**OPINION 6** 

FEAR IS THE KEY TO

RULE MINDS. OR IS IT?

**WORLD 8** 

RISHI SUNAK: BRITISH PRIME

MINISTER IN WAITING?

the pioneer

SEMIFINALS OF INDIA OPEN

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LOVED BEING A PART OF 83: WAMIQA

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JANUARY 15, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3





# Maurya, Saini embrace SP

6 other rebels too, join Akhilesh; end of BJP is nigh, says Swami Prasad

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT

Days after resigning from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) former Ministers and powerful Other Backward Class (OBC) leaders Swami Prasad Maurya, Dharam Singh Saini as well as six other rebel BJP MLAs officially joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Friday on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

The defection from the party is a setback for the ruling BJP, which enjoyed the support of the OBCs in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh (UP) Assembly elec-tions and 2019 General elections. The SP chief Akhilesh Yadav welcomed Maurya and the others into the party fold.

Addressing the meeting at the SP headquarters, Maurya said Makar Sankranti will mark the beginning of the end of the BJP. "The big leaders of the BJP who never paid any heed to our demands are having sleepless



Former UP Minister Swami Prasad Maurya and others join the Samajwadi Party in presence of party president Akhilesh Yadav at SP office in Lucknow, Friday. Five BJP MLAs and Apna Dal (Sonelal) legislator Amar Singh Chaudhary also joined the SP

nights now. The BJP has duped Yogi Adityanath regime, upper the OBCs, Dalits, minorities and youth of the country. They formed the Government by encashing on the name of Keshav Prasad Maurya and Swami Prasad Maurya. There were talks about making either of us the CM, but they brought someone from Gorakhpur and duped Dalits and Backwards", alleged Maurya.

He alleged that under the

caste people were enjoying their life, while backward castes and Dalits were struggling. "They say the elections are 80 per cent vs 20 per cent, but I say now its 85 per cent vs 15 per cent, 85 per cent hamara hai and 15 per cent me bhi bantwara hai (85 per cent is ours and there is division in 15 per cent too). BJP leaders say they

will win on the Hindu card,

then why did they try to play with the reservation given to Dalits and Backwards. Appointment letters were given to 19,000 general category people, when 69,000 appointments were Okayed. I want to know if Backwards and Dalits are not Hindu? If yes, then why did you give their reservation to others," asked Maurya.

Further attacking the BJP, Swami Prasad Maurya said,

"When I was in the Cabinet, there was a proposal that the posts should be filled with general category applicants without advertisement as there were no applicants from Dalit and Backwards communities. I strongly objected and the CM noted down my objection, but still he didn't stop the propos-

"Now they are disinvesting and privatising the Central PSUs only to scrap reservation for the SCs and OBCs. When things will go to private hands there will be no reservation. Yogi ji, I want to say that you are committing a sin while sitting on the CM's chair. Are only upper caste people Hindus in your eyes? If only those 10 per cent are Hindus in your view then your departure is definite. Now, all the Backwards. Dalits and everyone is against you. There will be further division in those eight to ten per cent with you as there are many Samajwadis and Ambedkarwadis in that percentage?

"I thought after spending 14 years in exile, the BJP would have learnt its lessons, but it seems that once again they will return to what they were before

## India's BrahMos missile to arm Philippine Navy

### **Make in India** gets a boost with \$375 mn export deal

PNS NEW DELHI

ndia is all set to ink the first-Lever export deal with the Philippines for the indigenously-designed and manufactured BrahMos supersonic missile. The Government-to-Government deal is worth over \$375 million.

This is the first major export of sophisticated weapon systems by India to any country. India is aggressively pursuing the target of exporting weapon systems worth over \$5 billion by 2025 and turn the country into an attractive manufacturing hub for Defence systems

The BrahMos Aerospace, the first joint venture between India and Russia to manufacture high-end missile system, recently submitted its price list to the Philippines which has Continued on page 2 | accepted it, sources said here on

Friday. The two sides will shortly ink the deal totaling \$375 million, they said adding that the contract is for the shore-based anti-ship missile system for the Philippine Navy. Índia had recently offered a \$100-million line of credit to the Philippines for Defence purchases.

Philippines The Government recently allocated 2.8 billion pesos (\$55.5 million) for initial funding for the BrahMos cruise missile.

The Philippines selected the Indian missile system after

tough negotiations and extensive trials, officials said adding a team from the Philippine Navy visited the production unit of BrahMos Aerospace in Hyderabad some months ago as part of the acquisition process. The BrahMos Integration Complex in Hyderabad undertakes integration of mechanical systems and assembling electronic systems. Various sub-systems fabricated in other centres in India and Russia are integrated and

checked at this complex.

Continued on page 2

## South India, UP see Covid surge, +ve cases in Delhi, Mumbai dip

### **India records** 2.64 lakh cases in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, Mumbai, and West Bengal, three Covid-19 hotspots in the latest wave of Covid infection saw marginal

dips in new cases on Friday. However, Southern India saw a huge spike in Covid-19 cases with Karnataka leading the way, followed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Overall, fresh Covid-19 cases in India rose by 7 per cent to nearly 2.64 lakh in the last 24 hours, a day after a record rise of more than 50,000 had



cremation, at Shastri Nagar cremation ground in Jammu on Friday

pushed the day's tally to 2.47 lakh. Deaths from the virus remained relatively low but

big jump in the number of fresh cases by the day.

States, Uttar Pradesh is seeing

Karnataka on Friday Among the poll-bound reported 28,723 new Covid-19

cases and 14 deaths. Capital Bengaluru alone accounted for 20,121 new cases and seven deaths. The positivity rate is now at 12.98 per cent in the State. On Thursday the State had recorded 25,005 new cases of Covid-19 and 8 fatalities. State Health Minister K

Sudhakar said the number of

hospitalisations in the third wave so far is less than that recorded during the second wave last year. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has sought Central assistance to raise the number of oxygenated beds and oxygen plants in the State. The total

number of active cases across

the State is now 1,15,733. Doctors in the two States described the status of pan-demics in the two southern States as black Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala. Continued on page 2

## 3-kg IED found in bag at flower market in **Delhi**; defused by NSG

**SHEKHAR SINGH** NEW DELHI

Days before the Republic Day celebrations, an improvised explosive device (IED) was found in the national Capital's Ghazipur area on Friday morning, sending police and securities agencies into a tizzy. The IED weighing around three kilogram, aimed at causing maximum damage, was kept in an iron box inside a black backpack at Ghazipur's busy flower market main gate. The police suspect it was a terror attempt ahead of the January 26 Republic Day celebrations.

An FIR have been registered at Delhi Police Special Cell under the Explosives Act and a police team will also be receiving a detailed report by the NSG on the IED camples the NSG on the IED samples collected. According to National Security Guard



National Security Guard and police personnel cordon off the area after an Improvised Explosive Device was found inside a bag, at Ghazipur flower market in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri I

(NSG), which disposed the bomb, the initial examination suggested that the explosive is a nitrate and RDX mix while the triggering device could be a clock or a mobile phone. Continued on page 2

### Entry into clouds led to CDS chopper crash: CoI

New Delhi: The Court of Inquiry (CoI) looking into the December 8 helicopter crash that killed all 14 passengers, including the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, has ruled out sabotage, mechanical failure or neglimechanical failure or negligence as the cause of the mishap. This was officially made public on Friday.

