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Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.32 Issue 11
* Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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**KOHLI LONE
RANGER IN
SA MATCH**
12 SPORT

Tall OBC leader Maurya quits Yogi Cabinet, BJP

4 BJP MLAs too resign, all set to join Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a major setback for the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh, State Cabinet Minister for Labour, Employment, and Coordination Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet along with four party MLAs here on Tuesday.

They are all set to join the Samajwadi Party.

Maurya, a tall OBC leader representing the numerically dominant Kushwahas, had joined the BJP in 2017 after quitting the BSP, where he was second to Mayawati.

"I am now resigning from the UP Cabinet in the wake of severe discrimination and neglect of the poor, farmers, marginalised, unemployed in the State," Maurya said in his resignation letter to Governor Anandi Ben Patel, which was released to the Press.

He further said in his letter, "I tried my best to work for the welfare of people in UP despite ideological differences with the BJP."

Maurya's exit, days ahead of seven-phase State election, starting February 10, spells trouble for the BJP which seeks to appeal to all other backward classes and therefore exercise control to the damage. Sources claim that senior BJP leaders are in touch with Maurya.

Maurya has so far denied he has joined the Samajwadi Party. "I will let you know about my future plans within a



Former UP Minister Swami Prasad Maurya joins the Samajwadi Party in the presence of the party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Tuesday. PTI

Mayawati not to contest UP polls

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati will not contest the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, party general secretary SC Misra said here on Tuesday.

Misra said he too will not contest the Assembly elections, which will be held in seven phases starting on February 10. Since elections are being held in five States, including Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, the BSP president will not contest the polls and help party candidates win, he said. Later, he said, "The decision of the party for now is that Mayawati ji and I will not fight Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. However, future decisions will be taken by Mayawati ji herself."

Mayawati is neither a legislator nor an MP. Misra is a Rajya Sabha member.

All private offices shut in Delhi, to follow work from home mode

National Capital sees 21,259 Covid cases, 10% spike from previous day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All private offices in Delhi will remain closed except those granted exemption, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) said on Tuesday. The private offices, which were till now operating with 50 per cent workforce, have been asked to follow work from home (WFH) practice.

"DDMA directs that in the territory of NCT of Delhi (outside containment zones), the following additional activities shall also be prohibited/restricted with immediate effect till further orders: (i) All private offices shall be closed, except those which are falling under the 'exempted category'. The practice of work from home shall be followed. (ii) All restaurants and bars shall be closed. However, restaurants will be allowed only for home delivery/takeaway of food items," the DDMA notification read.

On Tuesday, Delhi reported 21,259 cases of coronavirus, a ten per cent increase from

What is allowed in Delhi?

- ☞ All private offices shall follow the work from home practice and will remain closed. Only offices under the "exempted category" will be allowed to remain open.
- ☞ All restaurants and bars will remain closed for dine-in. However, restaurants will be allowed for home delivery or takeaway of food items.
- ☞ Movement of pregnant women and patients seeking medical/health services along with an attendant allowed.
- ☞ Individuals going for Covid-19 testing or vaccination will be allowed to move with valid proof.
- ☞ People going to/from the

- airport, railway station will be allowed to travel with a valid proof of ticket.
- ☞ Movement of electronic and print media people on production of valid ID cards is allowed. Students shall be allowed to appear in the examination hall on the production of valid admit cards.
- ☞ Movement of individuals for marriage-related gatherings up to 20 people.
- ☞ Delhi Metro to operate with 100% capacity with no standing passengers.
- ☞ Movement of Government officials/officers and PSUs

- allowed on the production of valid ID cards.
- ☞ All private medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff are allowed to move with the production of valid ID cards.
- ☞ Officers/officials functioning in the offices of diplomats of various countries as well as persons holding any constitutional post are allowed to move with valid ID cards.
- ☞ Movement of person for the essential goods and services or "exempted category" shall be allowed during night/weekend curfew with possession of e-pass.

Molnupiravir not to be included in Covid treatment

New Delhi: The ICMR's National Task Force for Covid-19 has decided against including antiviral drug Molnupiravir in the Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19 as of now, official sources said on Tuesday.

The experts of the task force cited safety concerns and argued that Molnupiravir was not of much benefit in Covid treatment to arrive at the decision in a meeting held on Monday.

Lata Mangeshkar, tests +ve for Covid

Mumbai: Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has tested positive for Covid-19 with mild symptoms and is undergoing treatment at a city hospital here, her niece said on Tuesday.

The 92-year-old veteran, also known as the Nightingale of India, was admitted to the ICU of Breach Candy hospital in south Mumbai two days ago. "She is mild COVID positive. Considering her age, doctors advised us that she should be in the ICU because she requires constant care," said Mangeshkar's niece Rachna.

NC will fight UP polls in ties with SP: Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar said here on Tuesday that his party would contest the forthcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur and indicated that in UP, the NCP would have an alliance with the Samajwadi Party.

Addressing a news conference here, Pawar said the NCP would contest the Assembly polls in alliance with the like-minded parties in three of the five States between February and early March.

"In Uttar Pradesh, we intend to be a part of the SP-led alliance. In Goa, our talks are on with the Congress and the Trinamool Congress. In Manipur, we will have an alliance with the Congress," Pawar said.

The NCP chief said he would attend a joint meeting of the like-minded party called by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav at Lucknow on Wednesday. "In UP, the SP, NCP and smaller parties will form an alliance to contest the Assembly polls. I have discussed with the SP leaders the seats we would contest in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Pawar said the people wanted "change" in Uttar Pradesh and the public mood in that State was for showing the door to the BJP. "People want a change in UP. And there will be definitely parivartan in



UP," he said.

Slamming Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's statement that it was 80:20 situation in UP — where "80 per cent people are with BJP and 20 per cent are against it", Pawar said it did not behoove well for the Chief Minister to seek division of the people on religious lines and to hurt the sentiments of the minority community there. "People in UP there are not happy with the communal politics practised by the BJP. The BJP is trying to polarise the UP on communal lines ahead of the polls. I am confident that the voters there will give a befitting reply to this," the NCP chief said.

Alluding to the abrupt exit of UP Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya from the BJP to join the SP, Pawar said "this is just the beginning" and he anticipated 13 more MLA and other supporters would join the SP in the coming days.

"The BJP can expect more jolts in the run-up to the Assembly polls there," he said. Pawar said in Goa, NCP leader Praful Patel, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut are talking with local Congress leaders there. **Continued on Page 2**

50% Europeans to get positive for Omicron in 2 mths: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sounding a dire warning, the World Health Organization has said that more than half the Europe's population will be infected with the Omicron variant of coronavirus in the next two months.

Speaking at a Press conference, WHO's Europe Director Hans Kluge said the region had recorded more than 7 million new cases in the first week of 2022. He said more than 1 per cent of the population was catching Covid-19 each week in 26 countries.

Kluge said the variant had been reported in 50 of the Europe region's 53 States and was becoming dominant in Western Europe. He said that at this rate, more than 50 per cent of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks.

"At this rate, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) forecasts that more than 50 per cent of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks," Kluge told reporters.



People wait in a line of vehicles at drive in Covid-19 test centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on Tuesday. AP

According to the WHO, 26 of those countries reported that over one per cent of their populations were "catching Covid-19 each week" as of January 10, and that the region had seen over seven million new virus cases reported in the first week of 2022 alone.

Referencing data collected over the last few weeks, Kluge said the variant was confirmed

CAPSULE

INDIA'S OLDEST SLOTH BEAR GULABO DIES

Bhopal: India's oldest sloth bear, fondly named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal, an official said on Tuesday.

WOMEN HAVE RIGHT TO SAY NO TO SEX: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday wondered how the dignity of a married and unmarried women can be differentiated and asserted that irrespective of their marital status, every woman has the right to say 'no' to a non-consensual sexual act. The High Court said the rationale and the thrust is that a relationship cannot be put on different pedestal as a woman remains a woman.

NARSINGHANAND CHARGED IN 3 FIRS

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday said that charge sheets have been filed in all the three FIRs registered against Dasna Devi temple priest Swami Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Hindu women. A purported video clip of the priest has been circulating on social media.

ITR filing deadline for corporates till Mar 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday extended till March 15 the deadline for corporates to file Income Tax returns for the fiscal ending March 2021.

The deadline to file tax audit report and transfer pricing audit report for 2020-21 fiscal too has been extended till February 15.

This is the third extension given to corporates for filing the income tax return for 2020-21 fiscal. The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31, and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a state-

ment said that on consideration of difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders due to Covid and in electronic filing of various reports of audit, it has decided to further extend the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns and various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2021-22 (2020-21 fiscal).

The extended deadline for filing ITR for corporates is now March 15, and the tax audit report is February 15, 2022.

The last date for filing 2020-21 ITRs without penalty for individual taxpayers ended on December 31, 2021, and nearly 5.89 crore ITR was filed by the due date. **Continued on Page 2**

Desi supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a step towards maintaining operational readiness, India on Tuesday successfully test-fired the indigenously designed and manufactured Brahmos supersonic cruise missile. It was a validation test of the naval variant of the missile jointly manufactured by Russia and India.

The missile was fired from a stealth guided-missile destroyer, officials said here. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said the missile hit the designated target "precisely".

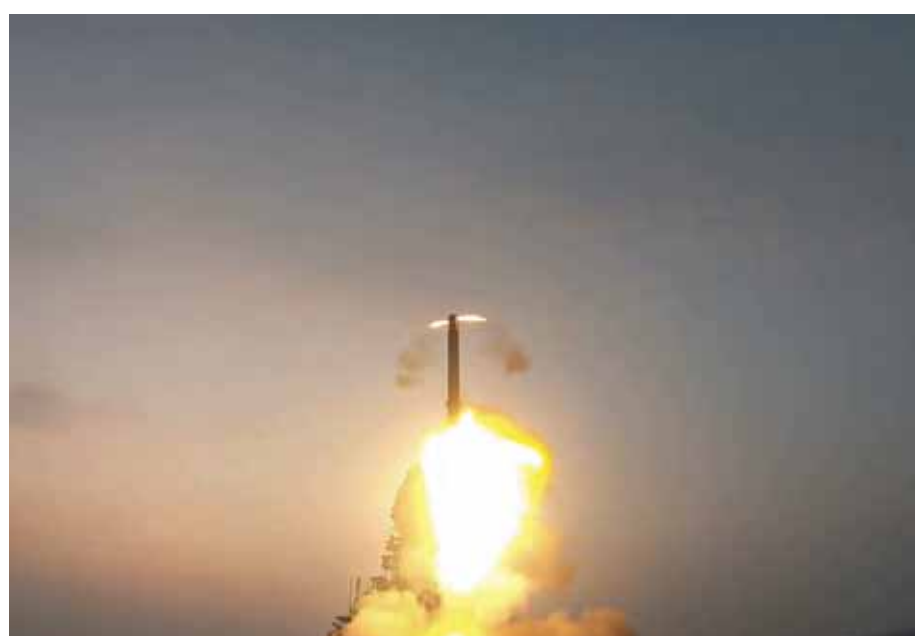
"Advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile was tested from INS Visakhapatnam today. The missile hit the designated target ship precisely," the DRDO tweeted. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the successful

launch of the missile reconfirmed the robustness of the Indian Navy's "mission readiness".

"The robustness of @indianavy mission readiness is reconfirmed today after successful launch of the advanced version of BrahMos Missile from INS Vishakhapatnam today. I congratulate the wonderful team work of @indianavy @DRDO_India & @BrahMosMissile," he tweeted.

BrahMos Aerospace, the first India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The Army and Navy have already inducted the highly versatile missile. Given the effectiveness of



The advanced sea to sea variant of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile being tested from INS Visakhapatnam. PTI

the missile capable of hitting targets at a range of more than 350 kms, operational commanders have deployed the Brahmos at various critical points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China.

The DRDO also successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) on Tuesday.

The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, fire and forget missile and is launched from a man-portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight. The missile impacted the designated target and destroyed it. The final impact event was captured on camera and the test has validated the minimum range successfully. The present test was to prove the consistent performance for the minimum range. **Continued on Page 2**

SC extends limitation date for filing cases to Feb 28 amid fresh Covid wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has restored its earlier order to extend the limitation period till February 28 for filing cases before judicial and quasi-judicial fora in view of the alarming surge in Covid-19 cases across the country.

A special bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices L Nageswara Rao and Surya Kant, which had agreed to extend the limitation period during the hearing, relaxed it in its order uploaded on the apex court website late Monday night.

The order said that the relaxation in the statutory time period has been given after

"taking into consideration the arguments advanced by learned counsel and the impact of the surge of the virus on public health and adversities faced by litigants in the prevailing conditions". The order also gave details of the statutory time periods which would now be available to the litigants for filing court cases.

The application for extending time was filed by the Advocate on Records Association. Attorney General KK Venugopal supported the plea and urged the bench to accept it saying the time extension of the limitation period had ended on October 2 last year and can be extended after that date.

Virtual campaign adds new flavour to UP polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The result date of 2022 UP Assembly elections has suddenly become the fulcrum of the poll campaign blitz for every major political outfit in the poll-bound state.

'Dus March' has become the buzzword around which leaders of most parties have launched their campaigns on digital and social media adding a new flavour to this edition of the State elections. Digital posters have some themes in common - all parties are claiming to form the government on that date and messages are being conveyed in a very creative manner.

A Samajwadi Party campaign reads: "Dus March, UP recharge (with Akhilesh's face dominating the poster)." Another SP digital poster says: "Dus March ko aa raha hoon, 300 unit free bijli laa raha hoon (I am coming on March

10 with 300 units free electricity). Samajwadi Party spokesman IP Singh shared a digital poster on his twitter handle that reads: "Dus March, Yogi saaf (Yogi will be wiped out on March 10)."

On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party digital poster says: "Dus March, phir Yogi-raaj (Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's rule again from March 10)." The poster depicts Yogi Adityanath among a large crowd. Another BJP poster reads: "Raaj tilak ki karo taiyaari, Dus March ko phir aa rahey hain bhagwadhaari (Prepare for coronation as the saffron-clad are returning on March 10)."

Not to be left behind, the Congress' digital poster with a picture of party's national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi reads: "Dus March...hoga mahilaon ki jeet, UP mein shuru hogi nai reet (women will win on March 10 and harbinger

new tradition).

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) shared a poster of its national president Jayant Chaudhary that reads: "10 March...taarikh tay ho gai hai...ku-shaasan ka hoga ant, su-shaasan lekar aayenge Jayant (Jayant will bring in good governance, the bad governance will end on March 10)."

These digital posters are shared extensively by political parties, their leaders, cadres and supporters on the social media.

Congress leader Amarnath Agarwal explained, "We have no option but to rely on this digital campaign as the Election Commission of India has banned political rallies, public meetings, yatras and nukkad sabhas till January 15. It has also prohibited publicity through hoardings or wall writings and hence we are left with this mode of campaigning."

Priyanka slams Yogi for 80% vs 20% remark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ahead of the UP assembly elections, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Tuesday, hit out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his '80 per cent versus 20 per cent' remark. She also urged the youth to make the elections about issues such as employment and education and not about casteism.

Attacking the chief minister over his remark, Priyanka Vadra on Tuesday claimed that it was an attempt to divert attention from the real issues of the youth.

"Making such remarks is cheating the youths of the state just to divert their attention from the main issues like providing jobs, education etc. The reality is that 68 out of 100 people have no work during the tenure of the Bharatiya Janata Party government," Priyanka Vadra alleged.

Appealing to youth to ignore Yogi Adityanath's claims,

Priyanka appealed to them to take into consideration issues like employment, education etc. instead of giving importance to those spreading hatred among different communities. Earlier, Yogi Adityanath had called the elections in Uttar Pradesh an "80 versus 20 battle", in his recent comment on a religious divide. The BJP cited the number of votes in the ratio of Hindus and Muslims in UP, where assembly elections will be held next month.

On being asked about the Brahmin votes in UP, in his recent interview with a private news channel, Yogi said "The contest has moved much ahead... The fight is now 80 versus 20."

He added, "Eighty per cent are those who are supporters of nationalism, good governance, and development. Such people will vote for the BJP and those who are against this and supporters of mafias and criminals, anti-farmer and village, such 15-20 people will take a differ-

ent path. So, in this 80-20 fight, it is the lotus that will show the way," the chief minister said in his last interaction.

Meanwhile, Congress MLC Deepak Singh has criticised the BJP leader for violating the Covid protocol and has written a letter to the Election Commission of India, demanding immediate action. Singh attacked the BJP for "putting the lives of people at risk" amid the COVID-19 surge.

