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CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY JANUARY 20, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹2

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Covid 3rd wave to peak on Jan 23: IIT-K study

'Cases to remain below 4L /day, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata past peak'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 2,82,970 new coronavirus infections, including 8,961 Omicron variant cases, India's active cases have increased to 18,31,000, the highest in 232 days. The infections are likely to spike further till January 23 when the third Covid-19 wave in the country may peak with daily cases likely to remain below the four lakh mark, said Manindra Agarwal, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur and one of the researchers associated with the Sutra Covid model.

Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata have already reached their peak in case numbers in the past seven days, he said.

According to Agrawal, Covid-19 cases will peak in Maharashtra, Karnataka, UP, Gujarat, and Haryana this week, while States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Tamil Nadu may peak next week.

"The daily cases are projected to peak on January 23 in India and stay below the four



A crowded subway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus railway station amid concern over rising cases of Omicron variant of Covid-19 across the country, in Mumbai on Wednesday

lakh mark. Metro cities Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata have already peaked," Agrawal said.

Agrawal had earlier predicted that the Covid-19 third wave will peak by January end.

"Across the country, the trajectories are changing significantly. I speculated earlier that it is due to ICMR guidelines for a changed testing strategy. However, at many places, these guidelines are not yet implemented and still, the trajectory has changed!" he said.

According to a new Govt advisory, individuals under-

taking inter-State domestic travel and contacts of confirmed Covid cases do not need to get tested unless identified as "high risk" based on age or comorbidities. In his view, there are two plausible reasons for the change in the Omicron-led case trajectory in India.

"There are two groups in the population, one with less immunity against Omicron and the other with more. The mutant first spread in the first group causing a sharp rise. Now the first group is exhausted and so the spread is slower," he explained.

Agrawal noted that there was a lot of concern when the Omicron variant started spreading in November last year.

However, he said, in the last week or so, people almost everywhere have concluded that the variant causes only "mild infection" and have decided to handle it with standard remedies instead of getting tested.

The death toll in India has climbed to 4,87,202 with 441 fresh fatalities. There has been a 0.79 per cent increase in Omicron cases since Tuesday, the Ministry said.

MSY's daughter-in-law, first CDS Rawat's brother join BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the season of shifting political loyalties in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, the BJP on Wednesday won over Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav. Aparna joined the saffron outfit here at BJP headquarters.

Aparna is married to Prateek Yadav, son of Mulayam Singh Yadav's second wife. SP president Akhilesh Yadav is his son from his first marriage.

Meanwhile, Colonel Vijay Rawat, the brother of India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, joined the BJP on Wednesday in Uttarakhand ahead of the State polls. "My father (Gen Laxman Singh Rawat) after retiring from the Army, was with the BJP. Now I have got an opportunity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is special. All his work is for the progress of this nation. That is what encouraged me to join the BJP. His plan for Uttarakhand is a product of a great vision," Colonel Vijay Rawat said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was also present.

General Bipin Rawat, who was born in Uttarakhand, his wife, and 12 others died last month after their chopper crashed in Tamil Nadu's Conoor.



Aparna Yadav, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law, joins THE BJP in the presence of UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya (L) and State BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh (R), at party HQ in New Delhi on Wednesday

Aparna, in her early thirties, who was making overtures to the BJP for long, joined the party in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and BJP nState chief Swatantra Dev Singh.

The BJP may be fielding her in the UP Assembly polls, though a seat 'fitting her political background' is yet to be decided, sources said.

Praising Aparna, Maurya said she had been from time to time expressing views that showed her inclination towards the BJP.

The Uttar Pradesh BJP president lambasted

Samajwadi Party for its alleged support to criminals in its ticket distribution in western Uttar Pradesh. Farmers and women never felt safe when the Samajwadi Party was in power, he alleged.

Singh said Aparna has faith in good governance of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and her induction in the BJP will boost the party.

Expressing her admiration for Modi, she said the nation's interest has always been a priority for her and praised several schemes of the BJP Government for cleanliness, woman empowerment and

empowerment.

The switch, a shot in the arm for BJP, comes at a time when a number of OBC leaders have quit the BJP and joined the SP.

Aparna had contested the 2017 Assembly polls on the SP ticket from Lucknow Cantonment but lost to BJP's Rita Bahuguna Joshi, now a Lok Sabha member.

Bahuguna is now herself pitching for a seat for her son and written a letter to the BJP president JP Nadda to the effect saying she may quit her Lok Sabha seat if the party were to stick to one member one ticket guideline.

CAPSULE

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES CANCEL FLIGHTS TO US

Dubai: Major international airlines cancelled flights heading to the US or changed the planes they're using on Wednesday, the latest complication in a dispute over concerns that 5G mobile phone service could interfere with aircraft technology.

MALLYA FACES PROSPECT OF LOSING LONDON HOME

London: Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, who is based in Britain for over five years, faces the prospect of bailiffs knocking on the doors of his luxury London home any time now after a British court ruled that a bank pursuing its unpaid dues can take charge of the high value property.

INS BLAST: ACCIDENTAL DEATH CASE REGISTERED

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police registered an accidental death case in connection with the explosion on-board the INS Ranvir at the Naval dockyard the day before in which 3 Navy personnel were killed and 11 hurt, an official said.

Mid-air collision of 2-IndiGo planes averted by a whisker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two IndiGo planes with hundreds of passengers on board came close to colliding with each other mid-air on January 7 shortly after taking off from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), at an altitude of over 3000 feet over Bengaluru.

The incident occurred when IndiGo flights 6E 455 departing for Kolkata and 6E 246 for Bhubaneswar were given permission to depart at the same time. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which is investigating the matter, has said that it would take the strictest action against those responsible for the incident. The incident was not recorded in any logbook and was not reported by the Airports Authority of India.

Both the aircraft took off from Bengaluru airport in a



span of about five minutes.

DGCA said that the two IndiGo planes were involved in "breach of separation" at Bengaluru airport. Breach of separation happens when two aircraft cross the minimum mandatory vertical or horizontal distance in the airspace. Both these aircraft departed from the Bengaluru airport within a span of approximately 5 minutes on the morning of January 7.

"On the morning of the incident, the north runway was being used for departures

and the south runway for arrivals. Later, the shift in charge decided to close the south runway but failed to inform the air traffic controller of the south tower," said officials. As a result, the two flights were given permission for take-off at the same time from the converging runways. This resulted in a situation where the aircraft moving in the same direction were about to collide with each other. A radar controller saw this and immediately intervened to alert the aircraft.



Army jawans patrol in a snow-covered area near the LOC in Poonch on Wednesday

Heads of Af neighbours, Modi to discuss situation

India hosting
 conclave in virtual
 mode on Jan 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Situation in Afghanistan and in the neighbourhood will figure prominently in the first summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and heads of State of five Central Asian nations on January 27. India is hosting the conclave in the virtual mode.

Leaders of the five nations were to be invited as chief guests for the Republic Day parade this year. The raging corona pandemic forced India to change the schedule. The Republic Day parade for the second consecutive year will not have any foreign country chief guest.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the chief guest for last year's parade, but he had to cancel the visit due to surge in pandemic in his country.

Giving details of the forth-

coming high-profile event, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Wednesday the Prime Minister will host the first India-Central Asia Summit. Leaders are expected to deliberate on steps to take forward relations to newer heights as well as the evolving regional security situation.

The virtual summit will be held with the participation of the five Presidents - Kazakhstan's Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan's Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Eмомali Rahmon, of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan's Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyz Republic. Most of these countries share border with Afghanistan. India has lot of stakes in the restive country. This will be the first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders, the Ministry said in a statement.

The first India-Central Asia Summit is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's

"extended neighbourhood".

Modi paid a visit to all Central Asian countries in 2015. Subsequently, there have been exchanges at high-levels at bilateral and multilateral forums.

During this summit, the leaders are expected to discuss steps to take forward India-Central Asia relations to newer heights. They are also expected to exchange views on regional and international issues of interest, especially the evolving regional security situation.

The summit is symbolic of the importance attached by the leaders of India and the Central Asian countries to a comprehensive and enduring India-Central Asia partnership, the statement said.

The inception of the India-Central Asia Dialogue at the Foreign Ministers' level, the third meeting of which was held in New Delhi from December 18-20, 2021, has provided an impetus to India-Central Asia relations, the statement said.

Senior Badal tests
 positive, admitted
 to DMCH Ludhiana

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Actively campaigning in his home turf Lambi going door-to-door, Punjab's former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Wednesday tested positive for COVID-19. The 94-year-old Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch has been admitted to Dayanand Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at Ludhiana. DMCH Medical Superintendent Dr Sandeep Sharma said that Badal tested positive for coronavirus, and "he is stable". The doctors attending him have conducted a number of general tests.

Owing to backache, the five time chief minister had canceled all the scheduled programmes on Tuesday. SAD patron Badal has been extensively touring his constituency and campaigning ahead of February 20 elections, and was hardly seen wearing a face mask. He has been regularly meeting several people, including party leaders and workers, commoners, media persons. Only recently, INLD secretary general-cum-Ellanabad MLA Abhay Chautala also met the senior Badal.

ED seizes ₹10 cr, gold worth ₹21 L during raids at 10 locations; Channi's nephew among those raided

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Enforcement Directorate has seized Rs 10 crore cash and gold worth Rs 21 lakhs during raids in connection with money laundering investigation, against illegal sand mining operations in the poll-bound state, that concluded on Wednesday morning. The raids were conducted at multiple locations in Punjab, including the premises of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's nephew, six mining contractors, among others.

The central agency seized a total of Rs 10 crore from Channi's nephew Bhupinder Singh Honey and his partner Sandeep Kumar, besides recovering gold worth Rs 21 lakh during the searches that started on Tuesday. During the raids, the federal probe agency has also seized a number of documents and electronic devices.

Of the total Rs 10 crore cash seized during the operation, Rs eight crore have been recovered from the premises linked to Channi's nephew Honey. The remaining Rs two crore had been seized from the

premises linked to his partner Sandeep Kumar.

A day before, the ED had recovered nearly Rs six crore from Bhupinder and Sandeep from their premises in Ludhiana, and the amount touched Rs 10 crore on Wednesday.

The financial investigation agency raided 10 locations in poll-bound border state, including those linked to the CM's nephew, in connection with probes into illegal sand mining in the State on Tuesday.

The ED officials, accompanied by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, conducted searches at locations in Chandigarh, Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Pathankot and Mohali. An apartment belonging to Honey was raided in Mohali. The ED is probing the source of unaccounted cash recovered from Honey and Sandeep, and is expected to soon summon the persons covered during the searches for fresh and detailed questioning.

The agency's probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is based on a 2018 case registered by Punjab Police for illegal sand

mining in the border state. The central agency had lodged an ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report), an FIR, at its zonal office in Jalandhar in November last year after taking over the probe.

ED officials said that Kudrat Deep Singh, one of the main accused, had set up a firm, Provider Consultancy Services Private Limited. The three directors of the firm are Kudrat Deep, Sandeep, and Bhupinder. The ED has been probing money-laundering charges against them as it suspects the proceeds of crime from the illegal sand mining has been further transferred.

Following the probe against Kudrat Deep, the ED investigated the role of six contractors for illegal sand mining. Besides, it searched the premises of miner Sunil Joshi in Pathankot, Jagbir Inder Singh in Rupnagar, and Randeep Singh in Fatehgarh Sahib, while the properties of Sandeep and Bhupinder were searched in Ludhiana, too.

According to the FIR, there are 26 accused, including Kudrat Deep. Most of them are truck drivers. The case was reg-

istered on the complaint of the Punjab Mining Department that found sand quarries being run without approval during its raids in 2018.

The Mining Department impounded 30 vehicles and other machinery being used for the illegal mining. The FIR said that the mining was done outside the designated area and the operators used forged slips that were not issued by the mining department. Police cracked down on six companies in connection with the illegal sand mining case.

In 2019, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar police had also filed challan in the case against accused Baldev Singh and others. An SBS Nagar court has fixed February 23 as the next date of hearing in the matter.

In 2018, the case was registered under Sections 21(1) and 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and Sections 420 (punishment for cheating), 471 (whoever fraudulently or dishonestly uses as genuine), and 465 (punishment for forgery) at Rahon.

(Related reports on Page 3)

THE PIONEER ANALYSIS

Four CM faces of Punjab — Channi, Mann, Sukhbir and Amarinder

AMITABH SHUKLA ■ CHANDIGARH

With the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) naming comedian turned politician Bhagwant Mann as the chief ministerial candidate, the long drawn suspense within the party and outside has ended and brought in a sense of closure for the swelling party cadres who are fighting with their tails up in the Assembly polls.

As far as the chief ministerial faces of the rival parties are concerned, it is more or less settled now. Though within Congress, as has been the case most of the time, there would be twists and turns followed by more twists and turns till a name is officially declared by the high command. So far, Congress seems to have given enough indications and sort of settled with Charanjit Singh Channi, who made a mark for himself in his short tenure after being sworn in following the unceremonious

oust of long-serving Amarinder Singh having two tenures on the top post combining nine and a half years in all.

Then comes the third serious angle in the Punjab polls—Shiromani Akali Dal where leadership has now become hereditary and has passed on to party President Sukhbir Singh Badal. His father, Parkash Singh Badal, the five-time chief minister, is now in his 90's and despite his public appearances now and then in the last five years, has clearly paved the way for his son, who also served as Deputy chief minister and Home Minister when the party was in power in alliance with the BJP from 2012 to 2017. SAD is in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party this time after breaking its over two decade old alliance with BJP on the controversial farm laws. BSP has already been offered the post of Deputy chief minister if the alliance is voted to power.

The Patiala royal Amarinder Singh would obviously be the chief ministerial candidate of the Punjab Lok Congress-BJP alliance even though his new party would get a lesser number of seats than the BJP in the seat sharing pact. Of course, the alliance has hardly got much effect on the ground, given that in the rural areas, it has no traction while in urban pockets, BJP has some influence but overall the political analysts are almost certain that it will not cross the double digit figure. They have obviously written off the alliance as a serious contender of power despite some aggressive inductions from left, right and centre in recent days. They see the Patiala royal parting ways with Congress and deciding to fight elections more as an 'ego trip of a dethroned emperor' rather than a serious attempt at political resurrection.

As of now, it seems that the strategy of AAP in naming Mann, the popular face of the

party after a tele-voting campaign, has helped get it traction with the voters. Publicizing a phone number for tele-voting, asking voters to give missed calls, SMS and WhatsApp, helped the party connect with the voters. All of this had an element of surprise and political freshness. This was obviously a new exercise of its kind and such novelty helps the party catch the imagination of the voters. Remember the days of the "Chai pe charcha" campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 Lok Sabha polls and the "Coffee with Captain" campaign of Amarinder Singh in 2017 assembly poll which catapulted both of them to power. Of course, the man behind those popular slogans—Prashant Kishor—is now on a sabbatical, not coining any new slogan for anyone after West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee emerged victorious.

The "AAP da CM" tele-voting exercise saw over 21 Lakh people expressing their

opinion on the number released by AAP on January 13 for voting, and 93.3 percent voted for Bhagwant Mann as their choice to be Punjab's CM. Of course, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip and this is true in politics more than anything else, it is now certain that there would be no parachute candidate in Punjab now, as was believed by almost all the other political parties. In the last Assembly polls in 2017, when AAP did reasonably well, getting the Leader of Opposition space by piping out the Akali Dal, it had not declared a CM face and obviously did not want to repeat the mistake in 2022.

On the other hand, ruling Congress has so far not made any official announcement though in 2017 it had named Amarinder Singh as the CM face of the party days before the polls. As public campaign is not allowed and no big rallies are being held due to Election Commission's Covid-19 guidelines, top leadership of

Congress (read Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi) have not yet had the opportunity to go on stage with Channi or Sidhu so that any guesses could be made.

However, Congress, on its Twitter handle, indicated that Channi could be the candidate as it shared a video clip in which Bollywood actor-cum-philanthropist Sonu Sood is seen saying that people want a person from humble origins as the Chief Minister, indicating towards Channi. In the video, there are visuals of the sitting chief minister which has fuelled speculation that the high command has sort of endorsed the name. It is understood that Channi's logical and emotional stand on the recent controversy over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security lapse in Ferozepur seems to have helped his cause. In addition, he has in a calculated manner cultivated the image of the aam aadmi (common man) who has no pretensions to cut into the votes of the AAP.

The Congress high command knows it well that the PCC chief Navjot Sidhu is not the one to accept anyone's name as the CM face, except his own without any protest, so it is perhaps buying peace as of now by not making any official announcement. "Collective leadership" is the term coined to keep everyone happy till the crunch time comes. Sidhu has been urging the high command to name the CM face, going to the extent of saying, "Dulhe bin baraata kaisi." (What is a wedding procession without a groom). Obviously, he was referring to the wedding procession as an election campaign and groom as the chief ministerial candidate. But given the compulsions of the top leadership in keeping everyone happy, it seems, there would be no "groom" in the "wedding procession" as of now from Congress and all it would do is keep indicating and suggesting Channi's name, without doing so.

Surprisingly, in the tele-voting campaign of the AAP, Sidhu was the second most preferred CM candidate of the party getting a little over 3 percent of the votes. Many in Punjab had two interpretations or questions on this, one whether Sidhu would move to the AAP and two what kind of methodology was adopted by AAP in tele-voting where Sidhu too figured. But political speculations apart, Sidhu seems to be a few steps behind Channi as of now as the CM face of the party amongst the party cadres as well as the central leadership.

So, the name of the Captains of the respective teams as of now are out—Bhagwant Mann, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhbir Singh Badal and Amarinder Singh. The results would decide who has got on top.

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh)

BJP reaches seat sharing formula with PLC and SAD (Sanyukt)

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Heading an evolving coalition, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finally reached at a consensus over the seat sharing formula with its allies — Punjab Lok Congress — headed by former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) — led by Rajia Sabha MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, and also Lok Insaaf Party — led by Bains Brothers.

As per the seat sharing arrangement, the saffron party will have a lion's share among the total 117 seats in Punjab, and will field its candidates on 60 to 62 seats, while Capt Amarinder-led PLC gets 38-40 seats and Dhindsa-led Akali faction gets 10-12 seats in its share.

