

OPINION 6

ETERNAL WISDOM OF
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

WORLD 8

NATO, RUSSIA AGREE TO HAVE MORE
HIGH-LEVEL TALKS DESPITE TENSIONS

MONEY 9

'EDGE DATA CENTRES' IN RURAL
AREAS TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADALate City Vol.32 Issue 12
*Air Surchage Extra if ApplicableBUMRAH
TAKES FIVE AS
INDIA CLAIM
SLIGHT EDGE
12 SPORT

Delhi, Mumbai falsify Covid peak guess

Surge after 4-day hiatus;
Delhi logs 27,561 cases,
40 deaths, 26% positivity
highest since June 2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a few days of dip, Covid-19 cases once again spiked in a big way in Delhi and Mumbai, proving wrong those who believed the pandemic might have peaked in these two cities. Bengaluru has also registered a sharp surge and overall situation in Karnataka is equally grim.

Delhi on Wednesday logged 27,561 fresh Covid cases, which is a 29 per cent rise over in the last 24 hours and the most number of cases in a day since April. The positivity rate has touched 26 per cent, which is the highest in seven months. The number of single-day count has doubled in just two days. On April 20 last year, the city reported 28,395 cases.

The fatality is also increasing in the national Capital. Delhi reported 40 Covid deaths on Wednesday, which is the most since June 10, when it reported 44 deaths. According to the health bulletin, active Covid cases stood at 87,445, highest in the last eight months. The case count stood at 87,907 on May 8 last year.

Similarly, Mumbai reported 16,420 new Covid cases during the last 24 hours on Wednesday, a rise of 40 per cent



Health workers walk through a snow-covered pavement during a door to door campaign for Covid-19 vaccination at a village in Budgam District of central Kashmir on Wednesday

PM to interact with CMs on Covid today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with CMs of all States on Thursday at 4.30 pm via video conferencing on Covid-19 situation, reported ANI. This will be the second Covid-19 review meet of the PM since 24 December, when the Omicron variant had just made an appearance in India.

(4,773) from Tuesday. The positivity rate shot up to 24.38 per cent from 18.75 per cent.

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Coronavirus loses 90% infectivity within 20 minutes after being airborne: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus loses most of its ability to infect after the first five minutes while it becomes 90 per cent less infectious within 20 minutes of becoming airborne, a new study has said, underlining the importance of masking and social distancing in preventing transmission.

The University of Bristol study, which has not been

peer-reviewed, was the first to simulate how coronavirus travels after it has been exhaled, according to the Guardian newspaper.

Ventilation, though still worthwhile, is likely to have a lesser impact.

"People have been focused on poorly ventilated spaces and thinking about airborne transmission over meters or across a room. I'm not saying that doesn't happen, but I still

Booster shot no shield against new Covid variants, new jabs needed for protection: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising questions on the Government's strategy to repeat booster dose called "precaution dose" of the original Covid vaccine, a team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that such a method is not a viable strategy against emerging variants. The global agency has called for new jabs that better protect against transmission.

A growing body of evi-

dence indicates that the Omicron Covid variant is not only far more transmissible than previous variants but also better at dodging some vaccine protections.

"A vaccination strategy based on repeated booster doses of the original vaccine composition is unlikely to be appropriate or sustainable," the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Covid-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-Co-VAC) said in a statement here.

India, which recently launched the drive to administer "precaution dose" to vulnerable populations has ruled out any mix and match of vaccines. Rather, the third dose will be the same vaccine the people have received for their first and second doses.

However, the group of experts from the WHO, who are working to assess the performance of Covid-19 vaccines, called for the development of new vaccines that not only protect people who contract Covid against falling seriously ill but also better prevent people from catching the virus in the first place, in order to deal with emerging Covid variants such as Omicron.

Continued on Page 2

Another OBC stalwart quits Yogi Cabinet

Cong, SP MLAs join BJP in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after Swami Prasad Maurya quit the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet, another OBC stalwart and Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan tendered his resignation citing alleged oppressive attitude of the BJP Government towards the backward and Dalits.

"I worked with dedication but I am resigning as I am hurt by this Government's oppressive attitude towards the backward, deprived sections, Dalits, farmers and unemployed youth and the neglect of quota for the backward and Dalits," Chauhan wrote in his resignation letter, using almost the same language as Maurya, who was Labour Minister in UP.

Meanwhile, bucking the trend of BJP MLAs and Ministers quitting the party, Congress MLA Naresh Saini and Samajwadi Party MLA Hari Om Saini on Wednesday joined the BJP here at the party headquarters.

As expected, Chauhan is likely to join the Samajwadi Party, the indication of which



Yogi may fight from Ayodhya

New Delhi: The BJP is considering fielding Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Ayodhya as its senior leaders meet to finalise candidates for the assembly polls starting from February 10. *PTI*

was given by Akhilesh Yadav, who tweeted a picture with Chauhan saying "party will welcome those who determined to restore the pride of Dalits and backward."

Later in a statement, Chauhan said in the last five years Dalits, backward and unemployed faced the brunt of the Government.

Continued on Page 2

No cut in LAC deployment till disengagement: Naravane

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will not reduce the strength of its troops deployed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh till disengagement from stand-off sites are completed and China is "amenable" to de-inducting its force, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Wednesday.

Making this assertion as the 14th round of military-level talks were underway at the LAC in Chushul in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday, he also said ramping up of large force by China there was the "root cause" of the ongoing tension at the border for the last two years.

The Army Chief favoured dialogue to resolve the differences and said every round of talks do not yield results. The talks give both the sides a chance to know about the differences in perception and finally come to mutually acceptable agreement, he said.

"Situation, at present, is stable and under control," he said.

Lt General Anindiya Sengupta, chief of Leh based 14



Corps, is heading the Indian delegation in the talks. The last round was held on October 10 last year when both countries blamed each other for the ongoing tension and face-offs at some friction points. Naravane said India was hopeful of resolving issues at Patrolling Point 15 (Hot Springs).

He made these remarks when asked if the Army was gearing up for permanent deployment at the LAC in eastern Ladakh in the aftermath of transgressions by China in May 2020 leading to heightened tension.

Holding China responsible for the situation at the LAC in

Ladakh, Naravane said the first step is to disengage from the face-offs.

Once these processes are completed, "we can then think of de-induction," he said, adding it depended on mutually acceptable principle of security. Till then, the Army is prepared to stay there as long as required, the Army Chief said. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the Armies are deployed in the front at the LAC in Ladakh.

The Army Chief said the force will continue to deal with the PLA in a firm and resolute manner in eastern Ladakh.

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CAPSULE

ACTION ON NAGALAND FIRING SOON: ARMY

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane on Wednesday described as "highly regrettable" the December 4 firing incident in Nagaland's Mon district in which 14 civilians were killed and said "appropriate action", as required to uphold the law of the land, would be taken based on the investigation.

ARREST WARRANT AGAINST MAURYA

Sultanpur: A local court on Wednesday here issued an arrest warrant against BJP MLA Swami Prasad Maurya, who recently resigned as cabinet minister, in a seven year old case.

HUSBANDS NOT RAPIST UNDER LAW, HC TOLD

New Delhi: Married women will be denied the right to call a rape a rape till the law provides protection to the husband from prosecution for a non-consensual sexual act with the wife, an amicus curiae Wednesday told the Delhi High Court. "In my view, the exception is bad," he said. Provisions under section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code exempt sexual intercourse by a man with his wife from the offence of rape, provided the wife is above 15 years of age.

SC notice to U'khand, Delhi Police on plea against hate speakers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre, the Delhi Police and the Uttarakhnad Police to respond to a plea seeking direction to ensure investigation and action against those who allegedly made hate speeches during two events held recently in Haridwar and Delhi.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, which agreed to hear the plea and issued notice on it, permitted the petitioners to make representation to the local authorities against holding of future 'Dharam Sansad' events there. The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, posted the matter for

hearing after 10 days.

The apex court was hearing a petition filed by journalist Qurban Ali and former Patna High Court judge and senior advocate Anjana Prakash, who have also sought a direction for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" by an SIT into the incidents of hate speeches against the Muslim community. After the bench said it was issuing notice and listed it for hearing after 10 days, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the petitioners, said the only problem is that in the meantime a "Dharam Sansad" is going to be held on January 23 in Aligarh and they don't want it to happen.

Continued on Page 2

Justice Indu to head probe panel on PM security breach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday appointed a five-member committee headed by former apex court judge Justice Indu Malhotra to probe the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Punjab.

The "questions cannot be left to one-sided inquiry" and a judicially trained mind needs to oversee the probe, a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said while appointing the Justice Malhotra panel.

The bench also appointed the Inspector General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Director General of Police of Chandigarh, the

Registrar General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Additional DGP of Punjab as members to the panel.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, said the panel will submit its report "at the earliest".

The SC said the points of reference of the apex court-appointed panel will be to inquire as to who all are responsible for the security breach and to what extent, the remedial measures are necessary. The panel will give suggestions on security of constitutional functionaries ensuring that such incidents do not take place in future.

Continued on Page 2

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I&B Ministry’s hacked Twitter handle restored

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another instance of a Government handle being hacked, the official Twitter account of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry was temporarily hacked on Wednesday morning but the account was promptly secured within a few minutes. The hackers renamed the account after Tesla founder “Elon Musk” and some tweets with text such as ‘HURRRRY UP!!!’, ‘GREEAT JOB!!’, ‘SOMETHING AMAZZZING !!!’ and ‘GREAT JOB!’ were posted from this account. Moreover, a couple of tweets contained a link to a website.

“The account @Mib_india has been restored. This is for the information of all the followers,” the ministry, which has 1.4 million followers on Twitter,

tweeted after the account was restored.

According to officials, “It happened for around 10-15 minutes after which the Twitter handle was resumed. There were random posts and replies tagging Elon Musk. It is too early to comment on the inquiry aspect of the matter as the plan of action is yet to be decided,” a ministry official said.

The Twitter accounts of the Indian Medical Association, Indian Council of World Affairs and Mann Deshi Mahila Bank were also hacked on January 3. In that case, too, the hackers had renamed the handle as ‘Elon Musk’. The fonts used to change the names of the profiles in today’s (January 12, 2021) incident and the January 3 incident appear to be the same. The posted content ‘AMAZZZING’

also appeared to be similar, though the links tweeted in the two cases seemed to be different.

This isn’t the first time that the official government twitter accounts have been hacked. In December, Prime Minister’s personal twitter handle @narendramodi was hacked briefly. Hackers had put out a tweet from his twitter handle on bitcoin, but the twitter account was promptly restored.

In July of 2020, twitter accounts of several celebrities were hijacked with a scam tweet encouraging followers to donate bitcoin to Covid-relief projects. Nearly 130 accounts, including that of Kim Kardashian West, Kanye West, Elon Musk, Bill Gates and Barack Obama were targeted in this attack.

Lata Mangeshkar under observation in Mumbai hosp



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Breach Candy Hospital for treatment of Covid-19 and pneumonia on Saturday night, will be under observation at the hospital for the next 10 to 12 days.

Dr Pratit Samdhani, who is attending to her at the hospital, said: “Singer Lata Mangeshkar was admitted to our hospital on Saturday night. Apart from Covid-19, she is suffering from pneumonia. She continues to be in the ICU ward. She will be under observation at the hospital for 10 to 12 days”.

After DU, JNU to hold admissions through CUET from 2022-2023

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the Delhi University, the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) too on Wednesday decided to hold admissions through the Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET) from the next academic session as announced by the Ministry of Education last month. The decision was taken at JNU Academic Council meeting and was “overwhelmingly endorsed” by the members, according to a statement issued by Jayant K Tripathi, Director of Admissions.

“During the deliberations in the Academic Council, a large number of members including the Deans of Schools, Centre Chairpersons, and External Members of the Council emphasized that CUET would provide a level playing field to numerous eligible students from across the country reducing the burden of taking several entrance examinations,” it said. Recently, the Delhi University has also decided to hold admissions from the next academic session through the CUET. The statement said that the university had earlier in its academic council meeting held in March last year, also decided that whenever the National Testing Agency would hold the CUET, the university would go by it.

No cut in...

From Page 1

He said though there was partial disengagement in the region, the “threat by no means has reduced. “We have continued to maintain the highest levels of operational preparedness while at the same time engaging with the Chinese PLA through dialogue,” he said.

The Chief also said the Army is more than adequately prepared to deal with any military ramifications of China’s new land boundary law.

“We will continue to deal with the Chinese PLA in a firm and resolute manner,” he said adding necessary safeguards are in place to take care of any contingencies.

Fielding a question on China stepping up its infrastructure projects in the region, Naravane said it was not restricted to building barracks. The Chinese are constructing roads, bridges and tunnels and “we have equally matched them.

No way we are lagging behind and are evenly matched,” he said. Naravane said India has also enhanced its efforts to build roads and other infrastructure in the border areas of the country. The initiative was undertaken in a holistic and comprehensive manner, he said adding major efforts are undertaken to see what all dual-use infrastructure in the border areas can be made use of. The Army chief said the response by his forces to Chinese attempts to unilaterally change the status quo was very robust. “We are much better prepared to meet any challenge that is thrown up at us,” he said.

Booster...

From Page 1

“Covid-19 vaccines that have a high impact on the prevention of infection and transmission, in addition to the prevention of severe disease and death, are needed and should be developed,” the group said.

This, it said, would help lower “community transmission and the need for stringent and broad-reaching public health and social measures”.

It also suggested that vaccine developers should strive to create jabs that “elicit immune responses that are broad, strong, and long-lasting in order to reduce the need for successive booster doses”.

As the virus evolves and until new vaccines are available, “the composition of current Covid-19 vaccines may need to be updated”, the group said.

According to the WHO, 331 candidate vaccines are being worked on around the world. The UN health agency has so far given its stamp of approval to versions of eight different vaccines.

Earlier this week, Pfizer Inc chief executive Albert Bourla said a redesigned Covid-19 vaccine that specifically targets the Omicron variant is likely to be needed and his company could have one ready to launch by March.

Delhi, Mumbai...

From Page 1

Overall, Maharashtra reported 46,000 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, almost 12000 more than Tuesday. The State positivity rate currently stands at 21.4 per cent. At present, there are around 2.25 lakh active cases in the State.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said, “More than 2.25 lakh active cases in the

State, total 86% are in-home quarantine, while less than 1% people are on oxygen support.” “Many people are doing self rapid antigens testing, so I request if they are doing self-testing then one must inform the local authorities too,” he added.

The sharp rise came after four days of decline in daily cases. Tuesday was the fourth day in a row when Mumbai

witnessed a dip in daily Covid-19 infections. Of the 16,420 new cases, 83 per cent patients are asymptomatic, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said in its daily release.

Meanwhile, as many as 21,390 more people tested positive for Covid-19 across Karnataka in the last 24 hours, taking the state’s positivity rate to 10.96 per cent, said State Health Minister K Sudhakar on Wednesday. Of them, Bengaluru accounted for 15,617 new cases, which is a 44 per cent hike in daily infections as compared to Tuesday. The city also saw six deaths. Meanwhile, the Centre on Wednesday asked people to strictly follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and said the current pandemic in India is driven by Omicron and it is not common cold. The World Health Organization (WHO) too cautioned against treating

Covid-19 as an endemic illness like flu, rather than as a pandemic.

Officials from the Union Health Ministry said that daily positivity rate has shot up from 1 per cent a few days ago to 11 per cent. The test positivity rate -- the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that turn out to be positive -- is an important metric through which the public health system keeps a tab on the level of Covid-19 transmission.

“Some cities are reporting even higher percentages like 25, 30 per cent and even 60 per cent in some places,” said Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary (Health), at a press conference here as he pointed out that as many as 300 districts in India are reporting weekly Covid case positivity of more than 5 per cent.

In fact, Ahmedabad district in Gujarat has reported 21.5 per cent Covid-19 positivity rate as compared to the State’s average of around eight per cent, as per the district-wise test figures released on Wednesday. Besides, the positivity rate in Surat is over 11 per cent, also

higher than the state’s average.

Agarwal urged people not to treat infection due to Omicron variant as the common cold and get vaccinated. It said Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat are emerging as States of concern due to the rise in Covid cases there. Concurrently, Covid cases have been rising globally with January 10 recording the highest ever single-day rise of 31.59 lakh cases worldwide, he said

He said, “Emerging States of concern reporting high positive rates are Maharashtra with a positivity rate of 22.39 per cent, West Bengal 32.18 per cent, Delhi 23.1 per cent and Uttar Pradesh (UP) 4.47 per cent. India’s Omicron tally is at 4,868, with Maharashtra topping the list.” While addressing the media, Niti Aayog Member (Health) Dr VK Paul said, “Omicron is not common cold, it’s our responsibility to slow it down. Let’s Mask Up and get vaccinated, whoever is due. It’s a fact they (vaccines) are helpful to an extent.

Vaccination critical pillar of our Covid response.”

Dr Paul also said that there should be a rational approach for medicine use. “We are concerned about the overuse and misuse of drugs. Don’t overuse, it will have aftermath. Have warm water, do gargles in home care,” he further added.

All symptomatic cases, including risk contacts, to be tested for Covid, said ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhargava, adding that asymptomatic cases are not required to get tested unless they are at high risk. “Home quarantine is mandatory for all contacts for 7 days as per guidelines,” he said.