"On Monday (BJP in-charge of UP) Radha Mohan Singh held an election meeting with all the office-bearers of the BJP including chief minister, deputy chief ministers, state president, leaders and ministers. On Tuesday, he tested positive for COVID-19. Leaders, who were present in the meeting, instead of isolating themselves, are engaged in public outreach and are putting the lives of people at risk," Singh claimed in the letter sent to the Election Commission on Tuesday.

IGP reviews security situation in Valley ahead of R-Day

Srinagar: Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the general security situation in the valley ahead of the Republic Day celebrations later this month.

Kumar chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir through video conferencing with deputy inspectors general of the various ranges, Senior Superintendents of Police and other officers.

A police spokesman said the IGP was briefed by the officers about the overall security scenarios in their respective areas and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges.

The IGP was also briefed about the security measures and preparations put in place in connection with upcoming Republic Day besides, the measures taken in view of the third COVID-19 wave.

The IGP discussed the initiatives taken for the maintenance of law and order besides anti-terrorist operations in the valley.

Kumar also appreciated them for their commitment towards their duties and contribution in maintenance of law and order and in conducting successful anti-terror operations with no collateral damage.

He emphasised upon them that such efforts and coordination with other forces working on ground should continue to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in the valley.

He directed the officers to make all necessary and required arrangements in connection with 26th January for ensuring peaceful celebrations of the event. Kumar also directed the officers to personally supervise the arrangements required in connection with the event. **PTI**

Goa Min Govind Gaude to join BJP

I respect invitation extended by BJP to join them, says Min

Panaji: Goa Minister and Independent MLA Govind Gaude on Tuesday resigned from the membership of the Assembly and is set to join the BJP.

Gaude, an Independent MLA from Priol, has supported the BJP-led State Government since 2017 and was part of the state cabinets of late Manohar Parrikar and Pramod Sawant.

"I respect the invitation extended by the BJP to join them. I have been with them for the last five years and have worked closely with them," he said.

Gaude was the art and cul-

ture and tribal welfare minister of the coastal State.

"As an Independent, I have realised that there are certain difficulties. When you are in the political party, the organisation is there to back you. Manpower is very important," Gaude said, defending the move.

The legislator said he will be joining the BJP later in the day. "I have decided to join a political party. I have a personal interest because in my constituency, there is no support for any political party other than the BJP," he added. Last month, three sitting MLAs Ravi Naik (Congress), Jayesh Salgaonkar (Goa Forward Party) and Rohan Khaunte (Independent) joined the BJP ahead of the upcoming state Assembly elections, which will be held on February 14. **PTI**



A boatman rows his shikara during sunset as snow covers the ranges, in background, after recent snowfall, at Dal Lake in Srinagar

ITR filing deadline for corporates till..

From Page 1

Nangia & Co LLP Partner Shailesh Kumar said considering the difficulty of taxpayers in light of the fresh surge of COVID cases in the country and also technical glitches being faced in filing Tax Audit Report and other compliances related to filing ITR, the extension of around one month granted by the government to taxpayers for filing their Tax Audit Report and extension of 15 days for cases covered by Transfer Pricing compliances is a welcome move and will grant relief to taxpayers.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the finance ministry has finally accepted the request to allow additional time for taxpayers and audit professionals to complete the tax filings and

it considers difficulties reported by the tax professionals due to COVID.

"This will come as a substantial relief for all the corporate taxpayers. However, no relief has been extended to salaried class individuals and MSME non-auditable non-corporate businesses," Mohan added.

Taxmann DGM Rahul Singh said it should be noted that no relief has been granted from the interest chargeable under section 234A if the tax liability exceeds Rs 1 lakh. Thus, if the self-assessment tax liability of the taxpayer exceeds Rs 1 lakh, he would be liable to pay interest under section 234A from the expiry of the original due dates. **PTI**

Tall...

From Page 1

There were rumours that

many senior BJP legislators might join the Samajwadi Party. The list included Maurya's name, but party leadership preferred to ignore that.

Incidentally, Maurya's daughter Sanghamitra Maurya is BJP Lok Sabha member from Badaun. His son too con-

tested the 2017 polls on BJP ticket from Dalmou in Rae Bareilly, but lost to SP candidate Manoj Kumar Pandey.

Meanwhile, while reacting to the resignation of Maurya, BJP's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya appealed to him to reconsider his decision.

In a tweet Maurya, who is in Delhi to attend the BJP Parliamentary Board meeting on Tuesday said, "Respected Swami Prasad Maurya, for what reasons you have resigned, I do not know. But I appeal to you to sit and talk as such hasty decisions often

prove to be wrong."

After Maurya resigned from the Yogi Ministry, three dissident BJP lawmakers and supporters of Maurya tendered their resignation from the party.

The MLAs, who have put in their papers are Brajesh Prajapati (Tindwari in Banda), Bhagwati Prasad Sagar (Bilhaur in Kannauj), and Roshan Lal Verma (Tilhar in Shahjahanpur), and Vinay Shukla.

"We have sent our resignation in support of Maurya to party high command," Roshan Lal Verma told reporters here

on Tuesday.

Verma said Swami Prasad Maurya is their leader and they will act per his order.

Incidentally, none of them have so far joined the SP as all of them are waiting for Swami Prasad Maurya. "If he joins the SP we will join with him," Verma said.

All the MLAs, who had joined the BJP from BSP before the 2017 Assembly polls, are expected to join the SP now.

BJP MLA from Nanpara in Bahriach Madhuri Verma and Radha Krishna Sharma from Bilsa in Badaun have already joined the SP.

NC will...

From Page 1

"We are holding negotiations with the Congress and Shiv Sena to form an alliance of the Maha Vikas Aghad in Maharashtra," he said, adding that the NCP was also in talks with the Trinamool Congress.

Pawar said in Manipur where the NCP has 4 MLAs, it would forge an alliance with the Congress and contest five seats. Replying to a question, Pawar surmised that the incumbent Congress will return to power

in Punjab. He, however, conceded that if the recent turn of events had anything to go by, even the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP had become a serious contender in the polls in Punjab.

Queried about grand Opposition alliance at the national level for the Lok Sabha polls, Pawar reiterated that the Congress would have to be an integral part of any such opposition front against the BJP.

"However, it is up to the Congress to decide whether to go it alone or join hands with like-minded parties in the Assembly polls," the NCP chief said.

Desi...

From Page 1

All the mission objectives were met. The missile has miniaturised infrared imaging seeker and advanced avionics for onboard control and guidance. The missile performance has been proven for the maximum range in earlier test trials.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO for the consistent performance of the anti-tank missile and said this is an important step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in advanced technology-based defence system development.

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा

अतिअल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना सं०-०७ / २०२१-२२
(2nd Call)

ई-निविदा प्रसंग-RC/D/JAMTARA/43 /21-22 दिनांक 10.01.2022

1	कार्य का नाम	Restoration of Submersible type temporary hume pipe causeway on Rajia River in Rupnarayanpur-Jamtara-Govindpur road (via Pokhariya more) (km 46.54) for the Year 2021-22
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	₹ 169.98870 लाख (एक करोड़ उनहतर लाख अठाने हजार आठ सौ सत्तर रुपये)
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	03 (तीन) महीना
4	ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	25.01.2022 के दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक
5	ई-निविदा का वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	12.01.2022 के अपराह्न 4:30 बजे से
6	ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	कार्यालय अभियंता, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा।
7	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट अधिकारी का संपर्क नं०/मोबाईल नं०	07992269247
8	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का संपर्क सहायता नम्बर	0651-2401010

नोट- प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। निविदा संबंधी अन्य जानकारी <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यालय अभियंता,
PR 261511(Road)21-22*D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd Aslam, S/o. Abdul Razaq Resident of 63/1, 4th floor, Gali No.20, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have declared that My wife's Name is wrongly mentioned in My Passport No K7015443 as Jamsheeda Begum, and her correct and actual Name is Rashida Begum for all future purposes. PD(9134)A

BJP leader arrested in Agra for gang-raping, blackmailing girl

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking case, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Lal Singh, who is also block pramukh of Bah in Khurja, was arrested by the Agra police allegedly for gang-raping a girl and later threatening her with dire consequences.

The cops are now making efforts to arrest the other accused also who are allegedly absconding after learning that a case has been registered against them.

Singh was sent to jail on Tuesday.

The victim was allegedly gang-raped in a hotel in Agra. According to the complaint filed by the victim, she had received a call from an unknown number two months ago and the caller insisted on becoming her friend. He introduced himself as block pramukh Lal Singh and assured her a job as an ASHA worker. He called her to Agra on December 21 and took her to a farm house, where he along with his two friends, Jitendra and Dev, gang-raped her. When the woman raised an

alarm and said that she would file a police complaint against them, Singh threatened her with dire consequences.

The girl alleged that they recorded a video of the rape and threatened to make it viral if she did not cooperate with them. The victim girl told the police that the block chief threatened her when she tried to file a complaint of rape in the farm house. She said that the BJP leader asked her to come and meet him in Agra and when she refused, he sent her objectionable videos and threatened to make them public if she did not contact him.

On Sunday, Lal Singh and two of his accomplices took her to a hotel near Vishal Megamart on Fatehabad road and gang-raped her. She also disclosed that the accused were taking her to some other place on a car and when she objected, she was thrown out of the vehicle in which she was injured.

However, when the police asked the victim girl for information about the hotel, she could not tell anything so the police took her to Fatehabad

road and in the night in search of the hotel. The cops got success as they reached Hotel Amar Yatri Niwas. The victim claimed that it was same hotel where she was gang-raped and later thrown out of the car after giving her life threats.

The cops subsequently checked the visitors' register and found a room booked in Lal Singh's name. The CCTV footage of the hotel also confirmed that Lal Singh and his accomplice were carrying the girl inside.

Circle Officer of Sadar Rajiv Kumar said that many evidence had been found in the investigation. He said the police had come to know about the conversation of both in the call details. Because of this, the mobile of Lal Singh was also seized.

The statement of the victim girl has been recorded. The girl has spoken about threats to her of making her obscene video viral. The video will be extracted from the mobile of the accused. For this the help of Forensic Science Laboratory will be taken.

Order allocating more seats to women struck down by HC

TN Govt issues notification allowing more than 50% seats

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Tuesday struck down a notification of the Tamil Nadu government, which allocated more than 50 per cent of seats to women in the upcoming election to Chennai city local body.

The first bench of Acting Chief Justice M N Bhandari and Justice P D Audikesavalu set aside the notification issued in 2019, while allowing a PIL petition from R Parthiban.

Finding prima facie that the notification violated the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution, the bench set aside the same and directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to restrict

reservation of seats to women in the urban local bodies to 50 per cent only. According to the petitioner, 105 of the 200 seats in the Greater Chennai Corporation had been allocated to women. It amounted to discrimination against men.

The phrase 'not less than 50 per cent' should not be construed to mean reservation for women can be provided even beyond that quantum. The 2019 notification reserved 16 seats for SC/STs and 89 to women in the 'general' category.

Of the total 200 seats, 105 seats had been reserved for women both in SC and general category. As per the 50 per cent reservation for women policy, only 84 seats should have been allotted in general category. In violation of this norm, more seats had been allocated to women, thereby discriminating men, petitioner's senior counsel added. **PTI**

No lockdown: Kejriwal says ready to deal with any Covid situation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst surge in coronavirus cases in the national capital, Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday visited Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan hospital and took stock of preparations.

Kejriwal also said lockdown would not be imposed in Delhi as his Government is fully prepared to deal with any

coronavirus situation. "In the ongoing fight against Corona, I personally visited LNJP Hospital today and took stock of preparations; arrangements for beds, medicines, and oxygen are well in place," he added. Delhi government can prepare 10 to 11 thousand ICU beds as the situation demands; fully prepared to add 37 thousand normal beds too.

Notably, according to CM

Kejriwal out of 136 corona patients admitted to LNJP, only six came treatment, while 130 came for other diseases and were also found to be Corona infected during the tests. "People came mostly for Corona treatment during the April wave, but the number of such people this time is very low," Kejriwal said, "situation forcing us to impose restrictions; if restrictions are



imposed, employment is hampered; if restrictions are not imposed, then people's lives and health are jeopardized. "I want to reassure the people of Delhi that we will remove the restrictions as soon as possible and try to impose the bare minimum of curbs."

During his visit to LNJP and interaction with doctors there, Kejriwal said that he came to the hospital to take

stock of Covid -19 preparations.

"In my opinion, is the best hospital in the country, having treated the highest number of patients successfully yet. More than 22,000 patients have returned home after receiving treatment at this facility. As a matter of fact, this is the only hospital in New Delhi that has never turned away a pregnant lady. There

have been over 700 successful deliveries here. There are excellent arrangements for Covid patients who require gynaecological care. Neonatal care is also fully arranged for, so the newborn children of Covid-affected mothers are also properly taken care of. The cases of deliveries are referred here from all around Delhi and the surrounding areas. Many of the instances

come from outside of Delhi as well."

Talking about ICUs, he added, "We are fully prepared. We have the ability to extend up to 37 thousand beds if necessary. Our 37000-bed capacity has yet to be utilised. If necessary, we may prepare 10000-11000 ICUs in Delhi by preparing 37000 beds. However, there isn't much of a need for that right now."

One held for selling SIMs without papers in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's flying squad has arrested a man for allegedly selling activated mobile SIMs to foreign nationals and others without required documents from Sector-51 of Gurugram, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused was identified as Ravinder Singh alias Sameer (38) a native of Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh who was currently residing in village Wazirabad of Gurugram.

According to the CM flying squad salutes, they received credible information that a man standing in front of Artemis Hospital, in Sector-51 was selling activated mobile SIM cards to foreign nationals and other people for just Rs 600 to 800 without required documents.

Following this the team led by Inderjeet Singh Yadav DSP, CM flying squad conduct a raid



in front of the hospital on Monday and nabbed the accused and found the activated SIM cards, inactivated SIM and documents from his possession.

Police seized 14 activated SIM cards of Vodafone, 20 mobiles, 52 inactivated SIM, one motorcycle and Rs 18,500.

The accused disclosed before the police that with the help of his companions identified as Zamir and Lalit he used to activate the SIM on unknown persons and later sell them to foreigners and others residing in guest houses and

hotels and charge rupees in cash or via online transfer.

"The accused was involved in this illegal work since 2018. During the remand period, we will ascertain that how many SIMs he has sold to whom and from where he gets these SIMs," Yadav said.

A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the accused at Sector-53 police station in Gurugram.

Delhi Govt to start online yoga classes for Covid patients in home isolation



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government from Wednesday will start online yoga and meditation classes for Covid-19 patients in home isolation, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

While addressing a virtual press conference, Kejriwal informed that under the initiative, each COVID patient will be sent a link to register for virtual yoga classes. From Wednesday,

trained instructors will conduct hour-long classes in the morning and evening, he said.

"The Delhi Government is starting a new initiative under 'Delhi ki Yogshaala' for the speedy recovery of all the Covid patients under home isolation. Yoga boosts immunity... We will send them a link today and classes to begin from tomorrow in different batches," CM Kejriwal said. Yoga classes will be conducted from 6 am to 11 am and

4 pm to 7 pm. "Patients can register at any time. However, not more than 15 patients will be allowed in one batch so that the Yoga instructor could focus on each patient and the participants can interact with their instructor individually," Kejriwal added.

Stressing that yoga can help boost immunity, Kejriwal said the Delhi government has made arrangements to conduct online classes for up to 40,000 patients in home isolation.

ED new HQ in Lutyens' Zone ready, waiting for inauguration

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will now have a posh new headquarters in Delhi's Lutyens' zone, which is now ready to be occupied by the probe agency.

The inauguration of the new building can take place in the second week of January, may be on January 14, however, as of now there is no official confirmation.

According to sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can inaugurate the newly constructed building. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will also participate in the inauguration ceremony.

The ED is currently running its office from the fifth and sixth floor of Khan Market's Lok Nayak Bhawan. ED director also runs his office from this building.

Apart from this, the ED has two more offices in Delhi. One is at Jam Nagar, near India Gate where recently Bollywood Actress Aishwarya Rai was questioned. This office is called Intelligence Unit of the ED. Here former finance minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram were also quizzed.

The second office of the ED is at MTNL Building in

front of Delhi's famous Ramlila Ground. Here Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez was quizzed several times. The MTNL building office is known as Delhi Zone office and looks after highly sensitive matter. One Special Director and two Joint Directors of the ED operate from here.

The new headquarters of the ED has been constructed on Vidut Lane which is close to Janpath. The construction began three years ago which has completed now. This building will be the most modern, equipped with all the facilities.