The Pioneer dated January 6 had reported that the most plausible cause of the accident was bad weather. Technically, it is known as Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CIFT) wherein an aircraft unintentionally collides with terrain be it the ground, a

mountain, cliff or a tree-top.

The Tri-Services probe team headed by Air Marshal Manvendra Singh, himself an accomplished helicopter pilot and currently Chief of Training Command and IAF chief VR Chaudhari had apprised

Continued on page 2

#### **CAPSULE** META FACES \$3.1 BN LAWSUIT IN UK London: Meta (formerly billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the

lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a \$68 payout each Competition law expert Dr. Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail reported on Thursday. P8

#### **5-KG IED RECOVERED NEAR PAK BORDER**

Chandigarh: Just a month ahead of the Assembly polls in Punjab, a special task force (STF) of Punjab Police on Friday recovered a 5-kg improvised explosive device (IED) and ₹ 1 lakh in cash near the India-Pakistan border.

The seizure from the outskirts of Dhanoa village in Ajnala subdivision close to the Attari border was made on a tip-off about the smuggling of arms and ammunition from across the border.

### POOR NATIONS GIVEN NEAR EXPIRY SHOTS

London: Third World nations were offered about 100 million Covid-19 vaccines that were near expiry, which the countries were forced to dump, according to the UN's children's fund Unicef. According to Unicef's head of supply Etleva Kadilli, more than 100 million vaccines were, in December alone. rejected by countries as they were unable to distribute them, BBC reported. P8

## APPROPRIATION ACT 2021 GETS PREZ NOD

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind has given his nod to the Appropriation (No 5) Act 2021 that authorises payment and appropriation of ₹ 3.73 lakh crore from the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2021-22 According to a gazette notification published on Friday, the President gave his assent on January 12.

## Budget Session of Parl to begin on Jan 31

PNS NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament will commence on January 31 with the address of the President to both the Houses and conclude on April 8, sources said on Friday citing the recommendation of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

The Union Budget will be presented on February 1. The Economic Survey is likely to be tabled on January 31 after the President's address. The first part of the session would conclude on February 11.

After a month-long recess, part two of the session would begin from March 14 and conclude on April 8, the sources said. The recess allows depart-



getary allocations made to their respective Ministries. During part one of the

session, campaigning for phase one of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections would be in full swing for which votes will be cast on February 10. When the two Houses meet after recess on March 14, the results of Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur would be out as the counting is on March 10 for all the five States.

Continued on page 2 | touches. Continued on page 2 |

### **Batting has let** us down, rues **Kohli after SA** series loss Cape Town: A South African

team going through one of its toughest transition phases embarrassed a star-studded Indian team with a seven-wicket victory in the third Test to clinch a memorable 2-1 series triumph here on Friday even as India Test captain Virat Kohli rued batting failures. The target of 212 wasn't a tough ask and starting the day at 101 for two, Keegan Petersen (82, 113 balls) along with Rassie van Der Dussen (41 not out) added 54 runs for the third

wicket to seal the match before

Temba Bavuma (32 not out) helped in putting the final

## Bishop Mulakkal acquitted of all charges in Kerala nun rape case The judge said that the evidences do not match with the charges made by the nun and

Atrial court in Kerala's Kottayam district on Friday acquitted Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar Diocese of all rape charges levelled by a nun of the Missionaries of Jesus Convent. The nun's case was that the

Bishop had raped her 13 times during 2014 to 2016 and the Catholic Order to which she was associated had rejected her pleas. She had told the police that though she had approached all authorities in the Catholic congregation, including the office of the Pope her ing the office of the Pope, her pleas fell on deaf ears and she was forced to file a complaint.



of rape as "baseless and concocted" and said allegations were born out of her ire against the religious order for rejecting her demands for favours. Additional Sessions Judge

district and sessions court, Kottayam, who heard the case from November 2019 to January 2022, ruled on Friday that the prosecution had failed to produce corroborative evidences to substantiate the allegations made by the victim.

acquitted of all rape charges.

S Harishankar, former
Superintendent of Police, Kottayam, who was the Investigating Officer, expressed dismay and disappointment over the verdict. "We, the inves-

hence the Bishop was being

tigation team and the public prosecutor, were confident of the authenticity of our findings and were expecting the court to convict the accused. But this is a shocking verdict," said Harishankar while interacting with the media after the pronouncement of the judgment. Continued on page 2

## **Gujarat logs over 11K new** cases, highest in 8 months

Ahmedabad: Gujarat on Thursday reported 11,176 new coronavirus positive cases, highest in nearly eight months, while five patients succumbed to the infection, the State health department said.

With the new cases, the state's caseload reached 8,96,894, while the death of five patients - one each in Ahmedabad, Surat, Valsad, Rajkot and Bhavnagar - took the toll to 10,142, it said in a release.On Wednesday, the state had witnessed 9,941 infection cases and four deaths.

At 3,697, Ahmedabad city recorded the highest number of infections, followed by 2,690 in Surat city, 950 in Vadodara city, 440 in Rajkot city and 337 in Valsad district.

As per the latest data available on the COVID-19 dashboard, Gujarat's positivity rate is 9.52 per cent.

While Ahmedabad district's positivity rate is 27.40 per cent, Surat district stands second with 16.45 per cent.

The recovery count went up to 8,36,140 as 4,285 patients got discharge during the day, the release said, adding that of the total 50,612 active cases, 64 patients are on ventilator support and 50,548 are stable.

As many as 9.44 crore doses of anti-coronavirus vaccines were administered to the eligible population so far, of which 3.11 lakh jabs were given during the day. At present, Gujarat has 138 laboratories to conduct RT-PCR tests to detect the infection.

Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel on Thursday told reporters that new testing laboratories will be set up in 40 sub-district hospitals across

While 97,000 beds, includ-

ing 8,000 ones with ventilators, have been kept ready across the state, if required the government can also set up a new hospital on emergency basis, with the help of DRDO, he added.

Meanwhile, 27 new infection cases and 18 recoveries were reported in the adjoining union territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in the last 24 hours, an official release said.

So far, 10,886 people have been found infected in the union territory. While there are 179 active, cases, four persons have so far succumbed to the infection and 10,703 have recovered, it said.

Gujarat's COVID-19 figures are as follows: Positive cases 8,96,894, new cases 11,176, death toll 10,142, recoveries 8,36,140, active cases 50,612 and people tested so far

#### G'gram sees PM Modi to greatest Covid interact with surge in 6 mths 150 startups

Gurugram: The number of today Covid-19 cases are increasing PNS NEW DELHI

> Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with 150 startups today which would also include startups linked to the sectors like agriculture, health, enterprise systems, space, industry, security and environment to liven up the economic activities in the

More than 150 startups have been divided into six working groups based on themes including Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA, From Local to Global; Technology of Future, Building Champions in Manufacturing; and Sustainable Development, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Each group will make a presentation before the Prime Minister on the allotted theme

## ₹2.07 cr assets of former dy drug controller attached

Enforcement The Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has attached assets worth Rs 2.07 crore of former Deputy Drug Controller, Licensing Authority Solan, Himachal Pradesh, Kapil Dhiman and others under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act in a disproportionate assets

The attached assets include eight immovable properties consisting of land and building in Solan, Mandi, Kullu and Panchkula in the name of Kapil Dhiman and others and movable properties like balance in bank accounts, fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) and insurance policies maintained in various banks/financial institutions, the ED said in

logs 238 Omicron cases tally of fresh cases, the total

Daily Covid spike sees

over 3K dip in Maha,

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 infections The daily Covid-12 and dropped by 3,195 cases to touch a tally of 43,211 cases on Friday, even as 238 Omicron cases were recorded, taking the total number of Covid-19 variant cases recorded in the state

A day after it registered 46.406 cases, the daily infections dropped to 43,211, taking the total number of cases recorded from 70,81,067 cases to 71,24278. As many as 19 Covid-19 deaths were reported from various parts of the state.