Lok Insaaf Party, led by Simarjeet Singh Bains and Balwinder Singh Bains — both MLAs and popularly known as Bains Brothers, is likely to be part the BJP-led alliance and may contest on two to five seats.

At the same time, the saffron party has also finalised its candidates for around three dozen seats, and the announcement is expected anytime now.

The names of the probable candidates have been finalised after extensive discussion at the state level, and the approval from the Central leadership is awaited before releasing the first list of candidates for the February 20 elections.

It has been learnt that the

BJP will retain all the candidates from the seats it traditionally contests in Punjab. Besides, the party will also be announcing candidature of leaders from other political parties from the seats they have been contesting.

Former Cabinet Minister and Guru Har Sahai MLA Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi and sitting Qadian MLA Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa, who gave up "hand" to hold the "lotus", are likely to be fielded from Ferozepur and Batala, respectively, instead of their traditional seats.

The first list has been prepared after brainstorming over 4,000 applications, and discussing each and every name.

The saffron party has all along been playing a second fiddle to its ally — the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) — which severed the decades-old ties with BJP over the issue of Centre's three agriculture acts. SAD has now forged an alliance with the BSP for ensuring elections.

BJP, on the other hand, has tied up with the splinter groups led by the stalwarts of Punjab politics — Capt Amarinder and Dhindsa. But this time, BJP would be the senior partner in the alliance having majority of seats in its share — for the first time in Punjab.

The farmers' agitation against the Centre's farm laws created an anti-BJP wave across the State, amidst all sections of the society. Its

party leaders were not allowed to move out, with the farmers and their supporters disrupting BJP's every public meeting or gathering. On several occasions, BJP leaders also had to face the brunt.

However, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted the agitating farmers' demand to repeal the contentious farm laws, the announcement helped in pacifying the prevailing anger against the BJP.

In a game of perception, the BJP managed to woo big names from other parties and also prominent Sikh faces into the party — in the process sending across a message among the state electors that it was still popular. "We received a total of 4028 applications to apply for the ticket. The first list is all ready and will be announced soon," a BJP leader told The Pioneer.

The maximum number of applications has been received from Doaba, Majha, and the urban areas in the Hindu-dominated belt of Punjab, while the least number of applications were received from Bathinda.

"We have received more applications from Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, and Mohali. Since there are more Hindus in urban areas and BJP has a base among the urban populace, more applications were received from cities," said the BJP leader.

Haryana reports 12 deaths, 8,847 fresh Covid cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

12 fatalities due to COVID-19 were reported in Haryana as 8847 fresh infections surfaced on Wednesday. Six deaths were reported in Karnal, two in Gurugram and one each in Sonipat, Ambala, Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra in the last 24 hours, according to the state's health bulletin. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 19.99 percent in Haryana. Gurugram, the worst affected district in the state reported the highest 2918 fresh cases followed by 1285 cases in Faridabad. Among other districts, 649 new cases were reported in Sonipat, 593 in Ambala, 452 in Panchkula, 437 in Karnal, 430 in Hisar, 321 in Rohtak. The active cases jumped to 59344 in the state with Gurugram reporting highest 24163 such cases.

Punjab reports 27 deaths, 7849 new cases

Punjab reported 27 fatalities and 7849 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday. According to the state's health bulletin, six deaths each were reported in Amritsar and Ludhiana, five in Jalandhar, two each in Bathinda, Gurdaspur, SAS Nagar, Sangrur and one death in Hoshiarpur.

The daily positivity rate of 18.94 percent was recorded in the state. The state's COVID-19 tally has reached 684664, while the state's death toll stood at 16846, the bulletin stated. Ludhiana reported the highest number of 1325 fresh cases recording the positivity rate of

25.74 percent. SAS Nagar reported 1232 cases and a positivity rate of 35.32 percent. 888 fresh cases were reported in Jalandhar, 643 in Hoshiarpur, 471 in Amritsar, 418 in Patiala, 414 in Bathinda, 330 in Ropar. There were 45505 active cases in the state. Among them, 773 were on oxygen support, 232 in critical care facilities and 53 on ventilator support, the bulletin said.

Seven deaths, 3148 Covid cases reported in Himachal

Seven persons died due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours in Himachal taking the death toll to 3892 in the state. Two deaths were reported in Chamba district, one each in Shimla, Hamirpur, Una, Kangra and Solan. A 105-year old female in Kangra district died due to COVID, according to Himachal's health bulletin. The state also reported 3148 fresh COVID infections taking the total number of cases to 252042. The highest number of 650 fresh cases were reported in Solan district. Among other districts, 497 cases were reported in Kangra, 421 in Shimla, 361in Mandi, 258 in Una, 240 in Sirmaur, 226 in Hamirpur, the state's bulletin said.

1502 new cases and two deaths reported in Chandigarh

After two days of decline, Chandigarh on Wednesday reported 1502 new cases of Covid-19 up from 1,275 cases reported a day earlier. On January 17, 864 new Covid-19 infections were reported in the city.

Himachal CM inaugurates Dharamshala Skyway to connect with Mcleodganj

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Wednesday inaugurated Dharamshala Skyway, a ropeway from Dharamshala to Mcleodganj in Kangra district. This 1.8 kms long ropeway has been constructed by spending an amount of Rs. 207 crore and has connected Dharamshala town with Mcleodganj.

While talking to the media-persons on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that construction of this ropeway was started in 2018 and has been developed under DFBOT mode as a public private partnership project by Dharamshala Ropeway Limited and Himachal Pradesh Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

Thakur said that this ropeway would go a long way in solving the traffic problem of Mcleodganj and also prove as an added tourist attraction. This ropeway would carry 1000 persons in one hour in one direction and total time taken by the trolley to reach Mcleodganj from Dharamshala would be five minutes and it has 10 towers and two stations. Mono Cable Detachable Gondolas Technology has been used in this ambitious project, he added. The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 17 developmental projects worth Rs 283.19 crore at Dharamshala in Kangra district on Wednesday.

PUNJAB POLL BUZZ

OVER 91% LICENCED ARMS DEPOSITED

Complying to directions of Election Commission of India (ECI), as many as 3,54,075 licensed weapons have been deposited in the state ahead of Punjab Assembly Elections, scheduled to be held on February 20. Giving details, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Dr S Karuna Raju on Wednesday said that this is 91.10 percent of the total 3,90,275 licensed weapons in the state. Also, 27 without licenses weapons were also seized in the State, he added. "Some of the persons having licenced weapons, including security personnel at nationalised or private banks and other persons facing security issues, will have to approach the Deputy Commissioner for any genuine exemptions and complaint redressal," he said.

VALUABLES SEIZED AFTER CODE ENFORCEMENT

Punjab CEO Dr S Karuna Raju on Wednesday informed that after the Model Code of Conduct came into force in the state for Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections, various enforcement teams, including state nodal officers, Narcotics Bureau, BSF, among others, have seized valuables worth Rs 46.66 crores in violation of code till January 18, 2022. The surveillance teams have seized 6.60 lakh litres of liquor worth Rs two crore, while the enforcement wings have also recovered psychotropic substances amounting to Rs 44.49 crores besides confiscating unaccounted cash of Rs 1.74 crore, he added.

2376 IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS

Chandigarh: Punjab's poll panel has identified as many as 1088 vulnerable hamlets, besides 2376 persons as probable sources of trouble. "Out of these persons, preventive action has already been initiated against 1129, while remaining would also be brought to book," said the state CEO Dr S Karuna Raju. He also informed that from a security point of view, 725 persons have been bound down under preventive sections of CrPC Act. "As many as 2221 cases of non-bailable warrants have been executed, while execution in 191 cases is under process," said CEO adding that as many as 6,339 nakas are operational across the State.

3 RETURN TO CONGRESS FOLD

Three leaders — Inderjeet Singh Khokhar, Parminder Singh Rehal, and Khushwant Singh Ruby — on Wednesday returned to the Congress party fold in support of the Mohali's sitting legislator and Congress candidate Balbir Singh Sidhu. All three leaders had switched their loyalties to AAP-Azaad alliance during the previous MC election in Mohali, but returned back to the party fold "after getting disillusioned from the way of working and policies of Kulwant Singh and expressing full faith in Balbir Sidhu's leadership". Meanwhile Harjeet Kaur, who fought MC poll on AAP-Azaad alliance, also joined Congress party.

Corporate houses did commendable work during Covid pandemic: Haryana CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said that the cooperation shown by the corporate houses under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) along with the government efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic has been commendable.

"IT companies like Infosys have a name in the country and the world. Even in this time of crisis, Infosys is brilliantly performing its responsibility," the Chief Minister said while flagging off the COVID Vaccination Mobile Van donated by Infosys to Civil Hospital, Sector-6, Panchkula under CSR.

The COVID Vaccination mobile van will be used for vaccination in remote areas like Morni Hills in the Panchkula district. Besides this, this van will be used as part of the special campaign for vaccination in the slums of the city.

Panchkula district is the third such district in the state where the first and second doses of vaccination have been administered to almost 100 percent of the population. Now people will be motivated for booster doses. Those who have taken the second dose in March and April 2021 are eligible for a booster dose, it was informed.

Channi is a dishonest man says Kejriwal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday attacked his Punjab counterpart Charanjit Singh Channi over the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids, during which Rs eight crores were seized from Congress leader's nephew's premises.

Minutes after Channi addressed the media accusing the Centre of misusing central probe agencies to discredit him, Kejriwal took to Twitter and shared the viral pictures of the recovered money with the caption, "Channi is not an aam aadmi (common man), but a dishonest one".

Kejriwal also quoted a news agency report with his tweet, that says cash and property-related papers were recovered by the ED after raids on Channi's nephew's house.

Channi, earlier in the day, took a dig at Kejriwal accusing him of strengthening the BJP's hand. Claiming that Kejriwal was "very happy" about the raids in Punjab, Channi said that Kejriwal's relative was also arrested by the Enforcement Directorate.

Meanwhile, AAP's Punjab affairs co-in-charge Raghav Chadha wondered how much wealth would be discovered if

raids were conducted on Chief Minister's own premises.

Chadha, addressing the media, said that according to available information, cash worth Rs 10 crore, bank entries of Rs 56 crore, luxury cars, around Rs 21 lakh of gold and property papers have been seized during the ongoing raid. "If so many things have been found from Punjab CM's nephew, how much of such valuables will be found if the ED raids other nephews and relatives of the chief minister," he said.

Chadha added that Channi's nephew did not have much wealth even till a few months ago. "All this wealth was accumulated in the last 111 days, the same period since Channi became the chief minister of Punjab," he alleged. "Just imagine how much wealth would be discovered if raids were conducted on his (Channi) own premises," said the AAP leader.

CHANNI SHOULD QUIT FOR BEING HAND-IN-GLOVE WITH SAND MAFIA: BJP

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday demanded resignation of Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi for patronizing his family members

in clandestine sand mining in the State. "ED raids have established that the Congress has been running sand mafias in the State under the Chief Minister's nose," said Chugh. At the same time, Chugh debunked the Chief Minister's argument that it was Centre's vendetta. He said that recovery of Rs 10 crore from CM's nephew clearly proved that he continued recklessly in illegal sand mining for so long. "It is known all over the State that the Congress Government has been patronizing liquor and sand mafias in Punjab," he added.

STOP BLAMING ME FOR YOUR FAMILY'S CRIMES: CAPT

Reacting to Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's allegations against him for being behind the ED raids in Punjab, his predecessor Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday lashed out at Congress leader pointing that ED "doesn't report to me nor did I plant the money seized from your kin"...Stop blaming me for your family's crimes. As I always say, the law takes its own course, something that Congress forgot when they accused me of shielding culprits," said Capt Amarinder, who heads Punjab Lok Congress, an ally of BJP.

Centre misusing central agencies to intimidate us; targeted for my stand on PM security lapse: Channi

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Accusing the Centre of misusing central agencies to intimidate him and the Congress party weeks before the state assembly elections, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday alleged that he was being targeted because of his stand in the issue of security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the poll-bound state.

Channi, mincing no words, said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action on his nephew Bhupinder Singh Honey over a 2018 sand mining case was a "conspiracy" by the Centre to stop the Congress from contesting the assembly elections "and the Cabinet Ministers are being threatened".

"If the chairs were empty, (at BJP's Ferozepur rally which Modi was scheduled to address) what is my fault? Why is there a vendetta against me? Had I fired at the protesting farmers then it would have been fine. But I didn't do it. Now, I am paying up," he said.

Alleging that Punjabis are being targeted by the Centre, Channi said: "Why are Punjabis being blamed. When no one did anything, no one threw a pebble at the PM or fired any shot. What did the PM mean by his sarcastic 'Dhanyavad de dena' (say

thanks) remark?"

"Now, attempts are made that our people are not able to contest elections. Relatives are being pressed. Whenever they think it is difficult to win, they let their agencies loose," said Channi.

Accusing the BJP-led Central Government to frame him through his nephew, the Chief Minister said alleged that his nephew was tortured to take his name. "What I have heard is that they wanted to arrest me last night. The courts were kept open till 6 am...My nephew was tortured to take my name...But when it did not happen, they asked the court to close. I have not met my nephew. We do not even know where he is now. I have been told that those who interrogated him told him that they would not allow us to contest elections," he added.

Pointing that his nephew was not even named in the 2018 FIR on the basis of which ED has conducted raids, Channi dubbed it as "a planted exercise".

"They are taking revenge because I stood with Punjab and people of Punjab during the Prime Minister's visit to Ferozepur. This is vindictive...They are harassing our people and want to spoil our election...This is a conspiracy to suppress us. So many of our people and Ministers are under pressure," said the Chief

Punjab CM says, "They want to arrest me...My nephew was tortured to take my name."

Minister, while addressing the media along with Deputy Chief Minister Sukhjiinder Singh Randhawa and Cabinet Ministers Brahm Mohindra, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria.

Channi went on to add that SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, against whom a case had recently been registered by the Punjab Police under the NDPS Act, and former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh were behind the latest ED raids. "They should have raided my house. Why are they going here and there to reach me," he said.

Alleging that attempts are being made to stop him from contesting the upcoming assembly elections, Channi said: "We are being forcibly dragged into the case. I hope the people of Punjab will stand with me as I have stood by them during the visit of the Prime Minister. I have been a Minister and MLA but there is no taint on me. But they want to forcibly put a blot on me. I have been told that I will not be

allowed to file nomination and contest elections."

At the same time, Channi appealed to the Election Commission to stop "Centre's excesses" if they want a fair election. "When my nephew's name is not there in the FIR, why has he been dragged? The other accused Kudratdeep Singh's name has been deleted from the FIR as the mine allotted to him did not operate," he said, adding that Honey became a partner in Kudratdeep Singh's firm later and the FIR was registered earlier.

Also targeting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Channi said that the Delhi Chief Minister was in cahoots with BJP.

Channi said that the Centre has been using the ED and other agencies whenever they want to win an election by arm-twisting. "They did this in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. They will not be able to do anything in Punjab," he said.

Format C-7							
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.							
(As per the Commission's direction issued in pursuance of the order dated 24.03.2020,of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) no. 536 of 2011)							
Name of Political Party :		AAM AADMI PARTY					
*Name of the Election :		LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION-2022					
Name of the Sate/UT :		PUNJAB					
Sl. No		Name of the constituency : Bhoa	Name of the constituency : Dina Nagar	Name of the constituency : Qadian	Name of the constituency : Sri Hargobindpur	Name of the constituency : Ajnala	Name of the constituency : Majitha
1.	Criminal antecedents :	Name of the Candidate : Lal Chand Kataru Chuk	Name of the Candidate : Shamsher Singh	Name of the Candidate : Jagroop Singh Sekhwan	Name of the Candidate : Adv Amarpal Singh	Name of the Candidate : Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal	Name of the Candidate : Sukhjinder Raj Singh Lalli Majithia
	a) Nature of the offences	U/S 188/269/270 IPC	1) U/S 188/269/351 IPC, 2) U/S 420/120-B IPC	1) U/S 379/120 IPC & 21 2) U/S 186/353/332/506/ 148/149 IPC	U/S 269/270/188 IPC 51 DM Act	U/S 302/301/120-B/148/ 149 IPC	U/S 3 PPP ACT 427 IPC
	b) Case No.	FIR 162/2020	1.) CASE NO. 107/2021, 2.) CASE NO 117/2021	1.) CASE NO. 152/2019 2.) CASE NO. 495/2019	CASE NO. 37/2020	FIR NO. 82/2019	FIR NO. 176/2016
	c) Name of the Court	JMIC	2) Chargesheet Not Filed	1) Gurdashpur LD. ASJ, 2) ACJM Gurdaspur,	Chargesheet Not Filed	Chargesheet Not Filed	CJM, Distt Court, Amritsar
	d) Whether charges have been framed or not: Yes/No	No	No	1) No 2) Yes	No	No	YES
	e) Date of conviction (if any) :	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f) Details of punishment undergone (if any)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	g) Any other Information required to be given	NA	NA	NA	NA	Case Stayed	NA
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mer " winnablilty" atg the polis (not more than 100 words)	He has served as Sarpanch many times and now ready to shoulder higher responsibility. His work during this pandemic has been exemplary the party believes the cases against him are due to politcal rivalry.	U/s 138 NIA Act, though criminal but is civil in nature. Party cannot debar him from contesting election on such accusation. He is an old party warrior with a proven track record to public service.	Being son of an Ex Minister, he has a political legacy to carry forward that earned him the wrath of the rivals, particularly illegal mining mafia, resulting in multiple cases.	He comes from a rural agrarian set up, went on to wear Advocate's gown for the sole purpose of rendering free legal aid to poor. He worked tirelessly to help people during this pandemic. The cases against him seems false.	A social worker and agricultural activist of a long standing at Ajnala. He is a house hold name who would like to carry forward his good work to Punjab Assembly. The case will not stand in the Court.	He has been fighting against the drug mafias that resulted in creating many enemies in high position. It was only natural that he would be implicated in false cases.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	There is no other candidate as accomplished as him in that constituency. The party did not find any reason to deny him the opportunity.	The Party found him the most suitable out of all the available options .due to his record in public service.	He was found to be most suitable candidate not with standing the false cases registered against him, Party find no reason to debar him from ticket.	A person of an equal statutre of him was nowhere available in that constituency, The party therefore, found it proper to ask him to run in the election.	The extensive search of a candidate eventually zeroed in on him. The Party could not find a person of his credentials in that constituency.	The party looking at his credential of taking the drug mafias head on , decided to give him an opportunity to continue his struggle from the Assembly now.