Now all the three offices of the ED will merge and will start functioning from newly constructed headquarters. It will save the time of the agencies as in most of the cases teams have to rush to the other building for work. Former ED director Karnail Singh had written to Directorate of Revenue Intelligent (DRI) that the department needs a new headquarters. After his retirement, ED director Sanjay Kumar Mishra laid the foundation stone of the building. The Covid crisis delayed the construction, otherwise it would have been completed much earlier. IANS

Umar Khalid's counsel not arguing on the basis of law, says prosecution

New Delhi: Responding to the submissions of Umar Khalid's counsel's bail plea in the Delhi riots case, the prosecution on Tuesday said "it is very unfortunate that the plea was referred by web series including 'Family Man' and movie 'Trial of Chicago 7', and did not make arguments on the basis of law".

During the hearing of Khalid's bail application, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Amit Prasad told Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat of Karkardooma Court, that on 17 points of Khalid's counsel, first argument was that he wants his plea to be decided by making reference to the web series.

"People have died. You want media hype and to make headlines," he said.

He also argued that there is a clear criminal conspiracy carried out in secrecy, adding there is a continuation after the crime and clear attempt to cover up. The SPP told the court that conspiracy has to be proved taking into account circumstantial evidence and that the riots were not a spontaneous burst of violence. IANS





On the argument of Umar Khalid's counsel who had said that the Investigating Officer was communal, the SPP pointed out that the first conviction in the riots cases was a person from the Hindu community, and thus it proves that it was not biased against Khalid -- a Muslim.

He was referring to a case in which, it was alleged that on February 25, 2020, a mob of rioters, numbering around 150 to 200, attacked a 73-year-old Muslim woman's house when her family was not present at the house and looted all the domestic articles.

The first convict in the case -- Dinesh Yadav of Bhagirathi Vihar in Gokulpuri in Delhi was arrested on June 8, 2020.

Khalid has been booked for offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the northeast Delhi riots that broke out in 2020. IANS


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Rahul returns from foreign tour, reviews poll plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Facing criticism due to his absence from intense election campaigns due to his fortnight-long visit abroad, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi returned to the country on Monday morning and on Tuesday conducted election-related meetings to review the party's election strategy in Goa, Uttarakhand and Manipur, which go to polls next month along with crucial Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

The grand old party is fighting to wrest power from the BJP in Uttarakhand, Manipur and also eyeing a good number in Uttar Pradesh, while confident to retain power in Punjab. The party's central election committee will also meet soon to finalise the candidates for the assembly elections in the five states while it has already announced some candidates for Goa while it announced the Manifesto and

Campaign committee for Punjab on Tuesday. Rahul had left for abroad during the year end only to return last night after a lot of resentment brewed within the party soon after the dates of the assembly elections were announced by Election Commission on Saturday last. As per his original schedule, AICC sources said that Rahul was to return by this weekend and in between his visit also cost the party the launch of Punjab campaign from Moga which was rescheduled for January 15 and then cancelled as his return was to be delayed. Congress, which has a tie-up with the Goa Forward Party, is also eyeing an alliance with other Opposition parties in the state to ensure its victory. The Trinamool Congress,

which recently took into its fold a number of Congress leaders, had also indicated that all Opposition forces should unite against the BJP particularly in the poll bound Goa where the Congress has put in high stakes. Rahul Gandhi is understood to have discussed the possibility of an alliance with Mamata Banerjee's party in Goa and amid the buzz that the meeting between Rahul and Venugopal discussed the possible tie-up, senior party leader Dinesh R Gundu Rao said, "No alliance or talks with the Trinamool Congress is happening. Despite efforts by the TMC, the Congress has made it clear that the whole approach and attempt of the TMC - right from Day One - in Goa has been negative and aimed at attacking the Congress, instead

of the BJP". Venugopal on his part after the meeting tweeted that his party is "confident - we will put Goa back on the path to progress soon". TMC is one of the fresh entrants in the coastal state where, among other contenders, Arvind Kejriwal's AAP is also trying to win big in the state elections. Mamata who had gone vocal against the Congress a couple of months ago has already tied up with the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) of Sudhin Dhavalikar, a party that the BJP had dumped in 2019, to fight the polls. In the last assembly polls Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 seats in the 40-member house but BJP managed to form the government.

The party also constituted the Punjab Congress Manifesto Committee and Campaign Committee with not very long time ago rebel leader Pratap Singh Bajwa as chairman of the manifesto committee with a total of 19 members including Dr Amar Singh as the convener and Manpreet Badal as the co-chairman. At the same time, Lok Sabha MP Sunil Jakhar has been made the chairman of the campaign committee. It includes a total of 25 leaders in which 21 have been made members. Another Lok Sabha MP Ravneet Singh has been made the convener and Amarpreet Singh Lalli as co-chairman. Voting for all 117 seats in Punjab will be held on February 14 while the counting of votes will take place on March 10 with all the five states.

BJP discusses candidates' list for UP phases 1 & 2, decision by weekend

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst claims of victory in Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, rival political parties are hurrying with the finalisation of list of candidates. The ruling BJP on Tuesday discussed names for the first and second phase which may be released by the middle of this month. The first phase polling, less than a month away, will be in 58 Assembly constituencies, spread over 11 districts on February 10. In the second phase, voting will be held in 55 Assembly seats across nine districts on February 14. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here attended the BJP meeting to speed-up candidates selection as Covid-19 has put further campaigning pressure on the contestants, restricting their campaign in the big state. UP BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh also attended the meeting besides several other leaders with its national president J P Nadda, who has been infected by coronavirus, attending it virtually. Besides, the names given by the state unit, names gathered by the central leadership through different surveys were also reviewed as well.

With the filing of nomination for the first phase of the seven-phase UP polls set to begin from January 14, the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) is likely to meet later this week to finalise the names of candidates, the sources said. After Tuesday's meeting, CEC is expected to be convened on January 13, and the names of the candidates will be confirmed at this meeting. The announcement of names for first-phase list is expected to come by February 15 to February 16, according to sources.

UP tops list with 767 unrecognised political parties

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Mushrooming of unrecognised political parties may spoil the game plan of registered political parties in the Assembly polls in five States beginning February 10. As many as 889 unrecognised political parties registered with the Election Commission (EC) in the five States — Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. With 767 unrecognised political parties, Uttar Pradesh is the top in the list, followed by 66 in Punjab, 37 in Uttarakhand, 10 in Goa and

nine in Manipur. In India, a total of 2,858 political parties registered with the poll body. Of them, 2,796 or 97.83 per cent of registered political parties are unrecognised parties. Interestingly, the majority of them have not filed their audit reports to the EC so far. According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the annual audit reports of 10.69 per cent or 82 out of 767 parties of Uttar Pradesh, 9.09 per cent or 6 out of 66 parties of Punjab and 5.41 per cent or 2 parties of 37 parties of Uttarakhand are available in the public domain.

Of the 2796 registered unrecognised parties, 270 have submitted their audit or contribution report for the year 2019-20. Of the 270, audit details of 40 parties are not available in the public domain. Interestingly, there are some parties in this list which spent more than their income. The Jan Raajya Party of UP declared the highest income of Rs 338.01 lakhs while the total expenditure declared by the party was Rs 332.16 lakhs in 2019-20. Anarakshit Samaj Party and Apna Dal (Soneylal) of UP declared the second (Rs 157.68

lakhs) and the third highest income (Rs 76.05 lakhs) during this period. Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a state party or those which have never contested in elections since being registered are considered unrecognised parties. The number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased more than twice in the last 10 years. From 1112 parties in 2010, the number has spiked to 2,301 in 2019 and now in 2021, the

number rose to 2,858. It is important to note that the number of such parties increases disproportionately during the year of Parliamentary elections especially. Between 2018 and 2019, it increased by over 9.8% while between 2013 and 2014, it increased by 18 per cent. The poll body has earlier proposed to the Law Ministry that it should be empowered to act in cases where a political party may not have contested elections for years but may be enjoying income-tax exemption on donations. The last time the EC made a move in

this direction was in 1999, when it put 200 parties on notice as they had not contested any elections for a while. Of these, there are seven national-level parties, over 50 state parties and the remaining are unrecognised. It is estimated that not more than 400-500 parties contest polls. To be counted as a recognised, a political party should have got a minimum percentage of valid votes or certain number of seats in the state legislative assembly, or the Lok Sabha, during the last election.



BJP slams Cong over Bhandari's claims against Thales arms firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Charging with a direct link between arm's dealer Sanjay Bhandari and Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi and Robert Vadra, the BJP on Tuesday accused the 'Gandhi family' of facilitating commissions in the fighter jet upgrade deal in 2011. "Kahin bhi bhraastachar hai Congress ka taar hai," quipped BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia. Quoting media reports, the BJP spokesperson said Bhandari, a close friend of Robert Vadra, has filed a lawsuit in London. In this lawsuit, Bhandari himself has admitted that in 2011, he and a Thales company, which works to upgrade fighter aircraft, had an agreement and Rs 170 crore bribe was to be received and out of this Rs 75 crore he has got it, said BJP leader. Bhatia said according to Bhandari, he has yet not received the "commission" of Rs 90 to 95 crores. BJP leader asked Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka to "break their silence" on the issue. BJP spokesperson said that, all these people know that under the BJP Government whatever defense deals were done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi there was a deal between the Government and the Government. The culture of commission was made during the time of Congress, he alleged. Bhandari, who is wanted in India for violating the Official Secrets Act, is currently seeking asylum in the United Kingdom.

Higher educational institutions have potential to nurture Indian innovation: Union Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Education, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, said on Tuesday our higher educational institutions have enormous potential to serve as enablers in the Indian innovation and start-up ecosystem and thus the vision of "AatmaNirbhar Bharat" can be achieved by supportive ecosystem and dedication and efforts of our innovators and entrepreneurs. "India of tomorrow should merge the best of our tradition with the best of the modern global outlook. Our country has one of the largest higher education systems and the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world. We strive to be a knowledge-based economy and this is not possible without innovative spirit and Entrepreneurship within our educational institutions," he said. Singh was addressing an e-symposium on "Building Innovation Ecosystem In Educational Institutes". The Minister urged the education-

al institutions in India to shift their mind-set and create an environment that supports high-quality research, innovation, and entrepreneurship leading to commercialization and technology transfer. He congratulated the 75 start-ups who were identified by the Ministry of Education as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration. "The start-ups received funding support up to Rs 10 lakhs each and moreover mentoring and incubation support will also be provided in collaboration with partnering agencies," he said. K Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Department of Higher Education said that in India currently we have 2500 Innovation Cell and an additional 5000 Cell will be added in the future. "50,000 teachers under the ambassador program are being trained which will bring huge transformation in the education sector. This is a culture of innovation and these type of events motivate the youth to come forward and showcase new ideas and capabilities," Murthy said.

India backs Beijing Winter Olympics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has decided not to boycott Beijing Winter Olympics diplomatically in line with the Government's neighbourhood first policy. The decision comes despite a host of NGOs (non-governmental organisations) pressing the Centre to boycott the Beijing Olympics. Mostly, the NGOs linked to Tibetan cause or those backing the Tibetan issue were opposed to New Delhi backing Beijing on the

Beijing Olympics. The diplomatic corps was also said to be aligned with the NGOs backing opposition to the sporting extravaganza being held in Beijing in February this year. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, post-consultations with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, took the bold decision to not oppose the Winter Olympics being hosted by China at the diplomatic level despite backing opposition to the Beijing Olympics by the

external affairs ministry, top sources said here on Tuesday. Observers here said the decision is premised on treating neighbours differently which is the core of New Delhi's geostrategic positioning based on neighbourhood first policy. "If Government of India had taken the move to oppose the Beijing Olympics and effectively added up to the embarrassment of China, New Delhi would have created an avenue to invite embarrassment to

New Delhi," said an expert on China who did not wish to be quoted. China is already facing opposition to the prestigious sporting event by the US and European Union over state-sponsored atrocities against Uyghurs in Xinjiang province and Tibetans in Tibet. However, Russia has backed the Beijing Winter Olympics beginning February 4. The Atal Behari Vajpayee government that had wholesomely emphasized the impor-

ance of maintaining good neighbourly relations would have also taken a similar decision, another expert said. Amid the already strained ties between New Delhi and Beijing following the aggressive Galwan incident in May 2020 and subsequent anti-India propaganda warfare being orchestrated by China, the latest move could lead to an opportunity for resetting the ties between the two Asian giants, the sources added.

India sees slight decline in fresh Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday registered 1,68,063 new Covid-19 cases and 277 related deaths even as the country's active count mounted to 8,21,446, data from the Union Ministry of Health showed. The daily positivity rate stood at 10.64 per cent. The Omicron tally, meanwhile, has reached 4,461, with Maharashtra reporting the highest number of cases (1,247), followed by Rajasthan

(645) and Delhi (546). Amid rising cases, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya interacted with 120 health experts from across the country through video conferencing and discussed the current Covid-19 situation. The Minister listened to their suggestions and gave related instructions. In a tweet, Mandaviya said, we will work together to fight against Corona. Cases in the country are

surging with each passing day. Kerala on Tuesday reported an alarming rise in daily Covid-19 cases. The state recorded 9,066 new Covid-19 cases, 2064 recoveries, and 19 deaths in the last 24 hours. The test positivity rate in Kerala rose to 14 per cent from 5 per cent over the last week. Kerala also reported 296 deaths which took the total fatalities in the state over the 50,000 mark to 50,053, according to a government release. Maharashtra's Mumbai reported 11,647 new Covid-19 cases and two deaths, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said in a health bulletin. The active cases in the city rose to 1,00,523. On

Monday, Mumbai had reported 13,648 new infections. Meanwhile, Dharavi on Tuesday witnessed a sharp decline in newly reported Covid-19 cases while Delhi has reported 21,259 fresh Covid-19 cases and 23 deaths, as the positivity rate climbed to 25.65 per cent. A total of 19,166 cases and 17 deaths were recorded in the national capital on Monday. An official from the Ministry said that 9.68 lakh people from three priority groups — the elderly with comorbidities, healthcare workers, and frontline workers — were administered the third dose across the country on the first day of the rollout.

'Molnupiravir should not be given to people of reproductive age'

New Delhi: Dr NK Arora, Chairman of Covid-19 Working Group of NTAGI, on Tuesday said that Molnupiravir, an anti-viral Covid-19 pill, should not be given to people of the reproductive age. He added that the drug can be given to senior citizens, particularly those with comorbidities, to reduce the chance of hospitalisation and severe illness. He also stated that irrational use of the pill can be dangerous. Dr Balram Bhargava, ICMR Chief has already expressed his reservation about the drug efficacy saying that World Health Organisation and the U.K. have not included it for treatment. Bhargava said last week that Covid antiviral drug Molnupiravir has major safety concerns and has not been included in the national protocol for treatment of coronavirus. PNS

Necessary arrangements being made for Budget session: OM Birla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a growing number of Covid cases in the country, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said necessary arrangements for the upcoming Budget session of Parliament are being made to enable members of Parliament perform their constitutional responsibilities. He also asserted that the "situation is under control" and all steps are being taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Birla inspected the Parliament House complex during the day to take stock of the health safety related measures and other preparations put in place in light of the recent spike in Covid cases in the country. Sources said 65 employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 200 of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and 133 of allied services tested positive for Covid-19 between January 4 and 8 during regular tests.

Birla visited the Covid testing facility set up in Parliament House Annex for the MPs, officers and staff of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats and reviewed the preparations there. Reviewing the testing and medical facilities at the Parliament House complex, Birla directed the officials to immediately address any requirements of members and officials that were felt necessary. He also directed officials concerned to put in place all precautionary measures to check

the pandemic and keep track of positive cases. Speaking to doctors at the medical centre, Birla took stock of facilities available and directed that all additional resources may be made available on priority. Birla said he has directed officials to take special care of MPs above the age of 60 years and attend to their requirements in a proactive manner. Though the dates have not yet been announced, the Budget Session usually begins at the end of January.