In Mumbai, the daily Coviod-19 infections dropped for the second consecutive day as the metropolis recorded 11,317 cases on Friday, as against 13,702 cases registered on Thursday. With the latest

Covid-19 cases in Mumbai rose from 9,69,989 to 9.81,306.

As 33,356 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the sec-ond week of March 2020 increased from 66,83,769 to 67,17,125. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 94.39

per cent to 94.28 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state increased from 2,51,828 cases to 2,61,658. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2 per cent to 1.98

Of the total recorded cases, Mumbai accounts for a maximum of 84,352 active cases, while there are 65979 active

### Delhi Govt pays homage to Ex-PM Lal Bahadur Shastri

The nation today paid homage to the late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 56th death anniversary on 11th January

2022. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi had made arrangements at Vijay Ghat to facilitate family members of the late Prime Minister to pay floral tributes at his Samadhi. Shri Anil Shastri and Shri Sunil Shastri were the first to reach Vijay Ghat to pay floral tributes to Shastri ji. Govt. of NCT of Delhi was represented by the officials of GAD. However Due to prevailing Covid situation, public was not allowed to visit Vijay Ghat. Mr. Naresh Wadhwa, National Secretary and Treasurer, Lal Bahadur Shastri Vichar Manch and his team also floral tributes to

## Major India-bound flights' collision averted in Dubai

### DGCA asks **UAE's Civil Aviation** authority to submit report

PNS NEW DELHI

major collision between Amajor comision between two India-bound flights was averted in Dubai saving hundreds of lives on Sunday. Both were Emirates planes and the possible collision avertedwhile both flights took off at the Dubai airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked UAE's Civil Aviation Authority to share their investigation report.

Sources said that EK-524 Dubai to Hyderabad was

scheduled for take-off at 9:45 PM, EK-568 Dubai to Bengaluru Emirates flight was also scheduled to take off for its destination. Unfortunately, both aircraft scheduled for take-off came on the same

Sources said the Bengaluru flight was allowed to take off, while the Hyderabad flight was held back and awaited clearance. Preliminary reports suggest the Hyderabad flight did not have ATC clearance for take-off. According to the Emirates flight schedule, there is a five-minute gap between the departure times of both flights. After the ATC intervention, Bengaluru-bound Emirates flight took off and the Hyderabad-bound Emirates flight went back to the taxi bay and took off a few minutes

Minister who joined the SP, Dharm Singh Saini said, "Today's programme is being

### **Batting has...**

day by day in Gurugram.

The district on Friday record-

ed 3,897 fresh coronavirus

cases, the highest number of

positive cases in the past six

months. Two deaths were also

reported in the city, with this district's COVID toll reached to

931, officials said. The Covid-19

tally in Gurugram has now

risen to 2,07,642 according to the official daily health bul-

letin.A total of 1,89,172 have

been cured and discharged including 1,531 on Friday. Gurugram now has 17,539

active cases, including 17,401 in-

home isolation."A number of

Covid-19 cases are increasing in

the city. We are registering more

than 2,000 plus cases from the

last few days. We are working

hard to contain spread in limit-

ed places. People need to follow

Covid norms and maintain

social distancing rules,' Gurugram Civil Surgeon said.

From Page 1
Petersen walked away with both the player of the match as well as player of the series honours. India Test captain Virat Kohli rued the batting failures in the 2-1 series loss to South Africa. He added that the team will continue to back the under-fire senior batters Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane despite their failures in the three-match series. After leading 1-0, India went on to lose the next two matches in Johannesburg and Cape Town to squander a chance of win-

in South Africa.

ning their first-ever Test series

"The batting has let us down in the last two games. We needed to step up and there's no running away from that. Honestly, I can't sit here and talk about what will happen in the future. That's not for me to discuss. For that, you need to speak to selectors and ask what they have in mind because it's not my job. We have continued to back Cheteshwar and Ajinkya because of the kind of players they are," said Kohli in the post-match press conference after India lost the third and deciding Test by seven wickets on Friday.

## India's...

From Page 1

The Philippines armed forces are implementing a revised modernisation programme. India and the Philippines signed an implementing arrangement in March last year for the Government- to-Government deals regarding military equipment including the BrahMos missile.

The Philippines will acquire the BrahaMos missile which can cover a target range of 290 kms with a capability to carry a 200 kg warhead. India has other variants of this missile also having a range of more than 400 kms. This deal came about in the backdrop of India engaging with several Southeast Asian countries including Thailand, Indonesia, missile system, they added. India's ties with the Philippines were stepped up in the past few years. The two countries signed

a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence and Logistics in 2018. In 2020, an MoU on Sharing of White Shipping Information (non-military/non-government shipping vessel information) was signed. In 2019, the Philippine Navy participated in a group sail in the South China Sea along with the navies of India, the United States, and Japan.

India has inducted the land and sea version of the BrahMos into its security architecture. The supersonic cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, and land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The Army and Navy have already inducted the highly versatile missile. Given the effectiveness of the missile capable of hitting targets at a range of commanders have deployed the BrahMos at various critical points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China.

two Houses should meet simul-

taneously or in separate shifts to

ensure that not many people are

present in the complex to ensure

distancing norms is yet to be

2020 was the first full Session

held under Covid protocol with

the Rajya Sabha meeting in the

first half of the day and the Lok

Sabha during the second half.

The Monsoon Session of

taken, the sources said.

## **3-Kg...**

"The fire department received information regarding the suspicious unattended bag at 10.19 AM following which fire tenders were rushed to the spot," said a senior Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official.

Soon, the officials from the Special Cell of Delhi Police and fire department also reached the spot. A bomb suit wearing NSG personnel was also seen at the site apart from officials from the special cell and regular Delhi Police units.

The NSG, which was alerted about the suspicious object, reached the spot around 11 AM. "A team of NSG bomb detection and disposal experts and a heavy metal container called "total containment vessel" tugged to a truck also reached the market. The IED was destroyed around 1:30 PM by using a controlled explosion technique after it was lowered into an eight feet deep pit located in the area," said a senior NSG official.

The samples of the IED have been collected and a detail report will be sent to the Delhi Police," he said.

According to initial investigation, the bomb was placed at the main gate of the flower market. "It is suspected that the alleged person did a recee before planting the bomb and we suspect there was a timer placed inside the bomb. The investigation is still underway to ascertain who and how was the bomber placed," said a senior police offiistered under explosive act as of now."Ensuring no casualties, #DelhiPolice recovers IED in Ghazipur Phool Mandi.

The same was followed for the

first part of the Budget Session

Budget Session and Monsoon

and Winter Sessions last year,

the Rajya Sabha and the Lok

Sabha reverted to normal tim-

ings, but with members sitting

in the chambers and galleries of

respective Houses to ensure

For the second part of the

during 2021.

distancing.

## South India...

While the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 shot up to 23,459 in Tamil Nadu during the last 24 hours (out of 1.5 lakh samples tested), Kerala registered 16,338 cases on Friday. The death toll in Kerala reached 50, 568 while Tamil Nadu's Department of Health Directorate said the number of victims succumbed to the pandemic to date reached 36,956.

