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BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY JANUARY 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4

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RANJI TROPHY TO BE HELD IN TWO PHASES: BCCI
12 SPORT

BJP reposes faith in sitting MLAs in UP

Party announces 91 candidates, 13 Ministers in list

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/DELHI

Reposing faith in sitting legislators, the BJP on Friday released another list of 91 candidates for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections where it has given tickets to 13 Ministers and repeated its sitting MLA in Ayodhya.

In this list, majority of the names were from those constituencies where elections would be held in the fifth and sixth phases but names of candidates for Lucknow, where the elections will be held in the fourth phase, are still under wraps.

Similarly, the future of the Speaker of the Assembly, Hridaynarayan Dixit, hangs in balance as his name is also not there in the list.

The party dropped Co-Operative Affairs Minister Mukut Bihari Verma but gave ticket to his son Gaurav who will be contesting from his Kaiserganj seat in Bahraich.

Major seat holders are Sidharthnath Singh from Allahabad West, Chief Minister's media adviser Shalabmani Tripathi from Deoria Sadar seat, Nand Gopal Nandi from Prayagraj South, Amit Chauhan from Bikapur in Ayodhya and Ramchandra Yadav from Rudauli.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath talks with media during his visit to inspect Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, in Meerut, Friday PTI

The BJP has allotted tickets to nine women candidates in the current list of candidates.

The BJP women candidates in the new list are Sindhuja Mishra (Kunda), Neelam Karwariya (Meja), Aarti Kol (Karaon), Aarti Tiwari (Goshainganj), Saroj Sonkar (Balha), Anupama Jaiswal (Bahraich), A Neelam Sonkar (Lalganj), Manju Sonkar (Mehnagar) and Sunita Parishit Singh (Zamania).

Apart from this, the BJP has allotted tickets to Akhilesh Mishra from Azamgarh Sadar seat and Prateek Bhushan Singh from Gonda. The party has fielded Sinduja Mishra against Raghuraj Pratap Singh, alias Raja Bhaiya, in Kunda and despite Opposition gave ticket to Rajesh Gautam from Kadipur (R) seat of Sultanpur.

The party, however, denied ticket to sitting MLA from Haidergarh Baijnath Rawat and instead fielded Dinesh Rawat. The BJP has fielded new faces from Barabanki Sadar (Arvind Maurya) and Sharad Awasthi from Ramnagar.

In Azamgarh, which is considered a stronghold of the BSP and the SP, the BJP has declared candidates for nine out of ten constituencies.

Party declared Satyendra Rai from Gopalpur, Akhilesh Mishra from Azamgarh, Manoj Yadava from Nizamabad, Krishna Murari Vishwakarma from Didarganj, former MP Neelam Sonkar from Lalganj, and Manju Saroj from Mehnagar.

Manju Saroj, was the candidate of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party in 2017 but lost the poll. She is now face of the BJP.

The BJP has not yet fielded anyone from Phulpur-Powai where the SP has given ticket to Ramakant Yadav, father of BJP MLA Arun Kant.

Among the Ministers who got tickets are: Suresh Pasi from Jagdishpur of Sultanpur, Rajendra Pratap Singh Moti from Pratapgarh, Sidharth Nath Singh from Allahabad West, Nand Gopal Nandi, Allahabad south, Rmapati Shastri from Mankapur, Gonda, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh from Bansi in Siddharthnagar, Satish Dwivedi from Etwa in Siddharthnagar, Jai Prakash Nishad from Rudrapur in Deoria, Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi from Pathardeva in Deoria, and Upendra Tiwari from Phephna in Ballia.

BrahMos gets 1st export order from Philippines

India inks $375mn cruise missile deal

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday entered the niche defence export market by inking a deal worth over 375 million dollars with the Philippines for BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. It is the first big export contract by India. The country hopes to cross the five billion dollar mark by 2025.

The Pioneer on January 14 had reported about the Government-to-Government deal between India and the Philippines for the missile system. While the Brahmos is a joint venture between India and Russia, the missile is indigenously designed and manufactured. The missile can be launched from land, air, sea and submarines.

Announcing the deal, Defence Ministry officials said here on Friday that BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) signed a contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of the Philippines for supply of shore-based anti-ship missile system. The contract is an important step forward for India's policy of promoting responsible Defence exports.

Though the Government did not specify the number of missiles to be supplied to the Philippines Navy, sources said at least three batteries will be sold. The signing ceremony took place in Manila.

Moreover, the range of the missile for export is about 300 km with the capability of carrying 200k warhead even though the Brahmos has the capability of hitting a target at more than 400 km, they said.

Indian ambassador to the Philippines Shambhu Kumaran said he was privileged to witness history in the making. "Signing of the Brahmos acquisition contract by Philippines Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana today marks a decisive step forward for Prime Minister's Mission Sagar and India's Indo-Pacific engagement," he tweeted.

He thanked Lorenzana and Philippines Cabinet Secretary Teddy Locsin Jr for their active support to build stronger relations with India.

"Today we are one step closer to elevating ties between our democracies to a strategic partnership and our shared objective of a free and peaceful Indo-Pacific," Kumaran noted.

"It is also a moment of deep pride as India establishes itself as a source of high-technology equipment and a trusted partner towards capability development of friendly nations," he added.

Reacting to BrahMos's export order, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman G Satheesh Reddy said, "Surface to air missile Akash, Astra, anti-tank missiles, radars, torpedoes gain the interest of various countries. More systems are being developed which have export potential."

CAPSULE

MAN GETS DEATH FOR RAPING 6-YEAR OLD

Araria: A special POCSO court in Bihar's Araria district has awarded death sentence to a man for raping a six-year-old girl.

PAK'S FAITH TOURISM TOUR CANCELLED

New Delhi: The Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) 'faith tourism tour' to India through chartered flights beginning from Saturday has been postponed amid the rising cases of Covid-19. India on Friday said that it has a positive plan and is willing to engage Pakistan once the Covid-19 situation normalises. PHC had proposed to fly 160 Pakistani Hindu pilgrims from Karachi to Jaipur on Saturday.

JAGANNATH TEMPLE TO REOPEN ON FEB 1

Puri: The Odisha Government on Friday announced the reopening of Shree Jagannath Temple here for devotees from February 1 keeping in view the livelihood of locals and "slight" improvement in the coronavirus situation in the State. The twelfth century temple will, however, remain closed on Sundays for sanitisation.

OVER 100 MIGRATORY BIRDS FOUND DEAD

Agartala: More than 100 migratory birds from California in the United States have been found dead in Sukhsagar, a sprawling lake in Tripura's Gomati district, forest officers said on Friday. The carcasses were found floating on the lake, they said.

Rebellion in Punjab forces Cong to review candidates for 6 seats

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The rebellion is brewing within the Punjab Congress over the distribution of tickets. The party is facing revolt at no less than 15 seats out of the total 109 declared so far, forcing the party high command to review its decision on at least five seats.

The denial of party ticket has resulted in a massive resentment among the left out aspirants who have been demanding review, while many others have declared to contest as independents. In fact, its three sitting MLAs Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi (Guru Har Sahai), Fatehjung Singh Bajwa (Qadian), and Dr Harjot Kamal (Moga) have already parted ways with the party.

Prominent among the rebels include former MP Mohinder Singh Kaypee, former Minister Jagmohan Singh Kang, four-time Congress MLA from Samrala Amrik Singh Dhillon, Sunam halqa in-charge Daman Thind Bajwa, singer-turned-politician Satwinder Bitti, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's younger brother Dr Manohar Singh, Cabinet Minister Rana Gurjit Singh's son Rana Inder Partap Singh, among others.

A day after Congress' four-time legislator from Samrala Amrik Singh Dhillon filed his nomination papers as an independent, Channi's brother Dr Manohar Singh on Friday filed his nomination from Bassi Pathana Assembly seat as an independent candidate against the Congress nominee and sitting MLA Gurpreet Singh GP.

Dr Manohar, who resigned from the post of senior medical officer at Kharar Civil Hospital, was staking claims for ticket from Bassi Pathana. "Several prominent people of Bassi Pathana area have asked me to fight as an independent and I will go by what they have said. There is no chance of going back and I will surely fight the polls," said Dr Manohar after filing the nominations.

Kang, former MLA from Kharar, also revolted against the party and expressed anguish over denial of party ticket to him, while declaring that his son Yadevinder Singh Bunny Kang will contest as independent candidate from Kharar.

Raj Babbar likely to desert Cong for SP

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

After the exit of RPN Singh from the Congress, former Uttar Pradesh Congress president Raj Babbar too is likely to desert the party.

Babbar is expected to join the Samajwadi Party. Interestingly on Monday, The Congress named him as one of the 30 star campaigners of the party for the first phase of the UP polls.

Sources said Raj Babbar is in touch with SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav and can quit the Congress soon.

Babbar, former cine star and native of Agra, began his political journey from Janata Dal in 1989. The actor subsequently switched allegiance to the SP and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1994.

In the 1999 general election, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Agra constituency and retained this seat in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls as well. However, he was suspended from the SP in February 2006 for his outbursts against the party. In October 5, 2008, he formally joined the Congress at a massive rally in Agra.

In the by-election to the Firozabad Lok Sabha seat held in November 2009, he emerged victorious on a Congress ticket. However, he suffered a setback by losing to the BJP in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Ghaziabad and Fatehpur Sikri respectively.

In the meantime, he was a member of the Rajya Sabha from March 2015 to November 2020. Most importantly, he served as the Uttar Pradesh Congress president from 2016 to 2019.

New coronavirus NeoCov's risk to humans needs clarity: WHO

It can cause more deaths, highlight researchers in China, others say virus not new

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Chinese researchers said they have detected new type of coronavirus "NeoCov" among bats in South Africa which can penetrate human cells in the same way as SARS-CoV-2, the WHO on Friday said that its potential needs further clarity.

Chinese researchers weighed in on the mortality rate stating that "one in every three infected persons dies", highlighting the higher death rate.

However, according to the reports, the NeoCov virus is not new. Associated with the MERS-CoV virus, it was discovered in outbreaks in West Asian countries in 2012 and 2015 and is similar to the SARS-CoV-2, which causes coronavirus in humans. It has latent ability to mutate.

"It is only one mutation away from becoming dangerous for humans," researchers said in a paper posted on preprint website bioRxiv, and not peer-reviewed yet.

However, according to the WHO, the question of whether the NeoCov coronavirus, recently discovered in bats in South Africa, poses a threat to humans requires further study.

"Whether the virus detected in the study will pose a risk for humans will require further study," said the health body.

The WHO added that it "works closely" with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) in order to "monitor and respond to the threat of emerging zoonotic viruses."

Urged to open schools, Centre working on all options, advisory soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following demands from various quarters, particularly parents, the Union Health Ministry is working on options for opening schools with Covid appropriate norms and may soon issue an advisory to States in this regard.

"The Government is working on some model to open the schools due to increasing demands by parents. The Ministry has already asked its expert team to look into all the options for opening schools," sources in the Ministry said.

There has been increased pressure on the Government from parents and schools to reopen education facilities as the number of Covid-19 cases in India is on the decline.

Some States and Union Territories have already announced the reopening of schools for Classes 10 to 12 with the condition that students between the age group 15 to 18 can attend offline classes only if they had had at least one dose of vaccination. All staff and students above 18 must be vaccinated with both doses. Various global agencies like UNICEF and World Bank too have called upon the Governments to take steps in this direction.

State's daily Covid cases dip to 5,057

10 more deaths reported 1,207 new infections in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Friday witnessed a further dip in the Covid-19 positive cases with detection of 5,057 infections in the 30 districts and the State pool. The total tally increased to 12,36,226.

Among the freshly-infected were 667 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. In last 24 hours, 61,635 samples were tested and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 8.20 per cent. The active cases stood at 64,217. Notably, the State had recorded 5,901 Covid cases on Thursday. Out of the new cases, 2,932 cases were from quarantine and 2,135 local contacts. Khordha district reported the maximum 1,111 cases followed by Cuttack with 495 , Sundargarh 429, Nayagarh 217, Baleswar 202, Nuapada 190, Sambalpur 179, Kalahandi 140, Nabarangpur 136, Mayurbhanj 135, Balangir 133, Jajpur 128, Jagatsinghpur 125, Angul 110, Subarnapur 104, Puri 94, Bhadrak 91, Bargarh 85, Rayagada 85, Kandhamal 84, Koraput 76, Ganjam 60, Dhenkanal 69, Gajapati 68, Malkangiri 58, Deogarh 51, Jharsuguda 50, Boudh 44 and Kendrapada 34 .Besides, 225 cases were reported State pool.

In the last 24 hours, 10 more Covid patients died, mounting the total death toll to 8,560. Two deaths were reported from Khordha district and one each from Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Puri and Rayagada. However, 10,511 more patients recovered, increasing the total recoveries to 11,73,907. Capital Bhubaneswar registered 1,207 more Covid-19 cases, with which the total tally in the city rose to 1,49,277, The active cases were 11,739. However, 766 more patients recovered, increasing the total recoveries to 1, 36,352.

Jagannath Temple to reopen from Feb 1

SAROJ KUMQAR MISHRA ■ PURI

The Jagannath Temple here would reopen for public entry from February 1 with adherence to the Covid restrictions, said district Collector Samarth Verma after a meeting of Chatisanijog, a servitors' body, of the shrine.

Due to the rising Covid-19 cases, the temple had been declared closed for devotees from January 10 to 31. However, as earlier, every Sunday the temple would remain closed for public due to weekly sanitisation of its premises. Verma told that keeping in mind the wishes of devotees besides the livelihood issue of local people, a decision on the temple's reopening was taken.

The meeting chaired by Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Dr Krishan Kumar on virtual mode, also discussed the upcoming festivals besides rites and rituals of the holy Trinity and issued some guidelines in this regard.

The devotees have to produce the second dose vaccine certificates before entry into the shrine. Local businessmen in general and the hotel and transport sectors in particular mainly depend on the Jagannath devotees from all parts of the world for their survival.

Jewellery looted from city marriage venue

By miscreants posing as guests

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Two unidentified miscreants, including a minor, looted gold jewellery from a banquet hall in the city by posing as guests last week.

The duo decamped with gold jewellery worth Rs 2 lakh without raising any suspicion as the families and other guests at the wedding venue were busy in the function. The incident took place at the Pallavi Mandap in the Kesura area of the city on January 23. The duo's role surfaced during the scrutiny of CCTV footage by the bride's family when they started searching for the lost jewellery. As per reports, the duo entered the venue posing as guests before they decamped with the gold ornaments kept for the 'Bandapana' ritual. However, the bride's family was clueless about theft till the need of the ornaments for the ritual came. Later, during the scrutiny of the footage of the CCTV cameras installed in the Mandap, the family saw a minor boy fleeing with the bag in which the jewellery was kept. Sources said that the bag contained a necklace, two earrings and five finger rings which were to be presented to the bride and the groom during the wedding rituals.

In the CCTV footage, the looters can be seen entering the venue and mingling with the guests with ease. After a while, the minor can be seen entering the room where the bride and other family members were present. His senior aide was seen keeping watch near the door of the room.

Rs 3-cr drug seizure

STF to take nabbed Vicky on remand

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch would take K Vicky Rao on remand for further interrogation in connection with the seizure of 3 kg of brown sugar and arms from Nayagarh district on January 25.

The Bhubaneswar SDJM Court granted permission to take Rao on remand for four days for custodial interrogation. Notably, the STF had seized the contraband worth Rs 3 crore from a house at Sinduria village under the Nayagarh Town police station. Rao, a resident of Khordha, was arrested during the raid. But two others managed to elude the police dragnet. Besides cash of Rs 65.32 lakh, three 7mm sophisticated pistols, 43 live rounds of ammunitions and a cash-counting machine were also seized from Rao. The seizure of more than 3 kg brown sugar was the biggest drug haul by the STF so far in 2022. It was also for the first time that such a huge quantity of narcotics was seized from Nayagarh district.

However, the main accused of the drugs and arms racket, one Shib Prasad Das, is still at large.

Panchayat polls : BJD posts first win

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Much before the polling for the panchayat elections, the ruling BJD headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has clinched the first victory as the State Election Commission declared its candidate for a Zilla Parishad zone elected uncontested.

The SEC in a communication said Kalpana Pradhan (BJD) was elected uncontested as ZP Member, Zone No-2, Ambabhona block in Bargarh district. She was the lone candidate for the post. Therefore, elections will now be held in 852 ZP seats instead of 853 seats. SEC sources said that as many as 36,974 candidates were elected unopposed for different posts of the Panchayati Raj Institutions out of 1,06,329 posts.

The uncontested posts included 1 of 853 ZP members, 126 of 6,793 Sarpanch posts, 326 of 67,693 Panchayat Samiti Members and 36,523 of 91,890 Ward Member. About 39% of the Ward Members have been elected uncontested.

KBN gang leader held; sword seized

Cops to seek remand of accused

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday arrested Bubu Jena, the leader of the youth gang Koi Bhai Nahi (KBN) from Delta Square here. The cops also seized a sword from his possession.

The KBN gang had created sensation in the city by uploading a series of videos on social media in which its members openly brandished firearms and sharp weapons in public places. Sources said the police would forward Jena to court and seek permission to take him on remand to ascertain his motive behind making such videos using firearms and sharp weapons. The police had launched a hunt to nab Jena, who went underground following a police crackdown against the gang. The cops had also raided his house at Gandamunda. The police had also demolished the house of Chenga, another member of the gang, following information that illegal firearms were stockpiled in his house. The police have already arrested nine members of the gang after identifying them from the viral videos.

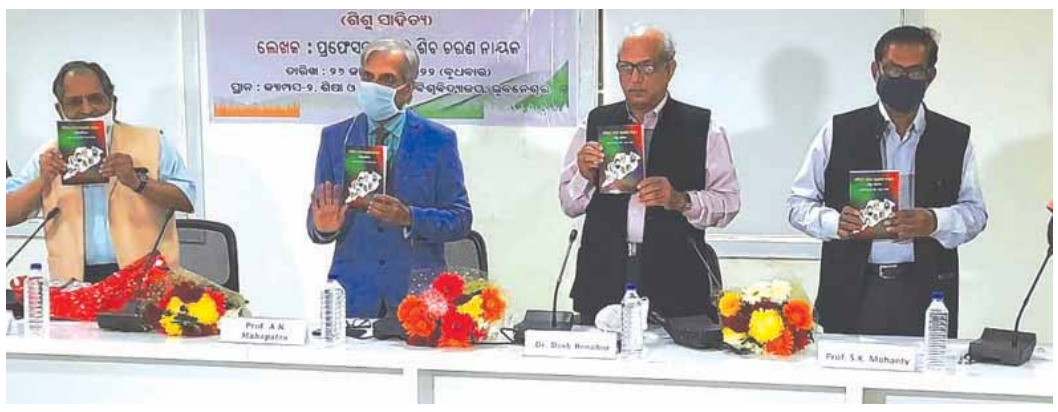
In one such viral video, the members of the gang were seen partying in a vehicle by parking it in the middle of a National Highway, following which the Commissionerate police were in a tizzy and peace loving citizens felt concerned about their safety.

+ 2 students demand exam cancelled

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Hundreds of Plus Two students from as many as 12 junior colleges across the district converged at the Collector office parade ground here on Thursday and staged a demonstration demanding cancellation of the annual Plus Two examinations. The students said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the colleges have not functioned normally and their courses have not been completed. And the virtual classes have not been helpful for a large number of students due to technical hurdles. In this backdrop, the students are unable to appear at the examinations, which should be cancelled, said the agitators. Pointing out that they have appeared at three terminal examinations till December 2021, the students demanded that their performances be evaluated by taking marks of these terminal examinations.

Book on Odisha freedom fighters released



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A book containing sketches of 50 prominent freedom fighters from Odisha was released in the SOA campus on Wednesday on the 73rd Republic Day.

Written by Prof Siba Charan Nayak, former Dean of NIT, Rourkela, the book titled 'Odishara Pachas Swadhinata Sangramee' and mainly meant for children was released at a function attended by SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof Ashok Kumar Mahapatra. Prof Mahapatra said children need to know about Odisha's freedom fighters like Jayee Rajguru, Baxi Jagabandhu and Baji Rout. Litterateur Das Benhur, who was guest of honour, said the book would serve as a document about freedom fighters of Odisha. "It is a book meant for those in the age group of 8 to 18 and it must reach all parents,'" he said. Prof Pravat Kumar Padhi, Chairman of IMIT, Cuttack, presided over the function.

Utkal Chamber of Commerce president Brahma Mishra proposed a vote of thanks.

Guv inaugurates Project Devadutta

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal on Friday inaugurated "Project Devadutta" of the Child and Women Development Society (CWDS) and a logo of the organisation. Prof Lal stressed the need of serving others and said serving the mankind is serving God and joy of giving is one way of serving others. CWDS chairman Prof Kalpana Das apprised the Governor of various works undertaken by the organmistaion.

BJP issues charge-sheet for panchayat polls

Says people of Odisha want change

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Friday brought out a series of allegations against the Naveen Patnaik Government accusing it of derailing the State's development. Addressing a Press conference here, party observer for Odisha D Purandeswari said people of the State want a change as they have seen 22 years of misrule of a Government. "While all development works of the State are supported by the Union Government, the State Government is not doing anything concrete," she said. Purendeswari released a 'People's charge-sheet-in-effective Government' document for the panchayat polls and posed questions for the BJD Government. She said the BJP would go to voters with some serious issues like PMAY corruption, atrocities on women, negligence of OBCs, growing loan burden on people, increasing migration and poverty in the State. "Whereas real beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) are not getting houses, people are forced to pay Rs 20,000 to get a PMAY house and Rs 2,000 to get a toilet as bribe and all these benefits are being provided to BJD workers," she alleged.

Govt alerts officials on rising road mishaps

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Following occurrence of tragic road accidents in some districts during the past few days, the State Government has asked the concerned officials to take steps to curb such fatalities.

Commerce & Transport Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has recently written a letter the district Collectors and Superintendents of Police, Deputy Commissioners of Police and Regional Transport Officers in this regard. "Road accident and fatality are a matter of concern for all of us. It is observed that during the last week, a number of tragic accidents have occurred in the districts like Subarnapur, Balasore, Mayurbhanj resulting in the death of many people including minors and infants," Sethi said in the letter. It was the direction of the Supreme Court Committee to reduce fatalities by 50% by 2020 taking the year 2014 as base. However, there has been a steady increase in the number of fatalities in Odisha due to road accidents from 2014 (3931) to 2020 (4738), an increase of about 21% during the period, he mentioned. As per the information received from the CID & Crime Branch, there has been an increase in fatalities by more than 12% during January to October, 2021 compared to the same period of previous year, Sethi pointed out. Except for six districts (Puri, Nayagarh, Koraput, Deogarh, Kendrapada and Subarnapur), there is an increase in fatalities in all other districts. During the January to October of 2021, a total of 8,922 road mishaps were reported, in which 4,074 persons were killed and 8,087 critically injured. In the same period of 2020, 7,619 road accident cases were reported in which 3,637 were killed and 6977 injured.