Breastfeeding reduces mothers' risk of heart disease and stroke

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The health benefits of breastfeeding for babies are well known. In fact, breastfeeding also has been linked to maternal health benefits, including lower risk for Type 2 diabetes, ovarian cancer and breast cancer. Now, a meta-analysis published in Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA), an open access, peer-reviewed journal of the American Heart Association study has said that women who breastfeed were less likely to develop heart disease or a stroke, or die from cardiovascular disease than women who

did not breastfeed. The review included health records for nearly 1.2 million women (average age 25 at first birth) and analyzed the relationship between breastfeeding and the mother's individual cardiovascular risk. The special issue, JAHA Spotlight on Pregnancy and Its Impact on Maternal and Offspring Cardiovascular Health, includes about a dozen research articles exploring various cardiovascular considerations during pregnancy for mother and child. "Previous studies have investigated the association between breastfeeding and the risk of cardiovascular disease in



the mother; however, the findings were inconsistent on the strength of the association and, specifically, the relationship

between different durations of breastfeeding and cardiovascular disease risk. "Therefore, it was important to systematically review the available literature and mathematically combine all of the evidence on this topic," said senior author Peter Willeit, professor of clinical epidemiology at the Medical University of Innsbruck in Innsbruck, Austria. Researchers reviewed health information from eight studies conducted between 1986 and 2009 in Australia, China, Norway, Japan and the US and one multinational study. "We collected information,

for instance, on how long women had breastfed during their lifetime, the number of births, age at first birth and whether women had a heart attack or a stroke later in life or not," said first author Lena Tschiederer, a postdoctoral researcher at the Medical University of Innsbruck. The review found that compared to women who never breastfed, women who reported breastfeeding during their lifetime had a 11% decreased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Also, over an average follow-up period of 10 years, women who breastfed at some time in their life were 14% less likely to

develop coronary heart disease; 12% less likely to suffer strokes; and 17% less likely to die from cardiovascular disease. Despite recommendations to breastfeed by organizations including the WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), both of which recommend babies are breastfed exclusively through at least six months of age, only 1 in 4 infants receives only breastmilk for the first six months of life. Commenting on the study outcome, Dr Arun Gupta, a pediatrician working to improve breastfeeding in India said that benefits of breastfeeding for infants and moth-

ers are already well known. "Mothers should be made aware about these benefits so that they know it is beneficial to both of them." He said that to encourage breastfeeding, his organization Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNi) recently joined hands with Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI) to launch 'National Accreditation Center for Breastfeeding Friendly Hospitals'. The tag will be given to only those maternity hospitals which are found to provide the best environment to mothers and newborn babies, said Dr Gupta.



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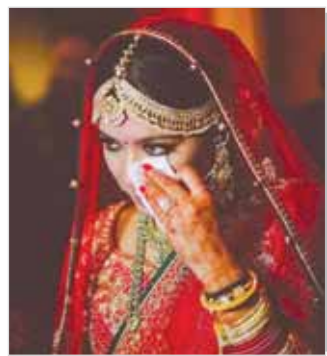
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Knotty affair

Women must have the right to not consent to any abuse, not just sexual, within marriage

The Delhi High Court is at present hearing several petitions filed way back in 2018 seeking to criminalise sex without consent in marriage as 'marital rape'. Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code deals with rape. The colonial-era provision has an Exception 2 that says sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape. There is a longstanding demand to criminalise all marital rape but the Union Government says that doing away with Exception 2 could destroy the institution of marriage. The Delhi High Court made some introductory remarks during Monday's hearing on the petitions. They are thought-provoking. One, the protection husbands get under Exception 2 may have to do with a "qualitative difference" between marital and non-marital relationships. Here goes the explanation: In a marriage, unlike in a live-in relationship, a spouse has an 'expectation' and 'to an extent a legal right' to sexual relations with the partner. If it (sex) is denied, it can lead to civil consequences and can also lead to divorce. Two, where a couple is unmarried and the man insists on having sex, it becomes a matter of force because he is not exercising any right legally due to him. However, in marriage, the man exercises what he believes to be the conjugal right. Three, even though there is no compromise with a woman's right to sexual and bodily integrity, and the husband has no business to compel, (but) "the court can't ignore what happens when we knock it (Exception 2) off".



The entire controversy springs from the assumption that marriage gives conjugal rights to the husband. Sex is not the determining factor of a relationship between a man and a woman, whether through marriage or an informal relationship. A woman's right to dignity and bodily autonomy and the right of choice are far superior, and tangible, to any supposed right the husband may assume that his relationship with the woman gives him. Just as the relationship dries up if the partners are drained of mutual trust and affection, sex between them depends on the consent of both partners and definitely of the woman. The age of the wife does not matter at all because the woman's dignity and choice, not her age, are important. What follows is, any social sanction that belittles and ignores the woman's right of choice and consent in matters of sex, harms, not just the woman's rights but all relationships — formal or otherwise. We must remind ourselves — to help us look at the big picture — that women are often dehumanised in marriage for dowry, for failure to give birth to a son, for not respecting her in-laws and many more such "sins". Should they also be the victims in the most intimate of relationships with their 'legal' partners? Women should necessarily have the right to not consent to any abuse, not just sexual, within marriage.

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PICTALK



A boatman rows his shikara during sunset at the Dal Lake, in Srinagar

PTI

Scary

The third wave may peak in Delhi and Mumbai later this week, say experts

Believing our hopes and prayers, experts now say that COVID-19's third wave may peak in Delhi and Mumbai, which are already in the severe grip of the virus and its mutants, in four-five days' time. The peak could cover the entire nation by January end and the country could see four to eight lakh cases every day. According to IIT Kanpur professor Manindra Agrawal, who is also the lead of the Government-backed Sutra Model that tracks and mathematically predicts the spread of the virus, Delhi will witness 50,000 to 60,000 daily cases as compared to 30,000 in Mumbai during the peak period. Meanwhile, assessing the Capital's preparedness in its fight against Coronavirus, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the LNJP Hospital and lauded the facility as "the country's best hospital, having treated more than 22,000 patients so far". Appealing to people not to press the panic button as "very few cases are getting hospitalised", he had on Sunday said there was no plan to impose a lockdown "as of now" and that it won't even be needed if people wore masks. The CM clarified that his Government's attempt was to impose "minimum restrictions" so that livelihoods are not affected.



However, the city's problems seem to be far from over; it recorded 21,259 new COVID cases with a positivity rate of 25.65 per cent on Tuesday. The AAP Government is facing resentment from hoteliers and restaurateurs as well, who'd better be kept on its right side since, following ordering the closure of restaurants/bars and allowing only takeaway facility, most people ordering food indoors will rely on the hotel and delivery staff by a big measure. The Government had earlier hastily announced certain restrictions, including operating Metro trains and buses at 50 per cent seating capacity, which led to serpentine queues outside the stations. As there was a simultaneous spurt in Coronavirus cases, especially those caused by the lesser deadly but highly transmissible Omicron variant, the Government, in its wisdom, decided to shorten the waiting time (time spent in proximity of one another) in these queues and therefore allowed the buses/train coaches to again operate with full seating capacity. Now how does that help the cause of curbing the spread of the virus, is anybody's guess. Such knee-jerk reactions and decisions are actually scaring the citizens, rather than motivating them in the fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its rapid mutations.

The legacy of truly martial Wellington

Dotted with four unmissable landmarks — the Madras Regimental Centre, DSSC, Wellington Gymkhana Club and Stavka, it is steeped in rich history



ASHOK K MEHTA

Wellington (in the Nilgiris, not New Zealand) derives its name from the famous Duke who earned his spurs in campaigns he fought in India. The place has four unmissable landmarks: Madras Regimental Centre (MRC), Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington Gymkhana Club (WGC) and Stavka. Here is a snapshot of each.

The MRC is housed around Wellington Barracks, renamed Srinagesh Barracks after the former Army chief and first Indian Colonel of the Regiment. The first military unit to occupy Wellington Barracks was the 74th Highlanders in 1860. The barracks design is unique, a blend of Napoleonic and Prussian styles. The tunnel entrance through the Assaye Gate leads to a quadrangle of barracks and virtually into an amphitheatre, giving the recruit the sense of a gladiator, walking into a vast space filled with sunshine. The work done to enhance the military splendour and the environment of MRC is breathtaking — courtesy cumulative efforts of Commandants, including incumbent Brig Rajeshwar Singh.

'Namaskaram' is the salutation of the Thambi, owing its origin to the Madras Native Infantry which is the oldest infantry regiment of the Army though the Punjab Regiment claims a march ahead. The Thambi, the Madras Regiment, now recruits from Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and, of course, Tamil Nadu. Among its famous pre-Independence battles is the epic at Assaye during Second Anglo-Maratha War in September 1803. A number of Madras Native Infantry units fought fearlessly and, though outnumbered, Maj Gen Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, spearheaded the victory. "Winning the Assaye battle was more difficult than Waterloo in 1915," he ruminated.

The Madras Regiment's post-Independence tally of battle and theatre honours is staggering. More than once, it has been adjudged the best marching contingent at the Republic Day parade. The *pièce de résistance* of MRC is its grand war museum, one of the best in the country. It is state-of-the-art and imaginatively laid out into nine hexagonal and two linear galleries covering every facet of Amar Thambi: From early history to the Hall of Fame. One can spend hours inside but do ask for the mobile Thambi encyclopaedia, Maj Navjot Dhaliwal, to enrich your tour.

Defence Services Staff College: 'To War With Wisdom', surrounded by symbolic owls, is the DSSC motto. It is a superbly laid out real estate, perfectly conducive to placing well-rounded heads on square shoulders. Tamilselvam, worlds apart from LTTE's political czar, manages the well-stocked Officers' Mess bar. It is here that a just arrived Air Force Gp Capt is greeted by an older Army Colonel Directing Staff with: "Haven't we met before?" Short pause. "We were in NDA, no?" guffawed the Gp Capt. They were meeting after 20 years; such is the



magic of India's premier triservice academy. The DSSC is the second stage of jointness and integration before the third step into the ultimate institute of cross-learning, National Defence College, New Delhi. The aesthetic makeover of the college, coupled with transformational restructuring of the syllabus, makes it a truly unified institution. Majors and equivalent ranks in the other two services are equipped here to take up higher Command and Staff appointments. The DSSC imprimatur is a young officer's open sesame to higher rank and responsibility. All things being equal, the clincher is: "Has the officer done Staff College?"

Wellington Gymkhana Club: Built in 1863 for British civil and military officers, the idea of the meter gauge railway from Mettupalayam to Ootacamund with Wellington as one of its stops was born in the club's Gun Bar over cherry brandy between two wise owls. Tennis and squash courts, a croquet course and the challenging golf course trespassing the Staff College are in play. The Par 3 Fifth hole is



STAVKA, WHICH IN RUSSIAN MEANS HIGH COMMAND, IS PERCHED ON A HILLSIDE AND IS THE RESIDENCE OF SAM AND SILLOO MANEKSHAW, WHO SETTLED THERE AFTER THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE TO MAKE SAM THE CDS/MEMBER UPSC NEVER MATERIALISED

From the large verandah, a peek is possible of the dome of DSSC which Sam commanded. An original Maruti 800 and a Sunbeam Talbot are functional. The Manekshaws settled into Stavka after the Government's promise to make Sam CDS/Member UPSC never materialised.

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as notorious for Hole in One as balls lost in crisscrossing streams. Little has changed in the geography and architecture of the Club except the Perch recently constructed to touch the fir and pine trees engulfing the club. In the 1960s, waiters used to address the clientele as 'Master'. Today, it's become 'saab/Sir'.

The 'beware of dogs' sign is misleading as the three canines along with three Gorkha housekeepers are extraordinarily friendly. Last month, a bear commandeered the Gurungs' rations, even opening their refrigerator to remove mango juice. They laughed: "Our rum is safe." On another occasion, a leopard was seated regally on the roof of the Gorkha out-house. Even 'Aayo Gorkhali' did not help. The Manekshaws settled into Stavka after the Government's promise to make Sam CDS/Member UPSC never materialised.

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(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CELEBRATING VIVEKANANDA'S LEGACY

Sir — Swami Vivekananda, one of India's greatest leaders and believers in youth power, whose birthday on January 12 (born 1863) is celebrated every year in India as National Youth Day, was an ardent disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He pushed for national integration in colonial India, and his most famous speech remains the one that he gave in Chicago in 1893. It was the Union Government's decision in 1984 to celebrate Swami Vivekananda's birthday every year as the National Youth Day, to encourage the nation's youth to become better persons and contribute to national development. After the historic speech in Chicago, Vivekananda has become a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India, though to him, Hinduism is not a religion but a spiritual way of life. Is this 'lynchistan' India ready to accept his sane advice: "We must have friendship for all; we must be merciful towards those who are in misery; when people are happy, we ought to be happy; and to the wicked we must be indifferent?" It's heartening that PM Narendra Modi quotes Vivekananda all too frequently.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

PROMISES OF FREEBIES AN IDIOCY

Sir — The promises of freebies in the manifestoes of political parties while facing elections are common. As per a report, the commonly promised freebies have been listed as laptops/tablets, grinders/mixers, fans, gold coins, cash transfer, land, constructed houses, cash for unemployed youngsters and livestock. Of course, since a manifesto is a document of promises, these should be in respect of what the party will do if elected to power, not for announcing freebies and luring voters. Taxpayers' money should be utilised to provide free healthcare, continuous water and power supply, laying of good roads, construction of bridges and other such purposes for public good.

Akhilesh Yadav recently promised 300 units of free electricity to all households and laptops to youth and students if his party was voted to power. Several other

Exorbitant cinema ticket prices



A sincere attempt to fix the MRP of cinema tickets in the State has stirred a hornet's nest. The Government seems to have taken up the issue without any homework. No doubt, cinema exhibitors fleece the public by fixing ticket prices whimsically for every new release. To check this extortion, the Government invoked the Cinematography Act to assert its powers to fix the cinema ticket prices and rates of items

parties have also been promising farm loan waiver, despite several leading experts and committees advising against it for several years now. The Supreme Court observed in 2018 that distribution of freebies of any kind undoubtedly influences people. Truly, such freebies and waiver of loans are draining the nation's economy. If the taxpayers' money is spent on freebies, the voice of taxpayers demanding tax concessions would also make a lot of sense.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

A WELCOME MOVE BY THE SC

Sir — While no proper action has been initiated by the BJP-ruled Uttarakhnad as well as by the Union Government against people who made hate speeches, which sound sinisterly criminal while advocating genocide against the Muslim community at the Haridwar Dharam Sansad, and neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor Home Minister Amit Shah has come forward to admonish the culprits,

in the canteens therein. Accordingly, it issued the GO 35 fixing ticket rate slabs in theatres in urban, semi-urban, municipal and rural areas. It also asked theatre owners not to raise the prices of snacks and other items in their canteens/cafes.

This has upset the owners of about 1,000 theatres in the State and their main grouse is that it is unviable to run the show business at the rates fixed by the Government. At their numerous meetings with the Government, movie producers, directors and theatre owners discussed the issue and tried hard to tell the Government that they should have a free hand. It is a pity that the industry has been divided into camps for and against the Government's proposal. The Government could allow producers to fix the ticket prices if their movies are shot completely (except perhaps songs) in the State. It will generate income for the Government, besides creating jobs and giving a fillip to the film industry's development.

M Somasekhar Prasad | Hyderabad

it is laudable that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear urgently a case filed seeking arrest and trial of the venom spewers. The hate speeches tantamount to an open call for murder of an entire community, which should not be condoned at any cost by the organisations and authorities concerned.

On the other hand, the guilty should be handed out an exemplary punishment. It is an open secret that such righting elements carry on with their criminal acts against the minorities emboldened by the stony silence maintained by the powers that be, who conveniently overlook their duty to bring such criminals to book. One hopes that the apex court would render justice to the hapless Muslim community with a thorough inquiry made into the entire episode.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

On the 12th, I would take part in the 25th National Youth Festival via video conferencing. I ask my young friends to join the programme.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

Under the extremist ideology of the BJP Modi Govt, all religious minorities in India have been targeted with impunity by Hindutva groups.

Pakistan Prime Minister — Imran Khan

People think that he is too khadoos (grumpy), but he is not. He has been a very loving and caring father.

Winner, India's Best Dancer-2 — Saumya Kamble

You have to understand that in sports, sometimes things do not go the way you want them to go.

Indian cricketer — Virat Kohli

Let there be no lapses in our preparedness as we battle this surge of the pandemic.