Sl. No		Name of the constituency : Amritsar East	Name of the constituency : Baba Bakala	Name of the constituency : Sultanpur Lodhi	Name of the constituency : Nakodar	Name of the constituency : Dasuya	Name of the constituency : Urmr
1.	Criminal antecedents :	Name of the Candidate : Jeevanjyot Kaur	Name of the Candidate : Dalbir Singh Tong	Name of the Candidate : Sajjan Singh Cheema	Name of the Candidate : Inderjeet Kaur Mann	Name of the Candidate : Karambir Singh Ghuman	Name of the Candidate : Jasvir Singh Gill Raja
	a) Nature of the offences	U/S 138 NI ACT	U/S 138 NI ACT	1) U/S 307/427/379/148/ 149/188/506 IPC 2) U/S 337/427/279 IPC	U/S 21 MM ACT	295A/323/506 IPC	1) U/S 420, 465, 467, 471, 477/A, 120-B IPC 2) IPC- 420,465, 468, 471, 120-B
	b) Case No.	NACT 826/2017	CASE NO. 111/2019	1) CASE NO. 33/2021 2) FIR NO. 164 PS. Sultanpur Lodhi	CASE NO. PBSB0300226/2018	U/s CC NO. 06/2020	1) CC NO. 3289/2013 2) FIR NO 28/2018
	c) Name of the Court	F.C. Magistrate Amritsar	FCJM	Sub DJM Sultanpur Lodhi	ACJM SAS Nagar	JMIC, Dasuya	1) JMIC Hoshiarpur 2) Sub - DJM Phagwara
	d) Whether charges have been framed or not: Yes/No	No	No	No	YES	No	No
	e) Date of conviction (if any) :	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f) Details of punishment undergone (if any)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	g) Any other Information required to be given	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mer " winnablilty" atg the polis (not more than 100 words)	U/s 138 NIA Act, though criminal but is civil in nature. This is not such a worrying factor for the Party to render her ineligible for the Party's nomination. She is an old party warrior with a proven track record to public service.	U/s 138 NIA Act, though criminal but is civil in nature. The Party cannot debar him from contesting election on such accusation . He is an old party warrior with a proven track record to public service.	Retired From The Post Of SP In Police Achieved Arjuna Award. In 2017 Joined Aap And Actively Participates And Stands With The Public. Party Does Not Believe The Cases Against Him Can Be True.	An Active Social Worker & Sarpanch For 15 Years. Received The Best Sarpanch Award From Govt. Of Punjab. He Got Politically Motivated Cases Against Him His Relentless Protest Against Illigal Mining	He Participates In Various Social Activities Medical Camp, Ration Etc. His Aim Is To Make Improvement In The Society Through Politics We Believe Case Is Politically Motivated.	He saw The Plight Of The Teachers In The Govt School & Decided To Help Teachers To Get Them Employment. He Actively Helped People During The Pandemic The Case Against Him Is Politically Motivated.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	There is no other candidate as accomplished as her in that constituency. The party did not find any reason to deny her the opportunity.	The Party found him the most suitable out of all the available options .due to his record in public service.	Party wanted a law enforcing officer to be in the process of law making. There was was no other candidate in anywhere near to him	There was no other person matching his experience in The party decided that he should continue raising his voice against illegal mining Assembly too.	He is one of those automatic choices due to his outstanding record of social service.	Given His Social Service , Party Could Not Have Found Anybody Better Than Him. He Has A Strong Credential To Back His Claim .

Sl. No		Name of the Constituency : Chabbewal	Name of the Constituency : Rupnagar	Name of the Constituency : Bassi Pathana	Name of the Constituency : Khanna	Name of the Constituency : Payal	Name of the Constituency : Bhagha Purana
1.	Criminal antecedents :	Name of the Candidate : Harminder Singh Sandhu	Name of the Candidate : Dinesh Chadha	Name of the Candidate : Rupinder Singh (Happy)	Name of the Candidate : Tarunpreet Singh Sond	Name of the Candidate : Manwinder Singh Gyaspura	Name of the Candidate : Amritpal Singh Sukhanand
	a) Nature of the offences	U/S 323/341/186/148/149/ 353/506 IPC	U/S 188/269/270/283 IPC & 51/52/60 DM Act	U/S 188/271/149/269/270/ 504 IPC 51 DM ACT	U/S 188/283 IPC & 51/52 DM ACT	U/S 353/183/185/332/334/ 506/148/149/269 IPC 51 DM ACT	U/S 188 IPC
	b) Case No.	FIR NO. 17/2018	CIS NO.- CHI/ 400/2021	FIR NO. 180/2020	FIR NO. 128/2020	CASE NO 142/2020	Police Challan No. CHCH030 062152021
	c) Name of the Court	JMIC HSP	SDJM Anandpur Sahib	Chargesheet Not Filed	Chargesheet Not Filed	Chargesheet Not Filed	CJM Chandigarh
	d) Whether charges have been framed or not : Yes /No	YES	No	No	No	No	No
	e) Date of conviction (if any) :	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f) Details of punishment undergone (if any)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	g) Any other Information required to be given	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

continue...

2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mer "winnability" atg the polis (not more than 100 words)	Active Social Worker, Elected Sarpanch Who Stand People . Aim To Make Politics Corrupt Free. Case Against Him Is Due To Political Rivalry.	He Is An Advocate And A Rti Acivist, With An Aim To Make Corruption Free Politics. The Case Against Him Is Politically Motivated.	Last 10 Years He Actively Participated In The Social Works. During Pandemic He Actively Helped People . The Case Is Politically Motivated.	Since Last Seven Years He Is The Member Of The Party And Actively Participates In The Social Works. The Case Is Politically Motivated.	Engineer By Profession, A Social Worker. He Helps People To Get Redressal From Various Govt Departments. Case Is Because Of Political Vendetta.	He Is A Youth Leader Of Aap And A True Soldier Against Corruption. His Aim To Make The System Free From Corruption. The Case Was Politically Agitated.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	A Grassroot Politician Of His Experience Was Nowhere Available In That Constituency. He Was An Automatic Choice For That Seat.	An Rti Activist Is A Natural Choice As A Candidate For This Party. There Was Nobody Else Of His Standing In That Constituency.	The Party Sincerely Acknowledged His Contribution During The Pandemic. Nobody Else Had An Equal Social Standing As Of Him In That Constituency	He Is An Old Party Warrior And There Was No Other Person Matching His Commitment To The Cause Of Corruption Free Politics. He Was The Best Choice Avilble In That Constitution.	No other candidate was found to have a comparable achievement in social service. He was a natural choice.	We found him ahead in service to people. It was an unanimous decision to give him a chance to continue his good work of assembly .

Sl. No		Name of the Constituency : Kotkapura	Name of the Constituency : Talwandi Sabo	Name of the Constituency : Maur	Name of the Constituency : Sardulgarh	Name of the Constituency : Budhlada	Name of the Constituency : Dirba
1.	Criminal antecedents :	Name of the Candidate : Kultar Singh Sandhwan	Name of the Candidate : Baljinder Kaur	Name of the Candidate : Sukhvir Singh	Name of the Candidate : Gurpreet Singh Banawali	Name of the Candidate : Principal Budhram	Name of the Candidate : Harpal Singh Cheema
a)	Nature of the offences	1) U/S 188/283/IPC 2) U/S 188/269/270 IPC 51(B) DMACT 2005 3) U/S 188/269/341/342/ 270/283 IPC & 51(B) DMACT NHAct 1956	1) U/S 147, 149, 332, 353 IPC 2) U/S 189 IPC	1) U/S 341/324/323/34 IPC 2) U/S 420 IPC 3) U/S 188 IPC	U/S 188/269 IPC 15 DM ACT, 2005	U/S 188 IPC	U/S 147/149/332/353/188 IPC
b)	Case No.	1) FIR NO. 186/2020 2) FIR NO. 276/2020 3) FIR NO. 271/2020	1) FIR NO. 1/2020, 2) FIR NO. 108/2021	1) FIR NO. 130/2017 2) FIR NO. 17/2018 3) FIR NO. 108/2020	CASE NO. 156/2020	CASE NO. 108/2020	FIR NO. 01/2020
c)	Name of the Court	1) JM 1st Class, Faridkot 2) & 3) ACJM, Punjab	1) P. S North Chanidgarh 2) Chargesheet Not Filed	1) JMJC Talwandi Sabo. 2) JMJC, Talwandi Sabo. 3) CJM, Bhatinda	Chargesheet Not Filed	CJM BHATINDA	CGM Chandigarh
d)	Whether charges have been framed or not: Yes/No	No	No	Yes/ Yes/ No	No	No	Yes
e)	Date of conviction (if any) :	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
f)	Details of punishment undergone (if any)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
g)	Any other Information required to be given	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mer "winnability" atg the polis (not more than 100 words)	He Belongs To A Very Simple Farmer's Family. In 2003 He Was Elected As Sarpanch, Served With Distinction And Joined Aap In 2017. The Criminal Cases Are Politically Motivated.	She Is An English Professor, A Highly Respected Name In Her Fraernity. In 2017 Joined Aap To Help The Society. She Is Known As A Social Worker. The Case Against Her Is Politically Motivated.	A Member Of Various Groups, Societies In Punjab, Working To Develop The Farming Sector Make Punjab Prosper Again. The Cases Agaianst Him Are Politically Motivated.	He Is Politically Active Since College Days. In 2010 He Was Elected As President Of Punjab Youth Board. Joined Aap To Take Up The Issues Faced By The Youth Of Punjab. Case Is Because Of Political Vendetta.	He Had Worked As Lecturar And Principal. A Life Devoted To Education . Recieved Various Awards From The Govt. Of Punjab And Central Govt. The Case Against Him Will Not Stand In Court.	An Active Social Worker Since 10 Years. He Had Also Served As Mla From Aap. Before Starting His Political Career He Was Providing Free Legal Aid. Case Against Is Due To Political Vendetta.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	His credentials of fighting injustice and service to people are far too stonger than any other available choice in that constituency.	Party has giving more opportunities to the educated women in politics. She was an unanimous choice.	A Person Of His Experience In That Constituency Is Not Available Among The Ticket Aspirants. He Was Therefore A Natural Choice.	The party found him at the pole position in the process of candidate selection.	An educationist of his standng is difficult to find by. There was no other person matching his credentials in that constituency,	He had no competition in his Given his past performance as an MLA, all in one voice wanted him as MLA.

Sl. No		Name of the Constituency : Sunam	Name of the Constituency : Mehal Kalan	Name of the Constituency : Sangrur	Name of the Constituency : Patiala Rural	Name of the Constituency : Dera Bassi	Name of the Constituency : Bathinda Rural	Name of the Constituency : Samrala	Name of the Constituency : Sahnawal
1.	Criminal antecedents :	Name of the Candidate : Aman Arora	Name of the Candidate : Kulwant Singh Pandori	Name of the Candidate : Narinder Kaur Bharaj	Name of the Candidate : Dr. Balbir Singh	Name of the Candidate : Kuljeet Singh Randhawa	Name of the Candidate : Amit Rattan Kotfatta	Name of the Candidate : Jagtar Singh	Name of the Candidate : Hardip Singh Mundian
a)	Nature of the offences	U/S 452/323 IPC	1) IPC/269 2) IPS 270/ 20/08/2020 3) 188 / IPC	U/S 188 IPC	U/S 406/420/120B IPC	U/S 188 IPC	Sec 341/431/284 of IPC Sec 8(B) of National Highway Act	U/s 188 IPC	U/s S323, 406, 342, 34 IPC
b)	Case No.	CC No. 1535/2013	1) FIR NO. 0276/ 20/08/2020 2) FIR 0276 3) 0276 20/8/2020	CASE NO - CHI/815/2020	FIR NO 10/2011	CASE NO. 324/2020	FIR NO : 125/2017	FIR No : 324/2020 PS Sec 39 Chandigarh	FIR No : 45/2018, P.S Jamalpur,
c)	Name of the Court	Sub Divisional Magistrate Sunam	1) Taran	CJM, Bhatinda	JMIC Roopnagar	CJM, Chandigarh (UT)	SDJH, Talwandi Sabo	CDM Chandigarh	JMIC, Ludhiana
d)	Whether charges have been framed or not: Yes/No	No	No	No	YES	No	No	YES	YES
e)	Date of conviction (if any) :	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
f)	Details of punishment undergone (if any)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
g)	Any other Information required to be given	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mer "winnability" atg the polis (not more than 100 words)	He Is Inspired From His Father Who Was Mla he is A Sitting Mla Of Sunam. The Criminal Complaints Is Motivated And Due The Political Vendetta	He was a journalist and always raised issues of general public & a MLA. Halka people wants him to represent them again	At 17 She Joined Anna Movement Against The Corruption. She Actively Paricipates In The Social Works. Cases Against Her Is Due To Political Vendetta	Dr. By Profession Since 20-25 Years He Organised Many Free Eye Checkup Camp & Did Many Other Social Works. We Believe, The Cases Against Him Are Due To Jealousy.	Raised Various Issues And Problems Relating To The Transport Sector And Also Actively Participated In Various Other Social Works The Case Against Him Is Because Of Political Vendetta.	Engineer by profession & son of an IRS. Worked for the halka people during Covid-19 & earned the respect of the people. Party thinks he can represent the people.	He has been associated with partysince begining & has been a popular peronn in the area. People wants him to represent them at assembly.	He is a youth leader and worked extensively duing Covid-19 to help people & people in the area wishes him to represent them.
3.	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not to be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The overwhelming opinion in his constituency was in favour of giving him another term in the Assembly.	We didnt found anyone else to replace him and as capable as him.	Woman like her must be brought to the Assembly to raise voice for of the people and for women in particular. There was no other candidate anywhere near to her.	There was no one as benvolent or as philanthropic as this eye surgeon in his constituency. He was an automatic choice for that seat.	Assembly. The overall opinion in that constituency was in his favour & he can represent from sport sector at assembly.	The case seems vendetta against him & there was none to replace him.	There has been no prospects to choose from except him from the constituency.	We didnt found anyone else to replace him and as capable as him.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Food for thought

Starvation deaths remain a stark reality even in this time and age, and the Govt must not shut its eyes

The Attorney General of India told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that no one died of starvation in recent times. That is a sweeping statement considering, as the court pointed out, the officer was relying on old data. The court was hearing a petition seeking a national community kitchen policy to avoid starvation deaths. The officer replied that the Centre has to depend on the States reporting starvation deaths, and they have not reported a single death in recent years. The court came back asking him about media reports on a starvation death in Tamil Nadu. The last reported starvation death occurred in Villupuram in Tamil Nadu on December 19, 2021, where the victim was a five-year-old boy and the autopsy revealed no trace of food in the intestine; that meant the boy had had no food for at least two days before his death. In July 2018, three children died of starvation in Delhi. Authorities performed a second post-mortem to doubly confirm the cause of death. The children had not eaten anything eight to nine days before their deaths. There is no way of saying that starvation deaths do not occur. Current data indicates the presence



of pre-starvation stages among children. A total absence of food leads to starvation. Intermittent availability of food leads to hunger which in turn leads to malnutrition that harms children by stunting their developmental milestones. What the hungry need is not just any food but nutritious food. That is the key to India's food security policy that sees hunger as an aspect of malnutrition. A person having meals of only rice may not feel hungry but will develop nutritional deficiencies. Millions of people are out there today who have to make do with a single meal or skip meals altogether. The pandemic has made access to food more difficult. Surveys show a shocking amount of food and perishables are thrown away in Indian homes every year while tonnes of grains rot in godowns across India. The Government must ensure diet diversity and adequate and subsidised animal source foods to the poor. An elementary, nutritious diet apparently costs around ₹30 per person per day. The cash transferred to the poor at present cannot sustain a family of four for a month. That is why the food policy must be rational. India today has surplus food grains. The poor can, therefore, access thrice their normal monthly rations, irrespective of ration or Aadhaar cards. The public distribution system can expand from grain and pulses to include essentials such as eggs, milk and fruits. Some States already provide eggs to mothers and children through the Anganwadi system. It is worthwhile exploring alternative foods using millets and legumes which contain nutrients and can store for long periods. We can do without religious controversies in making eggs mandatory in mid-day meal schemes; fruit or milk being the option for non-egg eaters. Nutrition, not merely food, is the great equaliser.



Enthusiasts take part in a boat race at Dumas beach, in Surat

Poll heat

As the Assembly election battle enters the last lap, the campaign is getting fiercer

As the dates for Assembly election to five States steadily approach, the electoral arena is agog with activity in all quarters. The Election Commission is busy taking swift decisions aimed at ensuring maximum voter participation while making sure that all the stakeholders are kept out of harm's way, lurking at every corner in the form of the highly transmissible Omicron variant of the Coronavirus family. The political players, as is their wont, are busy raking up mud at their opponents and running one another down, and the candidates are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters and weighing their options to switch allegiance to another party that may form the next Government in their State. From the looks of it, the BJP — which is in power at the Centre and in most of the States going to polls over the next 50 days — is under considerable pressure because it has the most at stake. Even central leaders such as Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have been forced to unleash their charisma in the hinterland as they well realise that it is the virtual semifinal before the 2024 general elections.



Of course, the saffron party is playing covertly, too, to ensure that it has the upper hand in political exchanges. After going through a series of setbacks in the shape of some of its OBC leaders recently joining the SP camp, it recently staged a coup of sorts when it took into the fold Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous and one of the most politically crucial States. Meanwhile, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is deeply involved in a fierce battle of the ballot and pulling out all the stops to cement the place of his party in the Assembly and the Government. While the BJP is hesitant of naming any chief ministerial candidates, apparently for fear of triggering a factional feud, the young AAP has gone ahead and announced that its leader Bhagwant Mann would be the Chief Minister if the party comes to power in Punjab. To give it credit, the AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal really went by people's choice (or so he claims) after nearly 15 lakh people responded to the his party's 'Janta Chunegi Apna CM' drive, in which the party had asked people to name their choice for the Punjab CM. With just days to go for voting, it's really down to the wire.

