

OPINION 6

WILL THE TALIBAN
LEADERS GROW APART?

WORLD 8

GLOBAL COVID CASELOAD
TOPS 300 MILLION

MONEY 9

FM REVIEWS PSBS' READINESS
TO TACKLE DISRUPTION

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JANUARY 8, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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DJOKO SPENDS
RELIGIOUS DAY
IN DETENTION
12 SPORT

At 1.17L, Covid daily cases 6-month high

Massive surge in all States; Delhi registers 17,335 infections, nine deaths, positivity shoots to 17.73%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

India's daily Covid count scaled a new peak on Friday, with more than 1 lakh cases reported for the first time this year. The case count of 1,17,000 is the highest since early June last year.

Almost all the States led by Maharashtra witnessed a massive surge, but most of the cases are asymptomatic. Many States have now imposed a weekend lockdown to restrict the movement of the public.

After sweeping Delhi and Mumbai, Covid-19 is now surging in Karnataka. The State on Friday registered a steep rise recording 8,449 new infections in the past 24 hours, ANI reported. The new cases were 67.93 per cent higher than Thursday's count of 5,031 cases. Four people died due to the disease in the past 24 hours, and the case fatality rate in the State is currently 0.04 per cent.



A massive crowd in a market in Mumbai on Friday

AP

A total of 3,007 cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected across 23 States and Union Territories so far, out of which 1,199 have recovered or migrated. Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 876 cases followed by Delhi at 465, Karnataka 333, Rajasthan 291, Kerala 284 and Gujarat 204.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh

on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and 3 crore on June 23.

"The single-day rise in coronavirus infections was recorded above one lakh after 214 days, taking India's total tally of Covid-19 cases to 3,52,26,386 which includes 3,007 cases of Omicron reported across 27 States and UTs," according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday. The country saw a single-day rise of 1,17,100 new coronavirus infections, while the active cases increased to 3,71,363, the highest in around 120 days, according to the data updated at 8 am.

Jagannath temple closed till Jan 31

Puri: The famed Jagannath temple in Odisha's Puri will remain closed from January 10 till month end in view of the increasing Covid-19 cases, a senior official said on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 4,83,178 with 302 fresh fatalities, the data stated. The country last reported over one lakh cases on June 7 last year when 1,00,636 infections were recorded, said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

On Friday, Delhi recorded 17,335 fresh Covid-19 infections and nine deaths.

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7-day home quarantine for international fliers to India from Jan 11

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Beginning January 11, all international travellers — both from at-risk or "not at risk" countries — will have to undergo home quarantine for seven days and will be required to undertake RT-PCR test on the eighth day of arrival in India amid the rising cases of Covid-19 and Omicron scare.

This comes a day after 125 passengers arriving from Italy at Amritsar on chartered flights tested positive.

The Centre on Friday revised the norms for international passengers coming to India and also updated its list of "at-risk" countries which includes countries in Europe, including the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Israel, Congo, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia, Zambia, and the countries added to the list include Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia, Zambia, and Kazakhstan.

As per the new norms, international passengers will have to submit a self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal before their

scheduled travel, including travel details of the last 14 days.

As per the revised guidelines issued for international passengers, travellers shall also be required to upload results of repeat RT-PCR test for Covid-19 done on eight day on Air Suvidha portal (to be monitored by the respective States/UTs). If report is negative, they will further self-monitor their health for next seven days. However, if such travellers are tested positive, their samples should be further sent for genomic testing at INSACOG laboratory network. These norms will remain effective till further orders.

Previously, travellers coming from countries specified as "at risk" had to submit sample for Covid testing post-arrival and were required to wait for their results at the airport before leaving or taking a connecting flight.

The test should have been conducted within 72 hours prior to undertaking the journey. Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution if found otherwise.

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Indian economy to grow by 9.2%, fastest in world

New Delhi: The Indian economy remains on track to regain its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy after official estimates on Friday put the GDP expansion at a tempered 9.2 per cent this fiscal amid concerns over the impact of a resurgent virus on the fragile recovery.

The growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) of 9.2 per cent in April 2021 to March 2022 fiscal (FY 2021-22) given by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in its first advance estimate compares with 9.5 per cent expansion forecast by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month.

The economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in the previous financial year.

With one quarter still left in the fiscal year, there has been a surge in daily Covid-19 cases in recent days driven by the Omicron variant which is set to overtake Delta as the dominant strain.

This has prompted fresh restrictions in several parts of the country, threatening the fragile economic recovery.

Risks to the economy stem from an Omicron-led third wave which may upend growth revival across sectors, specially the contact-intensive services industries.



With 9.2 per cent growth in 2021-22 fiscal, the economy will surpass the pre-COVID level in actual terms, mainly on account of improved performance by farm, mining and manufacturing sectors.

"Real GDP or GDP (gross domestic product) at Constant Prices (2011-12) in the year 2021-22 is estimated at Rs 147.54 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of Rs 135.13 lakh crore, released on May 31, 2021.

"The growth in real GDP during 2021-22 is estimated at 9.2 per cent as compared to the contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21," as per a statement by the NSO.

The projection is less than the 9.5 per cent forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and S&P, while Moody's Investors Service had in recent weeks put India's growth forecast at 9.3 per cent. Fitch Ratings has projected an 8.7 per cent expansion.

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Shops allowed to open on odd-even basis in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of the weekend Ocurew in the national Capital, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Friday authorised the shops, dealing with non-essential goods, in markets or complexes and malls to remain open between 10 am and 8 pm on an odd-even basis. Delhi's daily Covid cases on Friday shot up by 15 per cent after 17,335 fresh cases were reported in 24 hours. Nine deaths were also reported.

"Shops in markets/complexes and malls dealing with non-essential goods shall be allowed to open on an odd-even basis between 10 am and 8 pm. Only one authorised weekly market (up to 50 per cent limit of allowed vendors at normal time) per day zone shall be allowed," the DDMA order stated.

The DDMA also directed all district magistrates to number shops under their jurisdictions by Saturday to deal with violations of the odd-even formula for the opening of shops dealing in nonessential items.

"The DMs and officials



Visitors flout Covid-appropriate behaviour as they walk through the market area of Chandni Chowk in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

have been asked to ensure that only one weekly market is allowed to open in a municipal zone following all Covid protocols," an official said.

In its earlier order, the authority had directed that shops and establishments dealing in non-essential goods and services, malls and weekly markets would be allowed to open on alternate days as per odd-even system depending on their numbers.

"It has been observed that the aforesaid instructions are not being properly followed by the shops, malls and weekly markets and (it has been) found that shops are open without following the odd-even system," said the order.

Continued on Page 2

Punjab submits PM security breach report to Centre

State police book 150 protesters

PNS/PTI ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Even as the Punjab Government has maintained that there was no security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the State, the Punjab Police registered an FIR in Ferozepur against nearly 150 unidentified protesters who blocked the cavalcade on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the State Government had announced a two-member panel to investigate the matter and had asked it to submit its report in three days.

Punjab's Chief Secretary Anirudh Tewari has written to the Union Home Ministry regarding the security breach, informing that an FIR has been lodged in the incident.



BJP MPs protest over Ferozepur incident in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament

Ranjan Dimri

He mentioned that the State Government has formed its own two-member panel to investigate the alleged lapses.

Sources in Punjab said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has sent show-cause notices to some police officials in the State.

The Chief Secretary is learnt to have shared details pertaining to the sequence of events that unfolded on Wednesday, sources maintained. The Union Home

Ministry had directed the State Government to file an immediate report, saying it did not ensure the required deployment.

The incident triggered a major political row with the BJP alleging that the ruling Congress in Punjab "tried to physically harm" the Prime Minister, while other parties too attacked the State Government over the law and order issue.

Continued on Page 2

Secure records of arrangement: SC to HC on PM security breach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Registrar General of the Punjab & Haryana High Court to secure the records about security arrangements made for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Punjab visit from the State Government, its police, and Central agencies.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana also asked the counsel representing Punjab and the Central Governments to ask the committees set up by them separately to probe the lapses during the visit of the Prime Minister to "hold their hands till Monday" when it will hear the plea next.

"Heard counsel for parties. Taking into consideration the arguments advanced, keeping in view that it pertained to the security of the Prime Minister and other issues... As first step, we deem it appropriate to direct Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court to secure records forthwith," the bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant and

Hima Kohli, said in the order.

The apex court also directed the Punjab Government, its police authorities and other Central and State agencies to cooperate and provide the entire relevant records immediately to the Registrar General. The bench has now posted the case for further hearing on January 10.

The top court was hearing the plea of organisation "Lawyer's Voice" seeking a thorough investigation into the breach in Prime Minister's security in Punjab and ensuring no such event happens in the future.

The petition has sought preservation of evidence on security arrangements, court-monitored probe and action against "erring" officials of the Punjab Government responsible for the alleged lapse.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the petitioner, said the incident was not "merely a law and order problem" but rather a national security issue, which is covered under the Special Protection Group Act. Opposing the enquiry by Punjab, he said an

order has been issued by the State Government forming a committee to enquire into the incident and having regard to the statutory scheme, it cannot be done as it was not the law and order issue alone.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, termed the case of security breach "the rarest of the rare issues which had potential of causing international embarrassment" and appreciated the bench for taking cognizance of the plea. "Whenever the Prime Minister's cavalcade moves, the DGP of the State concerned is consulted first and only when he clears the cavalcade moves. Here the green signal was given and he did not say there was a blockage," the law officer said.

The local police were very much enjoying the tea and they did not even inform the "warning car" which moves ahead of the protectee, he said, adding that serious mishap could have happened and this would have led to "international embarrassment".

Continued on Page 2

SC OK's NEET-PG admissions on existing EWS, OBC quotas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday paved the way for starting the stalled NEET-PG 2021 counselling process based on the existing 27 per cent OBC and 10 per cent EWS reservations in the All India Quota seats, saying there is an "urgent need" to begin the admission process. The order will bring relief to several doctors waiting for admissions to postgraduate courses.

A bench of justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna, which had for two consecutive days heard the matter on applicability of Rs 8 lakh annual income criteria for determination of economically weaker section (EWS), passed an interim order, saying "there is an urgent need to commence the process of counselling".

It said it is passing operative directions while the detailed reasons would follow shortly.

"Counselling on the basis of NEET-PG 2021 and NEET-UG 2021 shall be con-



ducted by giving effect to the reservation as provided by the notice dated July 29, 2021, including the 27 per cent reservation for the OBC (other backward class) category and 10 per cent reservation for EWS category in the AIQ (All India Quota) seats," the bench said.

The apex court passed the interim order on a batch of pleas filed by doctors challenging a July 29, 2021, notice of the Centre and the Medical Counselling

Committee (MCC) providing 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent for EWS in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-PG) admissions for medical courses for the academic year 2021-22.

The top court, which passed five operative directions, said that the criteria for the determination of EWS notified by the office memorandum (OM) 2019, including ₹8 lakh annual income criterion, will be used for identifying the EWS category for candidates, who appeared for the NEET-PG 2021 and NEET-UG (Under Graduate) 2021 examinations.

However, the bench said the validity of the criteria determined by the Pandey Committee for identification of EWS would prospectively for the future be subject to the final result of the petitions. "The petitions shall be listed for final hearing on the validity of the EWS criteria as recommended by the Pandey Committee in the third week of March 2022," the bench said.

EC proceeds with UP polls plan, provides 150 CAPF companies

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

To ensure free and fair elections in Uttar Pradesh, Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday provided 150 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to assist the local police in maintaining law and order.

Prashant Kumar, ADG law and order, said the above force was sanctioned by the Central Government in the first phase so that adequate deployment could be immediately made for managing law and order in the State.

He claimed that among the above 150 companies of CAPF, 50 companies are of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 30 companies each are of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Shashatra Seema



Bal (SSB), 20 companies each are of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He claimed that the Central forces will assist the local police in all kinds of law and order duties, besides taking out flag march, etc.

Kumar said the maximum of four companies of CAPF will be provided to Prayagraj, while three companies of CAPF will be provided to Agra, Aligarh, Pratapgarh, Bareilly, Moradabad, Gorakhpur,

Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Meerut, Saharanpur, Gazipur, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, Lucknow, Varanasi and Kanpur.

Similarly two companies of CAPF will be provided to Gautam Buddha Nagar, Mathura, Mainpuri, Ferozabad, Etah, Fatehpur, Badaun, Sahajahanpur, Bijnor, Rampur, Deoria, Basti, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Bahraich, Gonda, Etawah, Kannauj, Jhansi, Hardoi, Raebareilly, Unnao, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Barabanki, Ambedkarnagar, Ghaziabad, Bulundshahr, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Chandauli, Mau, Mirzapur, and Sonbhadra. The remaining districts will be provided one company each.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

HC FROWNS OVER 'SUMMONING' GOD

Chennai: Wondering if God can be summoned by a court to be produced for inspection, the Madras High Court has pulled up a lower court for ordering the authorities of a temple in Tirupur district to produce the 'Moolavar' (presiding deity) idol, which had been stolen, traced and installed at the shrine after following the rituals and 'Agama' rules, for verification.

COMPLAINT AGAINST HAIR STYLIST JAWED

Jaipur: Former Jaipur Mayor and Congress leader Jyoti Khandelwal on Friday registered a complaint against renowned hair stylist Jawed Habib for insulting women by allegedly spitting on a woman's hair while styling it. A video of the incident, which took place at a workshop held in Muzaffarnagar of Uttar Pradesh on January 3, had gone viral on social media on Thursday.

Maha sees over 40K +ve cases

No Omicron case reported in 24 hours in State

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking development, the daily Covid-19 infections touched a staggering tally of 40,925 cases in Maharashtra on Friday, even as no fresh cases of Omicron were registered in the State during the day.

A day after the State recorded 36,265 new cases, as many as 40,925 people tested positive for the Covid-19 on Friday, taking the total number of cases from 67,93,297 to 68,34,222. As many as 20 Covid-19 deaths were deaths were reported from various parts of the state.