Union Health Minister — Mansukh Mandaviya



FIRST COLUMN

ISSUES OF TELANGANA BIFURCATION

Apart from new projects in AP, distribution of assets and liabilities is pending for 7 years



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

Andhra Pradesh is hopeful of getting a solution for the bifurcation issues pending for seven years at the January 12 meeting of the Union Home Secretary has called with Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The pending deliberations started afresh after the meeting in Tirupati last November at the Southern Zonal Conference presided over by Home Minister Amit Shah. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy once again presented his case before Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his latest meeting in Delhi on January 3. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has convened the meeting with the Chief Secretaries through video conferencing in view of the Coronavirus pandemic to discuss on disputes regarding Schedule IX and X institutions as well as apportionment of Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi between the two States among other pending issues. Though TDP Government headed by N.Chandrababu Naidu ruled the residual state



of Andhra Pradesh after the bifurcation in 2014, bifurcation issues were never resolved despite TDP being part of the Modi Government for quite a while. Moreover, Naidu played a spectator's role when the demand for Special Category Status (SCS) was raised. The Andhra CM also met his Telangana counterpart, K.Chandrasekhara Rao to discuss the pending inter-state issues. Reddy had extended a 'friendly hand' to Rao within days of becoming the Chief Minister by handing over all government buildings in Hyderabad including Secretariat and Legislative Assembly buildings to the Telangana state government. Chandrababu Naidu had refused to do that till 2019 even after shifting the AP administration to Amaravati in 2016. This is the first time after seven years since the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh into two states that the Union Government is taking interest to find solutions to the pending issues. The Andhra CM submitted a detailed note to the PM that includes the chief issues. A key issue is the renewal of approvals of site clearances for the greenfield international airport at Bhogapuram that would help in development of Visakhapatnam and its surrounding areas. Another is setting up an Integrated Steel Plant in YSR Kadapa District. MECON, a Government of India undertaking, has not yet concluded the feasibility report. That needs to be expedited. The delay by the Telangana Government in releasing power dues to AP is another niggling issue. An amount of ₹6,284 crore is receivable by Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) from the Telangana State Distribution Utilities and Telangana. The DISCOMs have recognized the amount as payables but are yet to make the actual payment. At the Tirupati meeting, the Andhra CM had pointed out to the Centre: "There is a need for an action plan to resolve inter - state issues with specific timelines." Referring to the challenges of Andhra Pradesh, he explained how the State had 'lost significantly' on account of its bifurcation. "The per capita income in Telangana after bifurcation in 2015-16 was ₹15,454 while in Andhra Pradesh it was only at ₹8,979. This shows how the State has lost due to the bifurcation." Distribution of assets and liabilities of common institutions listed under Schedule IX, X of the bifurcation Act, mostly located in Hyderabad, are also pending with both states fighting cases in courts. There are 107 institutions listed under Schedule X, of which 97 are located in Telangana State, mostly in Hyderabad, it being the capital of undivided Andhra Pradesh. There are another 89 institutions listed under Schedule IX of the AP Reorganisation Act. Against this background the AP Government is hopeful that the Centre will find solutions to the major bifurcation issues that have been pending for all these years.

(The writer is Advisor, National Media and Inter State Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Are libraries becoming irrelevant today?

'The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man', said poet-essayist TS Eliot



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Libraries are temples of knowledge, where innovative minds are created. Many reform movements across the globe have roots in libraries. Since the early 16th century India had a good number of libraries across the country. The Saraswathi Mahal library, started by Nayak Kings of Tanjavur as a Royal Library, was established in the 16th century and is considered as one of the oldest libraries not only in India but in of whole Asia. Encyclopaedia Britannica mentions this library as the "most remarkable library of India".

The beginning of the public library systems in India dates back as early as 1910. Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III, Maharaja of Baroda, pioneered the development of the Public Library System in India. It is mind-boggling to learn that even a century ago the Maharaja arranged the purchase of a photostat camera and a camera projector. He started Library Associations from Taluk level, organized 'Mitra Mandal' in town and village libraries, and organized regular library conferences. Mobile library service was organized to cater to the book need in remote villages.

Library as a movement was started in 1972 with the establishment of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) by the Ministry of Culture. The year 1972 was declared as International Book Year with the slogan, Books For All. The library movement led to the establishment of libraries in the nook and corner of the country, with the support of State Governments, the Union Territory Administrations, and various NGOs. Since then, we have established many public libraries and also in our universities and research institutions.

Libraries are the storehouses of knowledge where one would find information about everything in a single room. There was a time when our researchers roamed across various reputed libraries and spend months on literature surveys. For the poor students, it offered access to some of the costliest textbooks and journals. Before the advent of the internet researchers were hugely dependent on various abstracting services offered by libraries like CAB abstracts, for understanding the latest developments from their field of research. It was of course a tedious process.

Visiting the library is a part of the academic culture that helps students to socialize with their peers in an engaging manner. Many libraries also organize special sessions with academic and literary figures, that help in the development of students. So, libraries not only help in academic development but also in social development of human beings.

Many libraries of the old generation were housed in multi-storied buildings as they had a huge collection of books and periodicals. With the establishment of British Council libraries in different



ONE PROBLEM THAT IS NOTICED IN MOST LIBRARIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS THE UNWELCOMING ATTITUDE OF LIBRARY STAFF. MANY STAFF MEMBERS HAVE AN APATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK. A GOOD LIBRARIAN IS EQUIVALENT TO AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA; HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GUIDE PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS IN SELECTION OF RESOURCES, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT QUALITY IS MISSING FROM MANY

(The writer is a science communicator and columnist. The views expressed are personal.)



parts of the country, people have experienced a new reading experience in an ambient condition with welcoming staff members. The British council libraries operate within a minimum space with huge digital and electronic resources and the latest editions of books. They have a culture of withdrawing old editions from their stock to avoid unnecessary piling up of irrelevant publications. Of course, their membership is affordable only for the elite class.

One problem that is noticed in most libraries in the public sector is the unwelcoming attitude of library staff. Many staff members have an apathetic attitude towards their work. A good librarian is equivalent to an encyclopaedia, he should be able to guide people from diverse background in selection of resources, but unfortunately that quality is missing from many. In some libraries managed in our national research centres, even students are not given access to refer books. The access is given only to members from the host institute, even though its resources are underutilized. Our national institutes spend lakhs of rupees for buying books and periodicals. Is it right to restrict our youngsters from utilizing the resources funded by public money?

In this era, only people having genuine interest will step into a library. So, the government should make it a policy for free entry and utilization of resources in all libraries set up using public money, of course, lending of books can be restricted to members holding membership cards. In the era where we question the payroll procedure in scholarly journals, it is imperative that our libraries should

be made places of free knowledge dissemination.

In the post-Covid era people's interest in visiting libraries is diminishing. The new generation is more oriented to digital reading and the role of libraries as a knowledge provider is diminishing. Have libraries become obsolete in the new world order? Should we dismantle all our present-day libraries? These are the questions that often ring across society.

All these libraries are treasure houses that house rare collections. For example, the National Science Library (NSL) maintained by CSIR since 1963 is one of its kind in the country that specifically caters to the needs of science aspirants. The library houses over 2,51,000 printed collections of S&T documents which include monographs, bound volumes of journals, reports, theses/dissertations, standards, and patents, etc. The NSL's collection policy is to build resources with an emphasis on high-end R&D reference sources, Indian S&T publications, foreign language dictionaries, library and information science, information & communication technology, computer science, conference proceedings, technical reports, and other sources relevant to S&T community of the country.

Many such libraries are spread across the country and we need to preserve our huge knowledge resources for the future. Some of the materials available in these libraries are rare masterpieces. Libraries speak about the culture that is prevailing in the society through its resources, books or newspapers, or periodicals published during the time, which in the long run will hold archival value also. If someone is interested in

studying the evolution of printing technology, the best way is to go through the shelves in a good library. It would be inappropriate to dismantle our heritage that would be evident only through the publications of a particular period.

With changing times, of course, we need to build digital resources catering to the needs of the current community. The National Mission on Libraries (NML) was launched by the President of India on February 3, 2014. As part of this, the Ministry of Culture has decided to set up the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) for putting information on the entire Indian cultural heritage in the digital web world. Similarly, during the Covid-19 lockdown, IIT Kharagpur has started a National Digital Library of India (NDLI) platform sponsored by the Ministry of Education, catering to the needs of the student community.

Digital formats have their share of disadvantages. Instead of dismantling the conventional libraries, they should be allowed to operate in a hybrid mode having digital virtual facilities alongside print based collection. The silent ambient atmosphere prevalent in our libraries is ideal for a person immersed in books. It also enhances creativity in human beings. It is the duty of every member associated with libraries in India to initiate steps to kindle reading habits among youngsters. Scientific research has shown that reading print books helps in the development of cognitive skills of children. We need children who are enlightened to lead our country in the future and one of the ways to attain enlightenment is through reading.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE SECURITY BREACH WAS CONSPIRED NOT JUST BY PUNJAB BUT DELHI CONGRESS AS WELL. RAHUL GANDHI SHOULD SPEAK UP. —PUNJAB BJP PRESIDENT ASHWANI SHARMA



WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT OUR BORDERS IS A MAJOR LAPSE OF NATIONAL SECURITY. WILL THE PM EVER TALK ABOUT IT? —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

Assembly polls: Whom will Dame Luck favour?

The polls are a contest between Brand Modi and the entire Opposition, being held during the mid-term of the Prime Minister's second innings

The Election Commission has sounded the poll bugle for assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, Manipur, and Uttarakhand. BJP is ruling in four of the five States except for Punjab. In Goa and Manipur, though, Congress emerged as the single largest party in 2017 but BJP managed to form the government by dividing the other parties.

Nearly 18.34 crore electors, out of which 8.55 crore are women electors, and 24.9 lakh first-time electors will participate in the five states, including Uttar Pradesh. Women and youth voters will have a bigger say in the poll results. Significantly, the voters will exercise their franchise amid a surging third



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

COVID-19 wave.

Why are these polls crucial? With a multi-cornered contests in almost all the poll-bound states, polls will indicate the direction for the future. It is significant that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is hoping for a hat trick in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. BJP is trying to retain Uttar Pradesh, which has 403 assembly seats. It also has 80 Lok Sabha seats. Whoever wins UP has a significant advantage in bidding for power in 2024.

Secondly, it is a contest between brand Modi and the entire opposition. It is also held during the mid-term for Modi's second innings. As the country copes with the continuing Covid-19, it will be a test for the prime min-



ister to ensure that his popularity is intact. He might have an advantage over a divided opposition.

Thirdly, BJP depends totally on Modi as the party has not developed any strong state leaders except in UP. The Prime Minister is its biggest poll mascot.

Fourthly, it will also be a test for the incumbent UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. He is staking all to win the state again, where-

as in the 2017 polls, he was merely an MP and the party chose him after the elections. He has spent huge money on advertisements for propagating his achievements in the past few months. But historically, no one has won a second term since 1985 in the State.

Fifthly, it will be a fight for survival for all regional players like Akhilesh Yadav, Mayawati, Priyanka Gandhi, Jayant Chowdhury. In UP, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav sees the fight as a real contest between SP and BJP. However, the opposition is at a disadvantage, because of the multi-cornered contest. Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party have fared poorly since 2014. BSP chief Mayawati

has been quietly working for her return. Priyanka Gandhi is the face of Congress but she is yet to prove her vote-catching capacity. After the death of RLD leader Ajit Singh, his son Jayant has not yet established himself.

In four states- Punjab, Manipur, Goa, and Uttarakhand- there will be a direct contest between Congress and BJP. Any win for Congress would upset BJP's cart. The party should at least retain Punjab and grab Uttarakhand. Besides, two other regional parties, AAP and Trinamool, are also testing their luck.

Sixthly, political parties exploit caste, religion, development, and covid handling as issues in these polls. Caste has always been a factor in the

northern belt, as people cast votes for their caste. BJP will be touting the building of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. On August 5, 2020, Prime Minister symbolically laid the foundation with a 40 kg silver brick for the Ram temple. For the voters who believe in religion, this is a big issue. Kashi Viswanath temple also had a facelift. BJP touted this as a golden chapter in the party's history.

Seventhly, the results will signal whether the regional parties are the real challenger to the surging BJP. In most states, particularly in UP, the regional parties are fighting for their survival.

Eighthly, the results might impact the upcoming presidential polls in June-July, since the MLAs form the

electoral college. These results will also decide the fate of 680 Assembly seats in these five states and 19 Rajya Sabha seats.

Last but not the least, the handling of Covid and the advent of the third wave would directly impact ruling BJP at the Centre and in BJP-ruled states. In previous assembly polls held in the first half of the year, the 'Nets' who addressed huge poll rallies were considered the super-spreaders. This time the Election Commission has banned physical rallies to check the spread of the pandemic.

On the whole, the polls would be a nail-biting event for all stakeholders. March 10 will reveal whom Dame Luck will favour.

Nepal imposes partial curfew in Kathmandu Valley after Covid surge: Health ministry

PTI ■ KATHMANDU the Kathmandu Valley on Tuesday afternoon. Nepal is reporting a steady surge in cases for the past few weeks, with three districts of Kathmandu Valley recording the highest number of infections. On Tuesday, Kathmandu Valley recorded 1,286 new cases-980 in Kathmandu, 221 in Lalitpur and 85 in Bhaktapur, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. Nepal, like many countries across the world, has started witnessing a surge in the number of coronavirus cases. On Tuesday, Nepal confirmed 2,444 new cases of COVID-19 along with 313 recoveries and one death, according to the latest information from the health ministry. There are currently 9,634 active cases of COVID-19 across the country. So far, 11,607 people have died of the viral infection in Nepal. As part of the new orders, all gatherings, processions and other crowded activities have also been capped to a limited number of people. Similarly, schools will be closed till January 29 under the smart lockdown procedures.

3rd Chinese city goes into lockdown ahead of Beijing Winter Olympics as Covid cases spiral

Beijing: The COVID-19 cases spiralled in China ahead of the next month's Beijing Winter Olympics as authorities effectively put Anyang under lockdown, the third city after Xian and Tianjin, confining over 20 million people to their homes to arrest the spread of the contagion. The increase in cases is taking place ahead of the Beijing Winter Olympics which will be held from February 4 to 20. There is a sense of disquiet among the officials as the spurt of cases in different places sprouting up, notwithstanding the stringent coronavirus control measures. Meanwhile, the country's National Health Commission on Tuesday said that the Chinese mainland reported nearly 200 cases in different places, including 110 locally-transmitted ones. Of the new local cases, 87 reported in Henan, 13 in Shaanxi and 10 in Tianjin, the commission said, adding that 82 new imported cases were reported in 11 provincial-level regions.

US concerned by China's attempt to intimidate neighbours: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON The US is concerned by China's attempt to "intimidate" its neighbours, including India, as Washington believes that Beijing's behaviour in region and around world could be "destabilising", the White House has said, asserting that America will continue to stand with its partners. The remarks of White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki came ahead of 14th round of military-level talks between India and China on 20-month row in eastern Ladakh. Asked about China's aggressive behaviour on its border with India and if topic came during America's talks with China or Washington sending any message to Beijing on this, Psaki, during her daily news conference on Monday, said that US continues to closely monitor situation along the India-China border. "We continue to support dialogue and peaceful resolution of these border disputes," she said. "We've been pretty clear how we view Beijing's behaviour in region and around world. We believe it can be destabilising. And we're concerned by People's Republic of China's attempt to

North Korea fires possible missile into sea amid stalled talks

AP ■ SEOUL North Korea on Tuesday fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile into its eastern sea, its second launch in a week, following leader Kim Jong Un's calls to expand its nuclear weapons program in defiance of international opposition. The launches follow a series of weapons tests in 2021 that underscored how North Korea is continuing to expand its military capabilities during a self-imposed pandemic lockdown and deadlocked nuclear talks with the United States. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea fired what likely was a ballistic missile from the area of its northern Jagang province. It said the weapon flew 700 km (434 miles) at a maximum speed of around Mach 10 before landing in waters off its eastern coast. It said the launch was a "clear violation" of UN Security Council resolutions and demonstrated a more advanced capability than North Korea's previous launch last week. The North's state media described that launch as a successful test of a hypersonic missile, a type of weaponry it claimed to have first tested in September. South Korean officials didn't provide a specific assessment of the missile type, but some experts said North Korea may have tested its purported hypersonic missile again in response to the South Korean military playing down its previous test. North Korea didn't immediately comment on Tuesday's test. Japan's Defence Ministry said the suspected ballistic missile landed outside the country's exclusive economic zone. Prime

UN seeks USD 5 billion for stabilising but still suffering Afghanistan

AP ■ GENEVA a militant group that many Western donor countries once fought - and still oppose. The US-led international coalition led Afghanistan in chaotic scenes as the Taliban overran the country and swept back to power over the summer. OCHA warned of looming "catastrophe" in Afghanistan and said 23 million people need humanitarian assistance - or more than half of the country's population. Up to a million children under age 5 will face severe and acute malnutrition if they don't get assistance, it said. "We need to get food to the families where they live. We need to get seeds to the farm-

Justice Dept Creating unit focused on domestic terrorism

Washington: The Justice Department is establishing a specialised unit focused on domestic terrorism, the department's top national security official told lawmakers Tuesday as he described an "elevated" threat from violent extremists in the United States. Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, testifying just days after the nation observed the one-year anniversary of the violent insurrection at the US Capitol, said the number of FBI investigations into suspected domestic violent extremists has more than doubled since the spring of 2020. "We have seen a growing threat from those who are motivated by racial animus, as well as those who ascribe to extremist anti-government and anti-authority ideologies," Olsen said. The department's National Security Division, which Olsen leads, has a counterterrorism section. But Olsen told the Senate Judiciary Committee that he has decided to create a specialised domestic terrorism unit "to augment our existing approach." (AP)

Taliban free popular Afghan professor critical of government

AP ■ KABUL The Taliban have released a popular university professor and outspoken critic of successive Afghan governments who was arrested over the weekend, a family member said Tuesday. Hasina Jalal, Faizullah Jalal's daughter, said her father was freed from Taliban custody. The group had accused him of "non-sense remarks on social media, which were provoking people against the government and playing with people's dignity". Jalal had been detained Sunday by the Taliban's intelligence arm. TOLO TV, Afghanistan's largest station on which Jalal was a frequent commentator, tweeted that Jalal was arrested "reportedly for making allegations against government departments, a security source said". After Jalal's detention, he received an outpouring of support on social media, with many users posting Jalal's photos. A small group of women protested in Kabul, demanding his release.