India added 1,94,720 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 3,60,70,510 which includes 4,868 cases of Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The active cases increased to 9,55,319, the highest in 211 days, while the death toll climbed to 4,84,655 with 442 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

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Train No. & Name	Regulation of Trains		
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Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate/short originate at/from	Train Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date from originating station
22355 Patliputra - Chandigarh Express (2 days a week)	from Danapur	Patliputra - Danapur	16.01.2022
22356 Chandigarh - Patliputra Express (2 days a week)	at Danapur	Danapur - Patliputra	13.01.2022

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As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

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Coronavirus loses ...

From Page 1

For the study, researchers from the University of Bristol developed an apparatus that allowed them to generate any number of tiny, virus-containing particles and gently levitate them between two electric rings for anywhere between five seconds to 20 minutes, while tightly controlling the temperature, humidity and UV light intensity of their surroundings, the report said.

They found that the viral particles start to rapidly lose water and dry out when they exit the relatively moist and

carbon dioxide-rich conditions of the lungs.

The transition to lower levels of CO2 is associated with a rapid increase in pH -- factors which disrupt the virus’s ability to infect human cells. However, the speed at which the particles dry out varies according to the relative humidity of the surrounding air, the report said.

When this was lower than 50 per cent -- similar to the relatively dry air found in many offices -- the virus had lost around half of its infectivity within five seconds, after which the decline was slower and more steady, with a further 19 per cent loss over the next five minutes.

At 90 per cent humidity - roughly equivalent to a steam

or shower room - the decline in infectivity was more gradual, with 52 per cent of particles remaining infectious after five minutes, dropping to about 10 per cent after 20 minutes, after which there was no difference between the two conditions.

But, the study showed that the temperature of the air made no difference to viral infectivity, contradicting the widely-held belief that viral transmission is lower at high temperatures, the report said.

“It means that if I’m meeting friends for lunch in a pub today, the primary (risk) is likely to be me transmitting it to my friends, or my friends transmitting it to me, rather than it being transmitted from someone on the other side of the room,” said Reid.

SC notice to U’khand...

From Page 1

The apex court permitted petitioners to bring it to the notice of local authorities about such event, which are going to take place, and which according to the petitioners, are contrary to the penal law. The plea, which specifically referred to the “hate speeches” delivered between the 17th and 19th of December 2021 at Haridwar and Delhi”, has also sought compliance of apex court’s guidelines to deal with such speeches.

The Uttarakhand Police had filed an FIR on December 23 last year under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code against some persons, including Sant Dharamdas Maharaj, Sadhvi Annapoorna alias Pooja Shakun Pandey, Yati Narsinghanand and Sagar Sindhu Maharaj. A similar complaint was filed with the Delhi Police for the second event organised in the national Capital. The plea said that no effective steps have been taken by Uttarakhand and Delhi police.

Office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Guna (M.P.)

Tender Notice

Dated 05.01.2022

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्रो, लोक निर्माण विभाग (भ/प) संभाग गुना के अन्तर्गत निम्नांकित मार्ग निर्माण कार्यो हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन फर्म/ठेकेदारों से वेबसाईट <https://mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की शर्तें एवं अन्य अभिलेख टेण्डर प्रपत्र के साथ संलग्न है। जिन्हें वेबसाईट से डाउनलोड कर देखा जा सकता है। कार्य का विवरण एवं ऑनलाइन टेण्डर क्रय करने, बिड सबमिशन करने का विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

S. No.	Name of Distt.	Nature of work	Tender no.	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of project (pac) (rs. In lack)	EMD	Cost of Tender form	Time Period of Work Completion	Physical submission (original other document) at the office of as
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	GUNA	Road Construction Work	2021_PWDRB_173437_1	Construction of Bhurakheda to Amrodh Road Under PWD Sub Division Guna Distt Guna	1	427.76	427860.00	15000.00	10 Month Including Rainy Season	*Only Online As provided in the portal (https://mptenders.gov.in)
2	GUNA	Road Construction Work	2021_PWDRB_173439_1	Construction of Karnavda to Dongri Road Under PWD Sub Division Guna Distt Guna	1	270.47	270470.00	15000.00	10 Month Including Rainy Season	-do-
3	GUNA	Road Maintenance Work	2021_PWDRB_173440_1	SPECIAL REPAIRS OF DAMAGES UNDER SUB DIVISION GUNA 1. Myana Taknera Approach Damage road length 0.121 KM. 2. Karod Parsoda road at Km 4/2-4 Damage road Length 0.1 25 K.M. 3. Pagara Karod Ikodiya Piproda khurd Bhotmadhi Rusalla Khamkheda Damage road Length 0.30 KM.	1	77.36	77360.00	10000.00	3 Month Including Rainy Season	-do-
4	GUNA	Building Repairing Work	2021_PWDRB_173442_1	AR Work of Old Banglow and D E F Type Quarters at Section No. 1 PWD Sub Dn Guna (MP) Year 2021-22	II	15.00	30000.00	2000.00	06 Month Including Rainy Season	-do-
5	GUNA	Building Repairing Work	2021_PWDRB_173443_1	AR Work of RB or NRB at Section Bamori, Myana Fathegarh Sirsi and Bajrangarh PWD Sub Dn Guna (MP) Year 2021-22	II	10.00	20000.00	2000.00	06 Month Including Rainy Season	-do-

उपरोक्त निविदाएँ वेबसाईट mptenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 10.01.2022 से ऑनलाइन भुगतान करने के उपरांत निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट) वेबसाईट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने एवं बिड सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.01.2022 को समय 17.30 बजे निर्धारित है। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में होने वाले संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर किया जावेगा। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

Executive Engineer
P.W.D. Dn. Guna
G-21269/21
अफवाहों पर ना दे ध्यान, टीका लगवाकर बचायें जाय।

Fake loan gang busted in North Delhi; 28 held

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested 28 people, including 25 women, for allegedly cheating people with a fake loan scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, officials said on Wednesday. The racket was unearthed when a woman, a resident of Rohini Sector 5, made a complaint to the police about being cheated of her money.

In her complaint, she reported receiving a call from a man named Satish Kumar who introduced himself as a bank employee and offered her a loan of ₹6 lakh under the PMRGP, police said. According to the scheme, the woman was asked only to repay ₹5 lakh, and ₹1 lakh was supposed to be waived as subsidy. The accused

asked her to transfer ₹21,500 to avail the loan offer, and lured by the easy terms, she transferred the amount, a senior police officer said.

Later, the accused stopped picking her calls, they said. Upon her complaint, the details of bank accounts of the complainant as well as of the accused were checked.

It was found that the cheated money was further transferred from the account of Satish Kumar to the account of Shubhan Khan, the officer said. Police got a tip-off and conducted a raid on Tuesday at an establishment opposite GTK Depot, Ramgarh, in Jahangirpuri area from where the call centre was being operated. *PTI*

BJP-ruled civic bodies preparing to hand over heritage buildings to private players: AAP

New Delhi: Ahead of the civic polls in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday upped the ante against the BJP and accused it of preparing to lease out heritage buildings in the national Capital to private players for undue gains.

The first in the line is a heritage building in Mehrauli which falls under the jurisdiction of the BJP-ruled South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), AAP leader Atishi said at a press conference.

The SDMC in its agenda for the next meeting of its standing committee has proposed to auction this 250-square metres heritage building, she said and slammed the BJP over the move asking it to hand over all the heritage buildings to AAP's Delhi Government for their upkeep and maintenance if it was not able to take care of them.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP on the AAP's accusations. *PTI*

City logs 27,561 fresh corona cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Wednesday registered 27,561 daily fresh cases of Covid 19 while the positivity rate was at 26.22 percent, according to Delhi State Health Bulletin.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that the number of coronavirus cases has stabilized in the national Capital with 40 deaths related to coronavirus reported in one day. Surprisingly, while addressing the media he had hinted that restrictions in Delhi will be lifted, however, the health bulletin indicated Delhi is facing a tough time in dealing with active cases.

"It seems like Covid cases have stabilised in Delhi, soon we will see a decline," Jain told reporters. "If Covid-19 cases come down in 2-3 days, restrictions will be lifted." "Delhi is likely to see around 25,000 cases today," Jain had told reporters earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, according to the health minister, the patient's admission rate has stabilized and 85 percent of beds are available. "Majority of patients admitted to ICU are there because of comorbidities," "If you have no symptoms and no comorbidities, there is no need to have a Corona test," the Minister added, urging people to follow Covid appropriate behavior.

Elaborating Covid cases trend in the city, he said that for the last few days, close to 20,000 cases have been arriving daily, and positivity rate has consistently been around 25%. Aside from that, the number of people admitted to hospitals is not growing. Only 2,209 of the existing total 14,621 reserved beds for Corona are occupied, with the remaining 12,412 beds remaining vacant. This means that 85 percent of the beds are still available, and the Delhi Government has made plans to increase them if necessary," he added.

No lockdown in G'gram, no need to panic, says DC

Gurugram: Amid rumours of a lockdown in Gurugram, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr Yash Garg, on Wednesday said that the Covid infection in Gurugram is in control and there is no requirement of a lockdown according to the current situation in the district.

The people of the district, especially the workers, should not panic but take precautions.

The Deputy Commissioner said that production units and industries are running regularly in Gurugram and the rumours being spread about workers migrations were found to be baseless.

"Workers are not going anywhere from Gurugram," he said.

Patron, Daulatabad Industrial Area Association, Vinay Gupta said that industrial units are being operated regularly and the rumours of workers going to their respective states are false and misleading. There is no information of any worker leaving Gurugram from the industrial area.

State Secretary, Federation of Indian Industry, Deepak Maini and officials of Sector 37 Industrial Association also said that industries are running properly in their area and there is no problem of workers as most of the workers are coming to work. *SR*

Rohini court shootout main conspirator held

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has nabbed a 31-year-old associate of Tillu gang, who was the main conspirator of shootout in Rohini Court in which gangster Jitender Gogi was killed, after a brief exchange of fire from north Delhi's Narela Industrial area. The accused has been identified as Rakesh Tajpuriya, a resident of Alipur. Police said that Rakesh is one of the most active members and sharp shooter of Tillu gang.

He was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 from Delhi Police. One semi-automatic pistol with three live cartridges and three empty shells recovered from the spot, police said. Rakesh was the main conspirator behind the killing of their rival Jitender alias Gogi in Rohini Court last year as per directions of Sunil Tillu from jail, police said. According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on Tuesday police received specific inputs that Rakesh would come near Xing Chemical Factory Road, Narela Industrial area around 10 pm to meet his associate.

"Acting on the inputs, a trap was laid at around 10 PM by the police team and Rakesh was seen riding a bike near the spot. He was asked to surrender, but the accused dropped his bike and fired two rounds at police. Police also fired one round and overpowered Rakesh," said the DCP.

"Rakesh was involved in more than 12 criminal cases, including of murder, attempt to murder, extortion, in Delhi and Haryana in last 10 years. Rakesh was also wanted in a most sensational case of broad day shootout in Rohini Court on September 24, 2021 in which Jitender Gogi was killed. Gogi was gunned down by the two gangsters of Sunil Tillu gang who had entered the court complex in the dress of lawyers," said the DCP.

"Both the shooters and arms used in the shootout were arranged by Rakesh as per directions of Sunil Tillu and he himself remained outside the court during the shootout. In 2020 and 2021, Rakesh, along with his associates, had killed Sonu Kanda, Kulbir Mathur and Nitesh, all members of Gogi gang. In 10 years long gang war between Tillu and Gogi, around 25 persons on both sides have so far lost their lives in Delhi and Haryana," said the DCP. *SR*

Congressmen celebrates Priyanka's birthday, distributes blanket to poor



Senior Delhi Congress leader and former MLA Jai Kishan distributing woolens, blankets and fruits to the poor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congressmen organised a function to mark the birthday of Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi in the national Capital on Wednesday.

The Party's Delhi unit vice-president Jai Kishan organised a programme in Mangolpuri,

Sultanpuri, Jahangirpuri, Rani Bagh and adjoining areas and distributed blankets and warm clothes to the needy people.

Jai Kishan along with party workers visited different temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches in the city and distributed blankets, clothes, sarees and suits to women, poor and the needy.

Kejriwal unveils AAP's 10-point 'Punjab Model' ahead of polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will implement a 10-point 'Punjab Model' to create a new-age and prosperous State after forming the Government, party national convener Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

"We have prepared a 'Punjab Model' based on a 10-point agenda as per inputs from the people of Punjab for the advancement of the State. We will create so many job opportunities that children who have gone to Canada will begin to return to Punjab within five years," he said.

The AAP Government will put an end to the drug mafia and make Punjab drug-free. AAP will get the harshest punishment for all those accused of sacrilege and will restore peace and brotherhood in Punjab, he said.

"Will make Punjab free of corruption, and like Delhi people's work will be done without the use of money. We will transform Punjab's education system in the same way that we have transformed Delhi's education system. AAP will build luxurious government hospitals in Punjab as well as 16,000 mohalla clinics where every Punjabi will receive free treatment," he said.

Kejriwal said that the AAP government will provide 24x7 free electricity supplies in



Punjab and will deposit one thousand rupees in the accounts of all women over the age of 18. "We will also fix the farming system in Punjab and end corruption by eliminating Raid Raj to help traders. Congress and Badals ruled in partnership in Punjab; looted every paisa of public funds from the hands of the poor. All the parties have come together to defeat AAP and Punjabis once again; but this time the whole of Punjab is ready to fail their plans," he added.

The AAP national convenor further said that in Punjab, the AAP Government will build 16 thousand Mohalla clinics. "Punjab generates great amounts of electricity. Despite this, Punjab suffers from lengthy power outages. Electricity is now the most expensive commodity in Punjab. Just as we have 24 hour electricity supply and free electricity provision within Delhi, we will provide free electricity for 24 hours.

The eighth agenda item is that every woman over the age of 18 will receive a monthly deposit of one thousand rupees into her bank account. The ninth is, the farming system will be fixed," he added.


AAP to announce CM face next week: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP's) chief ministerial face for the Punjab Assembly polls will be announced next week, party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday.

Targeting the Charanjit Singh Channi-led Government over the law and order situation in the State, he said, "Justice will be delivered in old sacrilege incidents and culprits will be given the strictest punishment". "Be it a matter of PM's security or common man's security, it shall be ensured," he said.

Kejriwal also slammed the Congress and the Badal family for allegedly looting the State for the past several years. "A tie up of Congress and the Badal family has been going on for the last several years. Both the Congress and the Badal family have been looting Punjab. It will now come to an end. Punjab will witness prosperity and good time for Punjab is going to come," he further said.



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

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HC upholds death penalty for rape-murder

7-yr-old mentally challenged girl was raped, murdered by convict in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court in a judgment which would go down in history as a landmark verdict upheld on Wednesday the death sentence awarded by a trial court to the accused in a rape and murder case. The bench consisting of judges S Vaidyanathan and G Jayachandran quoted profusely from Thirukural, the Holy Quran and The Bible along with previous judgments by the Supreme Court to explain why they were rejecting the appeal filed by the accused challeng-

ing the trial court verdict. The prosecution case was that a seven year old girl of a mentally challenged mother was enticed and wooed by Samivel alias Raja , the sole accused, and took her to a secluded place and subjected to aggravated penetrative sexual assault. The incident happened on June 30, 2020 at 3 pm. After fulfilling his desires the accused murdered the girl in a gruesome manner and dumped her body in a temple pond situated in a secluded area. The girl belonged to scheduled caste community. When her father came to know that she has not returned home even after 6 pm, he filed a missing person complaint with the local police station. It was on the next day some local residents came across the dead body of the girl lying in the unused pond covered with shrubs and plants. The inves-

tigation by the local police based on the revelations made by local people took them to Samivel who spilled the beans on interrogation. The charge sheet framed by the investigating officer established the culpability of the accused beyond any doubt and hence the sessions judge, Pudukottai sentenced Samivel to death penalty describing the case as a rarest of rare cases, a benchmark specified by the apex court. The High Court judges concurred with the findings of the trial court. "We find that the judgment of the Trial Court fulfilled all the touchstone to determine that it is one of the rarest of rare cases for imposition of death sentence, as imposition of any other punishment much less life imprisonment is completely insufficient and inadequate and would not meet the ends of justice. Taking into

consideration the brutality of attack, the barbaric manner in which the deceased child was murdered and the mental agony undergone by the parents, we find that except death sentence, no other sentence will be adequate. We have examined this case more carefully and having given our anxious thought to the facts, we have found that the mitigating circumstances in favour of the accused herein is no match to the aggravating circumstances," said the Justices. The justices further stated that they were little hesitant initially to take away a life of a person by way of a judicial order and thought of converting the punishment into the one of life imprisonment. "But, after due deliberation and contemplation, we were reminded of the preaching of Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the battle field that everyone is going to disappear

from the World, even if he (Arjuna) does not shoot the enemies with arrows, even though they are relatives / known persons. Further saying, when a particular duty is given to a person, he has to discharge the same without fear or favour". Their Lordships also pointed out that no religion will encourage murdering of other fellow human being. "In the Holy Quran, it is unequivocally stated, "Whosoever killed a person... it shall be as if he had killed all mankind" (5:32). In the Bible (Numbers 35:30-31), it is ascribed that " If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death".

