



# BBSR land use system wins nat'l award

Citizens can use the app to report Govt land encroachment

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System (BLUIS), a 5T project launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on July 8, 2020 and implemented by the General Administration and Public Grievance Department in collaboration with BDA, BMC and ORSAC, was conferred with the National e-Governance Gold Category Award by Union Minister of Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh in the 24th National Conference on e-Governance



organised by the Government of India at Hyderabad on Friday.

The award was received by Additional Chief Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner

Sanjeev Chopra along with ORSAC Chief Executive Officer Prafulla Mallik, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya CEO Prem Chandra Chaudhury and Director of Estates Sushanta Kumar Mohanty. The project uses cutting edge technology including satellite imagery and Artificial Intelligence to safeguard Government land in the capital city. Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra advised to have more of the innovative technological applications for supporting quick and informed decision making. He also directed to replicate the application in other municipal corporations. Additional CS Chopra said, "The app has user-friendly interface for citizens and officials. It has also scalable and rep-

licable features and key information at fingertip on a dashboard. Citizens can use the app to report any suspected encroachment of the Government land." ORSAC CEO Mallick said, "A significant feature of BLUIS is that it enables crowdsourcing cases of unauthorised land use."

As of now, 826 encroachment cases have been detected in the city and 484 cases resolved through application of this technology. The app has also facilitated early grounding of developmental projects. Director of Estates Mohanty said the Governments of Jharkhand and Assam have sought Odisha's support for implementing similar systems in Ranchi and Guwahati, respectively.

# 'Lift ban on scribes' entry to Lokseva Bhawan'

Bikash Parishad writes to Prez, PM for intervention

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Odisha unit of Bharatiya Bikash Parishad led by its president Surendra Panigrahi submitted a memorandum to the President and the Prime Minister demanding immediate withdrawal of restrictions imposed on the entry of working journalists to the Odisha Secretariat (Lokseva Bhawan) for collection of news.

The Parishad described the decision of the State Govern-

ment not only unfortunate, but also sheer murder of the 4th pillar of democracy by the ruling BJD regime. It is unfortunate that the journalists who hold high esteem in the society are not allowed to enter into the Lokseva Bhawan for last about two years in the State, on the sheer pretext of Covid-19 pandemic. If the journalists do not get access to the Secretariat and are prevented from taking opinions from the Ministers and Secretaries, how the accountability of the Government will be fixed, the memorandum questioned. The Parishad further alleged that, the Government does not want to share information with the

journalists on gross misappropriation of public funds such as NDRE, SDRF, etc by some bureaucrats and Ministers during first wave of Covid-19 pandemic for which such restrictions have deliberately been imposed. Imposing restrictions on the entry of working journalists to any Government Department or refusing access to Government records is unconstitutional and undemocratic, the memorandum added.

On the other hand, persons like Govinda Sahu allegedly involved in the murder of Mamita Meher are given a free passage to the Secretariat along with ruling BJD workers, the Parishad alleged.

# No VSSUT offline exams, classes now

Rajendra classes suspended for 2 days

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR/BALANGIR

All offline examinations and physical classes were suspended at the Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) after many students were infected with Covid-19 at the campus.

The Sambalpur district administration sent the students to their houses as at least 22 students tested positive for the virus in last three

days, informed Vice-Chancellor Prof Bansidhar Majhi. All offline examinations had been scheduled to begin from Thursday. The infected students have been put under isolation at a hostel in the university premises. The district administration has made arrangements to keep these students under isolation at the Angira hostel, a VSSUT official stated. Meanwhile, the university authorities have decided to conduct online classes from January 10. Physical classes were suspended for a period of two days at the Rajendra

University here after detection of a Covid-19 case in a hostel.

"No physical class will be held at the Rajendra University for two days after a student staying in PG hostel tested positive for Covid-19. The infected is in home isolation. The swab samples of other students have been collected and sent for Covid test," informed Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Kumar Satapathy on Friday. During suspension of the classes, the entire campus will be sanitised to prevent further spread of the virus.

# Manipur inks pact with KIIT for tech hub

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Manipur Department of Information Technology (DIT) signed an agreement with the KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) on January 5 to establish a Manipur Technology Innovation Hub (MTI-Hub) with KIIT-TBI on PPP model to promote entrepreneurship in Manipur.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stone of the MTI-Hub virtually in the presence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren



Singh. As per the agreement, the Manipur Government will pro-

vide furnished 10,000-sqft built-up space with part of operation

cost. To further strengthen the ecosystem development, both Manipur Government and KIIT-TBI will reach out to Government of India funding agencies such as DST, MeITY, MSME, and BIRAC-DBT. The KIIT-TBI is one of the most vibrant technology business incubators in India. It is a centre of excellence, now reaching out to the East and Northeast regions of India and helping various stakeholders establish sustainable incubation platforms. This is an important achievement of KIIT-TBI, said KIIT & KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta while congratulating the KIIT-TBI team for attaining the milestone.

# Silicon students protest offline classes



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tension ran high at the Silicon Institute of Technology here on Friday when hundreds of students gathered at the campus to protest over offline classes and examinations at a time when the State is witnessing a sudden rise in daily Covid-19 cases.

Wearing masks, the agitating students blocked the entrance of the college and shouted slogans demanding conduct of online classes and examinations. "Despite the State Government's restrictions, the college authorities are conducting offline classes.

We have no option but to go to the college to attend classes and appear in offline exams," said a student. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) should consider the matter seriously and take action accordingly for the safety of students, he added.

Notably, earlier on January 5, the Government, while issuing fresh Covid guidelines for this month, directed schools and colleges to conduct online classes up to Class-XII. The guidelines that came into effect from 5 a of January 7 will remain force till 5 am of February 1.

# Cuttack school sealed as 15 students +ve

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) on Friday sealed the Signal Headquarters Training School at Tulasipur in the city after its 15 students tested Covid-19 positive.

The school is to remain closed till January 14. The CMC Deputy Commissioner has written a letter to the school authorities in this regard. "It came to our notice that as many as 15 trainees out of the 56 were found Covid-19 positive, for which contact tracing as well as sample testing of remaining trainees and their family members are quite necessary," the letter stated.

"I am directed to instruct you to close your institute till January 14 till completion of contract tracing and sample testing," the letter added.

# Health Min tests +ve

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Health & Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisore Das has tested positive for Covid-19. He informed this on his official Twitter handle on Friday and urging the people who have come in physical contact with him recently to undergo Covid test.

# Tapaswini now settles in hubby's house

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

After a long battle of 48 days, Brahmapur doctor Sumit's wife Tapaswini entered her in-laws' house at Brahma Nagar here on Thursday on a court's order.

But her in-laws had argued that the court has not permitted her to stay in their house. Only on the intervention of her advocates Deepak Patnaik and Pradeep Behera and High Court lawyer Manas Chand and in the presence of Additional SP Asim Panda, District Women Cell Officer Sangita Patro, Tehsildar Rabi Mohapatra that she could en-



ter the house at around 9 pm and that too after a long bargain of allotting a room for her.

The District Sessions Court in

its interim order on January 4 had asked Sumit to pay Rs 17,000 per month to Tapaswini and allow her to stay in his house.

# 400 Covid cases in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

State Capital city Bhubaneswar registered 400 Covid-19 positive cases on Thursday, surging its total tally to 124,854. The active cases were 1,334. Out of the new cases, 38 were from quarantine and 362 local contacts. However, 93 patients recovered, increasing the total recoveries to 1,22,387. So far, 1,103 persons have succumbed to the disease in the city.

# Rs 14L drug seized; 5 held in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

The Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch on Friday seized 140 grams of brown sugar from near the Mata Math under the Baseli Sahi police station in Puri. The STF team also arrested five persons in this connection and seized cash of more than Rs 50,000, two two-wheelers and five mobile phones from their possession. The market value of the seized contraband is around 14 lakh. Earlier, the agency had received inputs about a large quantity of drugs being stockpiled for trafficking, following which they carried out a raid along with the Baseli Sahi police. Of late, there have been many reports of the pilgrim city turning into a safe haven for the drug mafia.

# Vaishnav unveils GIMSAR mobile hosp



PNS ■ ATHAGARH

Railway and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Friday unveiled a Hospital on Wheels in the campus of the Gopabandhu Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (GIMSAR) at Madhapur, seven km from Athagarh town.

He said the mobile hospital would move to remote villages in and around Athagarh to provide

health services for the vulnerable sections of the society. The vehicle in which the mobile hospital has been developed was donated by the Brahmani River Pellets Limited, said GIMSAR chairman Niranjana Rath.

Vaishnav assured the gathering that a railway underpass would be constructed soon at the Gbantikhal railway crossing to avoid traffic congestion in the Athagarh-Cuttack route.

# Cuttack rly station's 2nd entry foundation laid

Vaishnav also unveils new facilities in B'swar

PNS ■ CUTTACK/BALESWAR

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav laid foundation for development of the second entry and circulating area of the Cuttack railway station on Friday.

The development works for this entry include facilities like parking for two/three/four-wheelers, pickup and drop point, parking for ambulance, VIP vehicles, etc., and a wider approach



road. The function was attended by Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab via videoconferencing

and Cuttack Sadar MLA Souvic Biswal. Vaishnav informed that the Railways is committed to de-

velopment of the Cuttack station, for which funds would never be a constraint. He directed officials to speed up the ongoing construction works to complete them at the earliest. He later inspected the railway station and took stock of the developmental works and amenities provided at the station. East Coast and South Eastern Railway General Manager Archana Joshi highlighted the performance of the ECoR. Vaishnav on the day also unveiled an extension of a passenger MEMU (08411) train up to Baleswar which was running between Bhadrak and Bhubaneswar. He also laid foundation-stone for

a railway station at Gopinathpur to facilitate running of a passenger train between Baleswar and Nilgiri. Vaishnav said sooner the proposal of a train to Nilgiri came to PM Modi's knowledge, he asked him to act on it without delay. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Bisweswar Tudu, Baleswar MP Pratap Sarangi, Sadar MLA Swarup Das and SE Railway GM Archana Joshi were present.

Later, Vaishnav inaugurated a new station building and a third rail line between Kharagpur and Bhadrak at the Basta station and laid foundation for a new building at the Jaleswar station.







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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Virus of bigotry

Young minds are exposed daily to fake news, propaganda and permissive social networks

A virus more dangerous than COVID-19 is on the prowl for easy prey. Bigotry. It works on a fast transmissible platform. Social media. It infects the country's source of future wealth: Youth. The 'Bulli Bai' app that represents a depraved mindset is a case in point. The web-based app hosted morphed photographs and objectionable statements hurting Muslim women. The police have arrested four youngsters so far. Neeraj Bishnoi allegedly created the app. He is an engineering student. Shweta Singh is only 19 and reportedly posted extreme content. Mayank Rawat, 21, allegedly shared links of extreme posts. Vishal Kumar Jha, also 21, allegedly used multiple Twitter handles to post objectionable content against Muslim women. They come from different States, different backgrounds, different career objectives. The social media world connects them. A twisted mindset plagued by communal hatred binds them. They are bright, have a grasp of current affairs, and had targets to achieve in life. Deep inside, however, lay trapped a sinister personality that surfaced whenever they entered the dark world of the web. The fate that now awaits them should send shudders down

the spine of other youth who might see no harm in spreading communal poison. The families of the four youth will forever be stigmatised. They will watch media trials of their children. The neighbours might shun them. The universities might expel them. Their college life is ruined and their dreams might die in a cold cell of a prison. Is it worth it?

Worse, the four youth would not have known anything about Muslim women in general, let alone about the women whose character they assassinated in public. The youth and adolescents of the country are most vulnerable today to online radicalisation.



The word is used not just in the context of terrorism but applies to all anti-social actions. In these days of unfettered access of the youth to the web and social media, they need not make a special effort to get acquainted with obscene campaigns or divisive politics. Rather, these distortions find their way to them. It is up to a vulnerable, immature or unthinking mind to lap it all up, get carried away and join the mob. The impressionable minds are exposed daily to fake news, doctored facts, propaganda politics and permissive social networks where women are the natural subjects for abuse and trolling. Much of it is highly sexualised, coloured by communal innuendo. They continuously receive threats of rape, death, acid attacks and, the latest, auctions. Sexual bullying of women in the public sphere is now an international phenomenon with the selection of victims according to their religion being a sought-after operation. Here is a thought for the country's youth: Bigotry and communal hatred lurks in the underbelly of social media, championed by sick minds intent on destroying society's sanity. They brainwash unsuspecting youth and applaud them till the latter self-destruct. They will then go in search of another family.