नोएडा मीडिया क्लब का संशोधित चुनाव कार्यक्रम
दिनांक : 11 जनवरी 2022
दिनांक 10 जनवरी 2022 प्रातः 9:30 के क्रम में नोएडा मीडिया क्लब की कार्यकारिणी हेतु एक अध्यास, एक उपाध्यक्ष, एक महासचिव, एक कोषाध्यक्ष और तीन कार्यकारिणी सदस्य पदों के लिए निर्वाचन के संशोधित कार्यक्रम की घोषणा निम्नलिखित की जाती है।
11 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 12 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक। अन्य आवेदियों का निस्तारण 12 जनवरी 2022 को सायं 05 बजे तक।
12 जनवरी, 2022 नामांकन प्राप्त करने का समय दिनांक 12 जनवरी 2022 को प्रातः 11 बजे से 13 जनवरी 2022 को सुबह 11 बजे तक चुनाव कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। नामांकन फार्म का शुल्क 100 रूपए प्रति नामांकन होगा।
13 जनवरी 2022 नामांकन 13 जनवरी 2022 को प्रातः 11 बजे से दोपहर 03 बजे तक नोएडा मीडिया क्लब के चुनाव अधिकारी कार्यालय में प्राप्त किया जाएगा। उसके उपरान्त सायं 05 बजे उम्मीदवारों की सूची का प्रकाशन किया जाएगा।
14 जनवरी 2022 नामांकन 14 जनवरी 2022 को प्रातः 11 बजे से दोपहर 03 बजे तक।
15 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 15 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
16 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 16 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
17 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 17 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
18 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 18 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
19 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 19 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
20 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 20 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
21 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 21 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
22 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 22 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
23 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 23 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
24 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 24 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
25 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 25 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
26 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 26 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
27 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 27 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
28 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 28 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
29 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 29 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
30 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 30 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।
31 जनवरी 2022 मतदाता सूची पर प्राप्त आवेदियों का निस्तारण 31 जनवरी को सायं 03 बजे तक।

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchd@yahoo.in
(GIST of E-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS/2021-22/272/e-tendering
Dated:-10-01-2022)
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-
Name of Work:- Providing and fitting of Aluminium Cables along with allied items for Bypass System of 1000 LPM Oxygen Plant at Govt. Medical College Anantnag.
Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 2.31, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200, Time of completion (in days) :- 05, AA Accorded Vide No. :- 668-JK(HME)of 2020 Dt:-07.09.2020, TS.NO :-MHCHD/TS/192 Dated 01/22, Earnest Money (in Rupees) :-4700
1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 10-01-2022 (18.00 hrs).
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 11-01-2022(10.00 hrs).to17-01-2022(14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 17-01-2022(16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.
No. DIPK-16484/21
Dated:- 11.01.2022
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Ram Lal Prasad acquired the entire Property No. L-2A, measuring 827.8/10 Sq. Yds., from DLF Housing and Construction Pvt. Ltd. Vice conveyance Deed dated 25.09.1998(Sr. No. 4223/Ram Lal Prasad) expired and as per Documents shared with us and Information Provide to us, She was Survived by Six Sons Namely 1. Mr. Ravi Kumar, 2. Mr. Shivam Kumar, 3. Rajesh Kumar, 4. Mr. Rakesh Kumar, 5. Mr. Alok Kumar, 6. Mr. Krishan Kumar and one Daughter Namely Mrs. Raj Kumari Dwivedi. Thereafter, Mrs. Raj Kumari Dwivedi Relinquished Her Share in Property in favour of Her Brothers Vide Relinquishment Deed dated 31.03.1995 The above Mentioned Six Brothers entered into a Family Settlement dated: 12.12.2000 Regarding the Entire Property, Mrs. Raj Kumari Dwivedi expired and is Survived by only son Mr. Ashutosh, Mr. Ravi Kumar Expired on 08.08.2017 and is survived by Mrs. Sukriti Kumar (Wife) and Mrs. Smiti Kumar (Daughter) and Mr. Vinay Kumar (Son), Mr. Shivam Kumar expired on 15.03.2021 and is survived by Mrs. Madhu Kumar - Wife, Mr. Manish Kumar (Son), Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma (Daughter), Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma executed GPA dated 13.10.2021, in favour of Mrs. Madhu Kumar in respect of Rear Portion of Said Property, Finally Legal Heirs of Mrs. Ram Lal Prasad, Legal Heirs of Mr. Ravi Kumar and other Legal heirs of Mr. Shivam Kumar executed Relinquishment Deed dated 24.12.2021 in favour of Mr. Manish Kumar in respect of Put Flat Unit No. 2 having Covered area of 1200 Sq. Ft. Situated on Ground Floor towards the wall touching the Front Portion Three Flats (Towards East) Rear Portion of Plot No. L-2A, area 400 Sq. Yds. Huz Khaz Enclave New Delhi-110016, duly Regd. of Doc No. 10187, Vol No. 4292, Page No. 156-168, with SRO-VI Huzarabad dated 13.08.2018. Mr. Manish Kumar became the owner of abovesaid flat. Mr. Manish Kumar is Mortgagee of the Flat with Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 7 days of this publication to Mr. Manish Kumar or Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocate), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, G.D.I. Tower, (B-08), Metraj Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636(M).

FORM NO.5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Ares of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for filing & Appearance by Publication O.A.No. 281/2022
Date: 05/01/2022
Summons to defendant under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)
O.A.No. 281 of 2020 (ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant Versus SUDHIR KUMAR SHEORAN & ORS ...Defendants
1. SRI SUDHIR KUMAR SHEORAN H No. 3 C 616, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Gaziabad 201012, U.P.
Also At: Flat No. 1601, 16th Floor, Tower T1, Unnati, The Aranya Heights, Plot No. GH02, Sec-119 Gautam Budh Nagar Noida- 201307
2. Mrs. ANJU SHYAVRAN, H No. 3 C 616, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Gaziabad 201012, U.P.
Also At: Flat No. 1601, 16th Floor, Tower T1, Unnati, The Aranya Heights, Plot No. GH02, Sec-119 Gautam Budh Nagar Noida- 201307
3. M/S UNNATI FORTUNE HOLDINGS. LTD. Registered Office: T-07, LL-02, Common Wealth Games Village, New Delhi-110092. Corporate Office at B-117, Sector- 67, Noida, U.P.
In the above noted application, you are required to file in paper book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 07/04/2021 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal Lucknow

punjab national bank ... Together for the better
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS
1. Name of the Branch: INDUSTRIAL AREA, JALANDHAR
2. Name of the Account:
3. Name & address of the borrower/guarantor:
4. Description of the immovable properties mortgaged / Owner's Name (Mortgagor of the property)(ies): Residential Plot no 1/4 A RTD No.6807 dated 28-05-2011 in the name of M/s Kanti Lodge Private Limited through its Directors Mr Vinay Kumar and Raghuvir Singh situated at Mauza Rithani, Pargana, Old Merrut Delhi National Highway, Tehsil and Distt. Merrut, Bounded as East- Ahata of others, West- rasta aam, North -Property of Others, South - Ahata of others, Land measuring 2365.38 Sq. meters bearing Khasha No. 1034 min, 1035 min, 1037 min. Property ID PNB0242XRS1
5. E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002
6. F) Outstanding Amount as on
7. G) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive
8. A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs)
9. B) EMD (last date of deposit NA)
10. C) Bid increase amount
11. Date/ Time of E-Auction
12. Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1). The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 2). The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3). The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 31.01.2022 as per time given above in column No. 6. 4) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com
STATUTORY 15 SALE NOTICE UNDER RULES OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
DATE: 11.01.2022 PLACE: JALANDHAR AUTHORISED OFFICER (PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, SECURED CREDITOR)

The pandemic has cleared the way for a hybrid educational paradigm that combines digital and conventional teaching and learning methodologies, says **SHALINI JOHN**



TIME TO UNLEARN OLD-SCHOOL METHODS

With the pandemic affecting students all over the world, India's education system evaluated how teachers, students, and parents responded to new means of delivering education and will continue to practice digital learning tools and resources to evolve the educational system in the future.

In order to remain relevant, educational institutions have been modernising and implementing technology into teaching methods, techniques, and curriculum. The pandemic has cleared the way for a hybrid educational paradigm that combines digital and conventional teaching and learning methodologies. Innovative learning solutions and trends have been developed as a result of technological advancements in the education industry and will continue to develop.

Education trends to be foreseen

◆Power of narration and visuals
There has been a shift in attention patterns and it has a major impact on how instructors alter their lectures and keep students curious about what they're learning. Teachers must further enhance and add new strategies to develop classes that will engage their students. The educators

must prepare a good narrative and visuals as when students have highly visual and interesting material, they have a strong potential for paying attention. Schools must continue to deliver knowledge with relevant illustrations and engaging conversation to keep students' attention.

◆Personalised learning

In recent years, personalised learning has become increasingly popular. The notion that each student experiences and responds to learning differently is being taken into deep consideration. To establish a healthy student-teacher relationship, personalised learning prioritises student input and dynamic coaching. It seeks to tailor learning to each student's strengths and weaknesses, as well as their needs, talents, and interests. It encourages students' advancement so that each student can progress at his or her own pace. Personalised teaching-learning systems that make use of technology and creative instructional designs will continue to advance at a rapid pace.

◆Assessment via AI

Assessment tools are designed to evaluate a student's practical knowledge of a subject rather than his or her theoretical knowledge. Students who use AI-powered online testing systems receive personalised feedback. For each topic/subject, AI-



Shalini John
(Head - IB), Aditya Birla World Academy

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SOLUTIONS AND TRENDS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP

based systems provide vital data into the performance of students and the group. There is a risk of biases slinking in during the traditional manual evaluation of tests. The usage of online resources and procedures to assess the learner will eliminate the biases that come with manual evaluation.

◆Internet of things in education

The Internet of Things has played a major role in helping teachers and school administrators create a better-coordinated structure for daily school activities. Both parents and students can track their children's development in real-time with the help of the internet. Through the school dashboard, they can easily check the status of pending assignments. Furthermore, teachers can construct their own polls so that students can seamlessly evaluate their teaching skills and techniques at the end of each lecture. Teachers are able to observe what areas students struggled with and what they can do to enhance their teaching approach as a result of this.

◆Soft skills

Some of the most critical skills in the workplace include people management, problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity. Employers are scrutinizing professionals who can make difficult judgments and

have leadership ability. A school is an institution where children are taught their first life lessons. They learn to take on barriers, tackle the obstacles and deal with failures. It is crucial that students understand more than mere academics. Schools must have the training to help students foster and develop in these soft skills spots in order to prepare children for their future. However, the concurrent move towards online learning poses a dilemma for many educators. These teachers will have to discover a strategy to balance the screen time in their classroom along with supporting students in collaborating face-to-face to inculcate soft skill development.

◆Hybrid learning

Hybrid learning is a powerful blend of physical classroom practices and digital learning. Owing to technology and automation, schools are leveraging hybrid learning to upskill students. Due to this, students can take advantage of the flexibility presented by the hybrid learning system to upskill themselves and stay relevant. Hybrid has evolved as a relevant tool for practical learning and teaching in the current scenario. As a result, hybrid school concepts along with dynamic synchronous and asynchronous blended learning approaches will continue to evolve and be practiced.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

UG AT BML MUNJAL UNIVERSITY

The BML Munjal University (BMU), a Hero Group initiative, opens its undergraduate admissions for 2022, with a focus on looking beyond cut-off based admissions. The importance of single mark cut-offs is seeing a gradual decline at progressive universities, providing much-needed relief to students who have seen cut-offs as high as 100% last year.

BMU is taking the lead to move towards a holistic review process. The university's admission criteria doesn't judge a student's capabilities based on their school exam scores alone - but considers standardised test scores, interviews and other parameters depending on the choice of programme to consider the application.

The eligibility criteria for admission to undergraduate programmes will require successful completion of 10+2 or the equivalent as well as meeting university admissions criteria mentioned on the website www.bmu.edu.in



BSC HONS BIOCHEMISTRY & IMMUNOLOGY

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for its BSc Hons Biochemistry & Immunology course starting in September 2022.

This joint Honours degree course combines biochemistry and immunology and is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology. Transfer to the MSci Biochemistry or Immunology may be possible at the end of Year 4, subject to performance.

Duration - 4 years
Eligibility- 70-75% in all subjects taken at level XII and the same at level X.

Fee - £21,150 per academic year for international students.

Medical & Health Sciences programmes at SRMIST

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

Admissions are now open to Avarious programs for Medicine and Health Sciences programs at SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM MCH&RC), Kattankulathur.

Several UG and PG programs are available for students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences that have the College of Pharmacy, College of Physiotherapy, College of Occupational Therapy, College of Nursing, School of Public Health, and allied courses at SRM MCH&RC.

The soft launch of application forms for Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences was held at the Institute's premises in the presence of



SRMIST's Pro VC (Medical) Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar, Director (Communications) Mr. R. Nandakummar, Dean (Medical) Dr. A. Sundaram, Dean (Dental) Dr. N. Vivek among others.

Admissions to any of these programs will be based on the national-level entrance examination - SRMJEEH (UG) and SRMJEEEN (PG). Board examination marks, Department level examination conducted by the respective schools in SRM, and one-to-one interaction.

'Curate exciting content for kids'

The ground reality is that after-school learning, which follows its own strategy and timeline, has little resemblance to in-school learning. This confuses children, who ultimately become disinterested and fall behind their goals, says **ARINDAM GHOSH**

India has 250 million school-going children, and one-fourth of secondary school students attend tuition classes. Despite this, access to quality education remains a pressing problem. Innumerable reports have highlighted the vast achievement and opportunity gaps that plague the system; one such is by The World Bank stating that 54 per cent of Indian students suffer from 'learning poverty'. How can we improve the situation? While there are several reasons for learning poverty, what is needed urgently is a solution that is scalable, affordable, and helps every child achieve her grade-specific competencies. One way is through a synchronised and integrated in-school and after-school ecosystem scaled up by leveraging technology.

Recognising the inadequacy of school education, parents pin their hopes on tutors and coaching classes. Existing apps for tuition classes, largely driven by private enterprises, are often purposefully disconnected from the school system, making them insufficient in isolation. There needs to be a connection between these two sites to create a learning continuum. To improve the quality of classroom transactions, the methods of in-school education need reimagining; and after-school learning needs to evolve to supplement in-school learning through a personalised and curriculum-aligned approach. They should also function in tandem, with curated multi-sensory learning content available for self-learning along with necessary guidance, accessible anytime and anywhere, to achieve the learning goals.

Together, these elements can help in strengthening the link between in-school and after-school education.

First, the role of the teacher as a mere transmitter of education needs reconsideration. She is not only the voice of the textbook but also a change agent, facilitator, and leader. Today, thanks to the internet, there is a wealth of resources available that can elevate the learning experience for kids anywhere. If classrooms became 'smart', teachers could access global resources made by experts and overhaul entire lessons by utilising modern tools of pedagogy, unlike what most Indian students, especially in rural towns, are used to or can imagine. However, a determining factor is robust training in digital pedagogy. A tech-savvy and digitally literate teacher can act as a mentor and guide by equipping students with tools to carry forward their learning journeys beyond school hours at their own pace, for a good grasp of the material.

The ground reality is that after-school learning, which follows its own strategy and timeline, has little resemblance to in-school learning. This confuses children, who ultimately become disinterested and fall behind their goals in both learning environments. Therefore, the second step requires an assessment of the current state of the learner versus the desired goals, to accurately improve grade-specific competencies. This can be done using technology, and accordingly, curated content can be used to plug any gaps, further scaffolded by support in the form of mentorship and guidance. With the



help of digital platforms for Personalised and Adaptive Learning, students can avail themselves of a unique path and experience best suited to their needs, positioning them to achieve their goals. After school hours, students need continuity in three ways: in accessing content, in receiving an injection of additional customised content, and in guidance, whether physical or virtual. This will create a feedback loop that gives the teacher student-specific feedback to recalibrate her teaching. However, most personalised learning solutions in the market are too expensive for those at the middle and bottom of the economic pyramid. While customisable learning has the potential to revolutionise education by lending flexibility, without it reaching the aspirational poor,

inequalities in Indian education can increase further.