Of the 40,925 fresh cases recorded in the state, Mumbai accounted for 20,971 Covid-19 cases on Friday. With the daily cases having risen from 20,181 on Thursday to 20,971 cases on Friday, the total number of cases in the metropolis rose from 8,53,809 to 8,74,780.

As Mumbai has shown substantial increase in the number of daily Covid-19 cases recorded past one week, the

Island locality of Mahim recorded a maximum of 370 cases, taking the total number of cases recorded in this locality to 12,452. Dadar recorded as many as 250 new cases which took the total number of cases to 11,799. Mumbai's Dharavi locality, which is largest slum slum in Asia, recorded 150 new cases, taking the total number of cases in this area to 770. As 14,256 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 65,33,154 to 65,47,410. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 96.17 per cent to 95.8 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state increased from 1,14,847 cases to 1,41,492 cases. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2.08 to 2.07 per cent.

Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 91,731 active cases, while there were 22,510 active cases in Thane. There were 11,675 active cases in Pune, followed by Raigad (3553), Palghar (3473), Nashik (1867), Nagpur (1484), Ahmednagar (660) and Satara (614).

No lockdown needed for now in Mumbai, says Municipal Commissioner

Mumbai: There is no immediate need for imposing lockdown or additional restrictions in Mumbai as the bed occupancy rate, oxygen requirement and number of Covid-19 deaths are low, municipal commissioner Iqbal Chahal said on Friday.

During the first and second wave the decision to impose lockdown was taken on the basis of case positivity rate, but this criterion cannot be applied for the third wave which started from December 21, 2021, Chahal told a Marathi news channel.

No further restrictions were needed to be imposed on travel by local trains as only fully vaccinated people are being allowed to board the trains, he said.

"The criterion in the first and second wave was the positivity rate. But in this wave of Omicron variant of the virus, two new criteria should be occupancy of hospital beds and oxygen requirement," Chahal said.

The administration has so far imposed only a few restrictions such as ban on assembly of five or more persons during night time and shutting of schools in the city, he said.

Of over 20,000 people who tested positive for coronavirus in Mumbai on Thursday, only 1,180 were hospitalised and 110 were on oxygen support, the BMC chief said.

Of the 7,01,45,329 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 68,34,222 have tested positive (9.74 per cent) for COVID-19 until Friday. Currently, 7,42,684 people are in home quarantine

while 1,463 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, no new Omicron case was recorded in the state. As a result, the total number of Omicron cases recorded stood static at 4 876.

Chargesheet against UP cops in businessman killing case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed a chargesheet against six accused UP police personnel including then SHO/Inspector; then three Sub-Inspectors; a Head Constable and a Constable under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to murder, criminal intimidation, voluntarily causing hurt, public servant willfully framing incorrect record to cause loss or injury to the public or any person and causing disappearance of evidence of an offence before the Court of Special Judicial Magistrate, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) in a case related to death of Manish Gupta (private person and a businessman), resident of Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh).

The CBI had registered a case on November 2, 2021 on the request of Uttar Pradesh Government and further notification from the Centre and took over the investigation of Case Crime No. 391/2021 dated September 29, 2021, earlier registered under IPC Section 302 at Police Station-Ramgarh Tal, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) against three Police Officials including the SHO and two Sub-Inspectors and unknown police officials

on complaint from the wife of Gupta pertaining to death of her husband on September 27, 2021, the CBI said in a statement.

It was alleged that Manish Gupta checked in a room of a Hotel at Gorakhpur on September 27, 2021, falling under the jurisdiction of Ramgarh Tal police station. It was further alleged that in the intervening night of September 27/28, 2021 at about 12 AM., the SHO along with two Sub-Inspectors and three other police personnel entered into the room of said hotel and started misbehaving with Gupta.

It was also alleged that on protest of Gupta, they started beating him, resulting in grievous injuries to him. Following this, Gupta died on the spot. After investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet against the six police officials.

The chargesheeted accused in the case are Jagat Narayan Singh, then SHO/Inspector; Akshay Kumar Mishra, then Sub-Inspector; Vijay Yadav, then Sub-Inspector; Rahul Dubey, then Sub-Inspector; Kamlesh Singh Yadav, then Head Constable and Prashant Kumar, then Constable.[9:02 PM, 1/7/2022] Devika: So, total 2 copies Okay. No prob.

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At 1.17L...

From page 1
Surprisingly, the positivity rate also rose to 17.73 per cent. Delhi has now 6,912 containment zones. Adjoining Haryana logs 3,748 fresh cases, positivity rate at 8.11 per Omicron case tally at 123.

On the other hand, the daily Covid-19 infections touched a staggering tally of 40,925 cases in Maharashtra on Friday, even as no fresh cases of Omicron were registered in the state during the day.

A day after the state recorded 36,265 new cases, as many as 40,925 people tested positive for the Covid-19 on Friday, taking the total number of cases from 67,93,297 to 68,34,222. As many as 20 Covid-19 deaths were reported from various parts of the state.

Of the 40,925 fresh cases recorded in the state, Mumbai accounted for 20,971 Covid-19 cases on Friday. With the daily cases having risen from 20,181 on Thursday to 20,971 cases on Friday, the total number of cases in the metropolis rose from 8,53,809 to 8,74,780.

As Mumbai has shown a substantial increase in the number of daily Covid-19 cases recorded past one week, the island locality of Mahim recorded a maximum of 370 cases, taking the total number of cases recorded in this locality to 12,452. Dadar recorded as many as 250 new cases which took the total number of cases to 11,799. Mumbai's Dharavi locality, which is the largest slum in Asia, recorded 150 new cases, taking the total

number of cases in this area to 770.

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West Bengal reports 18,213 new infections and 18 deaths and its active case tally reached 51,384. Among the neighboring states Jharkhand reported 3,825 new cases, 8 deaths, and 866 recoveries in the last 24 hours, whereas Assam reported 1,167 new cases, 2 deaths, & positivity rate of 3.32 per cent, in the last 24 hours.

Kerala continued to report high numbers registering 5,296 new positive cases and 189 Covid-19-related deaths on Friday, taking the total count to 52,64,235 and the death count to 49,305.

Of the deaths, 35 were recorded over the last few days, and 154 were designated as Covid-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of the Supreme Court.

Tamil Nadu reports 8,981 new cases, 984 recoveries, and 8 deaths, in the last 24 hours. Active cases are 30,817.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Government on Friday decided to impose night curfew in 10 districts from 10 pm to 6 am. The State on Friday reported 5,396 new Covid-19 cases, taking the active cases in the state to 18,583. There was no new

7-day home...

From page 1

"A sub-section (two per cent of the total flight passengers) shall undergo post-arrival testing at random at the airport on arrival. These two per cent of such travellers in each flight shall be identified by the concerned airlines (preferably from different countries). Laboratories shall prioritise testing of samples from such travellers," the guidelines said.

International travellers arriving through seaports/land ports will also have to undergo the same protocol. Such travellers shall submit the self-declaration form to the concerned authorities of Government of India at seaports/land ports on arrival.

Passengers coming from or travelling to at-risk countries shall be informed by the airlines that they will undergo post-arrival testing. They will be quarantined if tested negative and will be subjected to stringent isolation protocols if tested positive. Airlines to allow boarding by only

those passengers who have filled in all the information in the self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha portal and uploaded the negative RT-PCR test report. At the time of boarding the flight, only asymptomatic travellers will be allowed to board after the thermal screening.

During travel, if any passenger reports symptoms of Covid-19 during flight, s/he shall be isolated as per protocol. Proper in-flight announcements should be made by the airlines regarding the testing requirements and people who need to undergo such testing to avoid any congestion at the arrival airports.

On arrival, if passengers found to be symptomatic during screening shall be immediately isolated and taken to a medical facility as per health protocol. If tested positive, their contacts shall be identified and managed as per laid down protocol. Children under five years of age are exempted from both pre-and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for Covid-19 on arrival or during the home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and be treated as per laid down protocol.



Bhopal Municipal Corporation
Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)
11nd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus,
Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)



Ref No. 612	Date 07.01.2022				
Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:-					
S. No	Tender ID	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Bid Document
1	2021_UAD_163839_3	EMPANELMENT FOR ANNUAL TENDER FOR ROAD APPURTENANCES WORK ON ROAD IN BHOPAL CITY FROM ZONE NO. 01 TO 19 UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION. (3rd Call)	1,54,46,350/-	77,231/-	12,500/-
1	2022_UAD_176904_1	SELECTION OF BIDDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF GPS DEVICES	-----	1,00,000/-	12,500/-

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>

2. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> only, and not in newspaper.

SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER (SBM)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL

District BHOPAL

T.N.1042/021/022

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् पीथमपुर जिला धार (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/60/न.पा./22

पीथमपुर दिनांक :- 06.01.2022

--:: ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::--

नगर पालिका पीथमपुर क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदा सूचना ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल (www.mptenders.gov.in) पर आमंत्रित है। निविदा का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

क्र.	पोर्टल क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनु. लागत (लाख)	अनैस्ट मनी	समयावधि	फार्म शुल्क
1	2022_UAD_176625	वार्ड क्र. 24 में दशहरा मैदान से थाना रोड तक सी.सी. रोड, नाली निर्माण एवं सौन्दर्यीकरण कार्य	135.54	67770/-	06 माह	12500/-
2	2022_UAD_176633	वार्ड क्र. 28 में रामशात घाट पुलिया से भागीरथ कॉलोनी तक सी.सी. रोड निर्माण एवं नाली निर्माण	112.36	56180/-	06 माह	12500/-
3	2022_UAD_176635	वार्ड क्र. 29 की समस्त गलियों में सी.सी. रोड एवं नाली निर्माण	106.98	53490/-	06 माह	12500/-

समय सारणी :-

01	निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय करने प्रारंभ दिनांक	:-	07.01.2022 (प्रातः 11.00 बजे से)
02	निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय/बीड सबमिशन की अंतिम दिनांक	:-	05.02.2022 (शाम 5.30 बजे तक)
03	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	:-	07.02.2021 (प्रातः 11.00 बजे)

(श्रीमती क्षमा सुभाष जायसवाल) (श्री हंसराज पटेल) (श्रीमती कविता संजय वैष्णव)

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी प्रभारी लो.नि.वि. उपाध्यक्ष अध्यक्ष

नगर पालिका परिषद् पीथमपुर नगर पालिका पीथमपुर नगर पालिका पीथमपुर नगर पालिका पीथमपुर

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE ACE (M)-2

2142 JANTA FLATS G.T.B. ENCLAVE DELHI-110093

PRESS NIT No- 63 (2021-22)

S. No	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender	Date of release of tender e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1	Engagement of 10 nos unskilled workers for one year on contract basis for maintenance of water supply network of Rohtash Nagar Constituency AC-64 under AEE(M)-64	Item rate	07-01-2022 2022_DJB_214372_1	21-01-2022 3:10 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 984 (2021-22)

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

sd/ (SUHKPAL CHAUHAN) EX. ENGINEER(T)-2

Secure records...

From Page 1

The law officer also referred to a video circulated by a banned terrorist organisation and said, "I join the petitioner." "This is something which ought to have been avoided, it's sui generis (unique) case of potential international embarrassment," he said.

Advocate General of Punjab DS Patwalia said the issue was a serious one and the state was also of the opinion it cannot be brushed under the carpet. "Though I have serious issues with the contents of the petition, the state is not taking this issue lightly, there has been a lapse somewhere, and the state is doing everything to look into it," he said. The committee was constituted by the state and it was not an after-thought as alleged, he said.

Punjab...

From Page 1
The Prime Minister's convey was stranded on a flyover for nearly 20 minutes on

Wednesday due to a blockade by farmers in Ferozepur.

The political slugfest over the incident continued on Friday with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar demanding that his Punjab counterpart Charanjit Singh

Channi's Government should be dismissed and President's Rule imposed in the State.

Both the Centre and the State have set up high-level committees into the lapse.

On Friday, BJP leaders continued to target the Channi Government over the lapse while the Congress largely played down the incident.

Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu claimed that the BJP was "ranting" about the incident while trying

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Tender Notice No.: BLW-S/Vendor/Meet/2021

Date : 04.01.2022

NOTICE

Virtual Vendor meet on 11.01.2022

BLW is organizing a Virtual Vendor Meet on 11.01.2022. 10:30 AM to 13:00 PM to develop new vendors and enhancing product range of existing vendors. All existing and prospective vendors interested to supply materials to the railways are requested to participate through google video online link Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pdk-zjms-kxx> or link is also available on BLW official Website - www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in.

PRO/BLW/S-58

Dy. CMM/M&P

  /banaraslocomwork "Website : <http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>"

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

बदायूँ/पीलीभीत वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, बरेली

पत्रांक 165 / 6निविदाई-टेण्डर-08 / 2021

दि 06 / 01 / 2022

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

1. महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय, छ0प्र0 की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, बदायूँ/पीलीभीत वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, बरेली द्वारा लोक निर्माण विभाग में श्रेणी 'ए0' हेतु पंजीकृत योग्य ठेकेदारों से प्रतिशत दरों पर बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड प्रस्तुत करते समय निविदा के आई0टी0वी0 के प्रस्तर-4 में उल्लिखित शर्तों के अनुसार बिड अपलोड करें।

2.

क्र0 सं0	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु0 में)	घनराशि (लाख रु0 में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षाऋतु सहित)	विभाग में पंजीकृत योग्य ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी।
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	पीलीभीत	वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 के अंतर्गत जनपद पीलीभीत में पीलीभीत माधोटांडा कलीनगर शाहगढ़ आसाम मार्ग किमी0 39 में खन्नीत नदी पर 3x18 मीटर स्पान का लघु सेतु, पहुँच मार्ग एवं सुरक्षात्मक कार्य का निर्माण कार्य।	324.00	18.20	2000+300 +414 रु0 2714.00	09-माह	ए0 (सेतु कार्य)

3. बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 07.02.2022 से दि0 14.02.2022 को मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं, जिनकी तकनीकी बिड तददिनांक 14.02.2022 को अपरान्ह 12:30 बजे खोली जायेगी।

4. निविदा से सम्बन्धित जानकारी <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध होगी।

5. भुगतान के समय लागू दरों पर जी0एस0टी0 देय होगी।

(उदय नारायण)

अध्यासकी अभियन्ता

प्रांतीय खण्ड, लोनिवि, पीलीभीत

(अजय शंकर सिंह)

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

बदायूँ/पीलीभीत वृत्त, लोनिवि, बरेली

छ0प्र0 173777 दिनांक 7.1.2022 डिक्वापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Indian...