"You are requested to intensify enforcement against the traffic rule violators, with special emphasis on detection of over speeding and road side parking. Joint enforcement squads should be formed in each district by Police and RTO for detection of various traffic rule violations," Sethi instructed. The Collectors are asked to review the enforcement activities with RTOs and police regularly and ensure submission of the monthly report to the department for further action. They were further told to ensure the District Road Safety Committee meeting is held regularly to analyse the causes of road accidents in their districts.

If any support is required to reduce accidents and fatalities, the district should intimate the department immediately, he added.

Man thrashed to death in city

Engg student stabbed over love triangle

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The capital city was rocked by another murder when a labourer was thrashed to death by his colleague in the Infocity police station area on Friday.

The incident occurred in the premises of an under-construction building of a private college, where one Surendra Kumar Das assaulted his colleague Anath Sethi with a wooden stick. Police reached the spot, seized the body and sent it for postmortem, arrested the accused. In another incident, a private engineering college student was stabbed by his classmate over a love triangle at Shailashree Vihar. The injured student Priyaranjan was hospitalised and the accused was detained.

Notably, on January 15, a youth of Gadakana had been stabbed to death at Press Chhack in the city.

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Feud with woman leader

Jual may be cause for BJP debacle in Sundargarh

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

Tribal dominated Sundargarh district is considered as the bastion of BJP. Though the BJD has been ruling the State since 2000 but so far, it has been able to win only two MLA seats and has never won the MP seat. Barring the 2009 election, BJP's Jual Oram has been successfully winning as Sundargarh MP since 1998 and has become Union Minister twice (2000-2004 and 2014-2019).

This time the BJP has three MLAs in the district. Despite this, the party has not yet succeeded in capturing the Zilla Parishad seat since 1997. Though in first Zilla Parishad election in 1997, BJP was the single largest party but it failed to capture the ZP chief post. Similarly, in 2012 the party failed to open account. In 2017, the BJP won in 13 ZP seats, just one less than the BJD. Needless to say, on both occasions BJD has formed the ZP. Though the political observers say this time the BJP is expected to do a better performance than in 2017, considering the 2019 general election results, but at the same time, they have cited Oram to be a negative factor. A recent feud between Oram and a woman politician, Gouri Mundary, the video of which went viral, could put a spoke in wheel for the party's electoral prospects.

It may be noted here that Oram is not only a senior party leader but also earlier he was party's State president and national vice president. So, obviously the party should have expected much to gain from his popularity and experience at least in Sundargarh district. But the way he has been tagged with a problem in last 3-4 days it has tarnished his image to a great extent. Whether Oram is culprit or not will be established after thorough investigation but the way it has been put by the victim, definitely he is in the dock. Meanwhile, the victim has lodged an allegation in the State Women Commission after lodging FIR in Jhirpani police station. The police have already registered the case under Section 294. Meanwhile, the BJD and Congress have trained their guns at Oram. Though the audio of the filthy words used by Oram was not yet publicly available (may be the victim has submitted to police) but the reaction the victim has expressed in another call to the Sundargarh MP indicates she later was aggrieved with the words of the senior leader. Similarly, another audio between the victim and a woman indicates that this time Oram was not in a comfortable position to interact over phone. These two audios put Jual in a soup and have been powerful weapons for the Opposition in an election time.

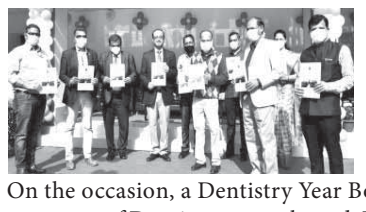
Similarly, many also claim that though Oram had won the 1998, 2000, 2004, 2014 and 2019 Parliament elections, they could not be considered a scale of his popularity. The first three elections were won due to seat adjustment with BJD and a wave in favour of former PM Vajpayee while the last two elections were won by him due to the Modi wave. The 2009 election was an acid test for him and he failed there. Besides, Bonai Assembly seat is considered Oram's forte but surprisingly he has been unable to ensure the victory of the party nominee from there. Similarly, under Bonai Assembly segment out of 8 Zilla Parishad seats, the BJP has failed to open account in 2012 and 2017 Panchayat elections.

INBRIEF

EX-MLA RAJEEV HOTA PASSES AWAY

Bargarh : Former Bijepur MLA Rajeev Lochan Hota passed away on Thursday evening at the age of 86. People from all walks of life paid homage to the departed leader at his residence. The last rites of Hota were performed on Friday. Hota was a Congress MLA from 1980 to 1985. He is credited for establishing the Barpali Pharmaceutical College and Plus II Science College. He is survived by three sons.

AIIMS DENTISTRY YEAR BOOK RELEASED



Bhubaneswar : The Republic Day was celebrated at the AIIMS Bhubaneswar following Covid protocols. Dean (Academic) Dr Debashis Hota unfurled the National Flag. On the occasion, a Dentistry Year Book-2021 prepared by the Department of Dentistry was released. Deputy Director (Administration) PK Ray called upon to put all efforts for a comprehensive development of the AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

ABHIPSA SHINES IN FIT INDIA QUIZ

Bhubaneswar : Abhipsa Pati, a Class-XI student of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur bagged the 2nd position in the preliminary round and entered to the next elite round in the 1st Fit India Quiz, India's biggest Sports and Fitness Quiz organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The Sports Authority of India conducted the quiz under the programme "Khelo India" where as many as 13,502 school students participated. DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur Principal Dr KC Satapathy felicitated Abhipsa for her remarkable feat Friday and wished her good luck for next venture.

R-DAY HELD AT DAV, K NAGAR

Bhubaneswar : The DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar observed the 73rd Republic Day under the chairmanship of the Principal. School Chairman Madan Mohan Panda as chief guest unfurled the National Flag. He encouraged the teachers to do their best to excel in all fields of academic excellence. A chorus portraying the valour and patriotism of freedom fighters was staged by teachers. Students presented different yogic postures and aerobics in a rhythmical manner. Students Snehanshu Suvra, Amlan Amiyanshu, Ananya Panda and Abhyarthana Samant virtually spoke on the importance of the occasion The entire programme was telecast on YouTube.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED AT JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur : The district-level Republic Day was celebrated at the Nabakrushna Choudhury Stadium here with Minister Jyoti Prakasha Panigrahi unfurling the Tricolour, witnessing the ceremonial parade and addressing the gathering. The medico fraternities of the DHH and municipality employees who had done admirable service during the Covid pandemic were felicitated by the Minister. Collector Parul Patwari, SP Akheleshvar Singh, ADM, DRDA Project Director were present.

JAYABARDHAN BADMINTON TOURNEY HELD

Brahmapur : The Fifth Jayabardhan Memorial Badminton Tournament was organised at the Khalikote University Indoor Hall on the Republic Day. The tournament is held every year in memory of journalist Jayabardhan Dash. Dash's wife Minakshi Tripathi inaugurated the tournament in the presence of several journalists. Winners of the tournament were felicitated. Among others, BJD Mahanagar president R Murali Mohan and Berhampur Press Club president Gopal Patnaik joined as guests.

R-DAY HELD AT DHAMRA PORT

Dhamra : The Republic day was celebrated at the Adani Dhamra Port. Port CEO Susant Kumar Mishra unfurled the National flag. Among others, Chief Operating Officer Sudeep Dasgupta and HODs of different departments were present.

Restrictions on Swargadwar funeral lifted

PNS ■ PURI

The Puri district administration has withdrew the restrictions it had imposed on observance of funeral rites of the deceased from other districts and States at the Swargadwar in Puri. It has also lifted the restrictions on immersion of ashes at the sea.

The decisions were taken in view of the decreasing trend of Covid-19 cases in Puri district, including the Puri Municipality area. Issuing a set of guidelines for funeral rites at the Swargadwar, the official order stated that a maximum of 10 persons are allowed to accompany the deceased.

The Puri Sub-Collector has been directed to keep a close watch on strict implementation of the order and take appropriate action in case of difficulties. Notably, the Puri administration had imposed the restrictions on funeral of deceased from outside the district on January 7, 2022 to contain spread of Covid-19.

Cold wave returns; Daringbadi has 6.5 deg

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After a few days, the cold wave conditions are back in the State with several parts witnessing a dip in the minimum temperature from Thursday night.

Daringbadi in Kandhamal district emerged as the coldest place in the State with mercury plummeting to 6.5 degree Celsius. As many as 10 places recorded minimum temperature of 10 degree or below. Phulbani and Keonjhar recorded 8 degree while minimum temperature of 9 degree was recorded in Jharsuguda, Sonepur, Boudh and Bhawanipatna. Other places where temperature dropped below 10 degree were Angul 9.6 degree, Koraput and Nayagarh 10 degree each. The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded temperatures of 12.1 and 13 degree, respectively, the Regional office of IMD here said. The weather office said the cold weather returned to the State due to entry of northwesterly dry and cold winds. The chill weather is likely to continue till January 30, the weather office said.

"The night temperature is likely to drop by 3 to 4 degree Celsius in the next 48 hours. In view of the cold wave conditions, yellow warning has been issued for six districts. The intensity of cold will be more in the next two days in comparison to today's weather. Besides, fog will also prevail across the State," said the IMD.

State constitutes Prison Dev Board

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In pursuance with an order of the Orissa High Court, the State Government has constituted an Odisha Prisons Development Board to improve and modernise the infrastructure facility in the prisons.

The Chief Secretary has been appointed as Chairman of the Board while the Director General of Prisons and Director of Correctional Services is the Member-Convener. The other Members are Secretaries of Home, Finance, Law, Revenue, Higher Education, Skill Development, Women & Child Development, Health and Electronic & IT. The Chairman may co-opt any other official member as and when required. The Chairman can also invite any non official in cases to seek his/her inputs on matters of prison administration. As per a notification of the Home Department, the meeting of the Board will be held at least once in every six months while an urgent meeting can be conveyed at any time. The board will function to examine the living conditions of the prisoners in all the prisons, with specific reference to their basic needs and provisions of facilities compatible with the dignity of human life. It will also suggest measures to reform and re-assimilate the prisoners in the social milieu by giving them appropriate correctional treatment. It will suggest construction of new prisons where the existing prisons are not in a satisfactory condition or are beyond repairs.

The board will prepare an action plan for three to five years for the overall development of the prisons. For this, it may seek the help of a third party for various inputs.

CREA reports on health hazards at Paradip

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Leaders of the Lok Shakti Abhiyan and the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha have released a report of the Centre for Research on Energy & Clean Air (CREA) on "Health Impact Assessment" of the JSW steel plant project near Paradip and highlighted the shortcomings of the EIA report.

Prafulla Samantara, Mahendra Parida, Deva Prasad Ray, Suresh Panigrahi and Jyoti Ranjan Mohapatra placed the data at a Press meet here suggesting that the ambient air pollutant concentrations are above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 and PM2.5, which are prescribed to be 60 µg/m3 for PM10 and 40 µg/m3 for PM2.5 on an annual level. The dispersion modelling results from the EIA report also shows that the project will add a significant pollution load to the already-existing AAQ levels.

As per the CREA report, the air pollutant emissions would be responsible for an estimated 94 deaths per year (95% confidence interval: 65-129). Air pollution would also lead to a projected 180 emergency room visits due to asthma, 160 preterm births and 75,000 days of work absence per year.

However, the JSW has earmarked Rs 10,000 crore for decarbonisation, according to its joint managing director Seshagiri Rao.

Rally held on SVM College land issue

KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The SVM College alumni, former Principals, former students union leaders, educationists, social activists, lawyers, students, leaders from different political parties and civilians on Friday converged at the college gate and vehemently opposed the district administration's different projects in Government land already under possession of the college since years.

The protest was led by former-Principal Lingaraj Behera, lawyer Basudev, former student leader Biplab Choudhury, Arupananda Khanduala, Devi Prasad Choudhury, Natabar Barik, Pratap Mishra among others. The SVM College was established in the year 1963 on the bank of the dead Alaka River over 26 acres of land. About 10 acres of Government land has been encroached by the college authority for the enhancement of the campus. In a significant decision in November last, the State Government had decided that the encroached land under possession of institution would be transferred to the name of the Higher Education Department and the land would be utilized for the institution. However, flouting the Government decision, the Jagatsinghpur district administration has started a process to establish an indoor stadium, medical staff quarters and roads connecting to the stadium in the 10 acres encroached land. Meanwhile, the land demarcation which had been launched by the Revenue Department was put on hold after it was strongly opposed by the college authority and college governing body on Thursday.

The college governing body has apprised the State Government that for skill development and opening of a few professional courses in the college, the encroached 10 acres of land will be used. So the land should not be transferred for other purposes, it said. The protestors took out a rally from the college and marched to the Collector's office here and submitted a memorandum to the Collector requesting not to hand over the college-occupied land for any other purpose.

Ganjam assn felicitates students

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Gandhinagar Cultural Association, a constituent unit of Gandhinagar Senior Citizens' Forum (GSCF), celebrated the Republic Day here. While the forum unfurled national flag in the morning, in the evening, the cultural unit of the forum distributed certificates to school going children and felicitated them who have had successfully participated in an Inter-Group Art competition held on a plethora of patriotic themes to mark the event. GSCF president and senior scribe Prof Krushna Chandra Panda chaired the meeting and distributed the certificates to successful winners. Secretary of the cultural unit KV Ramana organised the event. Ardhendu B Sahu was the judge. Nilanchal Sahu coordinated the event.

Port Banik Sangha holds R-Day

PNS ■ PARADIP

The 73rd Republic Day was observed by the Paradeep Port Banik Sangha in its premises at Badpadia. A small number of members attended the National Flag-unfurling ceremony due to Covid.

Chief guest Sangha president Santosh Kumar Patnaik unfurled the Tricolour and paid deep homage to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives in the liberation struggle of India. Paradip's traders have been hit hard by the pandemic, but they should be careful about both health and business in this situation, Patnaik said.

The Republic Day was also observed by the Eastern India Oil Refinery Workers' Union in the office premises at Zero Point as per the Covid norms. Paradip Port Land Losers Farmers' Association president Chinmay Das hoisted the National Flag. General secretary Ranjan Kumar Palai and joint secretary Niranjan Nayak, Niranjan Samal, Ashok Nath, Jagbandhu Bishwal, Trinath Bishwal were present.

DPCS, NLUO ink pact for collaborative ventures

TATHYA ■ CUTTACK

In order to set up an institutional mechanism for collaboration and research on matters relating to prisons, an MoU has been signed between the Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services (DPCS) and National Law University of Odisha (NLUO) here on January 26.

In the presence of Chancellor, NLUO and Chief Justice, Orissa High Court Justice Dr S Muralidhar, DG of Prisons and Correctional Services, Odisha, Santosh Kumar Upadhyay and Vice-Chancellor, NLUO Prof Ved Kumari, the MoU was signed by Registrar, NLUO Prof (Dr) Yogesh Pratap Singh and DIG of Prisons Subhakanta Mishra. The other dignitaries present on the occasion include Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi Academy of Prisons and Correctional Services, Bhubaneswar, Samir Ranjan Sahoo. The purposes of the MoU are to set up an institutional mechanism (Collaboration And Research Enterprise (CARE) for collaboration between faculty and students of NLUO and Directorate of Prisons and Correctional Services (DP CS) on matters relating to prisons; organise training programme focused on knowledge, attitude, skills and ethics in prison administration and offer a joint PG Diploma on "Rehabilitation and Correctional Administration". The objectives of the partnership are to promote recognition and rehabilitation of prisoners; develop a collaborative knowledge between DP and CS and NLUO; conduct action research for improving prison administration; collaborate on various research activities for students and faculties of both NLUO and prison and training for State prison officials; explore ground realities relating to prisons and prisoners; conduct awareness and sensitization programmes in schools and colleges relating to prisons and prisoners.

Regular academic conferences/workshops/discussions shall be conducted by DP and CS and NLUO jointly on issues related to prisons and correctional administration. The DP and CS will facilitate visit of the students to prison academy and specific prisons during the internship period. The NLUO will organise training programmes for prison officials to enhance their knowledge, attitude, skills and ethics relating to prison administration. The NLUO in collaboration with DP and CS will conceptualise and offer PG Diploma in "Rehabilitation and Correctional Administration" from the year 2022. The course will be offered in distance and online mode. The programme is intended to be attended by the prison officials/persons who want to join prison services and others interested in reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. The course is open for all persons in India and abroad. The curriculum of the course would enhance the understanding of prison employees and others on matters pertaining to incarceration, correctional practices and challenges faced by the criminal justice system in India and possible ways forward.

Persons desirous of joining the PG Diploma programme shall register for the course by submitting an online application, at National Law University Odisha (www.nluo.ac.in).

BJP richest party, BSP, not Cong, comes 2nd

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Political parties in India cumulatively hold assets worth around a whopping ₹9,117.95 crore with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) topping the list with a staggering wealth including cash, bank investments, movable and immovable properties, vehicles etc — worth ₹4,847.78 crore. However, it is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and not the Congress, which followed BJP declaring assets worth ₹698.33 crore (9.99 per cent).

While the Congress declared assets worth ₹588.16 crore (8.42 per cent), CPI(M) declared ₹569.51 crore, Trinamool Congress (TMC) ₹247.78 crore, CPI ₹29.78 crore and NCP ₹8.20 crore.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysis report, the seven national parties together hold ₹6,988.57 crore while 44 regional parties have ₹2,129.35 crore. All these parties together hold assets worth ₹9,117.95 as on 2019-20.

Among the national parties, the BJP and BSP declared the highest assets under FDR/Fixed Deposits, ₹3,253.00 crore and ₹618.86 crore respectively while the Congress declared the highest assets under FDR/Fixed Deposits, ₹240.90 crore for the 2019-20.

The total liabilities declared by the seven national and 44 regional political parties for the same duration amounted to ₹134.93 crore. The national political parties declared the total liabilities of ₹74.27 crore, ₹4.26 crore under Borrowings and ₹70.01 crore under Other Liabilities. The Congress declared the highest total liabilities of ₹49.55 crore (66.72 per cent) followed by All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) declaring ₹11.32 crore (15.24 per cent).

Among the 44 regional parties, the assets of the top 10 parties were worth ₹2028.715 crore or 95.27 per cent of the total declared by them all combined. In 2019-20, among the regional parties, the highest assets were declared by the Samajwadi Party at ₹563.47 crore (26.46 per cent), followed by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) worth ₹301.47 crore and All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) worth ₹267.61 crore. Fixed Deposits/FDR constituted the largest share of ₹1,639.51 crore (76.99 per cent) of the total assets declared by regional parties in 2019-20.

The highest assets were declared under FDR/Fixed Deposits by SP (₹434.219 crore), TRS (₹256.01 crore), AIADMK (₹246.90 crore), DMK (₹162.425 crore), Shiv Sena (₹148.46 crore) and Biju Janata Dal, BJD (₹118.425 crore) among others. The regional political parties declared the total liabilities of ₹60.66 crore, ₹30.29 crore was declared under Borrowings and ₹30.37 crore under Other Liabilities. Amongst them, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) declared the highest total liabilities of ₹30.342 crore (50.02 per cent) followed by DMK that declared ₹8.05 crore (13.27 per cent).

PM hails NCC's role in nation building

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wore a Sikh cadet turban while participating in the NCC rally here on Friday. The colour of the turban was military green with a red colour plume.
The Prime Minister wears turbans or 'pagri' at events of national importance like Independence Day and Republic Day.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding the role played by the National Cadet Corps(NCC) in nation building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Friday the Government has prepared over one lakh new NCC cadets in the border areas of the country. He also stressed the need for inducting more girls into the NCC.

Addressing the annual NCC rally on the occasion of the Republic Day, the Prime Minister also gave credit to it for shaping his personality.

"The training I got in the NCC and the things I learned here have provided me immense strength in delivering upon my responsibilities. Recently, I had also received an NCC alumni card as well," he said.

"I am proud that I was also an active member of NCC. Our government is taking several steps to strengthen NCC. A large number of girl cadets participated in the rally, this is the change India is witnessing today," Modi said while addressing the cadets.

Earlier, he inspected the Guard of Honour, reviewed March Past by NCC contingents and also witnessed the NCC cadets displaying their skills in army action, slithering, micro-light flying, para-sailing as well and cultural programmes. The best cadets also received medals and batons from the Prime Minister.

In his address, Modi noted a different level of enthusiasm in the celebrations as the country is marking the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He paid tributes to Lala Lajpat Rai and Field Marshal K M Cariappa for their contribution in nation building.

The Prime Minister talked about the steps being taken to strengthen the NCC in the country in a period when the country is moving forward with new resolutions. In the last two years, one lakh new cadets have been created in the border areas of the country, he said.

The Prime Minister elaborated on the steps being taken to open the doors of the defence establishments for girls and women. He noted the presence of the large number of the girl cadets and termed it to be a symbol of changing attitude of the nation.

Noting the young profile of the cadets, who are mostly born in this century, Modi underlined their role in taking the country towards 2047. He also underlined the major role that youngsters can play in the 'vocal for local' campaign.

SC refuses to lay down yardstick for reservation in promotion to SC/ST in Govt jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday refused to lay down a yardstick for granting reservation in promotion to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government jobs.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao said States are obligated to collect data on inadequacy of representation of SCs/STs.

The apex court said it cannot lay down any yardstick to determine the inadequacy of representation of SCs/STs and it for the states to do so.

The Centre had earlier told the bench that it is a fact of life that even after around 75 years if independence those belonging to SCs and STs have not been brought to the same level of merit as the forward classes. The apex court had reserved its verdict on October 26, 2021.

SC gives SpiceJet three weeks to resolve dispute with Swiss firm

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted three weeks to SpiceJet to resolve its financial dispute with Swiss firm Credit Suisse AG and stayed the Madras High Court order on its winding up, saying that it was a "serious matter" and the airlines cannot say it is a busy organisation and would not pay.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, while staying the publication of winding up notice and the order directing the official liquidator attached to the Madras High Court to take over the assets of the low-cost airline, questioned the approach of SpiceJet.

The bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli, took note of the submissions of senior advocate Harish Salve that SpiceJet would try to resolve the issue with the Swiss firm.

India 'vibrant' democracy, no certificate needed: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is a "vibrant" democracy and does not need any validation or "certificate," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Friday. This rebuttal came in the backdrop of former Vice President Hamid Ansari and four US lawmakers airing concern over human rights situation in the country.