The Ummah and its Israeli connect

The ever-present shadow of Israel looms large over the goings-on in the Islamic world, sometimes for real and at other times only in imagination

The ever-present shadow of Israel looms large over the goings-on in the Islamic world, sometimes for real and at other times only in imagination

Fixation with Israel haunts the Ummah (pan-Islamic community), sometimes credibly so, other times imagined rather creatively. Even the distant, multicultural and multi-confessional (with Muslim majority) Malaysia insists on its passport with the inscription: "This passport is valid for all countries except Israel." With no territorial or commercial disagreement besetting any Israeli-Malaysian dimension, yet former Malaysian leader Mohammad Mahathir had called it a "State of robbers", "the enemy" and described Jews as "hook-nosed", "rule this world by proxy" etc. At the heart of this deep-rooted angst is the emotive and unresolved issue of Palestine by a narrow stretch of country, Israel, with a population of less than 7 million Jews, that irks and rangles many in the global Ummah of nearly 2 billion. Even as the Ummah itself remains mired in disagreements of sectarian, ethnic and political nature — almost all within attribute the overt or covert hand of Israelis *a la* 'Zionist Conspiracies', that contextualises their perceived problems. Indeed, Israeli spy agency Mossad does play a hyper-intrusive role in safeguarding its sovereign interests, but perhaps not as fantastically as popularly imagined.

Three recent, simultaneous and completely unrelated incidents in distant lands illustrate this Israeli-Jewish fascination. A US citizen of Pakistani origin, MIT-trained neuroscientist Dr Aarifa Siddiqui, currently convicted for 86 years in the US on charges of shooting at US Army and FBI officers while in custody in Afghanistan, was at the centre of a hostage drama. The intensely followed and disputed trial had all the elements of intrigue, counterespionage and murky trails and the Pakistan Government was forced to defend her case publicly, in vain. However, during the long-drawn court proceedings, she had tried to fire her lawyers as they were Jewish and she explicitly wrote to the courts that Jews were "cruel, ungrateful and back-stabbing" people! Recently, a gunman in a small town in Texas took four



hostages at a synagogue, including the resident Rabbi — the hostage taker's singular demand was the purported release of the incarcerated 'Lady Al Qaida' Dr Aarifa Siddiqui. The telltale symbolism and conflation of the synagogue, rabbi and hostage drama for a convicted terrorist of Pakistani descent picked up from Afghanistan — usual admixture, somehow commingling Israel/Jews into the same, perhaps unwarrantedly. Around the same time, as part of the longstanding sectarian shadowboxing between the Shia Iranian leadership and the Sunni Saudi Arabian royal family, an unprecedented accusation by Gen Alireza Tangsiri, Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Navy, seeks to shame the other. He implied that the Saudi royal family is descendants of Jews who fought the holy Prophet, "We cannot bear to see injustice in a Muslim country that is perpetrated by the Zionists and the seeds of the Jews", adding, "These are the very same Jews, and I'd better say Zionists, whose hearts have never aligned with Islam, and even with the Prophet in his time". Again, the political blame game within the Ummah was sought to be set-



ISRAEL OFFICIALLY DENIES ANY PERNICIOUS ROLE IN THE TUMULT WITHIN THE UMMAH, THOUGH IT HAS MADE STRATEGIC INROADS WITH THE NOW-EXTREMISMWARY SHEIKDOMS IN THE ARAB WORLD

tled by invoking the familiar watermarks of Zionism and Jews, following the taint and hate associated with the same, irrespective if factual history or the modern-day State of Israel has anything to do with the same. Concurrently, another eerie spectre of the fabled Israeli connect (more indelibly so this time) unfolded within the Ummah's irreconcilable adherents with the mysterious landing of a private plane belonging to the notorious Libyan warlord, Khalifa Haftar, at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport. Embroiled in violent clashes with various factions (backed by various international powers) for the spoils of Libya in the post-Gadhafi era, Khalifa was supposed to be supported by powers like Syria, Russia and, incredulously, even the UAE, who would rather have a Gadhafiesque dictator in Khalifa to keep the extremists out. So, while Khalifa's nemesis and current Libyan Prime Minister Abdulhamid Mohammed Dbeibeh is believed to have recently met Mossad director David Barnea to 'normalise' relations with Israel — yet it is the surreal landing of Khalifa's plane in Israel to seek its support for his presidential candidature, that speaks volumes of the Israeli

acquiescence in the Ummah's muddle. The clear sign of the importance of garnering Israel's support in any domestic power bid, even if thousands of kilometres away, is unmistakable. Israel officially denies any pernicious role in the tumult within the Ummah, though it has made strategic inroads with the now-extremism-wary Sheikdoms in the Arab world. It has tellingly opened an Embassy in the UAE and plans to do so in Bahrain and Morocco soon (it already has one in Jordan and Egypt). Saudi Arabia's heir apparent, Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS), also had to unconvincingly deny reports that he last year secretly met the then Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the Red Sea port of Neon. Clearly, a lot of backroom plotting, machinations and emotions are vested in the 'Israeli connect' that underlie the regional turmoil — how much of it is real or imagined, remains unanswered but what is true is that the issue of Palestine is on the backburner, and Israel looks stronger than ever. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC INTEREST VS PERSONAL CHOICE
Sir — The Centre's statement in the Supreme Court that it does not want to implement forced vaccination has sparked off a debate over balancing "public interest" with "personal choice". The Government further said that though the Union Health Ministry urged everyone to take the anti-COVID vaccine, it never forced anyone to get "vaccinated against their wishes". Likewise, the Centre does not advise making a vaccine certificate mandatory for any purpose. While the Centre's stand on vaccination is fair in terms of people's rights, it must be noted that many States have made vaccination more or less compulsory. The vaccination certificate is compulsory in several parts of the country where infection is on the rise. Such restrictions are accepted by people because these are imposed in public interest. Hence, people need to comply with vaccination rules as well. There is no denying that people's freedom and rights must be preserved. On the other hand, reckless behaviour on flimsy pretext cannot be tolerated. While forcing people to get vaccinated without their consent is against personal liberty, being unvaccinated poses a threat to public health. It must be understood that several countries have made vaccination compulsory. Public interest and personal choice must be properly balanced. There must be exemptions where required. Public safety is more important than personal liberty when there is a health crisis.

Venu GS | Kollam

MUTED R-DAY CELEBRATIONS
Sir — There will be no chief guest for the second year in a row at the Republic Day parade as the plan to host foreign leaders has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to news reports, the plan to host the heads of five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — has been cancelled owing to the pandemic conditions in India as well as in these respective countries. Meanwhile, the number of people permitted to attend the Republic Day

Humans are humans, above all
ASHES
With Australia winning the Ashes in Hobart, the cricketers were posing with the 'urn' in front of the camera amid a champagne shower. Noticing the absence of Usman Khawaja in the huddle due to his religious reservations about alcohol, captain Pat Cummins instructed teammates to put the bottle away and invited him to join in the celebrations! And now the frame has no trace of champagne bottles; rather Khawaja is seen embraced in the middle of the front row just beside the captain, with all heartily laughing and sharing the joy. Can

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

parade this year is likely to be curtailed to approximately 5,000-8,000 due to the health situation, which is quite dangerous and serious, with seats reserved for construction workers, frontline health workers and others, according to senior officials of the Defence Ministry. This proves that the Republic Day celebration is there now just for the sake of name. With these developments, it is high time that the Republic Day celebration must be cancelled altogether for the next few years, until the health scare goes away from our country. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

EC'S HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE
Sir — The Election Commission has shown a good gesture by accepting the demand of all political parties to defer the date of Punjab election from February 14 as the Guru Ravidas Jayanti falls on February 16, and lakhs of devotees visit Varanasi to pay obeisance on Magh Purnima every year.

SOUNDBITE

Goa wants a change and the AAP has been getting a tremendous response in the coastal State.

Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal

I thank Verizon and AT&T for agreeing to delay 5G deployment around key airports.

US President —Joe Biden

Akshay Kumar still wakes up before anybody else ever wakes up in their life.

Actor — Lara Dutta

When you go towards a stump mic it doesn't look good, so that was something avoidable.

Former India captain —Sunil Gavaskar


The youth wants to stand on its feet and these are the things that make a country strong.

Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN


INFLATION MUST NOT IMPACT ECONOMY

Debt management is a priority for the Government



SHSHANK SAURAV

US Economist Milton Friedman had said that inflation is taxation without legislation. A price rise hurts most to those who sit at the bottom of the pyramid in the social structure. Recent data released by the government shows that consumer price index (CPI) has increased to 5.59 percent in December. If we just see the data on the face of it then it will appear that rural inflation crossed 5 percent and food inflation has also peaked to 4 percent in December. In a way this is worrying because CPI numbers are reaching the RBI mandated upper limit of 6 percent. But the Devil lies in the details. A closer look at the data reveals that inflation has gone down in December as compared to previous month and the index has shown a decline of 1.18 percent. Despite the pandemic and the farmers' protest, food prices have increased moderately but skyrocketing prices of edible oil needs to be kept under control. Initiatives like National Edible Oil



Missionare good for long run but immediate measures must be taken to contain the increasing price. Providing free ration to large part of the population has certainly helped the lower class which faced issues of job loss and decline in income. Wholesale price index (WPI) for December has shown price rise of 13.6 percent. The stark divergence between CPI and WPI is another point which indicates the strong domestic demand. It can be taken as a positive indicator where Indian manufacturers are using their pricing power and the volume is allowing retailers to make profit even after absorbing some of the wholesale price rise. There can be counter arguments that such kind of divergence between these two indicators means retailers are losing their profit margin but the increased indirect tax collection doesn't support this view. In pandemic, people used more goods as compared to services and therefore price rise in goods were more. WPI covers only goods and therefore this divergence includes this aspect also. All the major economies of the world are facing inflationary trends and US inflation hit 39 years high in December when it touched 7 percent. There are concerns that Federal Reserve will hike the interest rate and pandemic era stimulus will be cut back. If this happens then it will impact India also and capital outflow can be seen. Our foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover such short-term impacts. This situation is not all bad from Indian perspective. Action taken by US Fed will have impact on exchange rate also and in all likelihood, INR will weaken against USD, if RBI doesn't intervene. This situation will be favorable for Indian exporters, particularly IT and ITES industry.

RBI is entrusted with the responsibility of managing the inflation rate within the given range of 2 to 6 percent. Recent surge in inflation is transitory in nature and it is largely due to increase in input prices (cost push) caused by interruption in global supply chain. In the current scenario, the central bank should continue to prioritize growth and employment over inflation. Real interest rate in India is near to zero and a low borrowing cost is good for a developing economy. The Government has increased the spending in the pandemic era and increased borrowing but RBI's balance sheet expansion cannot continue forever in the same manner and debt management should be one of the priorities for the government. The pandemic is still not over and therefore the low interest regime should continue to push the growth as governments alone can't shoulder the expansion.

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

The lives of train passengers matter

Even if a derailment does occur, in spite of all the precautions and measures, the damage the coaches suffer should be minimal to reduce casualty figures



SUDHANSHU MANI

Nine passengers died and nearly forty were injured following the derailment of several coaches of Bikaner-Guwahati Express around 5 PM on January 13 at Domahani in Mainaguri area of West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. The derailment caused many of the twelve coaches which derailed to capsize or climb over another coach. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that he was personally monitoring the rescue operations. An ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, ₹1 lakh for those injured grievously and ₹25,000 for those who suffered simple injuries was announced.

The safety record of Indian Railways (IR) has improved in recent years. Without going into the nitty-gritty of statistics, it is clearly seen that the number of fatalities has come down drastically if we leave aside run-over and level crossing accidents for which IR is not directly culpable. This has become possible due to many factors, like greater stress on upkeep of track and allied infrastructure and large-scale induction of LHB coaches.

The LHB coaches were developed by Linke-Hofmann-Busch of Germany. They are considered to be "anti-telescopic", which means they do not get turned over or flip in case of a collision (chiefly head-on). These coaches are made of stainless steel and the interiors are made of aluminium which make them lighter as compared to conventional rakes. They come equipped with "advanced pneumatic disc brake system" for efficient braking at higher speeds. These modern coaches offer a higher carrying capacity, have higher speed potential, lighter in weight and have increased coal life.

This accident has, however, brought into focus once again, the issue of avoidable fatalities in an accident by switching over to a safer coach design. The causes of the accident can be many, which incidentally, in this case is a traction motor of the locomotive falling down, something which is rather bizarre as this equipment is secured very strongly. The idea should be that even if a derailment does occur, in spite of all the precautions and measure, the damage it causes to the affected coaches should be so controlled that it causes minimal casualties.

It is being said that had the train been provided with LHB type coaches instead of the vintage ICF (Integral Coach Factory) type, no life would have been lost. This premise in itself is correct as successive accidents have shown that whenever ICF type coaches are involved in derailment at high speeds, coaches climb and capsize causing heavy casualties whereas similar accidents with LHB coaches have practically no casualties and certainly no fatalities.

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THE RAILWAYS CAN DECIDE TO USE ITS FUNDS MORE MEANINGFULLY, TAKING THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BITE THE BULLET AND LET THE OLD MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW, WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY MEAN MORE LHB TYPE COACHES BUT ALSO MORE MODERN TRAIN SETS LIKE TRAIN 18 AND THEIR UPGRADED VERSION IN ALUMINIUM BODY

(The writer is a retired General Manager, Indian Railways. The views expressed are personal.)



IR principally employs two types of coaches. One is the ICF type which is based on a design imported in 1950s. The other is the LHB type which follows a German design imported in the late 1990s. For common understanding, the latter coaches are designed with a coupler, which gets strongly interlocked with the coupler of the adjacent coach, preventing relative sideways and vertical movements of the coaches with respect to each other and, therefore, coaches do not climb or capsize, even if there is a derailment. ICF type coaches, on the other hand, have no such restraining arrangement, causing them to mount each other or capsize individually when facing absorption of kinetic energy in case of a derailment. At the same time, the more recent Train 18 type coaches are even safer with their semi-permanent type couplers, anti-climbing feature and safer structural designs.

After such an accident occurs, much ado follows berating the IR for delaying faster proliferation of LHB type coaches. Railways, however, huffed and hawed on the issue till 2017, when a series of such accidents forced it to stop manufacture of ICF type coaches, switching over completely to LHB types as far as new manufacture was concerned. The problem of a large legacy fleet of ICF type coaches with years of useful life

still remained, given that an ICF type coach has a useful life of 25 years. As of today, the number of coaches on IR is around 40000 ICF type and 25000 LHB type which means that a large number of even faster trains run with ICF type coaches.

The crescendo which has built up, just as in the past when such an accident took place, runs down ICF type coaches calling them coffins on wheels. This is an exaggeration as this type of coaches have served the country well since 1950s. Lives of railway passengers always mattered, but in recent years, perhaps due to the penetration of social media, they matter much more and rightly so. Some drastic measures are, therefore, called for. The solution is rather plain. Scrap ICF type coaches in a greater haste and increase the pace of manufacture of LHB type coaches to replace them.

The order is not tall; thanks to some measures taken by railway Production Units, particularly Integral Coach Factory since 2016, IR can be geared to manufacture 9000 coaches per year. If that is achieved from April 2022, as many as 25000 oldest ICF type coaches can be replaced, prematurely, by safer LHB type coaches or train sets, relegating the balance to inferior services which can then complete their full useful life without putting lives of passengers

to danger. IR is a large system and some derailments of passenger trains would occur even if the rail infrastructure is improved further but more and more LHB type coaches would mean that the risk of fatalities in such derailments would be greatly reduced.

The inevitable question would be about the extra ₹15000-20,000 crore that it would cost. First of all, it is not a big amount given that it would definitely save hundreds of lives in the years to come. Second, IR has shown unprecedented haste in abandoning and stabling a large fleet of its functioning diesel locomotives, speeding up electrification and manufacturing a large number of electric locomotives to showcase its commitment towards use of green energy; that the power consumed by its electric locomotives is hardly green is another matter.

IR can, therefore, decide to use its funds more meaningfully, taking this as an opportunity to bite the bullet and let the old make way for the new, which would not only mean more LHB type coaches but also more modern trainsets like Train 18 and their upgraded version in aluminium body. Modern train sets would not only mean safer travel but also more comfortable passenger experience. It is time for IR to decide on a bold initiative to provide safer travel to its passengers.

Area planning better alternative to guaranteeing MSP

India's experience with cropping patterns is overproduction of a commodity that causes an abrupt fall in prices and heavy losses to farmers

The committee set up by the Union Government at the end of the long-drawn farmers' protest to decide on the issue of MSP should consider dismantling the discriminatory price policy and instead adopt the Area Planning approach with an inbuilt guarantee of MSP.

This will reduce the huge Government expenditure and help in optimum utilisation of our scarce land and water resources, fertilisers and other inputs by controlling overproduction.

The practice of Area Planning, already adopted as the alternative mechanism by developed countries like the USA, Australia and the UK, is a tested approach and has proven its worth. In Australia, the departments of agricul-



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

ture and food provide information and advice to the Australian Planning Commission and local governments to ensure strategic planning at the farmers' level for the growth of agriculture as per demand of domestic human and animal requirements and industrial use and exports.

In the US and Australia, the zoning process regulates the types of activities that can be accommodated on a given piece of land as well as the amount of space devoted to those activities. Subsidies are also linked to area allocated under a crop. In case of the UK, all farms above five hectares have to get approval for use of land, not only for growing crops but also for constructing buildings, carry out excavations and engineering operations for



allied activities.

In India, we have been observing that the overproduction of any commodity causes an abrupt fall in prices and heavy losses to farmers. If procurement is done by the Government, it leads to heavy loss to the exchequer when international prices are lower. Implementation of Area Planning can take care of both these problems and also save on costs of inputs and post-harvest management. Besides,

Area Planning will help in optimising the use of scarce resources such as water and fertilizers by preventing a glut in the production of individual commodities.

