arrest for ten days and asked him to seek a regular bail from the trial court.

In the attempt to murder cases filed against him by the Sindhudurg police, 39-year-old Nitesh has been charged with Sections 307 (attemp to murder), 120-B (conspiracy) read with 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

Nitesh has also been named as the key conspirator behind an attempt to murder Shiv Sena leader Santosh Manohar Parab, who was knocked down from behind by a car on December 18, 2021, while he was returning home by a motorcycle at Kankavali in Sindhudurg district which is Rane's political bastion.

The prosecution's case that a conspiracy was hatched in which one Sachin Satpute was entrusted "to assault and criminally intimidate the complainant/injured". Satpute with the help of Dhiraj Jadhav who is bodyguard of Sachin Satpute) and accused Sneha Chavan, Dnyaneshwar @ Mauli who were part of the conspiracy. Both Nitesh and Gotya Sawant are alleged to have hatched the conspiracy to make an attempt on the life of Parab.

The Bombay High Court had earlier on January 17 refused to grant an anticipatory bail to Nitesh and another

accused Sandesh alias Gotya Sawant in the alleged attempt to murder case.

The HC's rejection of pre-arrest bail to Nitesh and another accused had come after the Prosecution had among other things had opposed the anticipatory bail being granted to him and Gotya Sawant on the ground that there were all five cases against him (Nitesh) and 26 cases against the latter.

The Prosecution had also told the court Nitesh was arrested by the Kankavali police under Section 353, 332, 342, 324, 147, 143, 148, 149, 323, 504, 506, 109 and 120-B of IPC and Section 3 of the Damage to Public Property Act.

It may be recalled that while rejecting Nitesh's pre-arrest bail on February 1, Sindhudurg District Court's Additional Sessions Judge R. B. Rote had observed that the grant of bail would hamper the "incomplete" investigations, and his 'custodial interrogation' was necessitated considering the case facts and circumstances.

In all, there are ten accused in the case. Apart from Nitesh and key co-accused and his aide Rakesh Parab, the six arrested accused are: Chetan Pawar, Karan B. Kamble, Anil Nakka, Karan D. Kamble, Deepak N. Waghode and Sachin Satpute - all from Pune.

In addition, there are two other accused Dnyaneshwar D. Devnur and Dheeraj Jadhav, who are still absconding.

# ED attaches ₹66.30 cr assets of T-based firm in ₹1,500 cr scam

**Company is engaged in a multi-level marketing scam**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹66.30 crore of Telangana-based Indusviva Health Sciences Private Limited, its chairman CA Anzar and others under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a ₹1,500 crore multi-level marketing scam.

The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Gachibowli police station, Cyberabad.

The company is engaged in a multi-level marketing scam having illegal pyramid type structure and is working under the guise of Direct Selling Business.

"The company engaged large number of distributors and did rigorous marketing about the commission schemes of the company stating that there is a great opportunity of quick and easy money by becoming a member and then in turn making further enrollments down the line in right side and left side in a binary manner," the ED said in a statement.

In order to project their fraud pyramid scheme as a legitimate business, they introduced some products which were by their own admission valued at only 20 percent of the sale revenue and in reality are completely worthless, it said.

The membership fee paid by new clients was used to pay commission to the old clients. By giving false promises and inducements, the company enrolled around 10 lakh members and collected around ₹1,500 crore since its inception.

During the investigation under PMLA, it was noticed that Anzar, Chairman of Indusviva and Abhilash Thomas, CEO of the company, diverted funds to subsidiary companies and their other related companies and to their personal accounts, it further said.

These funds were utilized to acquire immovable assets which are identified to the tune of ₹50.47 crore in the name of the companies and individuals.

Further, movable properties were also identified in the form of bank balances to the tune of ₹15.83 crore lying in 20 bank accounts of the company, its chairman and related companies. All these properties have been provisionally attached by the ED.

Earlier, Anzar and Thomas were arrested by the agency on December 15 last year and presently they are in judicial custody, it added.

# 5 workers killed in collapse of under-construction mall

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least five migrant workers from Bihar were killed and five others injured when a slab of an under-construction mall-cum-commercial complex collapsed in Pune's Yerawada area late on Thursday night.

A mesh of steel rods for building a reinforced concrete slab at the basement level of the mall site at Shantinagar at Yerawada came crashing down like a proverbial pack of cards, trapping 10 construction labourers working below.

While five of the trapped workers crushed alive under the weight of steel and concrete, the remaining five workers who sustained severe injuries

were rushed to the Maharashtra Government-run Sassoon Hospital.

The police identified the five workers killed in the mishap as Sohel Mohammed (23), Tajib Alam (40) Mohammed Shamim (30), Shabub Alam (35) and Mobid Mohammed (40). The

The injured workers who are undergoing treatment at the Sassoon Hospital are: Alam Ibrahim, Faeem Qurban, Rafique Alam, Sahil M. Muslims and their supervisor.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of those killed, while Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar declared an ex-gratia of ₹2

lakh to each of the bereaved of the deceased workers.

Mourning those killed in the mishap, Kumar said that he was pained to learn of the death of the five labourers, all hailing from Katihar in Bihar. Besides compensation to an extent of kin of those killed in the mishap, Kumar announced a financial assistance of ₹50,000 to each of those injured in the mishap.

Expressing his grief over the death of five labourers from Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "Pained by the mishap at an under-construction building in Pune. Condolences to the bereaved families. I hope that all those injured in this mishap recover at the earliest".

# Triple vaccination help fight Omicron....

From page 1

Since the beginning of the pandemic, voluntary participants from the staff at TUM participated in the study and were regularly tested. The researchers identified individuals who had contracted SARS-CoV-2 during the first wave of the pandemic in spring 2020 and compared them to the second group of people who had not been infected.

As predicted from its many mutations, Omicron exhibited

the most pronounced evasion from neutralising antibodies compared to all other viral variants tested, they said.

"For Omicron, you need considerably more and better antibodies to prevent infection," said Oliver T. Keppler from Max von Pettenkofer Institute and Gene Center Munich. The researchers developed a new virus neutralization test, which allowed them to analyse antibodies in many blood samples and different variants of the virus at high throughput rates.

# Govt will form....

From page 1

"At present, in view of the Assembly elections in some States, the process of concurrence of the Election Commission for the formation of the committee is under progress," he said.

Replying to another query by Prasanna Acharya (BJD) who asked if the Government is considering bringing a Bill in this House to give a legal guarantee to MSP, Tomar said prior to 2018, there was no mechanism to define MSP and make farming profitable.

# Modi to visit Hyderabad today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad on Saturday and will come face to face with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naraiah who this week made acerbic remarks against him saying he "dresses for elections" and his budget exemplifies "style without substance".

Modi is to dedicate to the nation the 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' at Hyderabad commemorating the 11th century Bhakti Saint Ramanujacharya.

Ramanujacharya (1017-1137 AD) was a philosopher, Hindu theologian, social reformer, and one of the most important exponents of the Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.

Against this backdrop, Modi and Rao would be together as per protocol with the latter claiming that he would not flinch in saying the same to the Prime Minister when he meets him.

KCR is set to share a helicopter ride with Modi when they travel to the outskirts of Hyderabad for the launch of the statue.

The BJP also called the Chief Minister out saying he is running a "smeared campaign" and is "depressed and going through an identity crisis."

Before inaugurating the statue, the PM will visit the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad and kickstart the 50th Anniversary celebrations of ICRISA.

Ramanujacharya promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed.

The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc and is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world. It is mounted on a 54-ft high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has floors devoted for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Ramanujacharya.

The statue has been conceptualised by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of SriRamanujacharya Ashram.

During the programme, 3D Presentation Mapping on the life journey and teaching of Ramanujacharya will also be showcased.

# Kerala lifts restrictions from Monday, orders opening of schools, colleges

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though there is no discernible change in the Covid-19 situation in Kerala which contributes one-fourth of the patents per day to the national tally, the State administration decided to re-open schools and colleges from Monday. The State would have total lock-down on Sunday but Monday would mark a new beginning.

The decision was taken by the review committee meeting presided over by Veena George, minister for health, on Friday. But Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, CPI(M) Kerala secretary, said that the Covid-19 prevention mechanism has failed in the State. "Our efforts did not bear fruit in controlling the transmission of the pandemic this time. There is shortage of medical staff in the State and this may have played a role in the weakening of the defence mechanism," said Balakrishnan while speaking to reporters at party headquarters on Friday.

A release issued by minister George later in the day said that 38,684 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic out of the 1.20 lakh samples tested during the last 24 hours. The death toll reached 57,296 by Friday

evening, said the minister.

But Dr Rajiv Pillai, senior physician, said the number of positive cases in the State were higher than what has been reported by the Health Department. "Most of the Government Hospitals in the State are running out of beds and the doctors have been asked not to admit patients who have been tested positive. This is nothing but deception," said Dr Pillai.

A Government physician with more than three decades service in controlling contagious diseases said he was shocked by the decision to re-open schools and colleges at this time. "The situation is really grave and there is no chance of the pandemic cases showing a deep fall. The move to open schools and colleges could aggravate the situation further," said the doctor. He said there was nothing to be ashamed of in admitting the fact that the situation in Kerala was grave. "We have the highest density of population and the number of students attending schools and colleges would be higher. Our population has scant regard for rules as they openly violate the directives to wear face masks and maintain social distancing," he said.

# Man commits suicide after Govt officer rejects application to remove agricultural land tag

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Unprecedented and unusual corruption in State Government offices in Kerala have claimed one more life. A fisherman, Sajeewan (57) committed suicide in Paravoor town in Ernakulam district on Thursday as all Government officials working in village office as well as Revenue Division office rejected his application to remove the agricultural land tag from his 4.5 cent land.

Sajeewan has been trying to get this certificate from the village office and revenue division office for the last 18 months as he wanted to get a bank loan to tide over the financial crisis he was facing because of the pandemic. In a note left by him before resorting to the extreme step, Sajeewan had said that officials in the offices wanted hefty bribes for removing the plot of land from agricultural category.

"For 18 months he has been trying to get approval from Moothakunnam Village Office, Fort Kochi RDO office. But the demand for bribes

from officials was so high that it shattered him. We never knew he would resort to this step," said his sobbing daughter Ashitha. She said the plea submitted by her father was held up in the red-tape for more than eight months.

The suicide note has blamed the Kerala Government as the reason for his step. Sajeewan is the fourth person in the State to commit suicide as a result of the callousness of the government officials. While the three persons who committed suicide over the last two years were entrepreneurs, Sajeewan is the first representative of the 'working class' to resort to this action. K Rajan, Revenue Minister of the State has ordered a probe into the suicide of Sajeewan.

One of the members of the investigation team has been quoted as saying that prima facie there was apathy by the officials concerned towards the victim's plea. Officials of Revenue Division Office at Fort Kochi denied all charges of callousness and indifference by the staff towards Sajeewan.

# Covid to turn endemic in Maha...

From page 1

In related development, the daily Covid-19 cases dropped from 12,252 on Thursday to 13,840 on Friday, even as the daily cases in Mumbai rose marginally from 827 cases to 846.

On a day when no fresh Omicron case was reported in Maharashtra, the daily infections in the State dropped by 1412 cases-- from 15,252 on Thursday to 13,840 cases on Friday. With the fresh infections, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the State rose from 77,68,800 to 77,82,640.

With 81 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths registered in the State since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the State in March 2020 went up from 1,42,859 to 1,42,940.

Mumbai, where the daily infections have been dropping steadily for more than two weeks now, witnessed a marginal rise in the number of

cases from 827 to 846. With the latest cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,49,348 to 10,50,194.

As 27,891 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 74,83,868 to 74,91,759. The recovery rate in the State rose from 96.07 per cent to 96.26 per cent.

The number of active cases in the State dropped from 1,58,151 to 1,44,011. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.83 per cent.

The active cases in Pune dropped from 46,710 on Thursday to 42,755 on Friday.

The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 7,601 to 7,135, while the active cases in the neighbouring Thane rose from 10,636 on Thursday to 9,760 on Friday.

<p><b>मध्यप्रदेश गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मण्डल</b></p> <p>ई-ऑफर आवेदन दिनांक 26.02.2022 तक आमंत्रित</p> <p>नर्मदा परिसर धनपुरी (बुढ़ार) जिला शहडोल (म.प्र.)</p> <p>रेरा पंजीयन क्र. P-SDL-17-151</p> <p>कॉलोनी में आकर्षक प्रवेश द्वार</p>						<p>प्रॉपर्टी फॉर सेल</p> <p>जी.एस.टी. मुक्त</p>
सम्पत्ति का विवरण	उपलब्ध भवनों का क्रमांक	भूखण्ड का क्षेत्रफल (वर्ग.मी.)	कुर्सी क्षेत्रफल (वर्ग.मी.)	भवन का अपसेट मूल्य (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि (लाख में)	आवेदन शुल्क जीएसटी सहित (रुपये)
पूर्ण भवनों का विवरण (यथास्थिति में विक्रय)						
एच.आई.जी. (सोिनियर ए)	02, 03 एवं 04	142.50	79.68	35.63 से 37.03	7.13 से 7.41	1180/-
एच.आई.जी. (डीलक्स)	08 एवं 09	112.50	56.25	29.29 से 30.40	5.86 से 6.08	1180/-
एम.आई.जी. (जूनियर ए)	01 एवं 02	97.50	58.00	26.92 से 27.88	5.38 से 5.58	1180/-
एम.आई.जी. (जूनियर बी)	01, 02, 03, 04 एवं 05	78.00	46.80	22.45 से 23.60	4.49 से 4.72	1180/-
ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.	04, 05, 06, 09 एवं 10	40.00	26.05	9.65 से 9.84	1.93 से 1.97	590/-
अपूर्ण भवनों का विवरण (यथास्थिति में विक्रय)						
एच.आई.जी. (सोिनियर ए)	05 से 60 तक	142.50	79.68	17.85 से 33.60	3.57 से 6.72	1180/-
एच.आई.जी. (डीलक्स)	01 से 07 एवं 10 से 57	112.50	56.25	13.03 से 23.59	2.61 से 4.72	1180/-
एम.आई.जी. (जूनियर ए)	03 से 14	97.50	58	11.46 से 18.69	2.29 से 3.74	1180/-
एम.आई.जी. (जूनियर बी)	06 से 23	78.00	46.80	09.98 से 20.77	2.00 से 4.15	1180/-
ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.	11 से 44	40.00	26.05	7.31 से 08.28	1.46 से 1.66	590/-
<p><b>प्रक्रिया शर्तें :-</b></p> <p>1. ऑफर हेतु निर्धारित प्रक्रिया:- (1) आवेदन एवं धरोहर राशि जमा करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि 26.02.2022 रात्रि 11.59 बजे तक।</p> <p>2. ऑफर बिड डालने हेतु अंतिम तिथि 27.02.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक। ऑफर खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 28.02.2022 को दोपहर 4.00 बजे ऑफर खोला जायेगा।</p> <p>3. ऑनलाइन ऑफर की विस्तृत जानकारी एवं बिड प्रक्रिया मण्डल की वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.mphousing.in">www.mphousing.in</a> एवं <a href="http://www.mponline.gov.in">www.mponline.gov.in</a> पर उपलब्ध है।</p> <p>4. ऑफर प्रस्तुत करने से पूर्व संपत्ति का अवलोकन कर लें भवन जिस स्थिति में होगा उसी स्थिति में लेना होगा। स्वयं के कारणों से ऑफर निरस्त कर राशि वापिस मांगने पर धरोहर राशि का 50 प्रतिशत कटौती कर शेष राशि वापिस की जायेगी। शासन/मण्डल द्वारा निर्धारित अन्य कर, शुल्क, प्रभार एवं लीजेंट इत्यादि धुयक से देय होंगे।</p>						
<p><b>सम्पर्क सूत्र</b></p> <p>आर.पी. वर्मा (उपयंत्री) : 9425843829, व्ही.के. त्रिपाठी (संपदा प्रबंधक) मो. : 7697333130, एम.एल. धाकसे (सहायक यंत्री) : 6268116864, सी.डी. सोनारे (संपदा अधिकारी) : 7000648871</p>						
<p>Visit us : <a href="http://www.mphousing.in">www.mphousing.in</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mphidb">f/mphidb</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/mphidb">i/mphidb</a></p>						<p>म.प्र. माध्यम/103548/2022</p>

**GOVT. OF ASSAM**  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CUM CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT  
JORHAT MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, JORHAT  
(Under Society for Medical Education Jorhat)

No. SMEJ/JMCH/2552/2021/579

**RE E-TENDER NOTICE**

This is for information of all bidders that the e-tender for "Supply of Radio diagnostic and Interventional items on rate contract basis at Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat" floated vide IFB NO. SMEJ/JMCH/2552/2021/14572 Date: 01/12/2021 is hereby re-tendered as per following schedule:

Date and Time of Publishing of e-Bid Document	Date and Time of start of bid submission	Date and Time of End of Bid submission	Date and Time of Opening of e-Technical	Date and Time of Opening of e-Price Bid
12.00 PM of 05-02-2022	1.00 PM of 05-02-2022	12.00 PM of 21-02-2022	1.00 PM of 21-02-2022	Shall be communicated only to the technically qualified bidders subsequently

- The complete e-tender document may be obtained from the e-tender portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in/> & our official website: <http://Jorhatmedicalcollege.in>.
- The participating bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>.
- The Tender shall be submitted online only through the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in/>. The bidders MUST submit a hardcopy of their tender document to the o/o. the Principal cum Chief Superintendent, JMC&H, Jorhat after successful submission of their tender through online on or before 21-02-2022 at 12.00 P.M.
- The institute reserves the right to reject any/all applications without assigning any reason what so ever.

**Principal cum Chief Superintendent,**  
Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat

Janasanyog/C/11535/21

cases from 827 to 846. With the latest cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,49,348 to 10,50,194. As 27,891 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 74,83,868 to 74,91,759. The recovery rate in the State rose from 96.07 per cent to 96.26 per cent. The number of active cases in the State dropped from 1,58,151 to 1,44,011. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 1.83 per cent. The active cases in Pune dropped from 46,710 on Thursday to 42,755 on Friday. The active cases in Mumbai dropped from 7,601 to 7,135, while the active cases in the neighbouring Thane rose from 10,636 on Thursday to 9,760 on Friday.



# 1K EV charging points to be added in malls: DDC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC), in partnership with World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), released the 'Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Guidebook for Shopping Malls in Delhi' on Friday to simplify and enable adoption of EV charging at shopping malls in Delhi.

Jasmine Shah, Chairman, DDC said, "Top malls in Delhi will install EV charging points in 5% of their parking capacity in next 6 months, approx. 1,000 new charging points to be added in shopping malls in 6 months." With this launch, Delhi has become the first State in the country to come up with a step-by-step guide to help shopping malls adopt charging of EVs in their parking space.

The guidebook was launched in the presence of Jasmine Shah, Vice-Chairperson, DDC Delhi,

Amit Bhatt, Executive Director (Integrated Transport), WRI India and representatives of various shopping malls/associations in Delhi.

Shopping mall representatives welcomed Delhi Government's initiative of promoting EVs and expressed their support to installing EV chargers in their malls for at least five per cent of their parking space in the next six months.

Providing EV charging facilities can benefit shopping malls through increased footfall, increased time spent by customers, improved visibility, boost to their 'green' image, improved customer loyalty and it can potentially be an additional revenue stream for the mall owners.

The released document guides shopping mall owners in understanding the importance of EV charging, assessing the scope for EV charging, details the processes involved for effective decision-making and sets

out the way forward for the planning and implementation of EV charging stations in the parking of malls.

The Delhi Government announced the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy in August 2020, with a vision to promote the adoption of electric vehicles in the city and to make Delhi the EV Capital of India.

The policy aims to improve Delhi's air quality by driving the transition to electric vehicles, so that they can reach 25 per cent of all new vehicle registrations by 2024.

Shah said, "Every city in the world that has made a mass-scale jump towards e-mobility, did so at the back of strong charging infrastructure. Besides this, we need to ensure that every place that a vehicle stops at has a charging point — be it offices, residences or malls. Such a radical shift has been envisioned in Delhi Government's EV Policy aimed at making Delhi the EV capital of India."

## Centre to advance submissions in HC to defer hearing on pleas to criminalise marital rape

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Friday told the Delhi High Court that it would advance submissions on February 7 on its recent affidavit in which it has urged deference of hearing on a batch of pleas seeking to criminalise marital rape as a meaningful consultative process with various stakeholders and State Governments is needed on the issue.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta apprised a bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and C Hari Shankar about the additional affidavit filed by the Central Government on Thursday and said "I will address the affidavit on Monday".

The bench, which inquired if he was talking about the affidavit sent to it through mail on Thursday, said it would hear the matter on Monday (Feb 7).

During the hearing, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for a woman petitioner, referred to the Law Commission report of the United Kingdom in support of his submissions to criminalise marital rape and certain judgements of the Supreme Court of India. He submitted that this constitutional court cannot desist from dealing with the constitutionality of the exception on the ground that it would be high impossible for the woman to prove marital rape since it sometimes happens in the confines of the household and in private.

