OPINION 6

AFGHAN WOMEN'S

RIGHTS ARE STILL FAR

SPORT 12

SOUTH AFRICA HAND 'OUT OF

SYNC' INDIA'S SERIES DEFEAT

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

> Late City Vol.18 Issue 21 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

HAVE NO LIMITS: **RANVEER**

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY JANUARY 22, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

WORLD 8

SANCTIONS AS HYPOCRISY

CHINA RAPS US MISSILE

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703 die, 3.5L infected in a day as corona marches on

Kerala positivity rate soars to 43%

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Friday recorded 3,47,254 new cases of Covid-19, including 9,692 cases of the new Omicron variant, while 703 fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours. The active cases have increased to 20,18,825, the highest in 235 days, the Union Health Ministry data showed. The active cases comprise 5.23 per cent of the total infections.

The Test Positivity Rate

surged to 43.76 per cent in Kerala, paining a gloomy picture about the Covid-19 situation in the State which recorded 41, 668 fresh cases during the last 24 hours on Friday. The samples tested on Friday stood at 95,218.

By far this is the highest positivity rate recorded by any State in India ever since Covid-19 spread in the country. Positivity rate is the percentage of people who test positive of those overall who have been

The Kerala Government suffered a setback on Friday as a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court asked the Kasaragod district adminis-



A student stands for verification as a health worker administers a Covid-19 vaccine to another at a private school in Kolkata on

The Government on Friday increased the limit of registering the number of people on Co-WIN using one mobile number from four to six to cover maximum number of beneficiaries

tration not to allow any public meetings attended by more than 50 persons. Though the District Disaster Management Authority had issued an order limiting the number of persons that could assemble for any meeting to 50, the district collector reportedly under polit-

ical pressure issued a new order stating that the number of persons that could be allowed to attend public meetings should be decided based on the Test Positivity Rate as well as the number of beds available in the district.

Neighbouring Karnataka too is battling massive surge in Covid-19 cases. The State reported 48,049 new Covid-19 cases along with 22 deaths and 18,115 recoveries on Friday. Bengaluru registered 29,068 infections and six deaths.

Karnataka Government on Friday decided to lift the weekend curfew that was in place with an aim to control the spread of Covid-19 infections. However, the night curfew hours between 10 pm and 5 am everyday will con-

Covid-19 cases on Thursday. Meanwhile, Delhi reported 10,756 new Covid-19 cases 17,494 recoveries and 38 deaths in the last 24 hours.

tinue. This comes as Karnataka

registered a steep spike in

Continued on Page 2

Amar Jawan Jyoti merger stirs row; India Gate to get Bose's statue

Rahul raps Govt for moving flame to War Memorial

PNS NEW DELHI

mar Jawan Jyoti on Friday Awas merged with the eternal flame at the newly con-structed National War Memorial (NWM) here. Some veterans and political leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, however, criticised the move and said it was an insult to the fallen soldiers.

In a short military ceremony, the flame at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was taken and merged with the War Memorial about 400 metres away in the afternoon. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Marshal BR Krishna presided over the ceremony that included a parade and

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, meanwhile, announced that a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose will be installed at India Gate as a symbol of India's indebtedness to him. This announcement came ahead of Bose's 125th birth anniversary.

Until the installation is completed, a hologram of Netaji will be projected at the site of the statue, the Prime Minister said. "I will unveil the



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue (that is yet to be installed) at India Gate area in New Delhi, to mark his 125th birth anniversary



hologram statue on 23rd January, Netaji's birth anniversary," he tweeted.
"At a time when the entire

nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue, made of granite, will be installed at India Gate," Modi tweeted on Friday. "This would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him."

The statue will be installed under the grand canopy near which the Amar Jawan Jyothi flickers. The canopy, which was built along with the rest of the grand monument in the 1930s by Sir Edwin Lutyens once housed a statue of the former king of England George V. The statue was later moved to Coronation Park in Central Delhi in the mid-1960s.

The National Was Memorial, built in 2019, will now be the single point for military ceremonies and tributes to fallen soldiers.

Continued on Page 2

Parrikar's son quits BJP to fight as independent from coveted Panjim

Denied ticket from Panaji, his late father's con-stituency, former Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's quit the BJP.

He would contest the February 14 Assembly elections in the State from Panaji as independent, he announced

The day before, the ruling BJP nominated from Panaji which Manohar Parrikar had represented for over two decades — its sitting MLA Atanasio Monserrate, one of ten legislators who had joined the saffron party in July 2019 after quitting Congress.

"I was left with no other choice. I have resigned from the party and I would be contesting as an independent from Panaji," Utpal Parrikar told reporters.

He also said that resignation was a formality but the BJP will "always remain in my heart."

"It is a difficult choice for me, I am doing it for the people of Goa. No one should be worried about my political future, people of Goa will do it,"

The BJP had offered him "other options" (constituencies other than Panaji), Parrikar "I am fighting for the val-

ues which I believe in. Let peonegotiate with my party," he Asked whether he would

seek support of other political parties, he said the only platform for him was the BIP. 'If not BJP, then I would go

for (contesting as) independent. I will not go for any other political party," Parrikar said. On Thursday, the BJP's Goa in-charge Devendra Fadnavis

had said while releasing its first list of candidates that the party offered some other seats to Utpal, but he was not willing to contest from any of them. Earlier in the day, Shiv

Sena leader Sanjay Raut said his party, which had formed a tieup with the NCP for Goa elections, would support Parrikar if he promised not to back the BJP post elections.

On Thursday, Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had slammed the BJP for adopting "use and throw" policy regarding the Parrikar family, and invited Utpal to join his party. | release the "Bharti Vidhan'

Priyanka pitches herself as CM candidate in UP

PNS NEW DELHI

Jongress leader Privanka Gandhi on Friday pitched herself as the party's Chief Ministerial face in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls as she released a "youth manifesto" for the State, along with her brother Rahul Gandhi.

Priyanka, who has been leading from the front in the crucial poll-bound State, however, evaded queries on whether she would contest the Assembly polls. At the same time, she said the Congress would be open to a post-poll alliance if the need arose. Rahul on his part chose to attack the BJP alleging that those preaching Hindutva are spreading

hatred in the cyber world. "Do you see any other face from the Congress party, Priyanka said when asked who would be the party's Chief Ministerial candidate in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. You are seeing my face everywhere," the Privanka added while addressing the joint Press conference with Rahul to



Congress party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks during the release of the Congress party's manifesto for the upcoming State election in Uttar Pradesh, in New Delhi

(recruitment document) man ifesto that promises a new vision for youth in the State and the creation of 20 lakh jobs including eight lakh for women.

To a question on whether she would herself contest the Assembly polls, Priyanka said, "We have not yet decided." She said it would be known once that is decided.

Continued on Page 2

Aditi Singh in BJP's 3rd list of 85 names for UP elections

ing Uttar Pradesh elections that includes Aditi Singh who recently quit the Congress — fielded from Rae Bareli.

The BJP has also given ticket to Asim Arun, who recently resigned from the IPS, in its third list of candidates.

The list also includes incumbent MLA Hariom Yaday, a relative of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Hariom Yadav had quit the Opposition party recently and crossed over to the BIP

The BJP has named both Aditi Singh and Yadav from their current seats of Rae Bareli and Sirsaganj respectively, while Arun, a Dalit, will contest from Kannauj, a reserved

The Rae Bareli Assembly seat is part of the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency which is represented by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Nitin Aggarwal, who had also left the SP to join the BJP, will fight

The BJP on Friday include former BSP leader announced its third list of Ramveer Upadhyay from Chhibramau, and Satish Mahana from Mahrajpur.

Riya Shakya, daughter of Bidhuna MLA Vinay Shakya who joined the SP, has also got a ticket to contest from her father's seat.

With the fresh list of candidates, which includes 15 women, the total number of names announced by the party for the seven-phase election to the 403-member assembly has reached 195.

Last week, the BJP had released its first list of candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. It was announced that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will contest the polls from the Gorakhpur seat and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad

Uttar Pradesh elections for the 403 Assembly constituencies are slated to be held in seven phases starting from February 10. The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

35 YouTube, 2 Twitter accounts

Maurya from Sirathu

LG rejects Govt's proposal to reduce **Covid restrictions**

mendations on the lifting of weekend curfew and reducing Covid-related restrictions. The Kejriwal Government proposed relaxation in curbs as the positivity rate has come down from 31 per cent to 17 per cent.

The Delhi administration had also proposed the removal of odd-even restrictions imposed on shops and other commercial establishments in the city.

restrictions should remain in Lieutenant Governor Anil force until the Covid-19 situa-Baijal on Friday rejected tion further improves. He, Government's proposal that private offices should operate at

50 per cent capacity. 'A status quo remains with regards to the opening of markets as the case positivity rate of Delhi is still above 21 per cent and the number of daily coronavirus cases being reported is over 12,000, "the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) noted. Continued on Page 2

What DDMA order says

Restaurants and bars will remain closed across Delhi Online delivery has been permitted

Private offices have been allowed to function at 50 per cent capacity, however offices must be situated outside the containment

Cinemas, theatres, spas, and gyms will continue to be shut All educational institutions. including schools, colleges, and

universities, will remain closed till further orders Shons in markets market complexes, and malls are allowed to run on an odd-even basis between 10am and 8pm. Only one authorised weekly market can function with an upper limit of 50 per cent vendors at a time. □ Delhi Metro and buses can continue to run only at full seating capacity with no standing

Domestic fliers can't carry more than one hand baggage

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Domestic air passengers will no longer be allowed to carry more than one hand baggage. In a bid to reduce congestion at airports, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has asked the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to strictly implement the rule which mandates that only one handbag is allowed per pas-

The CISF has said flyers with more than one cabin handbag are choking the security check-in counters at airports as well as causing delays, congestion and inconvenience to passengers. CISF guards all



rules allow passengers to carry one hand baggage, the existing rules permit a passenger to carry one laptop bag, one ladies' handbag, and one blanket, gift item purchased from duty-free shop, umbrella, and a reasonable amount of reading

In a letter to Director General, BCAS, the CISF's IG/Airport Sector Vijay Prakash pointed out that it has been seen that passenger on

material on board an aircraft.

average carries two to three handbags to the screening point. This has led to increased clearance time as well as delays congestion in PESC points, and inconvenience to passengers. "As per BCAS AVSEC Circular Nos. 06/2000 & Lt12000, no passenger should be permitted to carry more than one handbag other than those items already listed in the circular including lady's bag," the CISF said, adding, "All airlines and airport operators may be instructed to take steps to implement 'One Hand Bag rule' meticulously on the ground to ease the congestion

and other security concerns.

Continued on Page 2

ioins Congress PNS DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

Harak Rawat

Expelled BJP leader and for-mer Uttarakhand Minister Harak Singh Rawat on Friday joined the Congress in Delhi along with his daughter-inlaw Anukriti Gusain in the presence of party campaign head for Uttarakhand Harish Rawat, PCC president Ganesh Godiyal, Leader of Opposition in Uttarakhand Assembly Pritam Singh. Harak, who represented

the Kotdwar seat in the Uttarakhand Assembly, was among the 10 MLAs who had rebelled against the then Chief Minister Harish Rawat-led State Government in 2016 and joined the BJP. Harak was expelled from

the BJP five days back.

blocked for anti-India canards PNS NEW DELHI

Acting on intelligence inputs, the Government has blocked 35 YouTube channels, two Twitter accounts, two Instagram accounts, two websites, and a Facebook account for spreading anti-India propaganda and spreading fake news in a "coordinated manner" on the Internet from Pakistan

Talking to the media, Apurva Chandra, secretary Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry, said these YouTube accounts had a total subscriber base of over 1.20 crore, and their videos had Tarar Speaks, Apni Dunya TV, Haqeekat ki Dunia, Shahzad over 130 crore views. The Government last month had Abbas, Mera Pakistan with



and two websites for spreading anti-India fake and divisive news and other content. According to Chandra, the

35 YouTube accounts blocked by the Ministry were all operating from Pakistan and were identified to be part of four coordinated disinformation networks. These include Faisal HR tv, Sabee Kazmi, Such tv network, Saqib Speaks, and Salman Haider Officials. The Apni Duniya Network operates 14 YouTube chan-

Shahab, Khabar with Ahmed,

nels, and Talha Films Network operates 13 YouTube channels. A set of four channels and a set of two other channels were also found to be acting in synchronisation with each other. The channels were used to

post divisive content in a coordinated manner on topics like Kashmir, Indian Army, minority communities in India, Ram Mandir, General Bipin Rawat etc. One of the groups identified on YouTube was Pakistan'

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

passenger

CLUBHOUSE APP CHAT CASE: 3 ARRESTED Mumbai: The Mumbai Police

has arrested three persons from Harvana in connection with the chat on Clubhouse app, in which obscene comments were allegedly made against Muslim women, an official said on Friday. In a tweet posted early on Friday morning, Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi praised the city police for the arrests in the

R-DAY REHERSAL: TRAVEL **ADVISORY ISSUED** New Delhi: The Delhi Traffic Police on Friday issued an advisory on the arrangements and traffic restrictions in place

for the smooth conduct of full dress rehearsal in national Capital on January 23 for the Republic Day parade

R-Day fests

Guv chief guest in BBSR in CM's presence

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal will unfurl the National Flag and take salute at this year's Republic Day function in State capital Bhubaneswar with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sitting by his side on January 26.

Official sources here said that such presence of the Governor-Chief Minister duo would be a new feature at the Republic Day ceremonies in different State capitals. Like the two previous years, the Republic Day would be celebrated across the country amidst the Covid pandemic. The State Government on Friday allotted different districts to Ministers to hoist the Tricolour and take salute. Niranjan Pujari is assigned for Sambalpur, Bikram Keshari Arukha for Cuttack, Prafulla Kumar Mallik Nayagarh, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Padmanabha Behera Bargarh, Pratap Jena Angul, Arun Sahoo Subarnapur, Sudarm Marndi Keonjhar, Susanta Singh Sundargarh, Naba Kisore Das Nuapada, Tukuni Sahu Ganjam and

Jagannath Saraka Malkangiri Dibya Shankar Mishra is for Rayagada, Ashok Baleswar, Samir Ranjan Dash Kendrapada, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi Jagatsinghpur, Premananda Nayak Kandhamal, Raghunandan Das Puri, Padmini Dian Nabarangpur and Tusharkanti Behera Koraput.

Besides, the concerned RDCs and DMs have been assigned for Brahmapur, Rourkela, Khordha, Balangir, Bhadrak, Boudh, deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Jajpur, Jharsuguda and Kalahandi.

OCPL wins Corp Excellence



BHUBANESWAR

Power Limited (OCPL) won the

Thick fog hits life in Bhubaneswar Western disturbance

to cause rains in State

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A thick blanket of fog in Bhubaneswar on Friday morning led to a decrease in the visibility and disruption in the vehicular traffic movement.

The fog started enveloping the State capital since midnight and was witnessed till 9.30 am. The visibility was reduced to as low as 10 metre in different parts of the city. Meanwhile, the Regional Office of the Indian Meteorological Department here predicted that under the impact of western disturbance, several parts of the State are likely to

Corporate Excellence Award, Brand of Odisha on Friday. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal handed over the trophy in gold category to OCPL CEO Sariputta Mishra in a function here.

It may be noted that the OCPL is going to surpass its production target of 4.5 million tonne in this financial year which has been set by the Union Ministry of Coal. During the coal crisis in the country, the OCPL supplied quality coal to the Coal India and nearby industries. Under the present CEO, the company has made the turnaround and achieved

150% growth than the previous year. In recent meetings, the Coal Ministry Secretary has praised the OCPI's contribution to meet the coal crisis.



experience light to moderate rainfall for next four days. "A western disturbance will pass through the northward location. Under its effect, several districts of Odisha will experience light to moderate rain-

fall from January 21-24," said IMD Regional Director HR Biswas. "Coastal districts, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj will experience light rainfall today. Some places of Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh,

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Deogarh and few parts of the north interior districts will see light to moderate rainfall on Saturday," said Biswas adding that the rainfall activities are likely to increase on Sunday. Moderate rainfall is likely to occur in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada on Sunday. Other districts will experience light to moderate rainfall in few isolated places, said Biswas.

"The intensity of rainfall is likely to decrease on Monday. But coastal areas and adjoining districts of interior Odisha may witness rainfall activities in isolated places. Bhubaneswar will also experience light to moderate rainfall on January 23 and 24," he added.

Cop's wife duped of 50K by cyber frauds

Under pretext of activating credit card

PNS BHUBANESWAR Cyber criminals have cleaned up around Rs 50,000 from the bank account of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police's (ASI) wife on the pre-

text of credit card activation.

The ASI Bijay Kumar Bahali has lodged a complaint with the Cyber Cell after Rs 49,600 was fraudulently withdrawn from the bank account of his wife in Bhadrak. Recently, some bank staffs had approached Bahali's wife over phone for availing a credit card. Though she initially refused, she agreed for the same after the callers narrated the benefits of the credit card which also had health insurance and other benefits along with the credit facility. Later, the woman received an-

other call in which she was told that her credit card would become invalid if she didn't activate it. She told the callers that she would visit the bank for the same. Later, she again received a call and she shared the OTP as she did not think it could be a trap as the miscreants posing as bank officials revealed her name, date of birth and other confidential information to her Police suspect involvement of some bank staffs in leaking crucial information of customers to the cybercriminals. The ASI of Police said that after a complaint was lodged, the concerned bank has suspended the staffs, who had called his wife for the credit card.

Award



 $S_{
m tate-owned\ Odisha\ Coal\ and}$

In Cuttack

Bizman held on money laundering charge

PNS CUTTACK

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested citybased businessman Pawan Kumar Jajodia on the money laundering charge. Earlier, the agency had carried out searches in various premises of Jajodia. Later, ED officials said several incriminating documents were seized during the raids and they have got significant

evidence against the businessman. "Documents of buildings worth Rs 23 crore, various plots and properties were unearthed during the searches," added the agency officials. Earlier, the Odisha Vigilance Directorate and the Economic Offence Wing of the Crime Branch had lodged a case against Jajodia under Sections 420 and 120B of the IPC. In the FIR, it was alleged that Jajodia has caused Rs

21.86 crore loss to Government exchequers by false billings, fictitious addresses for companies and also using fake IDs. The ED initiated a money-laundering probe on the basis of this case. The ED moved the court seeking custody of Jajodia for interrogation. The court granted them six days remand of Jajodia to extract more information from him. Further investigation into the case was on.

'Attack on Dhinkia villagers to avenge Posco fiasco'

Cong charges BJD Govt of using police for party interest PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Congress on Friday accused the Government of being in hand in glove with a private company to establish a steel plant even when there is no environmental clearance for the project.

In a Press meet here, party leaders Manoranjan Dash, Nishikant Mohapatra and Deepak Mohapatra alleged that to avenge on people of Dhinkia for failure to set up Posco plant, the Government is using police to attack the protestors in Dhinkia. Das said even there were provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and

Many children are turning out to

Resettlement Act, 2013 (LARR Act, 2013) to return land to the original owner if the acquired land is unutilized for five years but they were not followed in letter and spirit. They said the Jagatsinghpur SP and Abhayachandpur police station IIC who lathicharged Dhinkia villagers inhumanly were accused of custodial death of one K Ramesh under Baselisahi police station in Puri district in 2020 and they were sent back to police headquar-

The Congress leaders accused that the BJD Government was using police force to settle a score against the Posco opponents to suit the interest of a new company which is proposed to be set up in the same area where land was being acquired for the South Korean steel maker.

Union Min thrashes officials

An allegation has been levelled against Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu that he severely thrashed two Government officials in Mayurbhanj district, following which they suffered grievous injuries.

District Planning Board Deputy Director Aswini Mallick and Assistant Director Debasish Mohapatra were called for a review meeting at the BJP office and were



allegedly beaten with chairs by the Minister. While Mohapatra's hand was fractured, Mallick sustained severe injuries following the attack by Tudu, who is the Mayurbhanj MP. Currently, both of the victims are undergoing treatment at the Baripada Government hospital.

However, the Minister's reaction over the incident was yet to be received.

Pandemic is nature's search for a better world

The choices we make today shall design our future



month March approaches us rapidly, it is understandable that the

DINESH PRASAD SWAIN pan-

will soon complete imprisoning us for two whole years. Within this long period, we have faced various kinds of problems that had possibly never occurred before. Certainly, years back in history, our ancestors might have tackled conditions of similar kind, but the current generation has never.

As a yoga professional, I interact with a lot of people with different backgrounds. What I've observed is that scholars of various ages, students, small businessmen, almost everybody, is now suffering from physical and psychological problems that are indeed worth our worry. Most college students find online classes to be tedious and are more indolent than unable to join these classes. Due to financial crises, lower and middle class people undergo diverse adversities just to manage their day-to-day lives.

be violent, the result of the impact that the pandemic has left them with. Teens are now highly addicted to internet surfing and glued to their mobile phones with earphones plugged in ears. On one hand, the financial crises haunt us; and on the other, there are these teenagers' demands; a constant source of indignation indeed. These kids are becoming slothful with each passing day, reluctant to even lend a hand to their parents in managing the household chores. In fact, this is one of the majorly contributing reasons for familial uproars and parents' bewilderment. This is leading to both the parents and the ward taking irrevocable steps that one can't turn right such as cases of suicide that have risen noticeably high in the last one and a half years. With a new morrow approaching us, we're stepping back into the despair of the shutdown after a few months of liberty and are going to struggle against the third wave of the pandemic, emphatically nature's warning for the wayward humankind. The State and Central Governments, scientists, researchers, health experts, doctors, all are engaged in lending ample hands to overcome this deadly parasite for humankind. However, the fact to note here is that this is neither an

earthquake nor a flood that it is easy enough to determine when this death-dealing pandemic shall end. As our Covid warriors give their best trying to restore normalcy once again, we can't just lay back and enjoy the view from inside our homes. Humans were born free but, indeed, are in chains; and that's what nature, in the form of the pandemic, has proved to us again.