Before appraising the new approach, we have to understand the ground realities of MSP at the all-India level. As per the estimate reported by NSSO (77th round) in the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of agri-households for the agricultural year July 2018 to June 2019, just 8.8 per cent of them sold any crop to the government agencies at MSP. The value of that agri-produce was just 8 per cent of the total value of agriculture (crops plus livestock).

Going by the Census and National Accounts data, the percentages come down to 5.6



DON'T THOSE GETTING EXCITED AT THE TECH GLITCH REALISE THAT THE PROBLEM WAS AT WEF'S END?
—BJP LEADER
TAJINDER PAL SINGH BAGGA

ties, the price support essentially runs for wheat and rice and that too in selected states. We see a highly distorted picture of incentive structure which favours the wheat and rice producing states.

Agricultural economists and experts say MSP distorts the basic logic of the supply-demand mechanism, slows down the process of diversification and is economically a very expensive and inefficient policy instrument besides leading to massive leakages and corruption. It cannot augment incomes of small and marginal farmers who represent almost 87 per cent of the total farming community. With an average holding size of 0.9 ha, unless farmers move rapidly towards high-value agriculture, there is not much scope to

achieve better incomes for small land holders in an economically efficient and sustainable way.

It is much better to directly help small and marginal farmers with an income policy or through a diversification package towards high value agriculture, the experts advise.

The issue of optimum utilisation of land, water, fertilisers, labour and other inputs also needs to be considered. With a growing population, we have limited land which meets the basic needs of cereals, pulses, oils, milk, meat, fruits, vegetables, clothing, fuel and shelter. The cropping system should be tailored to local consumption patterns rather than for only getting the maximum price, irrespective of whether the produce has a demand or not.

Major airlines cancel, change flights to US over 5G dispute

AP ■ DUBAI

Major international airlines cancelled flights heading to the US or changed the planes they're using Wednesday, the latest complication in a dispute over concerns that 5G mobile phone service could interfere with aircraft technology.

Some airlines said they were warned that the Boeing 777, a plane used by carriers worldwide, was particularly affected by the new high-speed wireless service. The aircraft is the workhorse for Dubai-based Emirates, a key carrier for East-West travel, and its flight schedule took one of the biggest hits.

It was not clear how disruptive the cancellations would be. Several airlines said they would try to merely use different planes to maintain their service. The cancellations and changes came a day after mobile phone carriers AT&T and Verizon said they would postpone new wireless service near some US airports planned for this week.

The US Federal Aviation Administration has cleared a number of aircraft to fly into airports with 5G signals, but the Boeing 777 is not on

list. Similar mobile networks have been deployed in dozens of other countries-sometimes with concessions like reducing power of networks near airports, as France has done. But in the US, the issue has pitted FAA and airlines against Federal Communications Commission and the telecoms companies.

The 5G service uses a segment of the radio spectrum that is close to that used by radio altimeters, which are devices that measure the height of aircraft above the ground and help pilots land in low visibility.

The FCC, which set a buffer between the 5G band and the spectrum that planes use, determined that it could be used safely in the vicinity of air traffic. AT&T and Verizon have said their equipment will not interfere with aircraft electronics. But FAA officials saw a potential problem, and telecom companies agreed to a pause while it is addressed.

On Wednesday, Emirates announced it would halt flights to several American cities due to "operational concerns associated with planned deployment of 5G mobile network services in US at certain airports." It said it would contin-

ue flights to Los Angeles, New York and Washington. "We are working closely with aircraft manufacturers and relevant authorities to alleviate operational concerns, and we hope to resume our US services as soon as possible," the state-owned airline said. Of particular concern appears to be Boeing 777. Emirates only flies that model and Airbus A380 jumbo jet.

Japan's All Nippon Airways said that FAA "has indicated that radio waves from 5G wireless service may interfere with aircraft altimeters."

"Boeing has announced flight restrictions on all airlines operating the Boeing 777 aircraft, and we have cancelled or changed the aircraft for some flights to/from the US based on the announcement by Boeing," ANA said.

It cancelled 20 flights over the issue to cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. Japan Airlines similarly said that it had been informed that 5G signals "may interfere with radio altimeter installed on Boeing 777." It said it will stop using model in continental US for now. Eight of its flights were affected Wednesday-three passenger trips and five for cargo.

Omicron wave may cut future severity of COVID disease: S African Study

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The Omicron variant of coronavirus may reduce the incidence of severe COVID-19 disease, and the infection may become less disruptive to individuals and society," they authors of the study noted.

The finding is an update to the study by the same research team which found enhancement of immunity against Delta variant with Omicron infection.

"We were able to add study participants to see more clearly the effect of vaccination," Professor Alex Sigal, from Africa Health Research Institute tweeted on Tuesday.

The earlier part of the study, posted on the pre-print repository MedRxiv, used data from 15 previously vaccinated and unvaccinated people who were infected with the Omicron variant.

The scientists used plasma, a blood product which contains antibodies, from the participants to test the ability of the antibodies to control both Omicron and Delta in the lab -- a so-called 'neutralisation' test. The results show a developing antibody response to Omicron, with neutralisation increasing 14-fold over this time.

This indicates that Omicron can re-infect Delta infected individuals but not vice-versa, giving Omicron an advantage over Delta, they said. "The implications of such displacement would depend on whether Omicron is indeed less pathogenic than Delta. If so, then the inci-

dence of COVID-19 severe disease would be reduced and the infection may shift to become less disruptive to individuals and society," they authors of the study noted.

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Israel minister denies police used NSO spyware on protesters

AP ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli Cabinet minister claims that police used controversial spyware to surveil protesters, a day after a newspaper investigation prompted outraged lawmakers to seek a formal inquiry.

On Tuesday, a Hebrew-language business paper published allegations that the Israel Police used NSO Group spyware to hack the phones of the leaders of protests against former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, municipal leaders and other citizens without proper oversight. The police denied the report's findings and said they operate according to the law, and the NSO Group said it does not identify its clients.

Pegasus, the sophisticated spyware made by the Israeli spyware company, has been linked to snooping on human rights activists, journalists and politicians across the globe. The US has barred group from American technology, saying its products have been used by repressive regimes. Omer Barlev, the minister in charge of the police.

Beijing grapples with Delta, Omicron infections as more Covid-19 cases surface ahead of Winter Olympics

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese capital Beijing reported five new COVID-19 cases of the Delta variant on Wednesday, days after the first Omicron case was detected in the city bracing to host the Winter

Olympics from next month. Four of the infected people are the employees of a cold storage company in Fangshan district.

The fifth person, who lives with one of those employees, also works in the cold storage industry, Liu Xiaofeng, deputy director of the Beijing Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, (DCP) told a news conference here.

The Delta variant was detected from samples. All of the cases have been transferred to designated hospitals for medical treatment, he said.

The city which is bracing to host the Winter Olympics from February 4 reported first case of Omicron variant on January 16 prompting the health officials to ramp up testing and tracing. Concerns were heightened as millions of people were set to travel across the country to celebrate

the week-long Spring Festival and Chinese New Year from the end of this month.

Chinese officials blamed the lone Omicron case in Beijing on international mail delivered from Canada to Beijing via the US and Hong Kong.

The single Omicron case detected in Beijing was traced back to an international document from Canada, and it was found to have similar strains from those in North America and Singapore, according to health officials.

Few days ago, the Omicron variant was found in the nearby Tianjin city. Since Beijing reported one locally transmitted case on Saturday, the infected cases have involved Haidian, Chaoyang, Fangshan and Fengtai districts by Wednesday in the current COVID-19 outbreak in the capital city, the state-run China Daily reported.

The DCP has released the tracks of the new cases and asked the residents who have been to those places during the same period to report to local communities as soon as possible. Liu said residents should not leave Beijing before receiving nucleic acid testing results.

Influential fashion journalist André Leon Talley dies at 73

New York: André Leon Talley, the towering former creative director and editor at large of Vogue magazine, has died. He was 73. Talley's literary agent David Vigliano confirmed Talley's death to USA Today late Tuesday, but no additional details were immediately available. Talley was an influential fashion journalist who worked at Women's Wear Daily and Vogue and was a regular in front row of fashion shows in New York and Europe. At 6-feet-6 inches tall, Talley cut an imposing figure wherever he went, with his stature, his considerable

influence on fashion world, and his bold looks. In a 2013 Vanity Fair spread titled "The Eyeful Tower," Talley was described as "perhaps industry's most important link to past." Designer Tom Ford told magazine Talley was "one of last great fashion editors who has an incredible sense of fashion history. ... He can see through everything you do to original reference, predict what was on your inspiration board." Designer Diane von Furstenberg praised Talley on Instagram, writing: "no one saw world in a more glamorous way than you did ... no one was grander and

more soulful than you were." In his 2003 memoir, "A.L.T.: A Memoir," Talley focused on two of most important women in his life: his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis and late fashion editor Diana Vreeland. "Bennie Frances Davis may have looked like a typical, African American domestic worker to many of people who saw her on an ordinary day, but I, who could see her soul, could also see her secret: that even while she wore a hair net and work clothes to scrub toilets and floors, she wore an invisible diadem," he wrote. AP

Blinken urges unity to fight 'relentless' Russian aggression

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged western nations Wednesday to remain united in the face of what he called "relentless" Russian aggression against Ukraine and reassured Ukraine's leader of their support.

Blinken told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a visit to Kyiv that the U.S. and its allies were steadfast in backing his country and its democratic aspirations amid growing fears of a potentially imminent Russian invasion.

"The Ukrainian people chose a democratic and European path in 1991. They took to the Maidan to defend that choice in 2013, and unfortunately ever since you have faced relentless aggression from Moscow," Blinken said, referring to Ukraine's trajectory since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Our strength depends on preserving our unity and that includes unity within Ukraine," he said to Zelenskyy. "I think one of Moscow's long-standing goals has been to try to sow divisions between and within our countries and quite simply, we cannot and will not let them do that." The Biden administration said earlier it was providing an additional \$200 million in defensive military aid to Ukraine to help protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Zelenskyy

thanked Blinken for the assistance, which was approved in late December but not formally confirmed until Wednesday, as well as for his visit and assurances of support.

"This (military) support not only speaks to our strategic plans of Ukraine joining the alliance, but more importantly to the level of our military, our military supplies," he said, referring to Kyiv's desire to join NATO over Russia's strong objections. "If we want dramatically fast steps in modernizing the military, we need help especially in these tough times," Zelenskyy said. "Your visit is very important."

It underlines once again your powerful support of our independence and sovereignty." The aid announcement came at the start of Blinken's hastily arranged visit as U.S. And western officials stepped up increasingly dire warnings about a possible Russian invasion.

Blinken said Russian President Vladimir Putin is now in position to launch military action against Ukraine at will and at very short notice with more than 100,000 troops massed on its border and plans to add more. "We know that there are plans in place to increase that force even more on very short notice and that gives President Putin the capacity, also on very short notice, to take further aggressive action against Ukraine," Blinken told staff at U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Pakistan's election commission orders declassification of key documents in Imran Khan's party's foreign funding case

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's election commission has ordered the declassification of key documents linked to the foreign funding case against the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, a move that could potentially spell more trouble for Prime Minister Imran Khan, a media report said on Wednesday.

According to a damning report released earlier this month by the Election Commission of Pakistan's Scrutiny Committee, Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) had grossly under-reported funds received from foreign nationals, firms and also concealed bank accounts. The ruling party had under-reported an amount of Rs PKR 312 million over a four-year period, between FY 2009-10 and FY 2012-13, the report said.

The year-wise details reveal that an amount in excess of PKR 145 million was under-reported in FY 2012-13 alone, it said. These documents were part of this Scrutiny Committee report, but were not released along with the report, the Dawn newspaper said.

These documents, which will be made public, will include all the papers sought by the ECP through the state of Pakistan, in its letter dated July 3, 2018, the newspaper report said. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja passed the order on Tuesday, when the counsel for the petitioner said that certain critical portions of the report

had been kept secret and his client was being denied access to them. The CEC directed that no part of the report should be kept confidential and the whole report should be provided to the petitioner, the report said.

The ECP had kept the documents away from the public domain after PTI had objected to sharing the documents with Akbar S. Babar, the ruling party's founding member and the petitioner in this case, it added.

Describing the Scrutiny Committee's report as 'dishonest', Babar's counsel Syed Ahmad Hassan Shah said meaningful scrutiny was not possible unless critical pieces of evidence were made public, in line with an earlier order of the commission. The CEC directed PTI counsel Anwar Mansoor to file a written reply by the next date of hearing and adjourned the hearing till February 1, the report said.

Talking to reporters after the hearing, Minister of State for Information Farrukh Habib said that PTI was the only political party that attaches any importance to transparency in the fund-collection process. He alleged that Babar was on the payroll of opposition PML-N and had been exposed by the findings of the scrutiny committee.

Babar, told reporters that the decision on declassification of documents was historic. He said the report documents that at least PKR 836,897,508 and USD 1.6 million, collected domestically, have no source and details.

UN agency: Palestinians in crisis-hit Lebanon need funds

AP ■ BEIRUT

A UN agency appealed Wednesday to international community to donate tens of millions of dollars to help improve living conditions for Palestinians in crisis-hit Lebanon. The appeal by agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA, is asking for an additional USD 87.5 million is to provide Palestinian refugees with cash assistance to poorest, cover hospital expenses, as well as transportation for children so that they can go to school.

UNRWA says more than 210,000 Palestinian refugees are among most vulnerable and that some basic commodities have become out of reach for many as Lebanon sinks deeper into economic meltdown.

It added that more than 58 per cent of Palestinian refugees here have reduced numbers of meals they eat every day. About 400,000 Palestinian refugees and their descendants mostly live in a dozen refugee camps in Lebanon.

China asks Taliban to meet 'expectations of international community' for recognition

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has asked Taliban's interim administration in Afghanistan to meet "expectation of international community" in response to Islamist group's appeal to Beijing to help it get the global recognition.

"We hope the Afghan side will respond further to expectation of international community, establish an open and inclusive political architecture, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, firmly combat all sorts of terrorist forces," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing on Tuesday.

The new Afghanistan government should also "live on friendly terms with other countries, especially its neighbours, and integrate into international family at an early date", he said responding to a question quoting reports from Kabul that Taliban had sought China's help to get global diplomatic recognition.

China has been asking the Taliban to crackdown on the separatist East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) active in the volatile Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, which shares borders with Afghanistan.

No country has so far recognised Taliban government despite the diplomatic campaign from Pakistan which firmly backed Afghan militant group to seize power in August last year.

Taliban's failure to form an inclusive government with other Afghan political leaders, exclusion of Afghan women from public life as well as girls from education besides its alleged links with transnational terrorist groups remained main reservations of the global community to extend diplomatic recognition.

On Wednesday, acting Afghan Prime Minister Mullah Hasan Akhund appealed for international recognition of Taliban government, saying "I ask all governments, especially Islamic countries, that they should start recognition."

"Afghanistan has met all criteria and conditions needed for recognition of a government, therefore I am calling upon world countries to recognise legitimate government (of) Islamic Emirate and extend support to Afghans," China's state-run Xinhua news agency quoted Akhund as saying while addressing an economic conference in Kabul.

This is first time that Akhund made a major public appearance since he assumed role in September last year, Xinhua report said. Zhao said China has noted that "the Afghan interim government has actively engaged in international exchange, and quite a few countries".

"We hold that international community should support Afghan people in seeking a development path in keeping with their national realities and realising lasting stability and development on basis of respecting country's sovereign independence and territorial integrity," he said.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORKS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure & enhance safety standards, South East Central Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking & Non-Interlocking Works in connection with commissioning of 3rd line connectivity at Jaithari in Nigaura - Jaithari - Chhulha double line electrified section of Bilaspur Division. To execute this work, South East Central Railway will take 9 days traffic blocks from 23.01.2022 to 31.01.2022. During this period the following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates as shown under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
22867	Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin Humsafar Express	25.01.2022 & 28.01.2022
22868	Hazrat Nizamuddin - Durg Humsafar Express	26.01.2022 & 29.01.2022
18201	Durg - Varanasi Jn - Nautanwa Express	21, 26 & 28.01.2022
18202	Nautanwa - Varanasi Jn - Durg Express	23, 28 & 30.01.2022

For any other information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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BCSM/Sugar/2021-22/01

Website:www.smbatala.com Email: batalacsm@rediffmail.com

e-Tender Notice Sale of Sugar

Online tenders are invited for sale of Sugar of approximate 9,12,446 Qtls **"As is where is basis"** (i.e. 4,24,641 Qtls. for the season 2019-20 and 4,87,805 Qtls for the season 2020-21) lying in all the nine Cooperative Sugar Mills of the State of Punjab. The detail of quantity of sugar to be sold by season wise and mills wise is given below :-

S.NO.	NAME OF THE COOP. SUGAR MILLS	Sugar stock and season wise in qtls.		
		2019-2020	2020-21	Total
(1)	Ajnala CSM	62901	57197	120098
(2)	Batala CSM	59500	35558	95058
(3)	Bhogpur CSM	25061	102805	127866
(4)	Budhewal CSM	24811	16918	41729
(5)	Fazilka CSM	10127	6562	16689
(6)	Gurdaspur CSM	71628	73524	145152
(7)	Morinda CSM	39962	96133	136095
(8)	Nakodar CSM	38613	28017	64230
(9)	NawanShahr CSM	92438	73091	165529
	Total	424541	487805	912446

The tender showing mill wise quantity for sale, minimum quantity to be quoted in tender etc will be uploaded on government website on 2nd (date) of every month till the completion of stock available for the season 2019-20 and 2020-21 <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> in accordance of monthly quota allotted by GOI alongwith quota carry forward by GOI, if any. Tender to be filled upto or before 11.00 AM on the every 7th (date) of every month. Tender will open on the 7th (date) of every month at 2.00 PM in the presence of bidder who wish to be present in the office of Batala CSM/Sugarfed, Punjab.

The Earnest Money is @Rs.100.00 per quintals and to be deposited alongwith tender on web portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The details for submission of e-bids will be available on the e-tender portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and also on website www.smbatala.com. The Batala Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd., Batala reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason.