The Tamil Nadu Government, shocked over the spurt in the

number of Covid-19 cases, has tightened the rules and declared a partial shutdown with many restrictions. Schools and colleges have been asked to stick to online classes till further notice taking into account the warning issued by the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association.

The Kerala Government in a review meeting held on Friday decided to shut down all schools and asked the Government and private establishments to opt for online mode in districts where Test Positivity Rate is more than 20 per cent. The State's TPR on Friday stood at 23.68 per cent.

Uttar Pradesh too reported spike in cases. It registered 16,016 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the tally of active cases in the State to 84,440, while three more fatalities pushed the death toll to 22,949, according to an official statement released on Friday

With these fresh cases, the total number of cases recorded in the State so far stood at 18,01,231. Of the three deaths, two were reported from Meerut and one from Gautam Buddh Nagar, it said. Of the fresh cases, 2,209 cases were reported from Lucknow, 1,887 cases reported from Ghaziabad, 1,817 cases from Gautam Buddh Nagar and 1,203 cases from Meerut among oth-

At the same time, Delhi and Mumbai saw slight dip in the number of cases. Delhi recorded 24,383 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, 15.5 per cent lower than Thursday's 28,867. The positivity rate in the national Capital jumped to 30.64 percent. It means nearly every third person undertaking the Covid-19 test is positive for the virus.

Friday's positivity rate in Delhi is the highest since May 1 last year, when it was 31.6 per cent.
The national Capital reported 34 deaths in the last 24 hours.

taking the death count to 25, 305.

Mumbai reported 11,317 fresh Covid-19 cases and nine

deaths on Friday as against 13,702 cases on Thursday. Nearly eighty-five per cent of the fresh cases are asymptomatic and don't require any hospitalisation.

ly doubled to 1,096 from 562 in the preceding seven days. The number of confirmed cases of the Omicron variant that is driving the latest surge of the pandemic currently stood at 5,753.

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday visited the "E-Sanjeevani" hub at CGHS headquarters in Delhi to review services being provided. He interacted with the doctors providing teleconsultation and personally viewed some sessions. "Tele-medicine services have been very useful in Covid. This E-Sanjeevani platform is used for teleconsultation. Lakhs of people use the platform every day to seek doctors', experts' advice. Aged people don't have to travel, can seek doctor's advice on the phone," said the Minister.

# Maurya,

I want to tell BJP leaders

PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350, e-mail: epc1jammu@gmail.com

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir

Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu invites

online e-bids from original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply

Description of Material & Quantity (In Nos.) :- PURCHASE OF

DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II OF RATING: 400

Detailed NIT maybe downloaded from the website

http://jktenders.gov.in upto 7th of February 2022 till 11:00 Hrs.

The tender shall be accepted through online mode only. In case, the

tender process does not get completed due to any reason, no

corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details

regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned

KVA (Cu Wound) - 68 Nos. 630 KVA (Cu Wound) 30 Nos.

No: SE/PRJ/TS/ 1543 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e- NIT NO. SE/PRJ/07/2021-22Dated: 12/01/2022

of material as under for the requirement of JPDCL:

NIT No.:-SE/PRJ/07/2021-22 dated 12.01.2022

that after today, there will be a devastate the BJP. I joined

Dated: 14-01-2022

hands with Akhilesh Yadav as he is young, educated and able, I will make crores of people stand behind him and will destroy the BJP. I also challenge that whomever I leave, they stand nowhere. Behen Ii (Mayawati) is a living example, till the time I was with her, she was the CM. I left her, today she

held in the party office because of the Model Code of Conduct, otherwise if there was no ban. there would have been more than ten lakh people. We take oath on Makar Sankranti to save the Constitution, and to Another former BJP atrocities. We take a pledge that we will form a Samajwadi Government on March 10. The OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PROCUREMENT, humanity and respect that I got from Akhilesh ji was not found JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED, anywhere else because I have RAIL HEAD, NARWAL, JAMMU J&K PIN -180012 been both in the BSP and BJP.



Will get you (Akhilesh Yadav)

sworn in as Chief Minister in

March and will get you sworn

in as Prime Minister in 2024."

CHANGE OF NAME

I Parveen Chander S/O Vilochan Prasad R/O House no. 111, Sainik Enclave, Sector-3, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Praveen Chand Juyal for all purposes.

## Entry into...

Budget...

From Page 1

cases, it would be mandatory for

MPs as well as those entering

the Parliament complex to have

a negative RT-PCR report and

a fully vaccinated certificate,

A decision on whether the

parliamentary sources said.

Amid a surge in Covid-19

From Page 1 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh here on January 5 about the findings of the investigations. However, no official announcement was then made.

On Friday, the Government said: "The Tri-Services Court of Inquiry into the Mi-17 V5 accident on 08 Dec 21 has submitted its preliminary findings. The inquiry team analysed the Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder besides questioning all available witnesses to determine the most probable cause of the accident.

"The Court of Inquiry has ruled out mechanical failure, sabotage or negligence as a cause of the accident. The accident was a result of entry into clouds due to unexpected change in weather conditions in the valley. This led to spatial disorientation of the pilot resulting in Controlled Flight into Terrain. Based on its findings, the Court of Inquiry has made certain recommendations which are being reviewed,"

the official statement by the IAF said. The accident took place when General Rawat, his wife Madhulika, his Defence advisor Brigadier LS Lidder, staff officer to the Chief of Defence Staff, Lt-Colonel Harjinder Singh and decorated pilot Group Captain Varun Singh and others were to land at the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington. General Rawat was scheduled to give a lecture there later in the day. The helicopter crew was

also killed in the crash. The CoI investigated all the aspects including the possibility of malfunction in the helicopter mechanism, any technical or human error leading to the accident. The investigators also examined the black box or flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder, they added. The probe team examined all likely scenarios for the crash, including possible human error or whether it was a case of disorientation of crew when the helicopter was preparing for landing, sources said. The helicopter crew had not made any distress call to the ground station when it sudden-

ly encountered thick clouds indicating that the pilots were in control of the helicopter. The commander of the flight was Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan and Squadron Leader Kuldeep Singh was the co-pilot. Both of them were highly skilled pilots with Master Green rating, they said. The CIFT phenomenon says the pilot or crew is unaware of the looming disaster until it is too late, and it most commonly occurs in the approach or landing phase of a flight.Moreover, the CFIT occurs when an airworthy aircraft, while under the complete control of the pilot, is inadvertently flown into terrain, water, or an obstacle. According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), the term refers to accidents in which in-flight collisions with terrain, water, or another obstacle occur without indication of loss of control. The United States' Federal Aviation

Administration says CFIT is " ...

an unintentional collision with

terrain (ground, mountain, body

of water, or an obstacle) while an

aircraft is under positive control."

## Bishop...

From Page 1

He said the prosecution would certainly challenge Friday's verdict in the High Court.

The chargesheet had said that the accused should stand trial for offences under Sections 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement) 376 (2) (k), 376 (2)(n), 376 C(a), 377 (unnatural offences) and 506 (ii) criminal intimidation of the Indian Penal Code.