Bengal Govt to go ahead with Sagar Mela with Covid norms

CM asks pilgrims to get double dose, exercise utmost caution

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With corona positive rates rising to an alarming level in Bengal and particularly Kolkata, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asked the Ganga Sagar bound pilgrims to exercise "utmost caution" and "cooperate with the Government in following corona protocols". Despite repeated appeal from the medical fraternity and the Opposition parties, the Bengal Government has decided against banning Ganga Sagar Mela this year. The Chief Minister's appeal to the people came on a day when Health Ministry reports said that Kolkata had recorded more than 60 percent positivity rate in the past one

week where as the figure for the State had gone up to an alarming 32 percent mark. "We want to receive you all but the way Omicron has been infected people is a cause of great concern ... we have no other way but to impose strict norms as per the Calcutta High Court order," the Chief Minister said appealing to the pilgrims. She said no person without double dose vaccinations would be allowed to proceed to Ganga Sagar Islands. The State Government had arranged for vaccinating people with the second dose right at the starting point at Babu Ghat in Kolkata, she informed. "One sample of high positivity rate will suffice," said a senior official of the Indian Railways adding "about 4,000 employees of the Eastern Railways have tested positive." The "only silver lining" was however that total daily rate had slightly dipped in Kolkata which was little more than 6,000 infections on Tuesday as compared to about 8,000 a day or two before, said Dr Diptendra Sarkar of the State-owned SSKM Hospital. Following the surge in daily cases, Bengal's tally of active casesstood at 1,02,236. The State also recorded 19 deaths in the past 24hours. Currently, its caseload and toll stand at 17,95,430 and 19,936 respectively. "It seems that the infections are gradually shifting towards the rural and semi-urban areas and districts which has to be taken care of by the Government," Dr Sarkar said. Meanwhile, in a determined show of intent the Diamond Harbour administration on Wednesday vaccinated more than 50,000 people in ten hours, officials said. Diamond Harbour parliamentary constituency is represented by Trinamool Congress national general secretary and the Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The TMC MP had earlier directed the administration to show an 'intentof purpose' by vaccinating at least 30,000 people, officials said.

UP politics set for change, says Raut after many MLAs quit BJP

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday claimed a political change was imminent in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and the recent move by a State Minister and some other BJP MLAs to leave the saffron party was just the beginning. Talking to reporters here, Raut also said he wants to tell the people of Goa, where polls to the 40-member Assembly are scheduled on February 14, not to fall prey to monetary inducements, and that the Shiv

Sena will stand against any such move by the BJP in the coastal state. In a jolt to the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the state cabinet on Tuesday and three other MLAs announced they are quitting the party. Raut on Wednesday said, "This is just the beginning and politics in Uttar Pradesh is set for a change."

Referring to the Goa poll scene, the Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson said, "Our fight is against notes (money power) of the BJP." "The Shiv Sena is the common man's party. We want to tell the people not to fall prey to monetary inducements," he said. To Devendra Fadnavis's reported comment that unlike Maharashtra, the BJP will not

allow the sale of mandate in Goa, Raut said leaders like Pravin Zantye and Michael Lobo had quit the saffron party in Goa under Fadnavis's watch. After the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Shiv Sena fell out with long-term ally BJP over the issue of chief ministerial post. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party later tied-up with the NCP and Congress to form government in the state. Raut had on Tuesday said the Shiv Sena will contest 50 seats in Uttar Pradesh, where elections to the 403-member Assembly will be held in phases over the next two months. He had also said that in Goa, discussions were on for an alliance with the Congress and NCP, and if the Sonia Gandhi-led party does not agree, the Sena will contest the elections on its own. **PTI**

No intention to go back to BJP: Ex-UP Min Maurya

Lucknow: Ex-BJP leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Wednesday said he was not going back to the saffron camp and indicated joining Samajwadi Party on Friday. Maurya, who quit as Minister on Tuesday, claimed that his resignation from the Cabinet has triggered an earthquake in the BJP.

Meanwhile, a Sultanpur district court during the day issued an arrest warrant against him in a seven years old case in which he was accused of making objectionable comments against Hindu deities. Asked if Sanghmitra Maurya, his daughter and a BJP MP from Badaun, will follow the suit, he said she would take a call on her own. Though he hasn't yet announced joining Akhilesh Yadav, the five-time MLA from Padrauna in Kushinagar, thanked the SP chief for welcoming his decision to quit the state cabinet. Akhilesh had shared a photograph of him with Maurya after the latter's high voltage resignation from the BJP Tuesday. Asked who else is joining SP with him, Maurya said "everything will be clear on January 14". Maurya ruled out returning to the BJP despite efforts by its several leaders to placate him. **PTI**

UP Min, BJP MLA among 74 acquitted in Kanth violence case of 2014

Moradabad: A special court here has acquitted all 74 accused, including UP Cabinet Minister Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and local BJP MLA Ritesh Kumar Gupta, for allegedly attacking policemen during the protest in Kanth area of the district in 2014. The protest was called by the then opposition party BJP against the Moradabad administration for removing a loud-speaker from a Dalit temple in Kanth police station area. On Tuesday, Additional District and Session Judge Punit Kumar Gupta of MLA-MP court here acquitted all the accused, who were on bail, for want of proof. Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Maneesh Bhatnagar said the prosecution will move the upper court if required after studying the court order. The incident took place on

July 4, 2014 when the BJP had called a mahapanchayat, in defiance of state orders banning it, against the removal of loud-speaker from the Dalit temple in Muslim-dominated Akbarpur village in Kanth area of Moradabad in June by the police. The clashes began after the police lathicharged and fired bullets in the air to disperse the crowd. The stone-pelting by the BJP workers had allegedly left the then district magistrate with severe head injuries. The police, however, succeeded in pushing back the mob from the railway tracks, where hundreds had obstructed the way for hours, affecting train schedules. The prosecution produced 24 witnesses, including then District Magistrate, before the special court during the hearing but couldn't prove the fault of accused. **PTI**

Opp parties need to think of alternative against PM Modi's leadership:Sushmita

Panaji: TMC MP Sushmita Dev has said the Opposition parties in the country need to think of an alternative against the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi before going to the people to seek votes. Talking to PTI in Goa on Tuesday, Dev claimed that Trinamool Congress (TMC) president Mamata Banerjee is coming up as a "formidable force" against Modi. Dev also said the TMC has not entered the Assembly poll fray in Goa to cut the Congress's votes, and that the Banerjee-led party has to go to other states to expand the organisation. The Assembly polls to all 40 seats in Goa will be held on February 14. Targeting the Congress, Dev said there are issues with the Sonia Gandhi-headed party. "It is the oldest party, it has the strongest base, but why do they fail against Modi?" she asked. "There is a big question in this country, Modi versus who?"

We have to answer that question. Unless we answer that question, we cannot go to the people," the Rajya Sabha member said. Dev said the need of the hour at the national level is to find an alternative because the "Congress has not answered the question, Modi versus who?" Asked whether the TMC wants to pitch Mamata Banerjee as the prime ministerial candidate (in the next Lok Sabha polls), Dev said the prime ministerial face of the opposition has to be a collective decision. "When people expected Sonia Gandhi to be the prime minister, she sacrificed (the post) for Dr Manmohan Singh. So, Mrs Gandhi is capable of making big sacrifices, that is her plus point. She may choose to sacrifice for anybody, and I think Mamata Banerjee is coming up as a leader at the national level-a formidable force against Narendra Modi," she said. Dev said what the future holds for the country is not known. **PTI**

"Politics is very dynamic. The idea is to save the nation, which is a commonality among the parties that are not from the RSS or BJP background," she commented. Dev also asserted that the TMC is not in the fray for the upcoming Goa Assembly elections to cut votes of the Congress. "If you keep that logic, then no new party will come out of its own state. If you go on telling new parties that you are there to cut the votes, that means for next 100 years, there should be no other party. Today, for the TMC to expand, we have to go to other states," she said. In the 2017 Goa Assembly elections, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 out of the total 40 seats. However, the BJP then quickly tied-up with some regional parties and independents to form government in the coastal state. The Congress is now left with just two Assembly seats in Goa. **PTI**

Prez Kovind greets people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday greeted citizens for Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Bhogali Bihu and Pongal among others, saying he prays that these harvest festivals develop spirit of fraternity among the people. "I pray to God that these festivals develop the spirit of fraternity among the people while prosperity and happiness prevail in our country," the President said. The President has greeted his fellow citizens on the eve of Lohri (which falls on 13th January), Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bhogali Bihu, Uttarayan and Paush Parva (which fall on 14th January), a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. A majority of the festivals celebrated in our country depict our integral relationship with nature and agriculture, he said. The festivals of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bhogali Bihu, Uttarayan and Paush Parva, mark the harvesting season of crops as the winter season ends and ushers in the spring, Kovind said. People enjoy the fruits of good harvest and celebrate these festivals which also underline the need to preserve our environment, he said, adding that it is not only an example of Indian diversity but also that of unity in diversity of our country. **PTI**



People buy kites and other decorative items on the eve of 'Makar Sankranti' festival in Thane on Wednesday

PTI

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

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PUBLIC NOTICE - BATTERIES MANAGEMENT

Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 came into force w.e.f 16th May, 2001. These rules mandate various responsibilities on manufacturers, importers, assemblers, re-conditioners, dealers, recyclers, consumers, bulk consumers and auctioneers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under.

Manufacturers/Importers

- Shall ensure that the new batteries be sold only to the registered dealers and the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold excluding those sold to original equipment manufacturer and bulk consumer(s).
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales and buy-back to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in **Form- I** latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Set up collection centres either individually or jointly at various places for collection of used batteries from consumers or dealers and shall ensure that the collected batteries are sent only to the registered recyclers.
- Shall ensure that necessary arrangements are made with dealers for safe transportation from collection centres to the premises of registered recyclers and shall ensure that no damage to the environment occurs during the transportation.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regards to (a) hazard of lead (b) responsibility of consumers to return their used batteries only to the dealer or deliver at designated collection centre and (c) address of the dealer and designated collection centres.
- Buy recycled lead only from registered recyclers.
- Bring to the notice of the DPCC or the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for any violation by the dealers.
- Importers shall apply for registration as per **Form II and Form III** on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) online portal for a period of five years (link: <http://cpcbbrms.nic.in/>).

Assemblers/Re-conditioners

- Shall ensure that the used batteries collected back are of similar type and specifications as that of the new batteries sold and shall ensure that used batteries collected are sent only to registered recyclers.

- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other means with regard to hazards of lead.

Dealers

- Apply for registration by submitting online application in **Form- IV** available on DPCC website by creating user ID and password for the period of five years.
- Shall ensure that the used batteries are collected back as per the schedule against new batteries sold.
- Shall ensure safe transportation of collected batteries to the designated collection centres or to registered recyclers.
- Shall file a half-yearly return of their sales

means with regards to (a) hazard of lead, and (b) obligation of consumers to return used batteries only to the registered dealers or deliver at the designated collection centres.

Consumers/Bulk Consumers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are not disposed off in any manner other than by depositing with the dealer/ manufacturer/ registered recycler/ importer/ re-conditioner or at the designated collection centres.
- Bulk consumers shall file half-yearly return latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) in **Form- I** to DPCC.
- Bulk consumers to their user units may auction used batteries to registered recyclers only.

and buy-back of old batteries to the DPCC and manufacturer in **Form-V** latest by 31st May (for Oct-Mar) and 30th November (for Apr-Sept) of every year.

Recyclers

- Shall apply for registration to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change or an agency designated by it (if not applied already), by submitting information in **Form VI**.
- Shall submit half-yearly returns as per **Form-VII** to the DPCC latest by 30th June (for Oct-Mar) and 31st December (for Apr-Sept) of every year.
- Shall make available all records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield to be submitted to the DPCC.
- Create public awareness through advertisement, publications, posters or by other

Auctioneers

- Shall ensure that used batteries are auctioned to the registered recyclers only.
- Shall maintain records relating to receipt of used batteries, sources, quantities and metal yield and submit to DPCC.
- Shall file half-yearly returns of their auctions latest by 30th June and 31st December to DPCC in **Form-IX**.


Note:- As per Batteries (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2010, every dealer of Lead Acid Battery shall obtain registration from DPCC, within 30 days of this Notice and in case of failure legal action including prosecution shall be initiated.

Member Secretary

FIRST COLUMN

SOME IMPONDERABLES ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

Where does sanitisation begin and where should it end?



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Seeking understanding' is a universal need. Everyone is keen to be understood in the manner in which he believes he ought to be understood. However, understanding is by definition an outcome of a communication process. One can communicate with oneself: that helps to understand oneself. One can communicate with another person: in this dyadic relationship the urge is that one should be understood as one wants to be understood. A third kind of communication can be between self and a group. This is somewhat tricky because each group member may have one's own vocabulary, one's own ability to understand and varying spans of attention. Yet another 'understanding' can be sought between one group and another. All told, 'seeking an understanding' requires here be no gaps between the person who is seeking the understanding and the person who is supposed to respond. These issues become even more complicated in



the social context that the pandemic raises. A common theme in the nearly two years of the pandemic has been to 'reduce mobility'. The pressures of restricted mobility have been so large that orientations of gregariousness on the part of many have largely got stymied. This can and has produced personality disorders. Impatience, frustration and a feeling of suffocation are some of the common manifestations. These aberrations can do more damage than an acknowledged ailment. However, when it comes to impatience, frustration, a feeling of suffocation et al, the response is often in the form of truisms. Typically, it would be, 'why are you so impatient?' The truth is, if one knew one was impatient and acknowledged it, it could be handled. More often than not, the person who is being labelled as impatient does not see himself as one. This could lead to a possible communication breakdown between the two persons involved. Similar examples can be made for the feeling of 'frustration' or 'suffocation'.

This has strained relationships and often times even domestic peace. The situation is further compounded by the virus mutations and their impact. Official pandemic restrictions are enforced with the best of intentions. One is limiting the number of persons who can do door-to-door canvassing to five. The logic is difficult to comprehend. It could well have been six or four. This is where the 'judgement' of the persons who draft the regulations becomes significant. Thus, it is that ultimately, it is the competency for a robust judgement that becomes the touch stone. Regulations which touch mass lives very often have contextual overtones. All in all, these are clearly seemingly simple issues which become more complex when one starts analysing them. Consider the fatigue of sanitising anything that enters a household, ranging from daily necessities like vegetables to more structured dispatches through couriers. The couriers can bring anything from sweets to jewellery; from diaries to documents. The documents might have legal implications and cannot be thrown away. Many have wondered if they deserve to be sanitised. Sanitising them may cause smudging and more complications. Indeed, it can be asked where does sanitisation begin and where should it end? The brittle get more and more anxious and the cavalier more and more nonchalant. In simple terms, either road has its grave risks. These are questions to which a scientific application of the mind is needed. Patience, logic and above all the ability to understand the temperament of the individual becomes necessary. The trouble is the temperament of an individual, be it anxiety or impatience, cannot be helped unless the person concerned is receptive to help. Maybe the answer lies in doing it with love, care, commitment and persistence.

(The writer is an acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

Kazakhstan: A quarrel among thieves

Strangely, there's no reason for Russia's presence there

Two questions about recent events in Kazakhstan. First, was last week's slaughterhouse battle between "20,000 bandits" and the regime's police in Almaty, the country's biggest city, really just a quarrel among thieves? And second, why did Russian troops get involved?

A special Chatham House report last month found that the family and associates of Nursultan Nazarbayev, Communist ruler of Soviet Kazakhstan and then president of independent Kazakhstan for 35 years, bought 34 properties in London and southern England for \$720 million in just the four years 1998-2002. Everybody in Kazakhstan knows they are ruled by



GWYNNE DYER

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

thieves. The Russians who were doing well stayed after independence and the rest left. Kazakhs who are doing well don't mind the thieves-in-office either - but most Kazakhs aren't doing very well. They aren't all dirt poor - the protests this time were initially about a doubling in the price of fuel for cars - but a recent KPMG report says that 162 people own half the country's wealth. Nobody likes that sort of thing. So, the peaceful protests that began on 2 January quickly spread to every corner of the country - and then things went crazy in Almaty. On Wednesday, 5 January, well-organised groups of people unknown to the protesters joined the crowds and began attacking official buildings.



Equally strange is the fact that on that same Wednesday the police left key buildings in Almaty unprotected. The presidential palace was burned, the airport was seized, people were killed - but were they the right people? President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev sounded convinced of it. "Abroad there are calls for talks for a peaceful resolution," he said on television "What idiocy! What kind of negotiation can you have with criminals? We are dealing with

armed and well-prepared bandits, both local and foreign, who should be destroyed. We must kill them." Tokayev was as good as his word. The shooting was over by Friday, and police and troops certainly did kill a lot of people. On January 9 they announced 164 killed and over 8,000 arrested, including "a substantial number of foreign nationals." But there were a couple of loose ends in the script. On the same Wednesday that the violence started, President Tokayev dismissed retired President-almost-for-life Nazarbayev from his remaining job as head of the State Council. Nazarbayev resigned the presidency three years ago because of his age (he is 81),

but everybody assumed he was really still in charge, and still grooming his daughter Dariga for the job. (The protesters shouted "Old man, go!") Then suddenly Tokayev asks for help from Russia's President Vladimir Putin - and Nazarbayev is completely out of the government. 2,000 Russian troops fly in within a day. They don't shoot any civilians, but once they are on the ground Tokayev orders the arrest of the country's former intelligence chief, Karim Massimov, on suspicion of treason. Massimov was Nazarbayev's closest adviser. Would Tokayev have dared to arrest him before the Russians arrived? I can't help joining up the dots, and it looks like a coup to me. Maybe a failed coup attempt in which Nazarbayev's people were trying to take power back from an over-mighty Toakayev who wanted to be the real boss, not just a place-holder for Dariga Nazarbayeva. Or maybe a move by Tokayev himself to sideline the Old Man and his ambitious daughter. Tokayev admitted himself on Monday that the protests were really a coup attempt, but he didn't say who was behind it. My guess is that he was. That he didn't actually start the protests, but that he saw an opportunity in them. He needed Russian support to move against the Old Man, and he needed an excuse to invite the Russians in, so he sent his thugs in to turn the protests violent and create that excuse. Or maybe nothing of the sort happened, and this is just another mundane tale of the rich and powerful crushing the little people. I'm allowed one conspiracy theory a year, and I'm getting it in early. Either way, I know what Russia's motive was. Most people forget that the Soviet Union was just one more European colonial empire. The only differences were that it was a land empire, and that it decolonised a generation after the others. Putin grew up in that empire, he still mourns its demise, and he'll take any chance he gets to restore Russia's dominant influence there. There's no coherent strategy here. Putin is tough and he can be nasty, but he's really a romantic, not a would-be world conqueror.