From Page 1

World Bank has been the most conservative, projecting an 8.3 per cent growth rate while OECD put it at 9.7 per cent. The finance ministry's Economic Survey in February last year had projected an 11 per cent growth rate for 2021-22. The growth estimate for India is higher than 8 per cent projected for China.

As per NSO estimates, GDP in actual terms in 2021-22 will surpass the pre-COVID level of Rs 145.69 lakh crore in 2019-20.

The pandemic hit the country in March 2020, resulting in a nationwide lockdown from March 25, 2020, which severely dented the economic growth in the 2020-21 fiscal.

According to the statement, real GVA (gross value added) at Basic Prices is estimated at Rs 135.22 lakh crore in 2021-22, as against Rs 124.53 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.6 per cent. In the current fiscal, the manufacturing sector is likely to see a growth of 12.5 per cent against a contraction of 7.2 per cent a year ago.

The NSO estimates significant growth in 'mining and quarrying' (14.3 per cent), and 'trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting' (11.9 per cent).

The agriculture sector is estimated to see a growth of 3.9 per cent in FY2021-22, higher than the 3.6 per cent expansion recorded in the previous financial year. Morgan Stanley in a January 4 report had said India's growth trend has faced various exogenous shocks in the last eight years, leading to a weaker than expected growth trend, especially as measured by corporate revenue growth. "Policymakers have erred on the side of creating macro stability buffers with price stability and external stability risks contained," it had said.

Shops...

From Page 1

"Further, it is also observed that more than one weekly market per day per zone is functioning and no information of permitted weekly markets is available with DDMA and others for monitoring and enforcement," said the DDMA order.

The authority also instructed the district magistrates to maintain documentary evidence in the form of photographs and videos of the exercise of numbering in each market.

Adityanath distributes smart phones, tablets to students

Gorakhpur: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday distributed smart phones and tablets to students and said this will help them have access to information about employment opportunities and prepare for competitive exams. "Smart phones and tablets are being distributed among 1 crore students in the State which will enable them to have access to digital content for free," he said.

17,335 fresh Covid-19 cases, 9 deaths in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Friday registered 17,335 fresh Covid-19 infections and nine deaths. Surprisingly, the positivity rate also rose to 17.73 per cent. Delhi has now 6,912 containment zones.

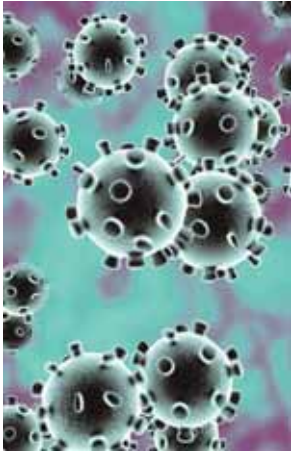
Earlier, in the day, Health Minister Satyendar Jain also had announced that Delhi may see 17,000 cases with a positivity rate of around 17 percent.

He said Delhi is the first to witness a surge in infections because most of the international flights come to the capital.

"That is the reason we have implemented stricter measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 as compared to other States. Some people may say that this is not needed but it is better than repenting later,"

Jain while addressing the media virtually also added that construction work will continue in Delhi.

On Thursday a total of 15,097 new cases of Covid were reported in Delhi, with a positivity rate of 15.34 percent.



"The Omicron variant of Corona is rapidly spreading in Delhi, with a total of 31,498 active cases. There is no need to be concerned about the Omicron variant of Corona; experts have also stated that the Omicron variant of Corona is mild and less lethal," Jain added.

"A total of 1091 patients are admitted in Delhi hospitals, of which 869 are from Delhi," he added.

Compared to the first wave

of the corona, this time the number of patients admitted to the hospital has reduced by 6 times. This is the fifth Covid wave in Delhi, and its peak is expected in a few weeks or days.

In Delhi, there have also been cases of some health workers, such as doctors and other medical personnel, testing positive, but in very small numbers.

Meanwhile, the health department of the government has asked all city government-run hospitals to cancel leaves, barring maternity and medical leaves.

"In view of recent surge in Covid-19 cases and for efficient management of Covid-19 pandemic in NCT of Delhi, all MDs/MSs/Directors of all hospitals of Government of NCT of Delhi are directed not to grant leaves of any type except maternity leaves and other medical leaves to any medical and non-medical staff with immediate effect and cancel all such leaves, if already granted," read an order issued by the health department.

Delhi labs ramp up infra, hire staff as more people get tested

New Delhi: Hiring more staff and ramping up infrastructure are some of the steps being taken by laboratories in Delhi as more people get themselves tested amid a surge in Covid cases, triggered by the Omicron variant.

Besides these, some have opened walk-in centres and plan to expand the capacity of their central testing labs, where samples are processed, and collection capacity. Opting for these measures has become imperative as unlike the last wave of the Covid pandemic, this time the surge has been sudden, just in a couple of days, laboratories said. "We have made a testing capacity of 7,000 samples a day in Delhi, which can be ramped up to 10,000-15,000 a day. Besides this, we have also expanded our capacity for sample collection," executive chairman of Dr Lal Path Labs, Arvind Lal, told PTI.

"So far, we are placed well in Delhi and across India, but the burden is increasing," he said, adding that Dr Lal Path Labs has about 21 laboratories in the country and in case, sample load increases on labs in Delhi, they will be sent to a facility in Gurugram.

On Thursday, Delhi reported 15,097 fresh Covid cases, the highest single-day rise since May 8 last year, and six deaths as the positivity rate mounted to 15.34 per cent, while authorities said around 90,000 tests were conducted on Tuesday and over 98,000 tests on Wednesday.



Laboratories said that with rising number of people coming for tests, strict safety protocols are being followed to protect staffers from contracting the disease, especially those collecting samples.

"The surge has been sudden. The graph has been too vertical and we weren't expecting such a severe surge," chief executive officer of Dr Dangs Lab, Arjun Dang, said. Dang said that they have invested a lot in the last six months in their molecular biology lab.

"We have participated in vaccine trials, and in September, October and November, we were processing as many samples as much as we are processing currently. During such trials, samples need to be processed quickly like within 24 hours. We have increased our infrastructure and manpower," he said.

The lab has been testing around 1,000 samples every day, Dang said. The Thursday case figure is the highest since

May 8 last year when 17,364 cases were reported with a positivity rate of 23.34 per cent. On May 8, as many as 332 deaths were also recorded. On Wednesday and Tuesday, 10,665 and 5,481 cases were recorded with positivity rates of 11.88 per cent and 8.37 per cent, respectively, according to official figures.

Dr Harpreet Kaur, head of lab services at Aakash Path Lab said they increased infrastructure, equipment and manpower to manage the anticipated increase in workload.

When asked about infections among staffers, she said that no lab staff has been infected till now. "Our employees are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment for handling Covid patients as well as samples. They have regularly trained in good clinical practices like hand hygiene etc. Frequent reiteration of the same is also done. Employees are fully vaccinated," she said. Besides regular testing, Lal said a lot of people, who are planning for international travel, are getting tested and seeking reports within 24 hours. This has put "additional burden on our staff" and labs are "practically working round-the-clock now," he said. "Besides regular collection mechanism, we have also opened walk-in centres, about 50 such centres have been started across India, including in Delhi. So, let us see how the situation goes from here," Lal said.

PTI

DELHI NIGHT CURFEW

227 FIRs registered, 683 challans issued for Covid norm violations

New Delhi: Over 200 FIRs were registered and 683 challans issued for violations of Covid appropriate behaviour during the night curfew imposed across the national capital amid growing number of infections, the Delhi Police said on Friday.

According to data shared by the Delhi Police, as part of the action taken during night curfew from 11 pm on Thursday to 5 am on Friday, 227 FIRs under Indian Penal Code section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and 683 challans were issued to those violating coronavirus guidelines.

Delhi recorded 15,097 fresh Covid-19 cases on Thursday, the highest single-day rise since May 8, and six deaths while the positivity rate mounted to 15.34 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department.

The weekend curfew will come into force in Delhi from Friday. The police, through its official Twitter handle, on Thursday said keeping the infection in mind, weekend curfew shall be imposed in Delhi from Friday onwards.

The Delhi Police on Friday addressed people's queries regarding the latest restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 on Twitter. PTI

Delhi court acquits four men in riots case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday acquitted four men in a case related to robbing, vandalising and setting a house and shop on fire during the riots in the national Capital in 2020.

Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat acquitted Dinesh Yadav, Tinku, Sahil and Sandeep. "All the accused have been acquitted. All accused are directed to file their respective bail bonds on Monday i.e. January 10," the judge ordered.

The judgment was pronounced through video conferencing. A default order is awaited.

The case was registered against them on the basis of two written complainants filed by Afzal Saifi and Shoaib, residents of Delhi's Bhagirathi Vihar.

Saifi had claimed that a riotous mob barged into his house on February 26, 2020, vandalised it, robbed the articles and set it on fire. He further stated that his motorcycle was also burnt to ashes.

Shoaib approached the police

During the trial, the accused, through advocates Shikha Garg and Abhishek Garg, argued that they had been falsely implicated in the matter for being resident of the same locality

with a similar complaint regarding theft in his shop which was clubbed with the complaint of Saifi. During the trial, the accused, through advocates Shikha Garg and Abhishek Garg, argued that they have been falsely implicated in the matter for being resident of the same locality.

Special Public Prosecutor D K Bhatia had vehemently argued that the four men were found to be "active member of the riotous mob" on the date and time of incident, who took active participation in vandalising and putting on fire the house and shop of the complainants.

In another case on December 6, the judge had convicted Dinesh Yadav for setting a woman's house on fire. It was the first conviction in the Delhi riots case. PTI

DIAL installs efficient baggage handling system at new Terminal 1

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi International Airport Limited is installing a world-class Integrated Cart System (ICS) for baggage handling in the new Terminal 1," it said on Friday.

The ICS is being introduced and installed for the first time at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) Terminal - 1 (T 1), spokesperson (DIAL) said.

With the installation of this system, the new baggage handling system will bring uniformity to the baggage handling process and help in enabling a more reliable operation at a higher speed with better throughput. The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) enabled Integrated Cart system ensures error-less baggage sorting.

Each baggage stays entirely within its carrier tray (CT) confines throughout the transportation process - from check-in islands to baggage make-up area. This significantly reduces the risk of loss and damage to baggage and disruption to the system due to the strap or other baggage related causes.

The highly automated and complex system of ICS also enhances passengers'



experience by ensuring that the right baggage reaches the right flight seamlessly and safely soon after a passenger hands over its baggage.

The system screening of hold baggage adds an extra layer of tracking and security. The ICS ensures that only security-cleared baggage are routed to their respective destinations seamlessly and safely.

The new hi-tech system will operate at 2.1 metres per second and sort up to 6,000 bags per hour. The existing conveyor system, i.e. traditional belt system, operates at a 0.5 metres per second speed.

The ICS system, which comes with a wide range of operating speeds based on requirements, can operate at up to 7 metres

per second. This enhances the Baggage handling system's operational capacity compared to the traditional method.

"This will optimize the daily baggage operation for the airport and airlines, but it also means safety to passengers' baggage, thus enhancing performance for both passengers and airlines," said Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL.

Some salient features of baggage handling system at new Terminal 1:

- ✳ Its baggage throughput capacity will be 6,000 bags/hr.
- ✳ It will have 10 check-in Rows at Departure and 75 Check-in counters
- ✳ It will have 36 full-scale Self Bag Drop (SBDs) for check-in
- ✳ The terminal will have 3,000 meters of Conveyor & Tray lines.
- ✳ 10 inline CT (Computer Tomography) and Dual-view X-Ray machines.
- ✳ 02 Lifts for handling oversized bags.

Budget 2022-23

NDMC to stop purchasing petrol, diesel buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Stopping purchase of petrol and diesel-based passenger vehicles, setting up over 100 e-charging stations in its area, common payment portal for all its services and smart bus queue shelters are among the projects announced by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in its budget for 2022-23.

"NDMC continues to take lead in pollution mitigation measures and has resolved to stop purchase of petrol or diesel based passenger cars and will acquire electric cars in future, converting its existing fleet too in a phased manner. NDMC has already introduced more than sixty e-charging stations in its area and is augmenting by more than 100 in



this year itself," the civic body chairman Dharmendra said in his budget speech on Friday.

"A fleet of the E-Scooter is planned to be deployed this year complementing the smart bikes. Its cycle-in-city scheme is expected to put in place dedicated cycle tracks in facilitating office goers to cycle to work

in a safe and enjoyable manner. To reduce the dust pollution intensive tree washing is being continued.

"Mist sprayers have been deployed at central park with more coming up and mechanical road sweepers have proven to be very effective in mitigating dust in air. Green strips are being developed at a fast pace

so that entire brown space is covered leaving little scope for dust pollution," he added.

"The total receipts of the Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23 are ₹4381.43 Crore against ₹3814.30 Crore provided in Revised Estimate (RE) 2021-22. The actual receipts in 2020-21 were ₹3915.79 Crore. The BE 2022-23 for the revenue receipts are ₹3842.78 Crore against ₹3336.45 Crore provided in RE 2021-22 and actual of ₹3126.44 Crore in 2020-21," he said.

"The BE 2022-23 for capital receipts are ₹538.64 Crore against ₹477.85 Crore provided in RE 2021-22 and actual of ₹789.35 Crore in 2020-21. The total expenditure for BE 2022-23 are ₹4202.48 Crore against ₹3678.45 Crore provided in RE 2021-22 and actual of ₹3236.