This was the first case filed against a Bishop of the Catholic Church in India under sections of rape, molestation and assault. While the investigation team took their own time in pursuing the leads, the civil society in Kerala staged demonstrations and marches demanding the arrest of the accused. A group of nuns, including the victim, sat on a fast in front of the Kerala High Court demanding the arrest of the Bishop. He was arrested on September 22, 2018 by the Kerala Police. On October 15, 2018, he was granted bail by the Kerala High Court. Though he had approached the judiciary with requests to discharge him from

the case, the trial court, the High Court and the Supreme Court had rejected his pleas.
The chargesheet stated that the "Bishop had raped the vic-

tim on several occasions over a period of two years". The case took an interesting turn with P C George, the Kerala Congress leader and seven-term MLA, who is a devote Catholic, questioned the propriety and authenticity of the complaint by the nun and that too after four years and 13 rapes. "There are many missing links in the case and this is an attempt to portray the Church in poor light," George had said while declaring that the Bishop was inno-

cent and a victim of calumny.

Meanwhile Bishop Mulakkal remained tight lipped throughout the trial. He had told The Pioneer in an exclusive interview that he was innocent and truth alone would win. "I wish all people win," he said. On hearing the verdict on Friday, the Bishop who was present in the court, said, "Praise the Lord! God is Great", and hugged all members of his legal team.Kevin Peter, president, Christian Association and Alliance for Social Action, said it was a memorable day for the Congregation as the dark clouds hovered around the Church has been blown over.

Sd/- Superintending Enginee

Procurement, JPDCL Jamn

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-I
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-62 / T-2 E-BLOCK PARK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092
Phone No. 22502206, Mail ID: - djbeeeastii@gmail.com

	PRESS SHORT NIT No. 35 / (2021-22)							
S.	Name of Work	Amount Put	Tender	Earnest	Tender ID No. & Date	Last Date /		
No.		to Tender	Processing	Money	of release of	Time of		
			Fee		tender in	receipt of		
					E-Procurement	tender E-		
					Solution	Procurement		
						Solution		
1. [	Replacement of old damaged / rusted	48,54,933.00	500.00	97,100.00		22-Jan-2022		
	internal water distribution network in				14-Jan-2022	02:00 PM		
	Vigyan Lok in AC-59 in East-II.				04:00 PM			
2.	Trapping of discharge of Patparganj	37,90,455.00	500.00	76,000.00		22-Jan-2022		
	Industrial area from SPS (DSIIDC) to				14-Jan-2022	02:00 PM		
	interceptor sewer in AC-59 under AEE				04:00 PM			
	(M)-59.							
3.	Replacement of old damaged / rusted	33,18,400.00	500.00	66,500.00	202 2_ DJB _214770_3	22-Jan-2022		
	internal C.I. water lines in Jagriti Enclave	!			14-Jan-2022	02:00 PM		
	Ph-Illrd in AC-59 in East-II.				04:00 PM			
4.	Replacement of settled sewer line (300	31,75,318.00	500.00	64,000.00		22-Jan-2022		
	mm) dia in the back lane from H.No. 13				14-Jan-2022	02:00 PM		
	to H.No. 28, Gagan Vihar to prevent				04:00 PM			
	contamination in AC-59 under ACE (M)-I							
	ther details in this regard can be seen at <u>h</u>	ttps://govtproc	urement.del	<u>hi.gov.in</u>				
	UED BY P.R.O. (WATER) rt. J.S.V. 1009(2021-22)	"STOP CORONA:	Wear Mask, Fo		11	evender Kumar SINEER (M) -59		

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### More than 75% who died were unvaccinated: Jain

**New Delhi:** More than 75 per cent of those who succumbed to the novel coronavirus infec-

Delhi were unvaccinated, record less than 25,000 coron-Health Minister Satyendra Jain avirus cases on Friday. said on Friday.

Delhi had on Thursday

cases, the sharpest single-day spike since the pandemic began, and 31 deaths, while the positivity rate surged to 29.21 per cent, according to the health department data. Delhi's previous biggest daily

jump of 28,395 cases was taken the first jab and eight recorded on April 20 last year. According to official data, of the 97 people who died here

were fully vaccinated. Besides seven were minors. than 75 per cent of the people due to Covid, between January who died due to coronavirus 9 to January 12, 70 people were had not even taken a single unvaccinated, while 19 had dose of the vaccine. Ninety per

cent of the people had severe comorbidities like cancer and kidney ailments.

Even the seven patients below 18 years had chronic issues," Jain noted. He said one

allegedly attempted suicide and was hospitalised for it.

"He tested positive and died three days later," said the Minister. The Minister added that more than 13,000 hospital beds are lying vacant in the city.



**Our Army always puts the Nation first.** I salute all those great individuals who sacrificed their lives while serving the Nation. India will never forget our valiant heroes.

### **OUR FALLEN HEROES IN THE YEAR 2021**

NAIN	NAME	Anivio/Senvices	NAIN	IVAIVIE	ANIVIO/ SENVICES	NAINK	NAIVIE	Anivio/Senvices
NAIB SUBEDAR	RAVINDER, SM	INFANTRY	SEPOY	VIKESH KUMAR SAH	INFANTRY	SEPOY	VAISAKH H	MECHANISED INFANTRY
NAIK	NISHANT SHARMA	MECHANISED INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	KASHIRAY BAMMANALLI	ENGINEERS	SUBEDAR	EBENEZAR AMADALA	ARTILLERY
SEPOY	LAXMAN	INFANTRY	NAIB SUBEDAR	SREEJITH M, SM	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	DEB KUMAR BHATTACHARJEE	ARTILLERY
LANCE DAFADAR	DEEPAK KUMAR	ARMOURED	SEPOY	MARUPROLU JASWANTH KUMAR REDDY	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	AJIT KUMAR SHUKLA	ARTILLERY
HAVILDAR	NIRMAL SINGH	INFANTRY	NAIK	GURJANT SINGH	INFANTRY	SUBEDAR	AJAY SINGH	INFANTRY
BATTERY HAVILDAR MAJOR	KULDEEP SINGH	ARTILLERY	SUBEDAR	KRUSHNA CHANDRA <mark>Panda</mark>	INFANTRY	RIFLEMAN	YOGAMBAR SINGH	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	PINKU KUMAR	INFANTRY	SEPOY	BOOPATHI S	ARMY SERVICE CORPS	RIFLEMAN	VIKRAM SINGH NEGI	INFANTRY
LIEUTENANT COLONEL	RISHUBH SHARMA	ARMY AVIATION	SUBEDAR	RAM SINGH	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	HARENDRA SINGH RAWAT	INFANTRY
RIFLEMAN	PRADEEP KUMAR	INFANTRY	LANCE DAFADAR	JOGINDER SINGH	ARMOURED	SEPOY	HIMANSHU	INFANTRY
GUNNER	SAYAN GHOSH	ARTILLERY	SIGNALMAN	BEEPRIN BICHHWALIA	SIGNALS	SEPOY	BRIJESH RAUTELA	INFANTRY
NAIK	K DEVENDRAN	ENGINEERS	COLONEL	ASHWANI KUMAR	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	RANJEET KUMAR	ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
NAIK	UTTAM KUMAR SINGH	SIGNALS	HAVILDAR	SUDHEESH KUMAR S	ENGINEERS	NAIK	DEVA ANAND A	ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
NAIK	PANDRANKI CHANDRA RAO	EME	NAIK	RAMARAO VANJARAP <mark>u</mark>	ENGINEERS	SEPOY	KAMAL DEV VAIDYA	INFANTRY
SUBEDAR	DOIPHODE LAXMAN SANTU	SIGNALS	SEPOY	PRABHJOT SINGH	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	KAILASH CHAND GURJAR	MECHANISED INFANTRY
NAIK	MANISH KUMAR	SIGNALS	SEPOY	JAGRAJ SINGH	INFANTRY	SEPOY	LOVEPREET SINGH	INFANTRY
HAVILDAR	HAOBIJAM PREMANANDA SINGH	ARTILLERY	HAVILDAR	MOHD SALEEM AKHO <mark>on</mark>	INFANTRY	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	ABHEET SINGH BATTH	ARMY AVIATION
NAIK	BADAL SINGH CHANDEL	INFANTRY	NAIB SUBEDAR	SUDHAKER SINGH	ARTILLERY	CAPTAIN	JAYANT JOSHI	ARMY AVIATION
HAVILDAR	GANESH YADAV	ARTILLERY	HAVILDAR	BHADOURIA KULDIP S <mark>uresh</mark>	MECHANISED INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	RAKESH KUMAR	INFANTRY
LANCE DAFADAR	VIKRAM SINGH	ARMOURED	SUBEDAR	RAM SHANKER	ENGINEERS	HAVILDAR	GURNINDER SINGH	INFANTRY
NAIB SUBEDAR	PARWINDER SINGH	INFANTRY	SUBEDAR	VIRENDRA KUMAR	ARTILLERY	SOWAR	SHANAVAS A	ARMOURED
SEPOY	PARABJEET SINGH	INFANTRY	SEPOY	RAVI CHANDRAN R	INFANTRY	SUBEDAR	DAMBAR CHAND	INFANTRY
SEPOY	AMARDEEP SINGH	INFANTRY	NAIK	RATHOD JASHAVANTSINH JAVANSING	ARMY SERVICE CORPS	NAIB SUBEDAR	JAIPAL SINGH CHAHAR	INFANTRY
SEPOY	PARGHAT SINGH	INFANTRY	SEPOY	KARN VEER SINGH	INFANTRY	HAVILDAR	RAJESH KUMAR	ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
NAIB SUBEDAR	NITUL GOGOI	INFANTRY	NAIB SUBEDAR	JASWINDER SINGH, SM	MECHANISED INFANTRY	GUNNER	VISHAL KUMAR	ARTILLERY
SEPOY	POLUKANTI SIVAGANGADHAR	EME	NAIK	MANDEEP SINGH	INFANTRY	COLONEL	VIPLAV TRIPATHI	INFANTRY
SEPOY	SASANKHA SEKHAR SAMAL	EME	NAIK	GAJJAN SINGH	INFANTRY	MAJOR	PANKAJ KUMAR PANDAY	INFANTRY
NAIB SUBEDAR	VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA	EME	SEPOY	SARAJ SINGH	INFANTRY	MAJOR	MAYANK VISHNOI, SM	INFANTRY
NAIK	ABHILASH KUMAR S	EME		745 745 745		10		