## Delhi Police holds Twitter live session on cyber safety

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday organised a Twitter live session titled "Ask Me Anything" focusing on cyber safety and crime in the national Capital.

This is the third edition of the programme after Ask me Anything on Covid-19 related queries and emergency helpline number 112, as part of the vision and directions of Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana to strengthen the police-public partnership and create awareness about important issues with the use of social media platforms.

KPS Malhotra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO), started the session with a brief introduction about cyber-crime, safety precautions and the nature of work and functional domain of the newly established IFSO and cyber crime unit.

He answered the query related to problem of impersonation of public figures and agencies on digital platforms to dupe the gullible citizens and to be aware about such frauds and to report immediately to law enforcement agencies so as to trace the culprits.

Malhotra discussed in detail about

the online helpline number 155260 to report cases of online cheating and fraud and the need to immediately report such crimes within the "golden hour" so as to stop the money from being taken out of the financial system. "The Delhi Police has a well-established mechanism to look into such grievances," he said.

The DCP updated about the precautions to be taken while sharing one's private data or information to someone else. He cautioned the netizens not to share any such important credentials with any unauthorised person, police said.

When asked about the Bulli Bai case and the safety of women on the internet against online stalking and harassment, the DCP replied that the Delhi Police worked out the said case and arrested the culprits.

"He stressed about the need for a safe usage of the internet and to practice a secure net activity while browsing the internet in order to avoid any kind of data breach. He appealed to immediately inform the law enforcement authorities through helpline number or the portal [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) to report instances of stalking, harassment or any other cyber related complaints," said the statement issued by police.

## Mentally-challenged minor girl raped in Vasant Kunj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old mentally unsound girl was allegedly raped by a security guard in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area. Police said that they have arrested the accused.

According to police, on Monday, senior manager of Udhyan Care made a complaint that a girl, living in the care centre, complained of stomachache. She was taken to hospital for examination where doctor stated that the girl was pregnant.

"The complainant further revealed that she made allegation against security guard Lokesh Kumar of the foster care facility," said Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district.

Accordingly, a case was registered under relevant sections at Vasant Kunj South police station and accused has been arrested. Further investigation is being done, the DCP said.

A police official said that the victim is mentally unsound and the accused has been sent to the judicial custody.

## EDMC asks doctors to call off strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Commissioner of East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), Vikas Anand, appealed to the striking doctors of Swami Dayanand Hospital to call off strike and return to work.

Anand assured the protesting doctors to provide one month's salary by February 15 positively if they return to work. Apart from this, the salary for February and March will also be released on time, he said.

The Commissioner said that the East Corporation is working in a challenging environment due to paucity of funds and at such a time, all have to face this challenge together so that we can provide better citizen services with fewer resources.

## Min slams CM on new liquor policy

**New Delhi:** Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on Friday attacked Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the new liquor policy. The Union Minister said that CM Kejriwal can go to any extent for profit and is responsible for the struggles of women who pass by liquor shops regularly. "Kejriwal can go to any limits for profit," she added.

While addressing a virtual rally against the liquor policy of the Delhi Government, the Women and Child Development Minister said, "Arvind Kejriwal opened liquor stores, proved he can go to any limits for profit. I would like to ask all the brothers here, imagine a sister passing by a liquor store hoping for respect and safety, every day; Kejriwal is responsible for her struggle." Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said that BJP is getting temples constructed whereas the Kejriwal Government is opening liquor shops. SR

## AAP leader alleges SDMC wasting taxpayers' money

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) senior leader and MCD incharge Durgesh Pathak slammed the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for allegedly throwing taxpayers' money down the drain.

Citing an example of MCD parking lot worth ₹102 crores, he said that the project worth ₹102 crores has completely drowned in water. "One cannot find cars in MCD's Sarai Jullena Parking because of 5-6 ft high water logging; the whole complex looks like a pool. BJP only cared about earning its commission while making the parking; no has even checked the drastic condition of the complex," he said.

Pathak said, "The residents of Sarai Jullena had been hoping for a proper parking place to be con-

structed in their area for a long time, after which an underground parking space, costing 102 crores, was inaugurated in 2019. However, since then it has not been functional at all and it has been home to nothing but water. It is filled with water levels measuring 5-6 feet, of which we have proof in the form of a video that we have shared with the public."

"The truth is that BJP leaders squandered this money allocated for the underground parking. Money that belonged to the people of Delhi was completely wasted by the BJP-ruled MCD," he added.

However, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that AAP leader Durgesh Pathak is a man of negative mindset who keeps leveling baseless allegations.

## National student academic Congress concludes

**New Delhi:** The two day 4th edition of National Student Academic Congress at Maharaja Agrasen College, Delhi University concluded on Friday. Addressing the students and academicians, former Principal of the college and a renowned academican Prof Sunil Sondhi connected India's past with its present and showed how the country's ancient philosophy contributed immensely to the growth of global education system. In his address, the Principal of the college, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, said this 4th National Student Academic Conference is an eye-opening event because it allowed us to push the envelope of critical thinking. Over the course of two days of the Conference, six academic sessions were organized where 26 research scholars and students presented their papers ranging from issues related to identity, inequalities, policy making, mapping the historical growth of education, and pedagogical shifts that occurred in the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, according to a Press release from the college.

## 2 held in connection with Laxmi Nagar murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI


The Delhi Police has arrested two men in connection with the firing incident where a 24-year-old man was shot dead in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar area.

The accused have been identified as Siddharth (23), a resident of Ganesh Nagar in Shakarpur, and Chirag Sirohi (20), a resident of Krishna Nagar.

During investigation, sections 120B and 149 of the Indian Penal Code and 25 Arms Act have been added after the post-mortem of the deceased and CCTV footage analysis, police said.

Mayur Chauhan, a resident of Guru Ramdas Nagar, was shot dead by unidentified men in Laxmi Nagar.

A caller informed the police that unidentified men fired shots near a gurudwara in Guru Ramdas Nagar and a man was injured in the firing, officials had said. After reaching the spot, the police were informed that the injured man's friend had rushed him to a hospital.

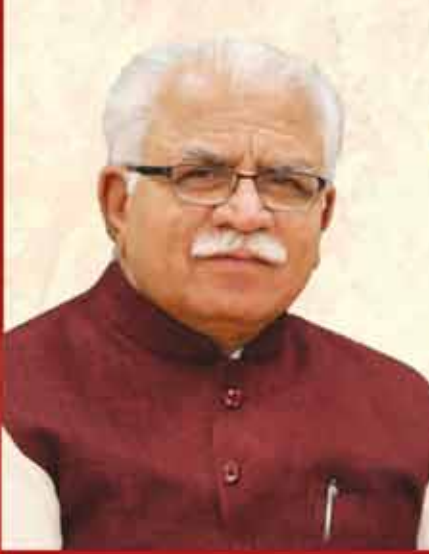


हरियाणा सरकार

75  
आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव


## किसानों के मसीहा दीनबन्धु सर छोटूराम की जयंती पर शत-शत नमन

5 फरवरी, 2022



“दीनबन्धु सर छोटूराम जी का जीवन संघर्ष की एक अद्भुत गाथा है। किसानों और गरीबों की स्थिति सुधारने को उन्होंने अपना निजी कर्तव्य समझा। उनके विचार राष्ट्रीयता से ओत-प्रोत थे। वह एक कर्मठ ईमानदार व स्पष्ट वक्ता थे। ऐसी महान विभूति को कोटि-कोटि प्रणाम।”

- मनोहर लाल



“जन सेवा और किसान कल्याण के लिए अपना जीवन समर्पित करने वाले सर छोटूराम जी को उनकी जयंती पर शत-शत नमन। उन्होंने न केवल देश के अन्नदाताओं के अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष किया, बल्कि वे मजदूरों, वंचितों और शोषितों की भी आवाज बने। समाज के उत्थान में उनका योगदान सदैव अविस्मरणीय रहेगा।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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# Govt willing to bring stricter social media rules: Vaishnav to RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is willing to bring in stricter rules to ensure accountability of social media if there is wider political consensus, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

He said social media needs to be made more accountable and stricter rules in this regard could be brought in if there is political consensus on the matter.

Responding to a query

from Sushil Kumar Modi(BJP) on what action has been initiated against websites like 'Bulli Bai' that targeted Muslim women, he said the government acted immediately when violation was brought to its notice.

"We have to bring about a balance and consensus to make social media accountable to ensure the safety and security of our women and our future generations," the minister said.

For this, he said, social media rules have to be strengthened and if the opposition accuses the government of curbing freedom of speech, then it is wrong.

Responding to Anand Sharma(Congress) query on whether any verification process to effectively check the functioning of social media is done, the minister said there have been stricter social media accountability.

"If the house has consensus, we are willing to provide even more stricter social media rules. I personally believe that for the protection of our citizens, we must make the rules stricter," he said.

"I agree with you that we have to come forward as a society and create much more accountability of the social media," the minister also said.

He said at this point of time, the government is working within the constitutional framework and the role of both states and the Centre has to be seen in perspective.

The law enforcement agencies of the state governments are taking action based on the information which goes from certain agencies or my team, the minister said.

There is a framework created for any cybercrime that happens all over the country and it can be reported over a

central portal and it goes to the relevant law enforcement agency, he added.

On action against websites like 'Bulli Bai', Vaishnav said, "This is a very sensitive matter. Protecting the dignity of women is a fundamental construct of our government and there cannot be any compromise on it. This is our commitment and there is no talk of any religion or region in it."

He said the government has initiated immediate action on this matter, adding action has not been merely on the surface but the IT ministry has gone deeper by going to the root cause.

Vaishnav said social media is all prevalent and has a lot of importance in our lives today and the government has brought comprehensive intermediary rules and guidelines for social media in 2021 on how to make social media safe

and accountable, to avoid its misuse.

Under it, there were five institutional frameworks and all social media intermediaries are obliged to publish their monthly compliance report online, he said.

The minister in his written reply said, "Social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook qualify as Intermediaries as per the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users."

In line with the above objectives, the government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules, 2021 on 25th February, 2021 to ensure that the internet is safe and trusted.

The rules also provide for additional due diligence to be followed by Significant Social Media Intermediaries, he said.

"In case of non-compliance, rule 7 of these Rules becomes applicable and the intermediaries are liable to

lose their exemption from liability under section 79 of the IT Act, 2000," Vaishnav said.

## Behave: Speaker to Mahua's Twitter remark aimed at Chair

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Friday said that the members of the House should maintain their dignity and must refrain from making a statement against the Chair "inside or outside the House". He also sought the members to uphold the dignity of the House.

Birla's apparent reference was to a social media post by TMC MP Mahua Moitra who criticised the Chair, accusing it of taking her valuable time.

Without naming Moitra, Birla said in the Lok Sabha, "I want to bring a subject to your notice that, be it inside the house or outside the house, comments made on the chair are not good for the dignity of the house."

"The Chair always tries to be impartial and works impartially, runs the house by rules and the honourable member who sits on the Speaker's chair gets all the constitutional rights available to the Chair."

Birla said that there may be a difference of opinion between the member and the Chair and members can always visit his chamber to talk about it.

"This is the dignity of parliamentary democracy and I hope that you all will agree with this. I have taken serious cognisance of incidents that had happened in the past few days. I want to request all members that commenting on the chair, especially outside the house using social media and media is not right," he said.

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury agreed with the chair and said that his party will cooperate with the chair.

Sudip Bandyopadhyay, TMC MP, said that he shared the chair's sentiment wholeheartedly.

"We are certainly of the opinion that the prestige of the house should always be kept at a level where we should all remain committed to that principles, ideas and philoso-

phy of this house," said Bandopadhyay whose party MP was in the eye of storm for her criticism of the chair.

Moitra on Friday said in a series of tweets, "LS Speaker had allotted at least 13 mins to me when confronted in his chamber, he claimed he was not in chair hence can't be blamed. When further cornered, he said - It was my greatness that I even allowed you 13 mins in 1st place. Unbelievable. And who is Chair to interrupt me (taking up MY valuable time) to lecture me on whether I should speak with gussa or pyar? None of your business Madam. You can only correct me on rules. You are NOT the moral science teacher for LS."

BJP MP from Bihar Rama Devi was in the chair when Moitra was speaking during the Motion of Thanks to the President in the Lower House.

Several other MPs also assured the Speaker that they would cooperate and uphold the dignity of the house.

## NEET issue: DMK, Cong members walk out of RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition, including the Congress and DMK, on Friday raised a din in the Rajya Sabha over the issue of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and later staged a walkout.

The agitated members made their intentions clear as soon as the House met for the day and DMK members tried

to raise the issue of Tamil Nadu Governor returning the NEET exemption bill.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, however, did not allow the members and rejected their notice to suspend the business of the house under rule 267 to discuss the NEET matter.

He tried to pacify the MPs and urged them to take up the issue during the debate on

motion of thanks to the President's address. The members did not oblige him and raised slogans. Some of them also came into the well of the house.

Naidu continued to run the Zero Hour amidst the din. DMK members were supported by Congress members. They were protesting against

Tamil Nadu Governor R N

Ravi returning to the state government an Assembly bill seeking exemption to the state from the NEET.

Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge too wanted to speak on the issue as DMK members were insisting on raising the issue.

As the Chairman did not allow them to raise the issue, DMK and Congress members

staged a walkout from the House.

Later, making an observation, Naidu said people were feeling happy that the Rajya Sabha was functioning without disruption and members were having their say. The Chairman said 14 Zero Hour mentions were taken up in 30 minutes, and if "others had cooperated" the remaining three too would have been taken up.



## 92 amendments moved by Opposition members in LS, 80 in RS, on Motion of Thanks on President's address

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha have moved 92 amendments on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, while those in the Rajya Sabha have moved 80 amendments. 19 notices for amendments were not moved in the Rajya Sabha as the three members proposing them were not present in the Upper House when the motion was taken up. Sources said the notices given by Opposition members Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M) and K C Venugopal (Congress) for amendments on the Pegasus snooping controversy were not accepted by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as the matter is sub-judice.

The secretary had received 99 notices by 14 Opposition members and since three were not present when the motion was taken up, a total of 80 amendments on the Motion of Thanks were moved on various issues by 11 members in the Upper House. Kareem has also written to Rajya Sabha

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu for giving a ruling that under what grounds his amendments were not admitted or disallowed.

"It is quite unfortunate and condemnable that such a decision has been taken, violating the basic right of a member of Parliament," the Left leader said in his letter, adding that as a representative of people, he has to raise their concerns on the floor of the House. He said this action could create an impression among people that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat deliberately excluded the amendments that deal with incidents which could expose the Centre.

"The unilateral action is completely undemocratic and unethical," Kareem said. He claimed that similar amendments moved in the Lok Sabha were admitted and said the Upper House cannot escape its responsibility to maintain transparency in revealing the reason for disallowing his amendments.

## CPM drafts resolution seeks alliance to fight BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Friday released its draft political resolution for the forthcoming 23rd Party Congress seeking isolation and defeat of BJP by allying with other Left parties and secular forces.

In a statement, the major Left party said that all kinds of coordination are needed for the mass struggle against BJP and RSS' aggressive pursuit of Hindutva agenda. The draft resolution will be debated in the forth-

**The draft resolution also said that the party must be in the "forefront to mobilise the widest sections of people against the aggressive pursuit of neo-liberal policies**

coming Party Congress at Kannur in Kerala in April.

"The nearly eight years of the BJP government have seen the consolidation of the communal corporate

nexus mounting authoritarian attacks. Since returning to government in 2019 it has been aggressively furthering the Hindu Rashtra agenda of the fascist RSS. This is accompanied by an equally aggressive pursuit of neo-liberal policies and growing authoritarian governance. The RSS driven Hindutva Rashtra agenda is perniciously eroding the Constitutional framework and destroying the secular democratic character of the Indian Republic.

"Thus, the main task is to isolate

and defeat the BJP.

This requires the growth of the independent strength of the CPI(M) and the Left forces to mobilise the people in class and mass struggles in a powerful militant manner. Strengthening the Party and the Left forces is also required to lead the fight against the Hindutva agenda and the activities of communal forces. The Party must work for a broad mobilisation of all secular forces against Hindutva communalism," said the draft resolution.

The draft resolution also said that the party must be in the "forefront to mobilise the widest sections of people against the aggressive pursuit of neo-liberal policies; the outright loot of our national assets; large scale privatisation of the public sector, public utilities and mineral resources. It is by intensifying class and mass struggles, like the recent Kisan struggle, that the broadest mobilisation of people and rallying of secular opposition forces against the corporate-communal regime can be accomplished."

## India offers 80 Af cadets 1-yr training programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Honouring its long and time-tested ties with Afghanistan, India has offered a one-year training programme for nearly 80 Afghan cadets after they complete their courses in various military academies here.

The Afghan embassy in India welcomed the offer considering the uncertain future facing the young cadets in view of the prevailing situation there. The cadets will be given training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Eighty young Afghan cadets who recently graduated from various military academies in India have been offered a 12-month training program in Effective English Communication for Business



and Office," the Afghan embassy said in a statement.

It said the programme starts on February 7 and the cadets will be placed in three different institutes in India and that they will be provided with accommodation and a monthly allowance.

"Given the challenges and uncertainty facing these freshly graduated young cadets due to the prevailing situation back home, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in India welcomes and applauds this generous move by the Indian government," the embassy said. India regularly provided military training to young Afghan cadets in the last few years.

The Taliban captured power in Afghanistan on August 15 following the withdrawal of the American forces. India has not recognised the new regime in Afghanistan

and has been pitching for the formation of a truly inclusive government in Kabul besides insisting that Afghan soil must not be used for any terrorist activities against any country.

In the last couple of months, India delivered large quantities of life-saving medicines and other supplies as part of its humanitarian aid to the war-torn country.

India has been pitching for providing unimpeded humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to address the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the country.

Concerned about the developments in Afghanistan, India hosted a regional dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10. It was attended by National Security Advisors of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

## JNU VC Jagadesh Kumar appointed UGC chairman, says priority is to implement NEP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

JNU Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar, whose tenure was marred by controversies, has been appointed as chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC). According to the Ministry of Education, Kumar has been appointed as the chairman of the higher education regulator for a period of five years.

The post of the UGC chairman fell vacant on December 7 after Prof D P Singh, who had taken charge in 2018, resigned upon turning 65. The post of the vice-chairman of the higher education regulator is also vacant. "The Central Government has appointed M Jagadesh Kumar as UGC Chairman for a period of five years or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest," a senior MoE official said.

Sixty-year-old Kumar is currently holding the charge as acting VC of the varsity after his five-year term expired last year. The Ministry is yet to appoint his successor at JNU. "It is definitely going to be chal-

lenging. My priority will be to ensure the implementation of the National Education Policy. The sooner it is implemented, the better it will be for us. I will be meeting the vice-chancellors of universities across the country regarding the implementation of NEP. The NEP has several aspects like the multidisciplinary courses so we will work on those aspects," Kumar stated after his appointment.

From the seditious row of 2016 and lockdown of his office multiple times to then

HRD minister getting stuck for over six hours at the venue of JNU's convocation in 2019, Kumar's tenure as the VC has been marred by controversies. Kumar, who was made the VC in January 2016, had his first brush with controversy as the VC just a week after his appointment when students locked horns with the administration over holding of an event against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

## Pradeep Mehendiratta, who helmed American scholars in Indian studies, passes away

**New Delhi:** Dr Pradeep Mehendiratta, the former Director General of Indian Institute of American Studies, who contributed to the Indian studies in American Universities, preservation of Indian art, archeology and ethno-music, passed away on January 28, after a brief illness. Over the last six decades, Dr Mehendiratta inspired many American scholars to pursue research in India on subjects ranging from anthropology to zoology that led to publication of over 3000 books on India studies. He also established 16 language schools where American students could add to their skills in speaking and writing in Indian languages. Dr Mehendiratta is survived by his wife, Santosh, son Deepak and daughter Purnima who is currently heading the Institute. **PNS**

## No plan to change forest cover definition: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday said that there is "no plan" at present, to change the definition of "forest cover and very dense forest".

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Union MoS for Environment, said in the Rajya Sabha that the "definition of forest cover in India State of Forest Report (ISFR) represents the true picture as described".

The Minister was responding to Member of Parliament Vandana Chavan's query that whether "the government is aware that the current definition of 'forest cover' in the ISFR does not differentiate between natural forests and plantations, thereby providing an incomplete picture of the status of forests, whether the ISFR used ancillary field datasets to define 'very dense' forests and also, whether the government planned to change the definition of forest cover and very dense forests to better reflect country's actual forest cover".

India's definition of forest has been taken on the basis of three criteria as per the decision under Kyoto Protocol and very well accepted by United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for their reporting or communications, the Rajya Sabha was told.

The forest can be defined by any country depending upon the capacities and capabilities of the country. The three criteria based on which the forests are defined, comprises, crown cover percentage, minimum area of stand and minimum height of trees.

"The forest cover is defined as 'all land, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 per cent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such land may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm," the minister elaborated.