For participation in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with the website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password, Class-3 digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification or difficulty regarding e-tendering process, please contact us on 94173-70679, 89686-22017 and 94650-92961.

In this regard any corrigendum, correction, appendix, time extension/ postponement if any, will be uploaded on <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and www.smbatala.com. All tenderers are requested to go through the said website on regular basis.

GENERAL MANAGER, CSM, Batala

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता,

लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट निविदा सूचना

दिनांक 18/01/2022

निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "डी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के उम्मेदवारों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, एन.आई.टी. क्रं- 118 एवं 119 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 01.02.2022 एवं एन.आई. टी. क्र-120 से 121 तक (तृतीय आमंत्रण) डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 27.04.2022 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र/ निविदा क्र	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
NIT NO. 118 Tender No. 90942	देवभोग अनुविभाग के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में स्थित पुल-पुलियों का/ साधारण/ विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य। (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	रु. 27.50 लाख
NIT NO. 119 Tender No. 90943	जिला महासमुन्द्र विकासखण्ड सरावपाली के अंतर्गत शासकीय आवासीय भवनों में रंगाई पोताई एवं मरम्मत का कार्य। (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	रु. 25.00 लाख
NIT NO. 120 Tender No. 90944	कसबोल अनुविभाग अन्तर्गत विभिन्न नदियों पर बी.टी. सिनियल का कार्य कुल लं. 8.00 कि.मी.। (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	रु. 146.76 लाख
NIT NO. 121 Tender No. 90945	जिला महासमुन्द्र विकासखण्ड सरावपाली में सिविल कोर्ट सरावपाली न्यायालयीन कर्मचारियों के लिये डी टाईंग आवासगृह का निर्माण कार्य (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	रु. 69.66 लाख

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। (राशि रु. 100.00 के नाम ज्युडिशियल स्ट्याम्प पर निश्चित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि रु. 10.00 के नाम ज्युडिशियल स्ट्याम्प पर एनक्वर्ड-3 का शपथ पत्र निष्केपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2.10 में संलग्न संशोधित प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें।) निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

हस्ता/ -

अधीक्षण अभियंता,

R.o. No. : 66955/6

R.o. Date. : 19/01/2022

लो.नि.वि. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.प.)

Economic recovery yet to attain durability: Report

Mumbai: Rating agency Icra on Wednesday said while there is some evidence of the economic recovery becoming broad-based in the third quarter of fiscal 2022, it is yet to attain the durability being sought by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) as a precursor to policy transmission.

The agency expects the real GDP to expand 6-6.5 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter of FY2022 (+8.4 per cent in Q2 FY2022). It also sees the RBI maintaining the status quo in the upcoming monetary policy review to be held in February.

Its Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said economic activity rebounded in December 2021, even as many sectors continued to trail the performance recorded in October 2021.

Encouragingly, the quarterly data suggests a modest broad-basing of the recovery in Q3 FY2022, relative to Q2 FY2022, when compared to respective pre-COVID-19 volumes.

However, the onset of the third wave of COVID-19

has triggered state-wise restrictions, which have expectedly interrupted the momentum in the ongoing month, reiterating that the recovery is yet to attain durability," Nayar said in a report released on Wednesday.

The agency said the y-o-y performance of 10 of the 15 high-frequency indicators improved in December 2021 compared to November 2021. These include generation of GST e-way bills, non-oil merchandise exports, electricity generation, two-wheeler output as well as aggregate deposits and non-food credit of scheduled commercial banks.

The report further said the y-o-y performance of nine of the 15 high-frequency indicators in December 2021 trailed the growth seen in October 2021.

FASTag toll collections and retail payments rose to all-time highs in December 2021, while the monthly mobility for retail and recreation rose above the level of baseline period for the first time since the onset of

COVID-19, it said.

Nayar further said that following the re-imposition of state-wise restrictions to curb the third wave of COVID-19, the early data for January 2022 is expectedly weak.

The daily average generation of the GST e-way bills dipped to 2.1 million during January 1-16, 2022, from 2.3 million in December 2021. After a y-o-y growth in December 2021, the sales of petrol and diesel of state refineries slipped back to a contraction in the first half of January 2022. Even, the y-o-y growth in electricity demand eased to 1.9 per cent during January 1-16, 2022, from 2.8 per cent in December 2021, she said.

The agency said that with the fresh uncertainty triggered by Omicron and the associated restrictions, it expects a status quo on the stance of the monetary policy as well as the reverse repo rate in the upcoming RBI policy meeting, in spite of the rise in the retail inflation in December 2021. **PTI**

Economy needs more nursing; Budget shouldn't focus on fiscal consolidation alone: SBI

Mumbai: House economists at the nation's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) have urged the government to budget for nursing the pandemic-ravaged economy and not to focus too much on fiscal consolidation as there is a need for more stabilisation measures to sustain the fledgling recovery.

And one of the best way to begin the new fiscal is to complete the share sale of LIC this fiscal. This can go a long way in repairing the overstretched balance sheet which in turn will bring down fiscal deficit to a much lower 6.3 per cent in FY23 as the public coffers will be left with a cash surplus of at least Rs 3 lakh crore to begin the new fiscal, SBI chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a pre-Budget note on Wednesday.

He said the Budget should not correct the fiscal deficit by more than 30-40 bps as most sectors of the economy still need support.

Pencilling in a 6-6.5 per cent fiscal deficit for FY23, down from 6.8-7.1 per cent from FY22, he said the Budget should also allow for very

gradual fiscal consolidation. For FY23, the fiscal consolidation should remain limited to 30-40 bps from the current fiscal.

He also cautioned against any new taxes like wealth tax or others at this point as that could do more harm than benefit.

Assuming the government keeps the expenditure growth at 8 per cent over FY22 estimates at Rs 38 lakh crore in FY23 and receipts (minus borrowing and other liabilities) would grow by 10.8 per cent, it would lead to fiscal deficit of around ₹ 16.5 lakh crore or 6.3 per cent of GDP in FY23.

If LIC share sale passes through in FY22, the government might be ending fiscal with a large cash balance of ₹ 3 lakh crore. This can come handy in supporting a large part of government fiscal deficit without taking recourse to market borrowings, as per the note.

Against this background, the net market borrowings of the Centre is likely to be around ₹ 8.2 lakh crore and with repayments of ₹ 3.8 lakh crore, gross borrowings is expected at

₹ 12 lakh crore (73 per cent of the fiscal deficit and same as in FY22 and FY21), Ghosh said.

Overall gross borrowings by the Centre and states are likely to be around ₹ 21 lakh crore (₹ 19.7 lakh crore in FY22) and net borrowings at around ₹ 14.8 lakh crore (₹ 15 lakh crore in FY22). Ghosh also pointed out that unlike in FY22, when RBI has done OMOs of around ₹ 2.6 lakh crore, helping government borrowing programme without disruptions, in FY23, such support is not likely.

He specifically called for continuing support to MSMEs saying the 6.33 crore of such units contribute 29 per cent of GDP, employing over 11 crore. And one of the ways to help them is let bank lend them more by verifying their cash-flows seamlessly through GST 4/TR on real-time basis.

Another step could be extending the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till end FY23 to enable completion of the entire targeted ₹ 4.5 lakh crore of credit flow under it. **PTI**

Sensex crashes 656 pts, Nifty cracks below 18K tracking global rout

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE gauge Sensex plummeted over 656 points and the NSE Nifty dropped below the key 18,000-mark on Wednesday as global market rout cast a shadow on domestic equities.

Starting off on a positive note, the BSE benchmark gave up its early gains and briefly slipped below the psychological 60,000-barrier before closing at 60,098.82, tumbling 656.04 points or 1.08 per cent - its weakest level since January 7.

Likewise, the NSE barometer Nifty plunged 174.65 points or 0.96 per cent to close at 17,938.40 as 35 of its stocks closed with losses.

Infosys fell the most among Sensex stocks, declining by 2.77 per cent. Among other major laggards were Asian Paint, HUL, Nestle, Bajaj Finance, Wipro and Kotak Bank -falling as much as 2.71 per cent. On the Sensex, 22 shares suffered losses.

Among gainers were SBI, Tata Steel, Maruti, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, PowerGrid, M&M and Reliance Industries.

In the broader market, BSE Midcap declined by 0.34 per cent while Smallcap ended almost flat.

Sectorally, BSE IT index dropped 1.95 per cent, Teck fell 1.79 per cent, Bankex was down 0.52 per cent and Telecom was 0.97 per cent lower.

Market breadth was largely negative as 1,827 stocks out of 3,495 trading stocks declined while 1,579 stocks advanced and 89 ended unchanged on the BSE.

Total turnover in the equity segment was Rs 6,386.89 crore on the BSE.

"Globally, risk sentiments took a blow as rising inflation resulting in elevated bond yield along with the on-going geopolitical tensions and surge in oil prices weighed on investor confidence. This along with consistent FII selling forced the domestic market to trade in favour of bears for the second consecutive day," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

NSE world's largest derivatives exchange for 3rd straight year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange of India has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange for the third consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association (FIA).

In addition, the exchange was ranked fourth by the number of trades in cash equities, as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021.

In a statement on Wednesday NSE said it has ranked as the largest exchange globally in equity derivatives as well as currency derivatives by the number of contracts traded. "It is a matter of great pride for us and our country that NSE has emerged as a global leader and achieved the distinction of being the largest derivatives exchange in the world for the 3rd consecutive year and the 4th largest exchange in cash equities by the number of trades," Vikram Limaye, MD & CEO, NSE, said.

The year 2021 witnessed the total registered investor

base on NSE surpassing the 5-crore mark to reach a count of 5.5 crore investors. In the last 10 years, the equity derivatives daily average turnover increased by 4.2 times from ₹33,305 crore in 2011 to ₹1,41,267 crore in 2021. During the same period, the cash market daily average turnover surged by 6.2 times from ₹11,187 crore in 2011 to ₹69,644 crores in 2021.

In currency derivatives, the daily average turnover increased by 83 per cent from Rs 14,252 crore in 2011 to ₹26,017 crore in 2021.

Academic research has shown that a well-functioning derivatives market can offer a variety of benefits, including improved liquidity and enhanced price discovery for the underlying assets, the exchange said.

NSE has recently announced the launch of derivatives on the Nifty Midcap Select index from January 24, 2022. The midcap segment has come into focus in the recent equity market rally with broad-based participation from all classes of investors, resulting in improved liquidity in these stocks.

Cut import duty gradually on alcoholic beverages under India-UK FTA; not unfairly: CIABC to Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The apex body for liquor firms Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has urged the government not reduce customs duties on British alcoholic beverages under the proposed India-UK free trade agreement to support domestic players unless Indian liquor manufacturers get a fair deal.

CIABC has also suggested the government to ensure that the UK allows the selling of domestic whiskies as 'Indian Whisky', irrespective of whether they are made from malt, grain spirits or molasses-based spirits.

India and the UK have formally launched negotiations for an FTA, under which duties would be reduced or eliminated on several goods traded between the two countries.

They should also remove the condition of a minimum three years maturation period for whisky and rum, the body said in a letter to the commerce ministry.

"The domestic alcoholic beverages industry only seeks just and fair level playing field for Indian producers and help them achieve global scale and success..It is therefore vital that the interests of the domestic industry are not compromised, and opportunities are created for Indian products to

reach out and conquer the world," CIABC Director-General Vinod Giri said.

He added that the alcoholic beverages industry contributes Rs 2.5 lakh crore annually in taxes to the states, employs 20 lakh people and supports 50 lakh farmers.

"We urge our government to ensure (in the FTA) that Indian alcoholic beverage industry is permitted a truly level playing field by way of an effective customs duty that is reflective of the higher cost of production driven by the regulatory restrictions and capital cost in India; equal opportunities are created for export of Indian products to the UK, and measures are put in to prevent dumping or predatory price exports to India," Giri added.

Giri also informed that the UK has imposed non-tariff barriers, related to product recipe and ageing, on Indian alcoholic beverages, which prevents most domestic products from accessing the British market. "These must be removed to ensure genuine quid pro quo," he said in the letter.

On January 13 this year, India and the UK formally launched negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA), which is expected to help double bilateral trade to over \$100 billion by 2030 and boost economic ties between the two countries.

Tata Investment Corp posts 42.8 pc jump in consolidated PAT to ₹39.7 cr for Dec quarter

New Delhi: Tata Investment Corporation Ltd on Wednesday reported a 42.86 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax to ₹39.73 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2021.

The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of ₹ 27.81 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, Tata Investment Corporation said in a regulatory filing.

Its consolidated total revenue from operations during October-December 2021 stood at ₹ 50.97 crore as against ₹27 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

The company, which is primarily involved in investing in long-term investments such as equity shares and equity-related securities, said its total expenses during the quarter under review stood at ₹ 6.01 crore as compared with ₹ 5.04 crore a year ago. In a separate filing, Tata Investment Corporation said its board of directors approved the appointment of Farida Khambata as an additional director (non-executive, independent) with effect from January 19, 2022, up to December 11, 2024. **PTI**

Digital payments record 40 pc annual growth at Sep-end 2021: RBI data

Mumbai: Digital payments across the country registered a growth of nearly 40 per cent in a year through September 2021, as per the RBI's latest index that measures the adoption of online transactions.

The newly constituted RBI's digital payment index (RBI-DPI) stood at 304.06 during September 2021 as against 270.59 in March 2021 and 217.74 in September 2020.

"The RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country," the RBI said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Reserve Bank had announced construction of a composite Reserve Bank of India - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2018 as base to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods. **PTI**

Rising premium growth, Govt reforms to strengthen insurers' profitability: Report

New Delhi: Post-pandemic recovery will sustain growth in insurance premiums, improving profitability amid favourable government reforms in the state-owned insurance sector, according to a report.

"The Indian insurance industry's growth prospects are favourable, underpinned by an expected 9.3 per cent GDP expansion in fiscal 2021, which ends March 2022, and by strong demand for health insurance in the wake of the pandemic," Moody's Investors Service said in the report.

Total premiums grew nine per cent in the first nine months of fiscal 2021, slightly ahead of the 8.6 per cent increase in fiscal 2020, with general insurance premiums (including health) up 11 per cent and life new business premiums rising seven per cent, it said.

Robust premium growth is positive for insurers' profitability, which is currently weak because of persistently low prices and the rising cost of

claims, it said.

Meanwhile, the Government's plans to recapitalise India's dominant state-owned insurers and list the country's biggest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), on the stock market will encourage a more disciplined approach to underwriting in the respective general and life insurance sectors, it said.

This will pave the way for price increases across the market, further supporting insurers' profitability, it said.

It added that rising premiums and prices, in turn, will help insurers absorb higher claims. This pushed the average net loss ratio for general insurers to 95 per cent in the first three months of the financial year 2020-21 from 81 per cent in the previous year.

In anticipation of profitable growth opportunities, the report said that 20 of India's 34 general insurers and four of its 24 life insurers raised capital in the financial year 2019-20. **PTI**

CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. R.K. Anuja & Mrs. Meena Anuja were joint owners of Plot No. 1, area measuring 624 sq. mtrs., Block-A, Sector-19, Node, Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana, U.P. (the said property) by virtue of Transfer Deed dated 14.01.1993 registration No. 477/98, and after demise of Mr. R. K. Anuja his wife Mrs. Meena Anuja is claiming ownership of remaining 1/2 share of the said property which was owned by Mr. R. K. Anuja by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 01.01.2018 in the record of Huda Authority. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Dhruv Mahendru, who is taking loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs. Meena Anuja upon the above property its sale /Mortgage/pledge, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 11-nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006.
Telephone.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508.
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पञ्चांक सं. 47 दिनांक 19.01.2022

Corrigendum
Tender no. 10/EE(E&M)/(SHP)/Rishikesh/2021-22 and 11/EE (E&M)/(SHP)/Rishikesh/ 2021-22 invited by the office of Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP). In both tender Section-3 SSC Clause no 11 Performance Guarantee (a) is here by amended and shall be read as "The successful tenderer shall be required to furnish performance guarantee in form of CDR/FDR/BG issued by any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank (Other than Co-operative and Regional Rural Bank) equal to 10 % (Ten Percent) of value of contract in the given format at the time of signing of contract". Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our websites. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com
Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP), Rishikesh
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
1. TENDER NOTIFICATION
Name of work: Miscellaneous repair and maintenance works of MEMU coaches in MEMU Car shed Saharanpur for 02 years.
Tender Notice No.:-1/2021-22
1.1 General:- UMB division of northern railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Miscellaneous repair and maintenance works of MEMU coaches in MEMU Car Shed Saharanpur for 02 years".
1.2 The key details are as follows:-

Open Tender No.	30-EL-MEMU-T-01-21-22
Name/works	Miscellaneous repair and maintenance works of MEMU coaches in MEMU Car Shed Saharanpur for 02 years.
Approximate Cost	Rs. 11,61,351/-
Earnest Money	NIL
Completion Period	24 months from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.
Validity of offer	45 days
Date of closing/opening	09.02.2022 at 10.30 Hrs./thereafter
Cost of tender document	Free

NOTE:-
1) Tenderer must provide validity of the offer for 45 (forty five) days from the date of opening of tender.
2) Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly. board vide L. No. 2015/RS(G)/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2018 shall be followed.
3) The tender can be seen or upload on web portal as under:
Website portal: <https://www.irops.gov.in>
119/2022
Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo), **Named:** Komal, **W/o:** Udham Singh, **R/o:** Jhuggi No-95/255 Phase-I Shahzada Bagh Indorlok, Delhi **Aged:** 26 years, has been missing from her residence, since 28.09.2021. In this regard a case **FIR No. 585/21 u/s 365 IPC Dated 30.09.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:
Height: 4' Feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Yellow Colour Suit and Pajami and Cream Colour Chappal on Foot.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229 & 23015218.