## WHO recommends two new Covid treatments

mid rise in hospital Amid fise in help the transmissible Omicron variant across the countries, World Organisation (WHO) has recommended two new Covid19 treatments — Baricitinib, an oral drug, used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and Sotrovimab, an alternative to casirivimab-imdevimab, which is monoclonal antibody cocktail

WHO experts said arthritis drug baricitinib used with corticosteroids to treat severe or critical Covid patients led to better survival rates and reduced need for ventilators. The guidelines by the UN agency's panel of international experts have been published in the British Medical Journal on Friday.

Experts also recommended an experimental monoclonal antibody treatment, Sotrovimab for people with non-serious Covid at highest risk of hospitalisation, such as the elderly, people with immunodeficiencies or chronic diseases such as diabetes. Monoclonal antibodies are lab-created compounds that mimic the body's natural defence mechanism.

Sotrovimab's benefits for people not at risk of hospitalisation were deemed insignificant and the WHO said its effectiveness against new variants like Omicron was "still uncertain".

Only three other treatments for Covid-19 have received WHO approval, starting with corticosteroids for severely ill patients in 2020. Corticosteroids are inexpen-

sive and widely available and fight inflammation that com-

recommended **Baricitinib**, an oral drug used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and Sotrovimab, an alternative to casirivimabimdevimab, which is monoclonal antibody cocktail

monly accompanies severe

Arthritis drugs tocilizum-ab and sarilumab, which the WHO endorsed in July, are IL-6 inhibitors that suppress a dangerous overreaction of the immune system to the SARS-

Baricitinib is in a different class of drugs known as Janus kinase inhibitors, but it falls under the same guidelines as the IL-6 inhibitors. Baricitinib is produced by United States pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, and while generic versions are available in India and Bangladesh, patents are in force in many other countries including Brazil and Indonesia.

"When both are available. choose one based on issues including cost and clinician

experience," the guidelines say. Synthetic antibody treatment Regeneron was approved by the WHO in September and the guidelines say Sotrovimab can be used for the same type of patients. The WHO's Covid treatment recommendations are updated regularly based on new data Pranayama effective in preventing Corona: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Or 75 John Corona Coron

Aspecially designed Pranayama module comdesigned prising of a string of breathing exercises, every day for 28 days can be highly effective in preventing Covid-19 infection in exposed healthcare professionals (HCPs), finds a study conducted by doctors from Lady Hardinge Medical College and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Union Ayush

The experts said that the study which was conducted during the first wave in 2020 is still relevant as Pranayma remains the first line of defense for the frontline health care workers amid the third wave that now looms large over the

Ministry.

The researchers included Dr Rakesh Sarwal from (NITI) Aayog, Dr Rajinder K. Dhamija, Professor and Head of Neurology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi and Khushbu Jain and Dr Ishwar V. Basavaraddi, both from MDNIY, Delhi

Dr Basavaraddi said a few studies have shown the practice of Pranayama, a component of Yoga, to be effective in improving immune function and

reducing infection.
However, no clinical trial on the efficacy of Pranayama in preventing Covid-19 has been conducted till date.

"We conducted a pilot project in five hospitals in the national capital during September-November, 2020. 280 HCPs assigned duties with Covid-19 patients who were found negative in antibody tests in pre-intervention assessment were recruited and ranand control groups.

The intervention group

practiced specially designed Pranayama modules twice a day (morning and evening) for 28 days, while those in the control group were advised general fitness practices (like walking, jogging, running).

The morning protocol

comprised activities like Dhyana that helped to clean the nasal passages and maintain the sinuses and helps to get rid pathogens Kapalabhati is a process of forceful exhalation and normal inhalation which helps to improve pulmonary functions and secretions, also cleanse the frontal sinuses and ease movement

"Since body's immunity olays an important role in Covid-19 infection, non pharmacological interventions which have an immune-modulatory effect, could serve as a preventive as well as a therapeutic measure for patients with infection," Dr Basavareddi

"Our study reveals that twice daily practice of specially designed Pranayama Modules administered by trained Yoga instructors in HCPs exposed to active cases lead to a significant protective effect in preventing Covid-19 infection.

This is the first of its kind study to assess the effect of the specially designed Pranayama protocol in preventing Covid-19 infection," said Dr Ďhamija.

Co-author Sarwal said that Pranayama modules may be promoted and adopted to improve immunity in all sections of the population. Considering the implications of Over 75 lakh perform Surya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Namaskar

More than 75 lakh people from across the globe performed Surya Namaskar on Friday as part of the 'Surya Namaskar for Vitality' pro-gramme organised by the Ministry of AYUSH under the Centre's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative. The programme was launched virtualy by Union AYUSH minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister of State Munjapara Mahendrabhai.