He declined prestigious overseas professorships

Vivekananda had an entrepreneur's pre-requisites — the ability to mobilise committed teams to work towards identified goals and a large-scale vision



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

1863 was six years after the 1857 uprising closer home in India. It was also the time the US Civil War had started. It was 35 years since the founding of the Brahmo Samaj, 46 years since the Presidency College (as Hindoo College) in Calcutta had been founded. So, it was during a chapter of revolt, reform and renaissance that Narendranath Datta was born. In terms of family history, his own grandfather had unusually taken sanyaas at age 25 just after his father had been born. And the young renunciate had already been known as a scholar-linguist. Narendranath's father had much success in his profession and was also proficient in several languages. With these various gifts and legacies running in his family, and the social initiatives in his milieu, Narendranath, born January 12, 1863 would go on to emerge as Swami Vivekananda.

While none of us can pick the family we are born in (it could be argued that this is decided by one's deeds in an earlier birth!), and inherit many of our capacities and cultural traits, it is the pedagogic, artistic, and intellectual stimuli we respond to that shapes our uniqueness. The poems, prayers and songs of our childhood, the social discussions in the neighbourhood, the kids we play with, the books seen at home - they are all making far deeper and lasting impressions than we might realise.

It is the medley of early influences and subsequent exposure and experience that can, to a good extent, explain the formation of an extraordinary individual. In Swami Vivekananda's case, many ingredients can be identified - religiosity, eloquence, the gift of languages, a spiritualist temperament, renunciation, a passion for reform and modernisation... that seem directly drawn from his family. Then there are the influences of the poets and historians in a person's college curriculum, the thinkers whose ideas are at the centre of student discussions, and what the newspaper editors are writing at the time. Each one of us is really a complex aggregate put together from diverse sources. Yet, for some of us, despite all this, a dominant direction emerges in which we develop and a central purpose falls into place. When this click does happen, there's meaning and fulfilment. There's great service rendered to a cause.

One can definitely think of Swami Vivekananda's success in entrepreneurial terms. After all, it was not like joining a career in government and serving in assigned roles. In the first part of his journey, he developed into a yogi through study and practice, and by assimilating wisdom from his chosen guru. He then leveraged the influencing power of his personality towards serving religious and social causes - to mobilise manpower, resources, cooperation and moral support for projects of material and spiritual



IN THE PRESENT GENERATION, THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE SOCIETAL VALUES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO RAISE PERSONAL LUXURY AND TO EXPAND AMENITIES IS CREATING MORE MISERIES THAN JOYS. THE VALUE OF TEMPERING MATERIAL PROGRESS WITH AN ERICH FROMM-LIKE EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE MORE THAN THINGS IS BEING BROUGHT HOME TO US EVERY WEEK

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



upliftment. He initiated many Vedanta centres, monastic mutts, journals, publishing teams, and ashrams. He built overseas goodwill for the country by networking with luminary scholars and enlightened souls in Europe and America. He delivered the message of the Upanishads in an impressive way to broader audiences both within the country and in many cities of the world. These are an entrepreneur's pre-requisite - the ability to mobilise committed teams of size to work towards identified goals, a large-scale vision, and the creation of a constantly learning organisation.

When quite young, Narendranath had been attending gatherings of reformist faith groups that were looking beyond castes and sects. Coupled with his interest in what the treatises of ancient India had to say on the nature of the cosmos and the human soul, and his introduction to the ideas of the political philosophers of Europe, he developed and retained an interest in research. Even today, the blogs and publications of Advaita Ashrama in Uttarakhand, or the conferences on Science and Consciousness organised in Kolkata reflect this outlook of extending the horizons of knowledge through constructive dialogue.

As a keen reader of the Upanishads and as a practitioner of spiritual sadhana such as meditation, he was largely engaged with the notion of deliverance or Mukti. This is a freedom from the cycle of birth and death. However, a level of creature comfort and material advancement is necessary before people can consider higher accom-

plishments such as self-knowledge and even liberation. Towards that, a better sustenance and lifestyle for the masses, and widespread basic education would be essential and so the evils of colonialism and other oppression couldn't be ignored. "To care only for spiritual liberty and not for social liberty is a defect, but the opposite is a still greater defect. Liberty of both soul and body is to be striven for"

In the present generation, the willingness to sacrifice societal values and the natural environment to raise personal luxury and to expand amenities is creating more miseries than joys. The value of tempering material progress with an Erich Fromm-like emphasis on people more than things is being brought home to us every week - whether through a pandemic, global warming, or human cruelties. At the same time, the common man's exposure to Yoga and meditation has indeed gone up in recent years, both through television as well as live gatherings. Easy access to video content has made it more readily possible for practically anyone to get some idea of seers and sages of ancient times had written, without having to be born in a sect, caste or linguistic group.

Indeed, it is a situation that Swami Vivekananda would heartily approve of. Digital booklets, online portals, Youtube videos - sound guidance on spiritual matters and salvation is very much available to anyone with a slight inclination and adequate leisure.

The growing awareness in bureaucratic and political circles about the Human Development

Index (HDI), and recent global initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are robust signs of a balance between quantity and quality, and between asset building and citizen well-being. Yet we can't depend only on policies, whether of parties or corporations - while they matter very much, a deeper relationship with our fellow humans - family, neighbour, colleague, fellow member and so on - to be concerned with their welfare to an extent - that core human value has to be inculcated early and reinforced from time to time. As a former professor and Himalayan trekker from the US, Baba Ram Dass put it more recently, "We're all just walking each other home".

The subject of walking/trekking will again remind us how Swami Vivekananda accorded equal weight to the four Yogas - Raja, Bhakti, Karma and Jnana - as viable paths of spiritual progress. He wrote admirably on each of them, and his words invite us to march on ahead on the trails most suited to our own resources and temperament. We also realize that concepts such as freedom, culture, goodwill cannot be grasped well enough in economic doctrines. While we currently use terms like soul and spirit more in a posthumous than living sense, it would be a good thing to bring in some expressions from Indian languages even while writing in English to invoke that vital aspect more often.

Swamiji's poetry too touches people because it gets as direct as: "The mind hungers for peals of laughter sweet, the heart pants to reach realms beyond sorrow".

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I TOLD AKHILESH JI THAT I WANT A GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP BECAUSE ONLY HE CAN DEFEAT THE BJP. —FORMER CONGRESS LEADER IMRAN MASOOD



THE COMING OF IMRAN MASOOD TO THE SP PROVES THAT ONE MORE NAME HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE CHAIN OF RIOTERS. —UP BJP CHIEF SWATANTRA DEV SINGH

Nepal reports 3,075 new Covid cases, highest in 5 months, says Health Min

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal has reported 3,075 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, making it the highest number single day infections in the last five months, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Health and Population said that last time the daily COVID-19 case count crossed the 3,000 mark was in August 2021.

"Nepal recorded 3,075 new cases of COVID-19 along with 278 recoveries and two deaths on Wednesday," the ministry said in a statement.

The country's Covid - 19 tally has jumped to 936,969 so far while the number of total deaths due to the contagious disease stands at 11,609, a media report said.

Taking note of the rising number of cases of coronavirus in the country, the Nepal government has also imposed a partial lockdown in the Kathmandu valley. PTI

Biden ups support for Covid tests in schools to keep them open

Washington: The Biden administration is increasing federal support for COVID-19 testing for schools in a bid to keep them open amid omicron surge. The White House announced Wednesday that a dedicated stream of 5 million rapid tests and 5 million lab-based PCR tests will be made available to schools starting this month to ease supply shortages and promote safe reopening of schools. That's on top of more than USD 10 billion devoted to school-based tests authorized in COVID-19 relief law and about USD 130 billion earmarked in that law to keep kids in school. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said students need to be in their classrooms and announcement shows administration's commitment to helping schools stay open. AP

Anti-vaccine protesters try to storm Bulgarian Parliament

Sofia: Protesters opposing COVID-19 restrictions in Bulgaria clashed Wednesday with police as they tried to storm Parliament in Capital of Sofia. A heavy police presence prevented protesters from entering building and some were detained. Several people, including police officers, were injured during clashes. Eventually, the protesters were pushed back and police cordoned off building. The violence erupted at a protest rally against mask and vaccine mandates organised by a nationalist group that is fiercely opposing Bulgarian government's anti-epidemic measures. "The aim of protest is to remove restrictive measures and especially, first of all, the unconstitutional green certificate," Kostadin Kostadinov, leader of the Vazrazhdane party, said ahead of the protest. AP

UK PM Boris Johnson apologises in Parliament for attending booze party during lockdown in 2020

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday extended a "heart-felt apology" in the House of Commons in response to growing anger around reports of a "bring-your-own-booze" (BYOB) party in the 10 Downing Street garden during the height of the UK's first COVID-19 lockdown in May 2020. Johnson has been under intense pressure from the Opposition Labour Party as members of his own Conservative Party since an email invitation for the event on May 20, 2020 emerged in the media. Labour Leader Keir Starmer said Prime Minister Johnson should "do the decent thing and resign" over his "pathetic" excuses and "ridiculous" lies. PTI

NATO, Russia agree to have more high-level talks despite tensions

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday that the military organization and Russia have agreed to try to set up more meetings to ease tensions between them amid deep concern in the West about whether Moscow might order an invasion of Ukraine.

Speaking after chairing a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, Stoltenberg said both parties had "expressed the need to resume dialogue and to explore a schedule of future meetings."

He said that the 30 NATO countries want to discuss ways to prevent dangerous military incidents, reduce space and cyber threats, as well as arms control and disarmament, including setting agreed limits on missile deployments. But Stoltenberg said that any talks about Ukraine wouldn't be easy. "There are significant differences between NATO allies

and Russia on this issue," he told reporters, after what he said was "a very serious and direct exchange" with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko and Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin.

Stoltenberg underlined that Ukraine has the right to decide its future security arrangements on its own, and that NATO would continue to leave its door open to new members, rejecting a key demand by Russian President Vladimir Putin that the military organization halt its expansion.

"No one else has anything to say, and of course Russia does not have a veto," he said. The NATO-Russia Council was the first meeting of its kind in over two years. The forum was set up two decades ago but full meetings paused when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. It has met only sporadically since, the last time in July 2019. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

Wendy Sherman also underlined that any European country should have the right to join NATO if it wants to. "I reaffirmed the fundamental principles of the international system and of European security: Every country has the sovereign right to choose its own path," Sherman tweeted at the meeting, which ran for over three hours, drew to a close.

The talks came during a week of high-stakes diplomacy and a U.S.-led effort to prevent preparations for what Washington believes could be a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Moscow denies it is planning an attack. Still, its history of military action in Ukraine and Georgia worries NATO.

Russia has around 100,000 combat-ready troops backed by tanks, artillery and heavy equipment massed near Ukraine's eastern border.

Putin says Russia's demands are simple, but key parts of the proposals contained in the documents that

Moscow has made public - a draft agreement with NATO countries and the offer of a treaty between Russia and the United States won't pass muster at the 30-country military organization. NATO would have to agree to halt all membership plans, not just with Ukraine, and scale down its presence in countries like Estonia close to Russia's borders. In exchange, Russia would pledge to limit its war games, as well as end aircraft buzzing incidents and other low-level hostilities.

Endorsing such an agreement would require NATO to reject a key part of its founding treaty. Under Article 10 of the 1949 Washington Treaty, the organization can invite in any willing European country that can contribute to security in the North Atlantic area and fulfill the obligations of membership. In Moscow earlier, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned that Russia expects a quick answer.

North Korea claims successful test flight of hypersonic missile

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile he claimed would remarkably increase country's nuclear "war deterrent." The report by North Korean state media on Wednesday came a day after militaries of United States, South Korea and Japan said they detected North Korea firing a suspected ballistic missile into its eastern sea.

The Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday's launch involved a hypersonic glide vehicle, which after its release from rocket booster demonstrated "glide jump flight" and "corkscrew maneuvering" before hitting a sea target 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) away. Photos released by agency showed a missile mounted with a pointed cone-shaped payload soaring into sky while leaving a trail of orange flames and Kim watching from a small cabin with top officials.

The launch was North Korea's second test of its purported hypersonic missile in a week, a type of weaponry it first tested in September, as Kim continues a defiant push to expand his nuclear weapons

capabilities in face of international sanctions, pandemic-related difficulties and deadlocked diplomacy with United States. The North has been ramping up its testing activity since last fall in what experts see as an attempt to apply more pressure on rivals Washington and Seoul to accept it as a nuclear power in hopes of winning relief from economic sanctions.

The KCNA said Kim praised accomplishments made by his military scientists and officials involved in developing hypersonic missile system, which he described as most significant part of a new five-year plan announced in early 2021 to build up North's military force. The North has described new missile as part of its "strategic" weaponry, implying that system is being developed to deliver nuclear weapons.

Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times speed of sound, could pose a crucial challenge to missile defence systems because of their speed and maneuverability. Such weapons were on a wish-list of sophisticated military assets Kim unveiled early last year along with multi-warhead missiles, spy satellites.

US hits North Korean officials with sanctions after missile test

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration on Wednesday slapped sanctions on five North Korean officials in its first response to Pyongyang's latest ballistic missile test. The Treasury Department announced it was imposing penalties on the officials over their roles in obtaining equipment and technology for the North's missile programs.

In addition, the State Department ordered sanctions against another North Korean, a Russian man and a Russian company for their broader support of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction activities.

The moves came just hours after North Korea said its leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile on Tuesday that he claimed would greatly increase the country's nuclear "war deterrent."

One of the five North Koreans targeted by Treasury is based in Russia, while the other four are based in China.

All are accused of providing money, goods or services to North Korea's Second Academy of Natural Sciences, which Treasury says is heavily involved in the country's military defense programs.

"The DPRK's latest missile launches are further evidence that it continues to advance prohibited programs despite the international community's calls for diplomacy and denuclearization," said Treasury's chief of terrorism and financial intelligence, Brian Nelson.

He referred to the North by the acronym of its official name: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The sanctions freeze any assets that the targets have in U.S. jurisdictions, bar Americans from doing business with them and subject foreign companies and individuals to potential penalties for transactions with them.

Pakistan's new security policy seeks 'peace' with India: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is willing to make peace with immediate neighbours, including India, under its first-ever National Security Policy which leaves doors open for trade with New Delhi even without the settlement of the Kashmir issue provided there is headway in bilateral talks, according to a media report.

The National Security Policy, separately endorsed by the National Security Committee and the Cabinet last month, is scheduled to be formally unveiled by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday.

Peace with immediate neighbours and economic diplomacy will be the central theme of Pakistan's foreign policy in the new National Security Policy, the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The five-year-policy document covering a period between 2022-26, is being propped up by the Pakistan government as the country's first-ever strategy paper of its kind that spells out the national security vision and guidelines for the attainment of those goals.

The original 100-page policy, which would be kept under wraps, leaves the door open for trade and business ties with India without the final settlement of the longstanding Kashmir dispute provided there is progress in the talks between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, an official was quoted as saying by the paper.

"We are not seeking hostility with India for the next 100 years. The new policy seeks peace with immediate neighbours," the official said on condition of anonymity.

If there is a dialogue and progress, there would be a possibility of normalising trade and commercial ties with India as it had happened in the past, the official added. Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a terror attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by terror groups based in

the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship dipped further after India's war planes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. The relations deteriorated after India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

As the new national security policy seeks a shift in Pakistan's approach from geo-strategic to geo-economics, there is a renewed optimism of a possible thaw with India, the report said. "Economic security will be the central theme of the new national security policy," the official disclosed.

"But geo-economics does not necessarily mean we overlook our geo-strategic and geopolitical interests," the official said, adding the long-standing Kashmir dispute with India has been identified as a 'vital national policy' issue for Pakistan.

The official, however, clarified that there were no prospects of rapprochement with India under the current government in New Delhi. The official said this would be the first-ever codified national security policy that would cover both internal security as well as foreign policy.

"Only a part of the national security policy will be made public," the official clarified, saying in the rest of the world such policies often remained classified. The official said though Pakistan did have defence, foreign and internal policies, the new policy would act as an "umbrella document" providing direction for the future.

Israel moves to resolve crisis after Bedouins protest

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's fragile governing coalition moved to resolve a crisis on Wednesday after Arab Bedouin staged protests against tree-planting by nationalists on disputed land in the Negev desert. Some protesters on Tuesday evening hurled stones at vehicles on a highway near Beersheba, blocked the railway line and torched a vehicle. Police said two officers were wounded in the violence and local media reported at least 18 people arrested.

The government announced a compromise in which it would complete the day's planting and launch negotiations on Thursday. Authorities withdrew heavy machinery from the area as the tensions appeared to ease.