Further the minister said: "In ISFR-2021 published by the Ministry on January 13, 2022, the forest cover figures are divided as 'Inside Recorded Forest Area' and 'Outside Recorded Forest Area'. Those 'Inside Recorded Forest Area' are basically natural forests and plantations of the Forest Department. The forest cover

'Outside Recorded Forest Area' are mango orchards, coconut plantations, block plantations of agro-forestry."

"Thus, data of mango plantations etc is automatically getting separated out as the Forest Survey of India is reporting the figures of 'Outside Recorded Forest Area' separately," he added. The interpretation of satellite data for classifying 'Very Dense Forest' (VDF) is also supported by the ancillary data such as field inventory data of FSI, ground truthing data and high-resolution satel-

lite imagery wherever required, he added.

However, the definition is being contested by the green researchers

like Sharachandra Lele, distinguished fellow in environmental policy and governance at Bangalore-based ATREE, a global non-profit sustainability and conservation advocacy group. "Merely depending on satellite imagery and using state-level tree inventories for the FSI report is unreliable," according to Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher at the Centre

for Policy Research. She added:

Natural forests and plantations are two very different things, but satellite imaging equates the two. Problems with the methodology of forest survey are not new. They have been raised time and again, for over a decade.

"The survey should also move beyond merely measuring the area under forest cover to studying the quality of forests in India: Which are the major kinds of forests, the area under each and their location," Lele added.





# Covid orphans must be paid compensation soon SC tells States, UTs to appoint nodal officers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finding as many as 16 States and 3 Union Territories failing in paying compensation to Covid-orphaned kids, the Supreme Court on Friday directed all State Governments and Union Territories to appoint dedicated nodal officers to coordinate with the member secretary of the state legal service authority (SLSA) to facilitate payment of ex gratia compensation to family members of Covid-19 victims.

A bench comprising Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna also directed the State Governments to give full particulars like name, address and death certificate to the concerned SLSA, as also complete details with respect to orphans, within one week from today (Friday) failing which the matter shall be viewed very seriously.

The top court reiterated that applications seeking compensation should not be rejected on technical grounds and if any technical glitch is found, the states concerned should give them opportunity to cure defects as the ultimate goal of the welfare State is to provide some solace and compensation to victims.

States should make all endeavours to pay the compensation to the victims within a maximum period of 10 days from the receipt of the claim, said the Bench. "Despite our earlier order directing all the State Governments to give full particulars of the deaths

due to Covid-19 registered with their portal and the number of persons to whom the ex gratia payment is made, it appears that most of the States have given only statistics and no full particulars are given.

"The object and purpose of our earlier order to give full particulars was to see that at least with respect to those cases which are registered with the State Governments if they have not approached the appropriate authorities for compensation," the bench said.

"The legal services authority will reach them and see that they make an application and they act as facilitator as a bridge. Similarly the particulars with respect to orphans are not given. We direct all the state governments to give full particulars including their name, address, death certificate etc. To the concerned state legal service authority including full particulars with respect to orphans within one week from today failing which the matter shall be viewed very seriously," it said.

The apex court said that the endeavour of legal services authority would be to reach to those sufferers/victims who have yet not approached for whatever reasons. "We also direct the concerned State Governments to appoint a dedicated officer, not below the rank of deputy secretary in Chief Minister Secretariat, who shall be in constant touch with the member secretary of the state legal service authority so

that he may coordinate with him and see to it that the applications are received from eligible persons.

"As and when the particulars are given on verification, the member secretary finds that out of the case registered, some of family members are yet not given compensation, the member secretary to reach to them through the secretary DLSA/ secretary Taluka and para legal volunteers. Their function would be to facilitate those who could not approach to make an application for compensation and see that they get compensation. Their role shall be of ombudsman as a bridge between the victims and the Government. If there is any difficulty found by the member secretary he may immediately approach the concerned person hereinabove and all are directed to cooperate," the bench said.

The apex court also rapped the Maharashtra Government for rejecting applications submitted offline seeking compensation. "No application should be rejected for any application which is submitted offline. You are not doing charity. As a welfare state it is their duty. Why are you sending people from pillar to post. Do it from the bottom of the heart," the bench said. Advocate Gaurav Bansal, who is the petitioner in the case, submitted before the bench that some media reports have stated that in Karnataka in Yadgir district, cheques given to some of the victims have bounced.

# J&K L-G withdraws posts referred to PSC, SSB

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory administration headed by Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu & Kashmir has apparently opened 'Pandora's Box' by withdrawing all the posts referred to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Services Selection Board (SSB) before October 31, 2019, for which selections have not been finalised till date. The decision, with far reaching implications, has already invited a lot of criticism from job aspirants awaiting final selection lists for a long time.

Several local leaders and Opposition parties have also questioned the wisdom behind taking this decision at a time

when the unemployment rate in J&K is hovering over 15 per cent.

According to an internal communication of the General Administration Department dated February 3, 2022, "All posts referred to JKPSC/SSB prior to 31.10.2019, for which selections have not been finalised till date, as also the posts in which there are litigations and the cases are pending in court shall be deemed to have been withdrawn with immediate effect". The decision was earlier taken during the meeting of the Administrative council on February 2.

In the letter, the GAD has also directed all the concerned to implement the directions of

the administrative council in letter and spirit under an intimation to the GAD.

Reacting to the sudden announcement former cabinet minister and Chairman of the Dogra Swabhimaan Sangathan Lal Singh said, "the UT administration is spoiling the career of youth on verge of attaining maximum age". He said, "The decision has been taken without application of mind and must be reviewed at the highest level to save the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir".

In a written statement JKAPNI party youth leader Rafeeq Ahmad Khan said, "The Govt is working aimlessly without knowing how to tackle the issue of growing

unemployment." "At one hand, they advertise vacant posts for recruitment and then abruptly these posts are withdrawn without taking into account the amount of mental stress and psychological state being faced by the unemployed youth".

The J&K unit of the Congress party also strongly opposed the UT Government's decision to withdraw all the posts referred to the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Services Selection Board (SSB) before October 31, 2019, for which selections have not been finalised till date. Slamming the Government, former minister Yogesh Sawhney said the Government is playing with the future of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sawhney said the young aspirants are not at fault even then this Government is penalising them? Several job aspirants awaiting their final selections claimed, "when these jobs were advertised before October 10, 2019 the same were reserved exclusively for them (residents of J&K). But now when the UT administration will issue fresh notification all those who have acquired fresh domicile certificates can also compete with them. "We have not only lost all these years waiting for the selection list but also don't know what lies in store for us in the near future. We are left stranded staring at the prospect of attaining maximum age limit while securing a Government job".

# Govt provides Z-plus security to Owaisi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Government on Friday provided 'Z' category security by commandos of the CRPF to prominent Muslim leader and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

Official sources said the CRPF commandos will be deployed for the security of Owaisi round-the-clock. The decision to grant 'Z' category security to the chief of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) came a day after his car was allegedly fired upon by unknown assailants near Chhijarsi toll plaza in Napur district while he was returning to Delhi after attending election-related events in western Uttar Pradesh.

No one was injured in the

incident, Owaisi had said while urging the Election Commission to ensure an independent probe into the incident.

"Two persons have been arrested for firing on AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi's convoy while he was returning to Delhi after campaigning in Uttar Pradesh. The investigation is underway," Superintendent of Police Hapur, Deepak Bhuker said. Bhuker informed that the accused were hurt by Owaisi's "anti-Hindu" statements.

Owaisi will raise the issue of a security breach and attack on his convoy in Parliament on Friday, said sources. According to sources, Owaisi will meet Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla to discuss the issue. Meanwhile, Akbaruddin Owaisi, brother of



Asaduddin, also reached Delhi late Thursday night.

Sources said that Sachin Pandit, the man who shot at Owaisi, claims to be a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. To show off his affiliation to the saffron party, Sachin posted a copy of his membership slip on social media. In the slip, his name is written as 'Deshbhakt Sachin Hindu'. Pictures of Sachin with BJP leaders, including UP Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, MP Mahesh Sharma, are now going viral on social media. Sachin, a law student, is from Durai village in the Badalpur area of Greater Noida. Sachin's father, Vinod Pandit, works for private companies on contract. Cops found that Sachin was earlier booked in an attempt-to-murder case. Soon after Sachin was arrested, the Greater Noida Police began interrogating his relatives as well. The interrogation went on for about five hours on Thursday night.

The second accused, Shubham, is a resident of Saharanpur. A tenth pass, Shubham is a farmer. Police have not found any criminal case against him so far. During interrogation, they said that

both of them were very angry with the statements of Asaduddin Owaisi and his brother Akbaruddin Owaisi. They watched videos of Owaisi's speeches on Facebook and Twitter. A country-made pistol was recovered from them. Police said the duo revealed the names of the people from whom they had bought the weapon and they will be arrested soon. Police are verifying Sachin's claims of affiliation to a Hindu organization.

The Election Commission also sought details in the attack on Asaduddin Owaisi, from the ADG law and order Prashant Kumar. Kumar said that a case has been registered on the complaint of MP Owaisi's representative. Two people have been arrested.

# BJP marching ahead with resolve of 300 paar seats in UP: Shah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that BJP is going to repeat history in Uttar Pradesh as Yogi Adityanath has restored the rule of the law in the State.

"In 2014, 2017, and 2019 polls, people of UP chose development under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and gave absolute majority. Today with Chief Minister Yogi filing his nomination, the BJP is marching ahead with the resolve of '300 paar'," Shah said at a public meeting in Gorakhpur before Yogi Adityanath filed his nomination papers for Gorakhpur Sadar Assembly seat.

Hitting out at the Opposition particularly the Samajwadi Party he said: "UP is now free from Azam, Atiq, and Mukhtar. Mafia is seen at only three places in UP now - in jail or outside UP or they appear as candidates for the Samajwadi Party. Mafia used to rule UP, police were scared of them. Today, the mafia walks up to the Police station to surrender."

Shah said once upon a time, Gorakhpur was consid-



ered the hiding place of the mafia. But today Gorakhpur means development — G stands for Ganga Expressway, O for Organic Agriculture, R for Roads, A for AIIMS, K, H — Khad (Fertilizer Factory), P, U for Purvanchal Expressway, and R for Regional Medical Center.

"Today the opposition does not have any issue. They are spreading canards. I want to tell them that whatever they do, people of Uttar Pradesh are with BJP and this time the party is again going to get more than 300 seats," he said.

Shah said CM Yogi estab-

lished the rule of law and good governance in UP.

He said no one talking negatively about BJP because development has taken place in UP under the leadership of Yogi.

He called upon the people that their voices should go to Saharanpur and it should be known that BJP is winning more than 300 seats.

Union education minister and election in-charge UP Dharmendra Pradhan and UP BJP president Swantra Deo Singh along with several MPs and Legislators were present on this occasion.

# Cong releases election song in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress party released its election song for the forthcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on Friday.

The poll anthem, set to the tune of popular song Srivalli from the Telugu film Pushpa, has as its refrain, "Tu hai gazab, UP; Teri kasam, UP (You are fantastic, UP; I swear, UP)". The Uttar Pradesh Congress shared the song with the caption, "Proud to be from Uttar Pradesh".

In the video posted with the song, there are multiple frames in which it is written 'Hum UP type hai' (We are UP type). This appears to be a dig at Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman who had described a press conference answer as 'UP type' during a briefing after her presentation of the Union Budget earlier this week.

The finance minister's comment snowballed into a political row after Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi slammed her for it and asked, "What was the need to insult the people of UP like this?"

Understand, the people of UP are proud to be 'UP type'."

Meanwhile Congress General Secretary and Uttar Pradesh in-charge Priyanka Gandhi on Friday continued with door-to-door election campaign and roadshow in Ghaziabad in favor of Congress candidates from Ghaziabad and Sahibabad Assembly constituencies. During this, she said that in the last five years in Uttar Pradesh, only Congress has been seen on the ground on public issues and had stood with the people. "We have done a lot to strengthen our organization. The youth group is unhappy about the recruitment of army and other recruitments. Telling the problems of the farmer and the youth. This is the real voice of Uttar Pradesh," she said during a roadshow in Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, where Sangeeta Tyagi, wife of late Congress leader Rajiv Tyagi, is the Congress candidate. Rajiv Tyagi passed away in August 2020 following a cardiac arrest during a debate on a TV channel.

Vadra claimed that the

Congress party is fighting with full force in Uttar Pradesh and for the first time in 30 years, the Congress Party is fighting in all 403 seats in UP. "We are raising such issues which are reality of interest to the people, are related to the people. Crime against women is increasing in Uttar Pradesh mainly due to shortage of women in the police force," she said adding that if the Congress Government is formed in the State, women will be given reservation in the recruitment of 25 percent in the police force. She said that crime is happening every day in the state whereas the Chief Minister claims to reduce crime in the state. Interacting with the public, she talked to people on women empowerment and the security system. She also said that there was no development in the BJP Government, that is why it is doing caste-religion politics.

During the roadshow, she stopped her convoy and talked to Bijendra Singh, a resident of Azad Bihar, Khoda. Vijendra said that his wife had died in the month of June during the

Corona period. After wife Neelam became pregnant, he roamed around in all the hospitals of Noida. Hospital managers admitted his wife and did not give treatment. On this the Congress General Secretary assured him help. After this her convoy reached Mangal Bazar. There, the sanitation workers demanded an end to the contractual practice and made the cleaning workers permanent. After this, she campaigned at Gaggi Bhati gate. Despite rain on Thursday, she campaigned in Bulandshahr. She has also shared on Twitter a video of a conversation with a young man who wants to join the army. She held a meeting on a tractor with a young man carrying sugarcane. She wrote that "Yesterday you saw the press conference of the Chief Minister of UP with false figures. Now watch the press conference of the public. This young man is the son of a farmer and is sad about the army recruitment and other recruitments. Telling the problems of the farmer and the youth. This is the real voice of Uttar Pradesh".

# BJP to release UP manifesto on Feb 6

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh will release its 'Sankalp Patra' (poll manifesto) on February 6.

This was announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur on Friday while inaugurating his election media center in the Gorakhpur Sadar Assembly segment.

The CM said that the issue of development, good governance, and nationalism would be the priority in the Sankalp Patra.

He said BJP developed UP without discrimination and now the party plans to reach from every village to every doorstep.

Earlier on the day, Yogi Adityanath filed his nomination papers from Gorakhpur Sadar assembly seat in presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, UP BJP president Swantra Deo Singh, and other party leaders.

# At which shop in India is the blood of Hindu-Muslims found, says Khurshid

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Senior Congress leader and former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said in a meeting organized on the Upperkot that those who say that the path of Hindu and Muslim are different, I would like to ask those haters in which market of India there is a shop, where bottles of blood of Hindus and Muslims are sold? He said that I was born in the house of AMU Vice Chancellor in Aligarh. I spent my childhood here. There is no need to be misled by anyone, who stood by you during CAA-NRC, needs to be strengthened today.

Salman Khurshid said these things in support of Congress city candidate Mohd. Salman Intiaz. He said that in Farrukhabad, where Ganga flows, Hindu brothers sanctify themselves by bathing on one side on it's bank and on the other side Muslim brothers offer Namaz. There was no Hindu Muslim written anywhere in the water of that Ganga Maa. She (Ganga) is the mother of all of us which helps to irrigate our fields and where grain grows. We eat bread from the flour of that grain and

**Congress leader Salman Khurshid held a meeting in Uparkot and sought votes from the people of Aligarh. Describing Aligarh as his birthplace, he said, do not fall under anyone's delusion**

blood runs in our veins from it. Neither in the grain, nor in the bread nor in the blood, Hindu Muslim is written anywhere. Then why these things?

He said that today I have come to Aligarh for my own namesake and my younger brother to request votes from you people and I feel very proud. This place is a place of great respect and shows communal harmony. He further said that one should look at the luck of this country, Islam is the message of humanity, humanity is the message of helping each other. Hinduism, which is called Sanatan Dharma, is also a respect for humanity. We are asking for votes in the name of that humanity. Ganga Jamuni is seeking votes from all of you.

Taking a jibe at CAA-NRC, he said that our younger brothers are standing here. The government had raised a question in front of them. The question

was who are you? If someone asks a person, are you the child of your mother? Give proof that India is your mother. He said that mother's child gives proof from his heart, not on pieces of paper. When asked this question (pointing to Salman Intiaz) your lion turned out to be by your side always.

In the end, he asked for votes by calling himself from Aligarh. He said that those who say the Congress is on the ground, we have given the answer that we are on the ground. I have come to seek votes for your strong soldier. Votes are being asked for Salman again and again from the stage. Aligarh is also my home. So take care. Welcoming the people who left the SP BSP, he said that those who are left now should also come. Congress leaders Rubi Zubairi, Agha Yunus etc. were present on this occasion.



People hold umbrellas and walk on a snow-covered road during snowfall, in Shimla on Friday. PTI Photo



Navy personnel from INS Aditya gives medical assistance to a critically-injured fisherman at sea, about 75 nm West of Goa. The fisherman was treated onboard after he was given supplemental oxygen and first-aid in the fishing boat. PTI Photo

# States, UTs cancel 4.28 bogus ration cards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

States and Union Territories have cancelled about 4.28 crore bogus ration cards during the 2014-21 period. Maharashtra is top in the list, followed by West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Ashwini Kumar Choubeys said the operational responsibilities of the public distribution system under the food law rest with the State Governments.

The responsibilities include identification of eligible beneficiaries/ households under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), issuance of ration cards to them as per eligibility and distribution of foodgrains to them from ration shops. Under the NFSA, the state/UT Governments periodically review their lists of ration card holders to weed out potentially ineligible, duplicate or bogus ration cards from their respective systems after proper verification.

"Accordingly, the State/UTs have reported cancellation of about 4.28 crore

bogus ration cards during the period 2014 to 2021 so far," Choubeys said. As

per the list, Uttar Pradesh has cancelled 1,70,75,301 bogus ration cards, followed by Maharashtra (41,65,552), West Bengal (41,09,873), Madhya Pradesh (23,53,760), Rajasthan (22,66,485) and Karnataka (21,54,193). As many as 18,73,325 and 12,21,283 cards were deleted in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. Chhattisgarh deleted 13,57,677

during this period.







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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Fair justice

There is pressing need for a national remission policy; one that tries to humanise punishment

There is an urgent need to standardise the policy on remission of jail sentences, especially of life-term prisoners. Presently the States determine their respective policies. Earlier this week, the Supreme Court asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to re-examine its remission rule that prescribes a minimum age of 60 for a prisoner to be eligible to be considered for premature release. The court observed that a young offender of 20 will have to be in jail for a whopping 40 years before being able to apply for remission. Waiting for 60 years is staggering. It is as if a retirement policy applies to the prisoners as well. The apex court's observation should alert the Government, prison reform committees and social reform organisations to a fundamental problem with the punishment system prevalent in the country. Punishing criminals is called retributive justice. Retribution means punishment inflicted as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act. In judicial parlance, the meaning is two-fold: Punishment to the culprit and compensation to the victims. The latter, if not backed by a proactive package to give the prisoner a chance to reform and return to society, will mean the same as the former. So, it calls for humanising punishment. Abolition of the death penalty can be considered a human act. In case of its retention, a sentence for life can be considered to have a human element. International practices are tending towards life sentences with a possibility of release. At some point during their incarceration, life prisoners should get the chance for release into society.



Remission does not mean diluting the crime or the power of sentencing. Rather, the power to release a prisoner prematurely is a bigger power than the one that sends the prisoner to jail in the first place. For, it comes with several responsibilities: Determining what is the sufficient period of incarceration commensurate with the seriousness of the crime; monitoring the former prisoner after remission with the power of sending the person back to prison for any violation of parole conditions; and, overseeing the transition of the former prisoner to a parolee and then a normal member of society. The process of law that begins with punishing a person for a crime must end with that person's reformation, followed by rehabilitation. The premise that a "hardened" criminal can never reform is no justification for denying remission. Remission should act as an incentive for self-discipline. However, arbitrary or extreme — as in the case of Uttar Pradesh — eligibility terms for remission are counter-productive. The Supreme Court has, in the Laxman Naskar case, pointed out to criteria to consider for premature release: Conduct-record of a prisoner while in jail, whether they had lost their 'potentiality' in committing a crime, that there is no fruitful purpose in confining them anymore, and the socio-economic conditions of the convicts' families. They should form the basis for a national remission policy as part of the attempt to humanise punishment.

Remission does not mean diluting the crime or the power of sentencing. Rather, the power to release a prisoner prematurely is a bigger power than the one that sends the prisoner to jail in the first place. For, it comes with several responsibilities: Determining what is the sufficient period of incarceration commensurate with the seriousness of the crime; monitoring the former prisoner after remission with the power of sending the person back to prison for any violation of parole conditions; and, overseeing the transition of the former prisoner to a parolee and then a normal member of society. The process of law that begins with punishing a person for a crime must end with that person's reformation, followed by rehabilitation. The premise that a "hardened" criminal can never reform is no justification for denying remission. Remission should act as an incentive for self-discipline. However, arbitrary or extreme — as in the case of Uttar Pradesh — eligibility terms for remission are counter-productive. The Supreme Court has, in the Laxman Naskar case, pointed out to criteria to consider for premature release: Conduct-record of a prisoner while in jail, whether they had lost their 'potentiality' in committing a crime, that there is no fruitful purpose in confining them anymore, and the socio-economic conditions of the convicts' families. They should form the basis for a national remission policy as part of the attempt to humanise punishment.