The doctors, researchers, scientists, all are toiling towards creating a safe and healthy environment for our physical being to survive, but the pandemic has indubitably taken a serious toll on our mental wellbeing as well. We can't go on with the rotten headspaces that we've begun harbouring endlessly and then dare to dream of a utopian perfect earth for ourselves. It is high time for us all to take these trivial matters into our own hands and resolve these minor issues before they enlarge enough to haunt the existence of life on earth once more. The first steps begin from within our closest surroundings. Parents and teachers must channelise the energy in a positive direction in students when they have absolutely nothing to be inspired from within the closed barriers of their homes. Teachers, professors and educationists have to think of ways to steer the stu-

dents in a productive manner. We have to assign them physicallystrengthening tasks and give them the same importance as the core subjects of a student's career. Students can be indulged in a couple of simple breathing practices, physical exercises and meditation in their leisure periods to break the limits of the average student

As mentioned in all my previous articles, simple practices that can be performed within a 6 x 4 feet area are the most compatible practices for us at the moment. Asanas like Surya Namaskar, a couple of forward and backward bending, spinal twisting and pranayamas like Nadi Shodhan, Kapalbhati and Bhastrika can do wonders for us in the midst of the pandemic while we have absolutely nothing to rely on when it comes to keeping fit. Yoga Nidra and meditation are highly-recommended practices that help bring mental balance and peace. These simple yet effective practices can divert us from our torpid lifestyles and morph us into more constructive minds. This teaches us how to maintain our inner equilibrium irrespective of external circumstances like pleasure and pain; success and failure; joy and sorrow; optimism and pessimism in such a

trying time. As a result, it develops our intrinsic abilities. The pandemic is nothing more and nothing less but nature's way of reminding us that it's not us that allpowerful and we too are replaceable. For us to maintain our identities and existence, we must prove ourselves worthy of it. This pandemic is a final call for as we step into newer times and what the pandemic aims for is prosperity in the end; and it can be with or without us. The pandemic is nature's search for a better world. The prerequisite for our survival is the con-

struction of a better world. What we seek is seeking us. Therein, we must work harder in this direction and shape the future with our own actions. It is alright to hope for the best but we ourselves have no idea of what the worst can manifest into. So, it is for the better that we're prepared to overcome all of this. This is no longer the time to ponder over things as matters get worse every day. This is indeed high time for us to take matters into our hands and let go of our benighted selves. The future is ours to build and ours to live for. (Dr Swain is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health and Wellness,

Sri Sri University. dinesh@srisriuniversity.edu.in Phone: 77894424506

Bus operators charging excess fares

Connivance of RTO officials alleged

PNS PURI

he buses plying from Puri to various places are illegally charging excess fares from the passengers than those approved by the State Government.

Due to the excess fare collected by the conductors, the passengers have to shell out 25 per cent to 50 per cent more on each ticket. Surprising,, there has been no increase in fares recently by the State Government The plea behind the fare hike is rise in fuel prices and loss suffered by the bus operators due to the Covid pandemic. Despite repeated

complaints, the Puri RTO has turned a deaf ear.

It is alleged that due to the nexus between the RTO officials and the bus owners, the fares have been hiked arbitrarily, which is burning in

a hole in the pockets of the passengers. Sources said that after relaxation of Covid restrictions on public transport, all the buses from and to Puri have been operating in different routes as usual. Due to fear of infections, the numbers of passengers travelling by bused have decreased compared to the pre-Covid-19

period. The Government has fixed fare of 87 paise per kilometer for ordinary buses while it is 91 paise for Express and Rs.1.25 for Deluxe services. So, as per ordinary bus fares, passengers from Puri to Kalpana Square in Bhubaneswar which is 60 Km, should pay Rs 52.20 and Rs 69.60 to Barmundas for 80 Km. But the passengers are being charged Rs 70 to Kalpana Square and Rs 80 to 90 to Barmunda Bus-Stand. Same is the case in the other routes where the fare is in excess than the Government approved rates.

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When extortions made in name of Puja donations

cal residents were collected the

make the pujas bigger. In

Cases in Dhenkanal KRUSHNA KUMAR MISHRA DHENKANAL

These days the Government has restricted mass celebrations and pujas due to the fear of Covid-19 infection. But even during this time, the Puja committees are involved in forcible collection of 'chanda'. In Dhenkanal headquarters town, Laxmi Puja is celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety and the town has a name for the fest.

The worshipping of earthen idols of Goddess Durga, Goddess Mahalaxmi and Goddess Kali at public places were started in Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Bhadrakh and Kendrapada long ago. It all started with the initiative of a few progressive minded persons from business community and subsequently, it assumed the shape of mass festivals with involvement of people from all shades and variety. Apart from traders, common people irrespective religion, class and creed participated suo motto with the organisers to celebrate the festivals in a better way. Contributions from members, business people and lo-

Dhenkanal, the unique Laxmiu Puja is celebrated by various bazaars and puja committees. Even though not registered bodies, these committees have some self declared office bearers who behave in an autocratic manner. These committee members decide the subscriptions to be made by individuals, traders, make shift shops, dollas, zoo, junk food sellers and also the exhibitor of acrobatics,

Even they do not fear police or administrative system while vir-

including the 'Maut ki Kuan'.

tually extorting the people. Curiously, the district administration invites the puja committee members for discussion for peaceful celebration of the festival and immersion of idols. However, as it is not mandatory for audit of puja funds, the committees spend the money the way they like. Earlier the festival organisers were arranging opera shows, palla, daskathia for the puja revellers at night. Presently they spend in lakhs for golden medha, silver medha, melody, dances and also for consuming meat and liquor. Recently a puja

committee did not allow a builder to construct his own residential building until he gave commitments to pay Rs 27 lakh for silver medha to a puja committee.

The same puja committee also stopped the construction work of a medicine wholesaler forcefully. He was allowed to continue construction work only after he agreed to pay Rs 6 lakh for a silver medha, Rs 1 lakh for Ganesh puja and another Rs 1 lakh to an unsocial person who was pressurising the medicine wholesaler to give the money.

Centenarian freedom fighter no more

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

itendriya Pradhan, 102year-old freedom fighter, of Panimura village in Bargarh district passed away at his residence on Friday.

Pradhan was the last freedom fighter of the village out of as many as 32 who took part in th 1942 Quit India Movement and courted arrest. After the country's Independence, the village

turned into a pilgrimage for the people, including those from abroad.

Pradhan, a bachelor, adopted a relative, Prakash, as his son. His last rites were performed with full national honour where the Minister from the district Susant Singh and senior officers were present. A guard of honour was given by the district administration as mark of respect to the freedom fighter.

S'garh police to take conman in remand

Presently cooling his heels for cheating woman cop Also facing more similar allegations MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A conman from Baleswar district, who had duped a Sundargarh woman police of Rs 4.50 lakh for buying her a plot of land at Bhubaneswar and was arrested by Sundargarh police about a week ago, cooling his heels in jail now, will be brought on remand by Sundargarh police as a number of allegations against him have started surfacing. It is alleged that the conman

has duped about 16 persons from different districts in the State of more than Rs 30 lakh. Chaturbhuj Tarai alias Deepak Panda alias Manas Das, a resident of Jugdih of Baliapal of Baleswar district, had introduced himself through Whatsapp to Hemangini Gardia, IIC, Lephripara police station of Sundargarh district, as Deepak Panda, working as a Sub Inspector of Baisinga police station of Mayurbhanj district, and had duped her Rs 4.50 lakh on the plea of buying her a plot of land in Bhubaneswar. When Hemangini had come to know that she had been duped, she lodged a complaint and managed to get her arrested in Sundargarh. According to sources, after his arrest by Sundargarh police, about ten youths including a

few women who had become victim of his cheating in different districts, started bringing allegations against him. They alleged that Chaturbhuj was either introducing himself as Deepak or Manas and had taken Rs 1 lakh each from them by giving them fake appointment letter for Forest Guard job. One Bimal Toppo of Rasrajpur of Sadar police station of Sundargarh district alleged that Chaturbhuj had contacted eight persons including him and had told them that he would give them job of Forest Guard and would take Rs 1 lakh each. Further three youths from Gajapati district, five youths including one Ganesh Pradhan of Riamal area of Deogarh district had also been taken for a ride by the accused.

JSW-BPSL pond beaches in S'pur



Farmlands flooded: security guard missing Company assures compensation

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA **JHARSUGUDA**

he boundary wall of a tailing pond in the JSW-BPSL premises at Thelkoloi in Sambalpur collapsed on Thursday evening, causing complete destruction in the adjoining farming fields and a poultry farm while a security guard is missing.

Iron-infused toxic chemical mix slurry from the pond spread deep into the fields, ponds, homes and agricul-

ture fields of Benjiverrna village. It caused the fish in the ponds to die almost instantly. The Thelkoloi police station IIC reached the spot to look into the incident, which has angered the villagers, many of whom have demanded compensation from the factory for collateral damage. Two meetings have already taken place between the representatives of the factory and villagers; yet, there was no resolution to the issues.

When asked to share the company's response on the matter, JSW Bhushan Power & Steel VP (Administration) of DK Sinha said a cleanup of the plant was underway. "We assure that all affected villagers would be given their due compensation for the damages as per advice by the district administration," he added

INBRIEF

4 INJURED IN PRE-POLL VIOLENCE IN GANJAM

Brahmapur: Four villagers were injured in a panchayat poll-related violence in Khambarigaon gram panchayat under the Jarada police limits in Ganjam district on Thuursday. A Sarpanch candidate along with some villagers of Babanpur village had gone to the panchayat office to file nominations. While returning to the village, miscreants attacked the Sarpanch candidate and his supporters near Pathara Kuanri village. After receiving information, the SDPO and local police officials reached the spot and started an investigation.

PREPARATORY MEET FOR R-DAY HELD IN B'PUR'

Brahmapur: A preparatory meeting for celebration of the 73rd Republic Day here was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Brahmapur Sub-Collector V Kirtee Vasan. Vasan advised the officers to strictly follow the Covid-19 protocols during the celebrations. He said the day would be observed at the Khallikote University stadium, in which only police personnel can participate in the parade. No general public can participate in the event. Some frontline corona warriors like health workers and sanitation staffs would be felicitated.

BALIPATNA PADDY PROCUREMENT CENTRE OPENS

Bhubaneswar: After nearly one-month delay and much controversy, the first paddy procurement centre opened in Balipatna block on Friday. The Mandi of Garedipanchan Seva Samabaya Samiti and Giring Seva Samabaya Samiti was inaugurated by Bhubaneswar Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies Gayatri Patnaik. On the inaugural day, the Santholia Rice Mill purchased 883 quintals of paddy from 21 farmers of Garedipanchan Samiti and 786 quintals from 18 farmers of Giring Samiti at the MSP fixed by the Government. Balipanta BDO Adikanda Behera, Balipatna PS IIC Krupasindhu Barad, Gadadhar Harichandan, Dibya Ranjan Pradhan, Sushil Panda, Chinmony Mohanty were present.

NOTED D'NAL DENIZEN PATTNAIK'S DEMISE CONDOLED

Dhenkanal: A condolence meeting was held on Wednesday at Surya Mandap, convened by Rotarian Raj Kishor Behera, and presided over by former Minister Nabin Chandra Narayan Das, on the sad demise of hotelier and entrepreneur Jitu Pattnaik in cardiac attack on Monday. Those who paid tributes included United Puja Committee president Biswanath Behera, former Dhenkanal Municipality Chairman Nabin Dalei, litterateur Manoranjan Nanda, senior journalist Krushna Mishra, former DFO Nilamani Maharana, DPJP proprietor Jagdish Prasad Agrawal and activist Rabi Mohanty among others. Dattatreya Sai Ashram chairman Dwarika Mohan Mishra in telephonic message expressed his deep grief.

TPWODL LAUNCHES MOBILE DISPENSARY IN K'HANDI

Bhubaneswar: A Mobile Health Dispensary was launched by TPWODL on January 5 for providing healthcare services to people in Junagarh and Kalampur blocks. Already more than 500 people in 20 villages have availed the services. Apart from providing medical counseling, the villagers are distributed free medicines. Some serious patients after treatment were referred to the District Headquarters Hospital at Bhabanipatna. There is a female doctor, pharmacist and a female attendant in the mobile health dispensary team. The whole of Kalahandi district would be covered by it in next two months, said a release.

Solidarity for Kotia polls -----

3 major parties to give consensus candidates voters in the 13 wards of 28 rev-

Showing solidarity for the fight for Odisha's land Kotia against Andhra Pradesh, all three major political parties in the State, BJD, BJP and Congress, on Thursday came together and decided to give consensus candidates for Kotia in the panchayat elections. The decision was taken at an

all-party meeting held here in the presence of BJD Koraput district president Ishwar Panigrahi, senior BJP leader Jairam Pangi and district Congress president Minakshi Bahinipati. It was decided that one candidate for each post of Ward Member, Sarpanch and Panchayat Samiti Member and Zilla Parishad Member of Kotia panchayat would be announced with mutual understanding and the concerned candidates would resign from their political parties. Meanwhile, Koraput Collector Md Abdaal Akhtar said elections would be held as usual in all the 13 wards of Kotia and stern action would be taken against those who try to disrupt the poll process.

There are more than 5,000

enue villages and 12 other villages in the panchayat which will go for voting on February 18.

Avg 3 murders, 7 dowry cases a month in Rourkela

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

As many as 141 people have been murdered during last 47 months (January 2018 to November 2021) under Rourkela Police District (RPD), reveals data. These include male, female, students and children too. Most of the cases are due to failure or one side love, business enmity, family feud due to land dispute or other reasons. Though in many cases police have arrested accused persons but, there are also in many cases, in which the police are groping in the dark.

Sources said while in 2018 the

figure was 40, it was 31 in 2019, in 2020 and till 25 November 2021 it was 25. According to records while in Koira Police Station highest number of cases with 19 (2018-4, 2019-5, 2020-7 and 2021-3) were registered, it is followed by Lahunipara PS with 18 cases (2018-11, 2019-3, 2020-2 and 2021-2), Bisra PS with 16 (2018-Bolanga PS with 16 (2018-3, 2019-4, 2020-4 and 2021-5), Bonai PS with 13 (2018-1, 2019-4, 2020-7 and 2021-1) and Brahmani Taranga PS with 12 (2018-2, 2019-3, 2020-4 and

Similarly, while during last 47

months 11 cases were registered in Raghunathpalli PS, eight cases were registered in Plant Site PS, six each in Gurundia and Chandiposh PSs, 4 each in Bondamunda, Tikayatpalli and Sector-7 PSs, two cases in Jhirpani PS, and one each was registered in Lathikata and Sector-19 PSs. Significantly no murder case was registered tor15 and Chhend Police Stations said source. Similarly, during these periods total 332 dowry torture cases were registered under Rourkela Police District. While 78 cases were registered in Mahila Police Station, 58 cases were registered in Uditnagar, 30

in Bonai, 26 each in Sector-7 and Raghunathpalli, 16 in Koira, 11 each in Brahmani Taranga and Bondamunda, nine in Jhirpani, seven each in Plant Site and Bisra, six in Chhend, five each in Lahunipara and Sector-15, four in Lathikata PS. three each in sector-3 and Sector-19 and only one case was registered in nificantly no case was registered in two police stations i.e. Chandiposh and K Bolanga which are also tribal

The data also reveals during these periods total 1,515 accident cases were registered in different police stations.

Passing out parade at INS Chilka



■ KHORDHA

otal of 2,929 trainees of Indian Navy and Coast Guard of batch 02/ 2021 graduated from the INS Chilka in a ceremonial passing out parade on Friday. The parade was reviewed by Lt Gen Satinder Singh AVSM, Commandant, Army Air Defence College, Gopalpur.

The General awarded medals and trophies to meritorious trainees. He exhorted the outgoing trainees to hone their skills further and develop a strong foundation of knowledge, willingness to learn and commitment to excel in their respective careers that lay ahead. Earlier on Thursday, a valedictory function was held, during which a cultural programme was put up that showcased the talents of the trainees. The winter edition of "Ankur", the bilingual trainees' magazine of INS Chilka, was also released by Commodore NP Pradeep, NOIC Odisha and Commanding Officer, INS Chilka and Bindu Pradeep, President NWWA, Chilka.

Basic amenities denied

2 JSpur villages threaten to boycott poll

Demanding supply of basic amenities and good governance, residents from two villages in Jagatsinghpur district have threatened to boycott panchayat polls. They have apprised the district administration in this regard on Thursday. While there is excitement in

air over the upcoming Panchayat elections and nomination filing has been underway since January 17, the residents of Jhatipari village under Japa Panchayat in Erasama block have refrained from any participation in the election. They stay aggrieved as they don't have road connection, drinking water facility, health service, cyclone shelter, school building and PDS ration supply. The children and villagers have to cross water bodies and go to a nearby village to attend school and bring ration from a PDS shop. "Our issues have been neglected for years. So we have unanimously decided to boycott the elections," informed Niranjan

Mandal, a villager. "In the last election in 2017 too, we had threatened to boycott the Panchayat polls, but we were assured of fulfillment of our demands. But after the polls, nothing happened," lamented Alok Maiti, another villager. Sources informed that about 170 families comprising a population of 600 have been reeling under several problems. The village gets disconnected during monsoon. The ambulance cannot reach the village to shift patients. After the Super Cyclone in 1999, a cyclone shelter had been built in the village but now that is in dilapidated condition. Nobody is bothered about its renovation and repair.

The boycott threat has also been given by residents in Odisso Panchayat ward 11 under Jagatsinghpur block. In the Panchayat which is mainly tribal, the ward member post has been reserved for the ST. Here nobody turned to file nomination. The residents have grievances over caste certificate.

Mobile network demand ____

Deogarh villagers boycott panchayat polls

Don't allow anybody to file nomination NIMAI CHARAN SAHU SAMBALPUR

People of five gram panchayats of the Deogarh district are very much determined not to cast their vote if the mobile network of their locality is not improved. Mobile is not a luxury now,

rather it is a necessity. And Covid has enhanced its utility further. Particularly, students are more dependent on it to take lessons when study is imparted online. The residents of these Gram Panchayats of Tileibani block of the district are deprived of mobile service as there is network problem. Not a single company is able to provide the network service satisfactorily. In protest, they have decided to boycott

the panchayat elections. To ventilate their anger, they did not allow a single person to file nomination for the post of Ward Member, Sarapanch and Zilla Parishad Member. They also held dharna in front of the GP offices and Block headquarters at Tileibani to ensure that not a single person can file nomination. In order to break the ice,

Deogarh Collector SM Samal sent a team of senior officials of the district to the dharna spot at Jharagogua. They tried to convince the villagers, but to no effect. They informed the villagers that the district administration has taken all initiatives for installation of mobile towers in the non-accessible Panchayats. The work will also start very soon. However, the villagers were not prepared to believe them and remained firm on their decision for boycotting vote.

Pradhan invited their representatives to come to the district headquarters town and practically see that a process has begun by the administration to instal mobile towers. But the agitators declined. The result being the election process for the Panchayat and Zilla Parishad is yet to begin in the district. One women candidate took a nomination form from the authority to file for Sarapanch. But amid protest, she couldn't do it and returned the papers. Friday was the last day for filing nomination papers. When contacted, Collector

PD DRDA of the district Lucas

Samal said: "We hope that people will change their decision on the last day and facilitate the election process. Administration is also approaching them accordingly to end the stalemate as we are sincere to their demand."

Masks not for children below 5 years: Revised guidelines

In what should come as a huge relief for both parents and children, wearing of masks is not recommended for children aged 5 years or below according to the revised Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry. Those aged 6-11 years may wear it depending on the ability of the child to use a mask safely and appropriately under direct supervision of parents.

Ensuring that the kid masks up properly has been of much concern to parents while masking up didn't go too well with children who felt suffo-

Comprehensive Guidelines for Management of COVID-19 in Children and Adolescents (below 18 years)', those aged 12 and above should wear a mask under the same conditions as adults, the guidelines said.

It also said that use of antivirals or monoclonal antibodies is not recommended for those less than 18 years of age, irrespective of severity of Covid infection, and if steroids are used, they should be tapered over 10 to 14 days, subject to clinical improvement.

The guidelines were reviewed by a group of experts in view of the current surge that

avirus, which is also a variant of concern.

The available data from other countries suggests that the disease caused by the Omicron variant is less severe. However, there is a need for a careful watch, as the current wave evolves, the ministry said.

It categorized cases as asymptomatic, mild, moderate

According to the guidelines, COVID-19 is a viral infection and antimicrobials have no role in the manage ment of uncomplicated COVID-19 infection.

In asymptomatic and mild

prophylaxis moderate and severe cases, antimicrobials should not be prescribed unless there is clinical suspicion of a superadded

infection.

In case of septic shock, empirical antimicrobials, according to body weight, are frequently added to cover all likely pathogens based on clinical judgement, patient host factors, local epidemiology and antimicrobial policy of the hospital, it said.

The guidelines stated that steroids are not indicated and are harmful in asymptomatic and mild cases of COVID-19.

cally ill COVID-19 cases under strict supervision, the guide-

Steroids should be used at the right time, in the right dose and for the right duration, they stated. Steroids should be avoided

in the first three to five days since onset of symptoms as it prolongs viral shedding, the guidelines stated. Anticoagulants are not

indicated routinely and all hospitalized children should be evaluated for risk of developing thrombosis and monitored for development of thrombosis, the ministry said.

lines stated that children with asymptomatic infection or mild disease should receive routine childcare, appropriate vaccination (if eligible), nutrition counselling, and psychological support on follow up.

In addition to the above, parents or caregivers of children, who suffered moderate to severe Covid, during discharge from hospital should be counselled regarding monitoring persistence

worsening respiratory difficulty and explained the indications for bringing the child back to the facility, the guidelines stated.



MHA to allow arms manufacturers to enhance weapon production

The Union Home Ministry 1 on Friday amended the rules to enable arms manufacturing companies to enhance their production of firearms and ammunition. Under the Arms (Amendment) Rules, 2022, the arms manufacturers, however, will have to submit online every month details of the firearms manufactured, sold or transferred or consumed for the month.