Making India's stand clear, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here said India is a vibrant democracy, which does not require certification from others, and the track record of the event's organisers was as well known as the biases and political interests of the participants.

Asked about the virtual panel discussion organised by the Indian American Muslim Council on Wednesday during which Ansari and the US lawmakers expressed concern over the current human rights situation in India, Bagchi said, "We have seen reports on this event. India is a robust and vibrant democracy. It does not require certification from others."

The claim that others need to protect our constitution is "presumptuous and preposterous", he said. "The track record of event organisers is as well known as the biases and political interests of the participants," Bagchi said.

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED
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Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021
(Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Month Ended		Year Ended
	31-Dec-21	30-Sep-21	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20	31-Mar-21
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	6.92	21.08	8.64	39.62	30.70	37.45
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-3.66	11.09	0.59	12.22	8.76	7.19
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-3.66	11.09	0.59	12.22	8.76	7.19
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-3.07	9.64	0.49	10.31	7.39	2.73
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-23.47	112.75	86.74	141.98	328.22	482.70
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						
-Basic	-0.09	0.29	0.01	0.30	0.22	0.08
- Diluted	-0.09	0.29	0.01	0.30	0.22	0.08

Notes :
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Nine Months ended December 31st, 2021 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/ Nine Months ended December 31st, 2021 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).
2. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 28.01.2022.
3. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sd/-
Vijay Bhushan
Director
DIN: 00002421

Place : New Delhi
Date : 28.01.2022

NIA files chargesheet in ISIS Kerala Module case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Friday filed a chargesheet against eight accused persons in ISIS Kerala Module case. The eight chargesheeted alleged ISIS terrorists are Deepthi Marla alias Maryam, Mohammad Waqar Lone alias Wilson Kashmiri, Mizha Siddeeque, Shifa Haris alias Ayesha, Obaid Hamid Matta, Madesh Shankar alias Abdullah, Ammar Abdul Rahiman and Muzamil Hassan Bhat, the NIA said in a statement. The NIA had registered the case on March 5, 2021 pertaining to terrorist activities of Mohammed Ameen alias Abu Yahya of Kerala and his associates, who have been running various ISIS propaganda channels on different social media platforms such as Telegram, Hoop and Instagram for propagating the violent Jihadi ideology of ISIS and radicalizing and recruiting new members for the ISIS module. Earlier, the NIA had filed chargesheet against three accused persons in this case on September 8 last year.

"Investigation has revealed that all the eight accused persons chargesheeted today are affiliated with banned terrorist organization ISIS and were involved in radicalising, recruiting, organising terror funds and grooming like-minded gullible Muslim youth through different secured social media platforms to perform Hijrat to ISIS controlled territory for joining ISIS," the NIA said, adding, further investigation in the case is continuing.

PHC's 'faith tourism trip' to India put off due to Covid

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued a visa to Muhammad Habibaka Sika Khan to visit his brother Muhammed Siddique and other family members in Pakistan. The two brothers separated in 1947 were recently reunited after 74 years at Kartarpur Corridor. A short video clip, which went viral on social media, showed that the two brothers burst into tears as soon as they saw each other at Kartarpur.

The Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) 'faith tourism trip' to India through chartered flights beginning from Saturday has been postponed due to rising cases of COVID-19. PHC chief patron Ramesh Vankwani on Friday said that the tour has been postponed for the time being after the Government of India's request due to the rising cases of COVID-19.

India on Friday said there is an interest on both the Indian and Pakistani sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel under the 1974 protocol for visits to religious places, asserting that it has a positive approach on the matter and is willing to engage with Islamabad on it. PHC has proposed to fly 160 Pakistani Hindu pilgrims from Karachi to Jaipur on Saturday.

The assertion comes days after Vankwani who is a member of the National Assembly from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling party, urged India to issue visas to a delegation of pilgrims to visit the country as part of his faith tourism initiative between the two neighbours.

Responding to a query, the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "As you are aware, under the 1974 Protocol between India and Pakistan, visits to religious shrines are being facilitated regularly. There is an interest on both sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel." It naturally needs to be discussed under the protocol, he said.

With Israel's aide, Centre to convert villages into 'Village of Excellence'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday said it has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states with technical assistance from the Israel government. Already, the Israel government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 states, which are producing more than 25 million vegetable plants, over 3,87,000 quality fruit plants and can train more than 1.2 lakh farmers per year. The 150 villages that are located around CoEs will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence.' "Out of these, 75 villages are being taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence, where India and Israel will work together," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar conveyed in a meeting with new Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon on January 27.Gilon said these CoEs are a great example of cooperation between the two countries and proposed the certification of CoEs to further enhance the standards and quality of services being provided to the farmers.He also evinced interest in further collaboration with agri-research body ICAR and making available the latest technologies available with Israel. Gilon also invited Tomar to visit Israel.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jasjit Singh, Sangita Singh, Spell Binders Production Pvt Ltd, House #175, Sector # 9b, Chandigarh, Punjab, A/c:-LBDEL00001049917	Plot No. 4621, Qutab Enclave, Phase- IV, Haryana Gurgaon	23/09/2021 Rs. 11,51,099.77/-	08/04/ 2021
2.	Himani., Manoj Kukreti, C1/ 1901 Gh01 Sector 16B, Greater Noida, Eco, Noida, Village 2 Greater Noida, A/c:- LBDEL00004007153 & LBDEL00004102479	Flat No 1901 19th Floor Tower C1 Supertech Ecovillage-2 Plot No- Gh 01 Sector-16B Noida	22/09/2021 Rs.7,99,005.02/- Rs. 27,66,087.68/-	06/05/ 2021
3.	Rahul Gupta, Dinesh Kumar Gupta, E 28 Beta 1 Gr Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBGHZ00004308675	Flat No-30, Plot No C06, Delta 1, Kaveri City Center Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh	22/09/2021 Rs. 35,86,974/-	06/05/ 2021
4.	Manoj Kumar, Anshul Sharma, Flat No B607, Tower-B Ajnara Homes, Sector 16-B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBGHZ00004861411 & LBGHZ00005341948	Unit No-B 607, Tower-B 7th Floor Ajanra Homes Plot No Gh 03 Sector 16 B Noida Uttar Pradesh	23/09/2021 Rs.15,53,111/- Rs.2,93,338/-	07/06/ 2021
5.	Rahul Gupta, Dinesh Kumar Gupta, E 28 Beta 1 Gr Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBGHZ00005389938	Flat No-30, Plot No- C06, Delta-1, Kaveri City Center Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh	22/09/2021 Rs. 6,74,812/-	06/05/ 2021
6.	Neetu Rai, Anupam Rai, C-19 Pocket Vi Kendriya Vihar Sector-82, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBNOD00002875389 & LBNOD00002892074	Flat No 102, 1st Floor Block Yorkshire Mahagun Meadows Plot No SC-01/A-3 Sector-150, Uttar Pradesh	08/10/2021 Rs. 1,35,58,372/- Rs.9,65,341/-	01/07/ 2021
7.	Kumar Manish Raj, Vandana Singh, Flat No G-004 Tower G Amrapali Silicon City, Sec-76, Noida Uttar Pradesh. A/c No:- LBNOD00003332063	Flat No-1705, 17th Floor Mahagun Meadows Block Yorkshire Plot No- Sc-01/A-03 Sector- 150 Noida Uttar Pradesh	04/10/2021 Rs. 1,13,86,663/-	02/07/ 2021
8.	Bilal Ahmed, Monshina Khatoon, H No 185 Mirzapur Sector 12, Pal Aata Chakki, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBNOD00004090712	Shop No Ff-214, Floor No 1, Plot No C1A- Gh 01, At Gaur City Centre- Shops, Sector-04 Greater Noida	23/09/2021 Rs. 10,81,264/-	12/06/ 2021
9.	Pranay Prakash, Kalpana Mishra, BF-14C DDA Flats Munirka New Delhi. A/c No:- LBNOD00004776228	Flat No 2001, 20th Floor Mahagun Meadows Block Yorkshi, Plot No SC 01/A-03, Sector 150, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301 Uttar Pradesh	04/10/2021 Rs. 1,19,71,123/-	02/07/ 2021
10.	Bilal Ahmed, Monshina Khatoon, H No 185 Mirzapur Sector 12, Pal Aata Chakki, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c:- LBNOD00005344625	Shop No Ff-214, Floor No-1, Plot No- C1A- Gh-01, At Gaur City Centre- Shops, Sector-04 Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh	23/09/2021 Rs. 2,11,818/-	12/06/ 2021
11.	Deepak Baweja, Poonam, Ward No- 9 Anta Colony, Safidon Jind, Jind, Haryana, A/c:- LBPNP00005130571 & LBPNP00005130574 & LBDEL00005335489	Khewat No-1760 Khata No-2045 Khasra No- N76 Killa No-29, Shiv Colony Safidon Jind Haryana	23/09/2021 Rs.20,73,235/- Rs.7,60,571/- Rs.1,39,818/-	12/06/ 2021

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

Date : January 29, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Bharat Biotech gets DCGI nod for phase-3 trial of its intranasal Covid vax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The country's top drug regulator, DCGI, has given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 clinical trial for its intranasal COVID vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously inoculated with SARS-CoV 2 vaccines.

The trials will be conducted at nine locations in the country. It will be done on 900 subjects.

The trials would evaluate the nasal vaccine for both the two-dose primary schedule and also to use as a booster dose schedule, said officials in the DCGI.

DCGI's Subject Expert Committee (SEC) gave an 'in-principle' approval to Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech for the 'phase-III booster dose study' for its intranasal Covid vaccine, a first of its kind in India, and asked it to submit protocols for approval 3 weeks ago.

BBV154 (nasal covid vaccine) has received approval for phase-3 clinical trials. The trials will evaluate BBV154 nasal vaccine for both the two-dose primary schedule and booster dose schedule, the sources said.

An intra-nasal vaccine would not only be simple to administer but also reduce the use of needles and syringes, among others. It would also impact the overall cost of a vaccination drive, chairman of Bharat Biotech Krishna Ella had said.

Bharat Biotech is the second company to submit an application for the phase-III trial of the third dose in India. The intranasal vaccines reportedly have the potential to prevent transmission for new Covid-19 variants such as Omicron.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM: CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3.
No. CE/TB-III/8/2022/2

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings) Health & Education, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works under P.W.D. (Bldg), Assam from registered contractors having requisite experience in similar nature of work. Details may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. **www.assamtenders.gov.in**

Sl. No	State/ Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of completion	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs.)
1	ECRP-II/ DMC&H-I	Establishment of i) 42 Bedded Paediatrics Care Unit, ii) 22 Bedded Intensive Care Unit iii) LMO tank with MGPS at Diphu Medical College & Hospital Diphu in Karbi Anglong Districts, Assam under ECRPII.	138.02	02 (two) months	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Karbi Anglong District Territorial Building Division	2,760.00

Note:- 1. NIT value may be changed during uploading offender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
2. The bidders must be enrolled in **www.assamtenders.gov.in**

Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Health & Education
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/C/11131/21

'Air Vaidya' fumigation can mitigate Covid-19 infection: BHU scientists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the world is grappling with the highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid-19, scientists at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) have, in a first-of-its-kind study, found that anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties in the fumes of Air Vaidya Herbal Dhoopa (AVHD), an ayurvedic formulation, could be effective in preventing air-borne infections in humans and home settings.

Prepared by AIMIL Pharmaceuticals, 'Air Vaidya' contains phytochemicals from 19 medicinal ingredients such as Raal, Neem Patr, Vasa, Ajwain, Haldi, Lemon grass (lamajjaka), Vacha, Tulsi, Peeli Sarson, Safed Chandan, Ushir, Sudh Guggal, Nagarmotha, Mehendi, Tagar, Loban, Kapoor, Jigat and Cardamom husk, which are known for their potential therapeutic effects to combat the virus.

Dr. KRC Reddy, Professor, Department of Rasa Shastra (Ayurveda), Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, who led the research, said, "Though Dhoopan (fumigation), a medicinal therapy has been described in Ayurveda compendia for ages for its potency in anti-microbial, anti-fungal, anti-viral action, in the backdrop of rising Covid-19 cases, this is the first scientific study."

Dr. Reddy explained, "Participants were divided into two groups—intervention group (150 persons) and controlled group (100 persons). Since the Covid-19 virus generally enters through nose and mouth into the human body, medicinal fumigation therapy was given to the participants of the intervention group. They were asked to inhale 'Air Vaidya Herbal Dhoopa' (AVHD) fumes for ten minutes twice a day, while the control group was not given any such treatment.

"The results were encouraging. Just 4 percent of the intervention group put on the medicinal therapy showed Covid like symptoms such as fever, cough, cold, or no taste or smell; on the other hand, at least 37 percent, who were not given such therapy, were found to have Covid-19 like symptoms." The fumes were also chemically safe on Drosophila flies in the first phase of the clinical trial, Dr. Reddy said.

OVER 1 CR JAB OF THIRD DOSE ADMINISTERED

India on Friday achieved yet another milestone in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic as more than 1 crore precaution doses or the third vaccine shot have been administered to the eligible population. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted this information. On the caseload front, India reported more than 2.51 lakh (2,51,209) new coronavirus cases and 627 deaths in the last 24 hours on Friday. With 627 deaths and 3,47,443 recoveries, active cases declined to 21.05 lakh (21,05,611). The daily positivity rate is now at 15.88 per cent. ***PNS***

RAILWAY RECRUITMENT PROTEST

Bihar bandh evokes mixed response

Patna: Bihar bandh called on Friday by student bodies, and supported by all parties in the Opposition and some in the ruling dispensation, against alleged irregularities in the Railway Recruitment Board's Non-Technical Popular Categories examination process evoked a mixed response.

Citizens woke up to chanting of slogans by bandh supporters against the RRB which has conducted a staggered, and allegedly botched up selection process, the Centre which intervened not before the crisis snowballed, and the Government in the State which has booked many students and teachers for the large-scale arson and vandalism that took place in the past few days.

In Patna, bandh supporters burnt tyres on Ashok Rajpath throwing out of gear traffic on the busy street which leads to the state's largest government hospital, its most esteemed schools and colleges and shops dealing in medicines, books and stationery.

A police officer faints on duty and is taken to a hospital during Bihar bandh, in Patna on Friday PTI

At Dak Bungalow crossing in the heart of the city, they staged a demonstration and recited impromptu verses, to the beats of tambourines, urging RRB, the Centre and Bihar government to come to their senses.

They clashed with police personnel upon being stopped from marching towards the Raj Bhavan, which is a couple of kilometres away.

In Samastipur district across the Ganga, a demonstration by AISA members stood out on account of participation by a noticeable number of young women.

Legislators and cadres of opposition parties, most notably the RJD and the CPI-ML, led the protests in Buxar, Jehanabad, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Begusarai and Munger. In many places, tyres were set afire on highways, causing the traffic to come to a standstill.

Former Bihar chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who heads Hindustani Awam Morcha and minister Mukesh Sahani, founding chief of Vikassheel Insaaan Party, have also expressed "moral support" to the bandh even though they are aligned with the NDA.

Major constituents of the ruling coalition like BJP and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) have also expressed their sympathy for the cause being espoused by the bandh supporters.

JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan has come out with tweets blaming the unrest on the RRB's sloppy work and demanding an early resolution of the issue by the high-powered committee set up for the purpose.

He has also demanded "immediate withdrawal of the FIRs by Railways and police" at various places in connection with the violent protests which hit the headlines earlier this week.

Former deputy chief minister and veteran BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi has also come out with an impassioned plea for calm and the declamation that "Narendra Modi government will not allow any injustice". *PTI*

SC verdict is 'tight slap' on MVA Govt's face: Maha BJP

Suspension purely Speaker's decision, says Govt

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Supreme Court's verdict quashing the suspension of 12 Opposition MLAs from the Maharashtra Assembly last year evoked mix response on Friday, with the Opposition BJP terming the SC ruling as a 'tight slap' on the face of the MVA Government and the ruling Shiv Sena saying that the apex court had 'overstepped' the rights of the legislature in its order.

Soon after the Supreme Court quashed the suspension of its 12 MLAs as "unconstitutional" and "irrational," the BJP went to town, welcoming the apex court verdict and terming the ruling as a tight slap on the face of the MVA government.

"Satyameva Jayate ! We welcome & thank the Hon SC for the historic decision of quashing the suspension of our 12 MLAs, who were fighting for the cause of OBCs in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during the monsoon session.. I congratulate our BJP Maharashtra 12 MLAs for getting justice," former Chief Minister and current leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP tweeted.

"Since the beginning, we were saying that it was completely unconstitutional & gross misuse of power to suspend our MLAs for such a long period to create an artificial majority & that too for no valid reason & the Hon SC has upheld our stand. It was not only a question of 12 MLAs but of more than 50 lakh citizens in these 12 constituencies. Democracy saved!!!"

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil tweeted: "The suspension was not at all within the framework of the Constitution. It was not in accordance with the law, rather it was arbitrary. The court has also expressed the same opinion."

"The State Government should realise that it is wrong to trample on the democratic values in such a manner. Now the question is what action the MVA Government will take against those who ordered unjust suspension," Patil wondered.

The Shiv Sena and NCP leaders refused to accept that the Supreme Court's decision was a 'setback' to the MVA Government since the decision was taken by the Speaker of the State Assembly and that the Legislature had the power to suspend the MLAs

"The Maharashtra Legislature has the power to suspend MLAs… Or, for that matter the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can suspend MPs, it is well within their powers," Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said.

"I am surprised that the SC is going soft on 12 BJP MLAs who have been suspended for their alleged misbehaviour. The same SC is surprisingly not so considerate when it comes to 12 names nominated by the state cabinet to be appointed as MLCs. The Governor is sitting on the file for some political vendetta. The SC has overstepped on the rights of the legislators when it comes to suspension of 12 MLAs," Raut said.

It may be recalled that on July 5 12 MLAs were suspended after they created a ruckus over the OBC reservations issue and alleged that Speaker-in-Chair Bhaskar Jadhav did not give them enough time to speak.

The BJP MLAs, who were suspended from the Assembly for a year were Parag Alavani, Ram Satpute, Sanjay Kute, Ashish Shelar, Abhimanyu Pawar, Girish Mahajan, Atul Bhatkalkar, Harish Pimpale, Jayakumar Rawal, Yogesh Sagar, Narayan Kuche and Kirtikumar Bhangdiya.

Reacting to the Supreme Court's ruling, Maharashtra minister and NCP's chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said: "The speaker of the legislative assembly will take a decision once the Supreme Court's written order is available. The decision to suspend 12 MLAs of BJP was taken by the speaker and not by the government."

"The secretariat of the Maharashtra Assembly will study the SC decision after which the speaker will decide," Malik said.

State NCP president and senior minister Jayant Patil said that the 12 BJP MLas came to be suspended for their "misbehaviour" with the then speaker. "The decision to suspend them was taken by the speaker and not the state government," he said.

Now after the Supreme Court's verdict, the final decision will be taken once the written order is made available to the office of the speaker," he said.

"What happened on that day with the then speaker was so extreme that it led to the suspension of the MLAs for 12 months. Incidents had happened in the past as well when legislators were suspended for a longer period," he said.

Alluding to the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's failure to nominate 12 members to the Legislative Council from his quota based on the recommendation of the State Cabinet, Patil said: "Everything should happen as per the law. The state cabinet had recommended 12 names, but they are yet to be approved by the governor".

Modi Govt curtailing benefits of soldiers, compromising national security: Cong

Panaji: Karnataka Congress leader DK Shiva Kumar on Friday said the Narendra Modi Government had curtailed the benefits of soldiers and had also failed to fill over 1.22 lakh vacant defence posts.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president was campaigning for his party in the Goa Assembly polls scheduled for February 14.

"The Modi government is compromising national security as around 1,22,555 posts are vacant in defence areas. It has also deprived 30 lakh ex-servicemen from getting benefits of 'One Rank One Pension'. While Congress government always worked in the interest of our soldiers, the BJP is playing politics with the nation's security," he alleged.

The KPCC chief said the Congress-led UPA government had, on February 17, 2014, approved OROP effective from April 1 that year, but the BJP government rejected it on November 7, 2015 with an order that laid down that military personnel who took voluntary retirement after July 1, 2014 will not get One Rank One Pension.

The Modi government also rejected the demand to revise the pension of 30 lakh soldiers every year and kept this time period at five years. He claimed.

The budget for the Ex-Servicemen Health Scheme (ECHS) facility was cut by Rs 1,990 crore this year when compared to last year, and the Modi government had also imposed GST on Canteen Stores Department (CSD) purchases, the Congress leader said.

"The Modi government imposed a tax on the 'disability pension' of soldiers. This is shameful. The Congress has always worked in the interest of ex-servicemen, giving them work in petrol pumps, gas agencies, coal shipments, transport, etc post retirement," he said. *PTI*

Fishermen cast their nets in the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati on Friday PTI

40-yr-old woman gangraped in Raj

Kota: Two men allegedly raped a 40-year-old woman while she was alone in her hut in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Friday.

The alleged incident took place around five days ago in a village under Bakani police station limits, they said.

However, the woman reported the incident to police on Thursday evening after her husband reached home.

Investigating Officer (IO) of the case, DSP Devender Singh said based on the woman's complaint, a case of gang rape was registered against two people belonging to her village.

The survivor alleged that the two accused took turns to rape her while she was alone in her hut built on agriculture field, the IO said. She also stated that the two accused threatened her of dire consequences if she disclosed the incident to anyone, DSP Singh said. Based on the survivor's report, the police lodged a case under sections of the Indian Penal Code including 376 (D) that deals with gang rape, he said.

The medical examination of the woman was conducted on Thursday evening while her statement under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was recorded on Friday.

Her statements under section 164 of the CrPC in the court are yet to be recorded, the IO said. *PTI*

KMC, Health dept facing financial crunch in Bengal

CM's populist policy responsible, says State BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid reports doing the rounds that Bengal's economy was in dire straits Kolkata Municipal Corporation on Friday made it clear that it was impossible for the civic body to clear pensions to its retired staff due to fund crunch.

A circular issued by the KMC said that the employees who had retired after September 2021 may not get their pension for now.

According to the KMC circular, "payments of pension and pensionary benefits (to the retired employees who have been superannuated from September 2021) are not currently released due to crisis of fund." There are 22,000 permanent employees and 26,000 contractual employees working for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

The KMC's circular comes after Mayor Firhad Hakim made it clear that the civic body was facing a financial crisis. According to sources the Mayor has asked "all concerned" to put up with the situation as the "KMC is taking all possible steps to improve the situation."