Sonowal said, "Sun worship is done through Surya Namaskar to improve the physical and mental well-being of people. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, yoga and Surya Namaskar are being promoted for the wellness and health of mankind."

Surva namaskar is a combination of eight asanas performed in 12 steps. The AYUSH ministry has not only engaged other ministries and state governments but has involved all major stakeholders in the global yoga fraternity in this mass demonstration pro-

the study for health care professionals and the general public living in fear of COVID-19, larger studies across different geographical, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are needed to extend and verify the generalization of the present

## 1 in 10 may have Covid after quarantine period

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In some settings, such as people returning to care homes after illness, people continuing to be infectious after ten days could pose a serious public health risk.

For, a study has said that one in 10 people may have clin-ically relevant levels of potentially infectious SARS-CoV-2 past the 10 day quarantine period. The research is published in the international Journal of Infectious Led by the researchers

from University of Exeter, the study used a newly adapted test which can detect whether the virus was potentially still active. It was applied to samples from

176 people in Exeter who had tested positive on standard PCR tests.

The study found that 13 per cent of people still exhibited clinically-relevant levels of virus after 10 days, meaning they could potentially still be infectious. Some people retained these levels for up to 68 days. The authors believe this new test should be applied in settings where people are vulnerable, to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The paper is entitled 'Persistence of clinically-relevant levels of SARS-CoV2 envelope gene subgenomic RNAs in non-immunocompromised individuals'.

Professor Lorna Harries, of the University of Exeter Medical School, who oversaw

the study said: "While this is a relatively small study, our results suggest that potentially active virus may sometimes persist beyond a 10 day period, and could pose a potential risk of onward transmission. Furthermore, there was nothing clinically remarkable about these people, which means we wouldn't be able to predict who they are".

Conventional PCR tests work by testing for the presence of viral fragments. While they can tell if someone has recently had the virus, they cannot detect whether it is still active, and the person is infectious. The test used in the latest study however gives a positive result only when the virus is active and potentially capable of onward transmission.

## Covid jumps 4-fold in paramilitary forces RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI (CRPF), 1.048 cases in Border of paramilitary personnel con-

The number of Covid-19 cases in the paramilitary forces jumped nearly four-fold in a week from 1,668 cases on January 7 to 6,595 cases on January 13, including one death due to the deadly viral disease in CRPF and 1,254 infections within the last 24 hours.

Till now, as many as 95.980 paramilitary personnel have been infected with Covid-19 of which 89,036 patients have recovered. The forces have suffered 349 deaths till so far and 6,595 patients continue to be

As on Thursday, out of a total of 6.595 cases, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) tops the list with 2,237 active cases followed by 1,824 in Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF), 1.048 cases in Border Security Force (BSF), 892 in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), 365 in Indo-Tibetan Border of 441 cases. Police (ITBP), 181 in National In a single day, the tally of Disaster Response Force Covid cases had jacked up by

data. However, genome sequencing has not been undertaken and there is no clarity if there are any cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in their ranks, officials said.

(NDRF) and 48 cases in

National Security Guard

(NSG), according to official

During the last 24 hours, as many as 1,254 personnel were detected with the infection, including a maximum 423 in CISF, 362 in CRPF, 187 in SSB, 182 in BSF, 60 in ITBP, 21 in NSG and 19 in NDRF. This is nearly three times the number

tracting the disease in a single day as on January 7 with a tally

441 cases from 1,227 cases on Thursday to 1,668 cases on January 7. Out of the total casualties of 349, the CRPF has taken the

maximum toll at 133 deaths followed by 90 in BSF, 83 in CISF, 23 in SSB and 17 in ITBP. Likewise, the NDRF lost two personnel and the NSG suffered a casualty of one personnel due to Covid-19. Earlier, the number of

active Covid-19 cases in the paramilitary forces has jumped over 11 times in just 11 days from a meagre 148 cases as on December 28 to 1,668 cases on

## EC asks poll observers to be accessible, neutral agencies. This is the first brief-

With an aim to conduct free, safe and fair elections, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday asked observers, who will be deployed for assembly polls in five states, to be visible, accessible, neutral and ethical while functioning as the eyes and ears of the poll body. The poll body will meet on Saturday to decide whether to continue with its ban on physical election rallies, road shows and pad vatras as the COVID-19 cases on Thursday crossed over 2.66 cases in a day.During the briefings, observers are given comprehensive inputs about various aspects of election management by senior officials of the EC. Over 1,400 officials attended the briefing, with 140 officials attending it in person and the rest connecting virtually. In his address on Friday, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra also told expenditure observers to sharpen their skills and be innovative in countering newer methods being used to induce voters. Chandra made these remarks while addressing general, police and expenditure observers to be deployed in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Puniab and Manipur during the elections. Chandra asked the observers to work in coordination with enforcement

ing of the commission to the senior officers, who have been deployed in the forthcoming e le ctions. Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar cautioned that even stray instances of human errors by polling personnel abd non-compliance of Covid protocols at polling material distribution centres can create a "deviant narrative and derail the smooth conduct of elections". According to an EC statement, Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, while acknowledging cting election COVID-19 was a challenging task, exhorted the designated observers to ensure that a levelplaying field is maintained for all political parties and candidates. Officers drawn from IAS, IPS, IRS and other accounts services across the country are deployed as general, police and expenditure observers. Kumar reminded the observers that they are always under strict and microscopic scrutiny by stakeholders and thus should be careful and discreet about their own behaviour and conduct during the election process.He said observers are representatives of the commission and must be acutely aware and cognisant of this sacred and onerous duty entrusted upon

## Sibal writes to UP, U'khand to prevent hate speeches 1973 and Sections 3 and 5 of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Aday after the Supreme Court order on 'dharam sansad' events where hate speeches were given, senior lawyer and a former Union Minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday wrote to authorities in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand seeking prevention of inflammatory speeches at more such events planned this month.

ers in the hate speeches case in the Supreme Court, Sibal wrote to the district magistrates of Aligarh and Haridwar urging them to take preventive measures including imposition of Section 144 to prevent holding of such events.

"We are in the midst of general elections to the legislative assembly and while we do not want to attribute motives to any person, but if such speeches are made in the midst of an election, they will destabilize the social order and have serious consequences on the polity of this country. We request you to take such preventative action within your powers as is necessary, including under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code,

the National Security Act, 1980," Sibal said in his He has also sent copies of

his letters to chief ministers, home secretaries and police chiefs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand besides the superintendents of police in Aligarh and Haridwar. A copy was also sent to the Election Commission. "There are news reports

now that another 'dharam in Aligarh on January 22-23, 2022 wherein the speakers who participated in the aforementioned events held between 17-19th December, 2021 are likely to be speaking again," Sibal said in his letter to Aligarh

In another letter to Haridwar DM, he said, "There are news reports now that the Shankaracharya Parishad seers announced on 06.01.2022 a protest meeting to be held on January 16, 2022 against the first information report (FIR) registered against speakers at the December 17-19 meeting of the Dharma Sansad."

The senior Congress leader said the responsibility to take preventive measures to prevent any possible incident of mob

IMD predicts cold

wave with dense

violence falls on the district administration, "so the responsibility falls on your shoulders to take preventive action to ensure no speeches of this nature are made"

'We believe if such events are held in the state of Uttar Pradesh as well and similar speeches are made, it will not only disturb the public order but will amount to various criminal offences," Sibal noted. He also referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court in Union of India case, where the state government was directed to appoint nodal officers in each district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence. These nodal officers have not been appointed in Uttar Pradesh.