"The manufacturer who has been issued licence in Form VII under these rules shall be permitted to have enhanced annual production of firearms or ammunition or caliber wise revision of his licensed capacity by giving intimation to the licensing authority and also to the State Government concerned within ninety days from the end of the financial year and for which no further endorsement on the licence as to capacity shall be required," the MHA notification said.

While applying, the man-ufacturer has to submit a detailed proposal for enhancement of manufacturing capacity or caliber wise revision of licenced capacity, project outlays, means of finance and justification for economic viability and market demand projections, duly certified by the authorised signatory of the

New Delhi: The Supreme

Court on Friday set aside a

National Consumer Disputes

Redressal Commission order,

in a matter connected with

wrong deposit and withdraw-

al, from an account at State

Khanna and Bela M. Trivedi

said that calling for the report

by the National Commission

on its own from the officer of

the bank was absolutely unwar-

ranted. "Be that as it may, the

impugned order passed by the

National Commission solely

relying upon the suo moto report called for from the

respondent-bank during the

pendency of the revision appli-

cation, being highly erroneous,

deserves to be set aside and is

accordingly set aside. The order

passed by the State

Commission is restored," it

The matter is connected

A bench of Justices Sanjiv

Bank of India.

The manufacturer who has been issued licence in Form VII under these rules shall be permitted to have enhanced annual production

of firearms or ammunition or caliber wise revision of his licensed capacity by giving intimation to the licensing authority and also to the State Government concerned within ninety days from the end of the financial year and for which no further endorsement on the licence as to capacity shall be required

tion, sold, transfer and consumed shall be submitted by the manufacturer by close of business hours of the last day of the month, the notification

Prior approval of the licensing authority will be mandatory for any change in

deposit': SC sets aside National | registered for

Consumer Commission order

dilution of promoters share-

affiliation with

Sainik School

New Delhi: A total 194 schools

have been registered till now

for affiliation with the Sainik

School Society and application

process is underway, the

Ministry of Defence said on

marching ahead in tune with National Education Policy

(NEP), the government has

decided to provide an increas-

ing focus on value-based edu-

cation enabling children to

develop pride in the rich cul-

ture and heritage of this nation,

effective leadership with char-

acter, discipline, sense of

chaired by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in its meeting

has approved the proposal for launching of affiliated Sainik

Schools under Sainik Schools

Society, Ministry of Defence.

as an exclusive vertical which

will be distinct and different

from existing Sainik Schools of

iate partners are proposed to be

drawn from states, NGOs and

Scheme is aimed at providing Sainik School pattern of

education to a larger cross section of aspiring students all

selves upto January 15, 2022.

required to be filled up and

submitted back to Sainik

Schools Society through online

mode by January 12, 2022.

The application forms are

private partners.

over the nation.

In the first phase, 100 affil-

These schools will function

In a paradigm shift to the existing pattern of Sainik Schools, the Union Cabinet

national duty and patriotism.

The Ministry said that

Society

holding below 10 per cent.

However, prior approval will not be required if there is increase in shareholding of a shareholder, who held less than 10 per cent in the share capital of the company, to 10 per cent or more provided that for

AG OK's contempt proceedings against Yati

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ttorney General KK Attorney General Telegraphics granted consent to activist Shachi Nelli for initiation of criminal contempt of court proceedings against controversial Yati Narsinghanand over his recent derogatory remarks against the Supreme Court. The AG found that Narsinghanand's statement "those who believe in this system, these politicians, in the Supreme Court, and in the Army will all die the death of a dog", was a direct attempt to lower the authority of the Supreme Court in the minds of the general public.

As per Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, the consent of Attorney General is required before the Supreme Court can hear a criminal contempt of court petition filed by a private individual. The complainant Nelli wrote to the AG seeking his consent for the In her letter seeking con-

sent, Nelli had stated that in an interview given by Narsinghanand which went viral on social media was total-



ly contempt for the Supreme Court and the Constitution of India clear by saying, "We have no trust in the Supreme Court of India and the Constitution. The Constitution will consume the 100 crore Hindus of this country. Those who believe in this Constitution will be killed. Those who believe in this system, in these politicians, in the Supreme Court, and in the Army will all die the death

Narsinghanand's statements were made in response to questions posed about the court proceedings in the Haridwar hate speech cases. He was arrested for the vitriolic speeches at Haridwar Dharam

Backlash forces Nestle to discontinue

SC refuses to entertain plea to censor Kangana posts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking censorship of actress Kangana Ranaut's all future statements on social media, clubbing multiple FIRs lodged against her for remarks against the Sikh community and investigation by Mumbai police.
It asked the petitioner

either to ignore the utterances made by her or avail remedy under law.

The top court also said that the petitioner, a member of the Sikh Community, as a public cannot seek clubbing of multiple FIRs, and only the accused or informant can seek such

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Bela Trivedi told petitioner Sardar Charanjeet Singh Chanderpal, an advocate, appearing in person that remedy which he was seeking cannot be granted under Article 32 petition and he has to pursue relief under the criminal law. "There are two possible solutions. Either you ignore the utterances made by her or avail remedy under law. We respect the communi-



ty. We respect your faith...By speaking these utterances you are doing more disservice to the cause. Don't try to prejudice the mind of the court. Don't politicise it. We have read these utterances in your file. You don't need to speak up", the bench told Chanderpal, when he tried to read the remarks which Ranaut had made on social media. Chanderpal said that he has filed an intervention application in the FIR quashing petition of Ranaut and is pursuing it.

The bench then ordered, "As regards to first relief is concerned, the petitioner-in-person states that he has already adopted proceedings for the

dies in accordance with law by instituting a private complaint. In view of the invocation of the remedy by the petitioner in person, we, therefore, request this court to treat the petition in so far prayer A (censoring social media posts) is concerned as being disposed of without being expressed any opinion by this court at the present stage". Chanderpal said that the actress is going on and on with her "outrageous" and 'defamatory" statements that "Sikh Farmers were Khalistani Terrorists" and tried to portray the community as ʻanti-national".

control, either directly or inditransfer KitKat bars with Hindu deities on wrappers holding between the two prorectly, of the company or in moters which is already approved by the licensing case of any change in sharecompany. Monthly online returns, detailing the producholding or beneficial interest in New Delhi: A furious backlash the shareholding, resulting into in India has forced Nestle to 'Goof up by bank led to wrongful 194 schools

discontinue a range of KitKat bars covered by wrappers with images of Hindu gods on them, the Daily Mail reported.

worries that the chocolate bars adorned with the images of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Mata Subhadra would inevitably be thrown away in bins and on the streets, the report said.

It is only recently that the KitKat wrapper with a picture of Lord Jagannath came into the spotlight, sparking reactions on social media.

"Kindly remove the pictures...they might even get stepped on unintentionally, one Twitter user posted.

Another Twitter user

commented that it is an honour to have "Odisha culture and Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra on KitKat, but throwing the wrappers in dustbin or stepping on them accidentally would be an insult to the deities.'

The bars were introduced to "celebrate the culture",



according to Nestle. The company has since issued an apology, and withdrawn the bar

range.
A Nestle spokesperson said: "We do understand the sensitivity of the matter and regret if we have inadvertently hurt anyone's sentiment. We had already withdrawn these packs from the market last year. We thank you for your understanding and support.
"We wanted to encourage

people to know about the art and its artisans. We do understand the sensitivity of the matter and regret if we have inadvertently hurt people's sen-

Gurugram,

as 30 FIRs have been identified

The KitKats bars that proved offensive to the Hindu population were originally circulated in Odisha.

Nestle is the latest in a string of companies that have had to apologise to the Hindu community in recent times. Jewellery brand Tanishq

had issued an apology in 2020 and withdrawn its campaign featuring what appeared to be a Hindu daughter-in-law of a Muslim family.

Companies including Zomato, Unilever and Manyavar have also sparked similar controversies in recent years, the report said.

Ventura case: ED attaches assets worth ₹2 crore

The Enforcement Authorized Representative Directorate (ED) has (AP) of Ventura Securities Ltd. crore of Jeevendra Poddar and Shipra Singh under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the offence of money laundering initiated against Ameet Savant and others. The attached assets are in the form of a flat in Goa, Office Space in Gera Imperium Grand in Goa and BMW cars among others.

The ED had initiated money laundering investiga-tion on the basis of FIRs dated August 21, 2019 and December 12, 2019 registered by Goa Police under various sections of IPC and Goa Protection of Interest of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Act, 1999 against Ameet Savant, Jeevendra Poddar, Shipra Singh, and others for duping of investors to the tune of approximately Rs 21.38 crore by promising fixed returns of 2 to 5 percent per month.

Investigation by ED revealed that Ameet Savant, as Enforcement Authorized Representative tune of Rs 21.38 crore from the complainants between 2015 and 2019. Instead of depositing the same in the demat accounts of investors maintained with Ventura Securities Ltd., had misappropriated the same by depositing in the accounts of his own similarly named proprietorship firm, VENTŪRA,

the agency said in a statement. Savant had further laundered the money received from complainants

gambling/speculation in the securities market and lost money to the tune of Rs 9.86 crore approximately between 2016 and 2018, it further said.

Further, Savant had transferred Proceeds of Crime (POC) to the tune of Rs 5.45 crore in the bank accounts of Jeevendra Poddar and Shipra Singh as commission/brokerage for sourcing clients for him, it added

ED files chargesheet against IREO Group's MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) before Special Court at Panchkula, Haryana against Lalit Goyal, Vice-chairman cum Managing Director of IREO Group of companies named in the Panama Papers leak, and others under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA) in a case related to multi-crore real estate

The ED investigation, Sainik Schools Society has inter-alia revealed that over forwarded application forms to all such applicant Schools which have registered them-1,050 homebuyers/investors of IREO Projects were duped of Rs 1,225 crore.

The Special Court, Panchkula on Friday took cognizance of the present prosecution complaint. The ED had initiated

money laundering investiga-

tion on the basis of FIRs under

various Sections of Indian in the case so far, the ED said Penal Code (IPC) registered at in a statement. various police stations across Panchkula,

'The ED investigation inter-alia revealed that over Ludhiana and Delhi. As many

1050 homebuyers/investors of

IREO Projects, namely IREO

City, Gurgaon Hills in Haryana and IREO Waterfront Township in Punjab, among others, had made advance payments but are yet to receive their booked flats/plots despite a lapse of more than 4-5 years," it said.

Investigation further revealed that IREO Group of companies could not complete the projects due to diversion and siphoning of funds. Customer receipts to the tune of Rs. 1,225 Crore have been diverted outside India in the form of redemption / purchase/transfer and buy-back of shares violating the FDI poli-

cy and other laws, it said. "The modus operandi adopted by the group includes routing of funds to India from various entities based in tax havens like British Virgin Islands, Mauritius, recording of fictitious expenses in the books

and advances to sister concerns and round tripping of funds through shell companies and creation of assets within and outside India," it said. Investigation further revealed that Lalit Goyal is "set-

of account, writing off project

in progress, interest free loans

tler and named beneficiary" of an overseas Trust which owns and controls entities holding assets outside India. Recent Pandora Papers Leak has also named four entities (which are beneficially owned by Lalit Goyal) which are holding assets of more than USD 77.73 million (Rs. 575 crore approximately) overseas, it said. Goyal, was arrested on

November 16 last year after a Look Out Circular (LOC) was issued against him and has since been in judicial custody. In the matter, searches were also conducted on November

with the withdrawal of Rs 3 Lakh from petitioner Sunil Kumar Maity's account at State Bank of India. Maity found that the money, which was deposited through cheque, was withdrawn from the account. Later, it was found the bank had given him the account number of another person by name of Sunil Maity, which led to this goof-up. The bank refused to address Maity's grievance. He moved the district consumer forum, which allowed his com-

plaint. The West Bengal State Commission noted the bank should have accepted its mistake, by crediting the cheque amount to the account of Sunil Maity, who had the account at the same branch.

The top court noted: "There was no way that the appellant would have known that the second respondent namely Sunil Maity had an account in the same branch. No sane person would deposit cash or cheque meant to be



deposited in his account in an account number belonging to another person with similar

It pointed out that the National Commission exceeded its revisional jurisdiction by calling for the report from the bank and made it the basis to conclude that the two fora below had erred in not undertaking the requisite in-depth appraisal of the case.

The top court said the report that tries to absolve the bank of its liability is based on surmises and conjectures, as it holds that bank has every reason to believe that wrong account number was intentionally inserted by the petitioner himself for reasons best known to him or on account of negligence by him by not keeping the passbook in proper cus-tody. "The suppositions are contradictory as well as incredulous and fanciful," said the bench.

The National Commission, allowing a revision petition by the bank, said the complainant can move the competent civil court under the law.

The petitioner submitted before the top court that he did not know Sunil Maity, the second respondent, and would not have known his account number unless it was given by a bank officer.

GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX -

J&K first UT to have GGI

Union HM Amit Shah to release index for 20 districts today

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness cut throat competition among different district headquarters as the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah is set to release the District Good Governance Index for 20 Districts on Saturday.

The exercise on formulation of District Good Governance Index was set in motion in July, 2021 which has now been completed and Jammu & Kashmir will become the first Union Territory in the country to have Good Governance Index.

The index of Good governance has been prepared after assessing the different aspects of development and district administration in sectors such as agriculture, commerce and industry, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and util-

welfare and development, public safety, judiciary, and citizencentric governance.

The maiden event is being organized jointly by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), GOI and Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Management, Administration & Rural Development in association

Governance, Hyderabad. Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are also expected to address the event.

with the Centre for Good

The District Good Governance Index of Jammu and Kashmir was prepared by DARPG in collaboration with Government of Jammu and Kashmir in pursuance of the announcements made in the "Behtar e-Hukumat – Kashmir

Aelamia" resolution adopted on July 2, 2021 in the Regional Conference on Replication of Good Governance Practices held at Srinagar.

The District Good Governance Index of Government of Jammu and Kashmir represents a major administrative reform in benchmarking good governance at District level and a significant step for timely collation and publication of statistics at State/ District level. The District Good Governance Index is a milestone and it is expected that it will provide a robust framework for evidence based assessment of the performance of all the districts in

Jammu & Kashmir. The Chief Secretary Government of Jammu & Kashmir Arun Kumar Mehta and V. Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, Government of India will also be addressing the event. The event will be attended by Senior Officials of

Kashmir, District Collectors and Chief Planning Officers of Districts. Secretaries of Planning and Secretaries of Administrative Reforms of all State/ UT governments and District Collectors of non-election bound States have also been invited to participate in the event by video conferenc-

During the occasion, a presentation on formulation of District Good Governance Index will be made by Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad. This will be followed by district presentations by selected 12 District Development Commissioners, who will be showcasing achievements of various sectors. Thereafter a panel discussion will be held on DGGI-A Way Forward for futuristic 2.0 version of DGGI for measuring and benchmarking performance and improvement of Districts in future as well.

'Netaji statue a damage control exercise' TMC not happy with Centre's move to erect statue at India Gate

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress continued to attack the Narendra Modi Government for 'ignoring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose' even after the Centre's decision to install a granite statue of the legendary freedom fighter at the iconic India Gate in the national

When asked to comment on the latest development senior TMC leader and MP Saugato Roy said, "today they are installing Netaji's statue ... if they have so much of respect for him then why they did not allow the Bengal Government to prepare a tableau on him to commemorate his 125thbirth anniversary," adding the belated decision (to install hisstatue) had been taken as a damage control exercise.

Similarly Forward Bloc leader Naren De said 'simple installation of Netaji's statues will not suffice ... you have to follow his principles and ideas ... otherwise there are thousands of statues of this great

It's a nice gesture, better late than never: Bose's daughter

Kolkata: The daughter of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Anita Bose-Pfaff, on Friday hailed as "a nice gesture" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement about installing a statue of the iconic freedom fighter at India Gate, and hoped it will put to rest the controversy over rejection of West Bengal's tableau for the Republic Day parade.

Welcoming the decision as "better late than never", Bose-Pfaff said the announcement took her by surprise. "I am very happy about the

decision. It is very good location. I am certainly glad that his

leader throughout India ... If you really have to respect Netaji then you should follow his ideals ... he was a leader who respected all thecommunities

. he never mixed religion with politics." Bose had joined and built Forward Bloc after leavstatue would be put up at such a prominent place. What sur-prises me is it came all of a sudden now. One might have pre-pared a bit earlier, but better late than never, I must say. I hope that the controversy about the tableau can also be put to rest in a satisfactory manner," Bose-Pfaff told PTI over the telephone from Germany, where she lives.

When asked if she thinks that the decision was taken to end the tableau controversy, she said she is not in a position to comment on it.

"I don't know. Let's put it that way", she said.

ing the Congress.

Congress leader of Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury too attacked the Centre for politicizing the Netaji issue. have they announced the decision to install the statue of Netaji now a day before his birth anniversary ... why was it not installed earlier ... they are doing it as a face saving exercise," he said.

Chowdhury would not spare the Trinamool Congress either. He attacked the Bengal ruling out fit on different issue --- for

destroying the anti-BJP forum

led by the Congress in India.
"Everyone knows that only
Congress can take on the BJP with the kindout outreach it has through the length and breadth of the country ... TMC cannot do a fraction of what the Congress can do to dis-lodge the BJP ... yet they are trying to harm the Congress by entering the States like Goa, Meghalaya where the Congress has a good support base ... The

the BJP." On the TMC keenness to ally with the Congress in Goa Chowdhury who is also the Bengal Pradesh Congress president said "today they are talking of alliance when they know that they will be rejected by the

TMC is doing this to weaken

the Congress and strengthen

BULLI BAI APP CASE

3 accused denied bail; court says their acts defamed womanhood

Mumbai: A court in Mumbai denied bail to three students arrested in the Bulli Bai app case by stating that the trio had committed serious acts of "defaming womanhood" and, therefore, in the larger interest of society the personal liberty of the accused can be curtailed.

The Bulli Bai app had made public the details of several Muslim women in a bid to malign them, allowing users to participate in their 'auction'.

Vishal Kumar Jha, Shweta Singh and Mayak Rawat were denied bail by Bandra Metropolitan Court Magistrate Komalsing Raj on January 20, but a detailed cop of the order was made available on Friday.

While Singh and Rawat were arrested by the Mumbai police's cyber cell from . Úttarakhand on January 5, Jha was nabbed from Bengaluru on

January 4.
"No doubt accused persons are students of tender age and they have fundamental right to life and liberty, but those rights are subject to reasonable restrictions. They were arrested for collection of evidence relating to non-bailable offence and, hence, their arrest is not in violation of any law," the magistrate said in the order.

They were found to have committed serious acts defaming womanhood. The larger interest of society is at stake. Therefore, their personal liberty can be said to be curtailed following due process of law," the magistrate said.

The court also noted there was "some ill-intention" on part of the creator and followers of the app as well as persons propagating and disseminating information about women of a

Stating that, prima facie, the involvement in of the accused is noticed, the court said, "The disputed fact is only in respect of exact role played by them. It is contended on behalf of the applicants that they are just followers and disseminated the information containing its link. Even if it is presumed they are just followers/subscribers of the application, at this stage it cannot be said they are innocent."

The court further said records showed their "active involvement" in propagating and disseminating the information/data relating to the women.

Meanwhile, accused Vishal Kumar Jha has moved sessions court for bail, and his plea is likely to be heard on Monday.

In the bail application, moved through his lawyer

Clubhouse App chat case: Mumbai Police arrests three from Haryana

Mumbai: Mumbai police have arrested three persons from Haryana in connection with the chat on Clubhouse app, in which obscene comments were allegedly made against Muslim women, an official said on Friday. Personnel of the cyber police station of the Mumbai crime branch made the arrests late on Thursday night, he said. Two of the accused will be produced in a local court later in the day, the official said. In a tweet posted early this morning, Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi praised the city police for the arrests in the case. "Kudos @MumbaiPolice, they have got cracking on the Clubhouse chats too and some arrests have been made. Say no to hate. #Clubhouse," she said in the tweet. On Wednesday, the Delhi police had written to the Clubhouse app and search engine Google, seeking details about the organiser of the alleged audio group chat in which "obscene comments were made against Muslim women".

Shivam Deshmukh, the accused claimed he had been "falsely implicated in this case".

"The accused hails from a respectable family hav-

ing deep roots in the eyes of society and any such act as alleged by the present complainant is beyond imagination," Jha's plea said. *PTI* face."

Four hurt in parcel bomb blast in Bengal

Kolkata: Four persons were injured, three critical when a parcel bomb exploded at a shop in Hemtabad town of North Dinajpur district bordering Bangladesh in North Bengal, police said.

All the injured had been admitted to the Raiganj superspecialty hospital.

'The incident took place when a parcel (packet) sent in the name of one Bablu Chowdhury a medicine retailer was opened by him," said alocal adding three onlookers too were injured in the "The packet was delivered

to me by an unknown toto driver," said one of the injured persons adding "out of curiosity the injured person opened it and the thing exploded in his

SSR's death was a hoax, says Maha Cong leader stunt to defame & destabilise MVA govt," Sawant said. "534 days of CBI took charge & 474 days since the AIIMS ruled out Maharashtra

CBI probe into actor

Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant on Friday said the CBI probe into actor Sushant Singh Rathod has been a hoax and a disgrace to the renowned institution. Taking to Twitter, Sawant

said that at least 534 days after the CBI took charge and 474 days since the AIIMS ruled out murder in the case of Rajput's death, the investigation has been a hoax and disgrace to the renowned institution.

The Congress leader took to social media to pay tribute to the actor on his birth anniversary.

"Tribute to a talented actor #SushantSinghRajput on his birth anniversary. His unfortunate death was horribly misused h his by Modi govt & BJP for cheap PNS electoral gains in Bihar. Cheap CBI, which shows extraor-

dinary efficiency in investigating matters related to opposition leaders, continues to drag its feet on the SSR case. This investigation has been

hoax & disgrace to this renowned institution," he tweet-

The 34-year-old actor was found dead in his apartment in Bandra on June 14, 2020. Starting with the Mumbai Police, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) were brought in to investigate various angles in

An artist prepares a sculpture of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ahead of his 125th birth anniversary, in Kolkata on Friday

Security situation in J&K reviewed ahead of R-Day

Intelligence Agencies and security forces Friday reviewed the security situation in Kashmir at Badami Bagh Cantonment. The meeting was co-chaired by General Officer Commanding, Chinar Corps, Lt Gen DP Pandey and Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh.