The Corporation has already taken a loan of ₹ 2,000 crore from the Asian Development Bank and asked for a loan of ₹700 crore from the State Government which too was facing a financial crisis.

The financial crunch --- that many a critic has blamed on the dole politics of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee --- has reportedly affected a number of sectors including the Health Department which has reduced procurement of medicines meant to be distributed in Government hospitals.

The situation is such that the State Government has already been forced borrow ₹6,500 crore in three tranches in the present month. Bengal stands second after Uttar Pradesh in terms of borrowing this year.

While the Government officials and ruling Trinamool Congress leaders would not make comments opposition BJP attacked the "populist policies of the Chief Minister" for the situation the Government was presently in.

"This Government is engaged in Khela, Mela and dole … it is spending hundreds of crores giving doles to the clubs that manage votes for the TMC … populist schemes like Laxmir Bhandar has been initiated with no pecuniary return … and now we are in this situation," said BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya pooh-pooing the TMC for announcing ₹5,000 for each woman in Goa should it come to power in that State.

"When the CPI(M) left power the Chief Minister began a propaganda that we had left a debt of ₹2 lakh crore --- though in real terms it was far less --- in 34 years of our rule … but this Government hasborrowed ₹6 lakh crore in 10 years … this, whereas they have abolished 5.5 lakh government posts," said CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty.

TN IAS officer to fight poll on BJP ticket from Amritsar

CHENNAI: Jagmohan Singh Raju, the celebrated IAS officer in Tamil Nadu, has quit the service and entered the electoral fray in Punjab as a BJP candidate. The BJP leadership had fielded him as party candidate from Amritsar East assembly constituency where he will fight against Navjot Singh Sidhu (Congress), Bikram Singh Majithia (SAD) and Jeevanjoth Kaur (AAP).

Raju, Chief Resident Commissioner of Tamil Nadu in New Delhi who has been holding the rank of additional chief secretary, had sought voluntary retirement from the IAS in a letter addressed to Chief Minister M K Stalin on January 25 and this was approved by the latter.

"Of late, the painful conditions in my home State, Punjab, have been weighing heavy on my conscience. As son of the soil, I am agonised at the lingering socio-economic stress and the sufferings of the unheard, youth and the underprivileged. At the same time, restraints of my service rules confine me from acting in solidarity with the causes espoused by my inner voice. My conscience and deep-rooted love for my home state has therefore been cajoling and nudging me to my service, return to Punjab and dedicate myself full-time in its service for the rest of my life," said Raju in his letter to chief minister Stalin.

1963 born Raju had almost two years of service in government before his superannuation. He was designated as chief secretary in 2016, thereby becoming the youngest IAS officer in India to hold the position. Described as the shining star among the country's IAS officers by his colleagues, Raju has been accorded international honours for the meritorious services rendered by him.

He is one of the few civil servants in the country who have been honoured by the UNESCO with the King Sejong Literacy Prize. *PNS*

Mumbai court takes cognisance of ED's chargesheet against Anil Deshmukh, sons

Mumbai: A special court here on Friday took cognisance of charge-sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh and his two sons in connection with a money laundering case.

Special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court judge, R N Rokade, issued process against the accused after taking cognisance of the charge sheet.

In December last year, the ED had filed the 7,000-page supplementary charge sheet in connection with the case. Besides Deshmukh, it had named named his two sons as accused in the case.

Prior to that, the probe agency had filed a charge sheet against 14 accused, including Deshmukh's private secretary (an additional collector-rank officer) Sanjeev Palande and personal assistant Kundan Shinde. Deshmukh was arrested by the ED on November 1 last year in connection with the case and is currently in judicial custody. *PTI*

COVID BULLETIN

Odisha logs over 5K new cases, 10 deaths

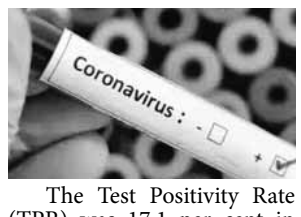
Bhubaneswar: Daily Covid-19 cases continued to dip in Odisha, where 5,057 more people tested positive on Friday, 844 less than the previous day, the health department said.

As many as 667 children are among the newly infected, it said in a bulletin.

The coronavirus tally stood at 12,36,226, while 10 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,560.Fifth-three coronavirus patients have died of comorbidities in the past, the bulletin said.

The state had logged 5,901 single-day cases and eight deaths on Thursday. A week ago, it had reported 9,833 fresh infections.

Odisha tested 61,635 samples in the past 24 hours at a positivity rate of 8.2 per cent, it addedKhurda district reported 1,111 new cases, followed by 495 in Cuttack and 429 in Sundargarh, the bulletin said.



The Test Positivity Rate (TPR) was 17.1 per cent in Khurda and 12.9 in Sundargarh. Nineteen more districts have a positivity rate of over five per cent.

The coastal state now has 64,217 active cases, and 11,63,396 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 11,157 since Thursday.Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra said people were developing less severe symptoms due to vaccination.

"The restrictions can be relaxed only when the cases are very low as the highly-transmissible Omicron variant can spread again," he told reporters. *PTI*

Mizoram reports 2nd single-day spike since Covid breakout

Aizawl: Mizoram on Friday reported 2,064 new Covid-19 cases, the second-highest single-day spike since the advent of the pandemic nearly two years ago, taking the tally to 1,67,725, a health department official said. The state had on Tuesday registered the maximum one-day count of 2,222 fresh coronavirus cases. The death toll remained at 591 as no new fatality due to the infection was reported for the second consecutive day, he said.

Aizawl district reported the highest number of new cases at 1,435, followed by Mamit at 171 and Lunglei at 137.

The daily positivity rate dipped marginally to 27.32 per cent from 27.51 per cent the previous day, he said, adding that the fresh infections were detected from 7,554 sample tests. At least 325 children were among the newly infected people, he said. Mizoram had on Thursday reported 1,535 fresh infections. The northeastern state now has 13,721 active cases, while 1,53,413 people have recuperated from the disease so far, the official said. *PTI*

Over 12K cases, 12 more deaths reported in AP

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh reported 12,561 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 12 more deaths on Friday.

The latest health bulletin said 8,742 infected people also got cured in the state in the last 24 hours ending at 9 am on Friday. The active case count now stands at 1,13,300, the bulletin said.

The gross COVID-19 positive cases in the state touched 22,48,608 while the number of recoveries reached 21,20,717. The death toll now stands at 14,591.

Kurnool district registered 1,710, Guntur 1,625, Kadapa 1,215, Visakhapatnam 1,211, East Godavari 1,067, Krishna 1,056 and SPS Nellore 1,009

fresh cases.

Of the remaining six districts, three of them added less than 900 each and three more logged below 500 each.

Visakhapatnam reported three fresh fatalities while Kurnool and SPS Nellore recorded two deaths each in a day. Anantapuramu, Chittoor, Guntur, Vizianagaram and West Godavari added one more COVID-19 death each to their tally. *PTI*

Needy people including beggars, pavement dwellers, orphans and others, who don't have any Aadhaar cards, stand in a queue to receive Covid-19 vaccine dose, at a camp in Howrah on Friday PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Missing classes

There is still no clarity from any quarter on whether it's okay to reopen schools

One would have expected the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (Insacog) or the National COVID Task Force or the entire body of epidemiologists and virologists to at least now come up with a view on the reopening of schools. Unfortunately, their view eludes us. Schools remained closed for all of 2020 and most of 2021. They began to reopen in several States at the end of the second wave but closed down again when Omicron surfaced. Scientists predict that the current wave is subsiding fast, but they do not want to tell us if it is okay for children to return to school. Restrictions are being lifted but no State Government is willing to bell the 'school reopening' cat. Is there something we do not know but ought to know? Or is it that nobody wants to take the risk because nobody can say with confidence that the reopening will increase, or not increase, the risk of infection? The children and their parents are owed an explanation. For over 600 days, students have missed school, been kept away from classroom studies and subjected to forced home isolation and, for no fault of theirs, they are becoming victims of mental distress. We hear the usual from the scientists that children have a strong immune system that prevents them from catching infection easily. On the contrary, months of sitting isolated at home without exercise or physical activity may have dented their immunity.

There is no data on how children faced infection and no surveys on whether strict precautions in schools can ward off infection till they are vaccinated. To a large extent, the hesitation of the Government in reopening schools is justified because children are the only segment of the population without a vaccine. Those over 15 are getting their first dose now. Vaccines for children above two years of age will have to wait for a while longer, probably till early summer when five vaccines will be available to them — Cadila Healthcare's ZyCoV-D, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, the Serum Institute's Covovax, Biological E's RBD and Johnson & Johnson's 26COV.2S vaccine. In the meanwhile, there should have been a national assessment of the fall in education reception, or knowledge absorption and in the standards among children, if any. The shortcomings of the online method of teaching are already in the public sphere. Students from poor families are suffering from not being able to afford digital devices or lacking electricity to run them. Parents are beginning to ask why education is not an "essential" service like economic activity is. They find it surprising that bars are the first to reopen, but not schools. They say it is naïve to suppose children are not exposed to the virus when adults in the family go out regularly for work. It is time for rationality, not emotions, to decide on the reopening of schools. There is no scientific reason to keep them closed, anyway.

PICTALK

Tourists paraglide as weather clears after snowfall in the Solanganala plains of Manali PTI

Opportunists

Political leaders of myriad hues have turned elections into a joke in their lust for power

Till the 1980s, June and July used to be months of activity in Kolkata's football *maidans* despite the monsoon. That was the period of inter-club player transfers as a prelude to the Calcutta League. Though neither Bengal nor India were anywhere near the top 10 teams in Asia, the transfers took place with decency and dignity. The Indian Soccer League has since robbed the Calcutta League and the player transfers of their importance. The elections to five State Assemblies, to be held in February 2022, bring to mind more or less a similar scenario. Ministers, Assembly's sitting members and the out-of-favour leaders have suddenly sprung to life and are animatedly defecting from their old party to new outfits for the lure of tickets and other benefits. In Uttar Pradesh, many Ministers and their hangers-on have jumped fences and crossed over to parties which offered to fulfil their demands. A leader in the BJP's UP Government suddenly got enlightened that his community, Dalits and Muslims were being ignored by the Government in power since 2017 and so he walked off to the rival camp.

On why he kept quiet for five long years before crossing over to another party, his explanation was that people had given him the mandate for five years and that period was over once the election was declared! While this Minister defected to the Samajwadi Party, a leader from the house of the SP bosses jumped ship and joined the Hindutva bandwagon, portraying it as 'secular and humane'. The Uttarakhand PCC president joined the BJP because he would not have made it to the list of party candidates in the GOP. These are not stray incidents but routine shows that play out before every election. The Aaya Rams and Gaya Rams are still around…in modern avatars. Though Rajiv Gandhi after becoming Prime Minister amended the Constitution in 1985 with a view to checking defections, our ingenious political leaders have designed new strategies to circumvent the anti-defection laws. Politics is degenerating into 'politricks' and has truly become the 'Great Indian Political Circus'. If the common man opts for "one nation, one election" as proposed by the Prime Minister, it is only to get rid of this political gymnastics. A senior and respected MP was heard saying the other day she was willing to step aside provided her son was accommodated in her place. Cry, my beloved country!!

Hindus as punching bags for centuries?

PRAFULL **GORADIA**

There are several mentions in historical recordings and scholarly papers to show that pre-Islamic religious edifices were razed to build mosques

There is no doubt that Hindus have had the image of being soft and, therefore, a useful punching bag. It was overdue for a firm stand to be taken as was rightly done by TS Tirumurti, the Indian permanent representative to the United Nations, very recently. Swami Vivekananda was palpably aware of the Hindu image having been tarnished and there being a Hindu phobia. Accorded a tumultuous welcome upon his return after making a great name for himself and his faith overseas, Swamiji gave a frank explanation for why there was Hindu phobia.

Sir Sankaran Nair, a member of the Viceroy's Council, in his book called *Gandhi and Anarchy* (published by Tagore & Company; Madras, 1922), wrote: "For sheer brutality on women, I do not remember anything in history to match the Malabar rebellion. It broke out about the 20th of August (1921). Even by the 6th of September, the results were dreadful." Gandhiji's comment which he wrote in *Young India* of September 29, 1921: "We have forgotten the divine out of dying for our faiths without retaliation… The Hindus must have the courage and the faith to feel that they can protect their religion in spite of such fanatical eruptions." He warned the Government against excessive repression of the Moplahs. The ending of the revolt was a matter not only of urgency, but of simple humanity: "Be the Moplahs ever so bad, they deserve to be treated as human beings."

Amongst Swami Dayanand' successors, Swami Shraddhananda was the most successful in implementing *shuddhi*. He was murdered in his sick bed. Gandhi's comment was: "I have called Abdul Rashid a brother and I repeat it. I do not even regard him as guilty of Swami's murder. Guilty indeed are those who excited feelings of hatred against one another."

The message of Vivekananda was clear that many problems have their roots in us. There is no power in the universe to injure us unless we first injure ourselves. One-fifth of the population in India has become Mohammedan. Whose fault is it? One of our historians says in ever-memorable language: "Why should these poor wretches starve and die of thirst when the perennial fountain of life is flowing by? The question is: What did we do for these people who forsook their own religion? Why should they have become Mohammedan?"

To go back to Aurangzeb, over two centuries after the desecration, F Growse, the magistrate of the district in the 1870s, felt that of all the sacred places in India, none enjoys greater popularity than the capital of Braj, the holy city of Mathura. For nine months in the year, festival follows upon festival in rapid succession and the ghats and temples are daily thronged by new troops of way-worn pilgrims. So great is the sanctity of the spot that its panegyrists do not hesitate to declare that a single day spent in Mathura is more meritorious than a lifetime passed in Benares. All this celebrity is due to the fact of it being the birthplace of lord Krishna.

> THE MESSAGE OF VIVEKANANDA WAS THAT MANY PROBLEMS HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN US. THERE IS NO POWER TO INJURE US UNLESS WE FIRST INJURE OURSELVES. ONE-FIFTH OF THE POPULATION IN INDIA HAS BECOME MOHAMMEDAN. WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

In his *Mathura: A District Memoir*, Growse has recorded his exhaustive survey of Brajbhoomi. He was so overwhelmed by the vandalism that visited the area repeatedly that he wrote feelingly, although his home was in faraway England. To quote: "Thanks to Muhammadan intolerance, there is not a single building of any antiquity either in the city itself or its environs. Its most famous temple, which was dedicated to Kesava Deva (Krishna), was destroyed in 1669, the 11th year of the reign of the iconoclast Aurangzeb. The mosque (*idgah*) erected on its ruins is a building of little architectural value."

Today, Balkrishna is worshipped in a little room which appears like a servant quarter adjoining the back of the *idgah*. Pathos can be experienced by any visitor, whether a devotee or otherwise. The mischief with *masjid*s extends from Somnath in the west to Adina mosque on the Bangladesh border in the east. The Adina mosque is situated on National Hiighway No.34 near Gaur. On the wall outside, distinct remnants of Hindu deities are visible. One stone slab displays Ganesh by the side of his consort. Inside the mosque, the stone work is equally convincing that the original building was a temple. There has obviously been done a fair amount of work on this place of worship. Memoirs of Gaur and Pandua by M Abid Ali Khan, subsequently revised by HP Stapleton, prove this.

A more recent work of scholarship is entitled *Mosque Architecture of Pre-Mughal Bengal* by Dr Syed Mahmudul Hasan. Evidently, local legend as to who built the Adina mosque and why, appears to be incorrect. According to scholars, it was established by Sultan Sikandar Shah between 1366 and 1374 AD. There is a difference of opinion, especially between JH Ravenshaw and other scholars as to whether Gaur, the famous capital of medieval Bengal, was older or whether Hazrat Pandua, where Adina is located, flourished earlier. The significance of the controversy is about how much rubble from pre-Islamic edifices could have been used. Dr Hasan is impartial enough to quote various scholars at length, although he betrays some unhappiness at the allegation about the use of Hindu materials.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MAHARAJA'S HOMECOMING

Sir — For the Tatas, the original owners of Air India, nothing can be greater delight than the homecoming of the debt-laden, yet the nation's prestigious, air carrier after nearly seven decades. Air India, which gave wings to the nation, was much more than a business venture to the country's biggest conglomerate. ('*Air India lands up in Tatas' hands*'; January 28). From the first operation from Karachi to Bombay in October 1932, with JRD Tata steering a Puss Moth aircraft, to seizing control of Air India 89 years later, the Tata Group has had a rollercoaster ride in Indian civil aviation history.

While normally aircraft head back to their original destinations after flying, perhaps for the first time in aviation history has an airline company itself headed back to its original roots. The skies of independent India had long witnessed the dominance of the country's flagship airliner, and perhaps they are eagerly waiting to welcome the beginning of a new era in India's aviation ecosystem. And the Maharaja, whose famous moustache was designed by Bobby Kooka, a close associate and friend of JRD Tata, is truly back with a bang.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | *Chennai*

INT'L HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sir — We observe the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 every year to mark the liberation of Nazi Germany concentration camp, Auschwitz Birkenau, from the historical atrocities committed on Jews. This day reminds us of the crimes committed by Nazi Germany in concentration camps, leading to about 1.1 million deaths between 1940 and 1945. On this day, the qualities of tolerance, equality, free speech and human rights need to be inculcated in this world beset by a number of challenges and inequalities. As the holocaust memories fade in the mist of time, anti-Semitic, religious and racial intolerance are taking the centre stage.

Since the number of Holocaust survivors is showing a downward trend, the younger generation must be made aware of it so as to be able to separate facts from falsehoods and hatred. Enlightening the youth about the agony of Holocaust is a tool that can spring them into action against the scourge of hatred. When Holocaust survivors' memories become ours, the future generations will avoid the mistakes of their ancestors. Collective memory has the propensity not just to serve as a blueprint for the future but also to rekindle the past memories and avoid repeating mistakes.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | *Nainital*

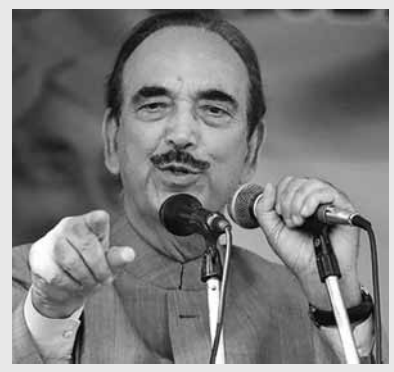
WHAT'S WRONG WITH INDIAN CRICKET?

Sir — Cricket is like a game of chess and so every move counts in its shortest form. Having lost the Test series in a one-day fashion, we could have chalked out a strategy to avoid the mistakes committed in the longest form of the game. The blame game has started. It started from the Kohli era but we blame Rahul for the downfall. The ex-captain is enjoying his cricket just like it is an outing in the park. As the captain, he was sending flying kisses to the pavilion and now, as a player, he is doing a cradle celebration.

The batting standards have gone down considerably, which forced such a situation that the bowlers were put to test. In the event of a small total to defend, most of the time on the tour our strategy should be to dismiss the opposition early. We lost to South Africa 1-2 in Test matches and 0-3 in One-Day matches. As a result, we sacked certain star bowlers as scapegoats. How long can we bank on our home wins? What is wrong with Indian cricket? Thus India's T-20 ranking is by far the best, compared to Test (3rd) and ODI (4th) after the debacle in South Africa.

Bal Govind | *Noida*

Reason for Cong's discomfiture



This refers to the editorial, '*Missing focus*' (January 28). The Government awarding the Padma Bhushan to Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad in recognition of his services to public affairs has brought the fault lines in the party to the fore. Innuendoes and indignities against him are flying around. Praising the one from West Bengal as "Azad" for rejecting the national honour and mocking the other as "Ghulam" for accepting it signifies the grand old party's deep decline. Azad's public affairs credentials are impeccable. He was the J&K CM in 2005, after Congress' CM Syed Mir Qasim in 1975. Also, he was Cabinet colleague to the party's who's-who of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

This Government has in the past honoured Congress stalwarts like Pranab Mukherjee and Tarun Gogoi, too. Terming the present conferment 'political' is not true. Even the Government's harshest critics, the Shiv Sena and TMC, endorse the honour to Azad. After being sidelined by his party since he is a G23 member, Azad is doing well by pulling crowds in his home State. He may be eying a new political innings in J&K. That he may align with the BJP is probably worrying the Congress. Sad that while senior party members are polarised on the issue, the party's top leadership is in such disarray that it cannot even focus on the upcoming State elections.

SK Prabhakar | *Gurugram*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

In the 75th year of Independence, we must resolve to ensure 75% turnout in every election.

Prime Minister
— Narendra Modi

No deal with prosecutors (in graft trial). I will continue to lead Likud (Party).

Israeli ex-PM
— Benjamin Netanyahu

We Indians are in a much better place than many other countries.

Singer
— Daler Mehndi

I asked myself 'What'd Novak do'? And I thought, OK, fight to the last point.

Russian tennis player
— Danill Medvedev

It's better to wind up tribunals if things are going to be like this. What about propriety?

Chief Justice of India
— NV Ramana

FIRSTCOLUMN

SOVEREIGN BOND MOVE IS A WELCOME IDEA

Foreign capital inflow will ease down the bond yield to some extent

SHSHANK **SAURAV**

Union budget 2022 is few days away and there are speculations around inclusion of India's sovereign bond in the global bond index. Sometime back RBI governor said that the process is on and it should happen in few months. Historically, India has remained averse to the foreign ownership in the country's debt. This policy choice was largely driven by our experience related to balance of payment situation in 1990s. Government opened up the corporate sector for foreign capital (via FDI/FIIroute) and even FPI limit in corporate bond was kept high but RBI continued to keep a conservative stand on sovereign bonds. Things have changed now and our foreign exchange reserve is enough to withstand the short-termvolatility caused by sudden capital outflow. The Covid pandemic has curtailed revenue generation on one hand while public spending has increased on the other. The Government has resorted to borrowing as other non-tax receipts (like disinvestment proceedsor asset

monetisation schemes) are lagging behind the target. The GOI 10-year bond yield has touched two years high of 6.54 percent in January 2022. Economic growth is still under the shadows of pandemic and therefore government borrowing is unlikely to come down drastically. When economy revives and credit demand picks up, banks would not be showing the same appetite for the Government papers and it appears that yields are not going to ease in near term. A higher yield means more outflow on account of interest payment and thereby leaving less amount with government for infrastructure and asset creation.