### PICTALK



People walk a snow-covered street during snowfall in Shimla

PTI

## Hit harder

India's symbolic protest at the Beijing Winter Olympics leaves a lot more to be desired

The Government's decision about the "diplomatic boycott" of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, though not wrong, falls a bit short of the nation's expectations. Apart from the symbolic "boycott" and the Prasar Bharati's decision to not telecast the opening and closing ceremonies, the response should have been harder as China's was a direct mock aimed at no other participating country but India when it — brazenly reflecting its anti-India political attitude — announced that it had chosen a controversial torchbearer to open the event with, the motto 'Together for a Shared Future' notwithstanding. Coming soon after new revelations about the Galwan valley clash rubbed the dragon's nose in the mud, it was an opportunity for the Indian Government to walk its talk and respond more vigorously to its decision of making a Galwan soldier one of the torchbearers. China yet again sought to start provoking India for no rhyme or reason. It's the world's most populous country; it couldn't find anybody else to replace the Galwan soldier? It may be a mere token protest by India, but the underlying message of the "boycott" is not lost on anyone.



It's all very well and behoves sportspersons not to mix any games with politics, but India could have even considered not sending a delegation altogether to these Olympics. As it is, and it is said with due regard and the deepest respect to his craft and fortitude, Arif Mohammad Khan (he even delayed his wedding to try to amass enough ranking points to qualify for Beijing) is the sole Indian participant there and, being a proud Indian Kashmiri and having trained with Indian soldiers both in school and near the famed ski slopes of Sonmarg, one is confident that he would have felt and appreciated that sports shouldn't be at all mixed with politics but that the pride and dignity of a sovereign nation like India is second to none. There are 2,871 athletes (1,581 men and 1,290 women; 15 disciplines across 109 events) from 91 countries in these Olympics, which will play out between February 4 and 20. However, despite being home to part of the world's highest mountain range, winter sports barely figure in our cricket-obsessed sporting priorities. Of the only 15 athletes who have so far participated in the Winter Games, none has returned with a medal.

# Where are abducted Afghan activists?

The Taliban must stop feigning ignorance and immediately release the six female activists who were abducted, and subsequently disappeared



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The Associated Press has reported that, according to the Taliban, universities reopened, for both men and women, in six of Afghanistan's 34 provinces on February 2, 2022. They had started with six provinces — Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah, Nimroz and Laghman — because these are warmer than the rest of the country where winter is bitterly cold. Eventually, all men and women will return to universities. Co-education, however, is out. In keeping with the Taliban's policy of gender-segregated education, men will attend classes in the morning, and women in the afternoon.

This development merits a welcome, particularly since the Taliban have kept their promise. Their Acting Minister for Higher Education, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, had announced at a press conference in Kabul on January 12 that the Government would soon reopen the universities for both male and female students. Saying that male and female students would be taught separately, he had attributed the delay in reopening the universities to the lack of infrastructure for this as well as the economic crisis afflicting Afghanistan.

The Taliban, however, have miles to go before they can come even close to honouring some of the basic human rights of women and girls. At the time of writing, girls in classes above six cannot attend schools; boys can. Women are allowed to work only in some segments of the health and education sectors, and that too under severe restrictions. They can venture out of their houses only in the company of "close" male relatives, and that too fully covered in burqas. Not one of the "interim" Ministers in the Taliban Government is a woman, though, according to Zabihullah Mujahid, Acting Deputy Minister for Information and Culture; there may be one in the future. Indeed, things have been carried to a ludicrous extent: The telecast of IPL matches was banned as women were seen among the spectators!

This is an absolute pity. Women had taken significant strides forward after the ouster of



the first Taliban Government, which had put them virtually under house arrest, in 2001. As George R Allen and Wanda Felbab-Brown state in their paper, *Fate of Women's Rights in Afghanistan*, which is a part of Brookings Institution's 19A Gender Equality Series, the 2004-post Taliban Constitution "gave Afghan women all kinds of rights, and the post-Taliban political dispensation brought social and economic growth that significantly improved their socio-economic condition". They further state that against fewer than 10 in 2003, the percentage of girls enrolled in primary schools rose to 33 in 2017. Registered female enrolment in secondary schools rose from six to 39 per cent in the same year. Three-and-a-half million Afghan girls were in school with 100,000 studying in universities. They add: "By 2020, 21 per cent of Afghan civil servants were women (compared with none under the Taliban regime). Almost 16 per cent of them were in senior management positions, and 27 per cent of Afghan Members of Parliament were women."

The beneficiaries were, of course, urban women. According to Allen and Felbab-Brown, in rural Afghanistan, where 76 per cent of Afghanistan's women live, life



THAT THE TALIBAN THEMSELVES HAD ABDUCTED THE WOMEN, WAS STRONGLY SUGGESTED ON JANUARY 23 ITSELF BY ZABIHULLAH MUJAHID'S REMARK THAT THE TALIBAN HAD 'THE RIGHT TO ARREST AND DETAIN DISSIDENTS'

had not changed much from the Taliban era, their formal legal empowerment notwithstanding. Existence of rights and their utilisation by some is, however, a starting point. In this case, the achievements of Afghan women were a great exemplar. Things do not happen overnight. Change is generally a slow process in history, more so in a traditional country like Afghanistan. The extinction of the rights Afghan women enjoyed under the previous regime will reverse the process that had begun.

Besides severe curtailment of women's rights, vicious violence has been unleashed on women demonstrating peacefully against the discriminatory and restrictive policies of the Taliban Government. If this is shocking, much more so has been the abduction, and subsequent disappearance, of six women activists — Mursal Ayar, Parwana Ibrahimkhail, Tamana Paryani and the latter's three sisters — Zarmina, Shafiqah and Karima. They had participated in demonstrations demanding equal rights for women.

The Taliban have claimed ignorance of the women's whereabouts and dodged responsibility. According to a Human Rights Watch report by its Associate Asia Director, Patricia Gossman, titled

'*Afghan Women's Rights Activists Forcibly Disappeared*', during the January 23 talks in Oslo, Norway, between Taliban authorities and some western Governments, Afghan activist Hoda Khamosh publicly called upon the Taliban Government's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to "pick up the phone and call Kabul (and) order the immediate release" of the detained women; Muttaqi's reported reply was that "bad" elements among the Taliban, whom they were expelling, may have detained the women. The situation, he added, was under investigation.

That this could not have been so, and the Taliban themselves had abducted the women, was strongly suggested on January 23 itself by Zabihullah Mujahid's remark that the Taliban had "the right to arrest and detain dissidents". Thus, while the reopening of universities in six provinces, with both male and female students attending classes, is commendable, the world's unrelenting focus must be on securing the release of the six women or, if they have been harmed, exemplary punishment to those responsible.

(The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### VOTERS WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY

Sir — With the first phase of election in Uttar Pradesh, besides Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa, set to take place in a few days, the political tempers in the State are rising each passing hour. Both the ruling and the Opposition parties are engaged in mudslinging and calling their rivals names, and simultaneously making last-ditch efforts to convince the State's electorate that they alone happen to be the public's well-wishers who largely cherish solitude for their wellbeing as also for the State's holistic development. But ironically, there are stark contradictions between the statements coming from the ruling dispensation and the Opposition camp.

The issues include the law and order situation, employment, COVID-19 management, and so on, even as the farmers are sulking over the non-delivery of promises thus far such as the MSP fixation, withdrawal of cases against farmers and compensation to the families who lost their loved ones during the agitation, despite the agreement reached in this regard. However, the voters need to take the final call before deciding which party or its leaders have lived up to the former's expectations and, hence, possess the merit to take over the reins of the Government. The voters, after all, are the real 'kingmakers'.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### GOOD WORK, BUT NO CAKEWALK

Sir — This refers to the editorial, 'Now or never' (February 4). There's no denying that Yogi Adityanath, who in a surprise move by Narendra Modi was anointed the UP CM in 2017, has since come a long way. Being the youngest-ever MP at 26, Yogi was not new to politics. As the CM, he has taken the State's law and order to such heights that the miscreants who attacked Asaduddin Owaisi's carcade were identified and caught within hours. His corruption-free tenure has seen more electricity supply than ever in the past. Better network of roads, partly due to the 'double-engine' synergy, enables new business centres to spawn.

## China's Galwan lies exposed



This refers to the report, 'China lost 42 soldiers, not 4, in Galwan' (February 4). The findings of a year-long investigation by a group of social media researchers that China's casualties in the June 2020 Galwan valley clash with India were much higher than the official figure have put Beijing in a spot. Its efforts to silence any discussion about the high-altitude battle have been exposed, and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has cut a sorry figure over the undercount of soldier

deaths. Against the count of just four fatalities, announced eight months after the clash, a report in an Australian newspaper says that at least 38 soldiers drowned while crossing a fast-flowing river in sub-zero temperatures in darkness.

In comparison, highlighting its professionalism and honouring its bravehearts, the Indian Army was quick to report the loss of 20 men in the incident. The report, 'Galwan Decoded', lays bare many facts that have been hidden by Beijing. China's claims, it concludes, were mostly fabricated stories. In February last year, a Russian news agency wrote "History cannot be distorted and heroes cannot be forgotten", while reporting the death of 45 PLA soldiers in Galwan. Equally disturbing is China's decision to make a regimental commander, injured in the Galwan clash, a torchbearer for the Beijing Winter Olympics, a clear indication that the sporting event has been politicised.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

The State's new international airports are an icing on the cake. His push on more medical colleges shall stand the State in good stead in the long run. COVID control may not have been outstanding but it was not bad either. The upcoming elections should have been a cakewalk for the incumbent CM, but cakewalks exist only in fiction. In India's most politically significant State, caste alliances swing from one side to the other within hours. Whether the "Militant Monk" shall create history is currently in the realm of suspense and speculation. Wait and watch, is the name of the game.

SK Prabhakar | Gurugram

### HAPPY BASANT PANCHAMI TO ALL!

Sir — Basant Panchami (Vasant means Spring and Panchami is the fifth day of Shukla Paksha, the fortnight of the waxing moon in the Hindu month of Magh) is dedicated to Ma Saraswati, the goddess of learning, music, art and speech. Yellow colour holds great significance in Saraswati Puja

as it represents energy, knowledge and enlightenment. This festival indicates the beginning of the spring season. It is also the day when Lord Ram and his brothers married Sita and her three cousins. So this day is considered very auspicious for marriage.

Devotees, especially those in the education sector, worship goddess Saraswati to get enlightenment and to get rid of lethargy. Schools and colleges hold special prayers in the morning to seek the blessings of the goddess of knowledge, and senior students organise programmes to motivate their juniors. Last year, students could not celebrate Basant Panchami because of COVID but by now most of them are vaccinated. However, the participating teacher and students should still take all the precautions. Hope this Basant Panchami, you get more knowledge. Happy Basant Panchami!

Vinay Verma | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

We have come a long way now, and we have more confidence to go in the direction of running schools.

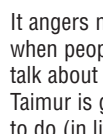


NITI Aayog member — VK Paul



The US military successfully removed a major terrorist threat, ISIS leader Haji Abdullah.

US President — Joe Biden



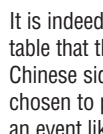
It angers me when people talk about what Taimur is going to do (in life).

Actor — Kareena Kapoor Khan



I wasn't lucky...that there was no crowd (at his biggest victory). I couldn't enjoy more.

Italian tennis player — Lorenzo Musetti



It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicise an event like the (Winter) Olympics.

MEA spokesperson — Arindam Bagchi





## FIRST COLUMN

### ASIA IS SHRINKING IN POPULATION TERMS

India's fertility rate has now dropped below 'replacement level'



GWYNNE DYER

In the politics of population, the magic number is 2.1. That is 'replacement level': if a country's fertility rate is 2.1, then the country's population will remain level. Above that, it starts to grow; below 2.1, it eventually falls. And something really significant is happening in Asia. The big news is that India's fertility rate has now dropped below replacement level: it is 2.0 per woman. That doesn't mean that India's population will start falling right away. India will still overtake China and become the world's most populous country later this decade, with around 1.45 billion people, but in due course it will stop growing and start shrinking. The delay is because human beings are not salmon: they do not spawn and die. Instead, they live on another thirty or forty or even fifty years after their children are born, so there is still a little bit of growth left in most Asian countries. Let me explain, using the Dyer clan. I was the eldest of five children. We all lived to grow



up, and on average we had exactly 2.0 children each — just below replacement level. Those children all lived to grow up too, and it looks like they're also going to end up with an average of 2.0 children each - but I and my brothers and sisters are all STILL alive. Three generations of us, and where there were ten people in my generation (counting spouses), there are now thirty. The baby boom stops there, because when my generation dies off, we will be replaced by the great-grandchildren. At that point the Dyer clan will finally have reached equilibrium — or even started to shrink a bit, if some of the grandchildren cut back on the child-bearing.

It takes a very long time to stabilise if you stay at 2.0. However, Asian populations are not stopping at 2.0. In South Korea, where the fertility rate is an astonishing 0.86 (less than one child per woman, on average), the population is going into free fall. Same for China, where the average woman will have only 1.3 children in her lifetime. China will be down from 1.41 billion people now to 700 million by 2100. Even that may be too optimistic. Fertility expert Fuxian Yi, senior scientist in the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Wisconsin, recently estimated China's real fertility rate is a lot less than 1.3. If Dr. Yi is right, then the United States, despite a fairly low growth rate (443 million in the year 2100), may have about the same population as China by the end of the century. Japan's fertility rate is 1.35, but that still means its population will fall from 125 million now to 75 million by century's end. Most of South and Southeast Asia is already below replacement level (Vietnam 2.0, Bangladesh 1.9, Thailand 1.5). The rest are almost there (Indonesia 2.2, Myanmar 2.15, Sri Lanka 2.15). Apart from the Muslim countries of the Greater Middle East (Pakistan to Syria), the only big Asian country still growing fast is the Philippines (2.5). Populations in Europe are stable or gently falling, and in the Americas almost every country has a growth rate of less than 1 per cent. The only world regions still growing fast are the Middle East and Africa, where population growth rates are between 1.5-3 per cent. Project those numbers forward to 2100, even allowing for a gradual decline in Middle Eastern and African fertility rates (which is not currently happening at all), just these two regions will contain half the population of the planet at the end of the century: more than four billion people.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

# The history and legacy of Netaji

Regardless of the political calculations that underlie this race to own his legacy, these are all in sync with our times and also with the law of history



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

Just as history is always written by the victors, it is also written according to their convenience. Different historians have voiced different opinions about history, from Will Durant who said "history is mostly guessing; the rest is prejudice", to Voltaire's "history is a pack of lies we play on the dead." British historian Lord Acton, better known for his famous quote "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely", believed history as an unending progress towards liberty. If history is a march towards liberty, then the events which history chronicles are also essential for an understanding towards greater liberty. Given that greater liberty is what every society strives for, the interpretation of history will therefore be liable to change from time to time, to derive a new meaning that is appropriate at a given point in time for the society's renewal and rediscovery of itself. Just as a photograph of a room changes when the photographer alters the vantage point from which he looks at it through his lens, history also changes when the historian looks at it from the vantage point of the present which keeps on changing constantly. It cannot be said that by doing so one is attempting to alter history - one is only trying to substitute the views of the past historians by those of the present. Unlike physical sciences, laws of history cannot be immutable and fixed for all times, they will always be open to new interpretations, new insights and new ideas of new generations. Through this process, history is continuously rewritten by correcting the mistakes of the past.

For the last few years, the present government has been trying to correct such mistakes of our past historians in its attempt to rehabilitate one of the most marginalised leaders of our freedom struggle, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and to restore him to his rightful place in our history. With some honourable exceptions, most of the past historians whose works we have studied in our schools, colleges and universities to shape our thoughts about the nation, have either been trained by the British or been influenced by the leftist ideologies. Both the British and the left in pre-independence India has staunchly opposed Bose for their obvious ideological reasons, and both therefore had a vested interest in downplaying the significance of Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, or the Indian National Army (INA), in India's struggle for independence. Except some cursory mention of the INA and its defeat by the allied forces and subsequent demise, the Red Fort trials of its leaders Colonel Shah Nawaz, Colonel Prem Sahgal and Colonel Gurbaksh Dhillon, and the subsequent mutinies by the Indian Navy and Royal Indian Air Force inspired by it, the average Indian knows nothing more about Bose, whose death also remains shrouded in mystery till today.

The contribution of Bose and his INA to our freedom movement remains a



WITH ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES TO HISTORY FORCEFULLY MAKING INROADS INTO PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS, THE LONG-OVERDUE RECOGNITION IS FINALLY COMING TO BOSE. IT IS THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING THAT THERE IS NOW A RACE AMONG DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES TO CLAIM HIS LEGACY

(The writer, a former Director General at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, is currently a professor at Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. The views expressed are personal.)



neglected footnote in our history books, just as Bose himself was marginalised in the Congress by both Gandhi and Nehru, though he always recognised their contribution - he named two INA brigades after them. Our historians have systematically propagated the view that Gandhi was the only leader solely responsible for India's independence through his Ahimsa, and the relentless struggles of countless non-Gandhian revolutionaries, their brutal incarceration at Andaman and various British jails, or their supreme sacrifices were not even worth a footnote in history. That the INA even in its defeat had dealt a death blow to the British colonialism is barely recognised by any of our Oxford-trained or left-liberal historians.

The INA trials were used by the Congress for their political ends, and once that purpose was served, they were conveniently forgotten. No INA soldier or officer was recruited in the army of Independent India, and in an atrocious address to them 22 May 1946, even Gandhiji told them, "Above all, you must never beg or throw yourselves on anybody's charity. Because you have risked your lives for India's sake and fought for her on the Imphal plains, you must not expect to be pampered in return."

It is an undeniable fact that in a democracy, political considerations guide each and every action by a political party. Non-Gandhian interpretation of freedom movement is gaining currency at the present juncture and the results of Nehruvian socialism upon our post-independent trajectory of

socio-economic growth is being reassessed critically.

With alternative narratives to history forcefully making inroads into public consciousness, the long-overdue recognition is now finally coming to Bose. It is therefore not surprising that there is now a race between different political parties to claim his legacy, especially since BJP is perceived to have gained a distinct edge in this. The NDA Government has incorporated Netaji's birthday on January 23 in the Republic Day calendar from this year on, and the day has been celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas'. PM Modi has paid "Tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a great freedom fighter and a true son of Mother India, on his birth anniversary". Not to be left behind, the West Bengal Chief Minister also tweeted her "Homage to Deshnayak Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birthday", while demanding the declaration of 23rd January as a national holiday.

To commemorate his 125th birth anniversary and as part of the year-long celebrations, the Central government has announced that a grand statue of Bose will be installed under the canopy at India Gate. Until the installation of the actual statue is completed, a hologram of Bose will be projected at the site of the statue. The Centre has also instituted "Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars" to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of disaster management which will be presented

during the investiture ceremony. The West Bengal Government has also set up a committee to conduct year-long celebrations till January 23, 2022" and promised a monument to be erected in Kolkata and a state university to be set up in the name of Azad Hind Fauj.

The official mouthpiece of the Trinamool Congress, Jago Bangla, issued a front page top header on January 23, asking "Why isn't Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose given the recognition of the first PM of India?" just as Chandra Bose, Netaji's grand-nephew, who also happens to be a BJP leader, stated that in his speech at the Red Fort, PM Modi had also mentioned this fact. He demanded that the government should issue a gazette notification stating that Netaji was the first prime minister of undivided India.

Regardless of the political calculations that underlie this race to own the legacy of Bose, these are all perfectly in sync with our times and also with the law of history. In his remarkable book "What is History", British historian E H Carr wrote: "The craving for an interpretation of history is so deep rooted that, unless we have a constructive outlook over the past, we are either drawn to mysticism or cynicism. Mysticism to him was the view that the "meaning of history lies outside history" and cynicism meant that "history has no meaning or a multiplicity of equally valid and invalid meanings". Let the history of our nation and its struggles be made progressively free from both mysticism and cynicism.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI DRESSES FOR ELECTIONS AND EMBODIES STYLE WITHOUT SUBSTANCE. — TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER K CHANDRASHEKAR RAO



WE ARE ALL ASHAMED THAT KCR SPOKE IN AN INSULTING MANNER ABOUT THE PM. HE IS INSECURE ABOUT THE BJP'S RISE IN TELANGANA. —BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT DK ARUNA

# What is the antidote for hate?

Politicians, religious and community leaders and people from all walks of life should come together to oppose hate campaigns at the grassroots

India woke up to 2022 with the shocking revelation about the "Bulli Bai" app, targeting minority women and putting their photographs for auction without consent in a derogatory and humiliating manner. The app had displayed photographs of Muslim women from students, well-known and reputed personalities, prominent journalists, to social workers. Protests were lodged all over the country. With pressure from human rights and women groups, the Bulli Bai app was blocked by Github after various complaints regarding the defamatory content of the app were registered.