The core group discussed fresh strategies of the terrorist organizations and their handlers including use of Hybrid terrorist and targeting of soft targets. 15 terrorists killed in 2021 were fresh names not on the security forces radar.

The officials stated that the ceasefire has improved the security situation along the border, however, intelligence inputs of terrorist launch pads

in Pakistan indicate the need to A head of the Republic day celebrations a Core Group consisting of top officials of Control, late snow has kept the longer time, however effective domination has ensured decrease in overall infiltration including those from South of Pir Panjal. The vigil on the Line of Control against infiltration of men, drugs and weapons is continuing.

According to a Defence pokesman the officials shared the challenge of propaganda of the nexus through internet and social media. Sadly, these efforts include propaganda to legitimize killing of Kashmiri civilians by the terrorists. "Deliberations were also focused on the use of social media to spread disinformation. The officials present in the meeting observed joint efforts were needed to counter it by exposing fake news, booking of



radicals trying to foment unrest and proactive sharing of information by state agencies.

The spokesman said, "The setting up of the State Investigative Agency and the increased booking by NIA is showing the impact of focused intelligence and investigation efforts. These efforts have been effective in targeting drug, hawala and the OGWs networks. Legal action on those willfully harbouring terrorists is being increased as the harbourers have direct involve-

The DGP and the Corps Commander commended the officials present on improved security indicators. They appreciated that post the abrogation of Article 370, certain benchmarks were set which have been achieved successfully for the restoration of peace and prosperity in the region. The DGP stated that reduction in local terrorist recruitment is one parameter that all must approach with continued focus. A special mention was made

imize the collateral damage in operations despite risk to own soldiers. He recommended continued efforts to give chance to give them a second chance at living a fruitful life. The Corps Commander called upon all to treat 2022 as a transformative year where common man used to zero civilian casualties in 2021 should see 2022 as the year when things turned for good for the long term. He cautioned the trend of the terrorists to use urban areas with thick built up area for operations as they provide more avenues to hide or escape and puts higher onus in security forces to exercise restraint to avoid collateral damage. He called for continued efforts along with the civil society to counter the separatist propaganda and break the cycle of violence for long term peace in Kashmir.

COVID BULLETIN

Covid-19 cases continue to rise in Kerala, over 41K logged in 24 hrs

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though Kerala's Department ■ of Health brought down the number of samples tested on Friday to 95,218, the Covid-19 cases continued to remain unabated in the State. A total of 41, 668 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic during the last 24 hours and the Test Positivity Rate surged to 43.76 per cent. A total of 51, 607 persons succumbed to the pandemic in the State till Friday evening, according to a release issued by Veena George, minister of health.

The Government of Kerala suffered a setback on Friday as a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court asked the Kasaragod district administration not to allow any public meetings attended by more than 50 persons. Though the

Authority had issued an order limiting the number of persons that could assemble for any meeting to 50, the district collector reportedly under political pressure issued a new order stating that the number of persons that could be allowed to attend public meetings should be decided based on the Test Positivity Rate as well as the number of beds available in the

A Public Interest Litigation filed in the High Court on Thursday had pointed out the restrictions were compromised possibly to facilitate CPI(M) district meetings. It has been argued by the petitioner that the Chairperson of the Disaster Management Authority can only amend his orders on certain new circumstances for the

purpose of prevention of dis-

District Disaster Management asters or their mitigation. The Kasaragod district

meeting of the CPI(M) was underway at Kasaragod in violation of all safety protocols when the High Court delivered its interim order. "What is so special about the political party meetings? The number of persons who could attend the Republic Day itself has been restricted to 50," said the Division Bench. Taken aback by the High

Court order, the State leadership of the CPI(M) decided to hold the Thrissur district committee meeting which began on Friday. Though Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was scheduled to be present in Thrissur for the three day event, his hospitalization in USA has led to the cancellation of the public meetings which were to be held on Friday and Sunday.

Meghalaya CM tests +ve day after meeting **Amit Shah**

Shillong: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Friday tested positive for COVID-19, a day after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Delhi.Sangma urged everyone who has come in contact with him to isolate themselves and get tested if necessary.

"I have tested positive for COVID-19. I am isolating myself for the required time. I have mild symptoms. All those who came into contact with me last few days are requested to observe their symptoms and test if necessary," he tweeted. Sangma and Sarma had met

Shah on Thursday to submit

reports on the amicable resolution

of dispute in a few areas along the

Meghalaya-Assam inter-state

rate shoots up to 30% in AP as over 13,000 test +ve in 24 hours **Amaravati:** The daily infection positivity rate

Daily Covid positivity

shot up to 30 per cent as 44,516 tests turned out 13,212 Covid-19 positive cases in Andhra Pradesh in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday. Consequently, the number of active cases climbed to 64,136.

The state reported five fresh Covid-19 fatalities and 2,942 recoveries in 24 hours, the latest bulletin said. The cumulative case count is now 21,53,268,

recoveries 20,74,600 and deaths 14,532, the bulletin added. Visakhapatnam district reported the highest of 2,244 fresh coronavirus cases and three

deaths in 24 hours. Chittoor district registered 1,585 more cases and one death.

Anantapuramu added 1,235, Srikakulam 1,230, Guntur 1,054 and SPS Nellore 1,051 new cases.SPS Nellore also reported one death in a day. Kurnool logged 961, East Godavari 816, Prakasam 772, Vizianagaram 681, Kadapa 649, West Godavari 596 and Krishna 338 fresh

Curbs imposed amid case surge in Valley

Srinagar: Authorities on Friday afternoon imposed restrictions on the non-essential movement of people across Kashmir as a 64-hour lockdown began in the union territory in view of an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases since the beginning of the new year, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 5992 fresh cases of coronavirus -- the highest single day spike since the pandemic began. There are 31,044 active cases in the UT

Police vehicles fitted with public address systems announced the restrictions at several places across the valley in the afternoon after the government ordered complete restriction on non-essential movement during from 2 pm on Friday till 6 am on Monday in the entire Jammu and

Kashmir, the officials said. Shops and other business establishments in the city and elsewhere in the valley - which had opened this morning - were forced by police to shut in view of the restrictions, they



The police closed the markets and asked people to return to their homes. After the movement of people early in the morning, the police erected barricades at several places in the city here and other areas of the valley and the movement of public was restricted, the officials said. They said only employees and

emergency cases were allowed to move and all other non-essential movement was restricted.

The district authorities appealed to the people to cooperate with the administration and curtail their movement in view of the rising cases. PTI

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

The medium

To teach in English or in mother tongue? A multilingual approach is the answer

The Telangana Government has decided to introduce English as a medium of instruction in Government schools from the next academic year. The State language, Telugu, will be parallelly available as the other medium of instruction. On the face of it, there is a readymade explanation for the change. More and more parents of children in Government schools of Telangana feel the kids, when they reach the college level, fail to catch up with the standards of English-medium students. Secondly, private schools, hitherto limited to the urban centres with their English-medium education, have of late mushroomed across rural Telangana offering education in the English medium. That has led to a near-exodus from Telugu-medium Government schools, many of which have either closed down or merged with bigger schools, or relocated for want of students. The Government in any case runs a few residential schools with English medium and thinks offering English medium across the State would not be much of an issue. The problem the Government faces is finding teachers who can teach in English. They are scarce. The majority of the teachers is proficient in Telugu. The Government has to re-train these teachers — a tough task



 and encourage prospective teachers to take up B Ed courses in English. But by and large, not many eyebrows are being raised as the English medium creeps into the Government school system in Telangana where 'going to America' is a popular cry and Telugu-medium students shell out big money to enrol in private English-language courses.

The issue, however, points to a disturbing fact. Even after 75 years of Independence, we are stuck with basic stuff, like what should be the medium of education in our schools. We are still debating whether children should be taught in English or their mother tongue. We

are also not sure whether mother tongue constitutes languages or dialects, too. For instance, millions speak Bhojpuri but it is considered a dialect of Hindi. Only last year, a Minister in Bihar mooted the idea of making the "mother tongue of the region" the medium of teaching. It just shows India never had an exhaustive debate on the subject. Linguists backing cognitive education insist that children learn skills in their mother tongue, a language they grow up with. The aspirational, social-empowering, rights-based argument favours English because it is the language that works in the world. Thus, the medium of instruction carries the baggage of ideology and elitism in the world's largest multi-lingual federation that is India. In contrast to parents' eagerness for their children to be taught in English, the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP) largely prefers the mother tongue. The answer is a bilingual or, preferably, a multilingual approach. Technology makes it possible. In a country where most children live their lives in two or three languages, multilingual teaching methods provide a level playing field for diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds while reconciling the desires of both parents and the NEP.



A troupe of folk singers during a rehearsal on the Red Road for upcoming R-Day function, in Kolkata

III at ease

As Kerala grapples with rising COVID cases, its 'immaculate health care' balloon has burst

s the number of daily COVID-19 cases soared to 46.487 on Thursday, Kerala's boast of being a role model for health care came crashing down like a pack of cards. The death toll in the State till Thursday stood at 51,501. Kerala has not been free from the pandemic's onslaught since India's first COVID-19 case was diagnosed in the State in early 2020. However, the State administration-sponsored media blitzkrieg portrayed an "all is well" image. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is currently recuperating in a US hospital, had addressed the media daily to tell the world that Kerala was the only State taking on the pandemic by the horns. The daily



briefings, which were telecast by all satellite news channels, were used by Vijayan to campaign for the 2021 Assembly election. He claimed that Kerala was receiving global acclaim for its health care system and other countries were emulating its example. But after the LDF retained power following the 2021 Assembly election, he discontinued the practice of addressing the media daily; the opportunist in Vijayan the politician chose to ignore people as the next major election is due only in 2024.

When the cases of COVID-19 surged, the Government turned to blaming people for the trans-

mission of the virus. The truth, however, is that no worthwhile efforts were made to study the pattern in the spread of the disease. The State Government continued to tom-tom and live by its past laurels, when some agencies had praised the Kerala model of health care. The health department was complacent throughout this period, and manipulated figures failed to cover up the administration's malpractices. A 600-bed COVID hospital at Kasaragod, built by the Tatas and handed over to the Government in early 2021, is yet to become fully operational. The Government doctors were on a path of agitation for the last one year, demanding restoration of allowances which were cancelled citing financial crunch. The much-touted Kerala model was virtually a red herring spawned by friendly media. EMS Namboodiripad and C Achutha Menon, the Communist Chief Ministers of the State, used to fly to Romania and East Germany for medical treatment while Vijayan and his consciencekeeper Kodiyeri Balakrishnan prefer the "imperialist" US as their medical caretaker. It's time for the Comrades to see the writing on the wall, isn't it already?

Afghan women's rights are still far



The Taliban's recent announcements fail to inspire confidence and don't go far enough to impress the international community

wo news items, published in newspapers on January 20, 2022, merit attention. The first by AFP, carried in the Delhi edition of a leading daily, is about Acting Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Akhund's appeal on January 19 to Muslim countries "to take the lead and recognise us officially". He was speaking at a conference to address Afghanistan's massive economic problems. The second, by PTI, featured in the Delhi edition of The Pioneer. It cited Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Xiao Lijian as saying at a media briefing on January 18 that he hoped that the Afghan side would respond further to the international community's expectations that it would "establish an open and inclusive political architecture, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, firmly combat all sorts of terrorist forces" and be "on friendly terms with other countries, especially its neighbours and integrate into [the] international family at an early date".

The statement, made following a mention of the Taliban seeking China's help to get global diplomatic recognition, clearly indicated that the world did not think that they had established an "inclusive" Government or that their policies towards women would not be a repeat of the horribly repressive ones that marked their earlier stint in power from 1996 to 2001. And this, when they had promised that women would enjoy all the rights to education and work available under Sharia law. In fact, the UN and its bod-

ies have, on several occasions, asked the Taliban to implement their promises and made critical observations about their actions. Its secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, told reporters on October 7 last year, "I am particularly alarmed to see promises made to Afghan women and girls by the Taliban being broken." He added, "I strongly appeal to the Taliban to keep their promises to women and girls and fulfil their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian to monitor the human rights law." Speaking at the Human Rights Council, an inter-govern-

mental body within the UN system responsible for promoting and safeguarding human rights, Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said on September 13, 2021, "My office has received credible allegations of reprisal killings of a number of former ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) personnel, and reports of officials, who worked for previous administrations, and their family members being arbitrarily detained.... In some cases, the officials were released and, in others, they were found dead." Bachelet also highlighted "deeply troubling information" about Taliban raids on offices of some advocacy

groups.
The UN bodies have acted.
On September 17, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Taliban to establish an inclusive Government that has "the full, equal and meaningful participation of women" and upholds human rights. The Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on October 7 to have, from March 2022, a special rapporteur, supported by UN experts, on the ground situation in Afghanistan.



THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT DOESN'T MENTION THE PRECISE DATE WHEN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WILL REOPEN, NOR DOES IT MENTION WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK. CLEARLY, NEITHER **ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS MUCH** that the Taliban are reacting. Abdul Baqi Haqqani, Minister for Higher Education, announced at a press conference in Kabul on January 12 that the Government would soon reopen public universities for male and female students. He also announced that these students would be segregated and cited Afghanistan's economic crisis and the lack of separated classes for male and female students, as reasons for the delay

Earlier, in a decree on December 3 in the name of the Acting PM, the Taliban had stated that a "woman is not a property, but a noble and free human being; no one can give her to anyone in exchange for peace...or to end animosity". Both women and men, it had added, "should be equal" and that "no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure". The decree also enabled a widow to re-marry 17 weeks after her husband's death against the longstanding Afghan tribal custom of her marrying one of her husband's brothers or relatives after his death. Further, the Taliban leadership has reportedly ordered Afghan courts to treat women fairly, especially in be forthcoming soon. (The author is Consulting cases of widows seeking inheritance as next of kin. The

Taliban as saying they had asked their Ministers to spread awareness about women's rights across the population.

Significantly, the first announcement does not mention the precise date when public universities will reopen. Nor does it mention women's right to work. The third sura of the Koran (ayats 193 and 194) forbids the wasting of anyone's - whether a man or woman's — labour. The fourth sura (ayats 36 and 37) says, 'To the men a share of what they have earned,/ and to the women a share of what they have earned..." (translation from The Koran Interpreted by Arthur J Arberry). The second announcement says nothing about women's right to education and work, which are crucial issues with the international community. Also, the rights the decree announces regarding marriage have all been enshrined in Islamic iurisprudence since the time of Prophet Mohammad, Clearly, neither announcement means much and is unlikely to

Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

impress the international community sufficiently for the

purse strings to be loosened

generously or recognition to

There are some indications announcement also cites the LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAJOR MIDAIR COLLISION AVERTED

Sir — A major midair collision was averted earlier this month in Bengaluru's skies as two aircraft of the same airline, which had taken off almost simultaneously from the city's Kempegowda International Airport, almost brushed against each other. While one of the planes was headed for Kolkata, the other aircraft was flying passengers to Bhubaneswar. It was a really shocking incident as to how the two aircraft were allowed to take off at the same time. It is a matter of grave concern as to how the planes were in this dangerous situation; besides, the air traffic control (ATC) didn't even report this incident nor made a record of it in the log book.

Luckily, an alert radar controller spotted the potentially grave error and immediately alerted both the pilots, thus saving hundreds of lives. In recognition of his presence of mind, both the radar controller and his swift action should be applauded and he should be suitable rewarded, too. The Government should order a thorough probe into this matter and ask the DGCA to conduct an indepth investigation, which should be followed by taking necessary action in what could easily have been one of the biggest air safety lapses at the Bengaluru airport and in the country in recent history.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

ANOTHER BLOW TO SPIRIT OF FEDERALISM Sir — It appears that the BJP Government at the Centre is determined to curtail the powers of the States by introducing controversial Acts and amendments to the Constitution and other existing regulations, despite protests from the States concerned. Before the din on the undemocratic denial of the participation of the tableaux from non-BJP ruled States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal in the upcoming Republic Day parade on flimsy grounds could die down, the Centre has now proposed changes to the IAS cadre rules which, when implemented, would remove power from the States and their rights as far as transfer/deputation of the

Respect history, and monuments



'm not at all surprised to hear that after burning for five decades, the Amar Jawan Jyoti will be put out at India Gate, and merged with the National War Memorial 400 metres away. The Jyoti has a cenotaph and a monument to honour our fallen soldiers, on a marble pedestal, with a rifle and a soldier's helmet on it. The flame, lit to pay tributes to the soldiers martyred in the 1971 war, was inaugurated by then Prime Minister

IAS cadres to the Centre are concerned. This amendment would entail the Union Government to transfer IAS officers without the consent of the States. which is clearly against the spirit of cooperative federalism. Though many Chief Ministers have raised their voice against this amendment and termed it draconian, it is alleged that the BJP Government, as usual, is going to implement the amendment unmindful of the objections. This amendment, if implemented, will be another blow to the democratic norms and cooperative fed-

eralism the country has been cherishing

orated on the concept of merit and

all these years. Tharcius S Fernando | Chennai

OBC QUOTA IN NEET UPHELD Sir — The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of reservation for OBC candidates and it is a right step in the right direction. While upholding the constitutional validity of reservation for OBCs in AIQ seats, the court elab-

Indira Gandhi on the Republic Day of 1972. Actually, one can learn from PM Narendra Modi how to kill two birds with one stone. Just as the nation commemorated 50

years of the 1971 war, the Defence Ministry

announced that the Jyoti will be put out. Similarly, in August 2021, Modi suddenly renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna. All this is nothing but an attempt at "freeing" India of the Gandhi-Nehru name and legacy while, at the same time, rewriting history in favour of Modi by decisions such as building the Central Vista. Sadly, the Modi Government seems to have forgotten that respecting history involves conservation of the old while building new institutions. Hence, instead of extinguishing one memorial after the other. the Government will do better to make sincere and concrete attempts to spark the fire

of patriotism among all countrymen. **Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee** | *Faridabad*

observed that it is not of one's own making. It noted that "reservation is not at odds with merit" in open competitive exams. While open examinations present equal opportunity to candidates, reservation ensures distribution of such opportunities, the court said. It added that privileges of forward

classes include not just having access to quality schooling and good coaching centres but also social networks and cultural communication, including good speaking skills, accent and academic accomplishments. All these ensure that children from forward classes take up jobs commensurate with the family's standing whereas first-generation learners from Other Backward Classes, who lack these, are placed at a disadvantage. Marks alone are not an indicator of merit, but also the resilience required to uplift oneself from the conditions of deprivation. MR Jayanthi Mumbai

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

An agreement on extending a \$190 mn Line of Credit from India to Mauritius will be exchanged.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



I think Vladimir Putin will move in on Ukraine but (he) does not want a full-blown war.

> **US President** -Joe Biden

I am doing bigger and better projects right now. I have a Sooraj Barjatya film and Sandeep Vanga's next with Ranbir Kapoor.





has the answer as to why Venkatesh wasn't bowled even once.

Former India captain —Sunil Gavaskar

The EC should intervene and direct the Finance Ministry and ED to stop politically motivated raids (on

Punjab CM's relatives) Congress leader -Randeep Surjewala

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FIRST COLUMN

www.dailypioneer.com

QUICK COMMERCE: A NEW RETAIL MANTRA

Essentially large warehouses, dark stores enable fast delivery of goods in localities





wise person can create 'The Advantage of Adversity'. And you can very much learn this from retail marketers at this crucial juncture. Coping with the crucial situations of COVID-19, retail marketing is scaling newer heights. Business climate for retail marketing is getting conducive as there is a win-win situation for both the marketers and the clients. Today, retail industries are resorting to varied strategies to meet up consumers' demands. Moreover, the modus operandi of delivering the goods and services is becoming digitalized and even fast-paced. Consequently, understanding and innovating the retail has become a new business mantra. So much so Amazon, Flipkart, Ola, Uber, Zepto, Blinkit, Swiggy, Dunzo, Bigbasket and other business units are surprisingly found to be engaged with quick commerce companies. Owing to fasten the business, dark stores have been founded in the local area for treading



purposes. Essentially, dark stores are large warehouses that are the central points of retail distribution. They cater exclusively to local needs through online shopping. Quick commerce is indeed the next generation of ecommerce. It is an international business process that caters to the wishes of the consumers to bring instant delivery of goods. It provides instant support to the modern communities which are in dire need. Groceries, stationaries hygiene products etc., are coming under the ambit of quick commerce activities. Quick commerce websites are used to provide an online platform for various trading in the country. However, this business method helps the online shoppers to make safe purchases for their stores. Such a business model wants to be the biggest kirana store in the urban colony. It should be expressed that a dark store hits a frequency of more than 200 orders per day. The unit economics depends on the fact that there is a mixture of perishable and non-perishable in transaction. Tellingly, quick commerce remains a new and evolving business management with the effective inclusion of information technology. Many e-commerce companies are turning to social media channels such as Facebook and Instagram to showcase their vast array of products. Customization is the key of this trade. It will facilitate speed and efficiency. Quick commerce addresses are meaningful. The customers can use their mobile devices for shopping. However, quick commerce can invite online fraudulent activities. Credit card frauds are persistent in online businesses. It is apparent that quick commerce or electronic commerce is above all a commercial transaction over the Internet. It is a space mainly to watch out for logistics and e-commerce players. The expectations are likely to settle in at a sweet spot of thirty minutes' delivery or so. According to industry players, ten minutes' delivery model will see rationalization over time. Subscription-based e-commerce is another new venue that is being explored. It customers to subscribe to a product on a recurring basis depending on their need. However, the local kirana stores in the local area lose business due to the rise of dark stores that modernises the trading process. The local businessmen cannot afford to make big capital for having dark stores. These stores are losing customers due to the higher discount offerings of the companies. The companies have appointed a number of bikers and cyclists to deliver the commodities to the customers from dark stores. The corporate giants should pay minimum heed to the interest and survival of owners of kirana stores.