Foreign capital inflow will ease down the bond yield to some extent. However, this inflow will cause appreciation of INR and it will be detrimental to the exporters. This exchange rate movement can be managed by the RBI with its market interventionpolicies. Despite of various concessions and incentives given by government, private investment is not picking up and government has to come forward for almost all major infrastructure projects.Domestic borrowing directly impacts the liquidity which has direct impact on demand/consumption and inflation.In our case, external borrowing should be used for growth purpose only and foreign capital should not be tapped just to finance the fiscal deficit.Country's risk perception determines the demand of the government papers by the buyers. Credit Default Swap spread isgenerally used to gauge the risk perception on the securities issued by the borrower. India's five-year sovereign CDS spread has consistently fallen (after reaching its peak in March' 20 due to Covid-related uncertainty)which means that credit perception has improved. India's sovereign credit rating has remained stable and downgrading by Moody's in June 2020 from Baa2 to Baa3 had invited severe criticism. Attractive yields on Indian bonds are remunerative to the foreign investors even if exchange rate risk is factored in and therefore demand of these securities is not a question which policy makers should worry about.There are certain areas which needs to be clarified by the RBI and finance ministry before this policy shift sees the light of the day. Though there is an overall ceiling of six percent and two percent of outstanding loans for central Government and state development loans respectively, operational process should be smooth. Taxation aspect (both interest receipt at periodic interval and capital gain) is important as any relaxation to the foreign investors would be detrimental to the domestic investors. A concession to the foreign investors while taxing the transaction in the hands of domestic investors would go against the principles of equity. This structural shift shows change of mindset and it is a welcome step but will needto be monitored cautiously post implementation.

(The writer is a Chartered Accountant, author and public policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Can Modi-Capt duo help BJP in Punjab?

AMITABH **SHUKLA**

Several Assembly polls have shown that Modi alone cannot be the face of BJP; it needs that extra zing, that extra person or an issue, to ride home

The Enforcement Directorate's raids on the house and business premises of the relatives of Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi follows a set pattern being followed by the central agencies for a while now in poll-bound states.

"This will generate a lot of smoke, this smoke will remain visible for a while but it will have little or no adverse political consequences for those who have been targeted," a leader in Punjab quipped on the timing of the raids when elections have been announced and the electoral process has begun.

Those who are knee-deep into politics say that the ED or Income Tax raids or any raid by a central agency hardly benefits the BJP in the elections as the fire is extinguished by those affected by the raid the very next day by playing the victim card to the hilt. The smoke too clears in the next 3-4 days after the agencies give an account of the recoveries and the dust it generates settles down in a week.

So, BJP in Punjab will have to rely solely on the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the political guile of two-time chief minister Amarinder Singh, having a combined tenure of nine and a half years in the top job of the state.

As we all know by now, Modi has a great influence when it comes to something like presidential type elections where he hardly has any political rivals and easily towers over others. It happened in 2014 and 2019 where the election was clearly Modi versus the rest. Obviously the combined "rest" was no match to Modi and the results hardly had any element of surprise. Not much has changed even in 2022 on this front.

However, at the same time, the Assembly elections in several states clearly showed that Modi alone cannot be the face of BJP and it has to get that extra zing, that extra person or an issue to ride home. Even in the home state of the Prime Minister, Gujarat, Congress did reasonably well despite the fact that Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah hailed from the same state. There were a string of losses in states all over the country, suggesting that local and regional leaders held on their own in their home turfs.

In Chandigarh Municipal Corporation elections, Modi was the only face of the BJP in the polls and the party could not win a majority despite ruling the civic body for five years. It's a different matter that through political machinations, it managed to get its "minority" Mayor elected, though the Aam Aadmi Party had two seats more than the BJP in the House.

So in Punjab, it is unlikely that Modi will have a big influence in the voting process and outcome, whatever his supporters say. The only rally he was supposed to address before the polls were announced, in Ferozepur, had to be canceled after the much-publicized security

> WITHOUT GETTING INTO IFS AND BUTS OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTER THE POLLING, IT IS CLEAR THAT BJP WANTS TO HAVE A ROADMAP OF ITS OWN IN THE SIKH MAJORITY STATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT WAS IN ALLIANCE WITH THE SHIROMANI AKALI DAL FOR OVER TWO DECADES IN THE BORDER STATE AND USED TO CONTEST 20 SEATS IN THE URBAN AREAS AS A JUNIOR PARTNER

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)

breach. Though the weather was bad on that day and prevented people from getting out, the low presence at the rally ground suggested that despite the repeal of the three farm laws, BJP has still to cross several more bridges to gain the trust of the Punjabis. To bridge that gap, one election is too short a time. It will take a while and sustained political efforts before BJP comes with the right formulae and local social engineering to get going in Punjab.

As far as Amarinder Singh is concerned, many in the state, some even his supporters, now believe that for him, forming Punjab Lok Congress and aligning with BJP is not a serious shot at power but only an attempt to ensure that Congress which he feels humiliated him, is defeated. Also, many in his old party believe that Amarinder could well be looking at fishing in troubled waters with half a dozen MLAs in a possible hung Assembly.

Without getting into ifs and buts of what would happen after the polling, it is clear that BJP wants to have a roadmap of its own in the Sikh majority state in the near future. It was in alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal for over two decades in the border state and used to contest 20 seats in the urban areas as a junior partner. The two parties complemented each other well-SAD, claiming to put across Sikh point of view while BJP the Hindu point of view in a state which was badly affected by militancy in the 1980s and early 1990s.

The now repealed three agricultural laws changed the political dynamics of the state and no one either from the BJP or the SAD could envisage the consequences it would have on state politics before the bills were conceptualized and eventually passed. As Sikh farmers from the state gathered at Delhi borders in one of the most visible non-violent protests in decades, opposition to the farm laws became a sort of mass movement in Punjab which a party could neglect only at its peril. SAD took the initiative and parted ways with its partner BJP and withdrew its minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal from the Modi Cabinet.

Even when BJP was in alliance with SAD, particularly, during the ten years of its rule (2007 to 20017), there were demands within BJP to test electoral waters independently. This chorus grew louder since 2014 when Modi emerged as a towering leader and BJP won several state elections and changed the political dynamics of the country. So, in 2022 it will be the first time in decades that BJP would be the big brother in the alliance with Congress turncoat and PLC chief Amarinder Singh and would contest 65 odd seats. If BJP manages a decent show and the definition of a decent outing would vary from one leader to the other, a new alignment could emerge in Punjab. But given the fact that BJP has been unable to grow in rural Punjab due to multiple factors, it looks like a long haul for the saffron party at present.

Many in the SAD believe that Amarinder Singh's PLC is only a one election wonder and they have little or no differences with BJP, more so when the reason for their differences-Farm Acts-no longer exists. So there would hardly be much surprise if the SAD is back in alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and a soft understanding soon after the 2022 Assembly polls. In fact, none of the two parties-SAD and BJP-are making noises against each other in the campaign, making it clear that there is hardly any difference of opinion amongst them. If BJP does reasonably well in assembly polls, it will then bargain for more seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from SAD. That seems to be the refrain of some BJP leaders as well as an aging Captain Amarinder is no guarantee for their future political plans in the state and SAD completes the Hindu-Sikh political stereotype which helps BJP in rest of the country as well.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO @GHULAMNAZAD ON HIS PADMA BHUSHAN. IT'S GOOD TO BE RECOGNISED EVEN BY A GOVT OF THE OTHER SIDE.
— CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR

RIGHT THING TO DO (REFUSING THE AWARD). HE (BUDDHADEB BHATTACHARJEE) WANTS TO BE AZAD (FREE), NOT GHULAM (A SLAVE).
—CONGRESS RAJYA SABHA WHIP JAIRAM RAMESH

Solid waste management policy still suffers from niggles

Primary segregation is key to effective solid waste management, specifically recycling and composting

RAJESH **KUMAR**

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 brought in by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are having limited success. Authorities right from the Ministry of Urban Development, CPCB, State pollution Control Boards, Municipalities, and Gram Panchayats have been made accountable. Implementation is mainly by municipal authorities and gram panchayats as per rules. Segregation at source is the mainstay of the Rules as has been amply demonstrated by municipalities like Indore, making citizens and institutions responsible for primary segregation.

The ministries of of Urban Development and Rural Development are the main monitoring agencies at the national level.

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, according to clause 7, has to ensure market development assistance and promotion of city compost with chemical fertilizers in the ratio of 3:4, but the ministry has done nothing to assist the municipalities and gram panchayats, where compost is being produced.

Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture, as per clause 8, had to set up labs for checking the quality and propagation of compost on farmland, but it has done little. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) hardly monitors State Pollution Control Boards for implementation. Even Delhi is not segregating waste as per rules right under the nose of CPCB. According to SWM Rules

2016, Clause 15 makes local authorities responsible for solid waste management. Except for municipalities like Indore, Ambikapur and a few others, no municipality is following the rules. Cities like Noida are finally working on different types of waste and segregation at doorsteps but implementation is insufficient even though City managers like Salil Yadav worked hard to implement and succeeded partially. He has been transferred to Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) to implement in the planned township of Greater Noida.

GNIDA was fined Rs 2 crore by National Green Tribunal in 2019 for not properly implementing SWM 2016 rules. Since then, it has taken action for empanelment of private agencies for bulk waste generators (apartments) and has empaneled more than 17 agencies in category 2 of its notification.

Sources said three attempts were made by GNIDA to empanel vendors for colonies but due to unfavourable conditions such as unwillingness to pay or pay very little, harassment of sanitary workers and collectors, the attitude of residents, foiled the initiative.

A look at the implementation of apartments and colonies like Jalvayu Vihar, AWHO, Gurjinder Vihar, Jaypee Greens, La Residentia, NHPC Employee colony, Greenwoods Society, Ansal Golf Links, Gaur City 1 & 2 throws up interesting facts.

Jaypee installed a composter machine in July 2021, in accordance with the SWM rules of GNIDA and Central Government, but the machine had not worked properly due to its vendor's inadequacies. Segregation at the residential level was patchy at best. A person from the machine maker explained that it is a proper aerobic composter and not a burning machine as used in many societies. Sources from GNIDA informed that Jaypee had been fined heavily on quite a few occasions as waste was not being processed and was picked by a company, K waste, which disposed of all wastes in landfills. Penalty amount could not be verified. La Resdentia was earlier a joint venture with Amrapali. After being fined by GNIDA they have bought the machine and are finalizing the vendor. In the case of Gaur City, a huge residential complex, segregation, and processing were not visible.

AWHO, similar to Jaypee Greens, has a very big aerobic composter and a proper structure allotted and one of the first to implement in 2019. It was inaugurated by Deputy CEO of GNIDA, but the machine is not working since September 2021. A source in the RWA office informed that a company was doing the composting till August 2021 but the RWA Housekeeping committee and the company had their differences and so, the company was asked to wait till they try a new vendor from September 2021. But it has been months and neither the current vendor K Waste nor the current RWA committee has taken action to rectify the machine. The plant did not have any workers and no evidence of any waste management work was seen. GNIDA has not taken action against AWHO as per rules. The earlier company was not available for comments.

In the case of AWHO, one RWA committee was the initiator and the committee which came later played the spoilsport and violator. GNIDA sources informed they have blacklisted certain vendors like SVM, who were throwing waste in landfills in Greater Noida or even transported it to Ghaziabad.

Russia: Won't start war over Ukraine tensions

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's top diplomat said Friday that Moscow will not start a war in Ukraine but warned that it wouldn't allow the West to trample on its security interests, amid fears it is planning to invade its neighbor.

U.S. President Joe Biden warned Ukraine's leader a day earlier that there is a "distinct possibility" that Russia could take military action against the former Soviet state in February.

"There won't be a war as far as it depends on the Russian Federation, we don't want a war," Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a live interview with Russian radio stations. "But we won't let our interests be rudely trampled on and ignored."

Tensions have soared in recent weeks, and United States and its NATO allies warily eyed a buildup of more than 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine, worrying that Moscow was preparing to attack. Russia has repeatedly denied having any such plans, but has demanded that NATO promise Ukraine will never be allowed to join and that alliance roll back deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe. The U.S. and NATO formally rejected those demands this week, though Washington outlined areas where discussions are possible, offering hope that there could be a way to avoid war.Russia's official response to those proposals will come from President Vladimir Putin, but Kremlin has said there was "little ground for optimism."

Lavrov echoed that grim note Friday."While they say they won't change their positions, we won't change ours," he said. "I don't see any room for compromise here."Putin opened the weekly meeting of his Security Council on Friday, saying only that it would address foreign policy issues.

Later, in a video call with French President Emmanuel Macron, the Kremlin said he emphasized that U.S. and NATO failed to consider Russia's key demands: precluding NATO's expansion, stopping the deployment of alliance weapons near Russian borders and rolling back its forces from Eastern Europe. At the same time, Putin spoke in favor of continuing talks about a stalled peace agreement for eastern Ukraine, where Russia-backed rebels are fighting Ukrainian forces. Those talks are among Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany, and presidential envoys from four countries met in Paris on Wednesday and agreed to have another meeting in Berlin in two weeks.Following 2014 ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president in Kyiv, Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and began backing insurgency in country's eastern industrial heartland.

Earlier, Lavrov noted that U.S. suggested two sides could talk about limits on deployment of intermediate-range missiles, restrictions on military drills and rules to prevent accidents between warships and aircraft.

He said that Russia proposed discussing those issues years ago — but Washington and its allies never took them up on it until now. While he described U.S. offers as reasonable, he also emphasized that Russia's main concerns on NATO. He noted that international agreements say that security of one nation must not come at expense of others' — and that he would send letters to ask his Western counterparts to address that obligation.

Biden says Russian invasion in February 'distinct possibility'

AP ■ MOSCOW

The White House says President Joe Biden warned Ukraine's president Thursday that there is a "distinct possibility" Russia could take military action against Ukraine in February. The Kremlin likewise sounded a grim note, saying it saw "little ground for optimism" in resolving the crisis after the U.S. this week again rejected Russia's main demands.

Russian officials said dialogue was still possible to end the crisis, but Biden again offered a stark warning amid growing concerns that Russian President Vladimir Putin will give the go-ahead for a further invasion of Ukrainian territory in the not-so-distant future.

The White House said Biden's comments to Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a phone call amplified concerns that administration officials have been making for some time."President Biden said that there is a distinct possibility that Russians could invade Ukraine in February," White House National Security Council spokesperson Emily Horne said. "He has said this publicly and we have been warning about this for months. "Tensions have soared in recent weeks, as United States and its NATO allies expressed concern that a buildup of about 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine signaled that Moscow planned to invade its ex-Soviet neighbor. Russia denies having any such designs — and has laid out a series of demands it says will improve security in Europe. But as expected, the U.S. and Western alliance firmly rejected any concessions on Moscow's main points Wednesday, refusing to permanently ban Ukraine from joining NATO and saying allied deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe are nonnegotiable.

Japan to watch WHO probe of director's alleged racism, abuse

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's government said Friday it will watch the World Health Organization's investigation into staff complaints over racism and abuse by a top Japanese official at the agency but denied it inappropriately received sensitive vaccine information from him.

Meanwhile in Geneva, France's diplomatic mission said that if the allegations are proven to be true, the possible consequences include the termination of the WHO director's contract.

An investigation by the Associated Press this week found WHO staffers alleged that Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the U.N. health agency's top director in Western Pacific, engaged in unethical, racist and abusive behavior, undermining WHO's efforts to curb the coronavirus pandemic, according to an internal complaint filed last October.The complaints were also emailed to senior WHO leaders last week and describe a "toxic atmosphere" with "a culture of systemic bullying" at WHO's regional headquarters in the Philippines.

China says UN rights chief welcome in Xinjiang, but not for probe

PTI ■ BEIJING

China said on Friday United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet is welcome to visit Xinjiang, where Beijing faces serious human rights allegations against Uygur Muslims, after Winter Olympic Games to promote cooperation and not an investigation based on "presumption of guilt".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a media briefing here that invitation was extended a long time ago and two sides have been maintaining communication."China welcomes Madam Bachelet to visit China, including Xinjiang," Zhao said.

"Our position is consistent and clear. The purpose of the visit is to promote exchange and cooperation, not investigation based on presumption of guilt. We oppose anyone using this for political manipulation to pressure China," he said.

The spokesman, however, skirted a direct answer when asked to comment on a media report stating China is also insisting Bachelet should not release her report on Xinjiang before February 4 Beijing Winter Olympics opening ceremony as demanded by US politicians."I can tell you Xinjiang enjoys economic prosperity and social order and people there are leading happy lives with their human rights fully protected," he said. China firmly opposes tactics of using Xinjiang to smear country by distorting facts, he said.

China has launched a diplomatic offensive to mobilise world leaders to attend February 4 opening ceremony of Winter Olympics as US, the EU and several western countries announced a boycott of event by their diplomats to highlight allegations of human rights violations in Xinjiang, including incarceration of over a million Uygur Muslims in camps.

A host of world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, besides UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres are due to attend opening ceremony to show solidarity with Beijing.

Russia nears 100,000 daily infections as omicron rages

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian authorities on Friday reported over 98,000 new confirmed coronavirus cases, but according to the Kremlin, the actual number is likely to be much higher as the highly contagious omicron variant continues to rage through the vast country.

Russia's state coronavirus task force on Friday registered 98,040 new infections tallied over the past 24 hours - another all-time high for the country that in recent weeks has faced its biggest surge of contagions in the pandemic. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Friday that "it is obvious that this number is higher and possibly much higher," because "many people don't get tested" and have no symptoms. Peskov noted that Russia's numbers are "so far lower than in Western European countries, than in the US, so one can't rule out that they will grow further".

The Kremlin spokesman also admitted that a lot of people in the presidential administration have gotten infected with the virus. "The vast majority continue to work from home after having isolated themselves," Peskov said. "This explosive contagiousness of the omicron, it demonstrates itself in full." Coronavirus infections in Russia started to soar nearly three weeks ago, with daily tallies of new cases spiking from about 15,000 on Jan 10 to almost 100,000 on Friday.

Philippines lifts ban on foreign tourists as outbreak eases

Manila: The Philippines will lift a ban on the entry of foreign tourists and business people next month after nearly two years, in a move to revive the battered tourism industry as the latestcoronavirus outbreak started to ease, officials said Friday. *AP*

Scotland Yard seeks 'minimal reference' to some partygate events

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Friday said it has sought "minimal reference" to events it is investigating from a UK Cabinet Office inquiry, being led by top civil servant Sue Gray over so-called "partygate" scandal of alleged gatherings within government quarters that may have breached COVID lockdown rules in 2020-2021.Gray's inquiry report, which poses a serious threat to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's leadership, is said to be complete but there has been a delay since some of its findings were passed on to London's Metropolitan Police earlier this week, to probe "serious and flagrant" breaches of corona laws.

Who's who among some possible top Supreme Court contenders

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement gives President Joe Biden a chance to make his first nomination to high court. It's also a chance for Biden to fulfill a campaign promise to nominate the first Black woman to be a justice. Some things to know about the women seen as leading candidates:

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Ketanji Brown Jackson has known Breyer for decades. A graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law school, she was a law clerk to Breyer from 1999 to 2000. She is comfortable enough with her former boss to have a little fun at his expense. In 2017, after Breyer accidentally brought his cellphone to court and it rang, Jackson introduced him at an event and pretended to get a call mid-introduction from Breyer's colleague, Justice Neil Gorsuch. After clerking for Breyer, Jackson was as a lawyer in private practice, worked as a public defender and served on U.S. Sentencing Commission. President Barack Obama nominated her to be a federal trial court judge in District of Columbia in 2013. Biden elevated her to U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit, where she has served since June 2021.

Recently, Jackson was part of a three-judge panel that ruled against former President Donald Trump's effort to shield documents from House committee investigating Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at Capitol. Jackson, 51, also has advantage of a connection to Republicans. She is related by marriage to former House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. Jackson's husband, Dr. Patrick Jackson, a surgeon, is the twin brother of Ryan's brother-in-law.

N Korea confirms missile tests as Kim visits munitions site

AP ■ SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

North Korea said Friday its two latest rounds of weapons tests this week were successful while vowing to bolster its nuclear "war deterrent" and speed up development of more powerful warheads.It appeared North Korean leader Kim Jong Un did not attend tests on Tuesday and Thursday, which were detected by militaries of neighbors South Korea and Japan. But Kim did inspect a munitions factory where workers pledged loyalty to their leader, who "smashes with his bold pluck challenges of U.S. imperialists and their vassal forces," state media said. North Korea has been ramping up its testing activity in recent months, including six rounds of weapons launches so far in 2022, demonstrating its military might amid pandemic-related difficulties and a prolonged freeze in nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

Iraqi Army: Rockets hit Baghdad airport, damage two planes

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Six rockets struck Baghdad's international airport facility on Friday, damaging two commercial planes but causing no casualties, Iraq's military said in a statement.

The rockets fired in early morning landed on planes parked in a waiting area of Iraqi Airways, the country's national carrier, the statement said. One rocket punched a gaping hole in cockpit area of plane.

The attack marks an escalation of a series of rocket and drone strikes that have targeted U.S. and their allies as well as Iraqi government institutions since start of year. Most attacks targeting airport did not cause heavy damage or affect civilian areas of airport facility. The recent uptick followed second anniversary of U.S. strike that killed Iranian Gen. Qassim Soleimani and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

R.C.No. 406/2015 **E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE** **Dated: 14.01.2022**

ICICI BANK VS. MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI

"ORDER"

As per my order dated **14.01.2022** the under mentioned properties will be sold by Public e-auction sale on **05.03.2022** in the said Recovery Certificate:-

The auction sale will be "online e-auctioning" through **website:-www.bankeauctions.com**

Date and Time of Auction: 05.03.2022 between **03:00 PM** and **04:00 P.M.** (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

S.No.	Property Description	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)
1.	House No.1007, Khasra No.204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni Ghaziabad- 200001.	Rs. 8,55,000/-	Rs. 85,500/-

Terms & Conditions

1. The auction sale will be "online through" e-auction" through website portal: **www.bankeauctions.com.**
2 The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/c R.C. No. 406/2015". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of Identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attomey of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 03.03.2022 before 4:00 P.M. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
3. The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc, should be super-scribed **"RC No. 406/2015",**
4. The property is being sold on **"as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis".**
5. The bidders are advised to go through the portal **www.bankeauctions.com** for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact **Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videocom Tower, Jhandewalan Exten. Delhi, Mobile no. 9650957770 Email ID: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com.**
6. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2. Building No. 301. Gurugram Haryana-122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan. Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com.**
7. The interested bidders may avail online training on e.auction, after deposit of EMD, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301. Gurugram Haryana 122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com**
8. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line e auction
9. The prospective buyer may inspect the site on **17.02.2022 and 18.02.2022 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM,**
10. The Interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by **03.03.2022** in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi, Shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from **03.00 PM TO 04.00 PM. 05.03.2022.** In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
11. The bidders shall Improve their offer in multiples of **Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**
12. The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi Immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
13. The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c **R.C. No. 406/2015** by next bank working day I.e. by **04.00 PM** with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.
14. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C **RC. No. 406/2015,** the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT- II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit after defraying the expenses of the many sale, they, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfelt all claims to the property or to any part of the sam for which it may subsequently be sold.
15. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dast speed post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat of drum In its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal.
16. Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in Vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area.
17. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing.
18. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

Schedule of the property

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
House No.1007, Khasra No.204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni, Ghaziabad-200001.	Not known	Not known	Not known

Matter be listed on **18.02.2022** for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of e auction.