### PICTALK



Labourers work at a brick kiln on a cold winter morning, in Birbhum

PTI

## Ready or not?

The Government must translate its assurances into action in the fight against Omicron

The Capital has plummeted to another dubious landmark while matching wits with the latest mutant of the Coronavirus, Omicron, which is said to be clinically less severe but several times more transmissible; and the mandatory seven-day quarantine for all passengers coming in from abroad is a welcome decision. On Friday, the city crossed the 17,000-mark after registering 15,097 fresh COVID-19 cases (with six deaths) on Thursday, with the positivity rate jumping to 15.34 per cent. With the infection toll rising to 25,127 in Delhi, it was a 41 per cent jump in fresh cases over the previous day's figures. According to a study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, the Capital is one of the hotspots for the prevalent COVID-19 pandemic in India, the others being Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. All these States are seeing a significant surge in Coronavirus infections by the new variant. With experts pointing out that migration is a major factor for spread of the infection in all these States, it is incumbent upon the Governments to meticulously monitor travel to and from these States. Now the important question is how prepared the Capital is to counter the spread of the latest variant. By all accounts, it appears, hardly.

The Government machinery, of course, is making the right sounds, issuing advisories left, right and centre and airing bombastic plans on how well prepared it is in terms of medical manpower, hospital beds, oxygen supply and suchlike necessary items to contain the spread of the infection. However, the ground reality is an entirely different story; the advisories and orders notwithstanding, but there is hardly any implementation. People roam around maskless, sanitisers are evaporating from the reception areas of commercial and industrial establishments, COVID-appropriate behaviour is being flouted with impunity. Similar was the scene at the height of the second COVID wave last year, when the Government's tall claims about its medical preparedness were bitterly exposed, unfortunately at the cost of hundreds of innocent lives. The only silver lining this time round is that the eligible children are showing no hesitancy in taking the jab. The AAP Government must ensure that all arrangements are in battle-ready state; maybe it can have a dry run to assess its state of preparedness before, god forbid, the floodgates open. Less talk and more work, must be its motto.

# Will the Taliban leaders grow apart?

Unless the glue of power keeps it together, there is a distinct possibility of the Islamist militia falling apart, given its internal differences



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Ever since the Taliban established their sway over Afghanistan in 1996, the question that has remained a persistent background whisper is whether their regime would last, and for how long. The speculation has been whether their Government would implode from within, or would be undermined by violent opposition by organisations like the Islamic State of Khorasan or would collapse thanks to both.

As to the first, it has been known for a little over two decades that the Taliban, formed in April 1994 in southern Afghanistan, has had internal differences and contending factions. Steve Coll, in *Directorate S: The CIA and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001-2016*, cites CIA deputy director John McLaughlin as saying the organisation's analysts had reported to President George Bush Jr's cabinet in 2001 that the "Taliban is not a monolithic organisation". Their assessment was, "There are ideological adherents but many others are with them because it is how you get money and guns." Coll goes on to say, that it followed logically from this conclusion that there had "to be a way to drive wedges in the organisation".

The CIA, according to Coll, had identified individuals in the Taliban leadership who claimed that they disagreed with the Taliban's supreme commander Mullah Mohammad Omar's provision of sanctuary to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda because harbouring terrorists deprived the fundamentalist Islamist militia of international recognition. If, however, there was dissent within the Taliban, it did not lead to any breach even after the US-led war that began on October 7, 2001, led to their ouster from Afghanistan by mid-December.

That there was factional tension, was indicated by the idea of there being "good" and "bad" Taliban, the former being people with whom the US and other countries could fruitfully engage in talks. The first proponent of the idea was clearly Pakistan which sought to sell it to President George Bush Jr's administration in the aftermath



of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon's E-Wing. It did not have any practical consequences. Mullah Mohammad Omar, the first *Ameer-ul-Momineen* (translated as Supreme Commander of the Faithful) of the Taliban, refused to hand over Osama bin Laden and his associates and evict al-Qaeda from Afghanistan.

The idea, however, continued to circulate and had subscribers like Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's President from December 22, 2001, to September 20, 2014. A section of the Taliban, including Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Islamist militia, and now one of the three Deputy Prime Ministers in the Taliban Government, was viewed as one of them. Nothing came of it as the Bush administration rejected the idea. Karzai, however, continued reaching out to the Taliban with Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, former Taliban Foreign Minister, leading efforts on his behalf to persuade the Taliban to negotiate an end to the war. His brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, also had indirect contacts with Mullah Baradar.

Mullah Baradar's arrest in January 2010 and interrogation by the Pakistanis and, subsequently, Americans, put

paid to the backchannel talks the Americans and Karzai's Government were having with a section of the Taliban. Indeed, the arrest was clearly a result of Islamabad's move to scuttle the talks, particularly those between the US and the Taliban, which were being conducted without it being kept in the loop, a fact it deeply resented.

In a report datelined February 16, 2010, and titled "Taliban Arrest May be Crucial for Pakistanis", in *The New York Times*, Carlotta Gall and Souad Mekhennet say that Baradar's arrest came at a delicate time when the Taliban were in a fierce internal debate about whether to negotiate for peace or fight on as the US prepared to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan as a part of President Barack Obama's strategy of launching a new offensive later in the year. It cited a member of the Kandahar provincial council, Haji Muhammad Ehsan, saying that while some hardliners argued in favour of continuing the fight, the balance had been shifting increasingly in favour of negotiated peace.

The differences within the Taliban continued with strategic differences intertwined with ethnic and regional allegiances and personal ambitions. The factional contestations emerged in sharp focus

in 2015 when it came to be known that Mullah Omar had died on April 13, 2013, but the fact was kept a secret and Mullah Akhtar Mansour ran the organisation in his name. Mansour, who became the successor in July 2015, was killed by a US drone strike on May 21, 2016, following which Sheikh Haibatullah Akhaundzada became the *Ameer-ul-Momineen*.

The continuing factional tussles intensified sharply during the exercise in Government formation that followed the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. The country's capital, Kabul, fell to them on August 15, 2021. It took them three weeks thereafter to announce the first list of interim — not permanent — Ministers. The composition of the Ministry and the subsequent expansions clearly reflect an effort to reconcile conflicting claims for ministerial berths. With the passing of time, issues like those of human rights, particularly those of women, and inclusive Government, on which sharp differences exist, will further aggravate matters. Will the Taliban Government implode? It is difficult to tell. Power is a glue that can stick polar opposites together.

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



THAT THERE WAS FACTIONAL TENSION, WAS INDICATED BY THE IDEA OF THERE BEING 'GOOD' AND 'BAD' TALIBAN, THE FORMER BEING PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES COULD FRUITFULLY ENGAGE IN TALKS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### THIRD WAVE UP, GDP DOWN

Sir — The Omicron-induced lockdowns, among other factors such as an increase in raw prices, may pull down GDP growth this fiscal as per India Ratings and Research. Although Omicron cases are spreading much faster than the earlier Coronavirus variants, there are indications that the infection is milder and mostly not life-threatening. Also, the earlier two waves have made both the Governments and business establishments better equipped to deal with the current situation. Consequently, the impact of COV 3.0 on the economy will be lower than COV 1.0 and 2.0. Once the infection subsides, the economy is expected to bounce back quickly.

But all this would not be possible without policy support. According to experts, this support would be critical as long as the pandemic threat continues and the economy reaches the stage of sustained growth trajectory. It is expected that the negative impact may be limited to just one quarter due to better preparedness this time round to face such circumstances. A surge in infections could trigger stricter restrictions on people's movement, which could dent the nascent revival in sectors such as travel, tourism and hospitality. It is everybody's duty to support the Government in this fight.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

#### MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

Sir — All security measures were taken as per the "blue book" when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Punjab but due to a communication gap on the sudden change in his itinerary, the unfortunate incident occurred, says Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha chief, however, confessed that the police machinery had informed him of this alternative route (the over-bridge). The Punjab Chief Minister's explanation, therefore, doesn't hold water. At the peak of farmers' agitation calling to repeal the three controversial farm laws, Delhi's borders and Lakhimpur Kheri were beset with violence and arson when the police allegedly deliberately allowed a

### In the name of god, stop!



In poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, barefaced invocations of god have become the new practice. In the battle for ballots, the BJP seemed to have replaced lord Rama with lord Krishna, or rather added another dimension. In fact, it gets with its calls for the reclamation of Krishna Janmabhoomi. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said lord Krishna "must be cursing" those who did nothing for Mathura and Vrindavan when in power. Not to be left behind, former Chief Minister and Samajwadi

Party chief Akhilesh Yadav retorted that lord Krishna came in his dreams and told him that he was going to form the next government. Cabinet Minister Chaudhary Laxmi Narayan Singh posed a vanilla question, if lord Krishna's temple was not constructed in Mathura, would it be in Lahore or Rawalpindi?

And BJP's Rajya Sabha member Harnath Singh Yadav quipped that lord Krishna had "inspired" him to urge his party president to make Adityanath the saffron party's candidate from Mathura. The cacophony over gods' perceived wills and wishes will only become shriller in the run-up to the election. In UP, the discourse has devolved from mediocre to ridiculous, with the bread-and-butter issues of poverty, unemployment, health, education and housing quietly pushed to the margins. Omicron, the more infectious variant of the SARS-COV-2, is spreading across the country with fury. However, UP demonstrates callous intransigence in the face of the pandemic.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

Minister's son's vehicle to crash into the protesting farmers, resulting in several deaths and chaotic disturbance.

So it would seem a logical corollary that the farmers, still angry with the Prime Minister for having allowed the agitation to linger on for more than a year and not taking swift action against the erring son's father, wanted to prove their mettle in their own backyard. It is possible that the State police, some of whose family members must also be in the profession of farming, covertly shared sensitive information about the Prime Minister's travel plans with them.

Seetharambasaani | Hanakonda

#### JOURNALIST DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19

Sir — Nearly 2,000 journalists have died of COVID-19 in 94 countries since March 2020. Last year, at least 1,400 media workers succumbed to the virus, which averages to 116 per month or four a day, according to the Press Emblem Campaign

### SOUNDBITE

The MHA is looking into it (PM's security breach)... Big and tough decisions will be taken.



Union Minister — Anurag Thakur



I will allow no one to place a dagger at the throat of democracy. I will stand in this breach.

US President — Joe Biden

If I'd love to do a biopic...? It would be of Virat Kohli!



Actor — Kartik Aaryan



Of course, I don't like the (Novak Djokovic) situation that is happening. In some way, I feel sorry for him.

Tennis player — Rafael Nadal

Take proper care... Try to use gloves, cover your head using a cap and maintain hygiene.



West Bengal Chief Minister — Mamata Banerjee

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

**N-POWER: MISSING PIECE OF THE PUZZLE**

Renewable energy will replace nuclear power; coal and gas will still keep burning



GWYNNE DYER

Germany's remaining nuclear power stations have closed down, leaving only three plants left operating in the country. They too will close down in 2022. Germans will no longer have to live with the fear of a nuclear (power) holocaust. What's more, all the lost energy from the nuclear plants will be "compensated for by the expansion of renewable energies," promises the German Institute for Economic Research. An elegant solution, but there is a catch. Most of the wind and solar power that Germany is building will go to replace its nuclear power plants, not to eliminate the coal and gas that it is still burning in huge amounts to generate electricity. So, Germany will go on burning coal until 2038 (France is out now, the UK by 2024), and it also imports big volumes of gas from Russia (at great geopolitical cost). Just one day ahead of Germany, Belgium announced on 30 December that it will shut all of the country's nuclear power plants



by 2025. It too promises to replace the lost electricity with power from renewable sources eventually, but it will just burn more coal and gas in the meantime. And when the European Commission proposed a new law the other day that recognises nuclear power as 'green' (provided that the plants have strict plans for the disposal of nuclear waste), there was an outcry all across the European Union. German Environment Minister Steffi Lemke condemned the proposal as simply "wrong."