The Bedouin view the forestry project as part of a larger attempt by authorities to confiscate grazing lands and force them into planned communities, a perceived assault on their traditional lifestyle. Israel says they need to move into planned towns so it can provide public services.

The latest flare-up of the dispute, which goes back decades, risks dividing Israel's fragile coalition government,



Israeli security forces stand guard as Bedouins protest against tree-planting by the Jewish National Fund on disputed land near the beduin village of al-Atrash in the Negev desert, southern Israel, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022. The conflict in southern Israel, which is home to Bedouin villages unrecognized by the state, has divided the Israeli government with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called for halting the tree-planting while the Islamist Ra'am party has threatened to withhold its votes in parliament in protest (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

the first to include an Arab party whose main base of support is in the Negev. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had called for halting the planting and reassessing the situation while the Islamist Ra'am party had threatened to withhold its votes in parliament in protest. Both are members of the fragile eight-party coalition that runs the government.

Ra'am, the Islamist party, secured four seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's parliament, in last year's elections, with strong support among Bedouin citizens of Israel. Party leader Mansour Abbas wrote

on Twitter that "a tree is not more important than a person."

More hawkish members of the diverse governing coalition had pledged to press on, undeterred.

Regavim, a nationalist group that is opposed to normalizing the status of Bedouin villages, accused the government of capitulating to "political pressure, strongarm tactics and violence." Prime Minister Naftali Bennett heads an unwieldy coalition of eight parties that joined forces in June to form a government and end Israel's protracted political deadlock.

Corrigendum
No: RMSA/TL21-22/1561/2021/53 Dated: 12-01-2022
With reference to the RFP No: RMSA/TL21-22/1561/2021/06 dated 30-12-2021 of Samagra Shiksha (RMSA & SSA), Assam for the supply of equipment and gadget of Tinkering Lab and training to students and teachers to implement Tinkering Lab, it is to inform that partial modifications have been done as mentioned in the table below, and other terms, conditions & specifications of the RFP will remain the same.



Clause	Originally given in the RFP Document	Amendment clauses to be read as
3. Eligibility Criteria	6. The bidder should have an office in the state of Assam.	6. The bidder should have an office in the state of Assam or give an undertaking for establishment of an office before Letter of Award is given.

Moreover, relaxation for MSME/NSIC will be considered as per Govt. role.


 Janasanyog/CF/2845/21

 Sd/-Executive Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAGISTRATE/MARRIAGE OFFICER GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR
No. 3258/ST-CM (Marriage Registration)/2022
Date:- 10 January, 2022



NOTICE
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Dhruv Arora S/o Mr. Mukesh Arora R/o C-2618, Sushant Lok Phase-1, Sector-43, Gurugram-122001, Haryana and Ms. Medhavi Arora D/o Mr. Rakesh Arora R/o A-730, Sector-19, Noida Gautam Budha Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 05-02-2022 in the office of the undersigned.
Sd/-
Deputy Collector/
City Magistrate/
Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.



Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Softwill Infotech Private Limited/ Tarun Vashisht/ Rohin Bhatia A/c No:- 083005001256	Entire Ground Floor Without Roof Rights Of Property No. 109, Block - D, Situated At Colony Known As, LIC Colony Jeevan Niketan Paschim Vihar, Delhi, 110087/ 07-Jan-2022	29-Sep-2021 Rs. 80,49,671/-	Delhi
2.	M/s Sunil Kumar Tripathy/ Rama S/ Tripathy A/c No:- 244805000856	S-4 Second Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi- 110016/ 07-Jan-2022	05-Oct-2021 Rs.1,94,08,212/-	Delhi
3.	M/s Goyal Trading Co/ Deepak Goyal/ Seema Goyal A/c No:- 113805000571/ 113855000030	70, First Floor, Gadodia Market, Khari Baoli Delhi- 110006/ 07-Jan-2022	13-Sep-2021 Rs. 61,61,096.98/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : January 13, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAGISTRATE/MARRIAGE OFFICER GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR
No. 3258/ST-CM (Marriage Registration)/2022
Date:- 10 January, 2022



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Sd/-
Deputy Collector/
City Magistrate/
Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

British Council worker freed from Iranian prison, back in UK

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: An Iranian employee of the British Council detained for more than three years in Iran and sentenced to a decade in prison over widely criticized espionage charges has been freed and returned to the United Kingdom, the organization said Wednesday.

The release of the woman, Aras Amiri, came as world powers, including the U.K., try to revive the tattered 2015 Iran nuclear deal in Vienna. Iranian and Gulf Arab diplomats also travel this week for meetings in China, a key signatory of the nuclear accord.

Amiri won her appeal to Iran's Supreme Court, the British Council announced.

Lawsuit against Prince Andrew a go despite Epstein deal

AP ■ NEW YORK

A judge has — for now — refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Britain's Prince Andrew by an American woman who says he sexually abused her when she was 17.

Stressing Wednesday that he wasn't ruling on the truth of the allegations, U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan rejected an argument by Andrew's lawyers that Virginia Giuffre's lawsuit should be thrown out at an early stage because of an old legal settlement she had reached with Jeffrey Epstein, the financier she claims set up sexual encounters with the prince.

Kaplan said the \$500,000 settlement between Epstein and Giuffre didn't involve the prince and didn't bar a suit against him now.

Giuffre sued the prince in August, saying she was coerced into sexual encounters with Andrew in 2001 by Epstein and his longtime companion, Ghislaine Maxwell.

Andrew's lawyers had said the lawsuit lacked specificity and was disqualified by the deal she reached in 2009 with lawyers for Epstein.

They also attacked the credibility and motives of Giuffre, saying in October that the lawsuit was aimed at achieving "another payday at his expense and at the expense of those closest to him."

The prince's lawyers have said that Andrew never sexually abused or assaulted Giuffre and that he "unequivocally denies Giuffre's false allegations against him." The prince himself has strenuously denied Giuffre's allegations.

Cameroon lawmaker shot dead in North West region

AP ■ YAOUNDE (CAMEROON)

A prominent Cameroon lawyer and opposition member of the senate was shot dead in the city of Bamenda in the country's restive North West region, a member of his political party said. Henry Kemende was shot by suspected separatist fighters in the English-speaking city on Tuesday, said Jean Michel Nintcheu, from Kemende's Social Democratic Front political party.

"The fighters shot him in the chest at close range," he said, adding that Kemende was then rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. Lawmakers and politicians condemned the killing, also blaming separatists who are fighting to create an independent English-speaking state in the majority French-speaking nation.

Violence erupted in 2017 in Cameroon's English-speaking North West and South West regions when teachers and lawyers protested alleged discrimination at the hands of the French-speaking majority. The military reacted with a crack-down and separatist groups took up weapons, claiming that they were protecting civilians. Kemende, who was elected a senator for the Social Democratic Front in 2018, has always blamed government for not doing enough to solve crisis. "We shall miss courageous, patriotic and hardworking Cameroonian who spent his last four years advocating for crisis in English speaking western regions to be solved," said a statement from Denis Nkhemle, spokesperson of SDF party.

‘Edge data centres’ in rural areas to bridge digital divide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to create several ‘edge data centres’ in rural and semi-urban areas to bridge the digital divide in the country and also accelerate the pace of digital transformation by roping in the Indian Railway’s digital technology arm RailTel. The Edge Data Centres are small data centres located at the edge of the network, where they are closer to end users and devices. Having such kind of facility at the edge would enable faster performance and lower latency as organizations will not have to move the data to far-flung data centres to process it.

"Latency has always been a problem for data centre managers, but in recent times it has become a critical concern in view of wide range of next-generation applications like big data, the Internet of Things, Cloud and streaming services, and other technology trends," a

statement from RailTel said.

RailTel is a central government PSU of Ministry of Railways providing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services and is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a pan-India optical fiber cable (OFC) network of 60,000+RKM (and growing) along railway track. The OFC network covers important towns and cities of the country and several rural areas.

"Edge data centres will enable RailTel to deploy IT infrastructure for ‘caching’ of popular contents to improve experience of RailWire broadband customers as cached contents will then be served locally instead of travelling long stretch of network. Similarly IT infrastructure for ‘peering’ with content players can also be deployed in these Edge Data Centres which would improve cost economics for delivery of contents," the statement said.

Puneet Chawla, CMD, RailTel said that with the help of such localized data centres, rural areas can be served with low latency applications related to digital skills, financial inclusions, digital literacy etc.

Under the proposed plan, initial capacity of envisioned edge data centre at each location can be of around 20 racks (5 KW to 10 KW each). However, edge data centre with variable rack and power density can be explored according to the requirement and availability of space, power and other factors at individual locations.

RailTel has around 9300+ points of presence and extensive optical fiber connectivity along the railway tracks and across the premises of Indian Railways, which makes the basic infrastructure readily available for the setting up of such edge data centres. RailTel shall have the responsibility of providing the telecom/internet connectivity to the selected business associate.

Govt puts brakes on CEL privatisation after employees union approaches court

New Delhi: The Government has put on hold the privatisation of Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) after the employees union approached the court against the sale of the company to a little-known firm, a top official said Wednesday.

Allegations of under-valuation in the ₹210 crore highest bid made by the city-based Nandal Finance & Leasing are being examined, said Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which is running the privatisation process.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) for sale of 100 per cent government shareholding in CEL to Nandal Finance & Leasing has not been issued, as the allegations are being examined, Pandey told PTI. The government had in November approved the sale of CEL, under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), to Nandal Finance & Leasing for ₹210 crore. The transaction was scheduled to be completed by March 2022. **PTI**

Nearly 20 lakh tonnes of free foodgrains distributed so far under fifth phase of PMGKAY: Govt

New Delhi: Nearly 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been distributed for free so far to eligible beneficiaries under the fifth phase of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

In March 2020, the Centre had launched the scheme to provide free foodgrains to over 80 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as part of its effort to reduce the hardships of people during the coronavirus pandemic.

The additional foodgrains of 5 kilograms per person per month is over and above the normal quota provided under the NFSA at a highly subsidised rate of ₹ 2-3 per kg.

The scheme has been extended several times and is now valid till March 2022. Under the fifth phase, which is from December 2021 to March 2022, the food ministry had allocated 163 lakh tonnes foodgrains to all States/UTs, for the four-month distribution period.

"Since the distribution of only second month has started recently, the reports available from the States/UTs,

shows a distribution of about 19.76 lakh tonnes foodgrains to the beneficiaries so far," an official statement said on Wednesday.

As the distribution of free foodgrains under the fifth is presently ongoing, the ministry said "it is anticipated that the distribution performance of the current phase shall also be on the same high level as achieved in the earlier phases".

The food department is continuously monitoring the lifting and distribution of foodgrains by all States/UTs on a day-to-day basis, the statement said. Initially in 2020-21, the PMGKAY scheme was announced only for a period of three months of April, May and June 2020 (Phase-I). Later, the government extended the scheme from July to November 2020 (Phase-II).

With the COVID crisis continuing in 2021-22, the Centre in April 2021 had re-introduced the scheme for a period of two months of May and June 2021 (Phase-III) and extended it for another five months from July to November 2021 (Phase-IV). **PTI**

Retail inflation rises to six-month high of 5.59 pc in Dec on costlier kitchen staples

New Delhi: Rising prices of essential kitchen items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 5.59 per cent in December, close to the Reserve Bank’s upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.91 per cent in November 2021 and 4.59 per cent in December 2020.

The RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI-based retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to keep the inflation at 4 per cent with margin of 2 per cent on either side (that is, in the range of 2-6 per cent).

Retail inflation has been rising since October 2021. In July too the rate of price rise was 5.59 per cent but it slowed in the subsequent two months, before starting to move up from October.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday, food inflation was at 4.05 per cent in

December this fiscal compared to 1.87 per cent in the preceding month.

In the food basket, inflation was on higher side in ‘cereals and products’, eggs, ‘milk and products’, spices, and ‘prepared meals, snacks and sweets’ segments in December over the preceding month. However, the rate of price rise was slower in case of vegetables, fruits, and ‘oil and fats’. In the ‘fuel and light’ category, though the inflation softened from a month ago, it remained elevated at 10.95 per cent during the month. It was 13.35 per cent in November 2021.

The Reserve Bank expects the inflation print to be somewhat higher over the rest of the year as base effects turn adverse. According to the RBI, it is expected that headline inflation will peak in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal and soften thereafter.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at Icra, said the increase in CPI inflation in December 2021 relative to the previous month

was primarily led by food and beverages, and clothing and footwear.

There was a welcome moderation in the prints for fuel and light, and pan, tobacco etc amidst a mild dip in miscellaneous items and housing, she added. "Overall, we expect the headline CPI inflation to range between 5.7 - 6 per cent in Q4 FY2022, as compared to the MPC’s (Monetary Policy Committee) forecast of 5.7 per cent. "While the CPI inflation has hardened sharply between November and December 2021, the uncertainty triggered by the third wave is sure to take precedence when the MPC meets next month. We now see a negligible likelihood of a change in stance or reverse repo hike in the February 2022 policy review," Nayar said.

With a higher inflation target, the MPC can choose to prioritise growth revival for much longer than other major central banks, for many of whom inflation control has become a pressing policy focus, she noted. **PTI**

Sensex rallies for 4th day, climbs over 500 pts to reclaim 61K-level on earnings optimism

Mumbai: The BSE gauge Sensex surged over 500 points to recapture the key 61,000-level on Wednesday as participants pinned hopes on robust quarterly results by companies.

Extending its winning run for the fourth straight session, the 30-share Sensex settled 533.15 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 61,150.04. Intra-day, the index touched its highest point at 61,218.19. Similarly, the NSE benchmark Nifty climbed 156.60 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 18,212.35. On the Sensex chart, M&M, Bharti Airtel, RIL, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were among major gainers -- rising as much as 4.68 per cent. In contrast, TCS, Titan, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and Nestle closed in the red, shedding up to 1.50 per cent. **PTI**

Residential plot prices appreciate 7pc annually since 2015; apartments’ rate up 2 pc: Report

New Delhi: Prices of residential plots across eight major cities have appreciated by an average of 7 per cent annually since 2015, while rates of apartments increased by 2 per cent, according to realty portal Housing.Com.

"Residential land is still a better investment than buying apartments," Housing.Com said in a statement. Plots generated higher capital returns in India since 2015, it added.

"Prices of residential plots appreciated by 7 per cent (CAGR) annually since 2015 across eight major cities, while rates of apartments grew by 2 per cent (CAGR) annually during this period," the portal said. D e l h i - N C R , Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru,

IIP growth remains subdued for 3rd month in a row at 1.4 pc in Nov on waning low-base effect

New Delhi: India’s industrial production growth remained subdued for the third straight month and expanded by 1.4 per cent in November, mainly due to the waning low base effect, while the mining sector showed good performance.

The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 0.9 per cent in November, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

The mining sector output rose five good per cent in November, while power generation increased 2.1 per cent. The factory output recorded double-digit growth in the four months from May to August this fiscal. Then it slipped to 3.3 per cent in September this fiscal and recorded a growth of four per cent, mainly due to waning low base effect.

In November 2021, the IIP stood at 128.5 points compared

to 126.7 points in the same month in 2020. The index stood at 128.8 points in November 2019, as per the NSO data.

Thus, the data showed fading of the low base effect. The IIP growth witnessed double-digit growth from May onwards this year on the back of the lower base effect.

The IIP had contracted by 1.6 per cent in November 2020.During April-November this year, the IIP grew 17.4 per cent against a 15.3 per cent contraction in the same period last year. The data showed that industrial production recovered in September 2020 and surpassed the pre-pandemic level of September 2019. The IIP had grown by one per cent in September 2020.

Industrial production plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the COVID outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020. **PTI**

General Govt fiscal deficit estimated at 10.4 pc in FY2022: Report

Mumbai: Rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said it expects a miss in the disinvestment target to cause the Government’s fiscal deficit to print at ₹16.6 lakh crore or 7.1 per cent of the GDP in FY2022, overshooting the budgeted target.

With the state governments’ fiscal deficit projected at a relatively modest 3.3 per cent of GDP in FY2022, the general Government fiscal deficit is estimated at around 10.4 per cent of the GDP, the agency said in a report.

In the base case for FY2023, it sees the Government’s fiscal deficit moderating to ₹15.2 lakh crore or 5.8 per cent of GDP. **PTI**

NOTICE

Mrs. Rohini Suri D/o Late Lt. Col. I.N. Suri R/o 363, Sector-15A, Noida Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar (U.P.) have applied for "Marriageability Certificate" for her, objections, if any to the issuance may be filed on any day upto 18-01-2022 in the office of the undersigned.

Deputy Collector/ City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budd Nagar, (U.P.) India

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Namrata B Rajput D/o. B.M. Rajput, Contact: 8888841007, Email: jkrinternational@gmail.com, R/o. M.E.-48, Magh Sec Bhujpal Flat Road, Nasik-422009, Maharashtra, Allottee of Flat No. 107, 1st Floor, LG Flat, Block-Y-9, Sector-D-6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 has applied for the of aforesaid property. The original documents Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC For Water & Electricity issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 12/01/2022. Any persons claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, can personally contact. The Assistant Director (LG), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client Mr. Manish Garg @Manish Garg S/o Manohar Lal Garg and Smt. Santosh Kishan S/o Manohar Lal Garg R/o H.No-160, Vaishali, Delhi are owner of property bearing no. 160, Vaishali, Delhi by virtue of sale deed Number 17050 dated 08.11.2011 duly registered with Sub-Registrar V.A. Delhi executed by Sh. S.M. Arora and Sh. Ravinder Mohan in favour of our client. That in the chain of title documents, Agreement to Sell and General Power of Attorney both dated 09.09.1984 executed by Sh.S.M. Arora S/o Sh. Krishna Kumar with respect to the property in question, are involved, however the same has been misplaced, and the intimation complaint in this regard stands given to the concerned police station on dated 10.01.2022. That our client intends to mortgage the property referred above with SBI, Branch at Kirti, Haryana by way of equitable mortgage. Any Individual, Bank/financial institution etc., claiming any title, interest or in the Property no. 160, Vaishali, Delhi on the basis of the said misplace Agreement to sell and General Power of Attorney both dated 09.09.1984 any other registered or unregistered document, shall inform the same to the undersigned within 7 days from today. After the expiry of 7 days, no claim in this regard shall be entertained.