Bulli Bai case: Mastermind student made lewd remarks on complainant's pic; planted fake news

New Delhi: Niraj Bishnoi, the creator of the 'Bulli Bai' application, had earlier also created an account on Twitter making lewd remarks on the picture of a complainant and even tweeted about the auction of the person, police said on Friday.

One of such accounts came into light when the 'Sulli Deal' case was under investigation. Through this handle, he had tried to plant some information regarding the possible propagator/originator of the Sulli Deals app, they said.

With the arrest of the 21-year-old engineering student, the Delhi Police had said it has solved the case related to hundreds of Muslim women being listed for 'auction' on the Bulli Bai app on the Github platform.

During interrogation, it

was found that Bishnoi had earlier created various Twitter handles with the initial name of "giyu" which is a gaming character. The handles have been identified as @giyu002, @giyu007, @giyu084, @giyu94 and @giyu44, a senior police officer said.

"The account @giyu2002 has been found associated with an FIR registered at the Kishangarh Police Station in southwest Delhi. In this case, from this Twitter account, he had made lewd remarks on the picture of a complainant and even tweeted about the auction of the same," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber) K P S Malhotra said.

The account @giyu44 was created by the accused on January 3, 2022 with specific agenda to demean the arrests

by Mumbai Police in the Bulli Bai app case and to throw an open challenge to law enforcement agencies to nab him. Bishnoi had also tried to show his identity from Nepal, police said.

"The account @giyu007 came into light when the Sulli Deal case was under investigation. Through this handle, he had tried to plant some information regarding the possible propagator/originator of Sulli Deals app," police said. During this time, Bishnoi also created a fake profile of a girl and tried to communicate to the investigating agency as a news reporter.

Further, he came in contact with various news reporters and tried to plant his misinformation with his nefarious goals, the DCP said.

Further investigation is underway, he said.

Bishnoi, a resident of Jorhat who studies computer science engineering in Bhopal, was the fourth person to be arrested for their alleged involvement in the case. The other three, nabbed by Mumbai Police, include a 19-year-old woman from Uttarakhand, also alleged to be a prime accused in the case.

The Bulli Bai app was developed in November last year and updated in December. Bishnoi was also keenly monitoring social media. Bishnoi disclosed during his interrogation that he created the "Bulli Bai" app on Github as well as the @bullibai Twitter handle and others too, police said. The Twitter account was created on December 31. PTI

Staff Reporter

Boy beaten to death by father for not studying

New Delhi: A five-year-old boy was beaten to death allegedly by his father in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area after he found him playing game on phone and not studying, police said on Friday. The father has been arrested, they said.

On Thursday, Neb Sarai Police Station received information from Max Hospital Saket that Gyan Pandey alias Utkarsh, a resident of Narayana Apartment, was brought to hospital for treatment where he was declared brought dead, police said. When it reached the hospital and obtained the medico-legal report, police found that the child was brought by his mother in emergency around 10 pm in an unconscious state, they said.

The boy's body bore scratch marks on the right side of his neck, bruises on both hands, legs, and other parts of the body, police said. When questioned about the injury marks, the boy's parents did not give any information, doctors said, according to police. On Friday, a child

helpline caller told them that father of Utkarsh had beaten him up and that he died on his way to the hospital, senior police officer said. Police inquired with the neighbours of the deceased who also said that the father of the child used to beat him up.

Later, when he was interrogated, the accused, identified as Aditya Pandey (27), confessed to his crime, Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Bentia Mary Jaiker said. The boy's body has been preserved in AIIMS mortuary for the post mortem. After an inspection by crime team of the spot, a case under section 302 (murder) was registered against the accused and he was arrested, police said.

During interrogation, Pandey, who supplies milk for a living, said that when he returned home after work on Thursday around 6 pm, he saw his son playing game on phone instead of studying and he was not listening to him, police said. He got angry and started beating the child with a wooden stick, PTI

Man's body found dumped in Central Delhi district

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday found the body of a man, dumped in the Inderlok area of the national capital, officials said.

The police said a call was received by the Police Control Room at 11.32 am that a body wrapped in a bedsheet was lying near Tikona Park of the Inderlok area.

Police rushed to the spot, seized the body and sent it for post mortem, they said.

The body had injuries on the back of its neck and hand, police said, adding a case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code was lodged and a probe launched into the matter.

The victim was identified as Abhishek, a resident of the Gulabi Bagh area in North Delhi.

Delhi Govt directs school heads to ensure distribution of dry ration kits to children

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has directed heads of all its schools to ensure distribution of dry ration kits among students through their parents amid rising Covid-19 cases, officials said on Thursday.

An order issued by the Directorate of Education stated all heads of schools and all the NGOs should ensure the distribution of dry ration kits under the Mid Day Meal Scheme to the children through their parents.

The NGOs shall visit each and every allocated school and coordinate with the HOS concerned who may receive the dry ration kits and distribute them to the children, it said.

The HOS were further directed to ensure that the kits were distributed to all students in schools and a report was submitted to the directorate.

The chairman of the DCPCR has been directed to undertake social audit during distribution of dry ration kits while education officials in districts have been ordered to ensure strict compliance and supervision of the whole exercise in their respective districts. PTI

Street vendors necessity in society, have fundamental right to vend but with restrictions: HC

New Delhi: Street vendors who are a societal necessity have a fundamental right to vend or hawk but it comes with certain restrictions and it has to be balanced with others' rights, the Delhi High Court Friday said.

The high court said a large section of society depends on hawkers to buy fruits, vegetables, clothes and other household items but this does not mean that they can be allowed to affect the rights of others and that the city cannot be held ransom.

"Every fundamental right comes with certain restrictions. Vendors have a fundamental right to vend but it has to be balanced with others' rights. The issue is where is the fulcrum, where is the balance. Vendors are a necessity in society. We also go and buy vegetables from them," a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh said.

The court's observation came while hearing

the Centre's submission on a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the Street Vendors Act, its implementation, certain provisions of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2019 and other connected issues raised by various market associations and vendors and hawkers.

The Centre opposed the pleas by various market associations challenging the vices of the Street Vendors Act and said the petitions were "clearly misconceived and deserve to be rejected".

"The present petition having been filed by various associations of traders and shopkeepers on the principal ground of violation of their rights and entitlements under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution would otherwise be not maintainable in terms of the admitted settled PTI

RISE IN COVID CASES

Ensure oxygen equipment working: Centre to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid cases fueled by Omicron surge across the country, the Centre on Friday underlined the challenge posed by the rising infections and emphasised that it is the primary responsibility of the States to ensure that all the oxygen equipment at all the health facilities are tested and kept in a functional state to meet any emergent situation.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level meeting with representatives from the states and Union territories through a videoconference on Friday to review the preparedness status of the entire spectrum of oxygen equipment, including ventilators, PSA and oxygen plants, oxygen concen-

trators and oxygen cylinders, for a timely and effective management of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a statement issued by the health ministry.

The States were urged to ensure full and optimal utilisation of the ECRP-II funds through daily reviews and to upload the expenditure on the dedicated NHM-PMS portal so that they are eligible to receive further funds to strengthen the healthcare facilities up to the sub-district level.

Under ECRP-II, funds are also made available for installing liquid medical oxygen (LMO) tanks and medical gas pipeline systems (MGPS). The states are required to make these facilities operational and secure an approval from the Petroleum and Explosives



Safety Organisation (PESO) in respect of the LMO tanks, the statement said.

Bhushan urged the States to commission the PSA plants being set up from the states' funds and CSR funds on a war-footing. The States were also requested to ensure that a mock drill of the PSA plants is carried out to ensure that the oxygen flow at the patients' bedside adheres to adequate purity and the recommended outlet pressure with no leakages.

In addition, the flow meters must remain in a functional state, they were told. The states were also exhorted to monitor the installation of PSA plants at private as well as medical college hospitals.

The Union health secretary emphasised that the states need to ensure that the delivered ventilators are quickly installed and commissioned at the designated field health facilities, the statement said.

They were urged to address the large gaps that continue to exist between the numbers of delivered and installed ventilators, provide the consignee details of hospitals for the requirement of additional ventilators and expedite the issuance

of final acceptance certificates for the installed ventilators.

The States were further reminded to expedite the process of finalising the maintenance contracts with the manufacturers. They were also advised to lodge any complaint related to ventilators in the online complaint management system, which was launched on August 30 last year, the statement said.

It was pointed out that the Union health ministry has started the National Oxygen Stewardship programme from December 22. The states need to ensure that the technical training of the operators is completed. More than 1,600 candidates joined the training programme covering 738 districts. An online PSA training programme is also being carried out by the Directorate General of Training through 24 regional centres across the country, said the statement.

The States were also urged to ensure an adequate buffer stock of drugs and update the buffer stock details of government hospitals and medical colleges on the Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) portal.

New IHU variant in France not circulating widely: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Much to the relief of the world battering Omicron and Delta variant of the Covid-19, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said the new Covid-19 variant called B.1.640, which was detected by French researchers and is probably of Cameroonian origin, is not "circulating widely at the moment" and has so far been identified in less than 1 per cent of the samples sequenced in France.

The strain is also known as the IHU variant because it was first identified by academics at the IHU Mediterranee Infection institute in Marseille, France, as per a news agency.

At a Press briefing on Thursday, Maria van Kerkhove, technical lead for the WHO's Health Emergencies Program,

said that the variant was first detected in September 2021 in a number of countries.

Following internal discussions, the WHO classified it as a "variant under monitoring" (VUM) in November 2021. According to the WHO's definition, a VUM is a SARS-CoV-2 variant with genetic changes that are suspected to affect virus characteristics, which may pose a future risk, but evidence of phenotypic or epidemiological impact is currently unclear, thus requiring enhanced monitoring and repeat assessment pending new evidence.

Van Kerkhove explained that since the B.1.640 variant has many mutations, the WHO classified it as a VUM to raise the public awareness.

She reiterated that current Covid-19 vaccines do work



against all variants that are circulating and are highly effective against preventing severe diseases and death.

"I think that's really important for the public to know ... when it is your turn, get vaccinated because it's really critical," she said, as per

the reports.

Katherine O'Brien, director of the WHO's Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department, said B.1.640 is not a variant that is increasing in prevalence but is a small fraction of the strains that are circulating.

Cong to launch digital rallies in UP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After cancelling its public rallies on grounds, the Congress is all set to launch its digital rallies or virtual election campaign in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday followed by Uttarakhand and Goa during the next couple of days.

AICC sources said a Facebook Live session will be held where the Congress general secretary in-charge for UP, Priyanka Gandhi, will interact with people on the online platform named — "Priyanka Ke Saath Live" in a 30-minute session. This will be followed by a virtual town hall.

"In this live session, people can ask Priyankaji questions directly on Facebook Live. It is for the first time in an Assembly election that a full virtual campaign will be launched. We are going to organise a series of virtual interactions of party leaders in Uttar Pradesh from tomorrow," said a Uttar Pradesh Congress source.

Due to a massive surge in Covid cases, Priyanka Gandhi, after discussion with leaders from the Uttar Pradesh Congress, had put a hold on physical mega-rallies, Town Halls, Samvads, marathons in the poll-bound State.

India delivers 2 tonnes of life-saving medicines to Af

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Honouring its commitment to provide humanitarian aid, India on Friday delivered two tonnes of life-saving medicines to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian to the war-torn country. The supplies were handed over to the Indira Gandhi Hospital in Kabul.

Giving details here, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "As part of our ongoing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, India supplied the third batch of medical assistance consisting of two tonnes of essential life-saving medicines to Afghanistan today."

It said India stands committed to continuing its special relationship with the people of Afghanistan and providing them humanitarian assistance. "In this endeavour, we had



recently supplied 5,00,000 doses of Covid vaccine and 1.6 tonnes of medical assistance to Afghanistan through World Health Organization (WHO)," the Ministry said in a statement, adding, "In coming weeks, we would be supplying more batches of humanitarian assistance

consisting of medicines and foodgrains to Afghanistan."

On January 1, India had supplied 5 lakh doses of the Covaxin vaccine to Afghanistan and announced that an equal number of jabs will be sent in the coming weeks. In December, India sent

'India stands committed to continuing its special relationship with the people of Afghanistan and providing them humanitarian assistance'

India remains committed to strive for global nuclear disarmament, says Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India remains committed to strive for global nuclear disarmament and on Friday welcomed a joint statement by five nuclear weapon states earlier this week on preventing a nuclear war.

Making this assertion, the Ministry of External Affairs said here India will continue to contribute further to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

India remains committed to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. India's annual resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' calls for steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, it said.

"We welcome Joint Statement (on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding

Arms Races), which reaffirms the importance of addressing nuclear threats and underscores desire to work towards creating a security environment more conducive," ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

This reiteration came after leaders of China, France, Russia, UK and the US for the first time on Monday issued a joint statement on preventing nuclear war and avoiding an arms race while not aiming nuclear devices at each other or at any other state. Bagchi said, "As a responsible nuclear weapon state, India has a doctrine of maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a No First Use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states. India remains committed to the goal of universal, non-discriminatory, and verifiable nuclear disarmament."

India, China to hold 14th round of military level talks on Jan 12

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As stand-offs persist at some friction points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, India and China will hold the 14th round of military level talks on January 12 to speed up the process of disengagement of troops.

The talks come in the backdrop of both the countries reiterating time and again that dialogue at the military and diplomatic levels is only way out to reduce tension at the LAC persisting for nearly two years now. The last round of talks between the Corps Commanders of the two armies was held on October 10 last year. The Indian delegation will be led by the newly appointed 14th Corps commander Lt General Anindiya Sen.

The latest round of talks come at a time when more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are facing each other at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh leading to tension.

While the troops from both the sides returned to their bases after nearly one half years in February last year from the Pangong Tso (lake), face-offs are still on at more than three places including the Hot Springs.

India has all along maintained that complete withdrawal from all the friction points and status quo ante restored as it existed before May 2020 is a prerequisite before ties are normalised between the two countries.

China, however, has dilly dallied so far on some pretext or the other thereby prolonging tension at the LAC.

The Indian Government after the 13th round of military level talks had said during the meeting the discussions between the two sides focused on resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

The Indian side pointed out that the situation along the LAC had been caused by unilateral attempts of Chinese side to alter the status quo and in violation of the bilateral agreements.