This is the triumph of fear over common sense. To advocate abandoning nuclear power when the great threat is carbon dioxide emissions (and we are losing the race to decarbonise) is folly. There are currently 441 commercial nuclear reactors in the world, supplying about 10 per cent of the world's electricity. There could have been three or four times as much nuclear power by now if the Green movement had not exploited a couple of accidents in the 1970s and 80s to cripple it. There is reason to suspect that the original Green hostility to nuclear power was encouraged and subsidised by the US fossil fuel industry, which has always been quick to spot emerging potential rivals and sabotage them. But the hostility is self-sustaining now, fed by fantasy statistics and deliberate scare-mongering. There have actually been just three major accidents in some sixty years of operation by hundreds of nuclear power plants, only one of which caused human casualties: Chernobyl in 1986, where 28 plant workers were killed and 15 other people subsequently died of thyroid cancer. But nobody at all died at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in 2011 (although 20,000 died as a result of the magnitude 9.0 sub-sea quake and the tsunami that devastated the city). Many more people die from coal pollution each and every day than have died from nuclear power accidents in the entire past half-century. Yet a vocal minority of Europeans are terrified of the technology, and they are so well organised that most European countries have banned nuclear power or are shutting it down now. We can forgive the Europeans for their anti-nuclear foolishness, because in most other respects they lead the world in cutting emissions. And outside Europe, the only noteworthy countries that ban nuclear power are Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and the Philippines. There are currently new 52 nuclear reactors under construction, most of them in Asia. A new generation of compact modular reactors that can be assembled in factories and cannot melt down will be on the market in less than five years. The missing piece of the post-fossil-fuel puzzle has been found - and the Europeans can sleep in peace.

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

**A prudent heritage-CSR partnership is needed**

Unlike many 'geopolitical' countries, India stands out as a 'geo-cultural' civilisation with a glorious legacy of thousands of years



PIYUSH GIRGAONKAR

From the astonishing Martanda Sun Temple in Kashmir to the Mahabalipuram wonders in Tamil Nadu and from the gigantic forts in Maharashtra to the vibrant city of Sibasagar in Assam, the jaw-dropping heritage of India spread in all four directions is a timeless classic. This is primarily because unlike many 'geopolitical' countries, India stands out as a 'geo-cultural' civilization with a glorious legacy of thousands of years.

The cultural richness is evident through the availability of the built heritage despite many destructive attempts of invaders. Conserving this heritage for future generations so as to continue the storytelling of India's legacy is one humongous task where a range of stakeholders from government to society have a significant role to play.

This task, has been carefully laid down by our forefathers in the Constitution of India through Article 49, Article 51 A (f). Be it the various regulations passed in early 1800s or the recent constitutional provisions towards regularizing heritage conservation, India has a well-sought legal framework for protecting the monuments, symbols and sites of cultural importance.

Apart from a prudent legal framework, champions like Ahilyadevi Holkar, who were phenomenal in conservation and restoration of heritage sites, show that India has a different history of historic conservations itself. The constitutional articles and historic figures are a constant reminder for an efficient and effective heritage conservation, that will not only ensure cultural integration but will also contribute to economy and welfare in contemporary times.

Given such a vast background of heritage, the current government's efforts such as announcing the establishment of Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation through budget 2020, the HRIDAY scheme, the Kashi Corridor development and bringing back the stolen ancient artefacts are truly appreciable.

However, despite these constructive steps, the built-heritage in India still suffers from under-funding. The Archeological Survey of India that looks after close to 3700 monuments has spent approximately ₹301.3 crore in 2016-17, ₹410.8 crore in 2017-18 and ₹405 crore in 2018-19, as per the data of Ministry of Culture. This expenditure, if seen as per capita cost, is only ₹8 lakh per annum per monument.

The story at the level of state governments is just the same, indicating how heritage is inadequately financed. Along with financial interventions towards heritage conservation, some city administrations, Mumbai and Pune in particular have attempted to encourage restoration practices by incentivizing FSI, granting the Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) and similar provisions in respective Development Control Regulations



IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT COMPANIES LIKE INFOSYS HAVE BEEN ALREADY SPENDING THEIR CSR FUNDS ON TEMPLE RESTORATION PROJECTS LIKE THE SOMNATHESHWARA COMPLEX, THE LAKSHMESHWARA TEMPLE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL CSR EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN HERITAGE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN ON A DECLINE SINCE THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016

(The writer is Senior PS to Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on EWCY&S, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The views expressed are personal.)



(DCRs). However, most have the provisions have been brilliant on paper and mediocre on ground because of implementation issues and lack of public awareness. The attempts of setting heritage markets and leasing/renting heritage sites, etc. have their own successes and limitations, as the heritage conservation and maintenance are complex tasks which put restrictions on government institutions to finance it with efficacy.

The requirement of skilled human resource against its limited availability which is required for accurate restoration, the availability of apt construction materials and the extent of sensitivity slows down the pace of the entire process. This reduces the viability and increases the risks involved in financing the heritage conservation projects. As a result, banks and financial institutions are reluctant in lending monetary support to such projects.

This entire scenario has been pushing the conservation sector to look for state-of-art financing solutions. One such solution lies in the benevolence of private sector. A fact that the companies that profit due to the society and the country, owe some share of their profit back for the welfare of society and country gave rise to devising the CSR mandate. As heritage conservation is also a kind of service to the society and its cultural, economic and social development, the CSR fund could be a pathbreaking tool to finance heritage conservation projects. Recently, a private member bill tabled by Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabudhe (President, Indian Council for Cultural

Relations and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha) that sought an amendment in the companies act for making it mandatory to the companies to dedicate minimum 25 per cent of their CSR funds compulsorily for heritage conservation and restoration. This amendment or a provision on the similar lines can be a rich nutrition for the heritage sector that is suffering from malnutrition at present. Such a provision enabling a portion of CSR to be spent (mandatorily) on heritage conservation will unleash the potential of Public-Private Partnership in India's cultural, tourism and heritage sector. Further, properly financed conservation projects will attract more tourist footfall upon completion, thereby benefitting the portion of society economically dependent on heritage sites.

Today, the conservation sector has been subjected to state-of-art technologies like Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and other similar 'proptech' solutions. Utilising these technologies, with the due encouragement of public participation is extremely difficult for the bureaucratic nature of government sector. Such rigidity can very well be removed through ensuring a certain stake of corporate sector which is much more flexible, open to accommodating ideas and competitive. Hence, CSR funding can prove to be an avenue that induces a sense of collective ownership of monuments while resonating with the modern-day technologies involved in conservation sector.

It is noteworthy that companies like Infosys have been already

spending their CSR funds on temple restoration projects like the Somnatheshwara complex, the Lakshmeshwara temple and allied activities. However, the overall CSR expenditure incurred in heritage activities has been on a decline since the financial year 2016. This again underlines the fact that CSR funds, by making suitable amendments should be reserved for heritage conservation so as to ensure a constant stream of financial support is available for heritage projects.

Moreover, India's built heritage is predominantly falling under the jurisdictions of urban areas being governed by respective urban local bodies. Given the trend of urbanization and densification of our urban areas, restoring and protecting heritage sites is bound become an even more complicated task, putting a massive pressure on government to finance it adequately. Easing off this pressure the fact that monuments have to be conserved. This adequacy, to some extent, could be attained through mandatory CSR allocation in synergy with the amendment proposed by Dr. Sahasrabudhe.

In the spirit of 'Sabka Vikas' that needs 'Sabka Prayaas', many appreciable restoration steps undertaken by the government like conserving the Samadhi of the great warrior Bajirao Peshve in Raverkhedi, Madhya Pradesh definitely require a substantial contribution from the private sector. Such public-private resonance shall go a long way in protecting India's unique identity and ensuring betterment of the society on the move.

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**SECURITY IS DELIBERATELY BEING MADE AN ISSUE TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE FACT THAT CHAIRS WERE VACANT AT THE PM'S MEETING VENUE.**

—PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



**WE WOULD LIKE TO WARN THAT REPETITION OF SUCH AN INCIDENT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY BJP WORKERS AND THE NATION'S PEOPLE.**

—ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

**Artists of the blackboard**

The National Education Policy envisions that only the finest and brightest should enter the teaching profession

What the teacher is, is more important than what he teaches.

Teacher education was founded on the belief that teachers are created, not born. However, in a country like India, teacher education is like a big ship - it is hard to turn by design alone; persistence matters the most. Thus, it is widely acknowledged that becoming a school teacher is not an aspiration that is shared by either students or parents. So, does something needs to be changed, and if yes what?

Can entry into a Bachelor's in Education course be both glamorous and exclusive? Degree courses that make entrance exclusive, offer lucrative job prospects, and are admired and sought after. Thus, on similar lines, a pro-



SANTOSH K SARANGI RAHUL PACHORI

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fessional course on Integrated Teacher Education has been conceived to develop teachers, for the future. Teachers, proficient in the art of teaching will not just facilitate learning but inspire students as well.

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) seeks to revise and restructure all facets of the education system to establish a framework that is consistent with the 21st-century while preserving India's heritage and value systems. It recognises the importance of developing cognitive abilities among students, along with social, ethical, and emotional abilities.

The NEP emphasises particularly that the teacher must be at the forefront of major educational changes. Additionally, NEP envisions that the finest and brightest



should enter the teaching profession. Teacher preparation is a multidisciplinary endeavour to develop teachers who are competent, motivated, confident and compassionate; who have content and pedagogical expertise and are able to engage students inclusively as well as reflect on their own practice.

The four-year Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), a dual-major holistic bachelor's degree programme offering B.A. B.Ed./B. Sc. B.

Ed. and B.Com. B.Ed. will first be offered on pilot mode in a few interdisciplinary Higher Education Institutions.

It would enable a student-teacher to earn both an education degree and a degree in a speciality topic such as history, mathematics, the arts, economics, or business. Bachelors of Inclusive & Special Education, Bachelors of Creative Arts Education and BPEd are also being prepared to be offered in order to fill the gap in availability of skilled and specialized professionals in these fields.

In-classroom training and internships will also form an essential part of the program. The four-year ITEP will be available to all students who want to pursue a career in teaching after senior sec-

ondary school. This integrated course will benefit students since they will save one year by completing it in four years rather than the usual five years required in the current B.Ed. program. The participants will also have the option to pursue post-graduation courses in their respective disciplines.

Nonetheless, the overall curriculum of the course will be crucial for the success of the program. Considering the duration of the course, the curriculum is being designed to comprehensively engage the participants for four years and introduce the aspiring student teachers to aspects of new pedagogy, use of technology in education, competence-based assessment methods, art integration and

sports integration, etc. Creative tools like theatrics in classroom can also be an essential aspect of the profession, making the classroom practice more engaging for teachers and students alike.

Although the program will initially be offered in multidisciplinary institutes, capacity building of these institutes along with attracting talented participants in the initial years will be a challenge. It is expected that over time, Institutes of repute like IITs and IIMs will be able to design Integrated Teacher Education Programmes and offer state-of-the-art courses so that students are encouraged to apply for this innovative program and the initiative gains momentum.

The curriculum design will be the key to implementing an

effective and worthwhile course. The child of future is going to expect more. It should be a curriculum where thoughts within the head converge with the feelings in the heart. The curriculum also needs to be abreast with the latest innovations and developments in the field of education, pedagogy, technology etc. The teachers who are revered as "gurus" will be the "mentors" for innovation and inspiration. It must be remembered that teachers are truly the artists of the blackboard who shape the citizens of tomorrow.

William Arthur Ward very aptly wrote: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."





# FM reviews PSBs' readiness to tackle disruption

## Asks banks to support Covid-affected sectors

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday chaired a meeting with chiefs of public sector banks and assessed their readiness to tackle any possible disruptions due to the Omicron variant.

The Finance Ministry said during the meeting with bank CMDs/MDs, held through virtual mode, the minister also asked lenders to support sectors, besides farm, retail and MSMEs, that face interruption due to COVID.

Sitharaman also reviewed various steps taken by PSBs in implementing pandemic-related measures initiated by the government and RBI.

"During the review meeting, Smt. Sitharaman assessed various steps taken by PSBs in implementing pandemic-related measures initiated by Government of India and

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and readiness to tackle possible future disruptions that may occur due to the ongoing variant of the COVID-19 pandemic," the Ministry said in a statement.