Advocate Yogita (Contact No. 9911456298)

DEVELOPMENT OF STATION YARD

Tender Notice No.: CON/2022/JAN/01; Dated: 03-01-2022. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/ firm(s) for the following works:- **SN-1, Tender No. CE/CON/IA-G/PA/2021/14/RT-1. Name of work :** 1. For Bibiganj Station Yard - Earthwork in filling for making embankment for development of Bibiganj station yard from CH.65050 to 650500, etc. 2. For Tulsia Halt station - Earthwork in filling for making embankment for development of Tulsia Halt station yard (from CH. 73780 to 74770).....etc. **Approx. value:** ₹47,91,02,276.61. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 31-01-2022 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 31-01-2022. For Details Please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con/3 Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 Fax No.: 0532-2407892, www.core.indianrailways.gov.in

No. RE/Tender/Civil/514 **E-Tender Notice** Date: 12.01.2022

Name of work: Maintenance of Gardens, Potted Plants, Hedges/ Edges and execution of other Horticultural activities in Headquarters office building, GM/CORE'S Camp office, ORH at City side, RE officers club premises and Community Gardens of GPO colony of CORE at Prayagraj for two years.

1. **Completion** 24 Months

2. **Approximate Cost of the work** ₹ 36,13,023.40

3. **Tender Cost** ₹ 0.00/-

4. **Earnest money to be deposited** ₹ 72300.00

5. **Submission/Opening of tender** 07.02.2022 Upto 15.30 Hours for submission of tender through www.ireps.gov.in and the Tender shall be opened online using IREPS portal any time after closing of tender.

6. **Website particulars** www.ireps.gov.in (Where details have been uploaded).

7. **Office address** Office of PCE/CORE, 1 Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj

NOTE: Only e-Bid shall be accepted against above tender.

Dy. Chief Engineer/CORE/Prayagraj For and on behalf of President of India

No. PR/09/22 (FA)

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

MAHANADI PROJECT: WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. 90376/ NIT No.: 04/ SAC/2021-22 Raipur Dated: 11.01.2022

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 01.02.2022 at 17.30 Hour Name of work : Renovation of Tar road from K.m. 22.00 to K.m. 33.00 of Mandhar Branch Canal.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 295.19 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 18.01.2022, at 17.31 Hours.(IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e- procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

sd/- Executive Engineer

Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur

R.o. No - 66747/11 For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project

R.o. Date - 12/01/2022 Raipur (C.G.)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, वृत्त-(पी.एण्ड एम.) जयपुर

क्रमांक : अभी.अभि./ पी. एण्ड एम./ वि.बो./ 2021-22 / 678 दिनांक : 11.01.2022

बिड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-07/2021-22

वृत्त (पी. एण्ड एम.) के अधीन खण्ड जयपुर-ग्रथम के अन्तर्गत निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन बिड ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट के माध्यम से उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत बिडर्स से आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in एवं www.agriculture.rajjasthan.gov.in/rasmb पर भी देखा जा सकता है। (UBN No. AGM2122WSOB00409-12)

राज.संवाद/ सी /21 / 10426 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

CGPHC

C.G.Police Housing Corporation, Raipur

H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG)

Phone No. 0771- 4020028

Tender No./ 96 /CGPHC/Bldg/2022 Dated: 11/ 01/ 2022

TENDER NOTICE (4th CALL)

Online Tenders are invited according to Key dates for Construction of Fortified Police Station Bheiji, Distt. – Sukma & PS Pamed, at Distt.– Bijapur, Tender System No.– 90531 to 90532 which are available from 14.01.2022 (10:30 am) to 27.01.2022 (17:30 pm) in CGPHC Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> along with other details.

Managing Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Sweety D/o Gulab R/o H.No. 120B, Gali No. 4, Sainik Enclave, Sector 2, Mohan Garden, New Delhi **Age : 15 years, Height : 5', Face : Long, Complexion : Fair**, wearing white colour suit-salwar and black colour shoes in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since 02.12.2021 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 0850/21 dated 02.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO : P.S. Ranhola, Delhi,**

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **Ph. : 011-28363001,**

Fax: 24368639, **28363002, 28361003**

Tel.: 24368638/24368641

DP1746270021

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग



हर्द्वार पिन कोड- 249404


संख्या- 163 / 06 / (viii) / डी0आर0 / सेवा-02 / 2008-09 दिनांक 11 जनवरी, 2022

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड शासन के शहरी विकास विभाग के अन्तर्गत सफाई निरीक्षक के 65 पदों (15 पद अनुसूचित जाति, 03 पद अनुसूचित जनजाति एवं 09 पद अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग हेतु आरक्षित एवं 38 पद अनारक्षित) पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु दिनांक 23 नवम्बर, 2012 को विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया था। विज्ञापन के क्रम में आयोजित साक्षात्कार परीक्षा के आधार पर चयन परिणाम दिनांक 30.06.2015 एवं अनुपूरक चयन परिणाम दिनांक 06 जुलाई, 2018 को घोषित किया गया था, जिसमें अनारक्षित श्रेणी का 01 पद रिट याचिका सं0-576 (एस0/एस0) ऑफ 2018 निरज भट्ट बनाम उत्तराखण्ड राज्य व अन्य में पारित होने वाले अन्तिम निर्णय के अधीन आस्थगित रखा गया था। मा0 उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा रिट याचिका सं0-576 (एस0/एस0) ऑफ 2018 निरज भट्ट बनाम उत्तराखण्ड राज्य व अन्य में पारित निर्णय दिनांक 01.12.2021 द्वारा उक्त रिट याचिका को खारिज किये जाने के अनुक्रम में आस्थगित रखे गये 01 पद के सापेक्ष श्रेष्ठता के आधार पर चयन परिणाम दिनांक 11.01.2022 को घोषित करते हुए अस्थगित के सूचनार्थ चयन परिणाम आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर प्रसारित कर दिया गया है।

(कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE



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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sohan Pal/ Suresh Kumar Gupta LBNOD00002379759	DDA Plot, Flat No 50, 3rd Floor, Sector G-8, Pocket-3, Block-F7, Narela, Delhi 07/01/2022	November 30, 2019 Rs. 11,59,324.00/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : January 13, 2022

Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 13.01.2022

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invite for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/ RBP/PR/RJ/0974	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF MOTORIZED RMU ALONG WITH FRTU IN BRPL	47.80 Crores	47,80,000/-	04.02.2022 15:30 HRS	04.02.2022 16:00 HRS


Cost of each Tender Document :- ₹ 1180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brl.Eauction@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitison of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail : brpl.eauction@relianceada.com | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of movable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable 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 movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Ravinder Kumar (Borrower), LAROH00035177651	MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R LXI Mfg Yr.- 2016 Reg No.- HR46E517	Rs. 7,34,507/- as on January 03, 2022	Rs. 80,000/- Rs. 25,000/-	January 17, 2022 From 11:00 AM To 12:00 Noon	January 28, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards
2.	Dinesh (Borrower), LAROH00034435594	HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD Xcent Mfg Yr. - 2016 Reg No. - HR46D00050	Rs. 6,43,630/- as on January 03, 2022	Rs. 80,000/- Rs. 25,000/-	January 17, 2022 From 11:00 AM To 12:00 Noon	January 28, 2022 From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://auctions.cardekho.com) or our auction agency **Car Dekho** The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 27, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 or to our marketing agent **Car Dekho, Comat Emaar Digital Greens 11th floor tower- B Sector- 61 (Sohna Rd) Baharapur Naya Gurgaon- 122102** or before **January 27, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit (MD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on **8584874809/ 7304914763** or **Car Dekho** on **7412065541**

Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: January 13, 2022

Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

OF TREMENDOUS GROWTH

Jumping from the 384th to the 4th position in three years, Noida bags the ‘Cleanest Medium City’ title in Swachh Survekshan

We all aspire to live in the cleanest possible surroundings, but seldom take the ownership for it. Noida, a part of the NCR that has been emerging as a well-planned global city for both residents and businesses, set an example for all the rapidly developing cities with its miraculous display of grit, determination and responsibility. The city recently bagged the Cleanest Medium City (population of three-10 lakh) in Swachh Survekshan 2021, an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in India.

“Noida deserves rank one in the list of cleanest cities, and I hope all the NGOs will work even harder to make it happen. Big thanks to HCLF’s Clean Noida project for establishing Noida’s Integrated Command Control Centre. HCLF has a huge role in helping us to sensitise villages and



making sure that this movement reaches the rural areas of Noida,” said Ritu Maheshwari, chief, Noida Authority, as she thanked and congratulated all the partners working for this movement. The high

rank achieved in Swachh Survekshan Survey 2021 is a miraculous victory as in 2018, the city was at 384th position and is the fourth cleanest in the country now. This has been a result of

months of organised and structured efforts by the foundation. On-ground campaigns and door-to-door awareness surveys were conducted to drive behavioural change in citizens. Cleanliness staff was trained regularly on how to segregate waste and best practices to manage solid waste. HCLF not only trained the staff and residents through campaigns, it also distributed litter bins, collection carts and was involved in city beautification activities through wall art and graffiti.

“The Clean Noida Project works with over 90 RWAs across the city. The residents of these sectors are grateful for the initiatives and knowledge imparted by the foundation. It takes years to drive a behavioural change. Clean Noida has been working rigorously since 2018 to ensure Noida emerges as a clean city. Our aim is to look at development, hygiene and ensure

people live in peace and harmony,” expressed Laxmi Narayin, president, RWA, Sector 19.

The city has also received a five-star garbage-free city rating, a higher achievement from having received a 3-star garbage-free city rating in 2020. They have adopted about 8 villages as part of their Chakachak Village initiative. The workers have worked relentlessly to ensure these areas are converted into model villages. The village homes have their own composting pits and are being trained to convert into zero waste villages.

There have been celebratory events in market places, villages and RWAs to keep the awareness going. Cleanliness is equal to Godliness — the adage comes alive as you see the Clean Noida team in action. One can only hope the whole country takes inspiration from their exemplary work.

SOLVING REAL WORLD PROBLEMS

VIT-AP concludes a three-day workshop on AAMCM

A three-day workshop on Advances in Applied Mathematics and Computational Methods (AAMCM) was conducted by the department of mathematics, VIT-AP University at VIT AP University, Amaravati from January 7-9.

During his address, Prof S Srinivas, dept of Mathematics emphasised on how computational methods are important in solving real world problems. There were 13 invited talks by speakers from reputed institutes and industry. The workshop was enriched with their valuable insights and contributions. 260 participants, across the country, and few from foreign registered for this workshop.

This workshop will are essential in addressing



provide a prominent platform for researchers interested in pursuing problems in the field of applied mathematics and help address real world problems. This workshop also draws focus and introduces modern mathematical software packages like MATLAB, MATHEMATICA and PYTHON that

the computational challenges arising in solving mathematical models.

Dr Satyanarayana Badeti thanked Dr S V Kota Reddy, vice chancellor, Dr CLV Sivakumar, registrar and Dr Santanu Mandal, the dean of School of Advanced Sciences. Scholars, faculty, staff were also present.

Celebrities have joined ‘No Mask No Metro’ campaign of Metro Railway to make commuters aware about the importance of following Covid protocols. Film director Sandip Roy, Thespians Debshankar Halder, Subhasis Mukherjee, actor Paran Bandyopadhyay, actress Ritabhari Chakraborty, singers Raghav Chattopadhyay and Saikat Mitra, ex-Indian cricketer and Bengal coach Arun Lal, ex-Indian cricketer Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Bengal Ranji captain Abhimanyu Eshwaran, secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal Snehasish Ganguly, ex-Indian footballers Mihir Bose, Prasanta Banerjee, Krishnendu Roy and Syed Rahim Nabi, and secretary of Indian

No Mask, No Metro

Celebrities join hands with Kolkata Metro Railway, in its new campaign, to make commuters aware of the importance of following Covid protocols

Football Association Joydeep Mukherjee are participating in this campaign. In their video messages, they have requested metro users to always wear mask properly and also maintain all Covid protocols. These messages are being played on platform televisions of metrostations as well as on social media.

On-duty RPF staff, officials of

Operating & Commercial Department and Metro Rail Police conducted ‘No Mask No Metro’ campaign on January 12 at Dumdum, Belgachia, Shyambazar, Sovabazar-Sutanuti, Girish Park, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Central, Chandni Chowk, Esplanade, Park Street, Maidan, Rabindra Sadan, Netaji Bhavan, Jatin Das Park,

Kalighat, Rabindra Sarobar, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar, Masterda Surya Sen, Kavi Nazrul, Kavi Subhash stations and as well as inside the running metros.

Metro RPF has been conducting ‘No Mask No Metro’ campaign at all 33 stations of North-South and East-West Metro as well as inside running trains in order to



sensitise metro commuters about this deadly virus. In these campaigns, on-duty RPF staff have been requesting all to always wear the mask properly, maintain social distancing and follow all other Covid protocols in the Metro premises with the help of loud hailers.

On-duty station staff are also requesting commuters to maintain social distancing inside the trains, in front of booking counters and at the platforms. Regular announcements are also being made through Public Address System of all stations requesting commuters to co-operate with the metro authority and co-passengers to maintain all Covid protocols.

Bring up education systems around the world in a conversation and it'll be hard not to mention India. With over 250 million school-going children, our nation has one of the largest education systems across the globe. The pandemic harshly reminded us how a country like ours needs a hybrid situation for students where they can learn offline and online.

Having faced limited acceptance before, Ed Tech start-ups found their moment in the sun post-COVID-19. In the last five years, this industry has gained an investment of around \$40 billion and is projected to expand to \$30 billion in the next 10 years.

Educational institutes were pushed to adopt remote teaching methods, meanwhile, Ed Tech start-ups did not only have the necessary tools but also the expertise that helped alleviate the risk that our traditional education institutes faced. Digital learning has opened up the doors for anyone who has a smartphone with an internet connection to learn, re-skill, and up-skill anytime, anywhere.

The future of EdTech

This year will bring faster technology adoption in the Indian education sector, says ASHISH DIXIT



The most powerful thing to come out of Ed Tech start-ups is the choice that learners get to customise their study material to their requirements, and the chance for teachers and insti-

tutes to become entrepreneurs.

Several Ed Tech trends are affecting the way education is transforming. For one, virtual classrooms are something we can expect more of and get used to.

Educational institutions all over India are catching up on the technological comfort of operating digitally. After the first lockdown, a lot of them learned and are learning to take their administrative and operational functions online. Whether it's an annual calendar, attendance, tests, assignments, or fee transactions, it all became easier to manage and keep track of on digital platforms.

Games and simulations are being picked up as educational tools to make learning an immersive and fun

experience. Blockchain technology makes sure that the applications that are used for record-keeping, transactions, et al are transparent and secure.

A lot of work is going into making Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Extended Reality (XR) cost-effective and reliable to make online learning rather an immersive experience. When the time comes for it to become more of a common practise in India, it will definitely revolutionise the educational structure everywhere.

As the world moves beyond the regular curriculum and aspires more for skill development than just a degree, we can expect quicker tech adoption in the educational landscape of 2022. Investment in CRM (customer relationship management) and LMS (learning management system) is on the rise. Where CRM is beneficial for managing the enrollment processes, LMS helps in the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, and delivery of courses.

The AR market is predicted to

exceed \$5.3 billion by 2023 in the education sector. So, we can expect this technology to be used a lot more and develop further in 2022. AR has a better chance of being adopted in 2022 than VR because the latter requires a separate headgear, and the former is more compatible with smartphones.

Another popular method being used to make digital learning engaging is 'gamification' which refers to the use of elements and principles of a game in a non-game context. What this does is make learning hard things fun for learners. It helps them increase their level of engagement. Elements like point scoring, peer competition, teamwork, progress indicators, player control, could be seen being integrated a lot more in the coming year.

We can all agree that last two years were milestone years for Ed Tech, but 2022 will be the year when things take a definitive shape for digital learning as more educational institutions get on the same page.

(The author is the founding chairman of MyTutorHub.)



Success with smart solutions

Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurates a webinar on ‘Power Plant Flexibilisation — A Key to Grid Stability’ at BHEL’s electronics division

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power & Heavy Industries, inaugurated a webinar on ‘Power Plant Flexibilisation — A Key to Grid Stability’ and ‘Industry 4.0 — Success with Smart Solutions’, held at BHEL’s electronics division, Bengaluru. Inaugurated via video conferencing, the webinar was graced by senior officials of BHEL’s customer organisations, industry associations and technology partners. More than 800 participants logged-in to the webinar while several others watched the proceedings through webcast mode.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurjar stated that BHEL is working towards the progress of the nation by providing superior engineering systems in power and industrial sectors, including products and services. He said that power plant flexibilisation and implementation of Industry 4.0 are important for enhancing power generation with accent on reducing carbon emissions and said that he was glad to know that BHEL has already started offering solutions in the areas of power plant flexibilisation and Industry 4.0 to customers.