JAGDISH KAUR

(The writer is President, Women's Initiative for Liberation, Growth & Action. The views expressed are personal.)

kept in police custody. The "Sulli Deals" App, which was launched last year, had listed Muslim women for 'auction' with photographs sourced without permission and doctored. Its mastermind has also been arrested now.

Will the arrests stop this kind of humiliating action against women of certain religions, sects, community, caste, or group? Certainly not because these are not a one-time or stand-alone crimes. These are results of organized and sustained hate campaigns poisoning the minds of Indians, especially the youth, against minority communities. For the last few years, the social media has been extensively used to create platforms and material by these perpetrators of hate.

As per Statista Research



Department, most hate crimes during the period 2015-2019, were targeted at Dalits, followed by Muslims. There have been several reports of Muslims not being allowed to pray in certain places in North India and Christians being targeted on suspicion of being involved in religious conversions. Human rights groups which monitor atrocities against Christians in India have documented the

violence by Hindutva groups from all states and released a fact-finding report titled 'Christians under attack in India'. The report released by the Association of Protection Civil Rights, United Christian Forum and United against Hate at a press conference in Delhi in October 2021 reveals that over 300 such instances were reported from across 21 states, particularly North India, in nine months of 2021. The farmers who protested for almost a year were repeatedly labelled as 'Khalistanis' and their supporters and hate messages against them were doing the rounds on all social media platforms.

Various forms of provocative incidences against minorities have been on the rise. We keep hearing about the incidences of 'love jihad', 'gharvapsi'

and other newly coined terms to target certain communities. The Supreme Court has agreed to take up a PIL seeking probe into alleged hate speeches at two separate events at Haridwar and Delhi in December 2021. There are messages and videos circulating on social media regarding the atrocities committed by Mughals (Muslims) during the middle-ages on Hindus and provocation for revenge. The voices of making India a 'Hindu Rashtra' are getting louder by the day. The hate speeches and hateful actions against any religion can only serve to imbalance the public order and peace in society.

The rising hate crimes have put the country in a precarious situation. It has become quite a serious issue as the youth are

falling prey to unbated hate campaign. Educated young people are debating religion and hate rather than constructive issues for nation building.

Do we have a solution? The harrowing trend of communal hatred is likely to meet with retaliation by those targeted in due course leading to destruction of the very fabric of multi-cultural Indian society. As Mahatma Gandhi said "an eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind". The Constitution of India enshrined and ensured equality and respect for all Indians. All religions and faiths preach love and peace for the mankind.

Hate campaigns against any religion, community or sect need to be condemned in the strongest words and strict

legal action should be taken against perpetrators of such hate crimes. Politicians, religious and community leaders and people from all walks of life should come together to oppose hate campaigns at the grassroots level. The school curriculum should have mandatory content on communal harmony and respect for all cultures and religions so that our future generation is ingratiated with supreme values of compassion, and brotherhood.

In a world struggling to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, apart from dwindling economies, it is time to push aside all separatist agenda and vested interest of certain groups and stand together as Indians, as humans and as a peace-loving nation.



A HOPEFUL SIGN?

# Despite Russian warning, Ukraine talks go on

AP ■ MOSCOW

When the US and NATO rejected the Kremlin's security demands over Ukraine last week, fears of an imminent Russian attack against its neighbour soared.

But instead of sending armoured armies across the Ukrainian border as the U.S. and its allies worried, Moscow bombarded Western capitals with diplomatic letters about an international agreement that the Kremlin sees as a strong argument for its position in the standoff.

Even though President Vladimir Putin said a month ago that he wanted a quick answer to the Russian demands and warned that Moscow



would not accept "idle talk," he signalled on Wednesday an apparent readiness for more talks with Washington and NATO.

And that offers a glimmer of hope. Although more than 100,000 Russian troops still hover near Ukraine and weeks of talks have led to no major concessions by either side, at least Russia and the West keep

talking, and for some experts that's a reason for cautious optimism.

"On the one hand Putin did fire rhetorical barbs against the West and emphasised perceived slights; on the other hand he also did leave open the possibility of talking in more detail about at least some of the issues where the West has been willing to engage," said Jeff

Rathke, a former U.S. Diplomat and president of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

"We're kind of where we were a few weeks ago," Rathke said. "Putin has kept his options open. He's not ruled out talks but also not reduced his strident rhetoric."

Russia and the West remain far apart on the most critical issues and it's unclear how a compromise could be reached. But the Kremlin's recent emphasis on diplomacy appears to reflect Putin's hope to achieve his goals through negotiations while using the deployment of the troops near Ukraine as leverage.

"Russia will maintain a

tough stand while indicating that it's not shutting the door to talks," said Fyodor Lukyanov, who heads the Moscow-based Council for Foreign and Defense Policies and closely follows the Kremlin thinking. "Such complex agreements aren't reached in a relaxing atmosphere over a cup of tea, so all methods of persuasion are being used, including the demonstration of force."

Russia maintains it has no intention to attack its neighbor, but it demands that NATO bar membership to Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations and pledge not to deploy weapons there. It also wants NATO deployments in Eastern Europe rolled back.

# France's Macron to visit Russia, Ukraine in mediation trip

AP ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron will head to Moscow and Kyiv next week as part of his push to try to deter Russian President Vladimir Putin from launching an invasion of Ukraine and find a diplomatic way out of the growing tensions.

The visit Monday and Tuesday comes after the U.S. Accused the Kremlin on Thursday of an elaborate plot to fabricate an attack by Ukrainian forces that Russia could use as a pretext to take military action. The U.S. has not provided detailed information backing up the claims.

While France is a major player in NATO and is moving



troops to Romania as part of the alliance's preparation for possible Russian action, Macron has also been actively pushing for dialogue with Putin and has spoken to him several times in recent weeks. The two will hold a one-on-one meeting Monday, Macron's office said Friday.

Macron is following a French tradition of striking a separate path from the United States in geopolitics, as well as trying to make his own mark

on this crisis and defend Europe's interests.

But after weeks of talks in various diplomatic formats have led to no major concessions by Russia and the U.S., it's unclear how much impact his trip will have.

In a call Wednesday with U.S. President Joe Biden, Macron filled him in on his diplomatic efforts. In talks with the Russian and Ukrainian leaders Thursday night, Macron's office said they discussed ways to "identify elements that could lead to de-escalation," and "conditions for strategic balance in Europe, which should allow for the reduction of risks on the ground and guarantee security on the continent."

# Omicron variant may not be 'milder' itself, US scientists caution

PTI ■ BOSTON

The "milder" outcomes of infection from the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 are likely due to more population immunity rather than the virus' properties, according to researchers in the US.

The Omicron variant was first documented in Botswana and South Africa in late November 2021.

Compared with earlier variants, Omicron resulted in notably lower hospitalisation and death rates, leading some to conclude that the variant causes less severe outcomes or is less virulent than previous variants.

In a perspective article, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers noted that the perceived lower severity of

Omicron infections is most likely due to factors related to the level of immunity in infected people.

By the fall of 2021, much of the South African population had been vaccinated or probably infected by another variant during earlier waves of the pandemic.

The researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the US argue that previous exposure would likely have reduced the severity of a subsequent Omicron infection.

The milder symptoms may also be due in part to Omicron's ability to cause breakthrough infections and reinfections, including in people with stronger immune systems who are better equipped to fight off an infection, they said.

According to the researchers, the situation in South Africa is intrinsically different than that of other countries -- especially the young age of its population -- meaning that Omicron could progress differently in other populations around the world.

Based on their analysis, the researchers stress that as many people as possible globally should be vaccinated, and those most vulnerable to disease should receive a third booster shot.

"There must be a renewed push to vaccinate and boost those not yet protected, because Omicron is not necessarily intrinsically milder," said William Hanage, associate professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

"This is especially true for those struggling to access vaccines, whether in the United States or elsewhere in the world," Hanage added.

# Long Covid-free, isolated Pacific islands hit with outbreaks

AP ■ BANGKOK

For more than two years, the isolation of the Pacific archipelago nation of Tonga helped keep Covid-19 at bay.

But last month's volcanic eruption and tsunami brought outside deliveries of desperately needed fresh water and medicine - and the virus.

Now the country is in an open-ended lockdown, which residents hope will help contain the small outbreak and will not last too long.

"We have pretty limited resources, and our hospitals are pretty small," Tongan business owner Paula Taumoepeau said Friday.

"But I'm not sure any health system can cope. We are lucky we've had two years to get our vax rate pretty high, and we had a pretty immediate lockdown."

Tonga is only one of several Pacific countries to experience their first outbreaks over the



past month. All have limited health care resources, and there is concern that the remoteness that once protected them may now make helping them difficult.

"Clearly when you've got countries that have already got a very stretched, and fragile health system, when you have an emergency or a disaster and then you have the potential introduction of the virus, that's going to make an already serious situation immeasurably worse," said John Fleming, the Asia-Pacific head of health for the Red Cross.

# Downing Street exodus: Boris's 5th aide quits amid partygate scandal

PTI ■ LONDON

Another aide of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson quit on Friday, taking the total number of resignations at Downing Street to five as the embattled British premier was attempting to reset his Government following the 'Partygate' scandal that has put his position in peril.

The string of resignations continued on Friday with the ruling Conservative Party's website reporting that Elena Narozanski has become the second adviser to quit the No 10 Downing Street policy unit.

Johnson's longstanding policy chief Munira Mirza, chief of staff Dan Rosenfield, principal private secretary Martin Reynolds, and communications director Jack Doyle all left their posts within hours of each other on Thursday, days after a damning investigation revealed that multiple parties took place at Downing Street while the rest



of the United Kingdom was living under strict COVID-19 lockdown rules.

Former Downing Street aide Nikki da Costa said Narozanski is "one of the most principled women I know."

"Another big loss to the policy unit," da Costa said. Meanwhile, Business and Energy Secretary Greg Hands on Friday said that Prime Minister Johnson is taking charge of his Downing Street team by making changes after a row over lockdown parties.

Asked what was going on in Downing Street, Hands told the British broadcaster Sky, "resignations have been made, resignations have been accept-

ed." Senior Tory member of Parliament Huw Merriman, who chairs the Commons Transport Committee, said he was "deeply troubled" by the situation, and told Johnson to improve or leave Downing Street for good.

Doyle confirmed his exit shortly after the departure of Pakistani-origin Mirza. They were followed by Rosenfield and Reynolds, the BBC reported on Friday.

The top aides' resignations come as Johnson, 57, faces increasing questions over his leadership from within his party. Doyle told staff that "recent weeks have taken a terrible toll on my family life", but that he had always intended to leave after two years.

A statement from a No 10 spokeswoman said Rosenfield had offered his resignation to the prime minister earlier on Thursday but would stay on while his successor was found.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Tender Notice

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	E-file No. 100629
Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Provision of Stripping, fitment, Testing & commissioning of switch board cabinet for 25 LHB AC Coaches as per scope of work at N. Railway, Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana/ SNP" for a period six months
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. Tender Cost: Rs. 92,26,112/- (Ninety two Lacs twenty Six Thousand one Hundred Twelve only) including GST @ 18%
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,84,600
Completion period of work	Six months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/ by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and Opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 18.02.2022 Opening of Tender at 11:30 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.: E-file No. 100629 Dated: 03.02.2022 254/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Jugal Kishore Puri S/o Late Sh. CH. B D Puri R/o K-19(G.F.), South Extension Part-II, New Delhi-110049, was having commercial property in joint ownership along with his project Smta. Poonam Puri name in our project Vatika India Next, Retail-1, Shop No-7, Gurgaon-21, Sector 83, Vatika India Next, Gurgaon-122004 admeasuring 173.00 sq.ft which his legal heirs are (Poonam Puri, Reena Puri, Niti Sarin, Vineet Puri) requested the company to be transferred to his wife (Poonam Puri). Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited  
Unit No A-002, Ground Floor, Block A,  
Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector-83,  
Gurgaon, Haryana 122012  
Contact : 0955930930

### MONIND LIMITED

(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)

Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Ural Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moh. Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone : +91 11 29215542-46; Fax : +91 11 29218541 Email: [isc.monnetgroup.com](mailto:isc.monnetgroup.com); Website : [www.monnetgroup.com](http://www.monnetgroup.com) CIN-L51103CT1982PLC009717

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. This information is also available on the website of the Company ([www.monnetgroup.com](http://www.monnetgroup.com)) and on the website of the Stock Exchange. ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com))

By order of the Board of Directors  
**MONIND LIMITED**  
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)  
Priya  
Company Secretary

Dated : 04.02.2022  
Place : New Delhi

# Hong Kong activist arrested ahead of Olympics protest

AP ■ HONG KONG

A veteran Hong Kong activist was arrested Friday, days after he announced plans to protest the Beijing Winter Olympics outside Government offices in the city, according to local media.

The activist, Koo Sze-yiu, was arrested in the early morning at his home under a national security law, according to local newspaper South China Morning Post.

Earlier this week, Koo had sent a media announcement inviting coverage of a petition he planned to present on Friday at 10 a.m. In front of China's Liaison Office - the agency which represents the Chinese government in the nominally semi-autonomous enclave.

In his invite, Koo stated that China had pressed on with the Beijing Winter Games while ignoring "unjust" cases of imprisonment in Hong Kong.

"Don't forget that human rights are being oppressed in Hong Kong!" he wrote in the announcement.

He said that authorities have abused the national security law to imprison dissidents or those who speak out against Beijing's policies in the city.

# America stands with India against Chinese intimidation: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has asserted that it stands with India against Chinese intimidation after Beijing depared a PLA officer, who was part of the military command that attacked Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in 2020, as a torchbearer for the Beijing Winter Olympics.

China on Wednesday fielded a regiment commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) involved in the June 2020 clash with the Indian soldiers in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley to carry the Winter Olympics torch in Beijing, prompting India to announce a diplomatic boycott of the opening and closing ceremonies of the mega sporting event stiring on Friday.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ramesh Bhojwani, Anurag Verma, H. No-1/5 3rd Floor, White House Lailta, Park Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, Delhi A/c No:-LBNOD00002068715	Flat No 413, 4th Floor, Tower-A, Manhar Garden, Harish Nagar Sikandra Boola, Uttar Pradesh, Agra	08/09/2021 Rs. 21,83,128/-	11/05/2021
2.	Vimallesh Chandera Kotiyal, Nidhi*, L-222 Sector-12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad A/c No:-LBNOD00002072172	Flat No 1604, 16th Floor, Tower D2, Neo Town, Plot No Gh-03, Sector Techzone-iv, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida	08/09/2021 Rs. 11,14,397.99/-	12/04/2021
3.	Vaibhav Agrawal, Suchita Agrawal, Flat No-17B, Dhawal Giri Apartment, Sector-11, Noida, Noida A/c No:-LBNOD00002090132	Flat No 324, 3rd Floor Tower-B, Near Manhar Garden Near Harish Nagar, Sikandara Bodla Road Agra	18/09/2021 Rs. 36,58,228/-	11/05/2021
4.	Deepak Bichhorja, Brijlata Agrawal, 403 Tower 18 Paras Tiera, Sector 137, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00002091149	Flat No 422 4th Floor, Manhar Garden, Near Harish Nagar, Sikandara Bodla Road, Agra	18/09/2021 Rs.35,00,913/-	11/05/2021
5.	Rohit Mishra, Richa Haksar, A 125 Flat No 12 Freedom, Fighter Enclave, Nebsarai, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00002097884	Flat No 139, 1st Floor, Manhar Garden, Near Harish Nagar, Sikandara Bodla Road, Agra	18/09/2021 Rs. 29,32,407/-	10/06/2021
6.	Gurpal Singh Gandhi, Rashmi Gandhi, E-52A, Sec-41 Noida, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00002115371	Flat No 202, 2nd Floor, Tower-F3, Neo Town, Plot No Gh-03, Sector- Techzone- IV, Noida	08/09/2021 Rs. 5,22,478/-	11/05/2021
7.	Aakash Bajaj, Tanu Dutta, 145 B-2 Shakti Khand, II Indrapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBNOD00002132819	Flat No 106, Tower C, 1st Floor, Apna Ghar Vill-Kunjnahil Nalagarhbadli, Himachal Pradesh	08/09/2021 Rs. 8,80,235/-	07/06/2021
8.	Sumit Agarwal, Sonal Rajawat, H No A 134, Near NMS Hospital, Rwa Society Sec-30 Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD0000470953	Flat No 2103, 21th Floor Tower C, Mascot Soho Manorath Plot No Gh 04B Sec-16 Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Noida	18/09/2021 Rs. 58,68,998/-	06/05/2021
9.	Sarafraz Ahmad, Siraj Ahmad, Room No 25 Opposite, Anand Genral Store, B 9/10, Behind Mitra, Hospital Sector 35 Noida, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00003479995	Flat No 811, 8th Floor, Block A, Maxblis Taj Kingstom, Plot No Gh 12, Eco City, Sector 75, Gautam Buddha Nagar	08/09/2021 Rs. 9,53,126/-	12/06/2021
10.	Mohit, Santosh Sharma, E-138 10th Avenue, Gaur City 2 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar A/c No:- LBNOD00004061309	Flat No 1554, 14th Floor Tower G Sanskriti Vihar, Gaur City 2, 10th Avenue Plot No Gh-03 Sector 16C Noida	18/09/2021 Rs. 29,32,407/-	06/05/2021
11.	Mohit, Santosh Sharma, E-138 10th Avenue Gaur, City 2 G B Nagar, Noida, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00004705771	Flat No 1554, 14th Floor, Tower G, Sanskriti Vihar, 10th Avenue, Plot No Gh-03, Sector 16C, Noida	08/09/2021 Rs.2,36,235/-	06/05/2021
12.	Ashutosh Kumar Mishra, Swati Mishra, D-138 Sec-12 Pratap, Vihar Ghaziabad, Near, Union Bank Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad A/c No:- LBNOD00004912604	Plot No-785, Block-7D, Sector-18, Noida	08/09/2021 Rs. 7,24,156/-	09/06/2021
13.	Keshav Kumar, Neha Devi, C 425 Paramount Golf Foreste Villa Oppsite Zee-1, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00004941552	Flat No-109, Ground Floor Tower-I Ajnara Panoramia Loundn Square,villa Type I Plot No Gh-04 Sector-22, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	01/09/2021 Rs. 62,66,168/-	31/08/2020
14.	Sonu Verma, Koshanki Verma, Unit No-2102 Tower-C, Ace Aspire Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida A/c No:- LBNOD00005153390	Flat No-1701, 17th Floor, Tower Y18, Eros Sampoonam, Plot No- Gh-01, Sector 2, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Noida	08/09/2021 Rs. 21,68,656/-	09/06/2021
15.	Gudiya Acharya, Lalit Acharya, Flat No 38F Pocket B 7 Janta Flat, Mayur Vihar Phase III, New Delhi, 110096, Delhi A/c No:- LBNOD00005159058	Unit No 314, 3rd Floor, DDA LIG Flat Jayambee Apartments, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Delhi	08/09/2021 Rs. 11,61,722.3/-	06/04/2021
16.	Satish Kumar, Niraj, 114 Gwalison, Haryana, Jhajjar A/c No:- LBXBA00005125460	Plot No 92a, Khewat No 2917/2915, Khata No 3269, Mustel No 154 Killa No.27/72 (20-1) 12/640 Intkal No 127818 Ward No 19, Rishi Colony, Bhagat Chowk, Charkhidadri Road, Haryana, Jhajjar	08/09/2021 Rs. 14,48,579/-	07/04/2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : February 05, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

### FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication  
O.A. No. 1406/2019  
(Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993) Original Application No.1406 of 2019  
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant  
Versus  
Mr. SUBHENDU SINHA & OTHERS ...Defendant

To,  
1. Mr. SUBHENDU SINHA D 205 ASSOATECH, THE NEST CROSSING REPUBLIC, NEAR NH24, GHAZIABAD 201016.  
2. Mrs. NANDITA SINHA D 205 ASSOATECH, THE NEST CROSSING REPUBLIC, NEAR NH24, GHAZIABAD 201016.  
3. M/S FUTECH SHELTERS PVT LTD  
Registered Office: R 19, 3RD FLOOR, NEAR SHAKARPUR, LAXMI NAGAR, VIKAS MARG, DELHI 110092.

Corporate Office: PLOT NO 9, SECTOR 75, NOIDA 201301.

In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 12/05/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decide in your absence.

Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

### NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Ms.Shama Parveen D/O Zakir Hussain issued by ICICI Bank Ltd.having ID card no 21049388 has been found missing and/ or lost on 10Jan2022 at 12.30PM Anyone, who finds the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, SD Shoppers Arcade, Plot No.1, Community Center, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi 110085 Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID card no 21049388. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at their own costs risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/ or responsible for any payment.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publicly notified that the FLAT NO 80A, (GROUND FLOOR), BLOCK-E-3, SECTOR-52, NOIDA has been allotted in the name of MANOJ KUMAR YADAV S/O RAM NIWAS SINGH YADAV R/O 43, SEVA SADAN BLOCK, MANDAWALI FAZALPUR, DELHI-110092, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA, to the following persons:-  
1. Mr. SUBHENDU SINHA D 205 ASSOATECH, THE NEST CROSSING REPUBLIC, NEAR NH24, GHAZIABAD 201016.  
2. Mrs. NANDITA SINHA D 205 ASSOATECH, THE NEST CROSSING REPUBLIC, NEAR NH24, GHAZIABAD 201016.  
3. M/S FUTECH SHELTERS PVT LTD  
Registered Office: R 19, 3RD FLOOR, NEAR SHAKARPUR, LAXMI NAGAR, VIKAS MARG, DELHI 110092.