It was, therefore, necessary that the Chinese side take appropriate steps in the remaining areas so as to restore peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector.

This would also be in accord with the guidance provided by the two Foreign Ministers in their recent meeting in Dushanbe where they had agreed that the two sides

should resolve the remaining issues at the earliest.

The Indian side emphasised such resolution of the remaining areas would facilitate progress in the bilateral relations. During the meeting, the Indian side therefore made constructive suggestions for resolving the remaining areas but the Chinese side was not agreeable and also could not provide any forward-looking proposals. The meeting thus did not result in resolution of the remaining areas.

The two sides have agreed to maintain communications and also to maintain stability on the ground. It is our expectation that the Chinese side will take into account the overall perspective of bilateral relations and will work towards early resolution of the remaining issues while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols.

However, China then said "Instead of misjudging the situation, the Indian side should cherish the hard-won situation in China-India border areas." These remarks were made by Senior Colonel Long Shaohua, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The spokesperson made the remarks in a statement talking about the 13th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting. According to him, the meeting was held on October 10 at the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point on the Chinese side.

The spokesperson said during the meeting, the Chinese side made great efforts to promote the easing and cooling of the border situation and fully demonstrated China's sincerity of maintaining overall interests of bilateral military relations.

However, the Indian side still persisted in its unreasonable and unrealistic demands, which added difficulties to the negotiations.

The spokesperson pointed out that China is firm in its resolve to safeguard national sovereignty.

He hoped that the Indian side should avoid misjudging the situation and cherish the hard-won situation in the China-India border areas.

The Indian side should abide by the relevant agreements and consensus reached between the two countries and two militaries, show sincerity and take concrete actions to jointly safeguard peace and stability in the border areas with China, the spokesperson added.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum/Modification in e-Auction date
Auction/Corrigendum Notice No. 14/2021-22
Amendment in published e-Auction dates of January-2022.
Following correction/amendment is carried out in published e-auction dates of Jan.-2022.
Published e-Auction dates: 11, 19 & 25 January-2022
Amended e-Auction dates: 14, 21 & 29 January-2022.
Jurisdiction of lots: Dy. CMM/ Depot/ Izzatnagar.
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Letter No: 37 **Tender Notice** Date: 07/01/2022
The office of Executive Engineer (Test), MB-II, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:
Tender No: NIT- 03/EE(T)/MB-II/21-22
Name of work / Supply/Services: Up Keeping and Maintenance Of GM (BV)/ DGM (HGC) Offices, Officers Club, JE Club and 11kv/0.4kv Substation in Shaktipuram Colony, Chinyalisaur.
Estimated cost:- Rs 541170/- Only (Taxes extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 09.01.2022
Last date for submission of tender:- 09.02.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".
Executive Engineer (Test)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PM's security lapse: BJP protests in Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Now over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "security lapse" during his Punjab visit to die-down, the BJP which held a protest in Parliament on Friday has decided to continue it across the different States in coming days.

The decision was taken at

the level of the Central leadership where 13 points were decided to target the Congress and "bring out its collusion with the anti-India forces," according to BJP leaders.

Further, the BJP leaders are to go to Raj Bhavans across the country and submit protest memorandum on the "corrupt mindset" of the Congress.

They will also "expose" the

Congress hand behind the alleged security lapse. The party will target Congress leadership and its alleged design to prevent Prime Minister from going to Ferozepur.

Several top BJP leaders, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, are already chanting religious 'mantras' to secure the Prime Minister.

Decline in wheat, rice and pulses during rabi season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's expectation of a good rabi crop season has received a setback with a lower acreage in wheat, rice and pulses in the ongoing winter season. The data from the Ministry of Agriculture showed that sowing area of wheat was down by 5.84 lakh hectare; pulses by 1.52 lakh hectare and rice by 2.25 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing 2021-22 rabi season.

The data showed that wheat has been sown was down by 1.71 per cent at 333.97 lakh hectares as compared to sown in 339.81 lakh hectare last year, a decline of 1.71 per cent so far as there was less coverage in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

As per the data, area sown to wheat was less by 3.11 lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh, 1.35 lakh hectares in Haryana, 1.20 lakh hectares in Maharashtra and 1.14 lakh hectares in Madhya Pradesh. Coverage of wheat was lower in

Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand as well in the said period.

However, higher area under wheat was reported from Rajasthan (1.96 lakh hectares), Bihar (0.68 lakh hectares), Chhattisgarh (0.09 lakh hectares and Assam (0.01 lakh hectares) in the same period, the data showed.

Officials said delayed monsoon withdrawal and shifting of crops by farmers may be the reason behind less sowing area of wheat and other rabi crops.

Sowing of rabi (winter) crops like wheat begins in October and harvesting from April onwards. Much of the wheat sowing has been completed so far.

In case of pulses, coverage remained flat at 156.23 lakh hectares so far this rabi season as against 157.75 lakh hectares in the year ago period. Out of which gram coverage along stood at 109.44 lakh hectares in the said period.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have revised the timings of the following Special Trains on below mentioned stations as under :-

Train No. & Name	Station	Existing Time		Revised Time		Date (from Originating Station)
		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
22806 Anand Vihar Terminal - Bhubaneswar Superfast Exp.	Rairakhol	10:50	10:52	10:40	10:42	from 24.01.2022
	Angul	12:30	12:32	12:20	12:22	
	Dhenkanal	13:28	13:30	13:25	13:27	
12816 Anand Vihar Terminal - Puri Nandankanan Express	Bhadrak	09:23	09:25	09:13	09:15	from 20.01.2022
	Jaipur Keonjhar Road	09:56	09:58	09:46	09:48	
20808 Amritsar Jn - Visakhapatnam Superfast Exp.	Angul	11:30	11:32	11:25	11:27	from 22.01.2022
	Dhenkanal	13:12	13:14	13:00	13:02	
20818 New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express	Angul	17:00	17:02	16:45	16:47	from 23.01.2022
	Dhenkanal	18:09	18:11	17:45	17:47	

NOTE : The time-table at other stations of the above special trains will hold good.

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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Didi slams PM, Guv at hospital launch event

Says campus was opened by her; derides Guv for interference in State’s business

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a show of aggression Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday not only reminded Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a virtual event — where the duo had joined to inaugurate a second campus of a cancer hospital in Kolkata — that she had already inaugurated the Hospital which was partly funded by the State Government but also used the public forum to lodge a verbal complaint against Governor JagdeepDhankhar for his ‘unduly interfering’ with the affairs of governance.

Banerjee had been invited in the virtual programme where the Prime Minister was to inaugurate the second campus of the Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital. Informing the Prime Minister that the State Government too had contributed funds and provided the land for the Hospital Banerjee said, “The Prime Minister will be happy to know



that we are also contributing 25 per cent of the cost from the State’s fund,” adding, “I want to tell him for his knowledge that we have already inaugurated this (second campus of CNCI). How did we do that?When there was Covid and we needed a Covid care center, and I saw the Chittaranjan hospital was attached with the State Government, and weconverted it to a Covid-care center and it helped us a lot.”

Saying that she participated in the programme because she was twice invited to do so and because “the Prime Minister himself took interest in this program,” Banerjee referred to the alleged non-cooperation on the part of the State Governor. Referring to the new appointments of the doctors during corona times, Banerjee said, “the Governor is raising various questions ... asking for reports on doctors’ questions ... he doesn’t even know that we are doing it at the instance of the

Centre ... We always follow the Centre’s guidelines in 99 percent of cases ... there may be political differences but in the case of running administration we always follow the Prime Minister’s directive ... the Governor does not even know that, and asks various questions as to ‘why did you do this ... show this ... show that.”

Soon BJP resorted to a counterattack with its leader Amit Malavyasaying “Mamata Banerjee is incorrigible... Notwithstanding the fact that she is on path of constant, needless confrontation, she must realize that inaugurating a building as Covid facility is not the same as inaugurating a Cancer facility in a hospital. Imagine what Bengal has to suffer!”

State BJP president Sikanto Majumdar too attacked the Chief Minister for “refusing understand the importance of situations. He said “the Chief Minister today created a history in the field of political decorum ... never in the history Independent India any Chief Ministerhas in a public forum complained against a Governor who is the guardian of the Constitution like this ... it is for the people to understand how constitutional propriety is maintained in Bengal.”

Three terrorists gunned down in Budgam

J&K sees no let-up in encounters as 11 ultras, including 6 mercenaries, killed in one week

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The security forces seem to be upping the ante against the terrorist commanders in the Kashmir valley. After eliminating 44 top commanders in 2021, there has been no let up since the beginning of year 2022. So far 11 terrorists including 6 foreigners hailing from Pakistan have been gunned down in six different encounters across Kashmir valley.

Three terrorists were gunned down on Friday in Chadoora area of Budgam, police spokesman said in a written statement.

In all these anti terrorist

operations no major collateral damage was suffered by the security forces.

The operations were launched in the specific locations after receiving pin pointed human intelligence. Ever since local policemen were targeted by the ‘hybrid’ terrorists the flow of information has led to sustained operations.

The security forces have also recovered large quantities of arms and ammunition including AK rifles and US made M4 carbines.

Among the prize catch, the security forces eliminated down top LeT commander Mohd Saleem Parray along with his

foreign aide Hafiz alias Hamza. Parray was a dreaded terrorist involved in incidents of throat slitting of civilians in 2016. The security forces had received a tip off while Parray was roaming around in Shalimar garden of Srinagar.

Three terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) including a local were killed in an encounter in Chandgam area of South Kashmir’s Pulwama district on January 5.

Sharing details of the anti terrorist operation conducted in Chadoora area of Budgam on Friday the police spokesman said one of the killed terrorist has been identified as Waseem

Mir son of Ghulam Qadir Mir resident of Nowgam Srinagar . Waseem was active since December 2020.

During the operations the security forces had to evacuate the civilians trapped around the encounter site. In order to avoid any collateral damage due to darkness, the operation was suspended during night hours and in the wee hours the operation resumed, resulting in the elimination of three terrorists linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM. During encounter one Army Officer received minor splinter injury, the police spokesman added.

As per police records, the

killed terrorist Waseem was a categorized terrorist and part of group involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities. Several terror crime cases were registered against him. Terrorist Waseem was involved in killing of Inspector Parvaiz Ahmad on 22-06-2021. He was also involved in grenade attack on CRPF Bunker near Aali Masjid Chowk at Eidgah Srinagar in which 01 civilian and 01 police personnel were injured. Besides other terror crimes, he was also involved in brainwashing and motivating the youth of Central Kashmir to join terror outfits.



Workers refill oxygen cylinders as coronavirus cases rise across the country during the third wave of Covid-19 in Patna on Friday

Calcutta HC allows ‘Mela’ under stringent Covid-19 protocols

PNS ■ KOLKATA

With corona infections witnessing a sharp rise infecting a number of senior judicial officers the Calcutta High Court on Friday gave a conditional permission to organize the Ganga Sagar Mela directing the State Government to strictly follow the guidelines putting the Government under the tight scanner of a three-member committee constituting Bengal

Opposition Leader, representative of the HumanRights Commission and the State Chief Secretary.

The Committee thus constituted will inspect the preparations and measures taken by the Government, petitioners’ advocates said.

Besides, the State Home Secretary was also directed to run advertisements in various media asking people to refrain from coming to the grand Fare

at the confluence of Ganges and sea. Meanwhile, even as the State Government further tightened the pandemic rules suspending all surgical operations -- save most urgent ones --in Government hospitals in Kolkata a number of civic boards including the Dum Dum Municipality ordered closure of the markets and malls for four days in a week.

The markets would remain open on --- Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdayonly, sources said.

DMK welcomes SC order to uphold validity of OBC quota in med admissions

Chennai: DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court order upholding the validity of 27 per cent OBC quota in admissions to medical courses.

Lauding the order, Stalin said due to the continuous struggle of his party over the past several years in both the political and judicial fronts, reservation for OBCs would be implemented for the first time and from this year in admissions to All India Quota seats. “This is a very important victory for the DMK, wedded to social justice and for the Tamil Nadu people. This is a key milestone in the history of social justice,” Stalin said in a statement.

Considering the welfare of people belonging to the backward classes across the nation, the DMK impleaded in the matter in Supreme Court and argued and won, Stalin said and expressed joy over his party’s initiatives in this respect.

The party fought and won legal battles in the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court as well, he said.

The contributions of both Tamil Nadu, a pioneering state committed to social justice and that of the DMK would find a place in history for sure, the Dravidian party chief said.

Through legal initiatives, the DMK would also emerge victorious in its fight against the 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections. The EWS quota is against the Constitution, he said. “Social justice is a long journey. A continuous run.”

The Supreme Court on Friday, in an interim order, allowed resumption of medical counselling for NEET-PG admissions for the year 2021-22 and upheld the validity of 27 per cent OBC quota. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said: “Counselling on the basis of NEET-PG 2021 and NEET-UG 2021 shall be conducted by giving effect to the reservation as provided in the notice dated July 29, 2021 including the 27 per cent reservation for the OBC category and 10 per cent reservation for EWS category in the All India Quota seats’.

Docs warn of Covid surge in Kerala

KOCHI: Veteran doctors in Kerala warn that the State is in for another crisis induced by Covid-19 as the number of persons diagnosed with the pandemic shot up to 5,296 in the last 24 hours that ended on Friday evening. Though the State administration is leaving no stones unturned to portray an all is well sign in Kerala, doctors in Government and private sectors are forecasting another spell of death.

Meanwhile, it was announced officially that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who is ailing for some time is leaving for United States for treatment. He will be away for a week for medical tests and this is being seen as a follow up of the three-weeks long treatment he underwent in that country in 2018 September.

The State administration, according to health minister Veena George tested 64,577 samples on Friday, out of which 5,296 new cases were diagnosed with Covid-19.

“Hospital across the State are getting filled up again and ambulances blaring their sirens are speeding all over. What does this indicate?” asked a senior functionary of the Kerala Government Medical Officers

Association who did not want his name to be quoted.