(Chanda is an author-activist and works as an advocate at High Court, Calcutta. Chakraborty teaches at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Lucknow. The views expressed are personal.)

Cinema ticket pricing vs bloated film costs



The Andhra Govt has issued an order fixing slabs for tickets in cinema halls in municipal corporations, municipalities, nagar panchayats and village panchayats

wo controversial Government Orders issued by the Andhra Pradesh Government related to entertainment and culture have created a lot of heat. The first Go issued in April 2021 was aimed at regulating film industry. The second one was recently issued banning a popular and message-oriented stage play 'Chintamani,' Both the issues could have been dealt with skilfully had the Government consulted the stakeholders before taking the decisions.

The Government of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy which has been dabbling in controversies of all kinds has added two more, involving the film industry and stage plays.

About 170 of the 950-odd theatres in Andhra Pradesh have been closed since the GO was issued. The exhibitors say they lost hugely due to Covid during 2021 when the theatres were completely shut. They were reopened with 50 per cent occupancy on July 31, 2021. Even before that, the State Government issued GO 35 fixing slabs for tickets in cinema halls in municipal corporations, municipalities, nagar panchayats and village panchayats under economy, deluxe and premium classes for multiplex, AC theatres and non-

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma met AP Information, public relations and cinematography minister Venkataramaiah (Nani) and told him that the Government has no business to intervene in this issue. It is for the exhibitors and audience to decide the price of tickets. Pawan Kalyan, film hero-cum-politician (president of Jan Sena which has alliance with the BJP) was rather aggressive in his criticism. He said since the Government has no money, it is indulging in online ticketing and fixing ticket prices. Minister Nani asked the actor why would the government which has no money would reduce the ticket price instead of increasing. Senior actor, Pawan Kalyan's elder brother and former union minister Chiranjeevi tried to break the ice when he travelled to Amaravati to meet Jagan Mohan Reddy over lunch on last Thursday. Some news channels and newspaper said Chiranjeevi was offered a Rajya Sabha seat by the YSRCP chief which was promptly and curtly denied by the mega star. He said the problem would be

What is the problem? Is it peculiar to in the industry started with stardom. At least six stars today charge a fee of ₹45 crore each for a movie. Heroines also are paid in crores, though their remuneration is nowhere near the actors'. Directors donot take all the remuneration by cheque or cash but ask for share in the revenue area wise. Together they eat away threefourth of the budget.

Persons working in 24 crafts in films get a pittance. The presence of Chiranjeevi, Prabĥas, Mahesh, Pawan Kalyan, NTR (Jr) and Ram Charan Teja makes the budget



THE PRESENCE OF CHIRANJEEVI, PRABHAS, MAHESH, PAWAN KALYAN, NTR (JR) AND RAM CHARAŃ TEJA MAKES THE **BUDGET OF ANY** FILM CROSS ₹100 CRORE. IN ORDER TO EARN THAT KIND OF MONEY, THE EXHIBITORS **ORGANISE BENEFIT** SHOWS AND **EXTRA SHOWS TO** COLLECT MORE. FOR BENEFIT SHOWS, THE PRICE OF THE TICKET WOULD BE ABOVE ₹1,000 FOR **BIG-TICKET MOVIES**

(The writer is Editor, Primepost, the news website based out of Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal.)



of any film cross ₹100 crore. Each actor acts in one movie in one or

In order to earn that kind of huge money the exhibitors organize benefit shows and extra shows to collect more. For benefit shows, the price of the ticket would be above ₹1000 for big-ticket movies in which one of these stars acts.

If you have two stars like NTR (Jr) and Ram Charan Teja and a star director such as Rajamouli of Bahubali fame, as in RRR (Raudram, Ranam and Rudhiram), the budget would be around ₹300 crore. The film RRR was supposed to be released on January 7 after three postponements. Some other films slated to be released on Sankranti postponed their dates thinking that RRR would be released by then. The release of SarkaruvariPaata (featuring Mahesh Babu) was put off till April 1 and BhimlaNayak (Pawan Kalyan, Rana) till February 25. It happened because when a big budget film, such as RRR, is released, it is exhibited in most of the theatres for one week with special shows and higher ticket prices The poor and the middleclass among the audience are made to pay through their noses to pay to the stars. During that week no theatres would be available for other

films. Small cinema which used to flourish earlier has been thoroughly discouraged. Small producers have to depend on OTT platforms or sale of the cyber rights. The remuneration for artists is far less in Kannada, Malayalam and

Once late Raj Kumar, the Kannada Kanteerava, invited all Kannada producers, directors and exhibitors to his residence, gave them sumptuous dinner and politely asked them permission to raise his remuneration by ₹25,000 since he has a number of children. The guests were stunned and told him he could enhance his fee by

The late NTR acted for twenty years for less than a lakh of rupees for a film. The days of NTR, ANR, Sobhan Babu and Krishna were golden for Tollywood. Beside the heroes, actors, directors, technicians and other craftsmen used to live happily. If the prices of tickets are low, small movies can get theatres and reasonable revenue. Some exhibitors went to AP High Court which asked the government to appoint a committee to study the issue. In the absence of compliance, the HC has stayed the operation of the GO. Then the government organized raids on theatres which were running without proper license and selling refreshments at higher prices. The result is bad

Meanwhile, the Telangana Government has agreed to the demand of the film industry and allowed fixing of ticket prices by the producers and exhibitors. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao did not want any trouble on this count. The ideal solution would be for both the chief ministers of Telugu States to sit with the important persons from Tollywood to sort out the matter once for all. The remu-

neration of the stars, the stranglehold of four families on hundreds of theatres in both the States (Families headed by Dil Raj, Allu Aravind, Daggubati Suresh and Sunil Narang) and the unethical exploitation of the film lovers, scope for small budget film producers to survive and the welfare of technicians and others (estimated to be more than 50 thousand) have to be discussed threadbare to arrive at a comprehensive and amicable solution. Sooner it is done the better for both government and film industry.

The ban on Chintamani, the popular stage play, imposed by Rajat Bhargava, the Principal Secretary through a GO, was not warranted although the complaint of a community is genuine. The original play written by social reformer, writer and poet Kallakuri Narayana Rao, exactly one hundred years ago, was sophisticated and enlightening. It was a critique of the Devadasi system. Subbi Shetty, a character in the play, is a vaisya (bania), who loses his wealth to Chintamani and his character is used to engage the audience Chintamani's mother Srihari and sister Chitra. It is true that some actors introduced vulgarity and obscene dialogues between Subbi Shetty, Chitra and Srihari, hurting the sentiments of a community.

The Andhra government should have allowed the play to run with a condition that vulgar characters and dialogues are removed. Even today, the play has great relevance. The AP Government's decision needs to be revised.

THE DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVT PEOPLE ARE DISMANTLING EACH OTHER'S WHEELS. THE DELHI CAMP HAS SHUNTED THE CM TO GORAKHPUR. —SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF **AKHILESH YADAV**





THOSE NOT GETTING TICKETS TO RIDE THE DOUBLE ENGINE ARE BUYING TICKETS IN BLACK TO RIDE THE BICYCLE. -UP BJP CHIEF SWATANTRA DEV SINGH

Will Russia play the 'Cuban card'?

But Russia stopped being Communist 30 years ago

fter a week of intense discussions about 'security' between Russia and the NATO countries, this is the week when the Western allies will send their written replies to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Various pundits, some of whom have actually been to Russia, warn us that there will be 'War in Europe' if Putin's demands are not met.

(You there, at the back. Stop giggling! This is no laughing matter! Peace is hanging by a

thread!) Historians keen for a moment in the limelight are being wheeled out to draw parallels with past diplomatic disasters like the Munich conference of 1938 (appeasement of Hitler) and Yalta in 1945 (carving up Europe and giving Stalin the eastern half in 1945).



And this just in! Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, just back in Moscow from the talks, told Russian television that if the talks failed, he could 'neither confirm nor exclude" that Russia would send "military assets" to Cuba and Venezuela.

Wow! A dagger - no, two daggers - pointed at the heart of America (although they'll have to work on the length of the Venezuelan dagger, since it's 2,000 km. from Caracas to Miami). If that does not force the Americans to give in, what will?

I'm sorry. That's enough sarcasm. It's just that all this prancing around and mugging for the camera gets tiresome. This is a minor diplomatic spat that has been deliberately inflated far beyond its merit, and it is being taken much too seriously.

Let's start with Russia play-

ing the 'Cuban card'. Cuba is still Communist country, and Maduro's regime in Venezuela also has aspirations in that direction - but Russia, in case you've forgotten, stopped being Communist thirty years ago.

Putin's regime in Moscow is nationalist-populist, and Cuba has absolutely no motive to host Russian troops and risk triggering a confrontation with the United States. In any case

Russian troops in Cuba would pose no military threat to the United States. What are they going to do? Invade Florida?

Ryabkov's intention was obviously to do a "How would you like it if...?" on American diplomats. How would like it if there were Russian troops '90 miles from Florida' (as people used to say during the Cuban crisis of 1962), and not NATO troops 450 km. from Moscow (which is where they are now).

The grown-up American answer to that would be "Who cares?" In real life, there are a number of troglodytes in the US Congress who would work themselves up into a lather about Russian troops in Cuba - but since the Cubans would not agree to it in the first place, it's

really quite irrelevant. Well, then, what about the alleged historical precedents: Munich and Yalta? They were both about granting a 'sphere of influence' in Europe to a great power (Germany in 1938, the Soviet Union in 1945) that could easily enforce its wishes on the

Russia is effectively demanding a comparable sphere of influence in its old 'satellite' countries, which would not be allowed to have friendly foreign troops on their soil even though they are NATO members, but it's a complete non-starter. Russia lacks the military capacity to enforce its

will on the ground. So will there be 'War in Europe, as the feverish headlines suggest? Not in the sense they imply: massive armoured forces rolling across whole countries, with the threat of nuclear war looming in the background. But there might be some shooting on or just inside Ukraine's border

with Russia. Of course, there's already a little bit of shooting along that border, in the Russian-backed breakaway provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk. As Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on

Kirby warned that Russia

ning to cause a little more.

It is extremely unlikely that he would try to conquer all or even half of Ukraine. Friday, Putin may now be plan-

It is almost inconceivable "has pre-positioned a group of

that this will end up with Second World War-style battles between large armoured forces.

operatives to conduct what we

call a false-flag operation, an

operation designed to look like

an attack on them or on Russian-

speaking people in Ukraine, as

an excuse to go in." He may be

right - and he may be wrong. The

satellites can see their location,

cannot extract, with threats that

blunder into a local clash that

would bring harsh sanctions

Something has got into Putin, and he's seeking concessions that he should know he

It is possible that he could

but not their intentions

he cannot enforce

down on Russia.

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

China raps US missile sanctions as hypocrisy

hina on Friday criticised Washington for imposing sanctions on Chinese companies the US says exported missile technology, and accused the United States of hypocrisy for selling nuclearcapable cruise missiles.
The United States

announced penalties on three companies it said were engaged in unspecified "missile technology proliferation activities.

It said they were barred from U.S. Markets and from obtaining technology that can be used to make weapons.

"This is a typical hegemonic action. China strongly deplores and firmly opposes it," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian. "China urges the United States to immediately correct its mistakes, revoke the relevant sanctions and stop suppressing Chinese enterprises and smearing China.

"China accounted for about 5 per cent of global weapons exports in 2016-20, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research

The United States was the top global exporter, accounting for 37 per cent of the total in 2016-20.

Cruise missiles and longrange ballistic missiles are regarded as among China's



Workers wearing masks stand near missiles produced by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. displayed during the 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as Airshow China 2021 on Tuesday, Sept. 28. 2021 in Zhuhai in southern China's Guangdong province. China on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022 criticized Washington for imposing sanctions on Chinese companies the U.S. says exported missile technology and accused the United States of hypocrisy for selling nuclear-capable cruise missiles (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

strengths in weapons technology.Zhao defended Beijing's controls on weapons

He said China opposes proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and strictly controls exports of missiles.

"Normal cooperation between China and relevant countries doesn't violate any international law and doesn't involve proliferation" of weapons of mass destruction, Zhao said.

Zhao pointed to U.S. subsidiaries.

Plans to sell Australia's government Tomahawk cruise

missiles capable of carrying

nuclear warheads. "The United States has overtly pursued double standards," Zhao said. The latest U.S. Penalties apply to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

First Academy, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. Fourth Academy and Poly Technologies Inc. And their

Nepal imposes

as coronavirus

AP ■ KATHMANDU

cases set record

Nepal's capital shut schools, ordered citizens to carry

vaccination cards in public,

banned religious festivals and

tough restrictions

America sanctions Ukrainian officials alleged to help Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Treasury Department Levied new sanctions on Thursday against four Ukrainian officials, including two current members of parliament who administration officials say are part of a Russian influence effort to set the pretext for further invasion of Ukraine

The sanctions name parliamentarians Taras Kozak and Oleh Voloshyn and two former government officials. According to Treasury, all four have been intimately involved in disinformation efforts by Russia's federal security service, known as

The new sanctions were announced less than 24 hours after President Joe Biden said he thinks Moscow will newly invade Ukraine. He warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that his country would pay a "dear price" in lives lost and a possible restrictions in access to the global banking system if it does.

Biden faced criticism from Republicans and Ukrainian officials that he invited a limited Russian invasion by suggesting in comments to reporters on Wednesday that US Would react with a measured response if there was only a "minor incursion" of Ukrainian territory. Administration officials sought to clarify his remarks late

Wednesday and Thursday. The White House last week warned that Russia has stationed operatives in and around Ukraine possibly to create pretext for an invasion. US And Ukrainian officials have also been concerned about Russian weaponising of disinformation.

The United States is taking action to expose and counter Russia's dangerous and threatening campaign of influence and disinformation in Ukraine, said Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in a statement. "We are committed to taking steps to hold Russia accountable for their destabilizing actions.'

Kozak, who controls several news channels in Ukraine, is accused of amplifying false narratives about Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy's inner circle and the 2020 elections.

Voloshyn has worked with Russia's FSB to undermine Ukrainian government officials, Treasury says. Treasury officials say Voloshyn also worked with Konstantin Kilimnik, a Russian national who was previously sanctioned for allegedly attempting to influence 2016 presidential election and passing on information to Russian intelligence. Treasury also sanctioned Ukraine's former deputy secretary for national security and defense councils, Vladimir

Vaccines to Africa must have good shelf lives, says expert

At least 2.8 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines donated to African countries have expired, the Africa Centers for Disease Control said Thursday, citing short shelf lives as the major reason. Donors of vaccines to the

continent should send them with a realistic shelf life of about "three months to six months" before their expiration, Africa CDC director John Nkengasong told an online briefing. More African nations are now refusing to accept donations of vaccines that have only one or two months before their expiration, he said.

Although the number of expired doses is only about 0.5% of the total number donated to Africa, Nkengasong said he is unhappy to see any become invalid."Any dose of vaccine that expired pains me because that is a life that can potentially be saved," Nkengasong said.

Just over 10 per cent of Africa's population of 1.3 billion people are fully vaccinated, he said. The continent's 54 countries have confirmed 10.4 million COVID-19 cases and 235,000 deaths. The continent's omicron wave appears to be receding, with new confirmed cases down by 20 per cent from the previous week and deaths dropping by 8 per cent, the World Health Organization's Africa office announced Thursday. More



center giving first, second, and booster doses to eligible people, in the lowincome Kibera neighborhood of Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday. At least 2.8 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines donated to African countries have expired, the Africa Centers for Disease Control said on Thursday, citing short shelf lives as the

than 60 per cent of the 572 million vaccine doses African countries have received have already been administered, Nkengasong said. The "big fight" for African countries will be "logistics and getting doses to the population even as more supplies arrive," he said. "We've seen remarkable

uptake of vaccines in settings where we engage the community ... and religious leaders," Nkengasong said, urging countries to use innovative ways to bring vaccines to the population and not only require that the populations should go to where the vaccines are." In Nigeria, for instance, an increasing number of vaccination centers are being set at public facilities such as markets and motor parks and health authorities are collaborating

with opinion leaders to fight hesitancy. Vaccines are Africa's "best defense" against severe illness, death and overwhelmed health systems, Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Africa director said at another online briefing Thursday." Africa must not only broaden vaccinations but also gain increased and equitable access to critical COVID-19 therapeutics to save lives and effectively combat this pan-

demic," Moeti said.
"The deep inequity that left
Africa at the back of the queue for vaccines must not be repeated with life-saving treatments." In 2022, more testing is needed to fight the pandemic, said Harley Feldbaum of the Global Fund. "We need to bring testing and treatment together in a much more rapid fashion," said Feldbaum.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System) Assistant Materials Manager, Northern Railway, DSL, Stores, Depot, Shakurbast Delhi-110034, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e- tender through e-procurement system for supply of the following item

S. 1 N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01 4	42205012B	Medium Carbon Steel seamless smoke tube size-57.15mm,outer dia 2.946mm thickness & 5900mm length.As per Specn.ASME-SA-210/ASTM-A-210 Gr1 for BG Steam Locomotives	786 Nos	19.02.2022

NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details 2. No Manual offer will be entertained

42205012B/DSL/SSB/2022 Dated 20.01.2022

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR.				
ई निविदा सूचना संख्या 301/2021 22				
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र /राज्य सरकार के अमियांत्रिकी विमागों द्वारा पंजीकृत एवं अनुमवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:				
कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रू०)			
Construction of Multipurpose Hall Stadium at Chandrabardal Nagar, Ajmer, UBN: RRC2122WLOB00578	633.73 Lakh			
	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 20.01.2022 प्रातः 9.00 बजे से 08.02.2022 को सांय 6.00 बजे तव			

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025

CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077,Tel: +91 11 61119658 Email Id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website:www.pmltd.com **NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 05/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 10th February, 2022 (Thursday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 4.00 P.M to discuss the following agenda items: To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the

Company for the Quarter ended on 31st December, 2021 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015. To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair

By Order of the Board For Premium Merchants Limited Date: 21.01.2022

Place: New Delhi DIN:00027438

instructed hotel guests to be tested every three days as it battles its biggest COVID-19 out-break.The chief government administrator of Kathmandu issued a notice on Friday saying all people must carry their vaccination cards when they are in public areas or shop in Nepal, however, has only

fully vaccinated 41 per cent of its population. The notice did not say how unvaccinated people will be able to pay utility

The government says it has enough vaccines in stock, but a new wave of COVID-19 cases propelled by the omicron variant has created long lines at vaccination centers, with many people unable to receive shots.

All public gatherings and meetings will be banned and cinemas and theaters will be closed. Gymnasiums, pools and other sporting venues will also be shut. No public religious festivals or events will be allowed, the notice said. It did not say how long restrictions would last. Authorities also halted in-person classes at all schools and indefinitely postponed university examinations. Wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing in public will be mandatory.

Australia records deadliest day of pandemic with 80 persons deaths

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia on Friday report-ed its deadliest day of the pandemic with 80 coronavirus fatalities, as an outbreak of the Omicron variant continued to take a toll. But Dominic Perrottet,

premier of the most populous state, New South Wales, said a slight decrease in hospitalisations gave him some hope about the strain the outbreak is putting on the health system. The previous record of 78 deaths was set on Tuesday. There have been just under 3,000 coronavirus deaths in Australia since the pandemic

New South Wales, home to deaths. They included a baby who died from COVID-19 in December, one of several historical cases that were investigated. The news came after the premier of Western Australia state, Mark McGowan, backed down on a promise to reopen the state to the rest of the coun-

try on Feb 5. In a late-night news conference on Thursday, McGowan said reopening the state as planned would be "reckless and irresponsible" given the large number of COVID-19 cases in other states. No new date has been set for when the state might relax its border closure. The border decision means neither Prime Minister Scott Morrison nor opposition leader Anthony

Family of four, believed to be Indians, frozen to death along US-Canada border; man charged with human smuggling

PTI ■ TORONTO/NEW YORK

Tn a heartbreaking tragedy, a I family of four, including a baby, all believed to be Indians, has died from exposure to cold weather on the Canadian side of the border with the US in an apparent human smuggling operation, according to media reports.

Manitoba Roval Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on Thursday said that the bodies of four people - two adults, a teen and an infant-were found on the Canadian side of the U.S./Canada border near Emerson on Wednesday.

US officials say the dead are believed to be a family from India. They are thought to have been attempting to cross media reports.

Commissioner Jane MacLatchy shared the discovery with reporters in a news conference on Thursday."What I am about to share is going to be difficult for many people to hear," she said, calling it "an absolute and heartbreaking tragedy".

"At this very early stage of the investigation, it appears that they all died due to exposure to the cold weather," MacLatchy said, adding RCMP believe the four people are connected to the group that was apprehended on the U.S. Side of the border. She said all four were located within 9-12 metres of the border.MacLatchy said that the group was "on their own in the middle of a blizzard" and

"faced not only the cold weather but endless fields, large snowdrifts and complete darkness".Police are referring to them as victims, as there are concerns the group's attempted border crossing was facilitated in some way, and that they were left out in the extreme cold, Global News reported. MacLatchy said work is

underway to ID the victims, but at this stage, it appears they all died from exposure to the cold, the report said.Manitoba RCMP was notified by US Customs and Border Protection on Wednesday morning that a group of people had crossed into the U.S. Near Emerson, and that one of the adults was carrying items was no infant with the group.

An immediate search began on both sides of the border, and by that afternoon, the bodies of an adult man, an adult woman, and an infant were found. The body of a boy believed to be in his midteens was found shortly after-

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota issued a release late Thursday afternoon and said 47-year-old Steve Shand of Florida had been arrested and charged with human smuggling in connection with the incident.Shand was driving with two passengers determined to be undocumented foreign nationals from India, according to the

Step back from Ukraine or be ready for massive consequences, **UK Govt warns Russia** erty," she said. In her direct

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government on ■ Friday warned Russia of "massive consequences" if it did not step back from Ukraine, noting that it is working with partners like India to counter such growing threats to democracy and build a global network of liberty.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss used a speech at the Lowry Institute think tank here to urge Russian President Vladimir Putin to desist from an invasion on its border with Ukraine, where tensions have been building up in the past few weeks.