The ongoing third wave of the highly infectious Omicron variant of coronavirus has led to various domestic rating agencies lowering India's growth forecast for the current fiscal. India Ratings and Research cut its forecast to 9.3 per cent, from 9.4 per cent earlier, while Brickwork Ratings has revised its estimates to 8.5-9 per cent from 10 per cent.

While appreciating the success of ECLGS, the Finance Minister said it is not time yet to rest on our achievements, and that our collective efforts must strive towards supporting sectors that face interruption

due to the continued onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic. Sitharaman also conveyed to the bankers to continue supporting the agriculture sector, farmers, retail sector and MSMEs, according to the statement.

Sitharaman noted that business outlook is progressively improving despite the headwinds from global development and Omicron spread.

The Finance Minister underlined that contact intensive sectors may require more support to help them fight against the pandemic. She also said that credit demand is expected to pick up on account of growth in retail segments, improvement in overall macroeconomic prospects and improving financial health of borrowers, as per the statement. **PTI**

# Markets return to winning ways, post weekly gains

**Mumbai:** The Sensex and Nifty found firmer ground on Friday as investors accumulated energy, infra and IT stocks amid a mixed trend in overseas markets.

Clawing back some lost ground after the previous session's heavy sell-off, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 142.81 points or 0.24 per cent higher at 59,744.65. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 66.80 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 17,812.70. Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 1.79 per cent, followed by TCS, Nestle India, Ultratech Cement, ICICI Bank, HUL and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, M&M, L&T, Bajaj Finance, HDFC, Titan and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.39 per cent. "Domestic indices erased early gains following weak cues from global peers as markets globally await the Eurozone inflation rate and US payroll data due later today.

Strong appetite for healthcare and consumer durable stocks aided the markets in closing flat with a positive bias.

"Although rising Omicron cases and hawkish stance by the US Fed is keeping the market volatile, hopes of favourable earnings season and FIIs switching to net buyers is pumping in optimism into the market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex advanced 1,490.83 points or 2.55 per cent, while the Nifty gained 458.65 points or 2.64 per cent.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said markets are likely to consolidate after the recent surge and it would be healthy. "... Volatility is likely to remain high, citing mixed global cues and COVID-related updates. Besides, upcoming macroeconomic data (IIP, CPI, and WPI) and the beginning of the earnings season could further add to the chopiness. **PTI**

# Rupee gains 8 paise to close at 74.34 against US dollar

**Mumbai:** The Indian rupee eked out 8 paise gains to close at 74.34 against the US dollar on Friday, helped by weaker greenback against key rivals and positive domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.41 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.25 and finally ended the day at 74.34, registering a gain of 8 paise from its previous close of 74.42.

On a weekly basis, the rupee depreciated 5 paise against the American currency.

"Rupee traded strong as capital market gains, mainly financial sector performance, helped rupee appreciation. Dollar traded weak, keeping less pressure on rupee as rupee digested the strong banking rally. Range for rupee can be seen between 74.20-74.60," said Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities. **PTI**

# Assam Govt, NDDDB signs MoU for holistic dairy development

**New Delhi:** With the vision of transforming the rural landscape of Assam through dairy farming, Government of Assam and National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for creation of a joint venture for the dairy sector's holistic development on Friday at Srimanta Sankardeva International Auditorium in Guwahati. The foundation stone of Purabi Dairy expansion project was also laid.

The MoU was signed by Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB and Maninder Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Dept. of Cooperation, of Assam in presence of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala. The event was also attended by many senior Government officials, concerned agencies and dairy farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sarma said that the target of this joint venture will be to create milk processing capacities to handle and add value to over 10 lakh litres of milk every day. This will not only help more than 1.75 lakh farmers to alleviate their incomes but will also create huge employment at various levels of the milk value chain. The joint venture will setup six dairy processing facilities across Assam, wherein milk from more than 4100 Dairy Cooperative Societies shall be processed, packed and marketed.

Rupala mentioned that the new initiative will lead to higher returns for the local dairy farmers, which is a step towards the aim of "Doubling Farmers' Income" envisioned by the Prime Minister. He further said, as part of this dairy development project, more than 15000 high milk-yielding Gir cows will be inducted into Assam to ensure higher returns to the state's dairy farmers. The plan also envisages setting up infrastructure for Cattle Feed and Silage manufacturing within Assam. He stressed on the need for breed improvement of cattle through technology.

# TCS Board to consider buyback proposal on Jan 12

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India's largest IT firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Friday said its Board will consider a buyback proposal on January 12.

"...The Board of Directors will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares of the company, at its meeting to be held on January 12, 2022," a regulatory filing said.

No other details of the buyback proposal were disclosed. The Board of the Mumbai-based company is scheduled to meet on January 12 to approve and take on record the financial results of the company for the third quarter and nine months ending December 31, 2021.

At the end of the September 2021 quarter, TCS had cash and cash equivalents of Rs 51,950 crore.

On Friday, TCS shares closed 1.26 per cent higher at ₹3,854.85 on BSE.

TCS' previous buyback offer of around ₹16,000 crore

had opened on December 18, 2020, and closed on January 1, 2021. Over 5.33 crore equity shares were bought back under the offer for ₹ 3,000 apiece.

In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback programme worth up to ₹ 16,000 crore. The buyback, at ₹ 2,100 per equity share, had entailed up to 7.61 crore shares. In 2017 too, TCS had taken a similar share purchase programme.

Smaller peers like Infosys and Wipro have also undertaken buyback programmes to return surplus cash on their books to shareholders. In September last year, Infosys had said it has bought back over 5.58 crore equity shares as part of its about ₹ 9,200 crore buyback offer. The process - conducted via open market through Indian stock exchanges - saw shares being bought back in the range of ₹1,538.10 and ₹ 1,750.

Wipro had also completed a ₹9,500 crore buyback in January last year.

# ICICI Bank now facilitates online payment of customs duty

**New Delhi:** Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Friday said it now facilitates online payment of customs duty, to benefit both retail and corporate customers. Corporate customers can pay customs duty through the bank's corporate internet banking (CIB) and mobile banking app InstaBIZ, while retail customers can do so through the bank's retail internet banking platform.

Customers can make online payment by selecting ICICI Bank from the list of banks on the website of the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), it said in a statement. Expressing gratitude to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to enable digital payments of customs duty for its customers, ICICI Bank Head (Transaction Banking) Hitesh Sethia said: "This facility enables millions of ICICI Bank customers to conveniently pay customs duty digitally through ICEGATE website." **PTI**

# Sitharaman reviews progress on planned mega LIC IPO

**New Delhi:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday reviewed the progress of the planned disinvestment of the country's largest insurer LIC.

The initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), touted to be the biggest ever in the country's history, is expected to hit the markets by March.

"Union Finance Minister Smt. @sitharaman reviewed progress of the LIC IPO in New Delhi today in presence of @SecDIPAM; Secretary @DFS\_India and Senior Officials @LICIndiaForever and @FinMinIndia via VC," the finance ministry tweeted.

LIC IPO is crucial for meeting the ₹1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target set for current fiscal (April-March). So far this fiscal, ₹9,330 crore has been

mopped up through PSU disinvestment. The government in September last year appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd to manage the mega IPO of the country's largest insurer LIC.

Other selected bankers include SBI Capital Market Ltd, JM Financial Ltd, Axis Capital Ltd, BoFA Securities, J.P. Morgan India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.

Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas has been appointed as legal advisor for the IPO. The Government is in the process of deciding the quantum of government stake that will be divested through the IPO. **PTI**

# Forex reserves down by USD 1.466 bn to USD 633.614 bn

**Mumbai:** The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 1.466 billion to USD 633.614 billion in the week ended December 31, RBI data showed.

In the previous week ended December 24, the reserves dipped by USD 587 million to USD 635.08 billion. It touched a life-time high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.

During the reporting week ended December 31, the decline in foreign exchange reserves was on account of a fall in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves. Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed. FCA declined by USD 1.48 billion to USD 569.889 billion in the reporting week, the RBI data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves rose by USD 14 million to USD 39.405 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remained unchanged at USD 19.114 billion in the reporting week, the RBI said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was also unchanged at USD 5.207 billion in the reporting week, the data showed. **PTI**

# RBI OK's Anup Bagchi's re-appointment as ICICI Bank Executive Director

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The RBI has approved the re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as the Executive Director of ICICI Bank for three years, even as the bank had cleared the term for five years.

The Reserve Bank vide its letter dated January 6, 2022, has approved the re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as an Executive Director of the bank for three years with effect from February 1, 2022, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

The shareholders of the bank at its Annual General Meeting in August last year had approved Bagchi's re-appointment for five years effective February 1, 2022.

ICICI Bank has two more executive directors -- Sandeep Batra and Vishakha Mulye.

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**FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS**

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **13-01-2022** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

S. No.	Loan No.	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	12080762	Amit Kumar	07/08/2020	124947	Delhi-NCR-Burari
2	12850598	Aarti Sharma	19/10/2020	35681	Delhi-NCR-Burari
3	13798079	Ramnarayan Singh	06/01/2021	4300	Delhi-NCR-Burari
4	8675207	Raj Kumar	28/08/2019	8595	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
5	12191419	Lalit Grover	18/08/2020	33910	Delhi-Anand Parbat
6	13340268	Jaswant Singh	24/11/2020	47663	Delhi-Anand Parbat
7	12579638	Gyanti Devi	24/09/2020	6278	Delhi-Badarpur
8	7082830	Pushpa Devi	30/03/2019	7663	Delhi-Bhajanpura
9	12521263	Yogesh Ramesh	18/09/2020	221190	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
10	11712096	Rahul Kumar	28/06/2020	5885	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
11	12294135	Neetu Rameshwar Tiwari	28/08/2020	12202	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
12	12392632	Vikas Chauhan	08/09/2020	98455	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
13	9751842	Virender Pal	21/11/2019	8373	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
14	13017848	Hari Chand	02/11/2020	6501	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
15	13664367	Liyakat Anwar	26/12/2020	11312	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
16	14790819	Govind Pandey	26/03/2021	18720	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
17	2822550	Jaganath Kaushal	12/07/2017	12717.4	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
18	14648186	Praveen Kumar	17/03/2021	12550	Delhi-Hari Nagar
19	15831604	Pankaj Kumar Jain	29/06/2021	41360	Delhi-Jagatpuri
20	12495593	Manish Singla	16/09/2020	18720	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
21	14055805	Rashid Khan	27/01/2021	27420	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
22	12277055	Pranod Kumar Gupta	26/08/2020	137700	Delhi-Karol Bagh
23	13151595	Abhishek Chaturvedi	13/11/2020	6092	Delhi-Karol Bagh
24	12609946	Mohd Asad	28/09/2020	27713	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
25	14272126	Raj Kumar	16/02/2021	12724	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
26	8104426	Lokender Sharma	03/07/2019	25260	Delhi-Keshappuram
27	13508297	Nadeem Alam Khan	10/12/2020	13800	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
28	13505458	Madan Bhardwaj	10/12/2020	6780	Delhi-Madipur
29	12054683	Yashpal Chaudhary	06/08/2020	14110	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
30	12156607	Mukul Ishwar	14/08/2020	45884	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
31	11876633	Renu Ram Dass	16/07/2020	4868	Delhi-Mayapuri
32	4137777	P. C. Rana	31/03/2018	3096	Delhi-Nai Sadak
33	11496621	Amit Kumar	05/06/2020	12655	Delhi-Nai Sadak
34	12468359	Anil Kumar	15/09/2020	5948	Delhi-Nai Sadak
35	12736699	Sourav Arora	09/10/2020	6876	Delhi-Nai Sadak
36	14549919	Amit Kumar	09/03/2021	19345	Delhi-Nai Sadak
37	14550222	Amit Kumar	09/03/2021	12935	Delhi-Nai Sadak
38	14661363	Sharda G	18/03/2021	97784	Delhi-Nai Sadak
39	62606216	Satyender Kumar	03/01/2019	9610	Delhi-Shahdara
40	15002952	Amandeep Joshi	09/02/2021	6930	Delhi-Shahdara
41	11661332	Yashpal Mann	22/06/2020	46991	Delhi-Narela
42	16573872	Mosin K	28/07/2021	9765	Delhi-Patel Nagar
43	14431793	Rahul Gohar	27/02/2021	11536	Delhi-Patel Nagar
44	16193355	Pawan Kumar Verma	13/07/2021	5495	Delhi-Patel Nagar
45	11899610	Krishna Sharma	18/07/2020	8730	Delhi-Rohini
46	13914550	Radhay Shyam	15/01/2021	7232	Delhi-Rohini
47	16972689	Mohd Zahid	17/08/2021	5555	Delhi-Sadar
48	12259569	Sunder Lal	26/08/2020	11196	Delhi-Sadar
49	12897501	Rakesh Kumar Gola	22/10/2020	30780	Delhi-Sadar
50	13339870	Mohd Anwar	23/11/2020	17660	Delhi-Sadar
51	14402091	Najmul Huda	25/02/2021	13006	Delhi-Sadar
52	16301036	Narendra Prasad	17/07/2021	26145	Delhi-Shahdara
53	12654927	Rita Choudhary	08/10/2020	5495	Delhi-Shahdara
54	14210563	Sanjay Sharma	09/02/2021	6930	Delhi-Shahdara
55	13747704	Ram Nath	31/12/2020	7674	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
56	10188191	Avanish Singh	31/12/2019	40656	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
57	10837585	Ashtosh Kumar	10/02/2020	20429	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
58	14086996	Manma Humkumchand	30/01/2021	11809	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
59	14087853	Sunil Kumar	31/01/2021	49694	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
60	14192603	Kumod Laxmi	10/02/2021	6475	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
61	14799849	Vijay Gupta	27/03/2021	6848	Delhi-Uttam Nagar