SHO
P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Ph. 011-23691106, 23693611
DP/1633/N/2021

SEARCH OF MISSING
General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Named:** Rinki, **D/o:** Dhanna Lal, **R/o:** H.No. E-60/183, Jhuggi Sunder Nagri, Delhi **Aged:** About 23 years, has been missing from her house since 20.12.2021 In this regard vide **DD No. 53-A, Dated 28.12.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'1" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour Saree and Bare Foot.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Nand Nagri, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641
S.H.O
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22585985,22583307
DP/1286/NE/2022

DDA HOLDS MEETING

Delhi Development Authority held a meeting on January 18 through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Shri Anil Baijal, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi/Chairman, DDA attended by Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, IAS, Vice Chairman, DDA and other members including Shri Vijender Gupta MLA, Shri Somnath Bharti MLA and Shri O P Sharma MLA.

The following major decisions were taken:

♦**DDA unveils a sustainable development-oriented budget:** The Authority approved the annual budget for 2022-23, with an annual outlay of ₹7,933 crore and receipts have been projected at ₹7,943 crore.

The main highlights of the budget are given below: -

♦Civic Infrastructure

1. A total allocation of ₹2,922 crore has been made in BE 2022-23, for the development of land and physical infrastructure which includes roads, sewerage, water supply, power lines and drainage mainly in the sub-cities of Narela, Dwarka and Rohini.

2. DDA has signed an MoU with NHAI for the Construction of Urban Extension Road -II (UER) by NHAI as a national highway. This road will significantly enhance the connectivity of the sub-cities of Dwarka, Rohini, Narela and the proposed land pooling areas with the rest of Delhi and the neighbouring states. By connecting the major national highways, it will contribute significantly towards easing heavy traffic congestion on Delhi roads and improving the air quality. Out of the approximate Project Cost of ₹7,700 crore (approx.), DDA has agreed to provide the viability gap funding of ₹3,600 crore which is to be released in a phased manner. ₹1,787 crore out of this will be funded from Urban Development Fund and the rest by DDA. As the work on the project has gathered pace, ₹900 crore have been released during 2021-22. For this, BE 2021-22 of ₹100 crore has been enhanced and a sum of ₹725 crore has been kept in BE 2022-23 for this project.

3. DDA is committed to providing ₹1,000 crore as a grant to

DMRC in a phased manner for the Delhi Metro Phase-IV project. In BE 2022-23 also, provision of ₹240 crore has been provided for this purpose.

4. Provision of ₹47.49 crore in BE 2022-23 has been made for the construction of sewage water drain at Sector-8, Dwarka to cater the discharge of drain water from Airport and Development and Rehabilitation of Trunk Drain No. 2 and Trunk Drain No. 5 for reusing the drain water for horticulture purpose. Once completed, this project is expected to comprehensively address the problem of inundation of IGI Airport, every time there is heavy rainfall.

♦Housing Projects & In-situ Development for Slum Rehabilitation

♦**Housing:** -An allocation of ₹2,543 Crore has been provided in BE 2022-23 for the completion of the ongoing housing projects. DDA has launched a special Housing Scheme 2021 on December 21 consisting of its existing inventories of around 18,000 flats. In addition, several projects are also likely to be completed during 2022-23 in Dwarka and Narela, DDA has projected revenue of ₹2,761 crore from the sale of flats in BE 2022-23.

♦**In Situ Rehabilitation:** For in-situ rehabilitation of Slum dwellers, the following Housing Projects are in progress:

KALKAJI EXTENSION: Construction of 3024 EWS dwelling units on Design and Build Model. Provision of ₹46 crore & ₹30 crore has been provided for this in RBE 2021-22 & BE 2022-23 respectively.

JAILORWALA BAGH: Construction of 1,675 EWS dwelling units on Design and Build model. Provision of ₹120 crore & ₹168 crore has been made in RBE 2021-22 & BE 2022-23 respectively.

In addition to the above, DDA has floated RFPs of six projects comprising 10 JJ Clusters.

♦Environmental initiatives: Parks, Water Bodies and Yamuna River Front

1. The work for the development

of the iconic Bharat Vandana Park with a project cost of ₹560 crore in Dwarka Sub-city is already in progress. The project spread over an area of 80 hectares is being executed by NBCC. Provision of ₹280 Crore has been provided in BE 2022-23.

2. DDA has played a key role in the overall development and management of green spaces in the city. DDA has prepared an action plan for rejuvenation of water bodies across Delhi accordingly a provision of ₹17.90 crore has been provided in BE 2022-23 under this head.

3. DDA has also undertaken the work of rejuvenation and restoration of the floodplains of River Yamuna at a total cost of ₹928.92 crore. The work is being taken up in a phased manner as 10 separate sub-projects. A sum of ₹35.77 crore has been provided as BE 2022-23.

4. An outlay of ₹77 crore has also been provided towards development, up-gradation, modernisation and maintenance of city parks maintained by DDA. In addition to this, there are 787 parks under DDA having a total area of 11,258 acres the total maximum average daily water requirement is 34.3 ML per day. The work of setting up Decentralised STPs/Wastewater Treatment Plants to close bore wells supplying water to the city parks is being taken up in a phased manner and steps are also being taken to recharge the bore wells. Provision of ₹7.90 crore has been provided in BE 2022-23 for setting up STPs.

Promotion of Sports: A sum of ₹546 crore has been provided in BE 2022-23 for the promotion of sports in Delhi by DDA. This includes expenditure on the ongoing project of construction of three new sports complexes at Dwarka, one at Rohini and a Golf Course at Dwarka. Apart from this, DDA is also maintaining the existing 18 sports complexes and two golf courses.

Other projects:

1. DDA has undertaken the integrated development of the East Delhi Hub project at Karkardooma with mixed land usage based on "Transit-Oriented Development norms" with mixed land usage on 30

hectares of land. This project is being executed by NBCC and involves the construction of 1524 houses in the first phase with a project cost of ₹1,168 crore. Provision of ₹426 crore has been made for the year 2022-23.

2. DDA has planned a dedicated corridor track for cyclists and pedestrians. The Delhi Cycle Walk project is being planned with the objective to take a large number of car rides out of the Delhi roads. The work on Phase 1 of the Delhi cycle walk with a dedicated corridor for cyclists and pedestrians named "Neelgai line" from Badarpur to Malviya Nagar is in progress and a provision of ₹6 crore has been made in BE 2022-23.

3. DDA has identified three commercial centres namely, Nehru Place, Bhikaji Cama Place and Basant Lok Community centre for upgradation. While the work of upgradation of the Basant Lok Community Centre has already been completed, the work in respect of Nehru Place and Bhikaji Cama Place is in progress and a provision of ₹26.60 crore has been made in BE 2022-23.

4. Provision of ₹6 crore has been made in BE 2022-23 for construction of Utsav pandals at Madangir, Dwarka, Rohini and CBD Shahdara Utsav Pandals.

♦Extension of Time for Addl FAR and Use Conversion Charges:

The Authority has also approved the extension of time up to June 30 for applicability of existing rates in respect of following as it is felt that enhancement of rates at this stage may not be in the larger public interest during the Covid 19 pandemic period:

i) Additional FAR for residential properties, Coop. Group Housing, Mixed-Use/ Commercial streets and commercial properties (excluding hotel and parking plots) arising out of MPD 2021; and

ii) Use conversion charges for Mixed-Use/Commercial Use of Premises and Shop-cum-residence plots/Complexes later designated as LSCs Now, it shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India for approval.



Police should be prompt and sensitive: CM Ashok Gehlot

Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot said that strong law and order and effective prevention of crimes are top priority of the State government. Police officers should work readily and with sensitivity for this. Any crime should be investigated thoroughly in the shortest possible time and the culprit should be punished. Police should work without any pressure, with fairness and positive thinking.

Shri Gehlot was addressing the review meeting of the Home Department through VC at the Chief Minister's residence. He said that as a result of steps for preventing crimes against women, the average time for disposal of cases of POCSO Act and women atrocities has come down considerably. The research time in rape cases has come down from 211 days in 2018 to 86 days in 2021. Due to the constitution of the Special Investigation Unit under an additional superintendent of police in the districts, the number of pending cases of atrocities against women has come down from 12.5 per cent to 9.3 per cent. He directed that this should be further reduced.

Speedy punishment in 510 cases of POCSO
Shri Gehlot expressed satisfaction that the police have punished criminals in 510 cases of the POCSO Act in 2021, out of which death penalty has been awarded in four cases and life in 35 cases. Several cases were

solved in record time. **Cases registered by courts decreased from 30 to 16 per cent**

Shri Gehlot said that the policy of compulsory FIR registration has yielded better results in the state. In 2018, more than 30 per cent rape cases were registered through courts. It has come down to 16 per cent which shows the policy's success. He directed the police to follow this policy irrespective of the increase in the number of registered crimes to ensure justice.

Dedicated unit to prevent the illegal trade of narcotics

The Chief Minister directed the setting up of a dedicated unit to check the illegal trade of narcotics, drugs and narcotics in the state. He said that police should use IT and social media.

Action against organised crimes

The Chief Minister directed the police to take action against frauds by credit cooperative societies and organised crimes. He appreciated the self-defence training by the police to women and girls and said that more women should be trained. So far, more than 4,40,000 women and girls have been trained.

Timely promotion and service benefits to Police Personnel

Shri Gehlot said that police personnel discharge their responsibilities in difficult circumstances and, to maintain their morale, they should be encouraged, given promotions and other service benefits on

time. The Minister of State for Home, Shri Rajendra Singh Yadav, said that continuous monitoring is ensured to strengthen law and order. He said that Rajasthan Police is better than other States in terms of innovations and team spirit.

Chief secretary Shri Niranjan Arya said that mandatory FIRs are important for improving the law and order.

Autonomous rooms in 674 police stations

Additional chief secretary, Home, Shri Abhay Kumar said that the percentage of pending cases in Rajasthan is much less than the national level. In 2019, Rajasthan has been ranked second in the least pending cases and in 2020, it is third. To strengthen the police 497 sub-inspector police and 4,748 constables have been appointed.

Director-general of Police Shri ML Lather said that the noose around gangs involved in organised crime had been tightened. Reception rooms have been set up in 674 police stations and work is in progress in 147.

ADG Crime Mr RP Mehrada, ADG SOG Mr Ashok Rathod, ADG Civil Rights Mrs Smita Srivastava, ADG Telecom Mr Sunil Dutt, ADG Security Mr S. Sengathir gave a detailed presentation regarding innovations, achievements, challenges and departmental activities. Principal secretary, Finance, Shri Akhil Arora and other senior officers were also present.



ITES signs MoU with CSIR-CRRI RITES Limited

RITES signs MoU with CSIR-CRRI RITES Limited, a leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering company has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to explore opportunities for cooperation in the infrastructure sector.

Under this agreement, RITES and CSIR-CRRI will collaborate for technical services, including consul-

tancy assignments, knowledge sharing, R&D and more. The partnership foresees the development of innovative and sustainable solutions that will drive the sector forward and can deliver significant value to associated stakeholders.

POWERGRID rated 'Excellent' in MoU FY 2020-21 signed with Ministry of Power

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Power, Government of India has been rated 'Excellent' (Score 98.41) in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for FY 2020-21 signed with Ministry of Power (MoP). POWERGRID has been consistently rated 'Excellent' under MoU since the first MoU for FY 1993-94.

As of December 2021, POWERGRID owns and operates about 1,72,192 ckm transmission lines and 264 Sub-stations with a transformation capacity of about 4,69,607 MVA. With the adoption of the latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain average transmission system availability >99 per cent.

CISF organises special Covid vaccine booster dose camp

CISF personnel working at DMRC, Delhi are at the forefront in ensuring smooth operations of the lifeline of Delhi Metro. More than 12,000 personnel are deployed in the DMRC unit of CISF to ensure the safety of passengers and property of Delhi Metro that connects Delhi to neighbouring districts of UP and Haryana and provides mass rapid transit to more than 35 lakh passengers in Delhi.

To combat the raging wave of the Covid pandemic and to ensure the safety of its personnel performing duties at Delhi Metro, a special drive camp for administering Covid vaccine booster has been organised at Shastri Park campus of CISF unit DMRC. The camp was inaugurated on January 9. A team of doctors from East Delhi District along with civil defence volunteers are running two centres for the administration of booster dose to CISF personnel. More than 2,500 personnel of CISF Unit DMRC have been administered booster dose of vaccine to date. CISF aims to cover all eligible personnel of DMRC under



the protection of the booster vaccine by January 20.

At the Shastri park camp, an additional counter for vaccination of eligible wards (children between age 15-18) of personnel has also been opened.

CISF has already vaccinated

over 9,000 of its personnel with the Booster Dose across the country. The booster dose vaccination drive is running across all the 353 CISF Units including 64 airports which will ensure that 100 per cent of eligible personnel are inoculated at the earliest.

CLW turns out 350 electric locomotives in the FY 2021-22

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) scripted history by producing 350 electric locomotives in the current Financial Year 2021-22 in record 223 working days. This is the fastest in terms of working days in any Financial Year. This feat was possible under the leadership and guidance of Shri Satish Kumar Kashyup, General Manager/CLW and with his continuous motivation and encouragement to the workforce of CLW.

Shri Satish Kumar Kashyup, General Manager congratulated the entire team of CLW and appreciated their commitment and progress of production. With this trend in production, it is expected that CLW will achieve another milestone of producing the highest number of locos in a financial year.

Feminisation of poverty

Women are yet to attain freedom from the patriarchal setup, says ESHITA SINGH

Poverty is not just a lack of income and the inability to purchase, it is a deeply-rooted multifaceted complex structure comprising economic, social, demographic, cultural, political, and psychological factors.

♦Feminisation of Poverty and Responsibilities

More women are affected by poverty as compared to males. This has not happened overnight. The condition of women in poor families is pathetic. Along with all the other responsibilities, they carry the financial burden of raising their children along with helping other family members. They get minimal financial support from their family members. Sometimes their close family members are their worst foes.

♦Feminisation of lack of education, malnutrition and poor healthcare

Most families in the low-income group have many children due to a lack of awareness and absence of any responsibility towards themselves and the nation. So, they can't afford education and well-being of all their children equally. They prefer to invest their limited resources into providing nutrition and education to their male child. The girl carries the burden of this malnutrition and illiteracy throughout her life.

Social factors such as gender inequality,

dowry, female foeticide, illiteracy, lack of sanitation, malnutrition and more are the result of the prevalent social belief that expenditure on women is useless. Women face a lack of sanitation and poor healthcare facilities and are more prone to infection than males. A woman deserves proper hygiene during the menstrual cycle. They also need proper nutrition as they carry a child during pregnancy. Proper postnatal care is of utmost importance for the health of the mother and the baby.

♦**Women's liberation: truth or illusion?** Associating earning a livelihood with women's liberation and equality is inappropriate. The achievements made by women are undervalued. With patriarchy entrenched into the core value system, women getting a share in the family inheritance is restricted or negligible.

Earning a livelihood is not enough to solve women's problem. The struggle and deprivation they face are much more in comparison to the small amount of money they can earn. They are struggling for basic minimum survival, dignity and support from their family, society and the country. This has to change as it is damaging the basic foundation of our rich culture and heritage. Only then, can we attain freedom in the true sense.

(—The author is manager, State Bank of India, Jaipur.)

BHEL's Coal to Methanol (CTM) plant dedicated to nation

As part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Hon'ble Union Minister for Heavy Industries, Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first, BHEL-built Coal to Methanol (CTM) pilot plant, to the Nation. Dr Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, Shri Jeetendra Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Functional Directors on the Board of BHEL and senior officials of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and BHEL were present in the virtual ceremony.

Dr Pandey also inaugurated an exhibition on 'Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at BHEL's Hyderabad unit. In addition, an audio-visual presentation was made on the 'Unsung Heroes of the Indian Freedom Struggle' belonging to the Telangana Region. BHEL employees joined the programme virtually.

The Minister said that one of the important goals of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision is to build a self-reliant nation. The role of the manufacturing sector will be crucial in this. The capital goods industry is the backbone of the manufacturing sector. As



announced by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, in the recently concluded COP26 meeting, BHEL — as the largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise — will have to play an important role.

Dr Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, while enumerating the initiatives undertaken by BHEL during the 'AKAM Iconic Week'

celebrations, thanked the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Government for supporting BHEL. He said that R&D has always been one of BHEL's core strengths and the organisation is focussed on playing a role to achieve the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Notably, the 0.25 TPD capacity CTM pilot plant, indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL, is currently producing methanol with a purity of more than 99 per cent from high ash Indian coals. This conversion of high ash coals to methanol through gasification is the first of its kind technology demonstration in India.



The ICSI elects its New President and Vice President for the year 2022. CS Devendra V. Deshpande, elected as President and CS Manish Gupta, elected as Vice President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year w.e.f. January 19

SANIA MIRZA TO END CAREER AFTER 2022 SEASON

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Trailblazing India tennis star Sania Mirza on Wednesday announced that she will hang up her racquet at the end of 2022 season as her body is "wearing down" and the motivation and energy for everyday grind is not the same anymore.

Winner of six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies, Sania will retire as India's most accomplished woman tennis player.

The 35-year-old made the retirement announcement after losing the Australian Open women's doubles first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok.

They lost to Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek and Kaja Juvan.

"There's a bunch of reasons for it. I do feel my recovery is taking longer and considering my son is three years old, I do feel I am putting him at risk by travelling so much with him. Unfortunately the pandemic is making us take certain decision

for the well-being of ourself and family," Mirza said at the post-match press conference.

"Also, my body is wearing down. My knee was really hurting today and I'm not saying that's the reason we lost but I do think that it is taking time to recover as I'm getting older," she said.

Sania, who became world number one in doubles during her successful partnership with Swiss legend Martina Hingis, said there were a certain issues that influenced her decision.

"Also for me to find that motivation everyday to come out, the energy is not the same anymore. Right this minute, it's there but there are days where I don't feel like doing that.

"I've always said that I will play until I enjoy that grind, the process and not just winning but you have to enjoy the process and I am not sure I'm enjoying it anymore.

"I am enjoying it enough to play this season. I've worked very hard to come back, get fit,

lose the weight and try to set a good example for mothers, new mothers to follow their dreams as much as they can. Beyond this season, I don't feel my body doing it. It's beat," said the world number 68.

She reached top-30 in singles with 27 being her career best rank. Sania quit singles after a wrist injury to focus on doubles and enjoyed exceptional results.

Sania said she feels that she was playing at a decent level but she always knew that 2022 will be her last season and



Wednesday's defeat was no trigger for it.