Earlier, Dr Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, while addressing the participants, said that BHEL has made noteworthy efforts towards meeting the infrastructural needs of the nation and referred to the numerous developments taken up in this direction. He also said that BHEL’s electronics division, Bengaluru played a key role in offering control systems and IT-based solutions for power plants and traction.

Addresses were also delivered by KVS Baba, CMD, POSOCO; Sami Riekkola, president of Valmet Automation, Finland and B C Mallick chief engineer, CEA, besides other eminent speakers from NTPC, Valmet Automation, Steag, IESA, IIT-Chennai and BHEL.

JOINING HANDS

ITES Limited signs MoU with SMEC Group to cooperate and explore infrastructure projects

ITES Limited, a transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SMEC Group to cooperate and explore infrastructure projects.

The MoU will enable RITES and SMEC to collaborate and cooperate to explore, identify, pursue, and jointly execute mutually beneficial business opportunities in the infrastructure sector. It will

allow both companies to leverage each other's expertise and technologies to optimise operations and expand on a global level.

The collaboration will facilitate knowledge sharing and the development of business proposals, including exploring consultancy opportunities arising at various government/semi government/autonomous bodies or authorities/private entities/multilateral-funding agencies.



Presenting key insights

The ninth R K Vir Memorial lecture was held in New Delhi virtually, organised by IREE along with IET-DLN, IEEE Delhi Section, TEMS IEEE Delhi chapter, WIE AG Delhi, IEI Delhi state.

This year V K Yadav, former chairman of the Railway Board was the chief guest, N Venkatesan, former member-electrical, Railway Board and Rajesh Tiwari, former member-traction were the

V K Yadav was the chief guest at the 9th R K Vir Memorial lecture held virtually

guests of honour. S K Kashyup, the general manager presented the key note lecture.

Kashyup presented key insights on ‘Newer Trends in Electric



Locomotive Technology on IR’. And, in his lecture, elaborated on various trends of electric locomotives. He highlighted the key role of locomotive units of Indian Railways and also focused on the future plans and vision of IR, technological advancements, indigenous manufacturing, et al. Pramod Kumar, principal chief electrical engineer and secretary of IREE, gave the vote of thanks.

Extension of a human hand

Marketing a high quality hand tool is quite a task, says the CMD of TTL

In its 50 years of existence, TAPARIA TOOLS LIMITED (TTL), a Mumbai based hand tools manufacturing company has deployed every known right method to market its products across the country. This was necessary, as it initially had formidable competition, mainly from tool manufactures in the unorganised sector and other Indian companies. TTL today commands

almost 70-75 per cent market share in the organised sector. “Marketing a high quality hand tool is quite a task,” says CMD of TTL. Taparia believes that hand tool is an extension of a human hand.

Whereas human hand performs many remarkable activities but there comes a limitation, for instance, where some nut or a screw has to be tightened, the human hand alone will not be able to do it and there comes the

role of a hand tool.

Besides the sale in India, TTL tools have been exported to a number of countries since inception to UK, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, U.S.A., Canada, Mexico,

Brazil, Panama, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Kenya, Dubai, Hong Kong, Thailand, Egypt, Australia, and so on.

Seeing the recent trend of quality conscious consumers opting for sophisticated but reasonably priced ‘do-it-yourself’ tools. The company has launched a variety of home tool kits for housewives and kids and utility sets for vehicles.

Bridging the gap

POWERGRID and Africa50, in a joint development agreement, set to pioneer the continent's first transmission PPP project in Kenya

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.

The project entails the development, financing, construction, and operation of the 400kV Lessos – Loosuk and 220kV Kisumu – Musaga transmission lines under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework. Once completed, the project will be the first Independent Power Transmission (IPT) in Kenya and will set a reference point in Africa as the first financing of transmission lines on a PPP basis. This project will also improve both the supply and reliability of power transmission in Western Kenya and further create a demonstration effect to help increase private sector investments into the expansion of Africa's power transmission networks, which is critical to bridging the continent's electricity access gap.

The signing of this agreement underscores POWERGRID and Africa50's commitment to continue to dedicate resources to accelerate development activities on the project until financial close.

Signing on behalf of POWERGRID, the chairman and MD K Sreekant, said, “POWERGRID is pleased to partner with Africa50 in undertaking development of first PPP mode transmission project in Kenya. Transmission plays an important role in bringing efficiency in the entire electricity supply chain. POWERGRID hopes that the present transmission project in Kenya shall serve as a model for undertaking more such projects in future.”

Commenting on the signing, the CEO of Africa50, Alain Eboissé shared, “We are very pleased to partner with the Government of Kenya and POWERGRID to implement this important and pioneering project in one of our shareholder countries. In the past few years, a lot of emphasis has been placed on attracting private investments in energy production infrastructure in Africa. It is time to also focus on catalysing private investment into the development of power transmission networks across Africa as these are a critical link to improving electricity access, especially in underserved communities”.

Innovative ideas

Metro Railways show significant increase in Non-Fare Revenue

Indian Railways is taking various initiatives to Increase Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) in order to boost up earnings apart from the traditional source of income in the wake of Covid pandemic.

Metro Railway, as part of Indian Railways, is playing a pivotal role in this initiative and various innovative steps have been taken up by Metro Railway Authority to increase the revenue of Metro Railway which is in general totally dependent on passenger earnings.

As part of this initiative, Metro Railway has been focussing on the earnings through advertisements inside and outside Metro rakes, hoardings in open space and earnings from new sources like installing health check up kiosks at different stations etc.

Metro Railway has also innovated new ideas like 11 station co-branding, Card Balance Checking Terminal (CBCT) branding, Automatic Smart Card Recharge Machine (ASCRM) branding, AFC-PC gates branding, installation of food kiosks, ATMs of different banks, smart card branding, and so on. This has helped to increase the Non-Fare Revenue to a large extent.

Metro Railway has earned ₹2.72 crores in the month of December, 2021 and has ranked third amongst all Zonal Railways.

Siddharth apologises for ‘rude joke’ on Saina; shuttler says happy in my space

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Actor Siddharth has apologised for his unsavoury remark on ace shuttler Saina Nehwal, who said she was happy to accept his acknowledgement of being rude while criticising her expression of concern for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s security recently.

Siddharth kicked up a storm by posting “subtle cock champion of the world” for Saina while commenting on her tweet expressing concern on the Prime Minister’s security breach in Punjab a few days ago.

Following strong criticism on social media for his comment, Siddharth said that “nothing disrespectful was intended” but on Tuesday night, he offered an apology acknowledging that his “tone

and words” couldn’t be justified.

In an open letter published on Twitter, the “Rang De Basanti” actor wrote, “Dear Saina, I want to apologise to you for my rude joke that I wrote as a response to a tweet of yours, a few days ago.”

“I may disagree with you on many things but even my disappointment or anger when I read your tweet, cannot justify my tone and words.

I know I have more grace in me than that.

“As for the joke... If a joke needs to be explained, then it wasn’t a very good joke to begin with. Sorry about a joke that didn’t land,” he added.

Saina, who is a member of the ruling BJP, said she is glad that Siddharth admitted to his comments not being in good taste.

“He only said it and he is now



apologising. I was surprised to see myself trending on Twitter that day. I haven’t spoken to him but I am happy that he apologised,” she said on the sidelines of the ongoing India Open in Delhi.

“See, it is about women, he shouldn’t target a woman like that but it’s okay, I am not bothered about it, I am happy in my space and god bless him,” she added.

The 42-year-old actor claimed to be a “staunch feminist” and asserted he would never say anything to a woman with a “malicious intent”.

Siddharth hoped that the badminton star, who is a former world number one and a trailblazer in Indian sports, would accept his apology.

...My word play and humour had none of the malicious intent

that so many people from all quarters have attributed to it. I am a staunch feminist ally and I assure you there was no gender implied in my tweet and certainly no intent to attack you as a woman.

“I hope we can put this behind us and that you will accept my letter.

You will always be my Champion. Honestly, Siddharth,” he added.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) had asked Twitter India to “immediately” block Siddharth’s account, calling the comment misogynistic, and one that outraged the modesty of a woman.

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma had also written to the Maharashtra DGP to investigate the matter and register an FIR against Siddharth.



Saina, Prannoy, Sen enter second round of India Open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former champion Saina Nehwal, world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen and comeback man HS Prannoy registered contrasting wins to progress to the second round of the India Open here on Wednesday.

Commonwealth Games silver medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made winning starts to their men’s doubles campaign.

Former world no 1, Saina, who missed a lot of tournaments last year due to multiple injuries, moved to the second round after her opponent Czech Republic’s Tereza Svabikova suffered a back injury and retired mid-way while lagging 20-22 0-1 in the opening round match.

“Playing after so long gives you the match confidence... How to pull out those points, because in practice you don’t have the privilege to play points with the same intensity as you do in tournaments.

The quality of some of the points I got today...I hope it somehow helps me tomorrow,” Saina said after her match.

Saina, who is seeded fourth, will meet compatriot Malvika Bansod, who defeated fellow Indian Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-18 21-9 in another match. The left-handed Nagpur shuttler had recently won the All India Senior ranking meet in Hyderabad.

“I am really excited to play against Saina as it will be my first encounter with her, so really hoping to play well,” said Malvika, who had been part of

India’s campaign at the Sudirman Cup and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals last year.

On a comeback trail, Prannoy, a former world top 10 player, who had made it to the quarterfinals at the world championships, got the better of Spain’s Pablo Abian 21-14 21-7 and will next face Mithun Manjunath. Manjunath eked out a hard-fought 21-16 15-21 21-10 victory over France’s Arnaud Merkle. “Extremely happy to win the first match.

Pablo is a tricky player, a fighter but after the first 7-8 points, I could play much better,” Prannoy said.Third seed Sen, who claimed the world championships bronze on debut last month, thrashed Egypt’s Adham Hatem Elgamal 21-15 21-7 to set up a face-off with Sweden’s Felix Burestedt.

Tasnim Mir becomes first Indian to claim world no 1 status in u-19 girls singles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young shuttler Tasnim Mir on Wednesday became the first Indian to grab the world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings.

The 16-year-old from Gujarat was rewarded for last year’s stellar run when she had secured titles in three junior international tournaments to jump three places to grab the top position in the junior world rankings.

“I can’t say that I expected this. I thought I will not be able to become no 1 as tournaments were getting affected by COVID-19 but I won three events in Bulgaria, France and Belgium. So I am really excited and happy that finally I could become the world no 1. It is a great moment for me,” Tasnim told PTI from Guwahati.

“I will completely focus on the senior circuit from now on and looking forward to playing at Iran and Uganda next month. My aim now is to improve my senior ranking. If I can weave some good performances and get into top 200 by end of the year that would be great.”

Tasnim, who is supported by OGQ, is currently ranked a lowly 602 in the women’s singles.

Tasnim’s feat has never been achieved by any Indian girl, including two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and London bronze winner Saina Nehwal.

While Sindhu was world no 2 in her under-19 days, Saina didn’t make the cut for being a junior with the BWF junior rankings starting only in 2011. Another



Indian Samiya Imad Farooqui of Telangana came close but could only reached the second spot in the BWF junior rankings.

In Boys singles, Lakshya Sen, Siril Verma and Aditya Joshi had become the world no 1.Tasnim was part of India’s campaign at the Thomas and Uber Cup held late last year in Denmark and says it had a huge impact on her game.

“It was a huge moment for me, it was first time that I was among the seniors, playing against world class players in big stadiums, it was a great experience. I also met Viktor Axelsen there, I like his game. I also like to watch players such as Tai Tzu Ying and An Seyoung,” she said.

Tasnim has been training under Indonesian coach Edwin Iriawan at the Assam Badminton Academy in Guwahati for the last four years.

“I have been training for last four years under Edwin, it has been great experience, we get to train with men players, so I has

helped to improve my game,” said the teenager, who won the 2019 Dubai Junior International.

Tasnim got her first lessons on badminton from her father Irfan Mir, who is a badminton coach and also ASI in Mehana police.

“My father is a badminton coach and also works for Mehana police.

He has always been interested in sports and used to take me alongwith him when I was about 7-8 years old,” she said.

Tasnim, whose younger brother Mohd Ali Mir, a Gujarat state junior champion, also trains with her in Guwahati, has been an achiever right from her young days.

She won the national junior champion (U-19) at the age of 14 and also claimed the national crown in the under-13, under-15 and under-19 girls’ singles categories.

Tasnim also won U-15 singles and doubles titles at the All-India Sub-Junior ranking tournaments in Hyderabad and Nagpur in 2018.

At the 2019 World Junior Championships in Russia, she could not go past the round of 32 but returned to win the title at the Asian U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships the same year in Indonesia.

She also emerged victorious at the President Cup Nepal Junior International Series 2020 in Kathmandu.

“I will need to work on my stamina and mental aspect of my game, which will play a big role. I have confidence on my shots but it is important to focus on mind,” she signed off.

SCEB quash Perosevic ban controversy

PTI ■ MARGAO

SC East Bengal on Wednesday refuted reports that CEO Shivaji Samaddar missed an AIFF Appeals Committee hearing on their star forward Antonio Perosevic and thus allegedly lost a chance to reduce his five-match ban.

Perosevic was charged for “violent conduct towards a match official” in SC East Bengal’s 0-2 loss to NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League on December 17.

“It was earlier indicated to us that Perosevic cannot get a reprieve from his five-match ban and there was a possibility of extension of the ban. However, the committee decided to uphold the original judgment,” SC East Bengal said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement claimed that contrary to reports in the media, the management did not push the matter as the ban risked being increased due to the nature of it.

It is learnt that Samaddar was given a short notice to attend the meeting and he did not get any call from the committee.

“He missed the meeting but he got the mail around 5pm and the meeting was scheduled for 7.30 pm.

Prajnesh exits Australian Open Qualifiers after second round defeat



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost rhythm and energy before staging a mini comeback but eventually bowed out of the Australian Open Qualifiers with a second-round defeat against Germany’s Maximilian Marterer, here on Wednesday.

Up against a rival, who served big and packed a lot of power in his strokes but placed seven places below him at 228, Prajnesh lost 2-6 6-7(8) in one hour and 26 minutes.

With Prajnesh losing the battle of the left-handers, Yuki Bhambri is now ?the only Indian surviving in the Qualifiers. Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina have already exited the competition.

Down 2-6 2-4, Prajnesh managed to stretch it to a tie-breaker but squandered many a set point to lose the match.

Prajnesh handed the German two break chances in the fourth game of the match when he made a volley error after setting up the point and followed that

up with wide forehand.

The Indian saved the first chance with a big serve while Marterer’s backhand slice landed just outside the baseline on the second.

An engrossing rally, that put Prajnesh’s backhand to test against the German’s forehand, ensued in the sixth game.

A smart backhand slice by Marterer, after no less than a 20-shot exchange ended the rally as Prajnesh hit the pick-up out, looking for a cross court forehand winner.

Prajnesh’s strokes began to lose power and precision after losing that energy-sapping rally and the German began to dictate terms.

Marterer hit a forehand winner to earn two break chances and converted the second for a 4-2 lead when Prajnesh made a forehand error.

The German came out serving big in the next game to consolidate his lead but Prajnesh seemed to have lost energy as unforced errors flew from his racket as he surrendered the opening set.

Early in the second set, Prajnesh went from 40-0 to deuce and was down a breakpoint when he sent another shot long.

Hockey India moves HC challenging CIC order to disclose list of members



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Sports Federation, Hockey India, Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court challenging an order of the Central Information Commission (CIC) directing it to disclose certain information, including list of its members and employee salaries under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The matter came up before Justice Rekha Palli who asked the counsels for Hockey India, the RTI applicant and the Centre to place on records the documents being relied upon by them and listed the plea for further hearing on Thursday.

Hockey India has challenged the

CIC’s December 13, 2021 order directing it to provide under the RTI the complete list of its members with their designation and official addresses, names of its employees along with their pay, and gross income.

The commission had also directed the NSF to give information pertaining to monthly rents paid by it at each of the addresses since the date of occupation and information relating to monetary transactions like cash withdrawals and fund transfer to bank accounts in foreign countries.

The petitioner claimed that the CIC order was patently illegal, arbitrary, unreasoned and passed in violation of settled principles of law and that it was contrary to section 8(1) of the RTI Act which related to exemption given from disclosing information.

Advocate Shyel Trehan, appearing for Hockey India, said the order was passed without giving any finding that disclosure of the information was necessary.

The plea said the CIC order was received by the petitioner only on December 29, 2021 and it was directed to supply information within 15 days and file a compliance report within 7 days thereafter.



Klopp sure Salah will stay, have longevity of Messi, Ronaldo

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp expects Mohamed Salah to sign a new contract with the club and have the same longevity in his career as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Salah, who has 18 months left on his current

deal, has been in talks with Liverpool about an extension but hasn’t yet received what he deems an acceptable offer. He said in a recent interview with GQ

magazine that he is not asking for “crazy stuff” and wants to be appreciated for all he has done for the club. Klopp said he was “very positive” about keeping hold of the Premier League’s top scorer and that there’s nothing unexpected about the length of the current negotiations.

“I know that Mo wants to stay. We want Mo to stay. That’s where we are,” Klopp said Wednesday. “These things take time. I cannot change it, sorry. I think it’s all in a good place.”