(Dattatrey Bajpayee)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II,
DRT-II, DELHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice given to all concerned that Flat No. D-0007, Plot No GH-5B, Sector 16, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh is solely owned by Nexgen Corporate Services LLP. Hence this notice is hereby given that no person/s (including builder) should do any legal transaction in respect to said flat without consent of the legal owner. Any such transaction will not be legal binding to the flat owner and hence the flat owners will not be responsible / liable for any damages.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Sh. Tej Prakash S/o Ram Kanwar R/o E-30, Hauz Khas, Main Market Delhi-16 who is the original allottee of Commercial Shop-3, Block-V-1, Sector-12, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.) had sold the said Shop on General power of attorney basis to the following person(s). GPA was executed on in favour of Sh. Amar Dev S/o Sh. Gokul Dev R/o Vill- Rithai, Kendare, Pawri Garhwal (Uttrakhand), which is registered Sub Registrar office Sub division -IV, Delhi on dated 02.09.1989, Bahi No.4, Jild No.793, at page No. from 53 to 54, & Serial No. 3684. The agreement to sell was not registered or not executed. Because the agreement to sell is not registered or no agreement to sell executed, so it is informed to all concern that the said Shop is going to be transferred in favour of Shri Krishan Kumar Sundriyal S/o Sh. Yogeshwar Prasad Sundriyal R/o 10-B, Dhawalgiri Apartment Sec-11, Noida G.B Nagra (U.P) if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Commercial Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. **Sh. Krishan Kumar Sundriyal**

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR SIGNALLING WORKS

Tender No.: 721-IBS-LC Gate-APR-KTE, Date: 24.01.2022. Work: Shifting of S&T cables, relocation of existing apparatus case, Foundation/erection/wiring of new apparatus case, installation, testing & commissioning of Electrical LC gate and sliding barrier and IBS etc in connection with Third line work in APR-KTE, in Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,78,87,901/- (₹ Three Crore Seventy Eight Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred One Only). **EMD:** ₹ 3,39,400/- (₹ Three Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Only).

Closing of Tender: Upto 15.30 hours on 17.02.2022.

For further details/eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the **Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer (Con.), South East Central Railway, Shahdol** or refer/ download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy.Chief Signal & Telecom. Eng./Con/Shahdol.
CPR/10/325

South East Central Railway @secrail

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड– 249404

संख्याः– 68(1)/17/गोपन–2/ए0पी0ओ0–21/2021–22, दिनांक : 28 जनवरी, 2022

विज्ञप्ति

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा दिनांक 21 नवम्बर, 2021 को आयोजित **उत्तराखण्ड सहायक अभियोजन अधिकारी परीक्षा–2021** के प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम दिनांक 28 जनवरी, 2022 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। परीक्षा परिणाम, अभ्यर्थियों के प्राप्तांक, कट ऑफ मार्क्स एवं संशोधित उत्तरकुंजी उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

(कर्मेन्द्र सिंह) सचिव।

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

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

NIT No.	**E-file No. 94869**
Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Work contract for complete Stripping and fitment of Mechanical and Electrical items viz. Furnishing items, Lavatory refurbishment, Passenger amenities, plumbing items, Bio tank, Vestibule rubber Fall plate, pantry items and other misc. electrical items including supply of Material as per scope of work for 10 LWSCZAC coaches at RCNK, SNP"
Approx Cost of work	Rs. Tender Cost: Rs. 4,29,62,944.29/- (Rs. Four Crore Twenty-Nine Lacs Sixty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Four and Twenty-Nine Paisa Only)
Earnest Money	18,48,200/-
Completion period of work	Six months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document (available on IREPS)	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and Opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs on 21.02.2022 Opening of Tender at 11:30 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

No. E-file No. 94869 Dated : 21.12.2021 **195/2022**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Ready for 'long overdue' pick of Black female justice: Biden

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden strongly affirmed Thursday that he will nominate the first Black woman to the U.S. Supreme Court, declaring such historic representation is "long overdue" and promising to announce his choice by the end of February.

In a White House ceremony marking a moment of national transition, Biden praised retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, who will have spent nearly 28 years on the high court by the time he leaves at the end of the term, as "a model public servant at a time of great division in this country."

And with that the search for Breyer's replacement was underway in full. Biden promised a nominee worthy of Breyer's legacy and said he'd already been studying the backgrounds and writings of potential candidates."I've made no decision except one: The person I will nominate will be somebody of extraordinary qualifications, character and integrity," he said. "And that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court. It is long overdue."Biden's choice will be historic on its face: No Black woman has ever served on the high court. But the decision is also coming at a critical time of national reckoning over race and gender inequality.

President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the retirement of Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, left, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Jan 27, 2022 (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

However, the court's 6-3 conservative majority is destined to remain intact.Biden is using his choice to fulfill one of his early campaign promises, one that helped resurrect his moribund primary campaign and propel him to the White House in 2020.

And it gives him the chance to show Black voters, who are increasingly frustrated with a president they helped to elect, that he is serious about their concerns, particularly with his voting rights legislation stalled in the Senate. It also could help drive Democratic enthusiasm amid concerns about a midterm routing in congressional races.

CANCELLATION/RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC-CUM-POWER BLOCK

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhanced the safety standards, Railways will undertake the maintenance work of Level Crossing gates BK-6 between Uslapur-Ghutku stations on UP & DN line of Bilaspur Division in South East Central Railway. To execute this work, traffic -cum-power block will be taken for the duration of 06:00 hrs. on 30.01.2022 (Sunday). During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
15231 Barauni Jn. - Varanasi Jn.- Gondia Jn. Express	29.01.2022
15232 Gondia Jn. - Varanasi Jn. - Barauni Jn. Express	30.01.2022

RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

Train No. 18477 Puri-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Utkal Express will be rescheduled at 22.45 hrs instead of 20.45 hrs on 29.01.2022.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. **139**
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download Railmadad App
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Follow us on :-
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 200/2022

Report: Economy needs more hand-holding, fiscal correction can wait

Mumbai: Warning that any sudden and sharp fiscal consolidation steps can throttle the nascent and uneven recovery of the Indian economy, a Wall Street brokerage has said the Budget should instead focus on boosting overall demand, from rural consumption in particular, and invest more in infrastructure.

The successive waves of the pandemic has made it more difficult to reduce government debt as a share of GDP in the medium-term, said Goldman Sachs in a pre-Budget note.

It thus pencilled in a gradual fiscal consolidation with FY23 falling by 50 basis points to 6.3 per cent from 6.8 per cent in FY22, and set a target of bringing it down to 4.5 per cent by FY26.

The brokerage believes that even though allocation for COVID related expenses will come down, the government will have to continue to focus on welfare spending and also expects capex to increase 12 per cent.

But the higher spending will most likely be financed by higher tax revenue in FY23 and deferred asset sales from the current year, helping reduce the deficit.

It also sees the general government fiscal deficit falling to 9.3 per cent of GDP in FY23 from 10.1 per cent in FY22 on the back of stronger nominal GDP growth.

If the Budget removes capital gains tax and withholding tax on foreign bond investments in the country, India will likely be included in the global bond index by Q4 of 2022 and this can help the country attract an additional USD 30 billion inflows in 2023, which again will lead to lower deficit.

Gross tax collections in the first eight months of FY22 rose to 70 per cent of budget estimates which is the highest in the last 10 years. Direct taxes have grown 66 per cent on-year, led by income and corporate tax growth while indirect taxes have grown 39 per cent driven by buoyant GST and excise duties on fuel prices.

The report expects gross tax revenue to overshoot budget estimates by about 1.1 per cent of GDP in FY22 and non-tax revenue to be higher by 0.1 per cent of GDP driven by increased dividends from the RBI and higher deferred payments from telcos. ***PTI***

Sensex succumbs to late sell-off, ends 77 pts lower

Mumbai: The BSE gauge Sensex dived nearly 900 points from the day's peak to finish Friday's highly volatile session 77 points lower at 57,200, triggered by a late sell-off mainly in banking and auto shares.

Starting off on a high note, the 30-share index soared to trade briefly above the key 58,000-level in afternoon trade, before plunging to a low of 57,119.28. After fighting bouts of volatility towards the fag-end of the session, the index finally closed 76.71 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 57,200.23.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty too swung between gains and losses before ending 8.20 points or 0.05 per cent down at 17,101.95.

The Sensex was pulled lower mainly by Maruti, Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and SBI -- which suffered losses to the tune of 3 per cent.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "After the decent opening post yesterday's weak closing, domestic bourses again staged a quick sell-off, tracking weak European trend. Policy tightening by the US Fed and rising geopolitical tensions in Ukraine coloured global sentiments." ***PTI***

Taxing beedi industry to impact tribals: SJM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Swadeshi Jagaran Manch has said that taxing the beedi industry at par with sin tax levied on the cigarette manufacturers has internal security imperatives especially in the Naxal-hit States.

As many 95 lakh people, including 85 lakh tribal women, mostly in Naxal-hit States are directly engaged in beedi rolling and the industry provides employment to another three-and-a-half crore more people, like those engaged in collection of tendu leaves.

"These women in the impoverished regions sustain their families through earnings at their homes generated from beedi rolling, essentially a cottage industry in which the raw materials are provided to the workers at their homes on a daily or weekly basis," SJM Co-convenor Dr Ashwini Mahajan said on Thursday.

While in the long term winding up the industry could be a desirable option but not before providing sustainable alternate employment opportunities to those engaged in the beedi industry, he said.

Stating that even the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, has backed handling of the beedi industry in right perspective, he said there is need to undertake scientific studies to ascertain the health hazards of smoking beedis and till then decisions should not be based on narratives of certain lobbies like cigarette industry or NGOs backed by them.

"The issue of employment of women in mostly backward regions must be balanced with public health as women participation is maximum in the beedi industry," he said.

The beedi industry, unlike the cigarette industry, does not have lobbies to protect its interests, he said and justified his backing for the make in India cottage industry.

"Even Home Ministry reports have suggested that there are foreign lobbies working against the beedi industry and thereby hitting local Indian interests. This has also led to cancellation of FCRA licences of certain NGOs," he said.

Higher taxes on beedis also lead to increased smuggling of Chinese cigarettes, further adding to New Delhi's trade imbalance with Beijing. Higher taxes on beedis also lead to increased consumption of non-smoking products which pose a higher health risk to the consumers, he said, demanding reduction in the GST imposed on the beedis at the rate of 28 percent.

He also demanded that beedis should be kept out of the purview of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and backed innovations to exploit export potential of the homegrown product.

Railway Mall Godam Workers' gets recognition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Labour has considered the long pending demands of the Indian Railway Mall Godam Workers' Union by approving the registration of workers on the e-shram portal paving a way for recognition of the railways mall godam workers across India.

In view of this, the Indian Railway Mall Godam Workers Union held meetings with railway mall godam workers and their families at various places across India from January 26-28 to solve the problems and demands like all the Railway Good shed workers need to provide a fixed contract for "Wages", proper to "Wage Receipt" for preventing corruption, as per "Ayushman Bharat" all workers should have proper basic amenities like drinking water, proper restroom, canteen at railway shed, free medication for workers and their families, accidental insurance, rail pass etc besides Pension benefits and job replacement for their family member in case of any mishappening.

Spokesman for the organisation Parimal Kanti Mondal said Ministry of Labour has led our Mall Godam workers to a new direction in life by giving them the identity.

Chief Labour Commissioner DPS Negi encouraged the work done by the Mall Godam workers and their families.

JBCPL to acquire brands from Sanzyme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

J.B. Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (JBCPL), one of the fastest growing pharmaceutical companies in India, on Friday announced that it will acquire brands for the India market from Sanzyme Private Limited (Sanzyme), a leading player in the probiotics and reproductive health segment in the country.

The transaction is valued at Rs 628 crore and is expected to be completed in the next two weeks subject to customary closing formalities. Sanzyme, ranked amongst the top five probiotics players in the country, is engaged in the manufacture, distribution and marketing of specialty probiotics formulations, infertility management products and nutraceuticals products.

It operates in the gastroenterology, nephrology, urology and gynecology therapy areas with leading brands.

RBI asks people to follow safe digital banking practices amid rising cyber frauds

Mumbai: Worried over rising incidence of cyber frauds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued a public notice asking people to follow safe digital banking practices to prevent any possible financial loss.

Observing that unscrupulous elements are defrauding people by using innovative modus operandi, including social media techniques and mobile phone calls, the RBI urged the members of public to take all due precautions while carrying out digital financial transactions.

"... The Reserve Bank cautions members of public to be aware of fraudulent messages, spurious calls, unknown links, false notifications, unauthorised QR codes, etc. Promising help in securing concessions/ expediting response from banks and financial service providers in any manner," the central bank said. Fraudsters attempt to get confidential details like user id, login/ transaction password, OTP (One Time Password) as well as debit/ credit card details and other personal information.

The RBI has highlighted some of the typical modus operandi being used by fraudsters like Vishing, Phishing, and Remote Access. "RBI urges the members of public to practice safe digital banking by taking all due precautions while carrying out any digital (online/ mobile) banking/ payment transactions. These will help in preventing financial and/ or other loss to them," the notice said.

Vishing refers to phone calls pretending to be from bank/ non-bank e-wallet providers/ telecom service providers in order to lure customers into sharing confidential details in the pretext of KYC-updation, unblocking of account/ SIM-card, and crediting debited amount. Phishing means spoofed emails and/ or SMSes designed to dupe customers into thinking that the communication has originated from their bank/ e-wallet provider and contain links to extract confidential details.

By using Remote Access, fraudsters lure customer to download an application on their mobile phone/ computer which is able to access all the customers' data on that customer device.

Fraudsters also misuse the 'collect request' feature of UPI by sending fake payment requests with messages like 'Enter your UPI PIN' to receive money. ***PTI***

US-based EV gateway in India

New Delhi: EvGateway, a leading turn-key electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure solutions provider headquartered in California with strong presence across US, Latin America, Europe, Asia and the West Asian market, on Friday announced the launch of its operations in India. It is indeed a moment of pride for us that we are finally bringing our product to India and contribute to its EV initiatives, said Uday Chagari, head of EvGateway India. A parameter driven approach enables us to onboard clients with minimal effort, added Nishanth Kalidindi, VP of Technology at EvGateway.

Digital synergies to bring design, IP, production under one umbrella

New Delhi: With aim to create digital synergies to bring concept, design, IP and production under one umbrella, McLaren Strategic Ventures launched Atlas Silicon, the artificial intelligence first customized chip design venture to revolutionize the global semiconductor industry. The national semiconductor policy and the favourable approach from Government of India will help deepen India's manufacturing base and create immense opportunities in the segment, said Sajan Pillai, chairman, McLaren Strategic Ventures.

Govt notifies Phase II of capital goods scheme

New Delhi: The Government has notified the second phase of the Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector for providing assistance for common technology development and services infrastructure, with a financial outlay of ₹1,207 crore. The outlay includes Budgetary support of ₹975 crore and industry contribution of ₹232 crore.

The scheme was notified on January 25. "The objective of Phase II of the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness of the Capital Goods Sector is to expand and enlarge the impact created by Phase I pilot scheme, thereby providing greater impetus through creation of a strong and globally competitive capital goods sector that contributes at least 25 per cent to the manufacturing sector," the Heavy Industries Ministry said in a statement . ***PTI***

Rupee closes almost flat at 75.07 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak to close 2 paise higher at 75.07 against the US dollar on Friday amid expectation of better dollar inflows from upcoming IPOs.

However, the rebound in the rupee was restricted amid weakness in domestic equities, analysts said.

Forex traders said geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices and hawkish US Fed stance also weighed on the local unit.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.12 a dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.88 and a low of 75.13.

The domestic unit finally settled at 75.07 against the American currency, up 2 paise over its last close of 75.09.***PTI***

BSES BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 29.01.2022

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/21-22/ RS/PM/37	Renewal of Group Term Life and other Related Insurance Policies for the Employee of BYPL for the Fy 2022-23	₹4.00 Crores	18.02.2022 15:00 HRS	21.02.2022 15:00 HRS
CMC/BY/21-22/ RS/PM/38	Renewal of Various General Insurance Policies in BYPL for the Fy 2022-23	₹7.50 Crores	18.02.2022 15:00 HRS	21.02.2022 16:00 HRS

Cost of Tender Document : ₹1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website **www.bsesdelhi.com --> Tenders--> BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED Open Tenders.**

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax-011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

R.C.No. 34/2016 **E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE** Dated: 14.01.2022

ICICI BANK VS. RAJIV SINGH

"ORDER"

As per my order dated **14.01.2022** the under mentioned properties will be sold by Public e-auction sale on **09.03.2022** in the said Recovery Certificate:-
The auction sale will be "online e-auctioning" through **website:-www.bankeauctions.com**
Date and Time of Auction: 09.03.2022 between **03:00 PM** and **04:00 P.M.** (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

S.No.	Property Description	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)
1.	Flat no. PP/ D-1201,12th Floor, Plot no.1/2, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, 201010, Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 55,80,000/-	Rs. 5,58,000/-

Terms & Conditions

1. The auction sale will be "online through" e-auction" through website portal: **www.bankeauctions.com.**
2 The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/c R.C. No. 34/2016". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of Identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attomey of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 07.03.2022 before 4:00 P.M. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
3. The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc, should be super-scribed **"RC No. 34/2016",**
4. The property is being sold on **"as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis".**
5. The bidders are advised to go through the portal **www.bankeauctions.com** for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact **Sh. Mohit Chadhaa, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Videocom Tower, Jhandewalan Exten. Delhi, Mobile no. 9650957770 Email ID: mohit.chadhaa@icicibank.com.**
6. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog Vihar, Phase-2. Building No. 301. Gurugram Haryana-122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan. Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com.**
7. The interested bidders may avail online training on e.auction, after deposit of EMD, from **M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Udyog vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301. Gurugram Haryana 122015. Telephone No. 7291981124/25/26 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email Id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com**
8. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line e auction
9. The prospective buyer may inspect the site on **17.02.2022 and 18.02.2022 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM,**
10. The Interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by **07.03.2022** in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi, Shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from **03.00 PM TO 04.00 PM. 09.03.2022.** In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will autonatically get extended for 5 minutes.
11. The bidders shall Improve their offer in multiples of **Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only)**
12. The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi Immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
13. The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c **R.C. No. 34/2016** by next bank working day i.e. by **04.00 PM** with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.
14. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C **RC. No. 34/2016,** the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs.1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT- II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit after defraying the expenses of the many sale, they, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfelt all claims to the property or to any part of the sam for which it may subsequently be sold.
15. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dasti speed post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat of drum In its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal.
16. Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in Vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area.
17. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing.
18. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.

Schedule of the property

Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
Flat no. PP/ D 1201, 12th Floor, Plot no.1/2, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, 201010, Uttar Pradesh	Not known	Not known	Not known

Matter be listed on **18.02.2022** for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of e auction.

(Dattatrey Bajpayee)
RECOVERY OFFICER-II,
DRT-II, DELHI

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E- TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE No. AGC-ELG-T-17-2021-22 **Date: 24.01.2022**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N. C. Railway, Agra on behalf of President of India invites **"Open Tender"** through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	AGC-ELG-T-17-2021-22
1.	Name of work with its location & Completion Period	Electrification work for under floor lathe at coaching depot Agra Cantt. Completion period 06 months.
2.	Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 1444010.89

For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Tenders can only be submitted through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** upto **16:00 hrs.** on **16.02.2022.**

94/22(AN)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Order of imposition of penalty order Rule-6 (VIII) to (IX) of the Railway servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1968.

No.- 83 Sig/Major/ROK-59, Date:- 30.11.2021 **Office of The ADSTE/ROK**

Sh. Satish Kumar Sharma s/o Sh. Hanuman Sahay Sharma Asst.(S&T)/Sig/JHI

Through (SSE/SIG/BTI)

I have carefully examined the memorandum No- 83-Sig/Major/ROK-59, dated 04.09.2020. The memorandum was sent to home address of Sh. Satish Kumar Sharma on 30.09.2020 through registered post by SSE/Sig/BTI. In response to the registered letter sent by post, you have sent your representation by post to the office of undersigned. In which you have clarified that I have already sent my resignation and I do not want to participate in any enquiry proceeding. It seems that you have agreed with the charges of memorandum.

Speaking Order

I have carefully examined the enquiry proceedings, and enquiry report. The enquiry report has been sent at your permanent home address through registered post on 23.09.2021. Inquiry proceedings were held on 06.01.2021, 15.02.2021 and 05.05.2021. But, CO did not attend enquiry on any of the said dates and also given written that he did not want to participate in any enquiry proceeding.

PW-1 - SSE/SIG/BTI (Gaurav Bansal), attended the enquiry on 13.06.2021 and confirmed that officially letter were issued to CO time to time to turn up on duty, but CO did not turn up. It is good and sufficient evidence. CO does not want to continue his service In Railway department, In this connection CO has been clearly written that I have already sent my resignation consciously and I am not willing to return to duty again. The Charges leveled against CO remaining unauthorized absent from his duty in SF-5 no- 83-Sig/Major/ROK-59 dated- 04.09.2020 are fully proved.

Going through the available evidences and finding of enquiry report, it is concluded that CO has been clearly written in own handwriting that he has already sent his resignation consciously and not willing to return to duty again and also clear that he did not want to participate in inquiry proceeding. That is a sufficient evidence to take ex-party decision against CO. The charges leveled against CO in said SF-5 are **fully proved.**

Discussion on Charges: - I therefore hold you guilty of the charges (viz) SF-5 of even no, dated- 04.09.2020, leveled against you and have decided to impose upon you the penalty of **"Removal From Service".** You are therefore removed from service with immediate effect.

2. Under Rule-18 of the Railway servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 and appeal against these order lies to DSTE/Sig/HQ, N. RLY, Divisional Office, New Delhi.
(i) The appeal is submitted within 45 days from the date you received the orders and
(ii) The appeal does not contain improper or disrespectful language.
3. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

(Chatram Meena)
Disciplinary Authority, ADSTE/Rohtak

193/22

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE-MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl. No	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2021 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2020 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	5,882.57	18,000.65	4,843.39
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	104.69	797.76	100.39
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	104.69	797.76	100.39
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	113.33	604.81	104.78
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	118.98	615.42	108.77
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,530.00	1,530.00	1,530.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year		17,234.10	
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-			
	1. Basic:	0.78	4.02	0.71
	2. Diluted:	0.78	4.02	0.71

Note :
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s), www.bseindia.com, and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.arotile.com.