Minister Veena George in her daily media release said that till Friday evening, 49,305 persons have succumbed to the pandemic across the State. Even as the State is reeling under the onslaught of the pandemic, there has been no let up in the month long agitation launched by the Kerala Government Medical Officers Association.

A statement by Dr G S Vijayaprishnan (president) and Dr T N Suresh (general secretary) on Friday said that all government doctors would avail a day’s casual leave on January 18 to make the State administration understand the seriousness of the situation. The doctors are agitating demanding the appointment of 1,000 government doctors at least on temporary basis to handle the present crisis.

The decision of the Kerala Government to scrap the special allowances of doctors and refusal to appoint temporary hands to tide over the pandemic has caused wide spread resentment among medical fraternity, said Dr Rajiv Pillai, a doctor with more than two decades experience in treating contagious diseases. “The situation in Kerala is

grave as we are experiencing a multi-headed attack in the form of Covid-19 and Omicron,” said Dr Pillai.

Though neighbouring Tamil Nadu has decided to shut down all educational institutions in the face of increasing number of covid-19 cases (6,983 cases till Thursday), it has not lowered its guard in the number of samples being tested, On Thursday, the State tested 1.28 lakh persons using RT-PCR method.



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T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A major political slugfest broke out in Maharashtra on Friday over the security breach involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi during visit to Punjab, as Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole asked the BJP workers to stage a protest outside Amit Shah’s residence in New Delhi and the Opposition BJP retaliated by demanding that an offence be registered against Patole for turning needle of suspicion towards the Union Home Minister and trying to influence the ongoing probe into the security breach.

Away from the national capital, a fierce war of words erupted between the ruling Congress and the Opposition, as Patole – two days after he created a sensation by charging that Modi was reaping what he sowed when his government “inflicted” a lot of atrocities on the farmers last year –upped the ante by charging that the BJP had “pre-planned” the incident of security breach to “improve” Modi’s image which got tarnished during the farmers’ protests last year.

Talking to media persons at the state party headquarters “Tilak Bhavan” here, Patole said: “The security lapse involving Modi was a pre-planned move. Why did the Prime Minister change his journey plan suddenly? What was the motive behind it? The Prime Minister’s “I made it back safely” statement, a series

of statements made by the BJP leaders subsequently and the PM’s meeting with the President, all these make it very clear that the BJP had pre-planned the whole thing to improve Modi’s image that got tarnished during the farmers’ protests. But, the BJP has backed-fired on itself”.

Shortly after Patole spoke to the media, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil charged that at a time when the security breach involving the Prime Minister was being investigated, Patole had – by way of expressing his suspicion about the Union Home Minister’s role in the incident –had tried to interfere and influence the ongoing probe. “Keeping Patole’s unwarranted act in mind, we demand that an offence be registered against him. I have asked the BJP workers to register complaints against Patole for misleading the people on the issue of national security,” Patil said.

Earlier, Patole said that the Prime Minister belonged to the country and his security was of utmost importance. “There should be no compromise on his safety. Punjab Chief Minister Channi has spoken in detail on the incident but the BJP is deliberately trying to defame the Congress by giving it political colour. The BJP has also made this incident into an event”.

Exhorting the BJP workers to stage a protest in front of the Union Home Minister’s residence and demand his explanation over the incident, Patole

said: “The security of the Prime Minister is with the SPG and many important central agencies are involved in it and the BJP workers should protest outside union home minister Amit Shah’s house and seek his reply in the incident. Yesterday, even we had demanded that Amit Shah should make a statement in this regard, but Shah and the Home Ministry are still silent on the issue”.

“The people who went near Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s convoy were Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activists, videos of which have been shown by the media. Announcements of Narendra Modi Zindabad can be clearly heard in the videos. The statement made by a Union Minister that a stone was thrown at the Prime Minister’s convoy is ridiculous,” the State Congress chief said.

In his interaction with the media, State BJP president Patil alleged that the security breach was of serious nature since it happened near the border of Pakistan. “From the looks of it, there appears to be a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister. Given the national security, the incident is being investigated at the top-most level. That being the case, Patole is trying to mislead the people. The fact that he has alleged the Union Home Minister has a hand in the security breach incident. This kind of an allegation seeks to influence and derail the ongoing probe”.

“I condemn the efforts by

Patole to influence and derail the ongoing probe into the Prime Minister’s security breach. I demand that action be taken against Patole. The police should also probe if Patole has any information about the assassination attempt on the Prime Minister,” the state BJP president added.

Patole, it may be recalled, had on Wednesday slammed the BJP for giving a “political twist” to the incidents of farmers blocking Narendra Modi’s convoy during his visit to Punjab and said that the Prime Minister was reaping what he sowed last year when his government “inflicted” a lot of atrocities on the farmers by among other things “laying nails on their route and beating them mercilessly”.

In a statement issued here over the BJP’s reaction over what he called the BJP’s attempts to politicise the issue of farmers blocking the Prime Minister’s convoy to “misguide” the people on the issue of security in an effort to “gain sympathy” ahead of the Punjab Assembly polls, Patole had said: “The atrocities have not been forgotten by the farmers in Punjab and across the country. Modiji, you are reaping what you have sown”.

“The Prime Minister has SPG security. There is no question of compromising his security. He was scheduled to reach the rally spot by helicopter, but suddenly he changed his route and took the road to reach the location,” Patole had said.

Virus of bigotry

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

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



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

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

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



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

PTI

Ready or not?

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

The Capital has plummeted to another dubious landmark while matching wits with the latest mutant of the Coronavirus, Omicron, which is said to be clinically less severe but several times more transmissible; and the mandatory seven-day quarantine for all passengers coming in from abroad is a welcome decision. On Friday, the city crossed the 17,000-mark after registering 15,097 fresh COVID-19 cases (with six deaths) on Thursday, with the positivity rate jumping to 15.34 per cent. With the infection toll rising to 25,127 in Delhi, it was a 41 per cent jump in fresh cases over the previous day's figures. According to a study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi,



the Capital is one of the hotspots for the prevalent COVID-19 pandemic in India, the others being Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. All these States are seeing a significant surge in Coronavirus infections by the new variant. With experts pointing out that migration is a major factor for spread of the infection in all these States, it is incumbent upon the Governments to meticulously monitor travel to and from these States. Now the important question is how prepared the Capital is to counter the spread of the latest variant. By all accounts, it appears, hardly.

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

Will the Taliban leaders grow apart?

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIRD WAVE UP, GDP DOWN

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

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

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

MORE THAN WHAT MEETS THE EYE

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

In the name of god, stop!



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

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

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

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

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

Seetharambasaani | Hanakonda

JOURNALIST DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19

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

(PEC). No continent has been spared by the pandemic. Of the 1,940 journalist deaths registered by the PEC since March 1, 2020, Latin America leads with half of the victims, or 955 deaths. Asia follows with 556 dead, ahead of Europe 263, Africa 98 and North America 68. More than 50 casualties are still under investigation.

The actual number is certainly higher, as the cause of journalists' deaths is sometimes not specified or their deaths not announced. In some countries, there is no reliable information. According to PEC's India representative, the vast south Asian country might have lost over 400 media workers to the pandemic, but nearly 100 of them are yet to be authenticated. The PEC expresses the hope that all media workers would take the necessary precautions, including the booster vaccine.

T Navajyoti | Geneva

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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

Union Minister — Anurag Thakur

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

US President — Joe Biden

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

Actor — Kartik Aaryan

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

Tennis player — Rafael Nadal

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

West Bengal Chief Minister — Mamata Banerjee

FIRST COLUMN

N-POWER: MISSING
PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

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



GWYNNE DYER

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



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

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

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

A prudent heritage-CSR partnership is needed

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



PIYUSH GIRGAONKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

It is noteworthy that companies like Infosys have been already

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

—PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF
NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU



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

—ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

Artists of the blackboard

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

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

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

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



SANTOSH K SARANGI



RAHUL PACHORI

Santosh Kumar Sarangi is Additional Secretary and Rahul Pachori is Deputy Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The curriculum design will be the key to implementing an

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

William Arthur Ward very aptly wrote:

"The mediocre teacher tells
The good teacher explains
The superior teacher demonstrates
The great teacher inspires."

Global Covid caseload tops 300 million

Washington: Amid an ongoing resurgence across the world, the global coronavirus caseload has surpassed the grim milestone of 300 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 5.47 million and vaccinations to over 9.33 billion, according to Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the cur-

rent global caseload and the death toll stood at 300,095,481 and 5,472,039, respectively, while the total number of vaccine doses administered has increased to 9,336,622,344.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 58,487,665 and 833,987, according to the CSSE. The second worst hit country in terms of cases is India (35,109,286 infections and 482,876 deaths), followed by Brazil (22,328,252 infections and 619,654 deaths).

The other countries with over 5 million cases are the UK (14,100,303), France

(11,288,704), Russia (10,420,863), Turkey (9,789,244), Germany (7,399,015), Italy (6,975,465), Spain (6,922,466), Iran (6,203,046), Argentina (6,025,303) and Colombia (5,242,672), the CSSE figures showed.

The nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are Russia (307,488), Mexico (299,842), Peru (202,904), the UK (149,993), Indonesia (144,116), Italy (138,474), Iran (131,802), Colombia (130,191), France (126,001), Argentina (117,386), Germany (113,446) and Ukraine (103,225).

IANS

Aus state to reintroduce curbs

Sydney: As the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) is battling the latest Covid-19 outbreak, authorities on Friday reintroduced restrictions.

NSW, the current epicentre of the pandemic, reported 38,625 new cases and 11 deaths and there were 1,738 people in hospitals, 134 in intensive care, reports Xinhua news agency.

In response to surging Covid-19 cases and hospitalisations, some restrictions will be re-imposed in the state from Saturday.

NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet labelled the changes as "minor" and "proportionate" which would "alleviate pressure

on the hospital system and staff".

Under the new rules, singing and dancing in pubs and nightclubs is banned and major events scheduled for coming weeks have to go through assessment of health authorities.

Non-urgent surgeries will be suspended until mid-February to ease pressure on the health system.

"The transmission is happening in a variety of settings, obviously in those household and social gatherings that people are having, and also in places like pubs, clubs, night-clubs.

IANS

Italy's daily Covid cases top 200,000 for 1st time

Rome: For the first time since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, Italy registered over 200,000 daily cases amid an ongoing resurgence fuelled by the highly-transmissible Omicron variant, according to health authorities.

In the last 24 hours, the country logged 219,441 cases, which increased the overall infection tally as of Friday morning to 6,975,465.

The country had never recorded more than 100,000 new cases in a single day until December 30, 2021. But the situation had gotten worse almost every day since then.

The Ministry of Health also announced 198 coronavirus deaths in the same 24 hour period, down from 231 a day earlier. The death toll now stands at 138,474.

Though the deaths from the latest wave of the pandemic is on the rise, it remains well below the all-time one-day

New Covid variant detected in France not a threat yet: WHO

Geneva: The new Covid-19 variant called B.1.640, which was detected by French researchers and is probably of Cameroonian origin, is not "circulating widely at the moment" and has so far been identified in less than 1 per cent of the samples sequenced in France, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

The strain is also known as the 'IHU' variant because it was first identified by academics at the IHU Mediterranee Infection institute in Marseille, France, reports Xinhua news agency.

At a press briefing on Thursday, Maria van Kerkhove, technical lead for the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said that the variant was first detected in September 2021 in a number of countries.

Following internal discussions, the WHO classified it as a "variant under monitoring" (VUM) in November 2021.

According to the WHO's definition, a VUM is SARS-CoV-2 variant with genetic changes that are suspected to affect virus characteristics, which may pose a future risk, but evidence of phenotypic or epidemiological impact is currently unclear, thus requiring enhanced monitoring and repeat assessment pending new evidence.

Van Kerkhove explained that since the B.1.640 variant has many mutations, the WHO

classified it as a VUM is to raise the public's awareness.

She reiterated that current Covid-19 vaccines do work against all variants that are circulating and are highly effective against preventing severe diseases and death.

"I think that's really important for the public to know ... when it is your turn, get vaccinated because it's really critical," she said.

Katherine O'Brien, director of the WHO's Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department, said that B.1.640 is not a variant that is increasing in prevalence but is a small fraction of the strains that are circulating.

IANS

Japan to declare Covid quasi-state of emergency in three regions

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will place three prefectures under a quasi-state of emergency on Friday amid a spike in Covid cases stemming from American military personnel based in the prefectures spreading the virus.

Okinawa prefecture, host to the vast majority of US bases in Japan, is expected to be fully put under a quasi-state of emergency, following a record 981 new daily Covid-19 cases being reported on Thursday, reports Xinhua news agency.

The prefectures of Yamaguchi and Hiroshima, meanwhile, will likely see the mandate only applied to certain towns and cities there, with the tougher measures coming into effect from Sunday through January 31. Under the quasi-state of emergency, prefectural officials are empowered to further enhance antiviral measures, including asking eateries to close earlier and bars and restaurants to refrain from serving alcoholic beverages.

Caps on the number of people attending large-scale public events can also be imposed by the Governments, under the quasi-state of emergency. Following consultations with health experts by Government personnel, Parliament will convene on Friday to hear why the more antiviral measures are necessary.

IANS

Taliban ban women from coffee shops

New Delhi: Women and girls without a close male relative accompanying them were banned from entering coffee shops in Afghanistan's Herat province, Raha Press reported.

Sheikh Azizi ur Rahman Al-Mohajer, the head of virtue and vice of the Taliban office in Herat, said from now on playing music and women and girls without a 'mahram' (relative) are forbidden, the report said.

He said criminals are also not allowed in coffee shops. According to him, most securities, kidnappings, robberies and destructive actions can be planned in such coffee shops.

"The coffee shop owners are warned if any instruction violations are reported, they will be faced with legal actions," Al-Mohajer said, adding that coffee shops can be remain open till 9.30 p.m.

According to him, these coffee shops serve as a convenient place for most of the moral corruption something has misled the youths in Herat.

He emphasised any decree on closing all coffee shops in Herat can be issued from Kabul.