Corporate Office: PLOT NO 9, SECTOR 75, NOIDA 201301.

In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, 14th February 2022, at 4.00 P.M. at the H.O.: 318-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on December 31st, 2021 pursuant to Regulation 33 of LODR. The said information is also available on the Company's website at [www.rampurfert.com](http://www.rampurfert.com) and the same has been also sent to CSE and MSE to upload on their websites i.e. [www.cse-india.com](http://www.cse-india.com), [www.mse.in](http://www.mse.in) respectively.

By order of Board  
Sd/-  
Rajeev Kumar  
(Company Secretary)

### RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.

CIN: L15136PU1988PLC010084  
Email id: [info@rampurfert.com](mailto:info@rampurfert.com)  
Regd. Off.: Judges Barelly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.

### NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, 14th February 2022, at 4.00 P.M. at the H.O.: 318-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on December 31st, 2021 pursuant to Regulation 33 of LODR. The said information is also available on the Company's website at [www.rampurfert.com](http://www.rampurfert.com) and the same has been also sent to CSE and MSE to upload on their websites i.e. [www.cse-india.com](http://www.cse-india.com), [www.mse.in](http://www.mse.in) respectively.

By order of Board  
Sd/-  
Rajeev Kumar  
(Company Secretary)

### JM FINANCIAL

#### JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

(Formerly known as JM Finance Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited)

Corporate Identification No.: U67190MH2007PLC174287  
Regd. Office: 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025  
Authorized Officer: Vivekh Mehra, Email: [vivekh.mehra@jmfinc.com](mailto:vivekh.mehra@jmfinc.com),  
Phone + 91 22 6630 3493 Website: [www.jmfinancialarc.com](http://www.jmfinancialarc.com)

### E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction 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 Rules 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and/or Guarantor(s) and/or Mortgagee(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to JM Financial Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFAARC - Gelatine March 2014 Trust (the "Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken pursuant to the order dated December 06, 2017 passed by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, on January 11, 2018 and handed over to the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on March 01, 2022 between 11.00 am to 01:00 pm for recovery of Rs.56,91,81,846/- as on 31.12.2021 along with further interest and other charges thereon from January 01, 2013 till date of realisation, due to the Secured Creditor from Unique Proteins Private Limited ("Borrower") and Blue Mark Mercantile Private Limited ("Guarantor/Mortgagor") and Mr. Chetan J. Sandesara, Mr. Nitin J. Sandesara, Mrs. Dipti C. Sandesara ("Guarantors"). Detailed description of the property, its Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is as given below:

Lot No.	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)
70			



# Govt to settle almost all retro-tax cases this month: Revenue Secy

New Delhi: The Government will settle almost all the retrospective tax cases this month, closing a chapter that plagued India's reputation as an investment-friendly destination, a top official said on Friday.

A 2012 amendment that gave taxmen powers to go back 50 years and slap capital gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India, was used to raise ₹1.1 lakh crore demand against multi-nationals such as telecom group Vodafone, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB

InBev, and Cairn Energy Plc. Such demands brought uncertainty in the minds of investors.

To repair India's damaged reputation as an investment destination, the government in August 2021 enacted a new legislation to drop all such demand and refund about ₹ 8,100 crore collected on the condition that any pending lawsuit or legal challenge against the government anywhere in the world would be dropped.

Cairn, from whom ₹7,900 crore was seized to enforce the retrospective tax demand, as well as Vedanta Group, have dropped lawsuits. Cairn is now

eligible for the tax refund.

"In the month of August, we abolished the retrospective taxation and we would be settling almost all the cases this month itself. So, we will close that chapter once and for all," Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said.

The move will help restore investor confidence by providing a predictable and stable tax regime.

"So stability, predictability and not giving any surprise is a matter of tax policy which we have implemented," he said at a PHD chamber event here. **PTI**

# Govt imposes stock limit on edible oils and oilseeds

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government had earlier notified the stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds on October 8, last year and it is valid upto 31st March 2022. However, the quantities of stock limits of oils and oilseeds were left to be decided by the States/UTs on the basis of available stock and consumption pattern.

On review of this Order, it was observed that only six (06) States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Bihar had imposed the stock limit order in pursuance of the Central Order in their State. Since implementation of stock limits across all States/UTs is necessary to transfer the full benefit of price control to end consumers, the Union Government has vide its Order dated 3rd February, 2022 specified the quantities of stock limits of edible oils and oilseeds for all States/UTs except the above mentioned six (06) States.

# Budget to give stability to the country: Karad

Kolkata: Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad on Friday said that the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will give stability to the country.

The budget had proposed different schemes to support various sectors of the economy in the pandemic situation, he said at an event organised by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

"The finance minister presented the budget to give stability to the country," Karad said.

The Minister said there is a need to develop India in all aspects like education, health, defence and agriculture.

"We need a good economy to make USD trillion dollars turnover in GDP by 2025", he said.

GST collections are increasing each month which augurs well for the country, the Union Minister added. **PTI**

# IL&FS sells entire stake in Warora Chandrapur Highway

Mumbai: Debt-ridden Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) on Friday said it has completed sale of its 35 per cent stake in Warora Chandrapur Ballarpur Toll Road Ltd (WCBTRL) to its majority joint venture partner Vishvaraj Infrastructure Ltd (VIL).

The sale entails VIL taking over entire external debt of WCBTRL amounting to ₹306 crore, providing equity value of over ₹12 crore and settling IL&FS Group dues amounting to ₹6 crore. This will result into resolving ₹324 crore from the overall IL&FS Group's debt of about ₹99,000 crore, as of October 2018, a release said.

The key lenders to the project - Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) - have all approved the sale and change in ownership, the release said. **PTI**

# More needed for informal sec workers

New Delhi: In the Union Budget, the Finance Minister has also indicated the creation of six million new jobs. "Considering the State of the economy, much more was needed. However, seen in the light of the pressing need of increasing employment and income, the 2022 budget has belied hopes of the more than 50 crore informal workers and many more," ActionAid Association Executive Director Sandeep Chachra.

# Mukesh Ambani's latest buy: A Rolls Royce costing ₹13.14 crore

Mumbai: Reliance Industries (RIL), headed by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, has bought an ultra-luxury Rolls Royce hatchback costing Rs 13.14 crore. If RTO officials are to be believed, it is one of the most expensive car purchases ever in the country.

The car, a Rolls Royce Cullinan petrol model, was registered by RIL at the Tardeo Regional Transport Office in South Mumbai on January 31, officials aware of the matter said. The base price of the car, when first launched in 2018, was ₹6.95 crore, but auto industry experts said customized modifications would have raised the price substantially. The company has opted for the 'Tuscan Sun' colour for the 12-cylinder car weighing over 2.5 tonnes and producing 564 BHP power, and also obtained a special number plate, RTO officials said.

A one-time tax of ₹ 20 lakh has been paid by RIL for the car whose registration is valid till

January 30, 2037, and another ₹40,000 has been paid towards road safety tax. This could even be the most expensive car purchased in India, said one RTO official. RIL has also paid ₹ 12 lakh for getting a VIP number for its chairman and managing director's new car.

The number ends with "0001", officials said. Usually a VIP number costs ₹4 lakh, but since the chosen number in the current series was already taken, a new series had to be started, they said. With a written permission from the Transport Commissioner, RTO offices can start a new series for assigning registration mark 0001 for which the applicant has to shell out three times the fee specified for a regular number, they added.

Rolls Royce Cullinan was launched in India in 2018 as a hatchback capable of taking both paved and rough roads, and this will be a third Cullinan model in the Ambani/RIL garage. **PTI**

# Rupee logs 1st gain in four days

Mumbai: The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak by recovering 19 paise to close at 74.69 against the US dollar on Friday tracking weaker greenback against key rivals overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 74.71 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.68 and a low of 74.77.

It finally settled at 74.69, a rise of 19 paise over its previous close. **PTI**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ajeet Kumar Singh, Rita Singh, B 4 Gali No First Floor, West Binod Nagar, Near Manglam Hospital, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00002453642	B 4, Gali No First Floor, West Binod Nagar, Near Manglam Hospital, Delhi	31/12/2021 Rs. 24,05,603/-	31/10/2021
2.	Bal Krishan Dua, 1150, Multani Mohalla, Main Gandhi Nagar Road, Bandh Road, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00001431340	First Floor (RHS), Block-C-1, DLF Ankur Vihar, Plot No-C-1/2, Loni, Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 5,84,780/-	31/10/2021
3.	Mohit, Roshni Gulati, H-804 Princess Park, Sector-86 Old Faridabad, Faridabad A/C No:- LBFDB00004364371	H-804, Princess Park, Sector-86, Old Faridabad, Faridabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 25,88,215/-	04/10/2021
4.	Salim Siddiqui, Tasmeen Sultan Begum, D-331, Sector-1, Pratap Vihar, Near Radhey Shyam Sweet, Ghaziabad A/C No:- LBNOD00001738818	Flat No- D- 351A, Sec-11, G M P Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 3,79,643/-	10/06/2021
5.	Krishan Kumar Chawla, Tee Cee Hosiery Pvt Ltd, Tara Chand Chawla, Vandana Chawla, 85, SRM CGHS Ltd., 106, I.P. Extn. Patparganj, Delhi A/C No:- LBFDB00001356892	Plot No. 72, Niti Khand-II, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 9,18,560.48/-	12/07/2021
6.	Mukesh Singh, Kiran, H No 1571 Sector-10A, Gurgaon Teh Gurgaon, Gurgaon A/C No:- LBDEL00002378475	Flat No-0207, 2nd Floor, Block-C2, Delight Residences, Khasra No 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 697/210, Vill-Tapukara, Teh- Tijara, Distt- Alwar, Bhiwadi	28/12/2021 Rs. 18,42,491.65/-	04/10/2021
7.	Prakash Chandra Joshi, Rama Joshi, Block No 4 H No 369, Khichadijpur, Trilok Puri East Delhi, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00005042703	Khasra, No S 1097min and 1098min, Block K Flat No-K-1106, 11th Floor, Diya Green City-Block K, Pargana Jalalabad, Ghaziabad	28/12/2021 Rs. 16,83,191/-	04/10/2021
8.	Rajeev Singh, Sandhya Singh, H No 320 Vill Dabua, Firoz Ghandi Nagar, Block E Teh- Faridabad, Faridabad A/C No:- LBFDB00002396051	Flat No-A-1001, 10th Floor, Type-B, Tower A, Happy Homes, Sector 86, Faridabad	28/12/2021 Rs. 11,89,405/-	04/10/2021
9.	Savya Saachi Raina, Veenta Raina, Monjish Ranjan Nandi, Gh 5 & 7, Flat No-804, Paschim Vihar, Delhi A/C No:- LBGUR00001193760	Plot No 114, Ground Floor, Block-D, Classic Personal Floor, South City-II, Gurgaon	28/12/2021 Rs. 20,68,170/-	06/10/2021
10.	Praveen Kumar Sharma, Jyoti Devi, Pradeep Kumar, Ganga Technomech Engineers, H No 305/318, Near Hanuman Mandir, Garoli Khurd 106, Gurgaon A/C No:- LBGUR00004131587	Flat No F-1004, 10th Floor, R of Ananda, Tower-F, Sector 95, Gurgaon	28/12/2021 Rs. 13,02,441/-	04/10/2021
11.	Geeta Gupta, om Dutt Gupta, G 5 Ground Floor, Mod Flats, Dhaka Colony, Dr Mukherjee Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi A/C No:- LBNOD00004880657	Flat No 0302, Khasra No 1015, Block 3 (Part J), 3rd Floor, Nilaya Greens 1023/1 1023/2 1023 Min, Village Morta, Pargana Jalalabad, Ghaziabad	28/12/2021 Rs. 14,37,250.99/-	04/10/2021
12.	Maheesh, Savita, Mohalla Gohare Chandhat 172, Palwal, Haryana, Palwal A/C No:- LBPLW00005316174	Flat No D 7502, 1st Floor, D Block, Village Shahpur The Park, Tehsil Tijara, Rajasthan, Bhiwadi	28/12/2021 Rs.19,70,957/-	31/12/2021
13.	Naitan Bajaj, Vijay Kumar, Black Riders Advertising Pvt Ltd, H No-380, 3rd Floor, Pocket-1, Phase-1 Dda Sfs Flats, Sec-22 Dwarka, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00002268454	Flat No 2703, 27 Floor, Block 2, Imperia Mirage, Plot No Gh F-3, Sector 25, Jaypee Greens Sports City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Sdz Noida, Noida	31/12/2021 Rs. 10,57,835/-	04/10/2021
14.	Anand Prakash, Anju Sharma, 328, Shahpur Jat Village New Delhi, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00002376530	Flat No 35, Third Floor, Block F3, Pocket 3, Sector 34 Rohini, Delhi	31/12/2021 Rs.11,23,606/-	04/10/2021
15.	Girish Kumar, bhawna, 329 4th Floor 4, Marla Model Town, Gurgaon A/C No:- LBDEL00005364895	Prop- 117, House No R 27, Ara Machine Wali Gali, Bharat Nagar, Khewat No- 154, Khatoni 208, Khasra No 213/1/2/1, Rakha No 266, Bhiwani, Haryana	31/12/2021 Rs. 21,86,598/-	04/10/2021
16.	Durgesh Thakur, Pinki Thakur, House No-135, Ward No-8 Bania Wara, Ballabgarh, Faridabad A/C No:- LBFDB00004965177	Flat No-A7-704, Floor-7 Tower A7, Habitat 78, Sector-78 Faridabad, Haryana	31/12/2021 Rs. 15,71,918/-	04/10/2021
17.	Mool Chand Sharma, 74 Khatiyapada Dankaur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Dankaur, Uttar Pradesh, Bulandshahar A/C No:- LBGHZ00005135066	Flat No C/010, Floor 0.1, Block C, SPLS Aawasiya Yojna Village, Khushlya Pargana Dasna Tehsil And District Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 25,18,561/-	04/10/2021
18.	Sanjay Drall, Poonam, H No 37812 Biswa, Choti Mata Mandir, Gurgaon A/C No:- LBGUR00003296834	Flat No 201, 2nd Floor, Tower C3, Delight Residences, Tapukara, Bhiwadi	31/12/2021 Rs.14,85,819/-	04/10/2021
19.	Ajay Singh, Horizon Tours and Travels, Attar Singh Pundeer, Kanwer Singh, FB-188, HIG, Sec-4 Lajpat Nagar, Ghaziabad A/C No:- LBDEL00001568029	Fb-188, Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad	01/01/2022 Rs. 3,86,371/-	30/04/2021
20.	Ajay Singh, Horizon Tours And Travels, Attar Singh Pundeer, Kanwer Singh, Fb-188, HIG, Sec-4 Lajpat Nagar, Ghaziabad A/C No:- LBDEL00005249359	Fb-188, Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad	01/01/2022 Rs. 10,75,837/-	11/05/2021
21.	Shiv Ram, Sudesh Kumari, 1 Ua, 2nd Floor, Jawahar Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Delhi A/C No:- LBDEL00001511427	Flat No-1-u-a, Second Floor, Jawahar Nagar, Nr. Punjab & Sindh Bank, Nr. Hansraj College, Delhi	01/01/2022 Rs.8,11,801.08/-	31/01/2021
22.	Gulab Singh, Savita Devi, H. No-433, Ashoka Enclave-3, Ward No-15, Sect-35, Village Sarai Khawaja, Faridabad A/C No:- LBDEL00001943880	House No- 433, Ashoka Enclave, Sector-35, Faridabad, Faridabad	01/01/2022 Rs. 5,24,045/-	10/06/2021
23.	Gulab Singh, Savita Devi, Flat No- 433, Ashoka Enclave Part-3, Sector- 35, Near Sarai, Faridabad A/C No:- LBDEL00000945884	Plot No 433, Ashok Enclave-3, Village Sarai Kharaja, Faridabad	01/01/2022 Rs. 1,66,594.5/-	28/02/2021
24.	Kapil Dang, Kanta Devi, 53 55 1st Floor Pocket E 16 Sec 08, Rohini, Delhi, A/C No:- LBDEL00004807343	Joda Prop No-53-55, 1st Floor, Block E-16, Sector-08 Rohini, Delhi	31/12/2021 Rs.16,87,436.7/-	30/06/2021
25.	Kapil Dang,kanta Devi, 53 55 1st Floor Pocket E 16 Sec 08, Rohini, Delhi, A/C No:- LBDEL00004808769	Joda Prop No-53-55, 1st Floor, Block E-16, Sector-08 Rohini, Delhi	31/12/2021 Rs.10,81,937.3/-	30/06/2021
26.	Diwakar Kumar, Pallavi Kumari, House No C 30 A, Freedom Fighter Enclave, Ignou Road Nr Gate No 3, Delhi, A/C No:- LBFDB00002091891	H No 2392-P, Ground Floor, Aravali Vihar, Sector-49, Faridabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 12,07,435/-	31/08/2020
27.	Diwakar Kumar, Pallavi Kumari, House No C 30 A, Freedom Fighter Enclave, Ignou Road Nr Gate No 3, Delhi, A/C No:- LBFDB00002089814	H No 2392-P, Ground Floor, Aravali Vihar, Sector-49, Faridabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 26,92,533.7/-	31/08/2020
28.	Niraj Sharma, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, House No D 250 Sector 12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBGHZ00004449519	Flat No 3 G-403, 4th Floor, Nilaya Greens- Block 3, (Part G), Khasra No 1015,1023/1,1023/2, Min Village Morta Pargana, Jalalabad Tehsil and District Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 13,13,651/-	06/04/2021
29.	Niraj Sharma, Rakesh Kumar Sharma, House No D 250 Sector 12, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBGHZ00005240430	Flat No 3G-403, 4th Floor, Nilaya Greens- Block 3, (Part G), Khasra No 1015,1023/1,1023/2, Min Village Morta Pargana, Jalalabad Tehsil and District Ghaziabad	31/12/2021 Rs. 38,660/-	06/04/2021
30.	Panchsheel Gautam, Sonia Gautam, B-1034 MIG Flats, East of Loni Road, Delhi, A/C No:-LBNOD00002422242	Flat No 1207, 12th Floor, Tower-T4, Block B Unibera Towers, Plot No- Gh-16f, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Noida	31/12/2021 Rs. 20,04,184/-	07/06/2021
31.	Panchsheel Gautam, Sonia Gautam, B-1034 MIG Flats, East of Loni Road, Delhi, A/C No:-LBGHZ00004868725	Flat No 1207, 12th Floor, Tower- T4, Block B Unibera Towers, Plot No- Gh-16f, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Noida	31/12/2021 Rs. 73,752/-	07/06/2021
32.	Vivek Gupta, Sharda Devi, Flat No 03 Second Floor, Rehman Layout Jijau Nagar, Amravati, A/C No:- LBNOD00004978909	Flat No-1501, Migsun Wynn, Tower-2, 15th Floor, Sector- Eta-2, Noida	31/12/2021 Rs. 15,66,233/-	06/04/2021
33.	Vivek Gupta, Sharda Devi, Flat No 03 Second Floor, Rehman Layout Jijau Nagar, Amravati, A/C No:- LBNOD00005113065	Flat No-1501, Migsun WYNN, Tower-2, 15th Floor, Sector- Eta-2, Noida	31/12/2021 Rs.1,07,469/-	06/04/2021
34.	Babita Malhotra, Anil Malhotra, House No 485, 3 Near Wilson Factory, Nai Abadi Arjun Nagar, Gurgaon, A/C No:- LBGUR00002973428	Unit No 449, 4th Floor, JMD Megapool, Sohna Road, Gurgaon	31/12/2021 Rs. 16,24,614.99/-	04/08/2021
35.	Babita Malhotra, Anil Malhotra, House No 485, 3 Near Wilson Factory, Nai Abadi Arjun Nagar, Gurgaon, A/C No:- LBGUR00002973432	Unit No 449, 4th Floor, JMD Megapool, Sohna Road, Gurgaon	31/12/2021 Rs. 9,42,069.99/-	04/08/2021
36.	Adesh Saxena, Kirti Saxena, E 1204 Tower E S G Grand, Raj Nagar Extn, Emerald Tower, Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBGHZ00004928121	Bearing No E-1204, Floor 12th, Tower No E, (Emerald Tower) Sg Grand, Raj Nagar Extn, Nh 58, Ghaziabad	28/12/2021 Rs. 16,05,183/-	04/10/2021
37.	Adesh Saxena, Kirti Saxena, E 1204 Tower E S G Grand, Raj Nagar Extn, Emerald Tower, Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBGHZ00004928125	Bearing No E-1204, Floor 12th, Tower No E, (Emerald Tower) Sg Grand, Raj Nagar Extn, Nh 58, Ghaziabad	28/12/2021 Rs. 5,16,913/-	04/10/2021
38.	Rajiv Lohia, Rakhi Lohia, A 97 Lohiya Nagar Near, Naya Gaziabad Railway, Station Gaziabad (UP), Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBDEL00001174477	A-97, Lohia Nagar, Sector-8, Ghaziabad	04/01/2022 Rs. 4,03,879/-	11/06/2021
39.	Rajiv Lohia, Rakhi Lohia, A 97 Lohiya Nagar Near, Naya Gaziabad Railway, Station Gaziabad (UP), Ghaziabad, A/C No:- LBDEL00001894921	A-97, Lohia Nagar, Sector-8, Ghaziabad	04/01/2022 Rs. 23,711/-	11/06/2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : February 05, 2022  
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

### UJVN Limited

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

Letter No: 59 Date: 04/02/2022

**Time Extension Notice - I**

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the invited "e"-Tender Notice No: 25e/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22 for SITC of Mulsifier System with all accessories including dismantling at Chibro Power House by the office of Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House is hereby extended as follows.