She went on to call out Russia and China working together against forces of tney "emboldened" in a way never seen since the Cold War era.

"Russia and China are working together more and more, as they strive to set the standards in technologies like artificial intelligence, assert their dominance over the Western Pacific through joint military exercises and in space through closer ties," Truss said. "China and Russia have

spotted an ideological vacuum and they're rushing to fill it. They are emboldened in a way we haven't seen since the Cold War. As freedom-loving democracies we must rise up to face down these threats. As well as NATO we are working with partners like Australia, India, Japan, Indonesia and Israel to build a global network of lib-

appeal to Putin, she noted: "The Kremlin hasn't learned the lessons of history. They dream of recreating the Soviet Union, or a kind of 'Greater Russia' carving up territory based on ethnicity, and language. "We know what lies down

that path, and the terrible toll in lives lost and human suffering it brings. That's why we urge President Putin to desist and step back from Ukraine before he makes a massive strategic mistake." Truss warned of sanctions

if such an invasion were to take place in Ukraine, where the UK has announced a new package of training, support and defensive weapons to boost defensive capabilities.

Russia Council we sent a clear message to Moscow that any further incursion into Ukraine would bring massive consequences, including through coordinated sanctions hitting the financial sector, and individuals," Truss said.

"We're also pushing for alternatives in energy supply, so that nations are less reliant on Russia for their gas. We need everyone to step up.

Together with our allies, we will continue to stand with Ukraine and urge Russia to deescalate. What happens in Eastern Europe matters for the world," she added.Russia denies it is planning an invasion but has moved around 100,000 troops near its border with Ukraine.

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग कार्यालय वनमण्डलाधिकारी

दन्तेवाड़ा वनमण्डल, दन्तेवाड़ा, जिला दक्षिण बस्तर दन्तेवाड़ा (छ.ग.)

(Balbir Singh)

// रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति सूचना //

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता हैं कि, दन्तेवाड़ा वनमण्डल के अन्तर्गत वित्तीय व 2021-22 में प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा केन्द्र के निर्वर्तन, निर्माण, सहकार एवं मार्केंटिंग, एफ संयंत्र निर्मार्ण एवं रख-रखाव, पारिस्थितिकी पर्यटन विकास, मार्ग कुटीर, मार्केंटिंग, रोमांचक गतिविधयों के सुरक्षा, मैनेजमेन्ट, रख-रखाव बनाने मं सहयोग एवं मार्केटिंग, तथा अन्य कार्य सामग्री सहित रूचि की अमिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित की जाती है। रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति से संबंधित निविदा प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत शर्ते कार्यालयीन दिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में राशि रूपये 1,000/- का डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट / बैंकर्स चैक जो वनमण्डलाधिकारी दन्तेवाड़ा, वनमण्डल के नाम से देय हो जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते है।

निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु नगद राशि स्वीकार नहीं की जावेगी। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-प्रथम निविदा प्रथम निविदा असफल द्वितीय निविदा असफल

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마시 아이들이 얼마나 그 그리아 아이	दिनांक 21.02.2022 समय 5.30 बजे तक		दिनांक 02.03.2022 समय 5.30 बजे तक
निविदा फार्म जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 22.02.2022 समय 2 बजे तक	दिनांक 25.02.2022 समय 2 बजे तक	दिनांक 03.03.2022 समय 2 बजे तक
निविदा खुलने की तिथि	दिनांक 22.02.2022 समय 4 बजे	दिनांक 25.02.022 समय 4 बजे	दिनांक 03.03.2022 समय 4 बजे
निविदा स्थल	विदा स्थल वनमण्डल कार्यालय दन्तेवाड़ा (आंवरामाटा)		

वनमण्डलाधिकारी

दन्तेवाड़ा वनमण्डल, दन्तेवाड़ा

R.O. No - 67027/4

R.O. Date - 21/01/2022

Taliban to organise meeting in Norway next week

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Taliban delegation will A travel to Norway for talks with the Norwegian government, meeting with repre-sentatives of the Norwegian authorities and several allied countries but also with civil society activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said Friday that it has invited representatives of the Taliban to Oslo from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25. The statement didn't say which other countries would take part in the meeting. Norwegian Foreign

Minister Anniken Huitfeldt

said that "we are extremely

concerned about the serious

situation in Afghanistan." She

said there is "a full-scale

humanitarian catastrophe for

millions of people" in the country. She stressed that the meeting was "not a legitimation or recognition of the

But we must talk to those who in practice govern the country today.""We cannot let the political situation lead to an even worse humanitarian catastrophe," she said. The Foreign Ministry said

that the Taliban delegation meetings also will include Afghans with backgrounds from various fields and include women leaders, journalists, and people who work with, among other things human rights and humanitarian, economic, social and political issues. It said that earlier this

week, a Norwegian delegation

visited Kabul for talks on the

precarious humanitarian sit-

uation in the country

EU nations request stronger borders to ease migration pressure Vilnius: Interior ministers

from European Union nations

experiencing pressure from unauthorised migration asked Friday for more action to strengthen and protect the bloc's external borders. Ministers from countries that included Greece, Poland, Italy, Austria and France, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, participated in a border security security conference in Lithuania's capital along with European Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson. They said that reinforcing the EÚ's borders and cracking down on people smugglers would protect EU citizens and the lives of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa who undertake hazardous journeys to reach Europe. "We must protect our borders from aggression, and we need to protect our people," Johansson toldconference participants. AP

100 ISIS terrorists mount deadly attacks in Syria, Iraq; dozens killed

AP ■ BAGHDAD

 $M^{
m ore\ than\ 100\ militants}$ from the Islamic State group carried out a complex attack on Syria's largest prison holding suspected extremists, officials said Friday, as members of the group in Iraq stormed an army barracks, killing 11 soldiers as they slept.

The prison break in Syria is believed to be the largest since the militants lost the final sliver of territory they held nearly three years ago. In recent months, IS sleeper cells have become more active in both countries, claiming attacks that killed scores of Iraqis and Syrians. In Iraq, IS gunmen attacked an army barracks in a mountainous area north of Baghdad early Friday, killing 11 soldiers as they slept, the Iraqi military and security officials said. The officials said the attack occurred in the Al-Azim district, an open area north of the city of Baqouba in Diyala province. The circumstances of the attack were not immediately clear, but two officials who spoke to The Associated Press said IS militants broke into the barracks at 3 am local time and shot dead the soldiers, before fleeing. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to issue official statements.

An Iraqi military statement said the dead included an officer with the rank of lieutenant and 10 soldiers.The brazen attack more than 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of the capital, Baghdad, was one of the deadliest targeting the Iraqi military in recent months.

Spectacular prison breaks are a hallmark of militant attacks. IS militants launched multiple prison breaks during their surge in 2014 before swarming territory in Iraq and Syria. In Syria, more than 100 IS fighters using heavy machine guns and vehicles rigged with explosives attacked the Gweiran Prison in the northeastern city of Hassakeh where

some 3,000 suspected IS militants are being held, according to a spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, Farhad Shami. He said seven US-backed

Kurdish fighters were killed and several others were wounded. At least 23 IS attackers were also among the dead, he said. "This is the biggest attack not only in Syria but also in

Iraq and the region," Shami said in reference to attacks carried out by IS since the militant group's was defeated in Syria in March 2019. "The prisoners include

commanders and are among the most dangerous." The complex attack was mounted on Thursday evening and aimed to free fighters from the group incarcerated there.Svrian Kurdish-led forces who control the Gweiran Prison said prisoners inside the facility rioted simultaneously and tried to escape while a car bomb went off outside prison and gunmen clashed with security forces.

Market selloff: Investors lose ₹10.36L cr in 4 days

become poorer by over ₹ 10.36 lakh crore in the last four trading sessions as the domestic equity benchmarks extended their losses amid weak global trends.

The Sensex and Nifty closed in the red for the fourth straight session on Friday amid continued selling by foreign institutional investors.

The BSE Sensex ended 427.44 points or 0.72 per cent lower at 59,037.18. The 30-share benchmark has lost 2,271.73 points in four sessions.

In line with the weak trend, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plunged by a massive ₹ 10,36,636.17 crore in the last four trading sessions to stand at ₹ 2,69,65,801.54 crore.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had reached a lifetime high of Rs 2,80,02,437.71 crore on Monday.

Barring FMCG, all BSE sectoral indices closed in the red on Friday, led by telecom, consumer durables, realty, capital goods and industrials, which shed as much as 3.03 per "Indian equity markets corrected this week in

and the expected tightening of monetary policy by Central Banks is weighing on investor sentiments," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Most sectors saw profit booking. The IT sector performed poorly this week with

sure, monetary policy tightening, rising bond yields, higher crude oil prices are some key challenges for the global markets. In addition to global factors, the domestic markets would track the Q3FY22 results, management commentary and the Union Budget," Chouhan added. **PTI**

Rupee rises 8 paise to close at 74.43 against US dollar

Mumbai: The Indian rupee advanced by 8 paise to close at 74.43 against the US dollar on Friday, helped by some correction in crude oil prices and weaker greenback against key

However, the rupee's further recovery was restricted by continuous foreign fund outflows and sell-offs in domestic equities, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 74.50 a dollar and during the day, it witnessed an intra-day high of 74.40 and a low of 74.55 against the American currency.

The domestic unit finally settled at 74.43 against the American currency, up 8 paise over its last close of 74.51. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the green back's strength against the basket of six currencies, fell 0.13 per cent to 95.61. "The Indian rupee appreciated on back of fall in crude oil prices, corporate dollar inflows along with exporters dollar selling and debt raising helped the rupee in trimming weekly losses," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

B2B spending in India expected to grow 10.3% in 2022: Report

spending in India is expected to rise by 10.3 per cent in 2022 with the spend of the country's businesses growing three times faster than the expectations from its comparable peers in other countries in the third quarter of last year, according to

The total business-to-business (B2B) spend for India rose 9.4 per cent in Q3 2021 on a yearon-year basis, as per the India Business Spend Indicator (IBSI) report by American Express, India and Invest India in partnership with the Centre for Business and Economic Research (CEBR).

Stating that the India spending is on the rise across nine key B2B categories, the report said, "it is expected to rise by 10.3 per cent in 2022."

The study, which interviewed 500 financial decision makers in India on how their business spending habits are changing, found bullishness and greater confidence with 74 per cent of businesses expecting to spend more on technology and 72 per cent planning to make more capital invest-

Manoj Adlakha, SVP and CEO, American Express Banking Corp, India said, "India saw the

New Delhi: The total business-to-business highest B2B spending growth compared to expectations of six other major economies. This year, the total B2B spend for India is expected to rise by 10.3 per cent compared to 2021

This, he said, "Shows that the Indian economy is very much in its bounce-back phase from the economic difficulties caused by the pandem-

The survey also reveals that some of the trends that have emerged or accelerated during the pandemic such as payments automation and new approaches to manage the supply chain are likely to stay, Adlakha added.

The trend includes benefits of digital payments, which 59 per cent of B2B sellers considered to be the speed of payment and ability to track spends, while 83 per cent of eligible respondents said that the government's 'Make in India' camhelped business

Invest India MD and CEO Deepak Bagla said the report attempts to facilitate understanding of the present state of B2B payments in the country and bring out businesses' positive response to major government policies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients
Sh. Mahesh Basista, S/o Rajendra Kumar and
his wife Meenu, resident of 23, Sarai Kale Khan,
Hazrat Nizamuddin, South Delhii, Delhi-110013
house coprad all their callidate with being conhave served all their relations with their son Rohit Basista due to his bad habits and behaviour. My abovenamed clients have behaviour. My abovenamed clients have disowned and debarred their son namely Robit Basista from all their movable and immovable properties. Any body dealing with Robit Basista or his wife will do so at their own risk and responsibilities. My clients will not be esponsible for any act, deed or dealing done by

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Laxmi Gupta is the absolute owner of Property bearing no.1989/D-3/A, measuring 250 sq.yds built on Plot no.253/2 & 254, in Narela Delhi having acquired by Sale Deed dated 23.10.03 (registration No. 24983) executed by Bhgawan Dei, whereas she have least the fell busing sericity.

lost the following recital:
Registered Relinquishment Deed dated 6/10/2003 (registration no.23324) executed by 1.Rajinder Mangla, 2.Rajesh Mangla, 3.Meena Mangla, 4.Jugnu Mangla 5.Anurag Mangla, 6.Sushila Devi, 7.Hemlata Gupta, 8.Smt. Geeta

6.Sushila Devi, 7.Hemlata Gupta, 8.Smt. Geeta Rani Goyal and 9.Manju Goyal relinquished their respective share in the aforesaid property in favour of Smt. Bhagwan Devi, FIR has already lodged in lieu of that dated 211/1/22 All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting

Name of the Borrower/

sons namely Mr. Sandeep Chauthan & Mr. Prashant Chauhan is claiming ownership as legal heirs as per SMC dated 15.12.2018, All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owners want to sell the said property, to Mrs. Pelya Goel who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objections/ upon the ownership of Mrs. Maya Devi, Mr. Sandeep Chaulana & Mr. Prashant Chauhan upon the above property its Sale [Mortgage/ Bidgation, & any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Rajesh Saxena's S/o Late Shri Jagat Narayan Saxena and Smt. Shalini Saxena's wife, Shri Rajesh Saxena, gave their eldest son Ashwani Saxena wa evicted from all movable and immovable properties and any financial transaction that our son does to someone will also be the responsibility of that person. It will make no sense to us.

—Rajesh Saxena R/o B-282, Sector-26 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

Director

Date of Notice NPA

N K Textile Industries Limited

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 CIN: L17299DL1983PLC163230, Tel: +91 11 61119313 Email Id: n.ktextiles123@gmail.com, website:www.nktil.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 06/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 11th February, 2022 (Friday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 4.30 P.M to discuss the following agenda items:

To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 31st December, 2021 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.

i. To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair. By order of the Board For N K Textile Industries Limited Dated:21.01.2022 **Balbir Singh**

to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II,
Delhi-91, 011-43052822, 9810063351 Place: New Delhi DIN:00027438

PUBLIC NOTICE

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: 2nd floor, SCO-319, Sec -29, Gurgaon, Haryana -122001 Branch Office: Premises no. 14, 1st floor, Shankar Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi- 110092

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

No.	Lo-Borrower/ Guarantor/	of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	Date
1.	Anil Uniyal (Borrower), Roopal Sharma (Co- Borrower), 1093 65 A TF ST Lohns Church Compound, Ward No.1 Mehrauli Delhi Delhi- 110030, Delhi, 110030. LHGUI00001348294.	1942 Third Floor With Roof Rights Plot No 1942 Block J Chitranajan Park Delhi Chitranjan Park Delhi-110019. Bounded By- North: Service Lane, South: Road, East: 1941, West: 1943.	17-11-2021 Rs. 78,27,673/-	06-Oct- 2021
2.	Sarvesh Sahu (Borrower), Kanchan Sahu (Guarantor), Flat Number 158 C Third Floor, Naya Khand 1 Indirapuram Near Sai Temple Sahibabad Ghaziabad Naya Khand 1 Indirapuram Near Sai Temple Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad Ghaaziabad 201010, Ghaaziabad,	Plot No Gh 01A 26th Floor Block B Panchsheel Greens 1 Tower F2 Sector 16 B Noida-201307. Bounded By- North: Since Under Construction, South: Since Under Construction, East: Since Under Construction, West: Since Under Construction.	17-11-2021 Rs. 12,33,771/-	06-Oct- 2021

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

Date: January 22, 2022 **Authorized Officer ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**

Govt launches portal to share key performance indicators of coal sector on Friday announced the

launch of a portal, 'Koyla Darpan', to share key performance indicators related to the coal sector.

The portal was launched by Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain, the Ministry of Coal said in a statement.

As an initial step, the portal has key performance indicators like coal/ lignite production, coal/ lignite offtake, exploration data, central sector schemes, status of coal stock at thermal power plants, alloca-



tion of blocks, monitoring of major coal mines, and coal price, the statement said.

Senior officials of the coal ministry and PSUs (through videoconferencing) were present at the event.

Suggestions/ views were given by the officers to make the portal more user-friendly,

course for MSME promoters

New Delhi: The All India Management Association (AIMA) on Friday said it has introduced a six-month management course for promoters and managers of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The special-purpose management skilling programme aims to align the knowledge and competence of MSME leaders with the new economy, AIMA said in a statement.

The launch of the course was announced at AIMA's 11th MSME Convention, which is being held online. Addressing the Convention, AIMA President C K Ranganathan appreciated the Centre's support to the MSME sector during the COVID-19 crisis. He said that the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for the MSMEs has saved 13.5 lakh firms from going bankrupt and saved 1.5 crore jobs. scheme was the biggest component of the ₹ 20-lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat package of the government to help the

Digital healthcare services expanded

New Delhi: To provide quality healthcare services to consumers in tier 2 and beyond cities, digital healthcare platform MediBuddy launched its team of phlebotomy.

The healthcare services now include the provision of conducting various medical tests at home, along with doctor consultations and medicine delivery. "We hope out high-quality medical amenities reach more Indians at the comfort of their homes," said Satish Kannan, co-founder and CEO, MediBuddy.

Game changer management of type 2 diabetes

Indian economy recover and

New Delhi: With a focus on innovating products that improve patients' lives, Novo Nordisk India launched the world's first and only "peptide in a pill", oral semaglutide, a gamechanger in diabetes management. "We are extremely proud and elated to launch oral semaglutide in India. Semaglutide in oral form will transform the management of diabetes," said Vikrant Shrotriya, corporate vice president and MĎ, Novo Nordisk India.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of RAJYA SWARAJ PARTY. (name of the party). The office of the party is located at 931, Indira Nagar, Dehradun -248006 (Uttarakhand) (give full address) This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the officebearers of the Party are as follows:

President/Chairman: Dr. Deveshwar Bhatt General Secretary/Secretary: Rameshwari

Treasurer: Satish Joshi

If any one has any objection to the registration of RAJYA SWARAJ PARTY (name of the proposed Party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

ASPIRe, AS-CFMS

(A Registered Society under Finance Department) Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System F Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-781006 (Assam. India)

No. ASPIRe/95/2020/240 Dated: Dispur, the 20th January, 2022

Notice for Recruitment

Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System (AS-CFMS) invites expression of interest from eligible candidates for employment on contractual basis.

SI. No.	Position	CTP Range per month (in Rupees)	
1	Procurement Support Specialist	1,50,000- 2,15,000	
2	IT Support Personnel	35,000	

Detailed ReOI, Terms of Reference (ToR) and formats are available in the following link:

https://finance.assam.gov.in/portlets/as-cfms

Sd/ Project Director, ASIRe (AS-CFMS) JanaSanyog/DF/2464/21 Dispur, Guwahati-6

Most people feel I-T exemption limit could be raised from ₹2.5 lakh: Survey

New Delhi: A majority of respondents (64 per cent) feel that the Union Budget 2022-23, to be unveiled on February 1, will increase the basic income tax exemption limit from the current ₹ 2.5 lakh, according to a pre-budget survey by KPMG in India.

As many as 36 per cent of the survey respondents felt that the 80-C deduction limit of ₹ 1.5 lakh will be increased, while 19 per cent felt that the standard deduction could be increased for salaried class from the current ₹ 50,000.

Sixteen per cent of the respondents felt the Budget

could provide for tax-free allowances/ perquisites for salaried individuals keeping in mind the work from the home arrangement - provision of internet connection, furniture and earphones. KPMG in India's pre-

budget survey was conducted in January 2022. About 200 finance professionals participated in the survey. As many as 64 per cent of the respondents said they expect the basic I-T exemption limit

With the governyear. ment reducing the headline corporate tax rate for domestic companies from 30 per cent to 22 per cent starting from the financial year 2019-20, the gap between the rates applicable to foreign companies and domestic companies has widened, the survey said.

Currently, Indian branches of foreign companies are subject to corporate tax at 40 per cent.

"A majority of respondents believe there is a need to reduce the rate applicable to Indian branches in line with the 2019 rate cuts, in order for India to remain a globally competitive investment jurisdiction," the survey added.

AIMA introduces 6-month management | Over 2,250 startups added in 2021, raised USD 24.1 bn in 2021: Nasscom-Zinnov report

to be raised from ₹ 2.5 lakh a

New Delhi: More than 2,250 startups were added in the year 2021, over 600 more than what was added in the previous year, a report by Nasscom and Zinnov said on Friday.

The study titled 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans' said with rising investor confidence, startups leveraging deeptech, and tapping unexplored talent pool, the Indian tech startup base continues to witness steady growth. As per the report, startups raised USD 24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID levels.

In comparison to 2020, there was a 3X increase in number of high-value deals (deals more than USD 100 million), demonstrating investor confidence with a pool of active angel investors of more than 2,400 and a readiness to take significant risks, it said.

While the US remains the leading source of foreign direct investment in startups, worldwide involvement is also growing. About 50 per cent of the deals had at least one India-domiciled investor, it added. The report said the startup ecosystem saw a 2X gain in cumulative valuation from 2020 to 2021, with an estimate of USD 320-330 billion, demonstrating the sector's development and recovery throughout It added that more than USD 6 billion has been raised via public markets with 11 startup IPOs in 2021.

In the last decade, the ecosystem has played key role in growing direct and indirect job opportunities, providing 6.6 lakh direct jobs and more than 34.1 lakh indirect jobs. The indus-

No. 155]

tries that saw the most net new job creation were banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), edtech, retail and retail tech, foodtech, SCM (supply chain management) and logistics and mobility.

On the back of internet commerce, freelancers, and service industries, indirect jobs have also recovered, it said. "The performance of the Indian startup

ecosystem in 2021 has proved the resilience and dedication being put by multiple startups across segments. The ecosystem has grown immensely and positioned itself as a vital contributor to the growth of India's digital economy," Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh said.