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regard. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and conditions as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Authorised Officer (HDB Financial Services Ltd)

**Public Notice**

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sunita Gupta Holder Has acquired Built up Ground Floor First Floor with roof right, Property bearing No. 11, area measuring 100 sq. yds., Khasra No. 19/15 & 19/16, situated in the area of Village Hastals, F-Block, Colony Vikas Nagar, Ullam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 Vide Regd., GFA, ATS & Will dated 11/10/2006, executed by Mr. Ramesh Singh, GPA registered as Doc No. 23875 with SRO-11 Janakpuri and Now Mrs. Sunita is intending to sell the above said property/Floors to Sh. Pradeep vide Two Separate Sale Deeds. Further Sh. Pradeep is mortgaging the above said property/floors with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707122/9818228636 (M).

**Public Notice**

This is to inform general public that Mr. Laxman is the owner of Land Area measuring 8 acre (242 Sq. yds.), in chevat/Khata No. 113/149, M.U. No. 15, Killa No. 10(B-0), 11(B-0), 20(B-0), 21(C-1), situated in the waka Mauja, Village Baagpur Khur, Tehsil & Dist. Palwalvide Transfer deed in Blood relation dated 30.04.2021 (Doc No. 71) executed by Mrs. Gucci Mr. Laxman has misplaced, Original Transfer Deed dated 26.09.2019 executed by Mr. Laxman in favour of Mrs. Gucci in respect of the said property (Regd. Doc. No. 3932). Anyone who find the above said document shall handover the same to the Manager of Fullerton India Credit Company limited having its office at 3rd Floor, B 45/47, Nr PVR Plaza, Rajiv Chowk Metro Station Gate No. 2, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Mr. Laxman is availing loan on this property from Fullerton India Credit Company Limited by mortgaging the said property. In case anyone has any objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanwan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707122/9818228636 (M).

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
(Electrical Department)

E-Open Tender Notice No. E-ELECT-CRW-HRT-2, Date : 06.01.2022

For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e-tender for the following work as detailed:-

1. Name of the work with its location: Overhauling and Repairing of Roof Mount Package Unit LHB AC coaches, Qty.: 70 coaches (i.e. 140 RMPUs) at Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut. 2. Estimated cost of the work: Rs. 1,56,51,811.83 (Rupees One Crore fifty six lakh fifty one thousand eight hundred eleven and eighty three paise only). 3. Earnest Money: Rs. 3,13,100.00 (Rupees Three lakh thirteen thousand one hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: The tender has to be submitted online on <http://www.ireps.gov.in> up to 12.00 hrs. 28.01.2022 and it will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, etc could be viewed on <http://www.ireps.gov.in> & offer to be made through same website. Full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar-803110. Any corrigendum will be uploaded on the same website if required.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer  
Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut  
PR014680/HRT/ELECT/21-22/48

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Abhishek Verma @ Honny**, S/o: Lt. Birjesh Verma, R/o: H.No. K-40, Gali No. 35, New Govind Purra, Delhi-85 has been missing since 28.11.2021 at about 02:00 pm from his home. In this regard DD No. 101 A dated 20.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Jagat Puri, Delhi. The description of missing boy is as under:

Name: Abhishek Verma, Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'8", Built: Normal, Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue Sweater Grey Pajama and Orange Shoes in Feet, ID Mark: Mind Abnormal.

If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform P.S. Jagat Puri, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station Jagat Puri, Delhi  
Ph: 011-22420364, 7065036023  
DP/690/SHD/22

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Khushi D/o Narender Kumar R/o E-17, Bharat Vihar, Near Bhram Shakti School, Begumpur, Delhi**. Age 15 years, Height 4'8", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Black Colour Suit-Salwar has been missing/kidnapped since 27.11.2021 from the area of PS Begumpur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a FIR No. 599/21 dated 22.12.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Begumpur, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO  
Fax: 011-23011334 PS Begumpur, Delhi  
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 Ph. 011-27579029, 27662272  
DP/1235/RD/2021

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is here by informed that this boy (depicted in the photo) namely: **Prince S/o Firoz R/o Urdu Park, Meena Bazaar, Jama Masjid, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from his house from the area of P.S. Jama Masjid. In this regard FIR No. 344/21 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, Age: 14 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour T-Shirt, Black colour Jeans.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO  
P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 011-23261625  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No.: 011-24368638/24368641  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No: 8750870422  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/1191/CD/2022

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA, INDIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT SAGARMALA  
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

**NO.AD/RSC-22-36/2015-16(Pt.)/32 Dtd. 06.01.2022**

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**Sr. Asst. Secretary**  
Dtd. 06.01.2022  
PPT/PR/137/21-22

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Santosh, S/o: Ram Het Verma, R/o: H.No. 379 VPO Begumpur, Delhi; Age: 31 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Hair: Black, Wearing: White Colour Shirt, Khaki Colour Pant** has been missing since 15.10.2021 from the area of P

# A PASSION PURSUIT

From the beginning of her career to her experience in the industry till date, *Inside Edge* actress HIMANSHI CHOUDHRY gets candid with HARLEEN KAUR

Actress Himanshi Choudhry, who has appeared in about 20 notable television shows including *Kutumb*, *Kareena Kareena*, *Dil Ki Baatein Dil Hi Jaane*, *Tu Aashiqui* and so on, recently appeared in *Inside Edge Season 3*. Choudhry's projects have been well received by the audience. Moreover, she is all set to appear in Tigmanshu Dhulia's forthcoming *Six Suspects* and Anurag Kashyap's *Dobaaraa*.

Choudhry shares about the time she got interested in the pursuit of acting, "This was a long time back... I have been acting professionally since 2000 but I had studied musical theatre in America, in college. I had the plan to study theatre but I had never thought that I would be an actor because I used to be very shy. There was a class that I had to take in my course which pushed me to memorise monologues and I had to score well in that class, otherwise my grade point average would have dropped. So, I worked very hard and. My professor was extremely kind, I don't know whether I was good or not but he was extremely positive. My classmates too were very positive. In the feedback, my professor gave me an 'A' for the performance, that *keeda* of acting came from him and from there."

Further, on talking about life as an actor, she says, "My life as an actor has been good. I don't know any other life, so I don't know what to compare it with. I know that life as an actor is not really meant to be extremely cushy or that's not the kind of job I have signed up for. I have been very lucky to have opportunities earlier on my career which helped me sustain myself financially and emotionally. I started getting more involved in understanding how the Indian film industry



works, how the TV industry works. I don't think I will ever change my profession. I can't see myself not wanting to act in my life."

On talking about her role in *Inside Edge*, the actress expresses, "Nobody was sure of how *Inside Edge* would turn out to be. I got the opportunity to do this web show because Gurmeet Singh was one of the associate directors. I had worked with him on a show which was on Epic channel. He knew that I fit the part in *Inside Edge* because he had worked with me and he told me, 'I know it is not a very big part for you in the first season, but you are the only one I can see for this part and we really want to cast you.' I was very keen to work with him again. I didn't think too much about it. I didn't know it would be a big success."

Talking about her most favourite season, she shares, "Very honestly, the third season is my favourite, but I like all the seasons of *Inside Edge*. I really had fun during the second season. But as an audience, I feel that characters have evolved, so I think that in the third one, every one got more involved, in comparison to the first one."



**'TO BALANCE LIFE, I INDULGE IN MY HOBBIES — I LIKE COLOURING. I THINK COLOURS, SORT OF, BRING OUT A LOT OF THINGS THAT ARE IN MY HEAD. I'VE BEEN LEARNING SPANISH FOR A WHILE. I'M MORE THAN AN ACTOR, I'M A PERSON.'**

Choudhry has worked both in TV shows and OTT. On the same, she says, "In TV shows, everything is going at such a fast pace that you don't really have time. Nothing is easy in TV, you have to be in character, no matter how tired you are. Also, I feel that roles in TV are hard to play. In OTT, I have had the time and space to get into the characters' shoes and feel their emotions. We don't really speed in 10 scenes a day in a web series. You have time to prepare for it but in TV, it doesn't work like that. So, it acts for some people, sometimes it does not work for some people but I like taking an adequate time in preparing. I think web shows do better for me."

Additionally, the actress discussed about how entertainment had changed during the pandemic. On this, Choudhry adds, "Entertainment has not changed, people have changed. Firstly, entertainment, in this context 'content', is changed 10 times more than it used to be before Covid happened. Because we all know, ultimately, we all had too much time in our hands and once you get involved in the liking of a specific type of a show or film, you start exploring more. So, what it has done is, it has actually encouraged the audience to be a little more aware of their likes and dislikes. Everyone has Netflix and Amazon so they have a lot of choices to select from. Earlier, people did not really have time to pay attention either. So, I would like to say that audience is more evolved post-Covid, which is a great thing for all of us."

She continued, "Also, the demand for quality content has become more. Now we can't put out average or even semi-average content out there, for people. The content has to be good because the audience has become smarter.

I think it's a good thing that everyone is aware of the stuff they watch."

While conversing about work-life balance, she shares, "I do not mix my personal and professional life too much. As an actor, your personal life starts gets involved with work. For me, I'm not just an actor, I more than that. I do other things in my life as well. I see that for a normal person, it is very easy to get carried away. To balance life, I indulge in my hobbies — I like colouring a lot, I think colours, sort of, bring out a lot of things which are in my head. I like other languages and I have been learning Spanish for a while. Also, I have been working in hospitality. I'm more than an actor, I'm a PERSON. In terms of balancing life, I believe that most of the time I succeed and sometimes I get worked up."

The actress was also a part of the Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI). Choudhry expressed, "It was great to be a part of MAMI Film Festival. That's where I worked with hospitality. I worked as an International jury manager. I had a six members' team that I was leading. I loved every day of this festival and got to meet very good people. Film is what I love, my intention is always to be a part of independent cinema and to be a part of MAMI in that way was really special."

About her forthcoming projects, the actress explains, "To my fans, I would just like to ask them to keep watching whatever I do and I love feedbacks. I'm enjoying the kind of projects that are coming my way now. I would request everyone to support and watch as much as they can. Hopefully, these projects will be a blast!"

(*Inside Edge Season 3* started streaming on Amazon Prime Video.)



## Pandemic ready

The film industry is now better prepared to deal with the new variant, says veteran producer, ANAND PANDIT, at the outset of the third wave. By TEAM VIVA

Just as the industry was celebrating the return of audiences to theatres to watch big-ticket films and rejoicing at the prospect of brisk business in overseas territories, the Omicron variant has upset the best-laid plans.