This comes as recently after all mannequins were beheaded as they resembled idols, an instruction from the Taliban government that caused lot of public opposition.

Nearly five months after regaining power, the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice has reclaimed its role as the enforcer of the group's radical interpretation of Islamic law, RFE/RL reported.

In a spate of decrees issued in recent weeks, the Ministry has imposed restrictions on the behaviour, movement, and appearances of residents, particularly those of women and girls. While the militants have claimed the decrees are only recommendations, Taliban religious police have enforced the new laws, sometimes violently, in many areas.

Many Afghans have voiced their anger at the Taliban's religious policing, saying it is a

tool for humiliating citizens and controlling every aspect of their lives.

For Afghans, the decrees are reminiscent of the draconian rules the Taliban imposed during its brutal rule from 1996 to 2001.

Obaidullah Baheer, a Kabul-based academic, said by forcing its own interpretation of Sharia law upon Afghans, the Taliban is "locking out the population from decision-making" and exposing its "tyrannical tendencies", the report added.

Baheer said the Taliban views 'any challenge to (its) policies as a challenge to the faith itself'.

Last month, the Taliban ordered shop owners in the western city of Herat to cut off the heads of mannequins, insisting they were un-Islamic.

The order angered local shopkeepers, who are already reeling from an economic crisis triggered by the Taliban takeover and the sudden halt in international assistance.

IANS

Biden warns of US peril from Trump's 'dagger' at democracy

Washington: President Joe Biden forcefully blamed Donald Trump and his supporters Thursday for holding a "dagger at the throat of democracy" with election lies that sparked last year's deadly assault on the US Capitol, using the anniversary of the attack to warn that America's system of Government remains under urgent threat.

The president set the tone on a day of remembrance that brought fiery speeches, moments of silence and anguished accounts from lawmakers recalling the terrifying hours of January 6, 2021, when the Trump mob laid siege to the Capitol and rioters tried to stop the routine, ceremonial certification of election results.

Notably, almost no Republicans joined Biden and the Democrats in what some hoped would be a day of reconciliation. Instead, it was a fresh and jarring display of a nation still deeply torn by the lies that led to the riot, by its unsettled aftermath and Trump's persisting grip on a large swath of the country.

"For the first time in our history, a president not just lost

an election, he tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob breached the Capitol," Biden said. "You can't love your country only when you win."

Biden's criticism of the defeated president was rife with condemnation for the assault that has fundamentally changed Congress and the nation, and has raised global concerns about the future of American democracy.

His voice booming at times, reverberating in the ornate Statuary Hall where rioters had laid siege, the president called on Americans to remember what they saw January 6 with their own eyes: the mob attacking police and breaking windows, a Confederate flag inside the Capitol, gallows erected outside amid calls to hang the vice president - all while Trump sat at the White House watching on TV. "The former president's supporters are trying to rewrite history," Biden said, incredulous. "They want you to see Election Day as the day of insurrection and the riot that took place here on January 6".

AP

Iran displays missiles amid N talks with world powers

Dubai: Iran put three ballistic missiles on display at an outdoor prayer esplanade in central Tehran on Friday, as talks in Vienna aimed at reviving Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers flounder.

The missiles, known as Dezful, Qiam and Zolfaghar and with official ranges of up to 1000-km (620 miles), were already-known models, the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said.

Diplomats from countries that remain in the 2015 nuclear deal - Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China - are working with Tehran to revive the accord, which had sought to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for trade.

American diplomats are present in Vienna but they are not in direct talks with Iranians. The accord collapsed in 2018 when then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. And re-imposed sanctions on Iran.

AP



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

पृ.सं. 32

e-Tender Notice

Rto: 07.01.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Gen) Chibro Power House, Chibro invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No 25e/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22 for " SITC of Mulsifier System with all accessories including dismantling at Chibro Power House.
Estimated cost:- Rs. 1,96,43,458/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website:-10.01.2022 from 11:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website:-01.02.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

EE (Gen), CHP



उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
लेन नं.-1, तरुण विहार, मोपरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001
Phone No/Fax: 0135-2671940, E-mail:- eemds@ujsl.redifmail.com

Letter No. 4013/E-Tender Notice/2021-22 Date: 07.01.2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING CORRIGENDUM

इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं. 3996/ई-निविदा सूचना/2021-2022 दिनांक 06.01.2022 से आमंत्रित निविदा में बिड सं. 04 में अंकित Construction of Bhugtar Water Supply Scheme Construction of Clear Water Reservoir, Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & Providing of House Hold Connection etc Complete में निम्न विवरणानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

Bid No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion of works
04	Construction of Masak Water Supply Scheme Construction of Clear Water Reservoir, Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & Providing of House Hold Connection etc Complete	182400.00	₹ 4000.00 + GST	12 months

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा के अनुसार यथावत रहेंगे।

"जल संवय-जीवन संवय"

Executive Engineer

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: NS-92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043; Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com;
Website: <http://www.superiorfinlease.com>; Phone No.: +91-9953798335

NOTICE
(For the attention of Shareholders of Superior Finlease Limited)
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and the approval of the Members of the Company at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on December 29, 2021, the Company has fixed Saturday, January 15, 2022 as the "Record Date" for determining the eligible shareholders of the Company, who will be entitled for the equity shares of the company in the pre decided split ratio i.e. One (1) equity share of face value of Rs. 10/- each will be subdivided/split into Ten (10) equity shares of face value of Rs. 1/- each.
Upon Subdivision of Equity Shares, in case the Equity Shares are held in physical form, the old share certificate(s) of face value of Rs. 10/- each will stand cancelled on the record date and the Members are requested to Dematerialize their Shareholding in order to claim shares on the Record date in proportion to their existing shareholding i.e. before subdivision to their demat account directly. In case the Equity Shares are held in dematerialized form, the sub-divided Equity Shares will be directly credited to the shareholder's demat account on the record date in lieu of their existing Equity Shares.
[The above mentioned information will also be available on the Company's website <http://www.superiorfinlease.com/> and also on the website of BSE Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com/> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.mseil.in/> where the shares of the company are listed.

For Superior Finlease Limited


Sd/-

Disha Rani

(Company Secretary)

Date : January 07, 2022

Place : New Delhi



Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-18774)

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-194/2021-22/PO(M)


Dated: 07-01-2022

Chief Engineer/ Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading, Analysis and 1 year O&M of 114 no. Power Quality Meters complying to IEC 61000-4-30 class A. For detailed NIT and tender specification, Please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07-01-2022 from 12:30 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/641/2021/12297

C-16/22



Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Mobile : 96461-07205)

E-Tender Enq. No. 353/P-1/ EMP-W-11901

Dated: 05-01-2022

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2022_POWER_81238_1 for Disposal of 06 LMTPA of Wet Ash (Pond Ash only) at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07-01-2022 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/635/2021/12248

RTP-01/22



NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

NALCO Bhawan, Plot No-P/1, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha
(CIN : L27203OR1981GO100920)
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
TRANSFER OF EQUITY SHARES TO INVESTOR EDUCATION & PROTECTION FUND
This Notice is published pursuant to Sec. 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, effective 7th September, 2016, as amended from time to time.
The Rules, inter-alia, provide for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed by the shareholders for seven consecutive years, to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF), set up by the Central Government. The Company is in the process of sending individual communications to those shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF under the said Rules at their latest available addresses. The Company has uploaded the details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF on its website at www.nalcoindia.com. Shareholders are requested to refer to the Investor Services page on the website to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF.
Notice is hereby given to all such shareholders to make application to the Company's Registrar (M/s. KFin Technologies Private Limited) by 18.04.2022 with a request to claim their unpaid Interim Dividend for the year 2014-15 onwards so that the shares are not transferred to the IEPF. If may please be noted that if no claim is made by 18.04.2022, the Company will be compelled to transfer the shares to the IEPF, without any further notice.
It may also be noted that the shares transferred to IEPF, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. For any clarification on the matter, please contact the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agents: Shri G.Ramdas, Manager, M/s. KFin Technologies Private Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032; Toll Free No.-18003094001; email: enwardr.ris@kfintech.com; website: <https://www.kfintech.com>.

For National Aluminium Company Limited

Sd/-

(N.K. MOHANTY)

GGM & COMPANY SECRETARY

Place : Bhubaneswar

Date : 07/01/2022

davp 26111/12/002/2122



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358, V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Telephone:- 0135-2763672-76, Fax: 0135-2760289, Website : www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (Tender Specification No. CCP-I/56/2021-2022)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun invites e-tender for Works under Uttarakhand Transmission Strengthening and Distribution Improvement Program (UTSDIP) with financial support of M/s.ADB on turnkey basis as detailed below :

Sl. No.	Component Description	Package	Lot	Cost of Work Including GST & Labour Cess (in ₹ Cr.)	Minimum average annual Turn Over (MAAT) for best three years out of last five financial years (in ₹ Cr.)	Earnest Money (in ₹ Cr.)	Cost of Tender Document Including GST (in ₹)	Last Date & Time of Online request for Tender and Submission of tender in Online & Offline mode	Date of Opening of bid Part-I in Online and Offline mode
1.	Underground Cabling and Strengthening of Electrical Distribution Network in Dehradun City.	A	1	221.04	221.04	2.22	29,500.00	26.2.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.	26.2.2022 at 15:30 Hrs.
			2	184.34	184.34	1.85	29,500.00	26.2.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.	26.2.2022 at 15:45 Hrs.
			3	148.45	148.45	1.49	29,500.00	26.2.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.	26.2.2022 at 16:00 Hrs.
2.	Construction of New Sub-Stations and their associated lines and augmentation of capacity of existing 33/11 KV Sub-Stations under Garhwal Region.	B	4	30.86	30.86	0.31	29,500.00	26.2.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.	26.2.2022 at 16:15 Hrs.
			5	20.36	20.36	0.21	29,500.00	26.2.2022 upto 11:00 Hrs.	26.2.2022 at 16:30 Hrs.

Date & time of Prebid conference in online mode is 28.1.2022 at 11.30 Hrs.

The Project is proposed to be funded by Asian Development Bank.
For further details, please visit the website www.uktenders.gov.in
No.: 30/EE(CM)/UJPL/A-2 Dated : 06.01.2022

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use L.E.D. Bulb Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)

"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org." (For information on Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4165 / Fax No. 0135-2760311)

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

CORPORATE (C&P-I)

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Sipi W/o Mr. Virender Singh who is purchasing the Third Floor, With Roof Rights, Built on Property No.1559, Back Side Portion, Out of Khasra No-93, Gali No.13, Situated at Govind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 from Mrs. Rimal Jit Kaur W/o Mr. Jagmohan Singh and Mrs. Veena Rani alias Veena Thakral W/o Mr. Parshotam Thakral who was owner through Sale Deed dated 27.05.2019, Doc. No. 2932 and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.
Lucem Legal LLP
Office No G-03, at Ground Floor,
on Plot No.D-61, Sector-2, Noida, UP 201301
Contact # 0120-4130438

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. ManojNagi and Smt. ShailjaNagi had entered into Agreement for purchase of Freehold builtup Property bearing No. 41, area measuring 150 Sq.Yards, out of Khasra No. 574, situated in the area of Village Tinar, Colony known as Gopal Nagar, Fateh Nagar, New Delhi from Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Sethi and Original Sale Deed dated 28.11.1984 in favour of Mr. Shrikuljit Singh Sethi has been lost/misplaced and my client is mortgaging the said property with LIC Housing Finance Ltd. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, persons, relative has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, than our client shall procure that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear.
Karnail Singh, Advocate, K-8, Basement, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

FM reviews PSBs' readiness to tackle disruption

Asks banks to support Covid-affected sectors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Markets return to winning ways, post weekly gains

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rupee gains 8 paise to close at 74.34 against US dollar

Mumbai: The Indian rupee eked out 8 paise gains to close at 74.34 against the US dollar on Friday, helped by weaker greenback against key rivals and positive domestic equities. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.41 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.25 and finally ended the day at 74.34, registering a gain of 8 paise from its previous close of 74.42.

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

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

Assam Govt, NDDB signs MoU for holistic dairy development

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sarma said that the target of this joint venture will be to cre-

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

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

TCS Board to consider buyback proposal on Jan 12

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ICICI Bank now facilitates online payment of customs duty

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

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

Sitharaman reviews progress on planned mega LIC IPO

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

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

"Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman reviewed progress of the LIC IPO in New Delhi today in presence of @SecyDIPAM; Secretary @DFS_India and Senior Officials@LICIndiaForever and @FinMinIndia via VC," the finance ministry tweeted. LIC IPO is crucial for meeting the ₹1.75-lakh crore disinvestment target set for current fiscal (April-March). So far this fiscal, ₹9,330 crore has been

mopped up through PSU disinvestment. The government in September last year appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd to manage the mega IPO of the country's largest insurer LIC. Other selected bankers include SBI Capital Market Ltd, JM Financial Ltd, Axis Capital Ltd, BofA Securities, J.P. Morgan India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd.