She added that with record-breaking funding, an increase in the number of unicorns, jobs being created in the near term, the Indian startup ecosystem's future looks even brighter going ahead in 2022. "When compared to the UK, US, Israel, and China, 2021 has been an outstanding year for the Indian startup ecosystem, with the highest growth rate in terms of deals, both in seed stage and late-stage funding, and number of startups," Zinnov CEO Pari Natarajan

Natarajan added that Indian firms have done an outstanding job of selling into global markets, notably in categories such as global SME and developer ecosystem. fact that Indian startups are digitally native serves as an excellent model for digital native enterprises throughout the world. I believe that Indian startup ecosystem is just getting started. PTI

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99 भारत के राजपत्र The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जनवरी 12, 2022/पौष 22,1943

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY, 12, 2022/PAUSHA 22,1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS **NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 12th January, 2022

S.O. 159(E).- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule for Construction of Greenfield Connectivity to Jewar International Airport from DND-Faridabad-Ballabhgarh Bypass KMP Link- Spur to Delhi Mumbai Expressway under Bharatmala Pariyojana in the stretch of land from Km. 23.100 to Km. 31.195 in the District of GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-

section(1) of section 3C of the said Act. Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate, (LA) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under this notification are available and car

be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority. SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in Greenfield Connectivity to Jewar International Airport from DND-Faridabad-Ballabhgarh Bypass KMP Link-

Spur to Delhi Mumbai Expresswav under Bharatmala Pariyojana in the stretch of land from Km. 23.100 to Km. 31.195 in the District of GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR in the state of UTTAR PRADESH. State: UTTAR PRADESH District: GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

5. No.	Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	(in Hectare)	
					(iii nectare)	
	Taluk: Jewar					
	Village: Amarpur Palaka					
	1	Government	River	0.8822000 (Hectare)	0.8822000	
2	1	Government	River	0.8822000 (Hectare)	0.8822000	
3	337	Private	Agriculture	0.3030000 (Hectare)	0.3030000	
4	339	Private	Agriculture	0.0164000 (Hectare)	0.0164000	
5	340	Private	Agriculture	0.5513000 (Hectare)	0.5513000	
6	341	Private	Agriculture	0.7118000 (Hectare)	0.7118000	
7	342	Private	Agriculture	0.5617000 (Hectare)	0.5617000	
8	344	Private	Agriculture	0.1063000 (Hectare)	0.1063000	
9	345	Private	Agriculture	0.0299000 (Hectare)	0.0299000	
10	345	Government	Banjar	0.0299000 (Hectare)	0.0299000	
11	346	Private	Agriculture	0.9237000 (Hectare)	0.9237000	
12	346	Private	Agriculture	0.9237000 (Hectare)	0.9237000	
13	347	Private	Agriculture	0.6718000 (Hectare)	0.6718000	
14	348	Private	Agriculture	0.0416000 (Hectare)	0.0416000	
15	349	Private	Agriculture	0.1292000 (Hectare)	0.1292000	
16	350	Government	Navin Parti	0.0636000 (Hectare)	0.0636000	
17	351	Private	Agriculture	0.3532000 (Hectare)	0.3532000	
18	352	Private	Agriculture	0.7137000 (Hectare)	0.7137000	
19	353	Private	Agriculture	0.4445000 (Hectare)	0.4445000	
20	354	Private	Agriculture	0.0226000 (Hectare)	0.0226000	
21	355	Private	Agriculture	0.0606000 (Hectare)	0.0606000	
Villa	Village: Falaida Khadar					
1	327	Private	Agriculture	0.3572000 (Hectare)	0.3572000	
			Total	8.7801	8.7801	
	[F. No. NHAI/CMU/MTR/DND/JewarInternationalAirport/2021/D-3A2]					
	RAJESH GUPTA, Director					



RANVEER SINGH

My constant endeavour is such that you cannot put me in a box. I don't wish to be defined because I feel defining my fundamental nature would be limiting me. As a creative person I would like to believe that I have no limits. That the possibilities within my craft are limitless, that they be infinite



PRATEIK BABBAR

Dhobi Ghat was a gamechanger for me. Not only because it minted the fame that it did, but it also taught me a lot as an actor. There was a lot I could explore with my character, and it allowed me to learn more nuances of acting. I still can't believe it has been 11 years since the film. It feels surreal!



SHORTCIRCUITS

AMOL PARASHAR

Sardar Udham has received immense love and phenomenal response so far I am proud to be a part of this film and I am hoping that the love will continue to pour in from audiences. I thank Shoojit sir for his vision and guidance in humanising the legendary characters.



ADELE

I'm so sorry, but my show ain't ready. We've tried absolutely everything we can to put it together in time and for it to be good enough for you, but we've been absolutely destroyed by delivery delays and COVID.

CHRISTINA AGUILERA

Miami is such a hotbed of incredible talent from all over the world and again, the Latin music is undeniable, there's nothing like it. So going there, when I start hearing it from all angles and everybody is speaking it, you catch up very quickly and many things are remembered from being a kid.



SNAKES SOS: GOA'S WILDEST

In their new show, wildlife activists BENHAIL ANTAO and LOUISE REMEDIOS embark on a quest to conserve the species and simultaneously bust myths around them by educating the audience that these reptiles are not the danger lurking in the dark. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

were seen rescuing wild snake species and other undomesticated animals in Goa.

The 10-part adventure series is bringing in a spirit of adventure, thrill and adoration for wild animals. The power couple will face and rescue some of the wildest snake species in the most unusual of situations. It showcases the duo in action and giving an up-close and personal experience of their techniques in rescuing the varied snake species and other undomesticated animals through the city of Goa. It is understanding snake psychology 101, if you may.

Read on for excerpts from a

candid interview with the adrenaline junkies and wildlife rescuers about insiders from their new series:

□National Geographic has introduced an Indian avatar of the show, Snakes in the City. How is it going to be different or how are you Indianising it?

BA: Snakes in the City, or, for that matter, Crocodile Hunter, are extremely different shows. I think about it. Right from the snakes they are Indian species and behave differently — to the places where they're rescued from. It's more about the snakes in this programme and more about the people who are encountering the snakes.

I mean, snakes are a problem everywhere. And the way people respond, the culture shown promotes repulsion or aversion. The message that we give through this programme is subtle — I want people to watch this and find between the lines. It's pretty clear where we stand when it comes to snakes and, the term, conservation. You know, snakes are not that danger lurking in the dark anymore. Snakes never were the danger lurking in the dark. The ideology of the show is pretty different.

□What is the aim of the show?

LR: So, first, we want to educate you about the kinds of snakes that

Antao and Louise Remedios, in their new show, Snakes SOS: Goa's Wildest, are in Goa because this show has been shot there specifically. And a lot of these snakes are also present in different parts of India. People assume we're either dealing with an anaconda or a rattlesnake or Black Mamba. No, you don't get those. It's cool that people are watching these programmes, but they are not aware of the many varieties of venomous, non-venomous and different kinds of snakes that exist here. We want to create awareness.

Besides that, we want people to understand that snakes are like any other animal. You don't look at them like you look at a dog or a cat, right? There's a lot of myth and mystery. In India, mythology, which is associated with a snake, makes people more intrigued and more scared of them. People are unable to distinguish between mythology and fact. So, we're trying to bust these myths. There are so many more questions associated with our mythology when it comes to snakes, which we will be answering in the show. You'll find that message in every

We also want to set people on the right trend, which will be there maybe even 10 years from now, which is a conservation technique Goa's Wildest is an independent of very ethical snake-rescue, to try Because when you can put yourself into another animal's shoe, and understand where they come from, you will then feel empathy towards them, you will then understand them, and you will start to admire

We want you to understand the difference between fear and danger. We're trying to conserve the ecosystem, too. If you want to conserve any kind of habitat, you need to protect the animals in them.

☐You've mentioned that there are so many myths around the species. I wanted to know, what are some myths and misconceptions around

BA: Yeah, that's super interesting. What most people know happens to be myths, like, for example, a very, very common myth is that a snake takes revenge. I've had people calling me up, like, you know, at three in the morning and saying, 'I



need help.' When I enquire why they say they can't sleep because they rode over a snake in the daytime and are scared it's going to come and take revenge. So, it's no longer any rescue call, it's more of a counselling call (everyone laughs).

LR: So, what happens is that there are possibilities that these snakes, during mating season, release certain kinds of pheromones and perhaps you know, another snake tracks that and comes looking for the dead snake. These are territorial animals, if they see an open territory, they might come. Also, if it's a female's hormones that are put onto your tire or tube, there's a very small chance that a male will sense that and follow. However, the snake is definitely not interested in you (chuckles). It can also be a coin-

BA: Funny how when people are given a choice, they will defer to the most supernatural explanation for it and the most expensive one. I heard of people who go around catching snakes and charging a huge sum of money. They feed people with all these myths, that snakes fly and coil around your neck, or that snakes dance to music.

□Wait, snakes don't dance to music? I mean that's what the snake charmer (sapera) does,

LR: Haha, see! Okay, so, first of all, the snake needs to enjoy the music, right? So, when we enjoy it, we are not scared of it. The fact is that when a cobra spreads its hood, it signifies that it's scared. The hood is a form of defence. So, it is definitely not enjoying and second, most snakes do not have external ears and cannot hear audible music! They can hear very low-frequency



sound vibrations. Now, why does it shake or give

hand of the snake charmer. Most of the time, the snake charmer will the impression that it's dancing? It's have a long needle with them to because it is scared of that flute. It poke the snake so they're scared of is following the movement of the them and their hands. It looks to us

like they're dancing, they're not. **BA:** And they claim that there

is a diamond in the head. I mean, that's not possible. There is no stone or precious stone. If that would've been the case, we would have been multimillionaire (giggles).

A lot of times they pluck out the teeth of these snakes. What happens is that there can be a lot of bacterial infections and the snake can die from that. So the charmers pluck out the teeth just in case they come too close to the snake. They stitch the mouth sometimes. It is extremely sad.

□I always thought that snakes knew how to protect themselves. If somebody does something like this, don't they bite?

BA: Oh, yeah, they do bite. Even snake charmers get bitten all the time. I mean, there are snake charmers that die of snake bites and sometimes they pull out the snakes' fang but don't notice there is another fang and they've died of it.

LR: But usually a snake gets very exhausted. If you provoke the snake, initially it will try to stay away from you, you provoke it a little more, it is going to give you a warning, provoke it still further it is going to bite you with a fake bite. It doesn't want to waste its venom on you. And then you really provoke, it's going to severely bite you. When you do it repeatedly, the snake gets scared, almost traumatised and tired. They have no energy to even strike most of the time.

BA: Also, it's not that every time they strike you, there's going to be venom, they can control how much venom goes in or doesn't go Because that venom is a very important resource. And to produce venom, it takes a lot of energy for that snake and it takes time for it to develop venom back.

does bite you with a full dose of venom, you can still kill it before you die. Right? It will still give you maybe like a fake strike, like a warning to leave it alone.

☐Makes sense. Tell us why did you choose Goa as the location, specif-

BA&LR: We live in Goa. We love Goa (both laugh).

☐You are a power couple who are luxurious wedding planners in the day and deadly wildlife rescuers at night. How did this dynamic transpire?

BA: I can talk for myself. But we have been passionate about rescuing wildlife and spreading awareness. I've been doing this for the last 19 years now, spreading the message of conservation.

Over a period of time, I did engineering, I worked in a company, we joined event management,

then we got married and started our own event management company. So, all these happened along the way. But snake rescue has been the backbone. I mean, it's always been there. We never monetised it. But it's always been a passion.

LR: So, when my mom asked me about Ben, when we were dating, and what he does, I told them. My father was like, really? My mom surprised me. She said, 'you know, baby, I always thought you'll marry someone like this. You've always been one wild child. Now we're hashtag Goa's wildest (chortles).

☐That's one sweet story! How does it feel to have your entire passion turned into a show that the entire world is watching?

LR: I will say it's better than a dream because nobody dreams of such things as being associated with National Geographic. I remember my neighbour picked up about 50 magazines and I read them every single day because it is such a huge platform. So, when something like this happens, it is an incredible feeling — nobody plans for these things. And if you work hard, and you have a little bit of luck associated with it, as well, and you're passionate about something. mean, this is a dream come true.

BA: This awareness programme that I've been doing for the last 15 years in schools, colleges, gatherings, and the most, I've taught like 1,000 people, but the most effective is when I'm rescuing the snake at somebody's house. If we can spread the knowledge to the entire world this way, I'm grateful and content.

☐Benhail, you said that you were in this for 19 years now. What intrigued you to get into the profession?

BA: Uhm... it never was a pro-Look, the snake doesn't want to fession, always has been my pasalways liked wildlife. I come from a background where in my grandfathers, my uncles were hunters. I was brought up in a way that the fear of any wildlife was not instilled

When I was eight years old, I remember being called by a neighbour to go and kill a snake that had entered his bathroom. That's when I realised that killing was not the only option. I could handle the situation differently. There was no internet or books that could teach me the procedure. I've had my fair share of bites and stuff like that. Snakes don't appreciate that they are being rescued because they don't know they're being rescued. So, experimenting and not resorting to violence was how I learnt and I want to make others aware of the same. (Watch Snakes SOS: Goa's

Wildest on National Geographic at 8 pm, on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Powerhouse women

Here is a pick of female producers and directors, expected to bring ences with fresh themes. Here are some of the female producers and directors whose something new to the cinema-scape this year. By TEAM VIVA packed slates promise to bring something

Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti: These rate with Excel Entertainment on future two powerhouse creators have already established their production house Tiger Baby as a clutter-breaker and in 2022, they are all set to bring The Archies on an OTT platform in a unique live-action musical

fter a challenging two years, the film

After a channing two years, and industry is once again dealing with the

prospect of a possible third wave in 2022.

However, given its intrinsic resilience, the industry is ticking along with many of its

content creators all set to surprise the audi-

new to the cinema-scape this year.



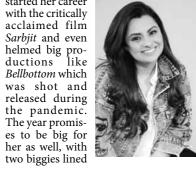
adaptation. Set in 1960s India, this project is directed by Zoya and recalls the nostalgia and innocence of Archie comics. This is also Tiger Baby's first solo project

projects like Made in Heaven 2, Jee Le Zara (starring Katrina Kaif, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt), Kho Gaye Hum Kahan and Dahaad amongst others. Deepshikha Deshmukh: Among the

though the duo will continue to collabo-

youngest female producers in the indus-

try, Deepshikha started her career with the critically acclaimed film Sarbjit and even helmed big pro-ductions like Bellbottom which was shot and released during the pandemic. The year promises to be big for her as well, with



up for release. The much-awaited dystopian thriller, Ganapath will be released on December 23 and the yet-to-be-named Production 41 will also release this year. This dystopian action bonanza is headlined by Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon while their untitled Production 41 stars Akshay Kumar. Deepshikha has a strong foothold in the industry and her love for the environment has helped create greener film productions in India. She has also produced movies like Jawaani Janeman, Coolie No. 1 among others. Taapsee Pannu: The actor, who

starred in some of the most acclaimed films in recent times, is now producing Blurr, a horror-thriller directed by Ajay Bahl. This official Hindi remake of the Spanish film *Julia's Eyes* is jointly produced by Pannu's Outsider Films along with Zee Studios and Echelon Productions. She also stars along with Gulshan Devaiah in this venture that promises to decisively



announce her foray into the production of unapologetically women-led themes.

Meghna Gulzar: Often described as a maverick filmmaker, Meghna Gulzar is all set to return with another unforgettable story in 2022. This time, with the biopic



Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, one of India's greatest war heroes, who served as the chief of the Indian Army in 1971 during the Bangladesh Liberation War. She wields the directorial baton for this story which will see Vicky Kaushal as Sam Bahadur along with Fatima Sana Shaikh and Sanya Malhotra. After Raazi, Chhapaak and Talvar, this is an entirely new genre for the director but she is expected to do full justice to it.

Charmme Kaur: In the post-pandemic world of borderless entertainment, the cross-pollination of talent continues across industries. The latest example is Liger, a sports action film, written and directed by Puri Jagannadh and produced by Karan Johar, Charmme Kaur, Apoorva Mehta, Hiroo Yash Johar and Jagannadh under the banners of Dharma Productions and Puri Connects. Charmme is already well-established as an actor across Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada cinema. To be shot simultaneously in Telugu and Hindi, the film stars Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Panday in lead roles and is all set to release on August 25.





PTI LUCKNOW

¬wo-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu ral-Two-time Olympic inequalist 1 volume of the lied from a game down to eke out a hardfought win over Thailand's Supanida Katething to enter the semifinals of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on

The top-seeded Indian beat her Thai rival, seeded sixth in the tournament, 11-21 21-12 21-17 in a quarterfinal match that lasted one hour and five minutes.

Sindhu will face fifth-seeded Russian Evgeniya Kosetskaya in the semifinals.

In the men's singles, however, HS Prannoy crashed out of the tournament with a straightgame defeat to Arnaud Merkle of France in the

The fifth-seeded Indian, a former top 10 player, lost 19-21 16-21 to his French opponent

in a 59-minute quarterfinal match.

Mithun Manjunath, however, advanced to the semifinals after beating Sergey Sirant of Russia 11-21 21-12 21-18 in a quarterfinal match that lasted one hour and one minute.

Manjunath will face Merkle in the semifi-

In the mixed doubles event, the Indian pair of MR Arjun and Treesa Jolly beat the eight seeded French duo of William Villeger and Anne Tran 24-22 21-17 in the quarterfinal match that lasted 42 minutes.

Arjun and Jolly will face compatriots and seventh seeded pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto in the semifinals.

In the women's doubles quarterfinals, India's Ramya Venkatesh Chickmenahalli and Apeksha Nayak conceded a walkover to eight seeded Malaysian pair of Anna Ching Yik Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing.

Milan, Juventus return to San Siro after recent losses

oth AC Milan and Juventus have Politi AC William and Juvenice have recent bad memories of San Siro ahead of their eagerly-anticipated Serie A match at the iconic sta-

dium on Sunday.

Juventus lost the Italian Super Cup to Inter Milan last week, when Alexis Sánchez scored the winner with the last kick of the match at the end of extra time.

Milan's last match at its home stadium was on Monday when a refereeing error cost it dearly in a dispiriting 2-1 loss to relegation-threatened

"It's hard to lose like that. It's a missed chance that no one wanted, we've missed an opportunity," Milan coach Stefano Pioli said.
"Unfortunately we didn't manage

to bring home the win, but now we'll think of the next matches.

"The season is still long, everyone can have an off day. It's good for us that now we have two difficult matches because that will give us great motivation and we'll find the strength to

Milan could have moved above league leader Inter Milan with a win but Spezia scored in stoppage-time shortly after a potential winner from Junior Messias was disallowed for Milan because the referee whistled a foul on Rossoneri forward Ante Rebic in the buildup, just as Rebic was passing the ball to Messias. Referee Marco Serra apologized.

"Unfortunately we didn't manage to bring home the win, but now we'll think of the next matches.

now finds itself two points behind

Inter, which it plays the following weekend. Defeat to Juventus could see Milan head into the derby five points behind its bitter rival and having played a match more. Inter hosts relegation-threatened Venezia this

Napoli is also only two points behind Milan and plays last-placed Salernitana. Pioli will be hoping Milan recovers its attacking prowess after uncharacteristically stuttering against Spezia. The Rossoneri missed several opportunities to put the game to

bed long before the controversial

Milan has the second best attack in Serie A, having netted 47 times this campaign. Juventus has scored only 34 goals – fewer than any of the top 10 teams in the Italian league, apart from Torino - but there are signs the

Bianconeri are beginning to get into their stride after struggling at the beginning of the season under returning coach Massimiliano Allegri.

In the top five European leagues, only Real Madrid has scored as many goals as

Juventus in 2022 (12) and Allegri's last loss in the league was back in November, against Atalanta. That

Juventus seventh in the league, seven behind points fourth-placed Atalanta and the final

Champions League spot. It has now moved to within one point of Atalanta.

"We are doing well and we have achieved many good results," Juventus forward Paulo

Simeone losing magic touch in his 10th year at Atlético

AP BARCELONA

This season was supposed to L be Diego Simeone's chance to firmly establish Atlético Madrid as Spain's top team and cap his incredibly successful decade as its coach.

While Barcelona lost Lionel Messi and Real Madrid had to replace coach Zinedine Zidane, Atlético strengthened its championship squad with the return of Antoine Griezmann and the signing of attacking players Rodrigo de Paul and Matheus

It looked like the perfect scenario to repeat as Spanish league champions for the first time since 1950 and maybe even win the Champions League title which Simeone has twice come oh-so-close to grasping. It has-



n't gone Atlético's way. Atlético hosts Valencia on Saturday in fourth place in the league, trailing Madrid by 16 points with one more game to play. It is also out of the Copa del Rey and barely advanced from the Champions League group phase. Atlético has lost six of its last 10

games across all competitions. It was dumped from the Copa del Rey's round-of-16 in a 2-0 loss at Real Sociedad on Wednesday, following a 2-1 loss to Athletic Bilbao last week in the Spanish Super Cup played in

In December, it lost four in row in the Spanish league, falling to Mallorca, Madrid, Sevilla and Granada. Previously, Atlético had never lost more than two consecutive league matches since Simeone became its coach in December 2011. "Last season was magnifi-

cent and this one is proving to be very difficult," said Simeone, who has led Atlético to two Spanish league titles, one Copa del Rey, two Europa League titles, and two Champions League final appearances.

"We still have opportunities in the league and the Champions

I am not going to just sit still. I can promise you that." Most surprisingly, Atlético

has lost its formidable defense. Loyal to Simeone's vision of building a team on a strong defense, it is accustomed to leading the league in fewest goals allowed. This season, eight league teams have allowed fewer goals than the 24 conceded by Atlético. Atlético has also faltered up front. Except for a goal against a third-tier opponent in the Copa del Rey, Luis Suárez hasn't scored since a 3-3 draw at Valencia on Nov. 7. Griezmann was playing well enough until a muscle injury sidelined him for all of but one match since mid-

NCAA adopts new policy for transgender athletes



AP INDIANAPOLIS

 Γ he NCAA has adopted a sport-by-sport approach for transgender athletes, bringing the organization in line with the U.S. And International Olympic Committees.