The veteran producer, Anand Pandit, ruminates, "We are facing a third wave considering the surge in cases and it is a matter of grave concern, not just for business but for the entire nation. There could be setbacks in the exhibition sector once again but let us remember that the industry has survived an extended lockdown, massive loss of revenue, production hindrances, and release delays. We have survived to tell the tale and there is no reason why we cannot deal with the latest challenge. I feel we are better prepared today than we were when the pandemic first took us by surprise. From not knowing what to do next, we are now shooting films in bio-bubbles, managing pre and post-production, and even traveling. The show will go on with utmost caution, of course."

He believes that the overseas markets may be affected also and forthcoming releases like SS Rajamouli's *RRR*, Prabhas-starrer *Radhe Shyam* may have to wait out this phase. Pandit adds, "Certain territories have been affected more than the others in the pandemic and overseas distributors have been in distress but this time will pass too. We may have to be satisfied with less screen count but let us remember that compared to where we were two years ago, every small step forward indicates that we have made progress. For now, the biggest priority is to stay safe and be as responsible as possible to ensure that the virus is contained."



## Celebrating achievements

Television stars ARJUN BIJLANI and RITHVIK DHANJANI will host the Zee Rishtey Awards this year. By TEAM VIVA

It's that time of the year when Zee TV acknowledges the contributions of innumerable actors, directors, producers, creative teams, and technicians who work round the clock, to bring to the audience daily primetime shows, with the celebration of the *Zee Rishtey Awards*.

This year as well, the award show will be celebrated with full gusto, but there's an element of surprise for one and all. *Rishton Ka Tyohaar*, this year, will be a mega spectacle that will celebrate the deeply cherished relationships that viewers share with their favourite characters and they, in turn, share with their respective reel families.

While the audience will have a gala time seeing their favourite stars come together under one roof during the main event, hosts of the show Arjun Bijlani and Rithvik Dhanjani will set the tone and keep the spirit alive with their ever-so-loved *dostana*? Bijlani will be attending the award show for the very first time.

He expressed, "It's an honour to be a part of the *Zee Rishtey Awards* and this being my first ever appearance on Zee TV makes it all the more special for me. I'm so excited to meet my friends from the industry and have a great time with all of them. Hosting becomes a lot easier when you have a partner who is just as energetic as you, so both Rithvik and I are going to have a ball and will surely make it worth watching for our audience."

Dhanjani added, "It's always fun to have a co-anchor who also happens to be a friend. Both of us are equally thrilled about the Awards and we will have a lot of fun banter with all our friends from the industry. It's an event we wait for the whole year and now that it's here, I can't keep calm."

(To know who amongst your favourite actors and shows bagged the nominations to the prestigious awards and to witness all the electrifying acts, tune into Zee Rishtey Awards and its exciting curtain-raiser properties, coming soon, only on Zee TV.)

Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar and Nidhi Parmar Hiranandani are set to bring audiences a compelling story of Srikanth Bolla. Starring Rajkumar Rao and directed by Tushar Hiranandani, *Srikanth Bolla* is a biopic of an industrialist who didn't let his visual impairment come in the way of his vision and founded Bollant Industries spear headed by Ravi Kanth Mantha. This inspiring tale is penned by Sumit Purohit and Jagdeep Sidhu, and the shoot on this film will commence in July.

Hailing from a small, non-descript village in rural Andhra Pradesh, Bolla has faced adversities and overcome challenges. Born blind to poor, uneducated parents, he has faced immense opposition and struggle early in life right from his birth to fighting a long-standing legal battle with state after class 10 to opt for

# Acing against the odds

Director BHUSHAN KUMAR produces a biopic on visually impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla, along with producer NIDHI PARMAR HIRANANDANI starring RAJKUMMAR RAO. By TEAM VIVA

science stream. However, Bolla always had bigger dreams, he not only cleared his 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard exams with flying colours but also managed to be the first international blind student to study at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. A strong, trailblazing visionary as he firmly believes that vision is much more than eyesight, and has to do more with the mind.

Talking about such an amazing persona with an inspiring story, Kumar, MD and chairman of T-Series says, "Srikanth



Bolla's story testifies the very proverb of acing against the odds. Having faced so many challenges since birth, yet not letting anything hamper his dreams — his journey is truly inspirational. And it's indeed a privilege to be associated with a person like him. The personality of this character is such that only an actor of a caliber like Rajkumar Rao can justify it and we are happy to have such a fine actor on board. Tushar Hiranandani's vision to showcase this captivating story is very peculiar. As we are thrilled to

make this film, we are equally excited for the audiences to witness this compelling story!"

Nidhi Parmar and Tushar share, "The minute we learnt about Sri's story we decided that this inspiring story needs to reach the masses and what can be a better medium than cinema. We are truly blessed to be working with such powerhouses like Rajkumar Rao and Bhushanji for this project. We really hope that Sri's journey really tugs the heart strings of the audiences just like it did for all of us."

Talking about his character, Rao adds, "Srikanth Bolla is an inspiration. It's indeed a privilege to play such an inspiring persona who has been through a lot of hardships and despite that has risen like a phoenix. I am really looking forward to playing Srikant. I'm happy to collaborate with Bhushan sir yet again on this compelling project."

# A sneak peak

A fine blend of a fresh storyline and unique characters, *Sab Satrangi* will take the viewers on a journey through the picturesque city of Lucknow. By TEAM VIVA

There are families, and then there's a *Satrangi* family, signifying uniqueness, and diversity like each of the colours in the rainbow in its true sense. This *Satrangi* family is all set to entertain the audience soon on Sony SAB in the forthcoming show, *Sab Satrangi*. With a fine blend of fresh storyline and unique characters, *Sab Satrangi* will take the viewers to the picturesque city of Lucknow, to the Maurya household, an unconventional family who share their joys, sorrows, dreams, and despite the differences, they hold on to each other and stay united.

The show revolves around, Mankameshwar or Manu, played by actor Mohit Kumar. Manu is one of the most kind-hearted hardworking and resilient men, who believes that good things happen to good people and that if you don't harm or have bad intentions towards anyone, bad things won't happen to you. Manu is his *Daadi's laadla*, the head of the Maurya family. Played by Joyoshree Arora, she is not your typical *Daadi*, she's bold and a cool award-winning life insurance agent, who is determined to not let her age affect her ambition.

Adding drama and colour to the *Satrangi* family will be Manu's father, Shyam Babu played by Dayashakar Pandey, who's trying to fulfill his dream of entertaining the world through this magic tricks. Moving ahead, actor Puru Chibber plays Deepu Bhaiyya, Manu's brother and Satyajit Sharma plays Daddy Khushwa, the local don of Lucknow. What are the dynamics between these characters and how would it affect Manu and his family is some-



**The Maurya household, a *Satrangi* family, is unconventional. They share their joys, sorrows, dreams and despite the differences, hold onto each other.**

thing they will have to wait and watch.

Other talented actors such as Hima Singh, Deepak Kumar Bandhu, and Samridhi Singh are also part of the cast line-up.

(More information about the characters in the show and how their lives collide will be revealed soon only on Sony SAB's *Sab Satrangi*.)

# The ultimate li'l master

The OG judge of *Dance India Dance*, REMO D'SOUZA, makes a comeback on *DID Li'l Masters Season 5*. By TEAM VIVA

After receiving an overwhelming response to the previous four seasons that introduced audiences to some exceptional young dancers, the channel is all set to take the show to a new level with the launch of *DID Li'l Masters Season 5*.

The excitement for viewers has hit the roof this season as the OG judge of *Dance India Dance*, the renowned choreographer, Remo D'Souza, is back on the show. He is the first to have been roped in onto the panel of judges and is ready to groom the raw talent of the nation. While D'Souza has occupied the first seat, all eyes are on who will be the other judges this season.

In the meantime, D'Souza is ecstatic about judging the show once again, as he shares, "*DID Li'l Masters* not only provides a national platform for the youngest talent in our country to showcase their dancing skills but also further polishes their skills and helps them grow as performing artists. It's an honour and absolute pleasure to be a part of this show because these young kids truly inspire me to the core. I remember making my debut with *Dance India Dance Season 1* and being a mentor to the talent of this iconic show for several years. Now, coming back for the fifth season is surreal and I can't wait to start shooting. I want all the contestants to dance their hearts out because it is their passion for dance that will help them make a place for themselves in the industry."



The audition for *DID Li'l Masters Season 5* starts in January and will take place in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Jaipur, Indore, Guwahati, Vadodara, and Pune. Participants between the age group of three to 13 years will compete against each other to become the ultimate Li'l

Master. In their journey, each contestant will be guided by four skippers, who will go the extra mile to help these young dancing sensations learn, grow and impress the audience.

(To know more, stay tuned for *Dance India Dance Li'l Masters Season 5*, on Zee TV.)

AP ■ SYDNEY

A brave century by Jonny Bairstow and a half-century for Ben Stokes helped England claw its way back to 258-7 after a terrible start to the third day of the fourth Ashes test Friday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Bairstow scored the tourists' first century in its seventh innings this series to headline a day where England had slumped to 36-4 by lunch before its middle order counterattacked to help England get back into the match on another rain-affected day at the SCG.

In clear pain after being struck on the thumb by a Pat Cummins delivery and with partners running out, Bairstow began attacking at nearly every ball and brought up a deserved century from 138 balls with 12 boundaries and three sixes moments before stumps by slashing a Cummins delivery for four.

Bairstow celebrated his seventh test century by running halfway towards the England team dressing room with arms aloft, where his teammates had gathered to acknowledge a vital innings in the context of the match which had earlier looked to be slipping away.

At stumps, Bairstow was 103 not out and Jack Leach was on four, with England trailing Australia by 158 runs.

Earlier, Ben Stokes made a typically swashbuckling 66 of 91 balls, including nine fours and a towering six over cover, as part of a 128-run partnership with Bairstow which steadied England's innings after its early collapse.

Nathan Lyon eventually ended the 128-run partnership by trapping

**Bairstow celebrated his seventh test century by running halfway towards the England team dressing room with arms aloft, where his teammates had gathered to acknowledge a vital innings in the context of the match which had earlier looked to be slipping away. At stumps, Bairstow was 103 not out and Jack Leach was on four, with England trailing Australia by 158 runs**

# BAIRSTOW CENTURY HIGHLIGHTS 'PINK' DAY 3 OF 4TH ASHES TEST



Stokes lbw with a ball that kept lower than the allrounder expected.

He was perhaps fortunate to get that far having before tea survived a sharp missed caught-and-bowled chance off Pat Cummins and then successfully reviewing an on-field lbw out' decision where the ball had in fact missed the pad and flicked

the off stump but not dislodged the bail.

Shortly after raising his half-century off 80 balls, Bairstow was struck by a ball from Cummins that reared up off the pitch and struck the batsman on the thumb. Bairstow received treatment on the ground for several minutes before resuming

his innings, but was visibly in discomfort holding the bat.

Jos Buttler became the second duck off the innings chipping to Khawaja at cover off Cummins (2-68) to reduce England to 173-6 and in danger of not avoiding the follow-on target of 218.

But Bairstow and Mark Wood

combined for an unbroken 72-run partnership to reduce the visitors nerves before Cummins eventually had Wood caught by Lyon for 39 off 41 balls going for one big shot too many.

Before lunch, England's batting frailties again were exposed by Australia's pace attack after it

resumed at 13 without loss in a rain delayed session.

Haseeb Hameed was dropped on two by wicketkeeper Alex Carey in Mitchell Starc's second over, but the reprieve only cost four runs as Starc (1-49) bowled the opener for six in his next over. Zak Crawley, who survived being caught off a no-ball from Starc late on day two, took a blow on the hand by the left-arm quick before Boland found a way through his defences and hit the top of off-stump when on 18.

Scott Boland (2-25) then had Root caught at slip for a duck in his next over with the England skipper again playing away from his body and edging behind to Steve Smith at second slip.

Dawid Malan (3) was dismissed in the over before lunch, caught by Usman Khawaja at slip off Green's bowling, leaving England in tatters at the break.

Boland was taken for a precautionary scan tumbling in his follow through with the final ball before tea. Australia team management later said the 32-year-old, who made a sensational debut in Melbourne to help Australia retain the Ashes, had "been cleared of any damage" and later returned to the match.

The inclement weather early Friday didn't dampen the 'Pink Test' fundraising efforts of the McGrath Foundation, chaired by former test paceman Glenn McGrath, which for the past 14 years has been a feature on day three of the Sydney test.