Last date of submission of bid in the portal: 15-02-2022 up to 17:00  
Last date of submission of hard copy: 17-02-2022 from 15:00 Hrs.  
Date of opening of the bid Part-I on website: 19-02-2022 from 10:00  
All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY" EE(G),Chibro

### PARADIP PORT TRUST

Paradip - 754 142, Odisha (India)  
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

### ADVERTISEMENT

No. AD/RSC-22/106/2015(Pt.-I)/273  
Dated : 01.02.2022

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 01 (One) Chief Manager (Business Development & Trade Promotion) on contractual basis in Paradip Port Trust. For further details, visit our website [www.paradipport.gov.in](http://www.paradipport.gov.in).

PPT/PR/146/21-22 Dt. 04.02.2022 Sr. Asst. Secretary

### APPENDIX IV

[See rule 8 (1)]  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (CIN:L65922DL2005PLC136029)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 13.09.2021 calling upon the Borrower(s) **KAPIL BAJAJ, KAPIL BAJAJ ; V-20, RED CROSS ROAD, MIE PART B, BHADURGARH, HARYANA - 124502, SHAMMA BAJAJ ; S05, VIRAT APP, MIYAWALI NAGAR, N.S. ROAD, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI - 110083, PARVEEN ; 61-A, BANK WALI GALLI, BUDHANPUR, MAJURA DABAS, NEW DELHI, DELHI - 110081** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs. 35,68,903.29 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh(s) Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Three And Paise Twenty Nine Only)** against Loan Account No. **HHLRHN00238791** as on 25.06.2021 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 02.02.2022.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** for an amount of **Rs.35,68,903.29 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh(s) Sixty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Three And Paise Twenty Nine Only)** as on 25.06.2021 and interest thereon.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**FLAT NO. 606, SIXTH FLOOR, LIBERTE TOWER, OMAXE NORTH AVENUE, VILLAGE SANKH & BAHADURGARH, SECTOR-15, DISTT-JHAJJHAR, BAHADURGARH, HARYANA-124510.**

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Date : 02.02.2022  
Place: JHAJJHAR

### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड कोषागार  
जिला कोषागार (छ.ग.)  
(Phone no. 07786-296071, E-mail ID - eekon-phe-cg@gov.in)

// :: ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट निविदा सूचना :: //

छत्तीसगढ़ की राज्यपाल की ओर से कोषागार में एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत विभिन्न ग्रामों में रेड्रोफिटिंग / एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना कार्य।

स. क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक एवं दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रुगलाख में)
01	21701.02.2022	92023	बहीगांव एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	242.03
02	21801.02.2022	92024	कुल्लुगंवां एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	90.52
03	21901.02.2022	92025	आदीनद एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	121.10
04	22001.02.2022	92027	कनपुर रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	85.07
05	22101.02.2022	92029	भीमापुर रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	56.85
06	22201.02.2022	92035	पतीडा एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	89.92
07	22301.02.2022	92036	बुरेगांव एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	64.89
08	22401.02.2022	92038	बरकई एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	110.82
09	22501.02.2022	92039	तोरगा रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	60.59
10	22601.02.2022	92043	बालोच रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	101.69
11	22701.02.2022	92045	मांडीरोच रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	103.33
12	22801.02.2022	92049	कांटागांव रेड्रोफिटिंग नलजल प्रदाय योजना	99.09
13	22901.02.2022	92051	छोटेराजपुर एकल ग्राम नलजल प्रदाय योजना	109.98

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर संधि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है, साथ ही यह जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://cgprocurement.gov.in> पर तथा विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://phedcgprocurement.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 14.02.2022 है।

हस्ता / कार्यपालन अभियंता,  
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड कोषागार (छ.ग.)  
Ro. No:- 67524/6  
Ro. Date:- 04/02/2022

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**Bollywood**  
 Aamir pulled a prank on me. I was no less. I gave it back to him during the same sequence.  
 —Raveena Tandon

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

**SHORTCIRCUITS**



**DEEPIKA PADUKONE**

To me, it's like coming home and working with someone (Shah Rukh Khan) I'm extremely comfortable with. I started my career with him, so obviously there is a sense of trust and comfort. Working is as much fun as it can be because we like chatting and catching up and laughing and having fun.



**DISHA PATANI**

Action and stunts have always been viewed as a man's domain but slowly things are changing and I'm hopeful that women will be able to headline action films soon. I would love to work on a film like *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001). That has been a dream.



**JASSIE GILL**

They translated this meme sensation into a very quirky and witty script. As we started shooting *Kya Meri Sonam Gupta Bewafa Hai?* I discovered the culture of Uttar Pradesh and got insights to play a typical UP ka chhota.



**NEIL PATRICK HARRIS**

Barney's antics (in *How I Met Your Mother*), his overt delusions of grandeur, would likely get everyone in trouble. So, unless he's changed his ways or joined a nunnery, not sure if it's in anyone's best interest. I'm pretty sure he would be in jail in 2022.

**TOM HOLLAND**

When you make these big, big action movies, you're just acting on a blue screen. For this movie (*Uncharted*), Ruben (Fleischer) was adamant that it needed a tangible feeling that we were in real places, so he pushed for real sets. We pushed the boundaries of what we could do with practical sets.



**A U T H O R S P E A K**

**HINT OF REALITY**

Journalist, political analyst and writer, **VAASANTHI**, tells **KHUSHBU KIRTI** that writing helped her tackle depression during the lockdown and she opens up about the inspiration behind the stories

Renowned Indian journalist, political analyst and writer, Vaasanthi, has been an inspiration for young women. Having served as the editor of *India Today* (Tamil) for nine years before retiring, she is emphatic in speaking about women's issues. She has written numerous lectures, essays and reports, besides around 40 novels and six short story collections.

Her book, *Cut-outs, Caste and Cines Stars*, analyses the political history of Tamil Nadu during the time she worked as a journalist, while *Karunanidhi: The Definitive Biography* talks about the actor turned politician. Speaking of biographies, the one about Jayalalitha in 2016 invited a lot of attention.

Read why that happened and about her book, *Ganga's Choice and Other Stories*' translation in English, ahead:

**◆What is Ganga's Choice and Other Stories! about?**

*Ganga's Choice and other stories* is a collection translated into English from the original Tamil stories that I had written. They've been translated mostly by Sukanya Venkatraman and a few by Gomathi Narayanan. I had translated one myself.

**◆What inspired you to write it?**

These stories were written at different times and different places. It's an urge to write, that comes during an experience, which may be nerve-racking, shocking, sad or even seemingly ordinary one when the writer sees the extraordinary. These sto-

ries belong to that genre.

For some time now, I'd been thinking of bringing out an anthology of my stories that I considered good and could be of interest and appeal to the sensibilities of non-Tamil readers if translated into English. During the lockdown, I felt this was something that I could do to get out of the depression that I had during that time... and this did help!

**◆Are any of the stories based on real events?**

Indeed, they are. All stories written by authors are surely based on some event or experience that sparks their creativity. There is enough material if you look around, queer human nature, instances of societal injustice, even a newspaper snippet, inspiring a thought that gets ignited and developed into fiction in the writer's imagination. Several times, my maids, who were mostly young, sprightly, bold enough to take decisions, though illiterate, have inspired me to write some of the stories.

My experience, as a journalist, my travels and interviews during my tenure as the editor of *India Today*, where I worked for 10 years, helped me get to know of people who suffered injustice in one way or the other, due to caste, communalism, gender, patriarchy, and so on. I've gone to remote villages in Tamil Nadu and witnessed primitive customs followed by some tribes that enslave women. It was one such travel that inspired me to write *The Dance of Gods*. Keenly interested in human



rights and saddened and angered by their violation, I have written many articles. All of that helped my creative writing as well.

**◆The short stories take an unexpected turn towards the climax. Is rendering the element of shock the objective?**

That is a difficult question. I never plan the outline of my story. It begins with a thought, which is vague. I don't know how the story would end. As it builds up, I get into the scene completely, become the character and move along as the narrative spins itself. I experience the character's feelings — joy or sadness, anger or defeat (like in the *Testament*) and surrender — through the course of the story. The end? I don't plan, honestly, the story writes its end. Many people have asked me why the *Testament* didn't end positively. I thought, I just could not. If I did, it would be unrealistic. I have no desire to write fairy tales.

It may shock, like it does in the *Poison* (that had its genesis during research on female infanticide in Tamil Nadu), surprise like in *Punishment*, and make one sad, like in the *Gap*. But the end came on its own. Sometimes, I do revise on the second reading, but the first instinct wins.

**◆This is similar to Poe's use of the theory of 'The Unity of Effects', where every detail contributes to a unified effect (in his case, fear). Your writing style evokes surprise. Do you agree?**

I guess you are right. But it isn't my intention to evoke surprise. Yes, the details do give a unified effect. I do feel a twist is necessary to provoke the reader. But even a placid end can evoke surprise.

**◆Your female characters hail from different backgrounds, are diverse. Who are they?**

Yes, they are, because I have met women from different social strata, singers, workers, housewives (*Hands*), tribal illiterate women, village women who are bright and thirst for a new life which is away from patriarchal oppression in *Murder*. Desperate women who have no say when their female infants are killed by the will of the male of the house in *Poison*. I read about a white woman, full of remorse, when I visited the US — and she surfaces in *The Steering Wheel*. All of them have moved me so deeply that I had to express my feelings in words and in fiction form that was best suited. The opportunity to meet such people was possible because of my travels as a journalist.

**◆Social injustice and politics seem close to your heart. Care to weigh in?**

As I said, I have been a journalist too, deeply interested in politics and social

injustice. I feel there is nothing that can anymore be called a-political. Every single injustice, gender imbalance, communal hate, racism, divisiveness in the name of nationalism have politics behind them.

**◆Jayalalitha's protest against the original and unabridged biography Amma, back in the day, shows that politics still doesn't want women to speak up. What do you think of the same?**

That was a different matter. She knew that I was critical of her as a journalist and an editor of an important magazine when she was the chief minister of Tamil Nadu. I had to be critical when she behaved autocratically, she was callous enough to do unconstitutional things, arrogant in her intolerance of dissent, taking journalists and newspapers to court if they were critical. For nine years, when I held the post, I sent requests for an interview almost every day through FAX (there was no other way) but she never cared to respond. I was never afraid to attack her on what I thought was not right. Surprisingly, she did not sue me in those days.

But after I retired, Penguin requested me to write her biography. I was very hesitant to take up the project having known her temperament. But they persuaded me to accept. I once again tried, through various sources, for an interview. She never responded. I worked hard for two years and wrote the book. Just on the eve of its release, *The Outlook* published a curtain-raiser with a cover titled *Jayalalitha's Unknown Story*. That caught her attention and she promptly went to court and brought an injunction against its release. She must have thought that it would be a critical and uncharitable book on her. But actually, the book turned out to be an empathetic one. As I started researching, gathering the details of her private life and her public posturing, I realised that she had a very tough life, faced humiliations and rejections in a male-dominated film and political world. I realised her life was a story that showed how a woman transforms herself to succeed in such an atmosphere. Her arrogance was her shield. But she was amazing, a winner till the end. Penguin published the book, updated, after her death, when the injunction ended. The title is *The Lone Empress!*

**D E E P D I V E**

**INKED IN GRIEF**

Tattoos have become a way to commemorate loved ones, says **LOKESH VERMA**

The past two years have been unprecedented as Covid-19 had wreaked havoc in everyone's lives. It impacted everyone and many people lost their loved ones due to covid-19. The world was engulfed with sadness and several people discovered tattoos as a medium to pay tribute to their loved ones.

The tattoo industry witnessed a spike in demand post the second wave in India. While some captured the emotional connection with their loved ones by getting a portrait tattoo others chose to go with minimalistic tattoos like getting the name or signature tattoo.

**Portraits**

People paid tributes to their loved ones with name tattoos, birth dates or those of demise to honour them. A few even got the ECG report showing the heartbeat. Portrait tattoos were also very popular.

People paid tributes to their loved ones with name tattoos, birth dates or those of demise to honour them. A few even got the ECG report showing a heartbeat. Portrait tattoos were also very popular. Those who lost their pets, had their portraits tattooed. Line art versions of their pets too were popular.

**Minimalistic**

Minimal tattoos were very popular among those



who were getting inked for the first time. It also helps that these look aesthetically pleasing and fits all budgets. Another reason for the

popularity of minimal tattoos is that they convey a strong message with small and fine lines. The simple and delicate tattoos often make a fashion statement. There are numerous cool designs that one can choose from like acronyms of names, flowers, planets, butterflies, bees, geometric shapes and more.

**Cover-up**

Several cover-ups of badly done old tattoos were done during the last year. And people who didn't want to opt for a bigger cover-up design opted for a laser removal treatment by Picolaser, the latest and most efficient removal technology which makes the tattoo disappear without leaving any scars.

**Religious**  
 Religious or Spiritual tattoos have had a lot of significance since ancient times. It was believed that having such a tattoo would ensure protection by God.

**Geometric**  
 Another tattoo trend that has picked up in the current year and continues to be a popular choice this year is geometric designs. Be it a minimalistic geometric design of fine lines or big and bold patterns, these will be in demand. Other trends that continue to be popular will be lighting tattoos, hologram tattoos, colourful tattoos, abstract tattoos and more. (The author is a tattoo artist and founder, Devil's Tattoo.)

**INFECTION-FREE FITNESS**

Gyms, being high traffic areas, can harbour bacterial and other infections. **RAJAT DUA** highlights the common issues and the ways to keep safe

People have started paying more attention to their health than ever. Millennials form the majority of the Indian population and there is no denying how the youth is actively taking the initiative to get and stay toned. Gymming seems to be the new cool amongst people as they turn conscious to establish and be consistent with a healthy lifestyle for themselves and their families. But in the process of being thrilled about shedding those extra kilos and maintaining a healthy BMI (Body Mass Index), we often fail to remember that gyms are one of the most-visited public places making them prone to infections and fungal health concerns. And with the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) announcing that gyms will reopen from Monday, there is a reason to pay attention to infections other than corona when you are trying to amp up your fitness levels.

**Infectious fitness**

Infections and physical well-being might seem like opposite ends of a thread but sadly, the crowded rooms, mutually-shared equipment, steam rooms and showers make gyms more susceptible to serving as carriers of infections. Humid spaces and continuous shared touch triggers these infections.

**Some of the infections that might hit you off guard at your gym are:**

**RINGWORM**

This infection usually mushrooms in moist places and surfaces, thus making its way to your workout centres and gyms. A superficial skin infection caused by fungi, this infection results in a ring-shaped rash that is red,



scaly, and with a clearing in the centre. It can occur almost anywhere in your body.

**ATHLETE'S FOOT**

A fungi-led infection, Athlete's foot thrives in warm damp environments. Red, flaky, itchy skin on the soles of your feet or between your toes are common symptoms of this disease. Other than using public equipment and places, walking barefoot on contaminated surfaces has been identified as the primary reason for this infection.

**JOCK ITCH**

As the name suggests, this fungal infection is a condition that affects the inner thighs and genital region. This infection leads to an irritable, itchy/scaly red rash on the skin. This results in a consistent itch in the groin area.

**YEAST PROLIFERATING ACROSS SKIN**

This is not categorised as an infection but it is a growing con-

cern in today's time. Skin yeast causes the epidermis to develop light-coloured spots that may take a few months to resolve. It is most active in sweaty and humid environments. This health concern can be taken care of by using a good antimicrobial ingredient such as tea tree oil.

**NAIL FUNGUS**

Caused by the same fungi that cause the athlete's foot, this infection makes the nails or toes turn yellow, thick, and crumbly. Treated through oral medication, the healing process for this skin infection can take up to a few months.

**Precaution is better than cure**

Along with the infections mentioned above, several other health issues are surfacing due to bacteria clawing on bodies after workouts and in damp or heavily moist places. From staph infections, hot-tub rash, herpes, impetigo, plantar warts, colds, and Flu to MRSA, these infec-

tions make it uneasy for us to work out or be fit.

To avoid being impacted by these, there are a few measures that one can opt for, some of those measures include:

- Ensuring cleanliness
- Being specific about keeping your sports stuff and wearing personal and eliminating 'friendly-sharing' from the to-do list of working out
- Regularly washing laundry and tidying up post-workout
- Personal showers at home even if you have sanitised yourself at the gym
- Use a good quality antifungal body wash, infused with tea tree and neem oils
- Disinfecting your sports bag and equipment- Keeping physical touch to the minimum by not getting directly in touch with the fitness machines
- Wearing shoes to cut off contact with the mutually-shared ground and getting your mat.

One of the ways to combat the risk of being infected is by opting for organic products and oils, such as tea tree oil, body wash and other sanitary products. Along with avoiding direct contact, one needs to have a presence of mind to keep the practises going and focus on getting fit rather than being careless and contracting an infectious disease. We should not let go of the thought that washing away the acquired bacteria is the first step to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and the second comes balancing calories and BMI.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Kayos, which offers health, beauty & wellness products.)



PTI ■ BEIJING

The country where the coronavirus outbreak emerged two years ago launched a locked-down Winter Olympics on Friday, proudly projecting its might on the most global of stages even as some Western governments mounted a diplomatic boycott over the way China treats millions of its own people.

The opening ceremony began just after the arrival of Chinese President Xi Jinping and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach at the same lattice-encased National Stadium that hosted the inaugural event at the 2008 Olympics.

With the dimming of the lights and a countdown in fireworks, Beijing became the first city to host both winter and summer Games. And while some are staying away from the second pandemic Olympics in six months, many other world leaders attended the opening ceremony. Most notable: Russian President Vladimir Putin, who met privately with Xi earlier in the day as a dangerous standoff unfolds at Russia's border with Ukraine.

India announced a diplomatic boycott of the Games after China fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was injured during the 2020 military face-off with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.

The Olympics — and the opening ceremony — are always an exercise in performance for the host nation, a chance to showcase its culture, define its place in the world, flaunt its best side. That's something China in particular has been consumed with for decades. But at this year's Beijing Games, the gulf between performance and reality



# CHINA'S PANDEMIC OLYMPICS BEGINS

will be particularly jarring.

Fourteen years ago, a Beijing opening ceremony that featured massive pyrotechnic displays and thousands of crowd-flipping performers set a new standard of extravagance to start an Olympics that no host since has matched. It was a fitting start to

an event often billed as China's "coming out."

Now, no matter how you view it, China has arrived — but the hope for a more open country that accompanied those first Games has faded.

For Beijing, these Olympics are a confirmation of its status as world

player and power. But for many outside China, particularly in the West, they have become a confirmation of the country's increasingly authoritarian turn.

As if to underline that transformation, the opening ceremony Friday was staged at the same stadium —

known as the Bird's Nest — that held the 2008 version. Back then, Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei consulted on its construction. Now, he is one of the country's best known dissidents and lives in exile.

Chinese authorities are crushing pro-democracy activism, tightening

## India announced a diplomatic boycott of the Games after China fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was injured during the 2020 military face-off with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.

### INDIA MOMENT AT WINTER OLYMPICS OPENING

Skier Arif Khan led a small four-strong Indian contingent during the Winter Olympics opening ceremony here on Friday amid a diplomatic boycott of the event by the country.

The 31-year-old Arif will be the lone Indian competitor at the Games, having qualified in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. India sent a six-member contingent to the Games includ-

ing a coach, a technician and a team manager.

Arif is the first Indian to secure qualification in two events of the same edition of the Games and his competitions are slated for February 13 and 16.

India was the 23rd contingent to walk in during the grand ceremony at the iconic Bird's Nest stadium here as China welcomed athletes from 84 countries amid a diplomatic boycott by powerful nations such as the USA and Britain over its alleged human rights violations in the Xinjiang region.

India announced a diplomatic boycott of the Games after China fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was injured during the 2020 military face-off with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.

India said China's move was "regrettable" and it has chosen to "politicise" the Olympics.

Born in Kashmir's Baramulla district, Arif took up skiing quite early in life, winning his first national slalom championship at the age of just 12.