For & on behalf of the Board

-Sd-
Sunil Kumar Arora
Managing Director
DIN; 00150668

Place : HOSUR
Date : 28.01.2022

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Railways will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Singrauli, Karaila Road, Churki and Mahdeiya stations over Dhanbad Division from 29.01.2022 to 15.02.2022 in connection with Doubling, Yard Remodelling and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking . Consequently the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
22167 Singrauli - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Exp.	30.01.2022 to 13.02.2022
22168 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Singrauli Superfast Exp.	31.01.2022 to 14.02.2022

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19, may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

201/2022

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

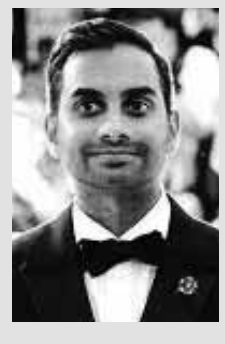
Bollywood
Working with a director who understands the craft of acting is truly a blessing.
—Richa Chadha

SHORTCIRCUITS

FATIMA SANA SHAIKH
I believe, acting is a lot of reacting. It's always good to have good performers opposite you so that you can feed off their energies. It has been a blast working with Sidharth (Malhotra). We gelled so well on the sets, it didn't feel like it was the first time we were working together.

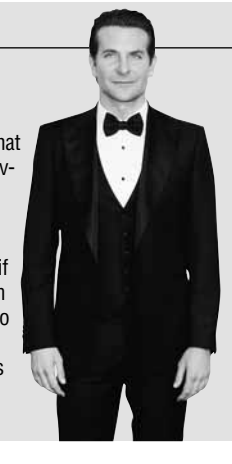
TAAPSEE PANNU
I went to say no to the film (*Loop Lapeta*), thinking that "I've done a similar film in the South, so I'll maybe not do a film which has a similar concept in Hindi. Then he (director, Aakash Bhatia) narrated the film to me so well that he literally looped me in, and I said 'yes' right there and then!

ISHWAK SINGH
I find written words helpful. There is great joy in reading written words. When I write about the characters and their dialogues, I identify better, and it helps me make the role my own and It helps me navigate the pauses between scenes.

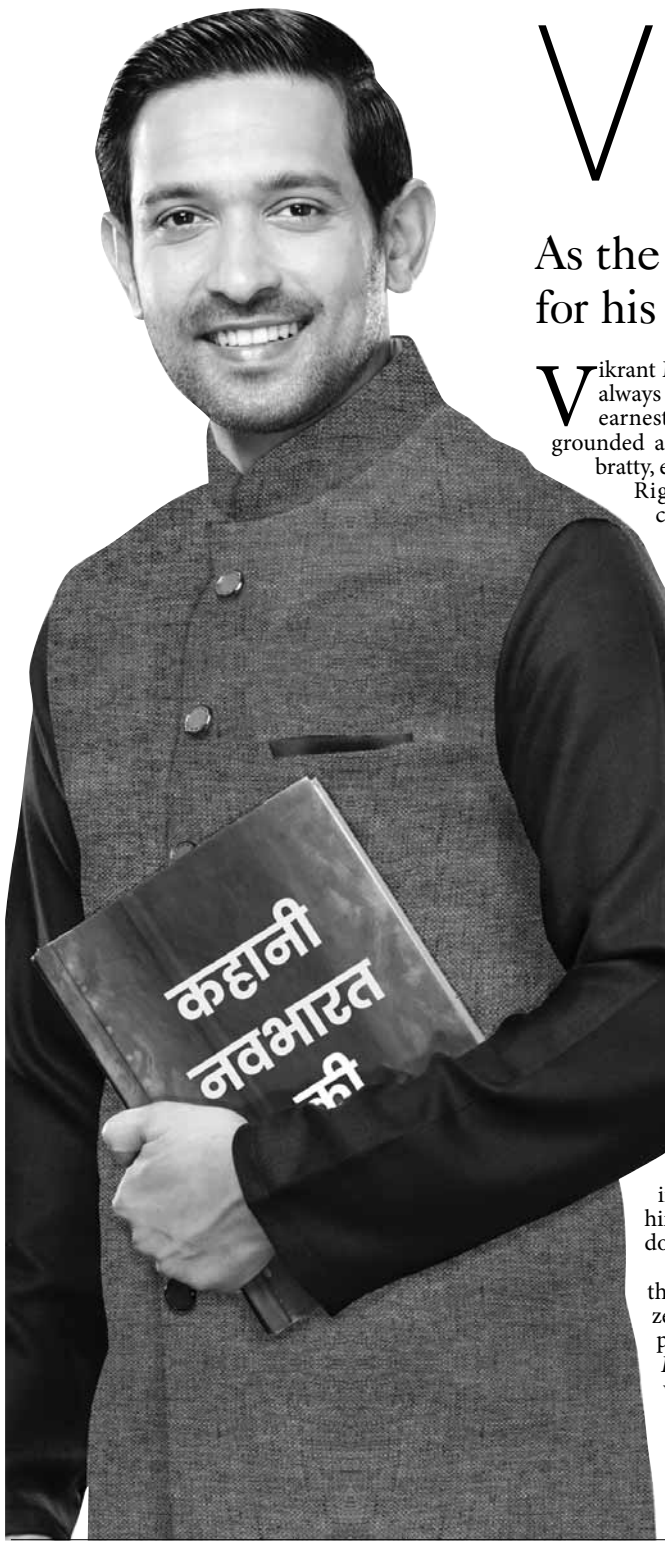


AZIZ ANSARI
I kind of started turning off the internet and, you know, I deleted all social media and all this stuff, and I've slowly just kept going further and further. I stopped using email maybe like four years ago. It's thinking about your mental diet and what you're putting in your head.

BRADLEY COOPER
I grew up with this idea that we do what we do for a living. I don't know if I ever dreamt this big. I don't even know if I allowed myself to. Shame on me if I don't work hard, and I'm here now. I'm not going to squander this. No way, man. No way. It all comes from love.



TIME TRAVEL



VIKRANT NEXT DOOR

As the actor retraces his steps to TV, with *Kahani Navbharat Ki*, he tells SAIMI SATTAR the reasons for his move and why is the show a must-watch

Vikrant Massey, the name almost always conjures up the adjective earnest, followed by humble, grounded and all the antonyms for bratty, entitled and high-headed. Right from the time he caught popular attention — as Shyam Madan Singh —in the memorable *Balika Vadhu,* Massey played every character, including those who were a deep shade of grey, with deep conviction. Whether it was Devdas Mukherjee, a thief, in his debut film *Lootera* (2013) or a cuckolded husband, Rishu in the more recent *Haseen Dillruba* (2021) or even Bablu, the brains behind the gang in *Mirzapur* (2018) it was this total belief in his character that made him shine with a boy next door ordinariness.

So, it isn't surprising that a TV media house zeroed down on him to play anchor for the show *Kahani Navbharat Ki* which charts the history of the country. We connect over a call and chit-chat about the world as Massey reciprocates with his customary warmth. He informs me that though he had a Covid scare, the tests thankfully were negative. The discussion then switches to his latest venture. Excerpts from the interview:

❖Why and how did you decide to switch back to TV?

It was a no-brainer. The team explained the concept, that they had been researching for two years. The larger context of the show was to celebrate 75 years of Independence. When I read the script, I immediately wanted to be a part of it. It might sound really cliched, but *main sach keh raha hun* (I am being honest), it seemed God-sent.

I always wanted to be a part of something like that... a show which is a mix of history, knowledge, hope and everything worthwhile. It was ready-made and offered to me on a platter. I recognised that in some way or the other I would be contributing my bit. I want to do that through the films and shows that I take up.

The younger generation, unfortunately, is engrossed in consumerism. Research shows that grown-up adults spend about a quarter of their waking time on mobile. So, I wanted to come out with something unobserved, kept on the rack for the longest of time and dust it off to present it nicely and bring it out in a manner that we can take pride in our history. It really encapsulates that mood. It is full of hope, pride and what better time than 75 years of Independence to share these stories.

❖Was there any particular incident that got your attention?

There were so many things. It is a 10-episode series and I really can't pinpoint one. Our history is so vast that we had to filter out some things. Everything has its significance and place. There are so many people in the younger generation who are not aware of the many challenges we faced and overcame as a young country or the many hurdles that were thrown at us. Take our approach to Science in the 50s... Or the fact that we practised secularism with all our heart and soul... Or that we gave marginalised women the right to education and to vote. How did we overcome all of that? Despite all trials and tribulations, the way we liberalised our economy. How we are one of the largest democracies in the world. Despite the ups and downs, we are facing... these are the things that, I strongly feel, we need to take cognisance of, feel proud of and share with our people. When we are approaching this milestone, we can also think about what the coming 75 years would be like. How will we chart the future... depends on the present.

❖The show talks about history... of late, it has become a contentious issue. How have you tackled that?

History has always been a contentious issue. Our generation is seeing it for the first time. But these things have always existed. However, the history we are talking about is devoid of any tilt, tint, lineage or conformism. Yes, I agree that the public discourse, especially on social media, is marred by politicisation. We consciously tried to refrain from that. We had academicians and historians who worked diligently on the show. It was a conscious decision to understand and take pride in our identity as Indians first and share these highly significant stories. And the rest is up to the audience. We have cooked up the dish with fair diligence and honesty.

❖Anchoring and acting are two different ball games. What are the points of differences and similarities?

Acting for fiction is a completely different ball game. It is a make-believe world that you are trying to encapsulate your audience with and convince them of the story. But when I'm hosting a show, I'm sharing my privacy, opening the door for the audience to come in to also share my experiences. It's far more challenging and I enjoy that. People see me as an actor and here I'm sharing a piece of my heart, ideology, hope and belief. I am proud to be associated with the show as, I said, we tried to highlight the story and history of India and hope to inspire people who will shell out their valuable time and watch it.

❖You've dabbled in TV, OTT and films. Do you approach the roles differently in each? And does each help your growth as an actor?

I have never limited myself to the medium. I have always believed that I am a storyteller. I have also believed that I have a knack for being able to adapt to changing times, which everyone should. But my larger idea is to go out and tell stories. Till the time I am able to do that, I am sleeping soundly. When I am unable to do so, I will be facing another set of challenges.

What makes you take up any role or show?

It's a mix. The challenges that it puts out for me as an artiste, my belief in the story. I also strongly feel that, as a creative independent artiste, it's my responsibility to be in sync with current times. And as long as I tick off these boxes, I'll take up these stories. I think it is an amalgamation of things.

❖You have done a wide variety of roles — *Mirzapur, Haseen Dilruba, Lootera* ... what goes into making a character that is believable? Is it by observing the people or discussions with the director?

Can I cut you in? This set of questions, we can keep for another day. I join hands and apologise for this. We will sit and discuss this.

❖So, coming back to the show, were there any challenges during its shooting or content development?

As an actor, there were not many challenges. I can be so proudly indulgent and say that we had a great team of statisticians, data analysts, historians, technicians who made this show good. But there were challenges that every team goes through, whether it is fiction or non-fiction. And especially when you are dealing with a sensitive topic like history. And as you said, it is a contentious issue. You are actually treading landmines. So, those were the set of challenges we faced but did manage to overcome smoothly. There were historical and factual challenges.

❖Was there a lot of back and forth in the script?

That happens everywhere. It is like cooking a recipe. Mid-way you realise, *haldi thodi kam pad gai hai. Thodi haldi daal den* (The turmeric is a little less. We should add more of it). It is a part of storytelling. As long as you stay true to the idea of storytelling, without any indulgence or conformism, these are likely to happen. It happens everywhere. Even in journalism, when you have written a piece and are revising it... you edit a few words, add others. It is applicable everywhere.

❖What are the future projects that we see you in?

Love Hostel will be out soon. I am doing the official remake of *Forensic.* There is also *Mumbaikar* with Santosh Sivan. I am filming for *Blackout* and waiting to start *Gaslight* with Pavan Kriplani who is a dear friend.

DEEP DIVE

Value It Up

Business analyst RATTAN JONEJA believes that the quintessence of a successful investment is to understand the worth of a company and urges everyone to learn the importance of creating value to excel in the world of investing. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

An entrepreneur and venture capitalist, Rattan Joneja's work mainly focusses on the application of creating shareholder value to corporates and mergers, divestitures and acquisitions.

He is also the founder and CEO of CoValue Technologies Pvt Ltd. Co Value is an application with an aim to empower investors and businesses, to create wealth.

His recent book, *Value It Up: Simplifying the Art of Intrinsic Valuation,* takes the reader on a journey of learning about intrinsic valuation. With real-life investment success stories that draw instances of how value can be a key determinant of investment decisions narrated by celebrated investors. The book can be used as a helpful ladder of understanding the world of investing, and is designed for investors, analysts, stock market researchers, business students, or just anyone planning to enter into the field of stocks and investing. It is divided into 22 chapters where every chapter is aphoristically framed with quotes and concepts supported by the life story of a celebrated investor.

Read on for excerpts from an exclusive interview with the author:

❒Please give us an overview of *Value It Up: Simplifying the Art of Intrinsic Valuation*.

Value It Up is a book that simplifies and elucidates the 'Art of Valuation'. The book focusses on the key growth drivers of any given stock to explain the concepts of Intrinsic Valuation with real-world examples and computations.

❒What was the inspiration behind the book?

Primarily, most investors are investing based on price and momentum without understanding any concept of value. The subject is not as difficult as people think it is. It is a simple subject that people need to understand while making investments.

I wanted to bring this concept forward in a very straightforward and lucid manner, particularly, since the number of investors across the world are increasing.

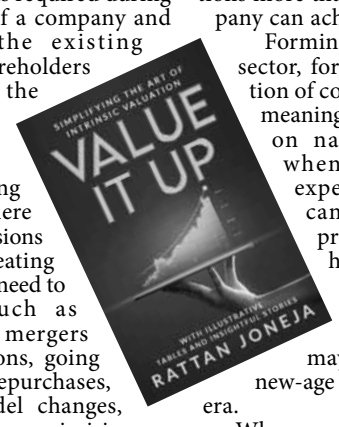
❒Your book is a fast-track programme for learning business valuation. Give us a brief as to how it will benefit this era of entrepreneurs.

In today's start-up world, entrepreneurship is all about Capital, Capital, and Capital. It is difficult to build and survive without significant capital. Be it an old economy company or a new age start-up, an entrepreneur needs to understand the value of what he/she is building.

The quintessence of successful investment is to understand if the market is ignoring anything and how the market is valuing, thus, making it essential to understand the worth of a company before investing.

At the end of the day, you may be more valuable than you think.

So many entrepreneurs today end up diluting so much equity even after having a successful venture. Thus, it is very important to determine how much capital is required during the journey of a company and what will the existing founders /shareholders left with at the end of each stage of the company.



For existing companies, there are many decisions and value-creating strategies that need to be taken such as divestitures, mergers and acquisitions, going public share repurchases, business model changes, and so on, for maximising value where valuation is the key decision-maker.

❒Fortunately, the current generation is trying to be more informed about healthy investing. However, due to the lack of prior knowledge, there's not much to start with.

What will you suggest to an aspiring investor (also an amateur) to begin with? Should they read books or just track the market mindfully, or both?

Both, actually! Every investor needs to do a lot of reading. Even celebrated investors like Warren Buffet today spend most of their time reading and learning. Reading is a must, and they have to read books, news, companies and annual reports simultaneously and give equal importance to all.

They need to track the market too, to analyse what signals the market is giving, or if the market is behaving irrationally.

❒When does the stock market become harmful, if at all?

The stock market in the long term is not going to be harmful and will continue to grow. It becomes harmful when people start building expectations more than what the company can achieve.

Forming of bubbles in a sector, for instance, valuation of companies without meaningful earnings built on narratives, which when it does meet expectations, which can lead to stock prices crashing. We have seen what happened during the dot com bubble and you may see it in some new-age companies in this era.

When markets start pricing stocks for high growth rates, value growth duration and improvement in margins that are not achievable or not sustainable, it may all lead to a bust.

In bull markets, the stock markets start valuing stories. When stories fall short, the markets will punish them.

❒Why, in your opinion, do schools not talk about real-life stuff like mental health, taxes, or investing?

Very few business schools cover business/investment valuation in depth. There needs to be a significant time and depth required to teach and promote the understanding of the subject. It is very briefly touched upon and not explained in greater depth.

Similarly, teaching taxes requires a lot of time and schools can't cover them all in their course. And, so, specific courses and books play an integral part in enhancing knowledge in these subjects for people who really want to understand them.

Tahir roots for Indian content

Tahir Raj Bhasin, whose performance in *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein* is being considered one of the best acting pieces in the Indian digital space, is a big fan of Manoj Bajpai and Kay Kay Menon. The versatile actor's career is on a huge high after he delivered a smashing performance in the recently released web series *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein.* Bhasin says he is humbled that people are pegging his performance to be amongst the best delivered by a leading man in a web series. He reveals that he is a 'big binger' of Indian content on OTT and his personal favourite performances have been from Manoj Bajpai for *The Family Man* and Kay Kay Menon for *Special Ops.* Bhasin says, "I was awestruck seeing the magnificent performances by Manoj Bajpai in *The Family* Man and Kay Kay Menon in *Special Ops*. They are two of my favourite actors to have ever graced the screen and if my show and performance is being rated as amongst the best performances by a leading man in an OTT web series, I feel deeply honoured and humbled." He adds, "As an actor, I'm constantly inspired by great work around me. I am a big binger of Indian and International shows and I'm always excited by the outstanding acting performances that the digital space has to offer today. I'm also a big rooter for Indian content because we have produced amazing authentically Indian shows over the last couple of years."

Bhasin has had two back to back OTT releases in *Ranjish Hi Sahi* and *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein* and these projects are amongst the highest rated content ever in the digital space in India. The actor says, "I'm honoured that my shows are among the top-rated shows of all time and my intent will be to pick and choose disruptive content that truly stands out, entertains the audience and enables me to showcase my talent as an actor who can perform any role."

NADAL, MEDVEDEV TO MEET IN AUSTRALIAN FINAL

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Rafael Nadal is within one victory of a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

The 35-year-old Spaniard advanced to the Australian Open final for the sixth time with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win over seventh-seeded Matteo Berrettini on Friday.

He'll have to beat U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev on Sunday to make history. And Medvedev is chasing a piece of history of his own after reeling off the last five games to defeat Stefanos Tsitispas -6 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a heated semifinal. He's aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the next major tournament.

The second-seeded Medvedev has had an emotional and challenging run to back-to-back Australian Open finals. He had to deal with a hostile crowd in his second-round win over Nick Kyrgios, had to save a match point and rally from two sets down to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime in a nearly five-hour quarterfinal win, and had to regain his composure after an angry outburst at the umpire on Friday.

He yelled at chair umpire Jaume Campistol after dropping serve in the second set, demanding that Tsitsipas be cautioned for receiving coaching from his father in the crowd. He took a five-minute break after dropping the set, took control late in the third set and then dominated the last five games after Tsitsipas was eventually cautioned for getting coaching from the stands.

Nadal's run to a 29th Grand Slam final has been comparatively serene.

After the last point, he stopped, beamed a wide grin and then punched the air three times.

Nadal arrived in Australia not knowing how long he would last after months off the tour dealing with a serious foot injury and then a bout of COVID-19. He skipped Wimbledon after losing in the French Open semifinals to Novak Djokovic, and didn't play at all after August.

"Every day has been an issue in terms of problems on the foot. Doubts still here ... Probably for the rest of my career because I have what I have and that's something that we cannot fix," Nadal said.

"But for me it's amazing ... (to) just compete and play tennis at the high level again, facing the most important players of the world."

Last month, he wasn't even sure he'd be able to return to the tour.

But he won a tune-up tournament in Melbourne to start 2022 and has taken six straight matches at the first Grand Slam event of the year.

One more and he'll break the record of 20 major championships he shares with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Nadal would also become just the fourth man to win all four Grand Slam titles at least twice.

Nadal's win over Wimbledon runner-up Berrettini, under a closed roof at Rod Laver Arena because of heavy rain, was his

500th on hard courts at tour level. He's only won the Australian Open once, in 2009.

Adding a second was his lone focus after yet another semifinal win.

"For me, it's all about the Australian Open more than anything else," Nadal said in his on-court TV interview.

"I have been a little unlucky (here) in my career with some injuries.

I played some amazing finals with good chances."

He lost classic five-set finals at Melbourne Park to Djokovic in 2012 and Federer in 2017. Nadal lost in four sets to Stan Wawrinka in 2014 and had a straight-set defeat against Djokovic three years ago.

"I feel very lucky that I won once," he said. "I never thought about another chance in 2022." Nadal broke Berrettini's opening service games in the first two sets and, after dropping the third set on a rare service lapse, he rallied to finish off the match in just under three hours. That in itself was a relief after his long five-set win over Denis Shapovalov two days earlier in the quarterfinals. Nadal was the only member of the so-called Big Three who had a chance to break the deadlock in Australia this time.

Federer missed the tournament to continue his recovery from knee surgery. Djokovic, who has won nine of his Grand Slam titles at Melbourne Park, was deported after an 11-day visa saga on the eve of the tournament because he failed to meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

Ecuador draws Brazil and nears WCup

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Ecuador is one win away from returning to the World Cup after a 1-1 home draw with South American qualifying leader Brazil.

Coach Gustavo Alfaro's team will qualify to play in Qatar if it beats Peru next week.

Chile, once a force in the region, saw its chances shrink dramatically after a 2-1 home loss to second-place Argentina. The Chileans will have to pull good results at Bolivia and Brazil, with their last match in the competition likely to be in Santiago against bitter rival Uruguay.

Uruguay rose back to contention after a 1-0 win at Paraguay, with a goal by veteran Luis Suárez. It was the team's first win for new coach Diego Alonso, who took over after veteran Óscar Tabárez was fired due to poor results.

Brazil (36 points) and Argentina (32) have already qualified for the World Cup. Ecuador has 24 points, five ahead of Uruguay. Colombia and Peru, which will clash in Barranquilla, Colombia, on Friday, are at 17 points. Chile has 16 and could be overtaken by Bolivia (15), which will travel to Venezuela — the only team in the region out of contention for a spot.

South America has four direct World Cup spots, and the fifth-place

team will play an international play-off for a berth.

Ecuador drew at home against Brazil to boost its chances of qualifying in a game that saw two players sent off and a number of major refereeing decisions overturned by video review.