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic knew he’d tested positive for COVID-19 when he attended a newspaper interview and photo shoot in Serbia last month, saying Wednesday he made an “error of judgment” and should have immediately gone into isolation.

In a statement posted to his social media accounts, the tennis star also blamed “human error” by his support team for failing to declare that he had traveled in the two-week period before entering Australia.

Upon arrival, his visa was revoked and then later reinstated in an ongoing saga over whether he should be allowed into the country despite not being vaccinated against COVID-19. The back and forth has provoked outrage in Australia and overshadowed the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Djokovic acknowledged the lapses when he sought to clarify what he called “continuing misinforma-

tion” about his movements after he became infected last month — though he did not say spell out what inaccuracies he was referring to.

The statement was posted while the men’s tennis No. 1 was in Rod Laver Arena holding a practice session, his third on the tournament’s main court since being released from four nights in immigration detention.

The nine-time and defending Australian Open champion remains in limbo before the year’s first tennis major starts next Monday. The stakes are particularly high since he is seeking a men’s record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He won a legal battle on procedural grounds Monday that allowed him to stay in the country, but he still faces the prospect of deportation because his exemption from COVID-19 vaccination rules has been questioned.

That decision is entirely at the discretion of Australia’s immigration minister if deemed to be in the pub-



lic interest for health and safety reasons.

Deportation could result in sanctions ranging up to a three-year ban from entering Australia, a daunting prospect for a player who has won almost half of his 20 Grand Slam singles titles here.

Court documents detailing Djokovic’s positive test sparked speculation over the star player’s

attendance at events in his native Serbia last month. Further questions also were raised about errors on his immigration form that could potentially result in the cancellation of his visa.

On the form, Djokovic said he had not traveled in the 14 days before his flight to Australia, despite being seen in Spain and Serbia in that period. In his statement, Djokovic

described recent commentary as “hurtful” and said he wanted to address it in the interest of “alleviating broader concern in the community about my presence in Australia.”

The 34-year-old Serb said he’d taken rapid tests that were negative and he was asymptomatic before he received his positive result from a PCR test he undertook out of an “abundance of caution” after attending a basketball game in Belgrade on Dec. 14.

He received the result late Dec. 17, he said, and scrapped all his commitments except a long-standing interview with L’Equipe newspaper.

“I felt obliged to go ahead ... But did ensure I socially distanced and wore a mask except when my photograph was being taken,” Djokovic said.

“While I went home after the interview to isolate for the required period, on reflection, this was an error of judgment.”

Serbia requires those who are

infected with COVID-19 to isolate for eight days, but they can get out early if they test negative during that period.

Djokovic addressed the Australian travel declaration by saying it was submitted by his support team and “my agent sincerely apologizes for the administrative mistake in ticking the incorrect box.”

“This was a human error and certainly not deliberate,” he wrote.

“My team has provided additional information to the Australian Government to clarify this matter.”

The decision could take a while — but there is time pressure since the draw to determine brackets for the Australian Open is set to take place Thursday.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke’s office issued a statement saying Djokovic’s legal team had filed further documents against the potential cancellation of his visa and added: “Naturally, this will affect the timeframe for a decision.”

At issue is whether he has a valid

exemption to strict rules requiring vaccination to enter Australia since he recently recovered from COVID-19.

His exemption to compete was approved by the Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, the tournament organizer. That apparently allowed him to receive a visa to travel.

But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa upon arrival before a federal judge overturned that decision.

Lawyers for the government have said an infection was only grounds for an exemption in cases in which the coronavirus caused severe illness — though it’s not clear why he was issued a visa if that’s the case.

The initial decision to let him compete sparked outrage that Djokovic was being given special treatment — and the subsequent cancellation of his visa raised allegations that he was being targeted once the issue became political.

BUMRAH TAKES FIVE AS INDIA CLAIM SLIGHT EDGE

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

Jasprit Bumrah shut his critics with one of his best five-wicket hauls in the traditional format as the Indian fast bowling unit gave the team slight edge over South Africa on an exhilarating second day of the third and final Test here on Wednesday.

Bumrah (23.3-8-42-5) was at the heart of India's swift and brutal counter-attack as he got his seventh five-wicket haul with fine complementary acts from Mohammed Shami (16-4-39-2) and Umesh Yadav (16-3-64-2) that helped them bundle out the Proteas for 210.

The lead of 13 that India managed was less about the quantum and more about the psychological advantage that they gained and despite losing Mayank Agarwal (7) and KL Rahul (10) cheaply, the visitors scored runs at a fair clip to reach 57 for 2 at stumps.

Skipper Virat Kohli (14 batting) and Cheteshwar Pujara (9 batting), with a cumulative experience of 194 Tests, have the responsibility of taking the team to a winning total.

And while statistics at times are of little or no relevance but Kohli wouldn't be too unhappy to know that



India have never lost a Test match in which his premier strike bowler has taken a five-wicket haul.

It was a day when Kohli's captaincy acumen was worth praising as he made relevant bowling changes at the right time, juggled with subtle field placings and also took his 100th catch in Test cricket.

But someone who would be really smiling at the end of the day is Bumrah, who had a forgettable game at the Wanderers and copped a fair amount of flak for bowling too short and not depending on his strengths.

There were analytics showing how his strike-rate (wickets per deliveries) had doubled since a back injury

but on Wednesday, he showed that he is skipper Kohli's real X-factor, the man who makes the difference between a good and a world-class side.

The delivery that got Aiden Markram was pitched just a shade outside off-stump and it seemed to be going straight but suddenly jagged back embarrassing the South African

opener, who had shouldered arms.

Whenever Markram sees the replay, he would know that Bumrah made him feel inadequate when it came to knowing where his off-stump was.

On the day, Bumrah slightly altered the length making it slightly fuller on the off-stump and the off-stump channel line. The length and bounce was such that batters seemed confused about whether it would bounce above stumps or come at the stumps. One such delivery got South Africa's best performer Keegan Petersen (72 off 166 balls) as it kicked up awkwardly from length but enough for the batter to have a jab at it and Cheteshwar Pujara accepted the offering at second slip. But credit should also go to Shami, who in the post lunch session, got two wickets in three balls to unsettle the Proteas after Petersen and Rassie van der Dussen (21) had added 67 for the fourth wicket. If Umesh set up the session with a conventional outswinger that saw Van Der Dussen edging one to Kohli at second slip, Shami removed the dogged Temba Bavuma (28) and Kyle Verreynne (0) with two ideal

Test match deliveries in the 56th over.

Jayant, Saini added to India ODI squad for South Africa tour

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian off-spinner Washington Sundar was on Wednesday ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa after testing positive for COVID-19 and Jayant Yadav was named as his replacement for the assignment starting January 19.

Pacer Navdeep Saini was also added to the ODI squad as a backup for pacer Mohammed Siraj, who is recovering from a hamstring injury.

"Team India off-spinner Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the forthcoming ODI series against South Africa after testing positive for COVID-19 during the camp in Bengaluru," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Sundar was supposed to travel to Cape Town with the ODI members on Wednesday and join the rest of the squad ahead of the ODI series starting January 19th," it added.

The five-member selection panel, headed by former India pacer Chetan Sharma, has named Jayant as Washington's



replacement.

Siraj is still recovering from his hamstring injury that he sustained in the second Test against South Africa in Johannesburg.

The ODI series against South Africa begins in Paarl on January 19. The second ODI is scheduled at the same venue on January 21, following which the team will travel to Cape Town for the series-finae.,

India's Test triumph Down Under last year is one of greatest: Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Recalling India's incredible Test triumph in Australia last year despite being ravaged by injuries, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said the performance ranks among the team's "greatest wins" of all time and can be considered a "golden chapter" in the country's cricket history.

India, led by Ajinkya Rahane, defeated Australia 2-1 in a closely-fought four Test rubber winning in Melbourne and then breaching fortress Gabba in Brisbane last year after Australia had outplayed the visitors in the Day-Night Test at Adelaide.

Heroics of Hanuma Vihari and Ravichandran Ashwin had helped secure a draw for the visitors in the Sydney Test.

"India's win in Australia early last year will go down as one of the greatest wins in Indian cricket history," Gavaskar said.

"To pick themselves up after the dismissal with their lowest ever test score of 36 and then to beat a rampant home team is a tribute to the determination shown by the players and the leadership roles played by the captain, coach Ravi Shastri and his support group



"I was privileged to be there and see a golden chapter being written in the history of Indian cricket," added the 72-year-old former right-handed opener.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of India's win, 'Sony Sports Network' has produced a special documentary titled "DOWN UNDERDOGS - INDIA'S GREATEST COMEBACK" that will premiere on January 14 and Gavaskar gave his comments to the channel.

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke, who led Australia to the 2015 ODI World Cup win, said India deserved all the credit for fighting it out after the morale-shattering opening loss. "India picked an attack that worked," said Clarke. "Different bowlers - not everyone bowls the same, different tactics, different skills, different weapons, so the credit goes to India for their execution but also Australia might have taken for granted.

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Opener Hanooor Singh's unbeaten 100 negated Cooper Connolly's 117 as India mauled Australia by nine wickets in a warm-up game ahead of the Under-19 World Cup here.

Australia posted 268 runs before being all out in 49.2 overs, with 18-year-old captain Connolly making 117 studded with 18 boundaries.

Hanooor led India's charge with his century that had 16 fours.

He was well supported by Shaik Rasheed, who scored 72.

Both players retired hurt but captain Yash Dull (50 not out) took the side past the finish line with 15 balls to spare on Tuesday at the Providence stadium here.

The tournament proper will begin on Friday and India will open their campaign against South Africa on Saturday.

In other matches, Bangladesh, England and Pakistan also recorded impressive victories.

Bangladesh posted a decent total of 277 after a tricky start when opener Iftakher Hossain

Hanoor's ton scripts India's nine-wicket thrashing of Australia



edged to slip in the third over departing for just 1.

But Aich Mollah got his side back on track, making 82 from 82 deliveries with three sixes along the way.

Wicketkeeper Mohammed Fahim also chipped in with a timely 33, before captain Rakibul Hasan went after the

Zimbabwe attack, hitting 36 before being run-out.

Tailender Ripon Mondol then managed a quickfire 39 from 26 balls to take the 2020 champions up to their final total. Zimbabwe's reply didn't start on solid ground when opener Panashe Taruvinga went for a duck.

The next man in Steven Saul launched a counter-attack, scoring 39 from 45 deliveries, but once he outside edged to Fahim his team were facing an uphill task. They were eventually bowled out for 110 runs.

England produced a middle-order rally to beat UAE in an exciting finish by two wickets.

Batting first, the UAE posted a credible 191-9 in their innings, even with losing openers Kai Smith for a duck and Shival Bawa for just eight runs.

However, Dhruv Parashar and captain Alishan Sharafu hit a combined 62 to keep Emiratis in the contest. Josh Boyden was the pick of England's bowlers with figures of 5-42. But Sharafu's team refused to go quietly, with tailenders Adihya Shetty and Jash Giyanani scoring 21 and 15 respectively. Set 192 to win, England's response got off to a bad start when George Thomas was bowled by Sharafu with the first ball of the innings.

It's certainly on the table: Starc on returning to IPL

PTI ■ HOBART

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc is contemplating making a comeback to the IPL after a lengthy hiatus despite a hectic schedule that includes touring the subcontinent and the T20 World Cup title defence at home later this year.

Starc, who last played in the IPL in 2015, said he hasn't made the decision yet but entering his name for the league's mega auction, the nominations for which close on Friday, is "certainly on the table." Starc clinched a contract worth Rs 9.4 crore with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018 but had to be released because of an injury.

The mega-auction ahead of the upcoming season is scheduled to be held on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru.

"I've got two days to get my



paperwork in, so that might be something to do today before training," Starc was quoted as saying by

cricket.Com.Au.

"I've not put my name down just yet, but I've got a couple more days to decide on that. It's certainly on the table regardless of what the schedule has got coming up," he added.

Despite being one of the most valuable T20 bowlers, the left-arm pacer has featured in just two seasons of the IPL due to injury and workload management.

In the 27 matches that he played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2014 and 2015, Starc snared 34 wickets at an economy rate of 7.16 and an impressive strike rate of 17.

However, workload will once again become a key factor as the 31-year-old takes a call.

As a multi format player, Starc will have to juggle a packed schedule.

After the fifth Ashes Test, Australia have a three-match ODI series and one-off T20I at home

against New Zealand.

A five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka is scheduled for next month followed by a full series comprising three Tests as many ODIs and a T20I in Pakistan, starting March.

"I haven't been for six years or so," Starc said "Obviously with a heavy weighting towards T20s over the last period of time and the World Cup coming up later this year, that's one to take into consideration as well," he added. While the IPL, which has expanded to 10 teams this year, is expected to start in April and go on till June. Australia is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka for a Test and limited-overs series in June and July.

"There's a bit going on with scheduling and what-not to get our heads around, certainly for us multi-format players. "The schedules are quite jam-packed when you throw in all the tours

PTI ■ DUBAI

Out-of-action India opener Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli continue to remain static at the fifth and ninth positions respectively in the latest ICC Test rankings, issued on Wednesday. While Rohit has 781 rating points, Kohli is just inside the top-10 with 740 points.

The batting list is being headed by Marnus Labuschangne of Australia with 924 points, while England skipper Joe Root (881) and Steve Smith (871) are in the second and third spots respectively. New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (862) is at the fourth position. Mayank Agarwal has dropped a rung and is the next best-placed Indian in the 13th spot. Among Indian bowlers, veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has managed to hold on to his second spot with 861 rating points.

No other Indian features in the top-10 rankings of the Test

No change in Test rankings of Rohit, Kohli



bowlers list.

The Test bowlers rankings is being headed by Australia skipper Pat Cummins, followed by Ashwin and Kyle Jamieson of New Zealand, who has moved up six places. Ashwin also held on to his second spot in the Test all-rounders rankings, which is being led by West Indies Jason Holder.

Among others, after twin hundreds in the fourth Ashes Test at the SCG, Usman Khawaja has rocketed back into the Test batting ranking fray, re-entering at 26th place. The left-hander made 137 and 101 not out across the two innings at the ground he made his Test debut 11 years ago, though the Australians were unable to take the last wicket for victory in the fourth Ashes Test in Sydney.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India skipper Mithali Raj has stressed on the need to be "more consistent" in the areas they worked on over the last 12 months besides talking about the scope of improvement in her own batting ahead of the Women's World Cup in March-April.

"To cap off the "best possible" preparation for the ODI World Cup amid COVID times, India will play a five-match series against hosts New Zealand, starting February 11.

The World Cup will begin in the same country from March 4.

India introduced plenty of fresh faces in England and Australia.

The likes of Sneha Rana, who made successful comeback into the team, Meghna Singh, Yastika Bhatia and Richa Ghosh were tried in those two series.

Top-order batter Yastika, wicketkeeper batter Richa and pacer Meghna made their ODI debuts Down under and all of them made an impact.

Though India lost the three-match series 1-2, they were able to push the mighty Australians to the limit. Speaking to PTI from Vijaywada where she is training,

Need to be more consistent with work we did in last 12 months: Mithali



Mithali looked back at the positives from the two tours and what her side needs to do in New Zealand. "We will definitely be looking to fix our combinations for the World Cup (in ODIs against New Zealand) and try out a few compositions and also get

a little more consistent in the things that worked for us in the last year," said the captain after being named Jacob's Creek brand ambassador. India needed more firepower in the middle and lower order, which has been provided by Ghosh and Pooja

while swing bowlers Meghna and uncapped Renuka Singh have been a welcome addition to the pace department.

"The lower middle order contributed in Australia and we would want it to be a little more consistent. And it definitely

showed that they have the potential to contribute and all-rounders like Pooja and Sneha Rana have done well in England and in Australia.

"Richa definitely showed that she has the strength and the calibre to sort of go big in the in those last few overs that we actually wanted someone like that.

"She gives us edge in batting while Taniya (Bhatia) has better glove work - it's good to have good competition for spots and we have a 5 match to series to try out the combinations.

"The seamers off course (have done well) but a little more work is needed in the spin department but that is an experienced lot that we have," added the leading run getter in 50-over cricket.

India were able to score in excess of 250 consistently in Australia with the help of the lower-order and Mithali feels the contribution down the order becomes even more crucial against top teams. "That's what I meant in terms of being more consistent in those areas because that is what will be crucial in the World Cup when you're playing good sides. Yes, the top order definitely has to perform.

PCB chief Raja proposes 4-nation T20 series

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja says he will propose to the ICC, an annual four-nation T20 International series involving his country, arch-rivals India, Australia and England, the revenue from which will be shared by all members of the world governing body.

Raja said as per his proposal, the tournament will be hosted on a rotational basis by the four participating countries.

"Hello fans. Will propose to the ICC a Four Nations T20i Super Series involving Pak Ind Aus Eng to be played every year, to be hosted on rotation basis by these four.

"A separate revenue model with profits to be shared on percentage basis with all ICC members, think we have a winner," Raja tweeted.

The PCB chief's proposal can be seen as an attempt to revive India-Pakistan cricket rivalry on a regular basis.

However, there is no space for such a tournament in the next Future Tours Program cycle, which has already been finalised, and India have stopped playing



tri-nation and quadrangular series for close to a decade now

The two neighbouring countries have not played against each other outside ICC tournaments or the Asia Cup since 2013.

The last bilateral series between India and Pakistan was held in 2012-13 when India hosted their neighbours for a T20 rubber.

Most recently, the two teams played each other last year in the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, where Pakistan beat India for the first time in an ICC event.