He later went on to win two gold medals in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events of the South Asian Winter Games in 2011.

He has also participated in both the editions of the Khelo India Winter Games held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir.

Arif's inspiration was his father Yasin Khan, who owns a ski equipment shop in Gulmarg, a popular tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir.

Previously, India's Winter Olympics campaigns have been identified with one man -- veteran luge athlete Shiva Keshavan, who represented the country in six editions of the mega-event.

## Indian men's hockey team heads to Johannesburg

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team left for Johannesburg on Friday for its FIH Pro League showdowns against South Africa and France from February 8 to 13 with senior forward Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and mid-fielder Jaskaran Singh ruled out at the last minute due to "illness".

The Manpreet Singh-led squad will arrive in Johannesburg via Doha.

They will play France in the first match on February 8 and take on South Africa on February 9.

They will again play France on February 12 and hosts South Africa on the following day.

While the team is upbeat and eager to begin their FIH Pro League campaign on a positive note, it received a minor setback with two senior players replaced due to illness.

"India forward Lalit Kumar Upadhyay and Jaskaran Singh will not be joining the team for South Africa. Standbys Sumit will replace Jaskaran in the mid-field and Gursahibjit Singh will replace Lalit," chief coach Graham Reid said in a



statement issued by Hockey India.

"Though it is a minor setback for us, we were always prepared for such a scenario and had the option of having five standbys," he explained.

Sixteen of the 33-strong core group had tested positive for COVID-19 a few weeks back in January and it is not clear whether Upadhyay and Singh are in any way affected by that outbreak. The federation did not specify the exact nature of the duo's illness.

Reid said core group has enough

depth and options with players who are capable of performing at the international level.

"This is the best part about having a group of 33 players who are all capable of putting up a good show on any given day. They are able to step up and perform for the team.

"We continue to remain upbeat about our campaign and look forward to some good hockey in Johannesburg," added Reid.

Skipper Manpreet said the side is capable of upsetting any big team in the tournament.

"I think we are all thrilled to be travelling again for some good International hockey. While we will miss Lalit and Jaskaran, the team is well prepared and most importantly we are all hungry for some good matches against South Africa and France," he said.

"Both South Africa and France are very capable of upsetting any big team of the world and we can't take them lightly. It will be interesting to see how well we will execute our plans which we have been trying out at the national camp."

## India's Suhana Saini wins bronze at WTT Youth Contender Tunis championship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian paddler Suhana Saini claimed a bronze medal after losing to Romania's Elena Zaharia in the under-19 girls semifinals at the ongoing WTT Youth Contender Tunis 2022 championships in the Tunisian capital.

The Haryana girl fought hard against her Romanian opponent before losing 11-9 9-11 10-12 11-13.

In the third and fourth games, the Indian had the opportunity to make a comeback, but the U-19 world no 1 Elena held her nerves to outwit Suhana.

Earlier in the quarterfinals, she defeated Egyptian Farida Badawy 11-9 11-4 11-8 in a one-sided contest.

The Indian had claimed three bronze medals at the World Youth Championships in December last year.

## Indian football team to play international friendlies against Bahrain



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian senior men's national football team will play two international friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus on March 23 and 26 respectively, the sport's apex body announced on Friday.

Both the matches will be played in Manama, Bahrain.

The matches are part of the preparation for the national team

campaign in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup third round qualifiers, which is scheduled to be held in June.

"Given the current circumstances, it was extremely difficult to find the kind of opponents we were looking for. But I am very happy that we have the two matches on our schedule," head coach Igor Stimac said.

"We are doing our best to prepare well for the upcoming

final qualifying round of the AFC Asian Cup China 2023, and these two matches will immensely facilitate our preparatory process," he added.

"Both Bahrain and Belarus are ranked higher than us, and if all goes well with the Hero ISL season with our boys putting in good performances, and playing competitive games we should be ready," the coach said.

Bahrain are placed at 91 in the FIFA rankings, while Belarus are on 94. India's current ranking is 104.

The last time India played any UEFA member association was more than a decade ago in February 2012 against Azerbaijan, a match which the rivals won 3-0.

"Playing against better teams is the best way to improve our own game, as that allows the boys the chance to mature playing against, and with better speed.

## Majchrzak knocks out second seed Musetti from Tata Open

PTI ■ PUNE

Kamil Majchrzak pulled off the second big upset of the tournament by knocking second seed Lorenzo Musetti out of the Tata Open Maharashtra with a three-set win, here on Friday.

Returning extremely well and using the drop shots quite effectively, the 95th ranked Polish player eked out a 6-2 7-6(5) 6-4 win over the world number 66 in two hours and 13 minutes to advance to the semifinals.

The top seed and world number 15 Aslan Karatsev has already exited the event after defeat in the second round at the hands of qualifier Elias Ymer.

Musetti faced a breakpoint in the sixth game after going up 40-15 and dropped serve when his cross court forehand went wide. It was the Polish player's returns along with excellent court coverage that opened up the opportunity.



Majchrzak came out serving next game at love to lead 5-2.

Serving to stay in the set, the young Italian began with a forehand error and ended with a backhand error.

The unforced errors continued to flow from Musetti's racket as he was trying too hard but he managed to hold his serve in the beginning of the second set, coming out with two big serves

at 30-all. Majchrzak, though, was not only returning well he also came out serving extremely well to keep the match under his control.

Serving at 2-3 and up 40-30, Musetti served a double fault but returned well to win the deuce point but again unforced error made it back to deuce.

Musetti got his first break opportunity in the next game

when he found a passing single backhand winner at 30-all but netted the forehand on next point to let go of advantage.

In the absence of a break, the second set went into a tie-breaker, in which Musetti led 4-2. Soon he had three set points. He spoilt the first two but Majchrzak double faulted on the third to make it one-set all.

The Italian teenager managed to contain his unforced errors and also served well in the decider. Serving first, he stayed ahead, holding his serves comfortably.

Majchrzak also kept it simple and apart from his huge serves, his use of drop shots to cut short points and intermittent charge at the net was pretty impressive.

In the ninth game, at 30-30, Musetti hit a backhand long to face first break chance of the third set but used his backhand slices well to stave off the danger.

## Bengaluru out to spoil Jamshedpur's applecart

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Bengaluru FC will look to upset Jamshedpur FC's applecart and sharpen their playoff aspirations when the two sides meet in the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

Jamshedpur have won their last three games, spread over two weeks, to sit four points adrift of league leaders Hyderabad FC in second position but with two more games in hand.

A win will help them snap at Hyderabad's heels but in Bengaluru, they will face a rival who have found their mojo back.

The Blues won back-to-back games for the first time this season when they beat Kerala Blasters in the last game and also broke into the top-four for the first time. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has looked his usual self in goal for the former champions with Bengaluru keeping four clean sheets in the last seven games. Three of those four clean sheets have come in the last four matches. They have only leaked one goal in that period.



Bengaluru have become more compact of late. They have let the opposition have the ball more in the last 4 matches and this can be seen through their possession numbers.

Roshan Singh Naorem scored his

maiden ISL goal in the previous game and has looked good this season too. Only three defenders have had more goal contributions in a season than Roshan Singh, underlining his impact not only at the back but in attack as well.

## Athletic finally beats Madrid, returns to Copa semifinals

AP ■ MADRID

It took a goal near the end for Athletic Bilbao to finally get the better of Real Madrid and reach the Copa del Rey semifinals for the third straight season.

Alex Berenguer scored in the 89th minute to give Athletic a 1-0 victory in the quarterfinal at San Mamés Stadium on Thursday, ending a three-match losing streak for the Basque Country team against Madrid.

It was the fourth meeting between the clubs in two months, with Madrid winning in the final of the Spanish Super Cup last month in Saudi Arabia and twice in Spanish league matches in December.

Athletic reached the last two Copa finals, losing to Basque Country rival Real Sociedad in 2020 and

**Madrid was without striker Karim Benzema because of a muscle injury, but Vinicius Júnior, Rodrigo and Casemiro — who arrived from international duty with Brazil on Wednesday — were in the starting lineup.**



Barcelona last season. Madrid, the only top club still left after Barcelona and Atlético Madrid

were eliminated in the last 16, hasn't made it to the semifinals since 2018-19, when it lost to Barcelona. It has

n't won the competition since 2014. Real Betis earlier Thursday won 4-0 at Sociedad and returned to the last four for the first time since 2018-19.

Madrid was without striker Karim Benzema because of a muscle injury, but Vinicius Júnior, Rodrigo and Casemiro — who arrived from international duty with Brazil on Wednesday — were in the starting lineup. Vinicius was substituted early in the second half.

Madrid struggled in attack without Benzema and with Vinicius far from his best form. It was a bad pass by Casemiro in defense that led to Athletic's late winner — a well-placed shot by Berenguer from inside the area. On Wednesday, 2019 champion Valencia reached its second Copa semifinal in four years by defeating

Cádiz 2-1, while Rayo Vallecano made the last four for the first time in four decades by beating Mallorca 1-0. Betis advanced thanks to three goals by former Sociedad players.

Juanmi scored twice in the first half and William José added the third after halftime before Aitor Rubial closed the scoring near the end of the match at Anoeta Stadium.

Sociedad, which was also eliminated by Betis in the round of 16 last season, missed several good chances early on and had a goal disallowed for offside after a video review that drew controversy as the wrong image — one which apparently showed the Sociedad player outside -- was shown on the television broadcast.

The company behind the VAR technology in the Copa del Rey said it was investigating what happened.

"The correct image was used by the VAR to make the correct decision," it said in a statement.

"However, the issue resulted in the wrong image being sent to the television broadcaster, which was quickly rectified. Hawk-Eye Technical Services are evaluating different scenarios to determine where the issue occurred."

Sociedad was looking for its second Copa title in three seasons after lifting its second trophy in the competition in 2020.

Manuel Pellegrini's Betis has won four in a row in all competitions while outscoring opponents 14-2. It sits third in the Spanish league, 10 points from leader Madrid and six points from second-place Sevilla.

The draw for the two-legged Copa semifinals will be on Friday.



# FINAL SHOWDOWN

Dhull and boys on course to extend India's undisputed dominance at U-19 World Cup. India will aim to add to its rich legacy when they take on England at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Eight finals and four trophies in 14 editions make India the most successful team in the Under-19 World Cup history.

And come Saturday, they look on course for a record-extending fifth title given the depth of talent and form but standing in the way is a driven English team, chasing its own piece of history in what promises to be an enthralling summit clash.

Yash Dull and Co. Will aim to add to India's rich legacy when they take on England at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here.

India have had a rather smooth run into the final despite a massive off the field setback when skipper Dhull and his deputy Shaik Rasheed missed two of the three league games due to COVID-19.

Dhull, who had the worst symptoms among the infected players, has lived up to his highly rated talent in the three innings he has played so

far including the sublime hundred in the semifinal.

Rasheed has also shown his brilliance with the bat and is certainly the one to watch out for in the future.

Opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Harnoor Singh were extra cautious in their approach in the semifinal against Australia and the duo will need to change their approach for the summit clash.

What makes India's bunch of teenagers look the part is their unexpected maturity. The way Dhull and Rasheed batted after a poor start against Australia was a lesson in pacing the innings.

Only a few out of the current lot are likely to graduate to the highest level in the years to follow but in the short term, a special performance on Saturday afternoon can land them a life changing IPL deal at the upcoming mega auction.

While the batters have put up individual performances, the bowling department has fired in unison.

**India have had a rather smooth run into the final despite a massive off the field setback when skipper Dhull and his deputy Shaik Rasheed missed two of the three league games due to COVID-19**

The extra pace of Rajvardhan Hangargekar and swing of left-arm Ravi Kumar has rattled the top order batters while the Vicky Ostwal-led spin attack has stifled the opposition in the middle overs. He is India's leading wicket-taker with 12 scalps at 10.75.

Summing up team's confidence ahead of the final, Rasheed said: "We are a very good team. We are looking to win the finals."

The U-19 stars are also getting to learn from the best.

Virat Kohli, who went on to become a world beater after captaining India U-19 to the title in 2008, gave a pep talk to the class of 2022 on how to approach the high pressure final.

They face England, a team which last reached the title clash way back in 1998 when it won its sole trophy till date.

After a tense finish in the semifinal against Afghanistan, England will be more than keen to end their title drought of the last 24



years. Like India, England too remain unbeaten in the tournament. Captain Tom Prest has led from the front with 292 runs at an average of 73 while left-arm pacer Joshua Boyden has taken 13 wickets at a stellar average of 9.53.

India batters will also need to be wary of wrist spinner Rehan Ahmed who is tasked with providing breakthroughs in the middle overs.

Irrespective of the result on final, the Indian boys have had their moment in the sun in the Caribbean but given the high expectations they set for themselves, they will settle for nothing less than a trophy.

## Indian women's ODI series against New Zealand to begin on February 12

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

The Indian women's cricket team's ODI series against New Zealand will now begin on February 12, a day later than originally scheduled, as the host board announced revised fixtures on Friday to give the two sides more time between games.

The Indian team was scheduled to play five ODIs and a T20I, starting February 9 across three venues but New Zealand Cricket (NZC) moved all matches to John Davies Oval in Queenstown last month in order to limit travelling and reduce the chances of a COVID-19 outbreak.

With the teams not having to travel, the NZC has rescheduled fixtures to give the two sides more time between each match.



"NZC has made changes to the dates of the KFC India Tour of NZ between the WHITE FERNS and India Women, to be played exclusively at John

Davies Oval in Queenstown. "The date of the first KFC T20I remains the same but there has been some adjustments made to the subsequent

five match KFC ODI series," a statement from NZC read. The bilateral series, which is crucial for India ahead of the World Cup in March-April, will

begin with the one-off T20I which is still slated to be played on February 9.

However, the first three ODIs have been pushed back from their original dates.

The ODI series-opener will now be played on February 12 rather than February 11.

The second ODI, which was slated to be played on February 14, has also been pushed a day back and is now scheduled for February 15, while the third ODI is now slated for February 18, rather than February 16.

There is no change in the dates of final two matches which will be played on February 22 and 24.

The Indian team is currently undergoing the mandatory Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) in Christchurch.

## Andy Flower takes leave from PSL franchise to attend IPL mega auction

PTI ■ KARACHI

Former Zimbabwe star Andy Flower has left Multan Sultans midway into the Pakistan Super League season to be in India for the IPL mega auction on February 11-12. One of Zimbabwe's most successful cricketers, Flower, who coached Multan to the PSL title last year, will be in Bengaluru for the auction as he is the head coach of the new IPL franchise, Lucknow Super Giants.

According to Multan Sultans' media department, Flower will be available virtually and will return to Pakistan on February 13. The PSL franchise will be without Flower for at least 10 days. Sultans will face Peshawar Zalmi on February 5 and 10 and take on Lahore Qalandars on February 11.

Flower will rejoin the side before the match against Karachi Kings on February 16. Pakistan's former leg-spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, and other coaches will guide the squad in his absence. There are also speculations about Flower being considered for the England head coach's job. Flower has coached the England team in the past.



## Pakistan pacer Hasnain suspended for illegal bowling action

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain has been suspended from bowling in international cricket for illegal bowling action, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Friday.

Umpires in Australia first reported Hasnain last month when he represented Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League, but his bowling action was tested in Lahore as the fast bowler was due to fly back home in time to compete in the Pakistan Super League.

"As per the illegal bowling action regulations, until Mohammad Hasnain clears his reassessment, he will remain suspended from bowling in international cricket," the PCB said in a statement.

The 21-year-old Hasnain has represented Pakistan in eight one-day internationals and 18 Twenty20s and has taken 29 wickets. He is considered to be among Pakistan's top young fast bowlers.

Hasnain took three wickets in three games for his franchise Quetta Gladiators in the ongoing PSL, but was dropped for Thursday's game against Islamabad United which Quetta lost by 43 runs.

The PCB said Hasnain had flaws in his various deliveries as "his elbow extension for good length delivery, full-length delivery, slow bouncer and bouncer exceeded the 15-degree limits."

The report was reviewed by Cricket Australia's independent expert, who also found Hasnain's bowling action to be illegal.

The PCB said it has discussed the report with its own bowling experts, who will work with the fast bowler "so that he can rectify his bowling action and be ready for reassessment."

The cricket board also consulted the technical committee of the PSL and decided not to allow the fast bowler to further participate in the tournament.

"Instead, he will use this time to work with the PCB-appointed bowling consultant to modify his bowling action so that he can apply for a reassessment and become eligible to return to international cricket as quickly as practically possible," the PCB said.

## Cricket Australia approves first tour of Pakistan in 24 years



PTI ■ KARACHI

Cricket Australia on Friday approved its first tour of Pakistan in 24 years with a revised itinerary being announced by both the boards amid lingering security concerns.

Coming off a 4-0 Ashes victory against England at home, Australia will play three Tests — in Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore.

They will also play three one day internationals and a T20I during the full tour.

The opening Test match will be played from March 4-8 in Rawalpindi and the four white-ball matches are scheduled to be played from March 29 to April 5.

The tour will now start and end in Rawalpindi with the opening Test to be played from 4-8 March and the four white-ball matches to be played from 29 March to 5 April.

The second Test will be played in Karachi from March 12-16 and the third in Lahore from March 16-20.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Faisal Hasnain said: "We are pleased that the Cricket Australia Board has formally approved their side's five-week tour itinerary and confirmed that their best available players will visit Pakistan for the first time in 24 years.

"We are really excited to host Pat Cummins and his players, and look forward to a competitive series that will comprise three Tests, three ODIs and a T20I."

The tour comes as a huge boost for Pakistan, which was hit hard when New Zealand and England abruptly pulled out from their scheduled tour of the country last year over security concerns.

Top-flight international cricket did not take place in Pakistan for nearly a decade since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore.

"While Australia will arrive at the back of strong performances in their home series

## Challenge for Rohit is to stay fit and play everything from now to World Cup: Agarkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former pacer Ajit Agarkar reckons the biggest challenge for India's new white-ball skipper Rohit Sharma is to remain fit ahead of T20 and ODI World Cup scheduled over the next 24 months.

Rohit was appointed skipper after Virat Kohli stepped down as captain from T20Is and was removed from the

leadership role in ODIs.

"I think it's a good thing and the right thing to do - to have one captain for white-ball format and now Rohit actually can fly," Agarkar said on the Star Sports.

With the T20 World Cup later this year in Australia and ODI World Cup next year in large, Agarkar feels the captain should be

present with the team, something he believes worked for former skippers Kohli and MS Dhoni.

"So, the challenge for Rohit Sharma - in



## England coach Silverwood leaves after Ashes humiliation

AP ■ LONDON

Chris Silverwood stepped down as England cricket coach, becoming the second significant departure amid the fallout from the team's humiliating Ashes series loss in Australia.

Ashley Giles, England's director of cricket, left his role on Wednesday in the wake of the men's team losing 4-0 to Australia. "The last two years have been very demanding but I have really enjoyed my time with the team," Silverwood said.

"I leave with fond memories and I am now looking forward to spending some quality time at home with my family and embracing the next chapter." A coach interim will be appointed ahead of next month's three tests in the West Indies.

## Pakistan and South Africa finish U19 World Cup on a high

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Two-time champions Pakistan and South Africa both signed off their U-19 World Cup campaigns with contrasting victories.

Pakistan eased past Sri Lanka in the fifth place playoff after the two sides' chances of lifting the trophy ended at the quarterfinal stage last week.

While elsewhere in Antigua, South Africa finish in seventh place after a closely fought two-wicket victory over Bangladesh.

Pakistan were in command from the off at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground, with openers Muhammad Shehzad and Haseebullah Khan (136) dominating the Sri Lanka attack.

The pair led Pakistan to 100 without loss, Shehzad eventually made 73 before he was dismissed by Raveen de Silva.



(135 off 80) and the two took the game away from Sri Lanka, putting on a superb stand. Both made centuries and took Pakistan beyond 350, Khan was finally trapped by Matheesha Pathirana.

Akram remained unbeaten as his side closed on 365-3.

The Sri Lankan response was in tatters after just two overs with Akram wreaking havoc with the new ball.

The talented all-rounder removed openers Chamindu Wickramasinghe and Pawan Pathiraja for a combined total of just one, with Shevon Daniel also falling between the two.

Ranuda Somarathna also went for a duck with Akram single-handedly reducing Sri Lanka to 4-15.

From then on Sri Lanka were purely batting for pride. Their captain Dunith Wellalage didn't go without a fight and made a brave 40, which included five boundaries.

Vinuja Ranpul was in similarly defiant mood hitting 53 not out and his side's only two sixes of the match.

But it wasn't enough and Pakistan cleaned up a 238 run victory when Treveen Mathew was hit on the pads by Zeeshan Zameer's full delivery, bowling out the Sri Lanka team for 127 inside 35 overs to secure the fifth place.

Over at the Coolidge Cricket Ground, South Africa were also aiming to end their time in the Caribbean on a high, taking on Bangladesh in the 7th place playoff.

After electing to bat, Bangladesh made a strong start reaching 50 without loss only for Mahfijul Islam to fall to Liam Alder in the 10th over.