"I am playing at a good level. First week in Adelaide (event), we (she and Kichenok) beat top-10, 20 players. I am playing at a decent level. I was pretty sure this is my last season, if I do finish it. I am sure I am not coming to Melbourne to play Australian Open again.

"I had great memories here, singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

It's been a great journey. I am not looking forward to June or July, I am literally going week to week, with my body, with virus, there is so much uncertainty."

"Every time I play, I feel I have a chance to win, that's why I am here."

"It is not because of disappointment of today's

Sindhu cruises into second round of Syed Modi International

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu stormed into the second round of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament with a dominating win over compatriot Tanya Hemant in the women's singles competition, here on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad, who lost in the semifinals at India Open Super 500 last week, thrashed Tanya 21-9 21-9 in a lop-sided contest at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium.

A former world champion, Sindhu will square off against USA's Lauren Lam, who managed to get past a fighting Ira Sharma 15-21 21-16 21-16.

In other women's singles matches, Samiya Imad Farooqui, who had won the Bulgarian International and finished runners-up at Polish Open last year, overcame a stiff resistance from Shruti Mundada 17-21 21-11 21-10, while Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka, a quarterfinalist in 2018 edition, trounced Anjana Kumari 21-9 21-12 in all-Indian matches.

Samiya will square off against compatriot Kanika Kanwal, who saw off USA's Disha Gupta 21-15 16-21 21-6, while Sai will cross swords with Aakarshi Kashyap, who had reached the quarterfinals at



India Open.

Prerana Neeluri, Smit Toshniwal, Anupama Upadhyaya, Kriti Bharadwaj also entered the second round of women's singles.

In the men's singles, Kaushal Dharmam, Chirag Sen, Mithun Manjunath and Raghu Mariswamy also made winning starts to their respective campaigns. While Kaushal stunned Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 14-21 21-11 21-16, Chirag, elder brother of Lakshya Sen, registered an easy 21-9 21-6 win over Ansal Yadav.

Mithun beat Alap Mishra 21-15 21-8 and Raghu edged out Siril verma 21-19 13-21 21-18 in another match.

Kaushal, who had won the Myanmar International series and Maldives International challenge in 2019, will meet Malaysian June Wei Cheam.

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari Distt. Mandi invites tenders on short term basis on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through offline process:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time completion	Last date of submission of tender	Last date of sale of tender from Divisional office
1	Providing LWSS to various habitations in GP Danwar in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) under Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (SH- C/O approach road to pump house and protection wall RD 0 to 25 mtrs)	439915/-	8800/-	Three months	04/02/2022 upto 11:00 AM and opened on same day at 11:30 AM	03/02/2022 upto 3:00 PM
2	Restoration of Rain Damages to various LWSS/LIS under JS Sub Division Dharampur in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) (SH- Providing gravity concrete wall at Chhru Ka Bath)	495678/-	9920/-	Three months		
3	Construction of LWSS Chanehar Beri in GP Brang in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Providing sanitary protection at head works)	414321/-	8270/-	Three Months		
4	FIS Chir pajar in GP Langhar in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) (SH- laying and jointing of HDPE pipe in distribution system and C/O 5 Nos outlet chambers)	197503/-	3950/-	Three Months		
5	Repair and maintenance of LWSS Kandapattan to Mandap 2 nd stage in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Providing and fixing of MCCB & SDF on main incoming electrical feeder)	288952/-	5780/-	One Month		
6	WSS Houn Pehad in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- C/O RCC storage tank of 30000 ltrs capacity at Village Kohli in GP Pehad)(under BASP)	277878/-	5560/-	Three Months		
7	Construction of center of Excellence Building at Sidhpur Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Mixing/levelling of earth for preparing beds for plantation at Sidhpur near Center of Excellence) Deposit work	499542/-	10000/-	Three Months		
8	Various LWSS/WSS under JS Sub Division Dharampur in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Manufacturing of ACP sheet 3mm thick modal room with door frame & window frame, distemper and painting in AE office building at Dharampur)	414288/-	8290/-	Three Months		
9	Replacement of Pumping machinery under CRF in District Mandi (HP) (SH- Providing and installation of submersible pump set alongwith its accessories 2 set of 5.00 HP for LWSS Jamulla)	413278/-	8270/-	Three Months		
10	Restoration of rain damages to LWSS Pron Ka Gallu in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) (SH- Protection of pump house by providing care work from right bank to left bank of Thothu Khad RD 0 to 20 mtrs)	440311/-	8810/-	Three Months		
11	Restoration of Rain Damages of LWSS Kot Kauhau Kanchal in GP Pipli Bhanari in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi HP (SH- Site clearance and removal of formation deformities created by debris at Kauhau from RD 0 to 35 m)	486277/-	9730/-	Three Months		

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hpjhpl.org or from office above Executive Engineer upto date specified above.

Executive Engineer,
RO 6350/21-22 Dated 19.01.22 Jal Shakti Division Dharampur ,Bharari

SARASWATI COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY
CHANDIGARH LUDHIANA HIGHWAY, GHARUAN DISTRICT MOHALI (PUNJAB) - 140413

Applications are invited for B.P.T (Physiotherapy) Courses from eligible candidates for the following Posts:-

(1) Director / Principal - 1
(2) Professor - 1
(3) Associate Professor - 2
(4) Assistant Professor - 3
(5) Demonstrator - 2
(6) Junior Physiotherapist - 4

One Assistant Professor each for Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, English and Computer Application is also required. The qualification and experience for the above post is as per the Norms and Regulations of Punjab Medical Council and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

For more information candidate can contact at M.: 7589825866, E-mail: scp.mohali@gmail.com

RAS Basera

RAS DEVELOPMENTS PVT. LTD.

vide License No.7 of 2015 dated 30.08.2015 at Sector-16, G.T. Road, Taraori, Distt. Karnal, Mob.: 8929192793, 8130691152

MISSING DEED NOTICE

This is to notify all concerned that Smt. Sheela Rani w/o Sh. Manohar Lal has applied for (CC) limit from HDFC Bank Ltd.) on House no. 68-69, Urban Estate, HUDA, Ambala City. That as per Smt. Sheela Rani in Old Chn of property old owners. Title deeds Le Original Sale deed no. 4291 dated 23/07/2004 in favour of Mohini Bagga, Original Conveyance deed no. 4388 dated 27/07/2004 in favour of Rani Bhupree and Original Re-allotment letter no. 5359 dated 28/04/2009 in Sheela Rani is lost and not found. Hence if any concern Bank person having any claim/objection helshs may kindly registered your claim in writing with in 14 days to Adv. Paminder Singh, House no. 362, Line No. 8-B, Sector-C, Defence Colony, Ambala cantt. 133001, Mob. 09896444404

"I, Usha Rani Banga W/o Mr. Madan Lal Banga R/o H No 2D/68 NIT, Faridabad-Haryana-121001. Who was the owner of property No. H No 2D/69 NIT Faridabad-Haryana-121001, vide Sale Deed dated 17/10/2008 vide Doc no 16947 Book No 1, SRO Faridabad, mortgage the same with Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFBL) for a loan facility, sanctioned vide Sanction Letter bearing no. EQUITAS/CAD/2021-22/0000354 dated 23/12/2021 and depositing all the title documents to Bank. If Anyone Claim & interested for the property, race objection within 7 days of Publication.

Please Contact - Sachin Maheshwari & Associates(SMA) Law offices, Sachin Maheshwari Advocate New Delhi 011-42236352, 9911380328

match. Just the way my body is. I am not sure if I can finish the season. I want to play full season, I am still (ranked) 50-60 in world, I do feel I have the level to play.

"As an athlete I feel I can go deep in tournament. But I have a bit of a meniscus issue going on my right knee, I woke up with wrist pain couple of days ago. There is nothing wrong with it. "At 35, I am waking up with couple of things that I don't know where they're coming from. I want to finish the season, try to play until US Open, that is my goal. But I still have to take it week-to-week," she said.

Talking about her first round match, Sania said the conditions were tough but they could have handled the match better tactically.

HP. PWD. TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on the form 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer Indora Division HPPWD., Indora on behalf of the Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD.

TENDER SCHEDULE

1.Date and time of receipt of application for tender form : 11.02.2022 up to 02.00 PM
2.Date and time of issue of tender form : 11.02.2022 up to 05.00 PM
3. Date and time of receipt of tenders : 14.02.2022 up to 10.30 AM
4.Date and time of opening of tenders : 14.02.2022 at 11.00 AM.

The tenders form will be issued against cash payment (non refundable). The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FDR/Deposit at call of any of Post Office/Bank in H.P duly pledged in the name of the Executive Engineer Indora Division HPPWD Indora must accompany with each tender.

Job No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs)	Time limit	Cost of form	Eligible class of Contractor.
1.	A/R & M/O to Indpur to Tappa road Km. 0/0 to 7/0 (SH- C/O V-Shape drain, side berm in km. 0/875 to 1/125 & 1/200 to 2/345 (Indpur Bazar) & 300 mm dia Hume pipe Culvert at RD. 1/205).	3,15,242/-	6500/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
2.	A/R & M/O to Miwan to Barota road Km. 0/0 to 12/885 (SH- C/O R/ Wall from RD. 9/400 to 9/455). (RHS).	2,55,438/-	5200/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
3.	A/R & M/O to Dantlal Kandwal road km. 0/0 to 9/500 (SH-P/ LCC Pavement between RD. 6/435 to 6/575 and 9/375 to 9/475).	4,92,885/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
4.	Construction of Bain Indorian to Ulerian Pattan via Tanda Pattan road Section Miani to Ulehran Pattan (SH- C/O Cement concrete pavement at RD. 0/300 to 0/330 and 0/566 to 0/786).	4,92,136/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
5.	C/O Shamsanghat Ward No.02 Mohal in G.P. Ghoran, Tehsil Indora, Distt. Kangra (HP).	1,93,152/-	4000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
6.	Improvement, Widening & up-gradation f Bharwain-Chitpurni-Kandrori-Damtal (MDR-42) from km. 50/000 to km. 65/000 under CRF (SH- Preparation of Detail Project Reprt, CBR, BBDT & Axle Load Survey from km. 50/000 to 65/000).	2,80,500/-	6000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
7.	Construction of link road from Matoli to Rannagar i/c bridge over Malahri Khad from km. 0/000 to 5/000 (SH- Structural Design of Sub Structure & superstructure for construction of 120.00 Mtrs, span bridge over Malahri Khad).	3,75,000/-	7500/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
8.	Construction of link road Ulehran to Teora via Mand Majwan from km. 0/000 to 7/470 and 2 Nos. bridge under NABARD (SH- Structural Design of Sub Structure & superstructure for construction of 120.00 Mtrs. span bridge at RD. 1/860 under NABARD.	3,75,000/-	7500/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
9.	Construction of link road Ulehran to Teora via Mand Majwan from km. 0/000. To 7/470 and 2 Nos. bridge under NABARD (SH-Structural Design of Sub structure and superstructure for construction of 120.00 Mtrs. span bridge at RD. 5/835 under NABARD.	3,75,000/-	7500/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
10.	C/O Shamsanghat at Vill. Samal, Ward No. 01, Mohal Ghoran (Deposit work).	1,93,152/-	4000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
11.	A/R & M/O Palakhi Bandiyal road 0/00 to 3/00 (SH- C/O R/ Wall, Embankment & P/L Tack coat, Premix, Carpet & seal coat at RD. 0/570 to 0/600, 0/606 to 0/620, 0/620 to 0/800, 0/803 to 0/840, 1/600 to 1/630, 1/633 to 1/650, 2/210 to 2/225 & 2/300 to 2/350).	4,96,309/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
12.	A/R and M/O HP.PWD. Rest House Kandrori under Indora Division road (SH- Providing and Laying 30mm thick Bituminous Concrete in yard of Rest house).	2,13,377/-	4500/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
13.	A/R & M/O Bharwain Chintpurni Khatar Damtal road km. 65/0 to 80/0 (SH- 80 mm thick interlocking concrete Block Pavement in RD. 74/ 600 to 74/660 and 77/200 to 77/260).	4,53,272/-	9200/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
14.	A/R & M/O to Indora to Indpur via That road km. 0/0 to 5/500 (SH- P/L interlocking paver block at Km. 5/195 to 5/247).	4,97,791/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
15.	C/O Paral to Bhogwan via Haler 0/0 to 8/545 km. (SH-P/L Interlocking concrete Block pavement at RD. 4/600 to 4/700) near village Haler.	2,37,417/-	5000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
16.	C/O Lodhwan to Dainkwan via Jatoli road km. 0/0 to 2/500 (SH- C/O PCC R/ Wall at RD. 1/300 to 1/360, 1/360 to 1/375, 1/375 to 1/390 & 1/390 to 1/408 (RHS) (SCSP).	4,98,083/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
17.	C/O Bhappo to Churpur via Chanour road km. 0/0 to 3/500 (SH - C/O PCC Edge/ Wall from RD. 2/600 to 2/660 and 2/800 to 2/815 (RHS) (under SCDP).	2,79,141/-	6000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
18.	C/O Lodhwan to Dainkwan via Jatoli road km. 0/0 to 2/500 (SH- C/O PCC R/wall from RD. 1/408 to 1/420 to 1/435 (RHS) and C/O PCC Edge wall at RD. 1/360 to 1/418 (LHS).	4,96,433/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
19.	Improvement & Widening Chintpurni Khatar Damtal road KM. 65/00 to 95/560 (SH-P/L GSB, G-II, G-III at RD. 87/575 to 88/207) L=632.00 Mtrs.	4,99,201/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
20.	Improvement & widening of Bharwain Chintpurni Khatar Damtal road km. 65/00 to 95/560 (SH-P/L GSB, G-II, G-III RD. 88/207 to 88/837) L=630.00 Mtrs.	4,97,621/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
21.	Improvement & widening of Bharwain Chintpurni Khatar Damtal road km. 65/00 to 95/560 (SH-P/L GSB, G-II, G-III RD. 88/837 to 89/469) L=632.00 Mtrs.	4,99,201/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
22.	Improvement & widening of Bharwain Chintpurni Khatar Damtal road km. 65/00 to 95/560 (SH-P/L GSB, G-II, G-III RD. 89/469 to 90/100) L=631.00 Mtrs.	4,98,411/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
23.	A/A & M/O to link road NH-1 to village Damota Km. 0/00 to 1/500 (SH-Providing and Laying interlocking concrete Block pavement having thickness 80mm RD. 0/313 to 0/350, 0/650 to 0/746)	4,98,525/-	10000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
24.	A/R & M/O Gangath to Bhalakh road Km. 0/0 to 2/600 (SH- P/L Interlocking paver block at RD. 1/249 to 1/339).	2,46,481/-	5000/-	Two Month.	350/-	Class D&C
(i)	The contractors/firms should possess the following documents (Photocopy to be attached):					
(ii)	The contractor/Firms should be enlisted with the HPPWD.					
(iii)	PAN (Permanent Account No.)					
(iv)	Registration under GST					
(v)	Ambiguous/telegraphic/conditional tenders or tender by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained /considered in any case.					
(vi)	The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason(s). Paver and finisher shall be used at site.					

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer,
Indora Division, HPPWD.
Indora
(On behalf of Governor).

RO 6354/21-22 DATED 19.01.22

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

Indian Bank

Notice under Sec.13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

All the Borrowers/Guarantors/Co-obligants mentioned herein below are notified that financial assistance/loans availed by the borrower as per detail given below against the account have become NPA. The Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT 2002 sent by the Bank has been refused to receive by you/returned undelivered. If you fail to repay to the Bank the sum as per brief detail mentioned against the account within 60 days from the date of notice/publication, the bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said act.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding
1. M/s Krishna Jewellers (Proprietor Firm) (Prop:- Mr. Shivam) C/o 417/2-B, Kaziwada, Ambala City. 2. Mr. Shivam (Proprietor), H No. 417/2, Kaziwada, Ambala City. 3. Mr. Kuldeep Kumar S/o Harbans Lal R/o H No. 2834/10 Jagadhri Gate, Ambala City. Sub : Loan Account : M/s Krishna Jewellers (OCC No. 6558283514) with Preet Nagar Branch.	Residential Property bearing House No. 27.05.2021 Rs. 20,98,446/- as on 08.12.2021 deed no. 7916 dated 27.01.2016). East - House of Baint Singh, West - Street, North - House No. 2000-A-B-2, South - House No. 2001.	27.05.2021	Rs. 20,98,446/- as on 08.12.2021

You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets without obtaining written consent of the Bank. The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted, Bank Guarantees and Letter of Credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. You are advised to collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and returned by postal authorities, from the undersigned for more complete details and to pay the Bank's dues within 60 days from the date of notice/publication as mentioned above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Date: 19.01.2022 Place : Karnal Authorised Officer

MISSING DEED NOTICE

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Deceleration of Result of E-DRAW OF FLATS

Affordable Group Housing at Bahadurgarh (Developed by HL Residency)

LICENSE NO.: LC NO. 75 OF 2019 DATED 23.07.2019
READ WITH LC NO. 31 OF 2021 DATED 30.06.2021

It is intimated to general public that online e-draw for allotment of flats in affordable Group Housing Scheme was held on 18.01.2022. The e-draw was conducted at HL Residency Commercial Complex, Unit No. 8, HL City, Sector 37, Bahadurgarh.

That total 1018 units were allotted through e-draw in the presence of a committee consisting of SDM (Representative of DC, Jhajjar), Senior Town Planner(Rohtak), DTP Jhajjar and the representative of HL Residency (Proprietorship Firm).

A complete list of successful applicant along with list of applicant kept in the waiting list has been published on the website of TCP Haryana (TCP Haryana Website - <https://edraw.tcparyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home>) and a copy of same is also published on website of HL Residency (HL Residency Website - <http://www.hlcity.in/project-51-winner.html>).

General public at large/applicants are informed to visit the above mentioned links to know about the status of their application or anything else. Public can also visit the same by scanning the below QR Code.

Winner List

Waiting List

For any query contact :
8901111688, 9466675666

Office Address: HL Residency, Unit no. 8, HL City, Sector 37, Rohtak-Delhi Bypass, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar, www.hlcity.in