Third, it is vital to create exciting, digitised, and curated content for kids that is accessible anytime and anywhere. Multimedia and multisensory content is proven to boost engagement, pique student interest, and can complement a textbook. Video-based content, virtual experiments, gamified content etc., will automatically spark engagement and retention. The stack of differentiated and digitised content should be aligned to the school curriculum and be readily available to students both inside and outside the classrooms to create a learning loop. We should aim at moving towards personalisation of the content to suit the learning style and level of the child and eventually move towards personalisation of curriculum.

The Digital India programme has helped thousands of Indians step into an internet-powered world, resulting in a faster uptake of smartphones that have now reached over 780 million people. The pandemic has facilitated phones being used for education as well. Aligning in-school and after-school education is one of the best-suited approaches to improving learning outcomes particularly among resource-poor students. India today requires an affordable and cohesive education system that leverages technologies to focus on the micro-details of each learner and have a macro-level scaling potential.

The writers are Arindam Ghosh, Vice President and Head of Strategy, Schoolnet India Limited and Devika Rae Chandra, Research Associate, Schoolnet

Common entrance test for CUs

The current situation of the ongoing pandemic has not only created an ambiguous situation for the students but also for the institutions across India. While the families are worried about the spread of infection, students are muddled about the current change in the admission criteria at the undergraduate level in different universities. The pressure is mounting and with every passing day, the students are getting restless. Recently a major change was seen amid the law aspirants with the announcement to conduct CLAT twice a year in 2022. While it was announced that CLAT will conduct the exam for the academic session 2022 and 2023 in 2022 itself, the Government of India suggested a common exam for admissions to all the central universities.

It is anticipated that the CUCET will be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Recently, Delhi University has also hinted to conduct the admission process for the Academic year 2022 through CUCET and based on class XII marks, or will conduct their separate exam DUCET.

Recently, the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University also informed that the concerned team is working on this new development and when the basic things are done, a committee would be formed which will be in charge of framing a process on the execution, and coordinate with NTA and Education ministry. Experts believe that it's a welcome decision of Delhi University and other universities to change the admission process as entrance exams are always a

better medium to assess the students' knowledge.

Though it is known that CUCET is not an entirely unfamiliar entrance test, the central universities have been conducting it until the last year for admissions. While the major difference would be that the earlier version of CUCET was conducted in the offline mode and now the proposal is to conduct the test as a Computer Based Test (CBT), which, with complete details of the exam, is expected to be revealed soon. The possible structure of CUCET would be a computer-based aptitude test to test the students on Verbal Ability, Logical and Analytical Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and General Awareness. There will be a domain section also that may test the students on the subjective questions. The CUCET entrance test will be compulsory for the students who seek admission to all the universities.

The students should neither be sceptical about the paper nor about the process, instead believe that this change of conducting one exam is the change for good and will allow students to experience equal opportunity in the real sense. For this, students need to continuously strive towards honing their skills and understand the importance of aptitude building. The entrance exam like the CUCET will give not only an equal opportunity to all the students but also a chance to the universities to gauge the aptitude level of the students.

The writer is Ankit Kapoor, Co-founder & Director, Pratham Test Prep

Webinar on Rock Your LinkedIn Profile

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Great Learning, one of India's edtech companies for professional and higher education has announced that it will be conducting a masterclass on Rock Your LinkedIn Profile on January 13, 2022. The one-hour long live session is free of cost and can be attended by those who want to understand how to get the cover story right, how to write

a crisp summary, the importance of endorsements, and much more.

The live session will be conducted by Ms Sneha Bhattacharya, (Senior Account Director - Marketing Solutions, LinkedIn), Ms Vandana Tewari (Lead Customer Success Manager, LinkedIn) and Mr. Nitin Verma (AGM - Marketing, Great Learning) who will talk and discuss about the tips on

tailoring each section and how to make one's LinkedIn profile stand out.

Great Learning offers comprehensive, industry-relevant programs across various cutting-edge domains, Data and Business domains. Great Learning's programs are developed in collaboration with the world's foremost academic institutions like Stanford University, MIT, The University of Texas at Austin,

National University Singapore, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, IIIT-Delhi, Shiv Nadar University and Great Lakes Institute of Management and are constantly reimagined and revamped to address the dynamic needs of the industry.

Register here: [linkhttps://www.mygreatlearning.com/academy/learn-for-free/courses/rock-your-linkedin-profile](https://www.mygreatlearning.com/academy/learn-for-free/courses/rock-your-linkedin-profile)

Hindi divas observed at Sharda University

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10 to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that was held in the year 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. However, ever since then, it was first celebrated in 2006 by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The main aim behind the celebration of this day is to promote the Hindi language

worldwide. Every year on this day, various events are held in Sharda University by reading out their favorite songs, poems and introducing new Hindi words to the audience.

The Chief Guest of this event is YK Gupta who is a pro-chancellor at Sharda University along with Vice Chancellor Dr Sibraram Khara with Faculties of Business Studies Dr Jayanti Ranjan and Dr Harishankar Shyam. The Motive behind this day is to promote Hindi language on a large scale and



promote it in different parts of the world and familiar people too in science and technology area. Hindi language, a symbol of Indian pride and national unity, has a unique place in the world due to its expressive power

World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10 January to mark the importance and rich history of Hindi. One of the most spoken languages of the world after English and Mandarin, Hindi has a much older history and is an integral part of Indian culture.



CHANGE YOUR TRAJECTORY

If you're just starting to plan out the next four years of your post-secondary education, it's worth it to consult an expert in the international education industry says **KARUNN KANDOI**

Studying abroad is an exciting venture that opens many doors and allows an individual to acquire significant international exposure. It plays a critical role in a well-rounded education. Have you been planning to pursue your higher education abroad? If yes, then Canada should be your first choice. The country is so popular among Indian students that in 2019, Indian students accounted for more than a third of all study permits issued, and in 2020, the number rose to almost half, according to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Here are a few of the most popular courses for Indian students in Canada.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: The STEM, in any vertical, plays a crucial part in the world's economy. Canadian colleges offer several programs across various STEM disciplines. STEM programs like mathematics or computer science are quite popular amongst Indian students. As per the IRCC, for IT and computing studies in partic-

ular, Indian students accounted for 67.4 per cent of all new Canadian study permits issued in 2019 and 2020.

An engineering degree from Canada is strongly perceived internationally and has a high employability factor. These subjects are taught with hands-on practices by the best faculties in the world. It must be noted that universities in Canada are among the best globally and are accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). Canadian institutions provide low-cost yet high-quality education and offer a ton of public and private scholarships for international students. Some of the courses that students can pursue are software or computer engineering, mechanical engineering and chemical engineering.

Business and finance: When it comes to becoming a successful business leader and entrepreneur, it demands proper skills, innovation, as well as a strong execution strategy. Enrolling yourself in the right business school is, indeed, funda-

DUE TO CANADA'S HIGH STANDARD OF MEDICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM, MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PREFER THE COUNTRY AS ONE OF THEIR STUDY DESTINATIONS

mental to long-term career success.

It will help to develop an individual's entrepreneurial skills and enable them to test their launch ideas. As far as international applicants are concerned, business management and finance courses are very popular. The MBA is among the most sought-after programs in this particular field. After all, the line of management consulting, finance, and banking never goes out of style. There's also a lot of interest in this field from international students based in India.

Between the years 2017 and 2019, the number of Canadian study permits issued to Indian students for business, marketing, and management programmes grew by 256 per cent according to the IRCC.

Health and medicine: The pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, and the need and demand for healthcare workers in each and every country is rising rapidly. Job vacancies in the Canadian healthcare and social assistance industry hit nearly 1.1

lakh in June 2021. Attracting newcomers into these fields will be critical for Canada's long-term growth.

Due to Canada's high standard of medical education curriculum, many international students prefer Canada as one of their study destinations. Healthcare verticals such as preventive drugs, human psychology, and managing illness are in higher demand as they help increase public safety during pandemics and disasters.

Employers are progressively searching for professionals who possess culturally-diverse abilities and cutting-edge skills. Indeed, studying abroad can be a life-changing experience and has been proven to positively impact your career trajectory.

If you're just starting to plan out the next four years of your post-secondary education, it's worth it to consult an expert in the international education industry or speak to a previous student to learn about their experience.

The writer is Head of India Operations, ApplyBoard

'Robotics has evolved and expanded'

With advancement in technology, scope of robotic engineering has increased manifold offering lucrative options, says **DR ABHILASHA GAUR**

Robotics is the engineering discipline dealing with the design, construction, and operation of robots. Robots were originally built to handle monotonous tasks but have since expanded well beyond their initial uses to perform tasks like fighting fires, cleaning homes and assisting with incredibly intricate surgeries. Each robot has a differing level of autonomy, ranging from human-controlled bots that carry out tasks that a human has full control over to fully-autonomous bots.

As technology progresses, so does the scope of robotics. These robots consist mainly of mechanical arms tasked with welding or screwing on certain parts of a car. Today, we're seeing an evolved and expanded definition of robotics that includes the development, creation and use of bots that explore the harshest conditions, robots that assist law-enforcement and even robots that assist in almost every facet of healthcare.

AI and robots are a powerful combination. Some of the applications where the two can bring more optimisation are:

Agriculture and farming: With the food supply chain facing a crisis, courtesy of centuries of environmental abuse, over-farming, labor shortages, and population growth, it is threatening our most basic needs. AI and automation are believed to provide relief from the effects of an aging agricultural workforce. With the likes of autonomous drones, self-driving agricultural machines, etc., farmers can spend more time focusing on creating sustainable harvests and less time watching the path in front of them.

Autonomous flying: Autonomous flying uses computer vision technology for hovering in the air while avoiding obstacles and moving in a straight path. With the introduction of artificial intelligence, these flying machines are getting smarter. From aerial view monitoring to security surveillance, video recording, rescue missions, and more, drones and unmanned aerial vehicles are revolutionising and replacing many job roles. The application of computer vision in autonomous flying includes obstacle detection, collision avoidance, self-navigation, and object tracking.

Manufacturing and production:



Dr Abhilasha Gaur
COO, Electronic Sector Skill Council of India

The evolution of the manufacturing and production industry is seen with the implementation of robotics and AI. The primary reason for the introduction of AI in the manufacturing industry is to cover for the lack of workforce, simplify the whole production process, and improve efficiency. Earlier, it used to take a whole team's effort to manage one task system. Now since bots have taken over, it has helped manufacturers boost production speed.

AI is helping the industry by making product decisions instant and smarter. This is an era of customized products, and AI is helping manufacturers gather useful customer data, which is used to make product-based decisions. Also, it has helped the companies to reduce the overall cost of production. AI and robotics is the future of manufacturing.

Sports analytics and activities: The sports industry is embracing artificial intelligence and robots to make games more exciting and fairer. AI is helping players improve their fitness and help teams discover new talents. In some sports, robot referees are already a thing, while smart machines are assisting spectators in finding their seats at the stadium. Artificial intelligence is also helping clubs and teams come up with strategies based on previous data.

As we step into the new year, Brainly, the online learning platform where over 350 million students and parents go from questioning to understanding, conducted a survey to understand student's sentiments around the current learning environment after months of navigating the study-from-home landscape.

Collecting 1,751 responses in total, the survey maps several interesting trends from 2021 and projections for 2022. The top three trends highlighted by the survey include:

A majority of students would prefer self-tutoring through online

learning platforms

After almost two academic years spent learning from home, students and teachers have both seen significant merit in using online learning platforms. The survey found that over 71 per cent of the students are comfortable with self-tutoring through online learning platforms. This highlights the role of online learning platforms in promoting independent learning among students.

The survey also revealed that more than half (56 per cent) of the students took private tuitions during the lockdown period. Personalised, one-on-one learning is, therefore, considered an effective learning

MINDIT

method.

Students were expecting schools to reopen in 2021

On being asked if they were expecting physical schools to reopen in 2021, almost 85 per cent of students responded in the affirmative. While Indian students have adapted to the COVID-19-induced online learning model, most of them were waiting eagerly to meet their peers and teachers face to face.

As the partial reopening of schools was greenlit in the latter half of 2021, a chunk of the students attended physical schools. As such, 64 per cent of the students claimed that their performance was affected by the reopening of schools while 68 per cent saw a major difference in their teacher's teaching method between 2020 and 2021.

A previous survey also found that 82 per cent of the students were excited to return to brick-and-mortar schools. As India

looks at vaccinations for children over 15, 2022 may see more schools reopen their gates to students.

Indian students want the hybrid model of teaching to continue in 2022

Students have not just adapted to online platforms but also thrived within this medium. This reflects in the survey results as over 78 per cent of the students claimed they performed well in 2021.

In a previous survey, the platform found that 77 per cent of students would continue to seek assistance from online learning platforms even after their schools reopened. This is further solidified as 71 per cent of

the students would like to continue learning through the hybrid model in 2022.

Speaking about the survey results, Rajesh Bysani, Chief Product Officer at Brainly, said: "Students are eager to join their peers and teachers in physical schools, they have also developed a positive relationship with online learning methodologies. With students' academic performance displaying encouraging trends, the survey findings are aligned with our belief that hybrid learning, with the best of tech-led tools and personalised attention, will dominate the education landscape in 2022 and beyond."



The University of Strathclyde has been awarded five prestigious British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM for female students from South Asia to pursue their Master's Degrees in the UK.

The fully funded scholarships are available for selected one-year Master's degrees in the areas of health and life science, climate change environment & risk reduction, energy transition and industry 4.0/digital transformation.

The scholarships are on offer for students applying to study at Strathclyde from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Each covers full tuition fees, monthly stipends, a return economy class ticket and other costs.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is March 31, 2022.

An initiative of **Aditya Birla Capital Foundation to provide financial assistance** and education support services to students who have lost their parent(s) due to COVID-19 to ensure continuity of their education.

Eligibility: Open for students who have lost their parent(s) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must be studying in Classes 1 to XII or UG (general or professional)

degree courses.

Reward: For Classes IX to XII: ₹30,000. For general UG courses: ₹36,000; For professional UG courses: ₹60,000.

How to apply: Apply online: <http://www.b4s.in/a/ABCC1>. Helpline: 011-430-92248 (Ext-268); Email: adityabirlacapital@buddy4study.com.

Application deadline: It is January 31, 2022.

An initiative of Reliance Foundation to support 100 of India's brightest students to create tech for social good. Indian nationals enrolled in first year of full-time undergraduate or post-graduate degree programme in AI, Computer Sciences, Mathematics & Computing and Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering are eligible.

Eligibility: For UG scholarships: Applicants must have secured a rank of 1-35,000 in the JEE Main (Paper 1). For PG scholarships: Applicants who have secured a score of 550-1,000 in the GATE exam, OR applicants who have not attempted GATE and have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalised to CGPA) can apply.

Rewards: Scholarships of up to ₹4 lakh each for UG and ₹6 lakh each for PG students.

How to apply: Apply online: <http://www.b4s.in/a/RFS5>. Helpline: 7977100100 (Please text 'hi' on WhatsApp).

Application deadline: It is February 14, 2022.

VIDEO MAKING/EDITING AT SQUAD X INNOVATIONS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/f8b2b4
Deadline: January 19, 2022

DIGITAL MARKETING AT KOLD PURE PRESS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/050599
Deadline: January 19, 2022

PHP DEVELOPMENT AT NAVITUS EDUCATION

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹11,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4ee180
Deadline: January 19, 2022

DATA SCIENCE AT OPTALPHA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹11,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/d9e67f
Deadline - 19th January 2022

OPERATIONS AT CLICKAWAY CREATORS

Location: Delhi, Gurgaon
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/f61b82
Deadline: January 19, 2022

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT SRESTA NATURAL BIOPRODUCTS

Location: Chandigarh, Bangalore, Kolkata
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/eae221
Deadline: January 18, 2022

MARKETING AT BYJU'S THE LEARNING APP

Location: Ranchi, Jamshedpur
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/3d172d
Deadline: January 25, 2022

IN BRIEF

CYBERSECURITY, AI & DEEP LEARNING COURSE

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, has signed an agreement with Times Professional Learning, to start PG Certificate Programme in Cybersecurity and PG Certificate Programme in Artificial Intelligence & Deep Learning. The programmes are intended to provide career enhancement and skill upgradation for working professionals as per the requirements of industry and the corporate world.

The courses are also aligned with The National Education Policy 2020's directives to higher education institutes to play an active role

not only in conducting research on disruptive technologies like AI but also create initial versions of instructional materials and courses including online courses.

The PG programme in Cybersecurity is an eight months course and is intended to provide career enhancement and skill upgradation as per the requirements of fast-moving job roles like network security specialist, cyber security analyst, cybersecurity architects, cyber security manager, and leading up to C-suite positions like Chief Information Security Officer. The demand for cybersecurity experts has doubled year amidst with rising global concerns of security breaches and rapid digitalisation across organisations and institutes.

IMPACT OF ALGORITHMIC TRADERS ON STOCKS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers are studying the impact of Algorithmic Traders on the stock market.