Most of the 28,415 crowd wore pink clothing and one of the stands at the Sydney Cricket Ground was covered in pink bunting to celebrate the charity's work.

## 'Bowled' that was not to be: Tendulkar-Warne have fun discussion on Stokes' lucky survival



PTI ■ SYDNEY

England batter Ben Stokes had luckiest of escapes in recent times when a Cameron Green ball hit his stumps but he survived as the bails did not come off, prompting legends Shane Warne and Sachin Tendulkar to discuss intro-

duction of a possible new law.

The incident happened on the third day of the fourth Ashes Test on Friday when Australian all-rounder Green bowled one that was angled in and left-handed Stokes had shouldered arms, anticipating that the ball would pass by the stumps.

But it came back enough to kiss the off-stump. The bail started getting out of the groove but eventually settled down.

The on-field umpires asked for a referral but since the bails didn't completely get out of the groove, Stokes was adjudged not out. He went onto make a crucial 66.

"Should a law be introduced called 'hitting the stumps' after the ball has hit them but not dislodged the bails? What do you think guys? Let's be fair to bowlers," tweeted Tendulkar tagging Warne.

The iconic leg-spinner Warner said in just that the point needs to be debated. "Interesting point & one to debate my friend. I will take this to the world cricket committee for discussion & come back to you.

Never seen anything like that today - Green's delivery was 142kph and hit the stump hard," Warne replied.

However another stylish Aussie batter of yesteryears Damien Martyn had a straight "No" to Tendulkar's proposal.

However the freakish nature of the survival did surprise one and all including former Australian captain Ricky Ponting.

"I've not seen one with a ball like that," Ponting said on Channel 7.

"It's actually just made the stump move sideways. So therefore the groove of the bail has actually stayed exactly in the groove of the stump."

## Slow overrate will lead to a fielder less outside 30 yard circle: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Friday announced that slow overrate in T20 Internationals will result in a fielder less outside of the 30-yard circle for the remaining overs of the innings, starting this month.

The governing body also introduced an optional drinks interval midway through the innings in bilateral T20 international cricket as part of its updated playing conditions.

The in-match penalties are in addition to the sanctions for slow over rate outlined in Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. "The over rate regulations are captured in clause 13.8 of the playing conditions, which stipulate that a fielding side must be in position to bowl the first ball of the final over of the innings by the scheduled or rescheduled time for the end of the innings," the ICC stated.

"If they are not in such a position, one fewer fielder will be permitted outside of the 30-yard circle for the remaining overs of the innings."

The change was recommended by the ICC Cricket Committee, which regularly discusses ways to improve the pace of play in all formats, after considering reports on the effectiveness of a similar regulation that was included in the playing conditions for the Hundred competition conducted by the ECB.

In another change, an optional drinks break of two minutes and thirty seconds may be taken at the mid-point of each innings subject to agreement between Members at the start of each series.



The first men's match to be played under the new playing conditions will be the one-off tie between the West Indies and Ireland at the Sabina Park in Jamaica on January 16. The first T20I of the three-match series between South Africa and the West Indies in Centurion on January 18 will be the first women's match played under the new playing conditions.

## Dravid hints at 'conversations' with Pant over timing of his shots



PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

India head coach Rahul Dravid has hinted at having a conversation with wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant over the timing of his shots, including the wild slog that led to his dismissal in the second innings of the lost second Test against South Africa here.

Speaking to media after India's seven-wicket defeat on Thursday, Dravid said he would always want Pant to play positive cricket but at times, the shot selection can be different.

"We know Rishabh plays positively and he plays in a particular manner and that has got him a little bit of success. But of course there are times when we are going to have to have some sort of level of conversations

around that," he said. "...It is just little bit or may be selection of the time to play that (shot)," Dravid added at the virtual post-match press conference.

Pant tried to smash Kagiso Rabada out of the ground on the third ball of his innings but ended up edging it to the wicketkeeper, drawing sharp criticism from all quarters.

"No one is going to ever tell Rishabh (Pant) not to be a positive player or not to be an aggressive player but sometimes it is just the question of picking and choosing the time to do that," Dravid said when specifically asked whether he was upset with Pant's shot.

Dravid, himself a veteran of 164 Tests, also said that Pant can change the course of the game very quickly.

"...Maybe giving yourself a little more time might be a little bit more advisable but look I mean in the end, we know what we are getting with Rishabh," he explained.

"He is a really positive player, he is someone who can change the course of the game very quickly for us, so naturally we won't take that away from him and ask him to become something very different.

"But sometimes, it is just about figuring out what is the right time to maybe attack and play out (a) slightly difficult period that sets the game up for you or sets your innings up. So, I mean he (Pant) is learning.

"He plays in a particular way, so it's always something that he is going to keep learning, keep improving and keep getting better," elaborated Dravid.

## SLC lifts suspensions on Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Mendis and Danushka Gunathilaka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has lifted the one-year suspensions of its three senior cricketers -- Danushka Gunathilaka, Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella -- five months after they were sanctioned for a bio-security breach during the national team's tour of England last year.

"Sri Lanka Cricket has decided to lift the one-year suspension imposed on the three players from playing International Cricket, across all three formats, with immediate effect," SLC stated in a press release.

It was during the tour that the trio went on a night out in Bristol and were caught on camera outside the confines of bio-security bubble in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic in UK last year.



"The latest decision was taken following a request made by the three players to Sri Lanka Cricket to lift the ban imposed on them, pursuant to the conclusion of the LPL 2021. "Based on such request, SLC obtained a report from the

Doctor to provide counseling for the 3 players during their period of suspension.

"Upon consideration of the said report submitted by the Doctor, the Executive Committee of the SLC decided at a meeting held on Friday to remove the suspension of the said three players," the statement added.

The remaining period (7 months) will remain suspended for a period of two years, during which the three players' conduct will be closely monitored by the SLC.

Accordingly, the trio will be able to play domestic cricket with immediate effect and will also be available for national selection, subject to complying with mandatory fitness standards. All three are set to be selected during Sri Lanka's tour of India starting late next month.

## Sometimes we can be a little bit hard on senior players; Pujara, Rahane repaid faith: Gavaskar

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The legendary Sunil Gavaskar feels Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane repaid the trust that was shown in them, adding it is easy to get excited by young talents but the team should continue showing faith in its senior players as long as they are "not getting out badly."

After a string of poor performances, the under-fire duo of Pujara and Rahane came good with the bat, scoring half-centuries in India's second innings of the second Test. "The team has backed

them because of the experience and what they have done in the past. They had the belief that they will come good and they did," Gavaskar said on 'Star Sports'.

"Sometimes we can be a little bit hard on some of our senior players because you have these exciting young players waiting in the wings and we all want to see them get a bit of exposure.

"But as long as these senior players are playing well and not getting out badly, then I think we should show faith in them," he added.



India was without the services of regular skipper Virat Kohli who was ruled out of the

Test minutes before the toss due to a lower back spasm.

"It is amazing, this is the first time that India have lost a Test match in which Virat Kohli has not played. They drew once in Sydney but otherwise they have always won.

Despite Rahane and Pujara's knocks India was not able to contain the South African batters, specially skipper Dean Elgar, who stitched crucial partnerships to lead the hosts to series-levelling 1-1 win here on Thursday.

Gavaskar was not impressed by stand-in skipper KL Rahul's field placements. He

## Kaif, Binny added to Indian team for LLC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammed Kaif and Stuart Binny have been added to India Maharajas squad for the Howzat Legends League Cricket starting in Muscat from January 20.

Ravi Shastri, Commissioner of the tournament, said, "Mohammad Kaif and Stuart Binny's contribution to the Indian cricket is huge and likewise I feel they will also have an immense role to play in league as well."

The first season of Howzat LLC will have former cricketers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, England, among other cricket nations divided into 3 teams representing India, Asia and Rest of the World.

was also critical of the Indian fielding.

"I thought giving Dean Elgar those singles at the start of the innings was making life a little bit easier for him.

"Elgar is not a hooper of the ball so to have two men in the deep did not make any sense. He was taking the singles quite comfortably.

"The Indian fielding could have been just that little bit sharper.

But otherwise, it was the South Africans who won the game. I don't think the Indians lost it, the South Africans who won this game," said Gavaskar.



# DJOKOVIC SPENDS RELIGIOUS DAY IN DETENTION

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Regardless of who made an error on the visa or the vaccination waiver or whatever, the reality Friday for tennis No. 1 Novak Djokovic was spending one of his important religious holidays in an Australian detention hotel working on his challenge against deportation.

Djokovic has been receiving calls from Serbia, including from his parents and the president, hoping to boost his spirits. A priest from the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Melbourne sought permission from immigration authorities to visit the nine-time Australian Open champion to celebrate the Orthodox Christmas.

"Our Christmas is rich in many customs and it is so important that a priest visits him," the church's dean, Milorad Locard, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "The whole thing around this event is appalling. That he has to spend Christmas in detention ... It is unthinkable."

Djokovic's supporters gathered outside the Park Hotel, used to house refugees and asylum seekers near downtown Melbourne, waving flags and banners.

They mixed with human rights advocates who were there more to highlight the plight of other longer-term people in detention, many who have long complained about their living conditions and exposure to the coronavirus in the pandemic.

A day after both the prime minister and the home affairs minister said



it was the responsibility of the individual to have their visa documents in order, it seemed to dawn on people locally that whatever mistakes happened in the process, one of the highest-profile athletes in the world was in detention.

Djokovic flew to Australia confident he had everything he needed to compete, given he had been approved by Victoria state government for a medical exemption.

That same evidence didn't comply with the Australian government's regulations.

So, instead of preparing to defend his Australian Open title, and bid to

win a men's-record 21st major title, he's preparing to go to the Federal Circuit Court on Monday to challenge his visa cancellation and deportation.

Attention is moving away from Djokovic's vaccination status — a touchy topic in a city where people spent so long in lockdown and were subject to harsh travel restrictions — and onto questions about how the nine-time Australian Open champion could have wound up in this situation.

Even some who have been critical of Djokovic in the past are now in his corner.

"Look, I definitely believe in tak-

ing action, I got vaccinated because of others and for my mums health, but how we are handling Novak's situation is bad, really bad," Nick Kyrgios, an Australian player and outspoken critic of some of Djokovic's opinions on vaccinations, posted on Twitter.

"This is one of our great champions but at the end of the day, he is human. Do better."

Jelena Djokovic posted on social media to thank her husband's supporters.

"Thank you dear people, all around the world for using your voice to send love to my husband," she posted on Twitter.

"I am taking a deep breath to calm down and find gratitude (and understanding) in this moment for all that is happening."

Critics of the medical exemptions have said if there were no loopholes, then nobody would be in Djokovic's position right now. And while players have sympathized with Djokovic's situation, some have said getting vaccinated would have prevented the problems.

Djokovic has been a vaccine skeptic, and has declined to acknowledge if he's had shots for COVID-19, but there can't be any doubt he traveled to Australia believing his paperwork was all in order.

The medical-exemption applications from players, their teams and tennis officials were vetted by two independent panels of medical experts at the state level. Djokovic had an approved exemption allowing him into the tournament.

But when he landed at the airport, the Australian government's Border Force canceled Djokovic's visa, saying he "failed to provide appropriate evidence to meet the entry requirements."

Australia's strict COVID-19 laws dictate that incoming travelers must have had two shots of an approved vaccine, or must have an exemption with a genuine medical reason, such as an acute condition, to avoid quarantine.

Tennis Australia said Djokovic's request for an exemption "was granted following a rigorous review process."

## Bopanna-Ramkumar enter semis, Sania-Kichenok knocked out in Adelaide

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan registered a resounding straight-set win to cruise into the semifinals but it was the end of the road for compatriot Sania Mirza in their respective ATP and WTA tournaments here on Friday.

Bopanna and Ramkumar trounced the French-Monegasque duo of Benjamin Bonzi and Hugo Nys 6-1 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals of the Adelaide International 1 ATP 250 men's event.

However, Sania and her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok endured a bad day in the office as the two failed to make the summit clash of the Adelaide International 1 WTA event.

The duo put up a fiery fight

but eventually lost their doubles semifinal tie 1-6 6-2 8-10 against local favourites Ashleigh Barty and Storm Sanders in one hour five minutes.