Casemiro opened the scoring by tapping into an empty net in the sixth minute for Brazil — which has already qualified for the World Cup in Qatar — before Ecuador equalized in the 75th minute with a header by Felix Torres. But it was Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan who drew the most attention by getting a series of key decisions overturned after VAR — with Brazil goalkeeper Alisson being shown a red card twice only to have both rescinded.

Roldan did not even whistle for a foul when Ecuador goalkeeper Alexánder Dominguez planted his studs into the neck of Brazil striker Matheus Cunha as he challenged for a ball at the edge of the area in the 16th minute. After a VAR review, Dominguez was handed a straight red card. Brazil defender Emerson Royal was then handed a second yellow in the 20th minute and Alisson appeared to become the third player sent off 10 minutes later after also hitting an opponent in the head with his leg after a clearance. However, Roldan changed his mind and only showed a yellow card after VAR stepped in.

The second half had a similar theme as the Colombian referee awarded two penalties to Ecuador only to reverse both decisions after a review.

The second penalty was in injury time and involved Alisson getting a second yellow, which was also rescinded.

"I was sent off playing for Liverpool, I touched the ball outside the penalty box," Alisson said.

"In situations like that you should not complain, you should accept the referee's decision.

Pietersen receives PM Modi's Republic Day letter

PTI ■ LONDON

Among the "friends of India" who received a letter of appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 73rd Republic day of the country, former England cricket captain Kevin Pietersen on Friday thanked him for the gesture and said the nation of over a billion is a global "powerhouse". Sharing the letter on Twitter, Pietersen said he was thankful to the Prime Minister for acknowledging his "affection towards India". South African great Jonty Rhodes and West Indies swashbuckler Chris Gayle had also received similar letters from the PM. "Dear, Mr @narendramodi, Thanks for the incredibly kind words in your letter to me. Ever since stepping foot in India in 2003, I've grown more in love with your country on every visit.

"I was recently asked, 'what do you most like about India' & my answer was easy - THE PEOPLE," he posted.

Kiran George stuns 3rd seed Subhankar to enter semis

PTI ■ CUTTACK

Kiran George upset third seed Subhankar Dey to advance to the men's singles semifinals while in-form shuttler Malvika Bansod also cruised to the last four round in the women's event at the Odisha Open badminton tournament here on Friday.

The unseeded Kiran eked out a hard-fought 21-16 10-21 21-19 win over the higher ranked Subhankar, who was the last remaining seed in the men's singles event.

The 21-year-old will meet the winner of the quarterfinal between Ansal Yadav and Tharun Mannepalli.

Malvika, who reached the final of the Syed Modi International where she lost to PV Sindhu before defeating Saina Nehwal at the India Open earlier this month, continued to impress as she registered a 21-13 16-21 21-17 victory over fellow Indian Tanya Hemanth in a gruelling 58-minute quarterfinal contest.

Fifth seed Ashmita Chaliha got the better of Rhucha Sawant 21-17 21-15 to book her spot

in the last four of the women's singles, where she will meet compatriot Smit Toshniwal, who came from behind to beat USA's Ishika Jaiswal 8-21 21-9 21-14. In another women's singles quarterfinal, Unnati Hooda handed fellow Indian Samiya Imad Farooqui a 21-10 21-15 defeat in 26 minutes.

She will lock horns with Malvika, who is ranked 87th, in the semifinal.

Unseeded Mithun Manjunath, who had stunned seventh seed June Wei Cheam of Malaysia on Thursday, lost a hard fought battle 21-13 14-21 8-21 to Priyanshu Rajawat in 51 minutes in another men's singles quarterfinal match.

In the mixed doubles event, three Indian pairings -- MR Arjun-Treesa Jolly, Balkeshari Yadav-Swetaparna Panda and Mauryan Kathiravan-Kuham Balashri -- advanced to the semifinals.

India beat China 2-0 to win consolation bronze

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Last edition champions India defeated China 2-0 to register a consolation third place finish at the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Friday.

The Indians left behind the disappointment of their semifinal defeat to Korea and controlled the proceedings in the first two quarters, scoring two goals in the process, to go into half time with a 2-0 lead against China.

They, however, failed to score any more goals in the second half.

The Indians started brightly and earned a couple of penalty corners and from one such situation, Sharmila Devi gave her side the lead in the 13th minute, scoring from a rebound after Gurjit Kaur's initial flick was saved by the Chinese defence.

India continued in the same vein in the second quarter and had the better share of chances.

The Indians kept up the pressure on the Chinese defence with relentless raids and secured another penalty corner in the 19th minute which was converted by Gurjit with a superb drag-flick to make the scoreline 2-0.

China responded swiftly, securing a penalty corner which was brilliantly kept away by India captain and goalkeeper Savita Punia.

Down by two goals, China came out with more intent after the change of ends and tried to put pressure on the Indian defence but to no avail.

The Indians kept up the pressure on the Chinese defence at the start of the fourth and final quarter but failed to create any clear cut chances.

China earned a penalty corner 10 minutes before time but the Indians defended in numbers to thwart any danger to their citadel.

Towards the end of the match, China pressed hard and secured three consecutive penalty corners with two minutes left in the clock but lacked in final execution as the chances went wasted.

Japan will be up against Korea in the summit clash later on Friday.

Lack of match practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic after finishing a historic fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, cost defending champions India dearly as they produced inconsistent performances in crucial matches to crash out of the title race.

After thrashing lowly Malaysia 9-0 in their opener, India suffered a 0-2 defeat against Asian Games champions Japan before beating Singapore 9-1 to qualify for the semifinals.

ACT disappointment was a good learning experience: Reid

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Still smarting from the semi-final exit at the Asia Champions Trophy, Indian men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid on Friday said the setback came as a reality check for the Tokyo Olympic bronze medal winners ahead of a busy calendar year.

Defending champions India were stunned 3-5 by Japan in the semifinal of the ACT in Dhaka last month.

"It's always difficult. You have to be put in situations. Everybody including myself hated that semifinal loss to Japan in ACT. No one likes to experience something like that. But sometimes you have to experience that to learn from it," Reid said in a virtual press conference. "The message after that tournament was 'Look this is what happens if we don't treat every single game with the utmost importance. I think it was really good learning experience."

Reid said his message to the team after the historic Olympic medal was straight forward: "This is just the beginning and not the end of the road" and the loss against Japan will act as reminder for them ahead of a busy year that includes FIH Pro league matches, Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games. "Straight after the Olympics I also said that 'This is not it, this is just the start' and that's has been our message from the moment we won the bronze medal in Tokyo. "...We have to take the best out of the opprtiunities from here," he said.

India will start the year with back-to-back Pro League ties against South Africa and France in Potchefstroom from February 8 to 13. Olympic bronze medal-winning captain Manpreet Singh will lead a 20-member Indian team in the double-leg contests in South Africa. The team will also have its veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh back besides getting two new faces -- young dragflicker Jugraj Singh and striker Abhishek. "We were able to do that in Bangladesh (give chances to new players).

We were able to give the players who haven't had the opportunity for a while.

"We also needed to bring back some of the other players who haven't had a game since the Olympics. The other important message is that these will be very tough games, we are taking them pretty seriously so the team we picked is reflective of that," the coach said about the squad.

Talking about the two new players, Reid said: "Jugraj is quite a versatile player who can play in both midfield and defence. He is also very quick when he dragflicks. I am quite excited if we can get him little more consistent where he puts them. "Abhishek likes scoring goals, a prolific scorer. He is strong and young."

The Australian tactician is also impressed with the longevity and commitment of veteran goalkeeper Sreejesh.

"He (Sreejesh) is back again, he had a long break but you don't get to play so long for your country as he has without being open to new ideas and changes and development and continual improvement.

Mavididi leads Montpellier's French Cup bid

AP ■ PARIS

Having missed a chance of emulating his idol Thierry Henry by playing for Arsenal in the English Premier League, Stephy Mavididi is now making a name for himself in French soccer.

The 23-year-old forward is doing well with Montpellier and will be leading his side's bid to reach the French Cup quarterfinals away to Marseille on Saturday. Mavididi scored a superbly-taken winner in stoppage time last weekend as Montpellier beat Monaco 3-2 to move sixth in the league. He also played a part in the first goal against Monaco and scored the second.

Last season, he grabbed nine league goals for Montpellier supporting first-choice duo Andy Delort and Gaetan Laborde.

Since they both left Mavididi has thrived in the spotlight. He leads the club with eight league goals and is second in assists with three, behind silky playmaker Teji Savanier. Mavididi showed strong potential early on.

He joined Arsenal's academy at the age of 13 and was coached by the club great Henry for the under-19s side.

"He's been my idol, still is my idol," Mavididi told the French league's podcast.

"The socks (pulled right up over the knees like Henry used to), the boots, everything really." But while Henry lit up English soccer for years, Mavididi never made it into the Gunners' first team. After loan spells with modest sides

Charlton, Preston and Oldham he joined Italian giant Juventus in 2018. Initially signed to play only for the third-tier reserve side, he netted six goals in 32 Serie C games during the 2018-19 season and made one appearance in Serie A.

It made him the first Englishman to play in Italy since midfielder David Platt in 1992, but his lone game was not enough to earn him a title medal.

After a loan move to Dijon when he scored five league goals in the first division — the first Englishman to score in the French top flight since former England midfielder Joe Cole for Lille in 2011 — he joined Montpellier two years ago for 6.3 million euros ($7 million).

It was not easy to break into the side last term, with Laborde and Delort combining for 31 league goals. Laborde is now scoring freely for Rennes and Delort nets regularly for Nice, but a new partnership is blossoming at Montpellier between Mavididi and the 19-year-old Elye Wahi.

Ranji Trophy to be held in two phases: BCCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Friday said that the postponed Ranji Trophy will be held in two phases starting next month, clearing the decks for India's premier domestic competition to resume after being cancelled last season.

It is expected that the 38-team tournament will begin in the second week of February and the first phase will continue for about a month.

The tournament, which was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was scheduled to begin on January 13 but was postponed owing to a third wave of infections across the country.

"The Board has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June," Shah said in a statement.

"My team is working closely to mitigate any kind of health risk caused by the pandemic, while at the same time ensuring a highly competitive red-ball cricket contest."

Shah said that the BCCI understands the significance of Ranji Trophy.

"Ranji Trophy is our most prestigious domestic competition, which has been providing Indian Cricket with an enviable talent pool every year. It is absolutely important that we take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of this premier event," he said.

The BCCI announcement has come a day after its treasurer Arun Dhumal had said that the Board intends to host the event.

The two phases are required since the BCCI also plans to host the IPL from March 27 and hosting two big tournaments would not be possible practically as the players' availability would also be an issue.

Indian cricket will be spineless if Ranji trophy is ignored: Ravi Shastri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former head coach Ravi Shastri on Friday said that Indian cricket would become "spineless" if the Ranji Trophy is ignored, his comment coming just before the BCCI announced that the marquee domestic event will be held in two phases starting next month.

The Ranji Trophy was scheduled to start on January 13 this year but was postponed indefinitely by the BCCI due to the third wave of the pandemic.

"The Ranji Trophy is the backbone of Indian cricket. The moment you start ignoring it our cricket will be SPINELESS!," Shastri tweeted.

Just about a hour after Shastri's comment, BCCI secretary Jay Shah issued a statement, confirming the phased resumption of the tournament.

"The Board has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June," Shah said in a statement.

It is expected that the 38-team tournament will begin in the second week of February and the first phase will continue for about a month.

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal, after a meeting of the Board on Thursday, had said that the body intends to hold the tournament in "two phases".

This is because the BCCI is planning to start the IPL from March 27 and it will be practically impossible to hold the Ranji Trophy at a stretch.

Dhumal had said this after many state units and the BCCI brass held a meeting to discuss the way forward.

The meeting was also attended by BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and Shah.

The pandemic had played spoilsport last season as well when the BCCI could only organise two men's white-ball tournaments (Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy).

The BCCI paid 50 per cent of the earlier match fee as compensation to all first-class cricketers who endured financial losses due to Ranji's cancellation last year.

No change in ICC women's World Cup schedule

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC women's ODI World Cup CEO Andrea Nelson on Friday asserted that there will be no change in the number of venues or scheduling of the event despite the recent spread of the COVID-19's Omicron variant in host country New Zealand.

The World Cup is scheduled to be held in New Zealand from March 4, with the hosts taking on West Indies in the tournament opener.

However, New Zealand has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases recently leading to several restrictions.

"We have been in preparation to host the World Cup here in 2022 for quite a sometime, originally it was scheduled for 2021. We are well on track and 35 days away from the opening match in Tauranga and 66 days away from the final at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

"The first thing to say is that the tournament schedule is remaining as it is, and that involves moving around New Zealand," Nelson told a select group of reporters on a con-call on Friday morning.

"We are working with the ICC at a managed environment. But broadly speaking, the tournament will proceed nationwide as planned," she added.

On Thursday, New Zealand Cricket announced a reworked schedule to curb the risk of COVID-19 by ensuring that the teams will not have to travel a lot for matches in both men's and women's events.

"The big change in the last week or so has come about though is New Zealand has the Omicron variant. But what hasn't changed is our full commitment to staging an incredible event for the athletes," stated Nelson.

The World Cup is slated to be played at six venues - - Tauranga, Dunedin, Hamilton, Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch and Nelson maintained that as of now there was no change in location. "The plan is to retain the schedule as it is with the six venues. The contingency measures were put in place related to protecting the travel between those venues as much as possible.

"We are currently staging the event as per the schedule that has been previously published with no changes of location."

"So, there are no significant changes to the way the event will be delivered for the players. Predominantly the changes are related to spectators inside the stadium."

Brendan Taylor banned by ICC for 3 and half years

PTI ■ DUBAI

Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor was on Friday banned for three and a half years by the ICC for failing to report a 2019 spot-fixing approach by an Indian businessman on time and was also handed a one month suspension for failing a dope test which was linked to his intake of cocaine during the episode.

In a statement, the ICC said Taylor admitted to being in breach of the provisions of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

"Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor has been banned from all cricket for three and a half years after he accepted breaching four charges of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code and, separately, one charge of the ICC Anti-Doping Code," the ICC said.

On January 24, Taylor made a stunning disclosure that he was blackmailed after "foolishly" taking cocaine during his meeting with an Indian businessman.

Taylor said he is facing a multi-year ban from the ICC for delay in reporting a corrupt approach by an Indian businessman in 2019.

Taylor had claimed that he was invited by the businessman to India to discuss "sponsorships" and potential launch of a T20 event in Zimbabwe besides an offer of USD 15,000 in October 2019. He did not name the businessman in question.

Afghanistan defeat Sri Lanka, set up semifinal clash

PTI ■ COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

Afghanistan sneaked into the Under-19 World Cup semifinals after edging out Sri Lanka by four runs, courtesy a sensational fightback, here.

The odds were heavily stacked against them when they posted just 134 on the board after Sri Lanka asked them to take first strike but Afghanistan produced a superb performance with the ball to bowl the island nation out for 130 in 46 overs.

A composed stay at the crease from Sri Lanka skipper Dunith Wellalage (34 off 61) looked like would pull his team over the line, but it was not meant to be.

Afghanistan will now face England in the first Super League semifinal on February 1.

Put to bat, Afghanistan openers Nangeyalia Kharote and Bilal Sayedi looked solid for the opening 10 overs before Traveen Mathew struck with a wicked delivery that removed Sayedi.

Kharote departed in the very next over and when skipper Suliman Safi was trapped LBW after making just one, Afghanistan were reeling.

Ijaz Ahmadzai lost his wicket without troubling the scoreboard, but fellow middle-order batter Abdul Hadi was able to steady the ship with a crucial 37-run knock.

Vinjua Ranpul then helped clear-out the tail for Sri Lanka, ending with a five-wicket haul at the expense of just ten runs.

The Sri Lankan reply was shaky from the start. Opener Sadisha Rajapaksa went for a duck in the opening over, and his replacement Shevon Daniel went for just 2 after he was clean bowled by Bilal Sami.

A composed stay at the crease from Sri Lanka skipper Dunith Wellalage (34 off 61) looked like would pull his team over the line, but it was not meant to be.

After 13 overs, they were in a worse position than Afghanistan were during their innings. Noor Ahmed then produced a cracking delivery to remove Ranuda Somarathne and put Sri Lanka in real trouble.

Their dreams of lifting a first U-19 World Cup trophy were fading fast. However, the eighth wicket partnership between captain Wellalage and Raveen de Silva looked like it might save the day, taking Sri Lanka from 43 runs for seven to 112.

Kharote took the crucial wicket of the skipper, who played cheaply, before Naveed claimed the wicket of de Silva to set-up a nerve jangling finish.

Sri Lanka got to within five runs of victory, but their fourth run-out of the innings cost Mathew the final wicket and gave Afghanistan a dramatic victory

Indian cricket in good hands under Rohit Sharma's captaincy: Sammy

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Former West Indies captain Darren Sammy feels Indian cricket is in "good hands" under Rohit Sharma's leadership as he bracketed the senior India batter alongside the legendary MS Dhoni in their ability to get the best out of their teammates.

A five-time IPL winning captain, a fit-again Rohit will take charge as full time India white ball captain in the upcoming three ODI and three T20Is series against the West Indies beginning in Ahmedabad on February 6.

Rohit was made the captain after the BCCI removed Virat Kohli as the ODI skipper following his war of words with the Board.

"Kohli has been exceptional with his performances on the field.

I don't think it will affect the team," Sammy told PTI on the sidelines of Legends League Cricket here.

"Rohit has been an excellent captain (with Mumbai Indians), a good motivational leader. I've watched him captaining Mumbai in the IPL.

He's among the captains who have won like MS Dhoni, (Gautam) Gambhir..."

"All these guys can manage to get performances from their teammates.

These captains normally get results and win trophies. I'm not worried about Indian cricket. It's in good hand," the 38-year-old added.

Sammy recollected how Dhoni finished the game for Chennai Super Kings with a six-ball 18 not out, smashing three boundaries in the last over against Delhi Capitals in the semifinal last season.

CSK won their fourth IPL title in 2021 beating Kolkata Knight Riders in the final.

"You see guys like MS... He didn't do much the entire season but when the team needed him to fire in the playoffs, he was out there in full flow," Sammy said.

Sammy said it will not be a cakewalk for India in the upcoming white-ball series and the Kieron Pollard-led side should "fancy their chances".

West Indies had bounced back from a shock 1-2 ODI series defeat against Ireland to lead the ongoing five-match T20I home series against England 2-1.

"I believe Pollard will definitely fancy his chances (against India).

He has been playing in India for so long, he knows the conditions well.

"At the (ongoing) England series, we have unearthed some new talents.

I think West Indies could go out there (India) and do well."

India struggled in their last ODI series in South Africa as the KL Rahul-led side were routed 0-3 by the Proteas. They had lost the preceding Test series 1-2.

Asked whether it would be an advantage for the West Indies considering

India's struggle in their last series, Sammy said: "India have always been strong at home, they are a force to reckon with because of some really good one-day players."

Multan starts PSL with big win over Karachi

AP ■ KARACHI

Defending champion Multan Sultans thumped Karachi Kings by seven wickets as Pakistan's premier domestic Twenty20 league opened with several players and support staff members already in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19.

Led by Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten 52 off 47 balls, Multan cruised to 126-3 with 10 balls to spare after South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir took 3-16 and had restricted Karachi to 124-5.

The spread of coronavirus has already seen several players like Wahab Riaz and Kamran Akmal of Peshawar Zalmi and Imad Wasim of Karachi going into isolation. Star allrounder Shahid Afridi was the latest to test positive on Thursday and was ruled out of his team Quetta Gladiators' first four games.

Afridi, who was due to miss at least two games due to back pain, will remain in isolation for at least one week before he will be reintegrated with his team in a bio-secure bubble after getting a negative COVID-19 test.

"I have unfortunately tested positive but have no symptoms at all," Afridi tweeted.

Karachi missed allrounder Wasim, who helped the team win the tournament in 2020 but now is being replaced by Babar Azam as skipper. To make things worse for Karachi, its premier fast bowler Mohammad Amir had to sit out the first game due to a side strain.

Babar, leading Karachi for the first time, and Sharjeel Khan struggled to set the tempo against some tidy bowling by fast bowlers David Willey and Shahnawaz Dahani up front after Rizwan won the toss and elected to field.

Asian rivals India and Bangladesh face off in all important quarterfinal

PTI ■ OSBOURN (ANTIGUA)

COVID-hit India will be bolstered by the return of key players, including skipper Yash Dhull, when the record four-time champions meet holders Bangladesh in the third quarterfinal of the U-19 Cricket World Cup here on Saturday.

Most of the half a dozen India players, who were affected by the dreaded virus, have recovered and are set to feature in the crucial clash. However, Nishant Sindhu, who was stand-in captain of the team, has tested positive and will miss the match. He will be replaced by Aneeshwar Gautam in the squad.

Six players -- Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, Sidharth Yadav, Aaradhya Yadav and Manav Parakh -- had returned positive RTPCR tests before the Ireland game. All of them are available for Saturday's game.

Dhull and other infected players reached Antigua on Friday morning after undergoing seven days of isolation in Trinidad.

"They have been medically deemed fit to play. They have a day or so to train and be game ready," an ICC source told PTI.

They had gone into isolation ahead of India's second league fixture against Ireland, dealing a big blow to the record four time champions. Five of them tested positive in the RTPCR tests and also ended up missing the last league game against Uganda.

India vs Bangladesh
Live from 6:30pm IST
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However, the depth in the squad ensured India won both those games comfortably and qualified for the quarterfinals as group toppers.

Sindhu led the side in Dhull's absence as India struggled to field 11 fit players on the park in the game against Ireland.

"Most of the players have recovered and should be fit enough to play tomorrow," a BCCI official told PTI. Both Dhull and Rasheed are important batters for the team and had looked in good touch against South Africa in their tournament opener.

Opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi and all-rounder Raj Bawa's confidence must be sky high after they scored match winning tons against Uganda. Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal has been India's stand out bowler in the tournament with seven wickets.

Another left-arm spinner Sindhu has been tidy with the ball, taking four wickets at an economy rate of 2.76 runs per over.

The Bangladesh batters will also not have an easy time negotiating the extra pace of Rajvardhan Hangargekar.

The game will be a rematch of the previous edition's final in 2020 when Bangladesh had stunned the favourites to win their maiden title. Current Bangladesh skipper Rakibul Hasan was part of that memorable final.

In the recently held Asia Cup semifinal in the UAE, India had outplayed Bangaldesh and gone on to win the title.

Bangladesh's entry into the knockouts here wasnt as smooth as India's. England outplayed them in the first game before they qualified with wins over Canada and UAE.