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

Forex reserves down by USD 1.466 bn to USD 633.614 bn

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

HDB Financial Services Limited					
Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaksmi, Mumbai - 400034 Tel No.: +91 22 49116300					
FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS					
The borrower/s (s) whose details are provided in the table herein below, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded / complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower/s (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower/s (s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on 13-01-2022 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-					
S. No.	Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
1	12080762	Amit Kumar	07/08/2020	124947	Delhi NCR-Burari
2	12850598	Aarti Sharma	19/10/2020	35681	Delhi NCR-Burari
3	13798079	Ramnarayan Singh	06/01/2021	4300	Delhi NCR-Burari
4	8675207	Raj Kumar	28/08/2019	8595	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
5	12191419	Lalit Grover	18/08/2020	33910	Delhi-Anand Parbat
6	13340268	Jaswant Singh	24/11/2020	47663	Delhi-Anand Parbat
7	12579638	Gyanti Devi	24/09/2020	6278	Delhi-Badarpur
8	7082880	Pushpa Devi	30/03/2019	7663	Delhi-Bhajanpura
9	12521263	Yogesh Ramesh	18/09/2020	221190	Delhi-Chandni Chowk
10	11712096	Rahul Kumar	28/06/2020	5885	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
11	12294135	Neetu Rameshwar Tiwari	28/08/2020	12202	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
12	12329632	Vikas Chauhan	08/09/2020	98455	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
13	9751842	Virender Pal	21/11/2019	8373	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
14	13017848	Hari Chand	02/11/2020	6501	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
15	13664367	Ujjayant Anwar	26/12/2020	11312	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
16	14790819	Govind Pandey	26/03/2021	18720	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
17	2822550	Jagannath Kaushal	12/07/2017	12717.4	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
18	14648186	Praveen Kumar	17/03/2021	12550	Delhi-Hari Nagar
19	15831604	Pankaj Kumar Jain	29/06/2021	41360	Delhi-Jagatpuri
20	12495593	Manish Singla	16/09/2020	18720	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
21	14055805	Rashid Khan	27/01/2021	27420	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
22	12270555	Pranod Kumar Gupta	26/08/2020	137700	Delhi-Karol Bagh
23	13151595	Abhishek Chaturvedi	13/11/2020	6092	Delhi-Karol Bagh
24	12609646	Mohd Asad	28/09/2020	27713	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
25	14210563	Raj Kumar	16/02/2021	12724	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
26	8104426	Lokender Sharma	03/07/2019	25260	Delhi-Keshavpuram
27	13508297	Nadeem Alam Khan	10/12/2020	13800	Delhi-Lajpat Nagar
28	13050458	Madan Bhardwaj	10/12/2020	6780	Delhi-Madipur
29	12054683	Yashpal Chaudhary	06/08/2020	14110	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
30	12156607	Mukul Ishwar	14/08/2020	45884	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
31	11876633	Renu Ram Dass	16/07/2020	4868	Delhi-Mayapuri
32	4137777	P C Rana	31/03/2018	3096	Delhi-Nai Sadak
33	11496621	Amit Kumar	05/06/2020	12655	Delhi-Nai Sadak
34	12468359	Anil Kumar	15/09/2020	5948	Delhi-Nai Sadak
35	12736699	Sourav Arora	09/10/2020	6876	Delhi-Nai Sadak
36	14549919	Amit Kumar	09/03/2021	19345	Delhi-Nai Sadak
37	14550222	Amit Kumar	09/03/2021	12935	Delhi-Nai Sadak
38	14661363	Sharda G	18/03/2021	97784	Delhi-Nai Sadak
39	6250616	Satyender Kumar	03/01/2019	29610	Delhi-Nangloi
40	15009262	Amandeep Joshi	09/02/2021	6930	Delhi-Nangloi
41	11661371	Yashpal Mann	22/06/2020	46991	Delhi-Narela
42	16573872	Mosin K.	28/07/2021	9765	Delhi-Patel Nagar
43	14431793	Rahul Gohar	27/02/2021	11536	Delhi-Patel Nagar
44	16193355	Pawan Kumar Verma	13/07/2021	5495	Delhi-Patel Nagar
45	11899610	Krishna Sharma	18/07/2020	8730	Delhi-Rohini
46	13914550	Radhey Shyam	15/01/2021	7232	Delhi-Rohini
47	16972689	Mohd Zahid	17/08/2021	5555	Delhi-Sadar
48	12259569	Sunder Lal	26/08/2020	11196	Delhi-Sadar
49	12897501	Rakesh Kumar Gola	22/10/2020	30780	Delhi-Sadar
50	13339870	Mohd Anwar	23/11/2020	17660	Delhi-Sadar
51	14402091	Najmul Huda	25/02/2021	13006	Delhi-Sadar
52	16301036	Narendra Prasad	17/07/2021	26145	Delhi-Shahdara
53	12654827	Rita Chaudhary	08/10/2020	5495	Delhi-Shahdara
54	14210563	Amay Sharma	09/02/2021	6930	Delhi-Shahdara
55	13747704	Ram Nath	31/12/2020	7674	Delhi-Tilak Nagar
56	10188191	Avanish Singh	31/12/2019	40656	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
57	10837586	Ashutosh Kumar	10/02/2020	20429	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
58	14086996	Manita Kumuchand	30/01/2021	11809	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
59	14087853	Sunil Kumar	31/01/2021	49694	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
60	14192603	Kumod Laxmi	10/02/2021	6475	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
61	14799849	Vijay Gupta	27/03/2021	6848	Delhi-Uttam Nagar

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

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

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

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sunita GPA Holder Has acquired Built up Ground Floor, First Floor with roof right, Property bearing No. 11, area measuring 100 sq. yds., Khasra no. 19/15 & 19/16, situated in the area of Village Hastals, F-Block, Colony Vikas Nagar, Ullam Nagar, New Delhi-110059Vide Regd., GPA, ATS & Will dated 11/10/2006, executed by Mr. Ramesh Singh, GPA registered as Doc No. 23875 with SRO- I Janakpuri and Now Mrs. Sunita is intending to sell the above said property/Floorsto Sh. Pradeep vide Two Separate Sale Deeds. Further Sh. Pradeep is mortgaging the above said property/floors with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Unit Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD- ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

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

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station Jagat Puri, Delhi
Ph: 011-22420364, 7065036023

DP/690/SHD/22

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is here by informed that this boy (depicted in the photo) namely: **Prince S/o Firoz R/o Urdu Park, Meena Bazaar, Jama Masjid, Delhi**, has been missing/ kidnapped from his house from the area of P.S.

A PASSION PURSUIT

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

Choudhry has worked both in TV shows and OTT. On the same, she says, "In TV shows, everything is going at such a fast pace that you don't really have time. Nothing is easy in TV, you have to be in character, no matter how tired you are.

Also, I feel that roles in TV are hard to play. In OTT, I have had the time and space to get into the characters' shoes and feel their emotions. We don't really speed in 10 scenes a day in a web series. You have time to prepare for it but in TV, it doesn't work like that. So, it works for some people, sometimes it does not work for some people but I like taking an adequate time in preparing. I think web shows do better for me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pandemic ready

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

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

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

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



Celebrating achievements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Acing against the odds

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

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

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



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

A sneak peak

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

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

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

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



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

thing they will have to wait and watch.

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

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

The ultimate li'l master

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

AP ■ SYDNEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nathan Lyon eventually ended the 128-run partnership by trapping

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

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



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

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

the off stump but not dislodged the bail.

Shortly after raising his half-century off 80 balls, Bairstow was struck by a ball from Cummins (2-68) to reduce England to 173-6 and in danger of not avoiding the follow-on target of 218.

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

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

But Bairstow and Mark Wood

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

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

resumed at 13 without loss in a rain delayed session.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ SYDNEY

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

duction of a possible new law.

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

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

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

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

The iconic leg-spinner Warner said in jest that the point needs to be debated.

"Interesting point & one to debate my friend. I will take this to the world cricket committee for discussion & come back to you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

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

Speaking to media after

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

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

around that," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ COLOMBO

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

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

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



"The latest decision was taken following a request made by the three players to Sri Lanka Cricket to lift the ban

imposed on them, pursuant to the conclusion of the LPL 2021.

"Based on such request, SLC obtained a report from the

Kaif, Binny added to Indian team for LLC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

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

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

"The team has backed

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

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

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

India was without the ser-



vices of regular skipper Virat Kohli who was ruled out of the

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

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

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

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

was also critical of the Indian fielding.

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

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

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

The duo put up a fiery fight

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

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

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

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

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

DJOKOVIC SPENDS RELIGIOUS DAY IN DETENTION

AP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Look, I definitely believe in tak-

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

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

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

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

Kashyap out for 6 weeks due to calf muscle injury



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Commonwealth Games Champion shuttler Pratima Kashyap says he will have to “reassess his training” after being ruled out for six weeks due to a recent calf muscle injury.

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

“I played Hyderabad Open, and I got injured in the first round, just when I was feeling really good but it seems I wasn't good enough for

the match,” a disappointed Kashyap told PTI.

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

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

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

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

The injury means Kashyap will not be able to participate in the three events in the country, starting with the India Open Super 500.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Even during his ongoing training camp in Russia, he looked for a coach



but noone is willing to come to India, according to the 27-year-old.

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

Bajrang did not elaborate why the foreign coaches are unwilling to come to India. “I don't understand what their issue is in comig to India?”

Asked who he wants to train with, the two-time World medallist said he

is yet to finalise a name.

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

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

Deepak Punia had a Russian coach Murad Gaidarov to help him till the Tokyo Olympics but he was sacked after his ugly scuffle with one of the Games official after the Indian wrestler lost his bronze play-off.



PSG relying on Mbappe's scoring ahead of Lyon game

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

Lyon dominated for spells and often gives PSG a hard game at home.

Lyon sits in a lowly 13th place, but PSG's form has been patchy. For although Mauricio Pochettino's side reached the mid-season break with a 13-point lead it was far tougher than it looks.

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

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

The star of France's 2018 World Cup triumph has nine

goals and eight assists in the league. He is maintaining the superb form he showed throughout last season, when he netted a career-high 42 goals in all competitions.

No wonder PSG is desperate for Mbappe to sign a new contract and not leave for free at the end of the season.

But while Pochettino wants to see what Mbappe decides, he can be pleased with what else he saw against Vannes: the impressive performances from 18-year-old midfielders Xavi Simons and Edouard Michut.

Simons made good runs and stood out with his technical poise and dribbling ability. He combined astutely with European Championship winner Marco Verratti to set up Mbappe's second goal against Vannes.

Although Simons is Dutch, he has a Spanish-sounding first name.

Perhaps it's no coincidence. For while Simons was emerging through the youth ranks at Spanish giant Barcelona, Xavi Hernandez ruled midfield during its glory era under coach Pep Guardiola and alongside Messi. Simons joined PSG two years ago and looks a major talent.

He has more pace and athleticism than the slender Frenchman Michut, who displayed poise on the ball and a slick technique.

Pochettino gave them both a chance and they took it.

Previous PSG coaches have been criticized for overlooking young talents at the club and letting them go too soon. Leading a long list of players are Bayern Munich star winger Kingsley Coman and Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot, who both played for France at Euro 2020.

Bolstered by Valskis return, Chennaiyin look to sail past Goa

PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

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

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

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

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

Placed sixth in the points table, Chennaiyin have 14 points in their kitty from nine games and with a win on Saturday, they can end the first half of the season inside the top-four.

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

Koman has become the club's mid-

Chennaiyin snapped a two-game losing run to script a win over Jamshedpur FC, riding on luck at times. The former champions were bolstered by return of Valskis from Jamshedpur. Lithuanian forward Valskis had donned Chennaiyin colours in his first season in India. He scored 15 goals for the club in the 2019-20 season, winning the ISL Golden Boot and reaching the final



field orchestrator since his arrival this season.

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

For FC Goa, their performance against Kerala Blasters showed character and head coach Derrick Pereira can draw a lot of heart from that display.

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

against Kerala Blasters.

He has 10 goals and 12 assists in 79 Hero ISL appearances. What he brings to the Goa team is his ability to control games, dictate the tempo and offer passing options to teammates.

“We have a good side. I think we don't need any more reinforcements.

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

Former FIFA referee Suvarna is dead

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Madhav G Suvarna, a former FIFA referee and AIFF & AFC match commissioner, has died. He was 78.

Suvarna passed away on Thursday evening after a brief illness and is survived by wife, two sons and a daughter, according to information received.

A Bombay Referees' Association member, Suvarna officiated in many prestigious tournaments in India and was later appointed as match commissioner.

He also had the distinction of officiating in several international tournaments. Suvarna also served as honorary secretary of AIFF Referees Board.

He was also a renowned instructor and shared his vast knowledge with the young referees during his tenure.

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

AP ■ ROME

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

First, striker Tammy Abraham stuck out his arm to block a shot that resulted in a penalty for Milan, then defender Roger Ibañez made an errant back pass that was intercepted by Olivier Giroud, which led to the Rossoneri's second goal just 17 minutes in.

Giroud converted the penalty and Junior Messias scored Milan's second on a rebound after Giroud's



effort hit the post.

Abraham then pulled one back for Roma with a deflection but Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan maintained the Rossoneri's advantage with a series of difficult saves.

Milan also hit the goalframe twice, while Roma finished with nine men when Rick Karsdorp and Gianluca Mancini each picked up their second yellow cards — which will mean they'll be suspended for Sunday's game against Juventus.

With Roma down to 10 men, Rafael Leao restored Milan's two-goal advantage after being set up with a chested pass from fellow substitute Zlatan Ibrahimovic to sprint

in alone toward goal. Ibrahimovic then had a penalty attempt saved by Rui Patricio. Mourinho questioned decisions by referee Daniele Chiffi and VAR official Gianluca Aureliano.

“Our quality level on the pitch was very low,” Mourinho said.

“But I don't understand what Chiffi did on the pitch and what Aureliano did as the VAR. Maybe (Aureliano) wanted to be on the pitch whereas he should have stayed where he was, in his office, and drunk a tear or a beer so as not to become the protagonist.”

The match at the San Siro was one of only six of 10 matches that was played following a two-week

break, with four games scrapped because of rising coronavirus cases. Milan moved within one point of Serie A leader Inter Milan, whose game at Bologna was among postponed after the hosts were ordered into quarantine.

The other games affected were Atalanta vs. Torino, Salernitana vs. Venezia and Fiorentina vs. Udinese. Thursday's matches were held on a national holiday in Italy, the Epiphany. Another full slate of 10 matches is scheduled for Sunday.

Stadium capacities have been reduced from 75% to 50% following a government decree aimed at combating the latest outbreak, and

spectators must now wear FFP2 masks.

THROUGH THE LEGS

Virus-depleted Napoli drew 1-1 at Juventus despite missing five players — plus coach Luciano Spalletti — who tested positive for COVID-19.

Dries Mertens opened the scoring for Napoli with a shot through Alex Sandro's legs then Federico Chiesa equalized with a shot through the legs of Stanislav Lobotka.

Third-place Napoli dropped five points behind Milan while Juventus, which had captain Giorgio Chiellini out positive with the coronavirus, remained fifth.