The unseeded Indian pair of veteran Bopanna and Ramkumar will now clash with the fourth seeded Bosnian-Mexican duo of Tomislav Brkic and Santiago Gonzalez for a spot in the final.

The two Indians are pairing up for the first time on the ATP tour.

Should Bopanna and Ramkumar continue their good show the two may pair up for India's Davis Cup tie against Denmark scheduled to be played in New Delhi in March.

The two Adelaide events are tune up tournaments for the Australian Open, starting January 17 in Melbourne.

## Kashyap out for 6 weeks due to calf muscle injury



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Commonwealth Games champion shuttler Parupalli Kashyap says he will have to "reassess his training" after being ruled out for six weeks due to a recent calf muscle injury.

A former world no six, Kashyap sustained a grade 1 calf muscle pull during the All India Senior Ranking tournament in Hyderabad (December 24-30) last month.

"I played Hyderabad Open, and I got injured in the first round, just

when I was feeling really good but it seems I wasn't good enough for the match," a disappointed Kashyap told PTI.

"I am not sure why it happened, probably it is the age... Now I think I have to reassess what is happening in training."

"I am thinking I am fit but probably I am not. My stamina for the calf muscles was not enough, the strength endurance for the calf muscle to last the entire match was not enough," he added.

Kashyap, 35, has been troubled by frequent injuries and fitness issues ever since his Commonwealth Games gold in 2014.

After enduring another tough year, the shuttler was looking for good outings at the two All India senior ranking tournaments at Chennai and Hyderabad.

## Olympic medallists Bajrang and Ravi choose to train with Indian coaches till Paris Olympics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Not willing to spend a considerable time abroad under a foreign coach, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia has decided to train with an Indian coach in the country to prepare for the 2024 Paris Games.

Not only Bajrang but Ravi Dahiya, the Tokyo Games silver medallist, has also conveyed to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) that he will prefer to train under Indian coaches instead of hiring a personal coach from abroad. Bajrang had trained with Georgian Shako Bentinidis while Ravi had Russian Kamal Malikov to help him along with a set of Indian coaches at Chhatrasal stadium.

Bajrang has been trying to hire a foreign coach since his association ended with Bentinidis but his search did not bear any fruit.



Even during his ongoing training camp in Russia, he looked for a coach but none is willing to come to India, according to the 27-year-old.

"These coaches want me to spend at least 80 percent of the season in their country, a condition which is not acceptable to me. I am willing to spend half the time outside but no one is willing to come to India, so I have decided to train with an Indian coach," Bajrang told PTI from Moscow.

Bajrang did not elaborate why the foreign coaches are unwilling to come

to India. "I don't understand what their issue is in coming to India?"

Asked who he wants to train with, the two-time World medallist said he is yet to finalise a name.

The 27-year-old Bajrang is employed with the Indian Railways and it is expected that he will hire someone from Railways.

Ravi Dahiya recently began his training at his training centre, where his long time friend and sparring partner Arun Kumar is helping him out. Mahabali Satpal, who has played a key role in shaping his career, is keeping an eye on his training schedule in the morning sessions at Chhatrasal stadium. "All Ravi wants is one more training partner. We will identify one for him in his category during the Ranking Series event in Gonda," said WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.

## PSG relying on Mbappe's scoring ahead of Lyon game

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain's reliance on Kylian Mbappe keeps growing as he keeps scoring.

That was illustrated again when he grabbed a hat trick in the French Cup on Monday night.

It was against modest amateur side Vannes, but the quality of his finishing stood out regardless and took his overall tally this season to 18 goals in 25 games.

The trip to Lyon on Sunday in the league may prove more difficult for Mbappe, given how hard it was to beat Lyon in September. PSG needed a header from Mauro Icardi in the final seconds of stoppage time in that meeting.

Lyon dominated for spells and often gives PSG a hard game at home. Lyon sits in a lowly 13th place, but PSG's form has been

patchy.

For although Mauricio Pochettino's side reached the mid-season break with a 13-point lead it was far tougher than it looks.

PSG won just two of its last five games and needed last-gasp equalizers against Lens and 19th-place Lorient heading into the winter break. In 19 matches, PSG has scored 12 times after the 80th minute to underline how individual talent — allied to a strong bench that includes Icardi and Copa America winner Angel Di Maria — made the difference more than impressive teamwork.

With Neymar out injured with a sprained ankle and record seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi surprisingly netting just once in 11 league games, coach Mauricio Pochettino needs Mbappe at his very best.

## Bolstered by Valskis return, Chennaiyin look to sail past Goa

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Bolstered by the return of Forward Nerijus Valskis, Chennaiyin FC will be eager to build on the winning momentum and break into the top four when they take on FC Goa in the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

Chennaiyin snapped a two-game losing run to script a win over Jamshedpur FC, riding on luck at times. The former champions were bolstered by return of Valskis from Jamshedpur.

Lithuanian forward Valskis had donned Chennaiyin colours in his first season in India. He scored 15 goals for the club in the 2019-20 season, winning the ISL Golden Boot and reaching the final.

"Valskis will be available and Ariel Borysiuk will skip this game. He is feeling much better so we will see what will happen in the next few days and decide about the game on thirteenth," said head coach Bozidar Bandovic.

Placed sixth in the points table, Chennaiyin have 14 points in their kitty from nine games and with a win on Saturday, they can end the first



half of the season inside the top-four.

Chennaiyin have benefited from Vladimir Koman's passing and vision and that was evident in the last game when Koman set up Lukasz Gikiewicz for his winner.

Koman has become the club's midfield orchestrator since his arrival this season.

Apart from scoring twice and setting up once, he has created 15 goalscoring chances, the highest among Chennaiyin players this season.

For FC Goa, their performance against Kerala Blasters showed character and head coach Derrick Pereira can draw

a lot of heart from that display.

Goa will depend a lot on midfield lynchpin Edu Bedia who scored a wonderful goal to help the Gaurs draw 2-2 against Kerala Blasters.

He has 10 goals and 12 assists in 79 Hero ISL appearances. What he brings to the Goa team is his ability to control games, dictate the tempo and offer passing options to teammates. "We have a good side. I think we don't need any more reinforcements."

We just need to back our players. We have enough players to go to the next stage of the league," Pereira said when asked if there would be any incoming in the current window to bolster the squad.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-14 SAMBALPUR**  
 e-procurement Notice  
**BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SBP/ 35/ 2021-22**  
**E-mail - eeexgbsbp@rediffmail.com Phone/Fax-0663-2548043**  
**No. 8685 / Dated: 31-12-2021**

- The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No-I, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Civil/ Electrical Work as detailed in the DTGN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
- No. of works : 06 (Six)
- Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/- (On Line)
- Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" Class Contractor & "C" & "B" CLASS CONTRACTOR.
- Date and time Available in Web site and receipt of Bids: 16.00 Hrs 08.01.2022 to 17.00 Hrs of 14.01.2022.
- Date of Opening of Tender: 15.01.2022 at 11:30 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Web Site.
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) only.

Superintending Engineer Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.I  
**OIPR-34042/11/0066/2122**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BALASORE**  
 Phone : 9437086137, e-mail-eeephbs@gmail.com  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement (Online Mode)**  
**Bid-Identification No.EEPHBS-52 of 2021-22 dt.05.01.2022**

The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE mode only.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Bid-Identification No.	Value of Work (Rs.Lakh)	Period of Completion	Availability of bid documents for online bidding		Last date and time of seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of technical bid
					From	To		
1	Shifting of Water Supply Pipeline from the Seragarh-Nilagiri-Jharanagathi PWD road from 5/00 KM to 11/00 KM within Municipal limits of Nilagiri NAC.	EEPHBS-52 dt.05.01.2022	87.55	06 (Six) calendar month	11:00 Hrs. of dt.10.01.2022	17:00 Hrs. of dt.25.01.2022	17:00 Hrs. Of 21.01.2022	11:00 Hrs. Of 27.01.2022

The bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Name and Address of the officer inviting bid :- The Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore, At-Samalpur, Post-Balia, Dist-Balasore, Pin-756056, Odisha, Phone : 9437086137

SD/-  
 Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Balasore.  
**OIPR-13053/11/0006/2122**

**E-810 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, Rourkela Govt. Hospital, Rourkela**  
**Notice No-\_\_\_\_\_ Date-\_\_\_\_\_**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from intending agency/firms /Suppliers through Speed Post / Register Post / Courier for supply of **Computer, Laptop, Photo copier machine** for different programme for the year 2021-22. The willing reputed agency/firms /Suppliers are requested to submit sealed tenders to the office of the undersigned on or before till 5 P.M. Tender documents can be downloaded/ obtained from the district website [www.sundergarh.nic.in](http://www.sundergarh.nic.in). This office will not entertain any tender after the due date/time fixed for at any circumstances. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or whole tender without assigning any reason thereof.

-Sd-  
 Director, Rourkela Govt. Hospital, Rourkela  
**OIPR-10158/11/0004/2122**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** E-Mail - [rw\\_rourkela@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_rourkela@yahoo.co.in)  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ROURKELA**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SERKL-27 of 2021-22**

- Name of the Work :- Bridge Work
- Total No. of works :- 1 (One) No.
- Estimated cost :- Rs.11.98 Lakhs
- Class of contractor :- "D" & "C" Class
- Period of completion :- 02 (Two) Calendar Months
- Type of Tender :- Single Cover
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Rourkela	Online-SERKL-27 of 2021-22	10.01.2022 from 10.00 A.M	15.01.2022 upto 5.00 PM

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
 Superintending Engineer RW Division, Rourkela  
**OIPR-25067/11/0032/2122**

**HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES Limited** Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavnagar Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai -400034  
 Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

**FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS**

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owed by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on 13-01-2022 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	14038835	Raj Kishore Naik	25-01-2021	12178	Angul
2	12292784	Md Tawseef Azmi	28-08-2020	16859	Bhubaneswar
3	8677212	Mohamad Tawseef Azmi	27-08-2019	6912	Bhubaneswar
4	13255278	Rabindra Kumar Sahoo	18-11-2020	23797	Bhubaneswar
5	14666144	Bichitra Kumar Pradhan	17-03-2021	31554	Bhubaneswar
6	12361121	Akshya Kumar Mohanty	04-09-2020	143775	Bhubaneswar-Samantapur
7	12128115	Pragful Rout	12-08-2020	12635	Cuttack
8	15882969	Madhusmita Priyadarsini Pradhan	29-06-2021	26140	Cuttack
9	5354034	Mir Imtiaz Ali	22-09-2018	5728	Cuttack
10	4137327	Md Alamgir Khan	31-03-2018	10212	Rourkela
11	4399547	Madhusudan Das	10-05-2018	28562.12	Rourkela
12	5720918	Malla Nageshwar Rao	06-11-2018	39091	Rourkela
13	6347964	Santosh Sahoo	11-01-2019	63316	Rourkela
14	15083830	Karan Agarwal	22-04-2021	32343	Sambalpur
15	15204649	Karan Agarwal	03-05-2021	34948	Sambalpur

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : ORISSA  
 Date : 08-01-2022  
 Authorised Officer (HDB Financial Services Ltd)

## Roma errors hand AC Milan a 3-1 win in Serie A

AP ■ ROME

Jose Mourinho was left gesticulating in apparent disapproval after two grievous errors from his Roma players handed AC Milan a 3-1 win in Serie A.

First, striker Tammy Abraham stuck out his arm to block a shot that resulted in a penalty for Milan, then defender Roger Ibanez made an errant back pass that was intercepted by Olivier Giroud, which led to the Rossoneri's second goal just 17 minutes in. Giroud converted the penalty and Junior Messias scored Milan's second on a rebound after Giroud's effort hit the post. Abraham then pulled one back for Roma with a deflection but Milan goalkeeper Mike

Maignan maintained the Rossoneri's advantage with a series of difficult saves. Milan also hit the goalframe twice, while Roma finished with nine men when Rini Karsdorp and Gianluca Mancini each picked up their second yellow cards — which will mean they'll be suspended for Sunday's game against Juventus. With Roma down to 10 men, Rafael Leão restored Milan's two-goal advantage after being set up with a chested pass from fellow substitute Zlatan Ibrahimovic to sprint in alone toward goal. Ibrahimovic then had a penalty attempt saved by Rui Patricio. Mourinho questioned decisions by referee Daniele Chiffi and VAR official Gianluca Aureliano.