This research is the first-of-its-kind investigation on the impact of Proprietary Algorithmic Traders' and Buy-side Algorithmic Traders' trading on market quality and vice versa. It processes what happen when computer programs predict market order flow and take over the trading process.

HIGH-END SKILLS FOR DELHI SCHOOLS

The Camp K12 has announced its partnership with the Delhi Government to bring coding and high-end 21st century skills to Delhi Schools as part of the Government's Schools of Specialized Excellence which

seek to discover, foster, and nurture student ability, thereby enabling them to realise their full potential in specific domains. The skills will provide an education focused around high end skills and entrepreneurship development that is relevant.

STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS WITH FINANCING OPTIONS

The Eupheus Learning Program (TLP) is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Varthana Finance Private Ltd. Both companies share a common vision to democratise access to quality education and learning aids.

Under the strategic partnership, the two will use their respective networks to strengthen schools with financing options as well as a large catalog of education

offerings. Such financial support will empower schools to expand their infrastructure, invest in teacher training, and introduce new learning methods into their classrooms.

Amit Kapoor, co-founder, Eupheus Learning, said: "We've been committed to transforming education system. With this MoU, we are taking another step in the direction to support and empower schools with

a one-stop solution for their financial, operational and academic needs."

Eupheus Learning focuses on premium and affordable private schools with a reach of 20,000 schools, 6,300 user schools and 4.2 million students. Through this MoU, Varthana's 4,000-plus school partners will get access to 21st century school OS and the largest catalog of educational offerings from Eupheus Learning.

SIMPLILEARN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN #JOBGUARANTEED

Simplilearn has launched #JobGuaranteed. The campaign focuses on job guarantee programmes that assure a job upon course completion. The job guarantee offering focused in this campaign provides tangible and strong reasons for aspirants to select it to help them reach one's ambitions and career goals.

The two programmes launched thus far in Data Science and Full Stack Development include a 100% job guarantee within 180 days of completing them (conditions apply).

This integrated campaign will be launched across multiple digital platforms, and print media.

NEWAGE PG PROGRAMME AT PLAKSHA UNIVERSITY

The Plaksha University's Technology Leaders Program (TLP) is a new-age PG programme, designed by a global community of CEOs, entrepreneurs and academicians, for a world that is being transformed by technology. It is delivered in partnership with University of California, Berkeley.

Every year 60 young individuals with high potential are selected. They go

through a rigorous one-year journey that helps develop them as leaders in technology and create the world we want to live in.

It interweaves four tracks:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Core
- Design Thinking and applications of data science
- Entrepreneurial Challenge Lab and Capstone project
- Understanding Self

and Leadership Two cohorts of 60 students each have graduated from this program, and are working as data scientists, product managers and technology leaders. Some students have chosen the path of founding start-ups, others have gone on to study in top institutes globally. To be eligible, an applicant must be a recent graduate, working professional or entrepreneur.

Kohli lone ranger for India as South Africa gain upper hand

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

India skipper Virat Kohli was a picture of patience and perseverance in his well-crafted 79 but South Africa gained the upper hand by bowling out the visitors for an underwhelming 223 on day one of the series-deciding third and final Test here on Tuesday.

Reaching 141 for four at tea, India looked good for a 250 plus first innings score before losing six wickets for 82 runs in the final session.

Kohli (79 off 201 balls), back to lead the side after missing the second Test due to a back spasm, worked extremely hard for his first half-century of the series but eventually ran out of partners.

Cheteshwar Pujara (43) was the other batter who came with up a substantial contribution.

Lead South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada, playing his 50th Test, was the standout bowler of the day and ended with four wickets for 73 runs in 22 overs. Tall left-arm pacer Marco Jansen picked up three wickets.

India got the important wicket of South African skipper Dean Elgar (3) towards close of play with Jasprit Bumrah getting him caught at first slip.

At stumps, the hosts were 17 for one in eight overs with Aiden Markram (8) and night watchman Keshav Maharaj (6) in the middle.

Earlier, Rabada and Kohli were engaged in a fascinating battle throughout the day before the South African removed the opposition captain who was looking for boundaries towards the end of the innings.

The hallmark of Kohli's special knock was how he dealt with balls in the off-stump channel, something he had struggled with heading into the



series-decider. What was remarkable was that he did not shy away from playing those glorious drives he is known for, he just picked the right balls to go for his strokes and did not play recklessly around the off-stump.

Kohli, who took 15 balls to get off the mark, got going with an expansive cover drive off Jansen and got his second slowest fifty with a sublime straight drive. However, for the major part of his innings, Kohli was all grit and gumption as South African bowlers, especially Rabada, kept attacking the off-stump corridor in favourable conditions. The Indian lower-order failed to contribute this time, leaving Kohli

stranded. Rishabh Pant (27) was the first to be dismissed in the final session as he tried to cut a ball too close to his body and ended up giving a simple catch to gully.

Jansen had Ashwin (2) caught behind by getting one to angle away and Shardul Thakur (12) was caught at short cover for spinner Keshav Maharaj's first wicket of the series.

In the afternoon session that yielded 66 runs, Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane (9 off 12 balls) were dismissed.

Kohli, who got off the mark with a delightful cover drive in the morning, hit another majestic one off Jansen in the afternoon besides a six he collect-

ed from a mis-timed pull off Rabada.

Rabada breathed fire in his seven-over spell but Kohli was able to see it off with required patience and discipline.

Pujara once again showed positive intent but was undone by a beauty from Jansen that angled in from round the wicket and straightened just enough to take the outside edge.

Rahane, who has shown sublime touch all through the series but has not been able to convert the starts, was caught behind after Rabada got one to straighten from good length.

India fought their way to 75 for two at lunch after losing their openers early.



The hallmark of Kohli's special knock was how he dealt with balls in the off-stump channel, something he had struggled with heading into the series-decider. What was remarkable was that he did not shy away from playing those glorious drives he is known for, he just picked the right balls to go for his strokes and did not play recklessly around the off-stump.



Sindhu and Srikanth sail into 2nd round

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha recorded the first upset of the India Open when she stunned fifth seed Evgeniya Kosetskaya while top seed PV Sindhu sailed into the women's singles second round of the tournament here on Tuesday.

Reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew was stretched to three games while home favourite Kidambi Srikanth registered a convincing win in their respective men's singles first round matches of the World Tour 500 tournament series event. Loh defeated Canada's Xiaodong Sheng 16-21, 21-4, 21-13 while Srikanth packed off former junior world No. 1 Siril Verma 21-17, 21-10 to advance to the second round.

Earlier in day, unseeded Chaliha took just 31 minutes to get the better of world number 28 Russian 24-22 21-16, while double Olympic medallist Sindhu cruised past compatriot Sri Krishna Priya Kudaravalli 21-5 21-16 in her opening round. However, it was curtains for Chirag Sen as he lost 8-21 7-21 to Soong Joo Ven of Malaysia in the men's singles opening round.

In her opener, Chaliha began strongly by employing her down-the-line smashes to open up an 11-5 lead.

However, the Indian made a lot of errors after the break and Kosetskaya pounced on the opportunity to first level the score at 14-14 and then fight back from 16-19 to earn her first game point.

But the girl from Guwahati, who had lost to the Russian in their earlier contest back in 2019, managed to regroup and forced her opponent to make an unforced error and then saved two more game points before clinching the opener with a smash.

The second game followed a similar trajectory as Chaliha opened up an 11-4 lead, only for the Russian to close in to 19-16. However, the Indian was more in control this time around and kept her cool under pressure to finish off the match in 31 minutes.

"I haven't played a lot of matches in the last few years. So, I was nervous and that affected me midway in the opening game. But once I won the first game, I was more confident and so I was relaxed in the second game," Chaliha said after the match.

New Zealand beats Bangladesh by an innings to tie series



AP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A courageous century by wicketkeeper Liton Das made Bangladesh a hard nut to crack but New Zealand finally broke through on Tuesday to win the second cricket Test by an innings and 117 runs to tie the two-match series.

Das batted almost one-handed for much of his innings after being struck on the glove. He weathered a barrage of short-pitched bowling from New Zealand to post his second Test century from only 106 balls.

Bangladesh rallied around his resilient example to force a match which many thought would be over quickly on Tuesday into the final session of the third day before the last

to the reverberating cheers of the crowd.

Taylor had bowled only 16 overs in all of his previous Tests for two wickets, the last time eight years ago. But fate conspired to bring his career to an extraordinary end. First mobbed by his teammates and presented the match ball, he walked from the field through a honour guard formed by Bangladesh, providing one last rich memory of an outstanding career.

"We needed to win this game to stay in the series and I thought we played fantastically well," Taylor said. "Bangladesh put us under pressure at various times and that was probably a fair reflection of where the series was at. "I wanted to finish with a win and the guys obviously gave that to me." It was significant that the final catch was taken by Latham as the New Zealand captain had an outsized influence on this match.

He scored 252, his second Test double century, in New Zealand's first innings of 521-6 declared, then took six catches as New Zealand bowled out Bangladesh for 126 and 278 after enforcing the follow-on.

Tata Group replaces Vivo as IPL title sponsors for 2 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One of India's largest business conglomerates, the Tata Group, will replace Chinese mobile manufacturer Vivo as the Indian Premier League's title sponsor for the next two years.

As per reliable sources, the Tatas will be paying around Rs 670 crore for two years of title sponsorship while Vivo will pay a total of Rs 454 crore for termination of contract which makes it a win-win situation for the BCCI as it is set to earn a whopping Rs 1124 crore for seasons 2022 and 2023 respectively. "Yes, Tata group is coming in as IPL title sponsor," IPL chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed the development to PTI. BCCI secretary Jay Shah welcomed the company in the new role.

"This is indeed a momentous occasion for the BCCI IPL as the Tata Group is the epitome of global Indian enterprise with an over 100 year old legacy and operations in more than 100 countries across six continents," Shah was quoted as saying in a media release. It is learnt that Tata Group could remain title sponsors for the IPL's 2023 season too as that was the one year concession given to Vivo since it lost a season of sponsorship in 2020. Vivo had a deal of Rs 2200 crore for title sponsorship rights initially from 2018-2022 but after the 2020 Galwan Valley military face-off between the Indian and Chinese Army soldiers, the brand took a break for



a year in view of a public backlash and Dream11 replaced it in the IPL.

However, Vivo was back as IPL title sponsor in 2021 even as speculation raged that the company was looking to transfer the rights to a suitable bidder and the BCCI approved the move.

It is learnt from reliable sources in the BCCI that the Board would be earning Rs 547 crore in 2022 and Rs 577 crore in 2023.

As per information available, Vivo had committed Rs 996 crore for the two years' title sponsorship (2022 and 2023) with Rs 484 crore in 2022 and 512 crore in

the next year.

The value shot up as the IPL expanded to a 10-team event featuring 74 matches this year instead of the 60 which were in place with eight teams.

So how does the break-up of Rs 1124 crore windfall work for BCCI?

The Tatas will be paying Rs 670 crore at the rate of Rs 335 crore per year. Of this, Rs 301 crore will be the Rights Fee and an additional Rs 34 crore would be the incremental fee (for increase of 14 games).

But since Vivo decided to terminate the contract, it will have to pay the difference in both years -- Rs 183 crore for 2022 and Rs 211 crore for 2023.

In addition to that, Vivo will also have to pay 6 per cent assignment fee for both years which comes to Rs 29 crore in 2022.

Chris Morris retires from all forms of cricket

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket and is set to take up a coaching role with domestic side Titans. The 34-year-old cricketer made the announcement on social media. "Today I announce my retirement from all

forms of cricket! Thanks to all who have played a part in my journey whether it be big or small...it's been a fun ride! Delighted to be taking up a coaching role at @titanscricket #lifebeginsnow," Morris wrote on his Instagram page. A right-arm pacer and explosive batter, Morris made his Test debut as late as 2016 and featured in only four games in traditional format, making 173 runs and taking 12 wickets.

He represented South Africa in four Tests, 42 ODIs and 23 T20 Internationals, picking up 48 and 34 wickets respectively.

With the bat in hand, Morris scored 467 runs in ODIs and 133 in T20s respectively.



Yuki Bhambri moves to 2nd round of Aussie Open Qualifiers

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Comeback-man Yuki Bhambri impressed with his match sharpness and attacking net play as the Indian progressed to the second round of Australian Open qualifiers with a comfortable straight set win over Joao Domingues, here on Tuesday.

Bhambri, who returned to the Grand Slam stage after 2018 US Open due to knee injury, beat his 248th ranked Portuguese rival 6-4 6-2 in just 68 minutes.

The 29-year-old Indian's serve looked decent and he played smartly as he charged the net to keep the points short.

He struggled to rein in his unforced errors in the beginning but earned his first breakpoint in the third game with a forehand winner after a long rally. Domingues served a double fault to hand the Indian first break of the match.

Bhambri served the next game at love with an ace to open up a 3-1 lead as

Domingues also tried to charge to the net but Bhambri's powerful strokes pushed him back.

Bhambri fought off two break points on his serve in the sixth game.

At deuce he pulled off a perfectly placed backhand slice and then dispatched up a half-volley for a 4-2 lead.

After getting one more break on account of his rival's unforced errors, Bhambri came out serving for the set but dropped the serve when his miscued overhead smash went out.

He wasn't in the position to play that shot but went for it, anticipating that lob would land in, behind him near the alley.

The Indian claimed the set when he served again.

In the second set too, it was Bhambri who got the first break as he led 4-2. He then served out the match without any fuss.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina will also play their first rounds later in the day.

Djokovic back into swing in Australia despite visa concerns



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Tennis star Novak Djokovic held a practice session at Melbourne Park on Tuesday, his second day out of detention, focusing on his Australian Open title defense while still facing the prospect of deportation because he's not vaccinated for COVID-19. The top-ranked Djokovic hit the show courts within hours of winning a legal battle Monday against the cancellation of his visa, based on procedural grounds. He returned Tuesday afternoon for a closed practice, with doors locked and only his

support team allowed into Rod Laver Arena.

Aerial images taken by Australian TV networks from a helicopter showed the nine-time Australian Open winner back at work, less than a week before the first Grand Slam tournament of the year is due to start. Video showed Djokovic hitting shots from behind the baseline, taking feedback from his coach, and stretching beside the court with a trainer on a sunny but mild summer afternoon. Soon after, organizers released the seedings for the Australian Open tournament, and Djokovic was listed at No. 1 for the men's singles draw.

While he's trying to make up time after spending four days confined to an immigration detention hotel, Djokovic is conscious he could again have his visa revoked. Immigration Minister Alex Hawke is considering exercising his power to deport the 34-year-old Serbian under separate legislation, assessing a medical exemption that the unvaccinated Djokovic relied on to fly into Melbourne.

Hosts India name 23-member squad for AFC Women's Asian Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Host nation India on Tuesday named its 23-member squad for the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup, including four youngsters from the team that finished runners-up in the U-19 SAFF Championships in Dhaka last month.

While the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has not named a captain yet, the experienced Ashalata Devi is likely to lead the side in the continental tournament, which will be held in three venues across Maharashtra from January 20 to February 6.

There are no surprises in the team announced on Tuesday as 27 players had been camping in Kochi since last month, out of which 23 had been picked.

The four players who had participated in the SAFF meet and are also part of this squad are Hemam Shilky Devi (defender), Mariyammal Balamurugan (forward), Sumati Kumari (forward) and Naorem Priyangka Devi (defender).

India will however miss the services of seasoned striker Bala Devi, who continues to recover from an ACL (anterior cruciate



ligament) surgery performed last September. It can take a minimum of six months to fully recover after the operation.

India is hosting the continent's highest competition for the first time since 1980 and at stake is a possible berth in the 2023 FIFA World Cup.

For automatic qualification to the quadrennial showpiece in Australia and New Zealand, India, ranked 55th in the world, must be among the top five teams.

The tournament organisers have released the squads of all the 12 participating nations. Monday was the last date of registration.

The final list of 23 registered players as follows:

GOALKEEPERS: Aditi Chauhan (1), Maibam Linthoingambi Devi (23), Sowmiya Narayanasamy (19).

DEFENDERS: Dalima Chhibber (17), Sweety Devi Ngangbam (2), Ritu Rani (21), Loitongbam Ashalata Devi (4),

Manisa Panna (3), Hemam Shilky Devi (5), Sanju Yadav (8).

MIDFIELDERS: Yunnam Kamala Devi (6), Anju Tamang (9), Karthika Angamuthu (20), Nongmeithem Ratanbala Devi (7), Naorem Priyangka Devi (14), Indumathi Kathiresan (12).

FORWARDS: Manisha Kalyan (16), Grace Dangmei (11), Pyari Xaxa (10), Renu (15), Sumati Kumari (22), Sandhya Ranganathan (13), Mariyammal Balamurugan (18).