Under the new guidelines, approved by the NCAA Board of Governors on Wednesday, transgender participation for each sport will be determined by the policy for the sport's national governing body, subject to review and recommendation by an NCAA committee to the Board of Governors.

Friday's ISL game between Mumbai

When there is no national governing body, that sport's international federation policy would be in place. If there is no international federation policy, previously established IOC policy criteria would take over.

"Approximately 80% of U.S. Olympians are either current or former college athletes," NCAA President Mark Emmert said in a release. "This policy alignment provides consistency and further strengthens the relationship between college sports and the U.S. Olympics." The NCAA policy is effective immediately, beginning with the 2022 winter championships.

NCAA rules on transgender athletes returned to the forefront when Penn swimmer Lia Thomas started smashing records this year. She was on the men's team her first three years, but she is competing for the women this season after transitioning. The Board of Governors is suggesting NCAA divisions allow for additional eligibility if a transgender student-athlete loses eligibility based on the policy change.



in French league

s Paris Saint-Germain waits for the trio of A Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé to reach its full potential, another combination is taking the spotlight in the French league.

Ludovic Ajorque, Habib Diallo and Kevin Gameiro aren't global names but together with midfielder Adrien Thomasson — whose clinical efficiency has bagged seven goals and four assists — they have made Strasbourg one of the most potent teams in Europe this season.

The Alsatian quartet has 31 goals out of the team's total of 41 in 21 matches. Only PSG has done better, with a total of 42 goals.

with Strasbourg sitting in fourth place after winning at Clermont 2-0 in a rescheduled match midweek. It's the club's best league position at this stage since 1997.

Ahead of a trip on Sunday to struggling Bordeaux, Julien Stephan's team are just two points behind Marseille, with qualification for a European tournament in sight. Marseille plays at Lens this weekend, with second-placed Nice traveling to Metz, and runaway leader PSG hosting Reims. Stephan became the coach when he replaced Thierry Laurey following a

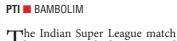
season of struggle. "Being fourth doesn't change much, but it does validate the players' hard work," Stephan said. "Above all, it's our third victory in 2022, all of them won in different contexts, and that is extremely promising. We remain very hum-

Strasbourg has 15 goals in its last six matches while conceding just five, with Stephan wide-

ly credited for the team's metamorphosis. In his previous stint, Stephan secured

Rennes' first trophy in 48 years and led the Brittany club to the Champions League. He preaches a fluid passing game.

and Jamshedpur postponed



L between Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC, scheduled for Friday, has been postponed as many players representing the teams are down with the COVID-19 virus. "Hero Indian Super League (ISL)

Match No. 67 between Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022, at Athletic Stadium, Bambolim, stands postponed," the league organisers said in a statement. "The decision was taken consid-

ering advice from the League's medical team on Jamshedpur FC's inability to safely field a team and prepare for the match," the ISL added in its statement.

On Monday, the ISL match between Hyderabad FC and Jamshedpur FC was also postponed



due to COVID-19, and so was Thursday's game between Kerala Blasters FC and ATK Mohun Bagan due to unavailability of enough players in the former's ranks after being hit by COVID-19 inside the bio-bub-

ble. Three days back, Jamshedpur FC's match against Hyderabad FC was postponed hours before kick-off after the Iharkhand-based club failed to field a team due to COVID-19

Dominant India waste chances galore to play out goal-less draw

PTI NAVI MUMBAI

The Indian women's team wasted innumerable chances in a completely dominating performance as Iran held them to a goal-less draw in their Asian Cup opening match here on Thursday. Head coach Thomas Dennerby

will be disappointed with the outcome of the match as a win against lowerranked Iran would have put his side in a comfortable position in its bid to qualify for the quarterfinals. But he must be happy in part as his

wards dished out some fine display of possession and passing football, especially in the second half, at the DY Patil Stadium. He will hope that his team contin-

ues in the same vein and score goals in the second match on Sunday against Chinese Taipei, who were thrashed 0-4 by China in the day's earlier match, to keep their quarterfinals prospects

The Indians would have expected Iran to be defensive in their approach but it turned out to be the opposite in the initial period. Iran, ranked 70th as against India's

55th, were the better side in the opening minutes during which they got two scoring chances, including a hit on the crossbar, but the home team took control of the Group A match midway into the first half and dominated till the end.

Iran had two chances in the period they dominated with captain Behnaz Taherkhani's header off a Samaneh Chahkandi free-kick ricocheting off the crossbar after beating goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan in the 12th minute.

Though captain Ashalata Devi was rock solid at deep defence, Iran almost took the lead in 19th minute when an Indian defender's header went backward and fell before Negin Zandi, who, however, sent the ball wide under

After absorbing the initial pressure, India settled down and came on their own. Indumathi, however, could not keep her volley down in the 24th minute while Manisha Kalyan's free

header six minutes later also sailed over

But the best chance for India came

scuffed shot fell kindly for Indumathi, but her toe-poke took the ball over the India dished out a fine display of passing football in the second half and

in the 32nd minute. Pyari Xaxa's

they were all over a rattled Iranian side who had nothing to do but defend des-Dennerby's side were unlucky not

to have scored any goal and win the match easily. Iranian goalkeeper Zohreh Koudaei made saves after saves to deny the Indians full three points.

As India pressed for a goal, Iran defended doggedly while facing a deluge of attacks. The Indians were all over — crosses, shots, toe-pokes, headers -- all inside Iran box but a goal still eluded the home side.

In the 51st minute, Manisha Kalyan sent a fine low cross from the left but Pyari Xaxas toe-poke went just wide. A minute later, Xaxa again could not reach the ball off a lovely pass from Sandhya Ranganathan, as an Iranian made a last-ditch defending.



Medvedev withstands Kyrgios, crowd to advance in Australia

AP ■ MELBOURNE

 $D_{
m hostile}^{
m aniil}$ Medvedev faced a hostile crowd and a full array of Nick Kyrgios' outbursts and tricks, and still remained calm for long enough to reach the third round at the Australian Open.

The 115th-ranked Kyrgios worked up the crowd, hit 'tweeners and drop shots, mixed up the pace of his groundstrokes and tossed in an under-arm serve in a bid to ruffle the second-ranked Russian.

Medvedev kept his composure, taking a quick trip to the locker room after losing the third set and recovering to win 7-6 (1), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Thursday on a rowdy Rod Laver Arena.

In an on-court TV interview with former champion Jim Courier, Medvedev was asked how he managed to stay so composed. "That's the only choice

when you get booed between first and second serve," he said, triggering some boos from the crowd. "It's not easy. The (service) games I lost,

on the break points, it was the

It's tough to play." Kyrgios usually likes to play on John Cain Arena,

known locally as the People's Court because fans with ground passes can get in and the singing and chanting is always less restrained than the two main show courts.

He managed to turn the all-ticketed stadium court into something more akin to a soccer stadium. In the seventh game of the

third set, Kyrgios got two break-point chances when he bunted away a backhand from Medvedev directed at his body and then took off on a circular run behind the baseline to celebrate like he had scored a goal. When he converted the

break, he danced in the changeover and worked up the crowd. Medvedev managed to lower the volume with two service breaks in the fourth set. It was Medvedev's first win

over Kyrgios following two

losses in 2019. And there were cheers later when Courier suggested a new crowd favorite for the rest of the tournament. Medvedev was the runner-

loss by beating Novak Djokovic in the U.S. Open final. He's the quasi No. 1 now, anyway, because Djokovic was deported on the eve of the tour-

up last year but avenged that

Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination regulations. Another contender in his

half of the draw had a more routine run to the third round, with fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas beating Sebastian Baez 7-6 (1), 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4 in a match featuring two former op-ranked junior players.

Five-time runner-up Andy Murray only lasted two rounds. Two days after winning his first match at the Australian Open in five years, the former No. 1 lost to 120th-ranked Taro Daniel 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Other winners among the men included No. 5 Andrey Rublev, No. 15 Roberto Bautista Agut, No. 20 Taylor Fritz, 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic and No. 32 Alex de Minaur. No. 24 Dan Evans moved on when the player he was supposed to face in the secround, Arthur Rinderknech, pulled out with an injured wrist.

Áustralian wild-card entry Chris O'Connell upset 13thseeded Diego Schwartzman 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4. There were surprises in

the women's draw on Day 4, with No. 3 Garbiñe Muguruza becoming the highest-seeded player to exit only minutes after nament for failing to meet No. 6 Anett Kontaveit lost.

SOUTH AFRICA HAND 'OUT OF SYNC' INDIA SERIES DEFEAT



young South Africa punished a jaded Indian team for its outdated approach, handing it one of the most comprehensive series defeats in recent times with an easy seven-wicket victory in the second ODI here on

A target of 288 was below-par on a flat track and the seasoned Quinton de Kock (78 off 66 balls) in the company of rising sensation Janneman Malan (91 off 108 balls) added 132 for a match-deciding opening

The home team eventually reached the target in 48.1 overs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

KL Rahul's captaincy ambitions and head coach Rahul Dravid's wish to see him being anointed in the long run, however, suffered a rude jolt following backto-back defeats in 50-over games on a track, which was more Indian than South African in nature.

India's archaic approach, a very '90s safety first mind-set, hurt the teamas has been the case for a while now in the

INDIA'S ARCHAIC APPROACH, A VERY '90S SAFETY FIRST MIND-SET, HURT THE TEAMAS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR A WHILE NOW IN THE WHITE-BALL FORMAT.

A tour that started with great Test win at the Centurion is now in tatters and the Indian contingent would be looking to board the charter flight back home on Monday after the inconsequential third ODI at the Newlands, which would be a spicier track compared to the one at Boland Park.

The batting, save Rishabh Pant's cavalier style, was too defensive starting with skipper Rahul, whose 55 off 79 balls was an innings of bygone era, which cannot align with the fearless cricket that teams want to associate with now.

The match slipped away from India's grip during their innings once Pant was gone as the others simply failed to get going when the ball didn't come on to the bat and it was not a track that offered firm and It's not a new malaise to plague Indian cricket but what should be worrying is that nothing has been done to address the issues.

A veteran like Bhuvneshwar Kumar (8-0-67-0) was swept as well as pulled for sixes by De Kock while Malan would come down the track to hit him through the covers signalling that his early 130 kmph speed, with lack of variations, was simply not

working. For Shardul Thakur (40 not out and 5.1-0-36-0), the quality batting show won't save him if he doesn't curtail the number of bad balls that he is bowling per spell.

And Ravichandan Ashwin (10-1-68-0)'s second coming in white ball cricket might end in a whimper even before it gathers enough wind to

sail through. Yuzvendra Chahal (10-

his confidence, after being unceremoniously dumped from the T20 World up final squad, has been in tat-

Venkatesh Iyer (22 off 33 balls and 5-0-28-0) is still a work in progress and his fast-tracking in the limited overs set-up is less of pragmatism and more desperation to find a fresh ver-

sion of injury-plagued

Hardik Pandya. Iyer might develop into good cricketer but he is a far from finished product and may be some time away from being a success at the international level in all conditions.

As of now, he is not a natural No.6, who can be a finisher like Pandya was in his best days before injury.

Had Pant not played the role of an enforcer to perfection, even a target of 288 wouldn't have been possible. And this was after it seemed India would score close to 315 when he was having a steady stand of 115 with his skipper.
But there dismissals in

quick succession saw Proteas make a comeback on a Boland Park strip where stroke-making wasn't an easy proposition for a new batter.

Devoid of options, Covid-hit India to take on Uganda

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

R attled by a COVID-19 outbreak but through to the last-eight stage, India will have just 12 players to choose from in their final Under-19 World Cup group B clash against Uganda on Saturday as five of their six isolated squad memed positive for COVID-19 in RT-PC

Only Vasu Vats came out negative but it is likely that the team management will field the same playing XI that thumped Ireland by 174 runs on Wednesday and secured a place in the quarterfinals. Skipper Yash Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, and Aaradhya Yadav, all of who tested positive in the Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT), have been confirmed positive in the latest RT-PCR reports along with Manav Parakh, who had tested negative in RAT.

Sidharth Yadav had already tested positive in the RT-PCR test before the Ireland game. Fortunately, India already have two victories in pocket and an easy opponent to tackle in the final Group game on Saturday.

Considering that Uganda is not a strong team, India,

despite limited options, is expected to steamroll the minnows from the African region and finish on top of Group If the team does that, all the infected players, including the worst-affected Dhull, are expected to be back in the reckoning for selection for the January 29 quarterfinal.

National Cricket Academy Head VVS Laxman had lauded the players for the way they responded to the situation ahead of the Ireland game.

"Tremendous show of character and maturity from the U-19 team. With just 11 players available, to go out and express themselves the way they did was phenomenal. Can't say how proud I am of them! The Ireland match is one they will cherish for life," Laxman had tweeted. The game against Uganda is inconsequential mathemat-

ically for India but it would have been ideal if the affected players got some time in the middle to be ready for the knockout stage.

The team would have obviously preferred to have all its best players on the park as it eyes a fifth trophy.

So far, openers Harnoor Singh and Angriksh Raghuvanshi have shown terrific form and are likely to continue in the same vein but the following middle-order batters need to score at better pace.

Not surprised at Kohli's decision to quit captaincy: Pietersen

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen has suggested that the "harsh" bio-bubble life could be one of the reasons for Virat Kohli's stunning decision to quit Test captaincy and backed Rohit Sharma to lead India in all formats of the game Kohli stunned the cricketing

world by stepping down from the Test captaincy following India's 1-2 series loss to South Africa. He had relinquished T20 captaincy after the World Cup last year, and was subsequently removed from ODI leadership, leading to a war of words with the BCCI on the sequence of events leading to these develop-"People who are critical of the

modern day sportsmen I think are foolish because these bio-bubbles are very hard to play in," the former England star batsman told PTI in a group interaction on the sidelines of the Legends League Cricket here.

"It will be very unfair to be too



Kohli needs crowds, he gets going (from it), he is an entertainer.

"I think it's very difficult for his personality to perform to the best of his (Kohli's) abilities (in the bubble)," he reasoned as he reflected on sportspersons' life in a COVIDscarred world.

The 33-year-old Kohli held the record for most Test wins by an harsh, to be critical. Because you Indian captain (40) with only have not looked at Virat Kohli. Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting, and

Steve Waugh having won more matches than him.

Pietersen said he was not sur-

prised when Kohli quit captaincy from all formats. "A lot of players have suffered.

It is the greatest job in the world. But when you put them in a bubble, it's certainly not the greatest job because there is no

fun," the 41-year-old said. "I'm actually not surprised that

Virat wants just a little bit of a break from that extra pressure because it's damn difficult playing in these bubbles," he said.

"It's very difficult to judge all International sportsmen, be it premier league footballers or any sportsman around the world, playing in a pandemic." Pietersen said from his perspective, he would not have performed well for two years without any crowd in the stadiums.

"As a batter, I feed on the energy of fans, and there are a lot of these players, be it in football, rugby or

Vice-captain KL Rahul is leading India in the ongoing ODI series in South Africa with Rohit Sharma injured. Pietersen backed Rohit to captain India across all formats once he regains fitness. The big-hitting batter is expected to be back for the home limited-overs series against the West Indies next month.

"I've always loved 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma. He's a fabulous player, every time he's batting I've got to watch. His captaincy is great for the Mumbai Indians too. So he's probably next in line," Pietersen said.

West Indies U-19 get two **COVID-19 replacements**



PTI PORT OF SPAIN

The ICC's Event Technical Committee of the U-19 World Cup has approved Kevin Wickham and Nathan Edward as replacements for Onaje Amory and Jaden Carmichael in the West Indies squad.

Wickham and Edward are temporary replacements for Amory and Carmichael who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are undergoing isolation.

"A COVID replacement can be temporary,

in that once the player has recovered he would be eligible to return to the squad in position of the player that replaced him," said the ICC in a statement.

The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee.

Stupid to blame IPL for England's Ashes debacle

PTI MUSCAT

 $F^{\rm ormer\ captain\ and\ batting\ star\ Kevin}_{\rm Pietersen\ has\ said\ that\ it's\ "stupid"\ to}$ blame the Indian Premier League for England's embarrassing 0-4 loss to Australia in the recently-concluded Ashes series.

England great David Gower was "annoyed" after their Ashes defeat and said current skipper Joe Root had players who were "unavailable" because of the IPL.

Pietersen, an Ashes winner in 2005, 2009, 2010-11 and 2013, laughed at the

"It is stupid. You can't blame the IPL for the demise of Test cricket in England. It's crazy. I've commented on it quite a lot. It's the system, it's the county cricket system, which is poor. So there's no blame," Pietersen, who is representing World Giants in the Legends League Cricket here, said during an interaction here on Thursday.

"It's crazy to blame the Indian Premier League because if you have a look at the Test team, there's only maybe (Ben) Stokes (Jonny) Bairstow and (Jos) Buttler who play

"Hardly any of the Test team players play the IPL... So how can you blame the IPL? You can't blame the IPL. It's crazy," a former captain of the IPL's Delhi franchise added. Off-



the-field, the English cricketers were also mired in a controversy after a report claimed that there was a "drinking culture" in the team with the players and coaches drinking late into the night before police broke up the session. Pietersen said there was no harm in it as the players are affected by the strict biobubble restrictions.

"It's stressful. It's incredibly stressful. I've never played in a bubble. I can't imagine but I think it must be very lonely.

"You're not allowed to go to coffee shops. You're not allowed to go down to the restaurants, you're not allowed to do anything. And what else do you do?

India to open T20 WC campaign against Pakistan

PTI DUBAI

In a blockbuster T20 World Cup opener for India, the team was on Friday drawn to clash with arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23 at the iconic MCG as the International Cricket Council (ICC) released the fixtures.

India had lost to Pakistan for the first time in an ICC tournament when the teams clashed in last year's T20 World Cup in Dubai.

India's second Super 12 match in Group 2 will be on October 27 in Sydney against a qualifier (runner up of Group A) and will be followed by matches against South Africa (October 30 in Perth) and Bangladesh



(Adelaide Oval on November 2). The Men in Blue's last Super 12 match is scheduled for November 6 against the winners of Group B at the MCG. The Super 12s -- round two of the tournament, with two groups -- will begin on October 22 with hosts and defending champions Australia playing New Zealand at the SCG on October 22 in a re-match of last year's men's T20 World Cup final.

The Black Caps will

also face England at The Gabba on November 1 in a re-match of their epic semi-final encounter at the 2021 event. In Super 12s, Australia are in Group 1 with world number one England, New Zealand, Afghanistan plus the

winner of Group A and the runner-up in Group B from the first round.

The semi-finals will be played at the SCG and Adelaide Oval on November 9 and 10, respectively. It will be the first time the Adelaide Oval will host a World Cup semi-final. The MCG will host

the final, which will be contested under lights on November 13.

In the first round. 2014 champions Sri Lanka and Namibia will play the opening match at Kardinia Park, Geelong on October 16. They'll be joined by two qualifiers in Group A.

Two-time champions West Indies will also start in the first round, joined in Group B.

U19 World Cup Updates

England, Pakistan cruise to quarterfinals, Bangladesh bounce back with win

PTI ■ BASSETERRE (ST KITTS)

Skipper Tom Prest smashed an unbeaten 154 as former champions England cruised to the Super League quarterfinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup with a thumping 189-run win over the UAE here.

Continuing his incredible run of form, Prest powered England to a mammoth 362 for six after electing to bat.

The English bowlers, led by leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed (4/30), then put up a disciplined effort to bowl out UAE for 173 in 38.2 overs.

Prest blasted 13 fours and four sixes in his scintillating 119-ball innings, while Jacob Bethell (62), William Luxton (47) and George Thomas (41) also chipped in as the 1998 edition winners England put up an imposing total.

Bethell and Thomas gave England a blistering start, adding 69 runs in 11.5 overs.

The Young Lions' total always looked like it would be a big ask to overhaul and the



UAE were reeling when they were reduced to 61 for five in the 15th over.

Ali Naseer's counterattacking 54 off 44 balls helped reverse some of the momentum as he put on 59 with Nilansh Keswani for the sixth wicket. But when Nilansh departed, the last four wickets fell for 53 runs as leg-spinner Rehan excelled in his first outing in the West Indies with four for 30 from his allotted ten overs. Pakistan qualify for quarter-finals with win against Afghanistan

Pakistan too booked their place in the Super League quarterfinals with a 24-run victory over Afghanistan.

Afghanistan did well to restrict Pakistan to a modest

239 for nine in the group C match at Brian Lara stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad.

the pace of their innings all wrong in reply, managing 215 in the designated 50 overs. The top three soaked up far too many balls in pursuit of the

However, the Afghans got

It took them 170 balls to

bring up 100 runs with Bilal Savedi (42 off 81), Nangeyalia Kharote (12 off 32), and Allah Noor (28 off 49) managing strike rates under 58.

Despite the slow start, Afghanistan took the contest deep although their innings was characterised by some wild running between the wickets, with three run outs as well as a number of near misses.

[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

nent to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the Company from one state to another Before the Central Government/Regional Directo

Eastern Region, Kolkata In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

In the matter of Uttranchal Engineering Private Limited having its Registered Office at Beltala, Pattamundai, Kendrapara Kendrapara, Odisha-754215......petitioner Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday, 18th January, 2022 to enable the Company to change its Registered Office from "In the State of Odisha to In the NCT of Delhi".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to Regional Director, Eastern Region, Nizam Palace, II MSO Building, 3rd Floor, 234/4, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this Notice with a copy of the applicant Company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Raltale Patamoundai: Kondranara, Odisha_754115 Beltala, Pattamundai, Kendrapara Kendrapara, Odisha-754215"

For and on behalf of the Board
UTTRANCHAL ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED

PRADEEP TRIPATHY Director DIN : 01050899 undai, Pokhariapara, ndai, Odisha-754215