The Supreme Court had issued notice to the respondents and posted the matter for hearing after 10 days. The top 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 communi-

#### Centre all set to ask carmakers to provide six airbags for better safety He further said that to purchased by lower middle-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

he Centre is all set to make it mandatory for carmakers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers for enhanced safety of occupants. Union Minister Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said his ministry had already mandated the implementation of fitment of the driver airbag with effect from July 1, 2019 and effect from January 1, 2022.

"In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying upto 8 passengers, I have now approved a Draft GSR Notification to make a minimum of 6 Airbags compulsory," Gadkari said. GSR here stands for General Statutory

minimise the impact of frontal and lateral collisions on the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments, it has been decided that 4 additional airbags be mandated in the M1 vehicle category.
"Two side/side torso airbags

and two side curtain/tube airbags covering all outboard passengers. This is a crucial step to make motor vehicles in India safer than ever," Gadkari said in a tweet message. According to the Minister, this will ultipassengers across all segments, irrespective of the cost/variant of the vehicle

According to latest government data, total 1,16,496 road accidents occurred on national highways (NHs), including expressways, in 2020, causing 47,984 deaths. Last year, Gadkari in an interview had said small cars, mostly

class people, should also have an adequate number of airbags and had wondered why automakers are providing eight airbags only in big cars bought by rich people. His remarks had come

against the backdrop of the automobile industry raising concerns that high taxation and stricter safety and emission norms for vehicles have made their products expensive. Mostly, lower middle-class people buy small economy airbags and when accidents happen, then it may result in deaths. So, I appeal to all car manufacturers to provide a minimum of six airbags across all variants and segments of the vehicle," he had said.

The minister had acknowledged that additional airbags in small cars will increase their cost by at least Rs 3,000-4,000.

## 2021 was India's 5th warmest year in 121 yrs

PNS NEW DELHI

The year 2021 was the fifth ■ warmest year in India since 1901, with the country recording its annual mean air temperature at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday released its annual statement on climate of India for the year 2021, which is found to be the fifth warmest year after 2016, 2009, 2017 and 2010 during the last 121 years (1901-2021).

As per the annual statement, as many as 1,750 deaths were reported across India due to extreme weather events such as floods, cyclonic storms, heavy rain, landslides, lightning, among others, during the year. Maharashtra was the most adversely affected state during 2021, which reportedly claimed more than 340 deaths mainly due to extremely heavy rainfall, floods, landslide, lightning, cyclonic storms and cold-wave events.

"The annual mean air tem-

perature for the country was recorded at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal. The warm temperature during winter and post-monsoon season mainly contributed to this," it said.

"In 2016, the mean air temperature was 0.71°C higher than normal; 0.55°C in 2009;  $0.54^{\circ}C$  in 2017 and  $0.53^{\circ}C$  in 2010. In the 121 years between 1901 and last year, the mean temperature rose by 0.63°C above normal," the report said. The report showed that

11 out of 15 warmest years were during the recent fifteen years (2007-2021).The past decade (2011-2020/ 2012- 2021) was also the warmest decade on record with the decadal averaged annual mean temperature anomaly (Actual-LPA) of 0.34 degree Celsius/ 0.37 degree Celsius. The country averaged mean monthly temperatures were warmer than normal during all the months of the year except four months (April, May, June, and November).

"The winter (January to February) and post-monsoon

(October to December) seasons with all India mean temperature anomalies of 0.78 degree Celsius and 0.42 degree Celsius respectively mainly contributed to this warming," it said.

Also, the country last year witnessed a rise in the annual rainfall, which was 105% of its long-period average (LPA). Rainfall during the southwest monsoon season, from June to September, was normal at 99% of the LPA. Notably, the northeast monsoon period saw rainfall at 171% of the LPA - record highest since 1901.

Speaking on the 147th foundation day of the IMD, Union Minister of State for Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh on Friday said the IMD is going to play a major role in India's crusade for climate preservation at international The data showed that

heavy rainfall and flood-relat-

ed incidents claimed over 750

lives last year, while thunder-

storms and lightning killed at

least 780 people in different

People should brace up to face severe cold wave along with dense to very dense fog in north India in the next few days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted dense to very dense fog over North India during next 4-5 days and a wet spell over east and adjoining central India during parts of the country. There were five cyclonic

fog in North India

PNS NEW DELHI

next two days, which next two days, which will decrease significantly thereafter. "A Western Disturbance (WD) would affect northwest Himalayas on 16th & 17th and another WD affect Northwest India from 18th to 20th January, 2022", it said Meanwhile, no significant change in minimum temperatures is very likely over northwest and central India during next 4-5 days.

of Bengal (September 24-28) and most recently, Jawad over storms in 2021 - Tauktae over the Bay of Bengal (December the Arabian Sea (May 14-19); 2-6). The most devastating of Yaas over the Bay of Bengal them was Tauktae, which (May 23-28); Shaheen over the slammed the Saurashtra coast-Arabian Sea (September 29line on May 17, eventually October 4); Gulab over the Bay claiming at least 144 lives.

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR Telefax No.: 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/285/e-tendering Dated:-13-01-2022 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from

(Short Term)

registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-Name of Work: - Complete Servicing of CP-40 Air Compressor 0f 350 LPM Oxygen Plant installed District Hospital Kulgam.

Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 2.35, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200, Time of completion (in days) :- 05, AA Accorded Vide No: :- 660-JK(HME)of 2020 Dt:-07.09.2020, TS.NO :- MHCHD/TS/218 Dated 01/22, Earnest Money (in

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 13-01-2022 (18.00 hrs).

2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site

from 14-01-2022(10.00 hrs) to 19-01-2022(14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover. 3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 19-01-2022(16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of

Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar. Sd/- Executive Engineer, No. DIPK-16685/21

> OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER(M)-7 NANGLOI PH-III, NEAR SURAJMAL STADIUM METRO STATION, NEW DELHI-110041
>
> NIT No. 75/EE(M)10/ACE(M)7/(2021-221 Short Press Notice Tender tender procurement

MHCHD, Srinagar

receipt of ender through solution / I.D. No. E-procurement Providing/Laying/ replacement of sewer 39,37,956/-78,800/-13/01/2022/ 21-01-2022 under EE(M) 10/ACE(M)7 Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow sical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygien (Himanshu Agarwal) EX. ENGINEER(M)10 Advt. No. J.S.V. 1004 (2021-22

**DELHI JAL BOARD** 

# SP takes dig at BJP's 3/4th seats claim SP supremo says 'BJP meant they will win three or four seats' in UP Assembly polls On different criteria



Lucknow: Samaiwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday took a swipe at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying by the "80 versus 20" assertion, he meant only 20 per cent of the population will back the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh elections, while the remaining 80 per cent will support his party.

But after the arrival of Swami Prasad Maurya and others in the SP, the saffron party would lose even this 20 per cent, Yadav said in his speech after giving party membership to Maurya and others here.
"Baba mukhya mantri

(Adityanath) should engage a math teacher," the SP president said, referring to the chief minister's "80 vs 20" remarks.

Adityanath had recently said that in the Uttar Pradesh elections, while 80 per cent supporters will be on one side, 20 per cent will be on the other, which many thought was alluding to the 20 per cent Muslim population in the state.

Yadav also pooh-poohed the BJP's claim of winning three-fourth seats in the 403 member Uttar Pradesh Assembly, saying, "they meant they will win three or four

Yogi shares meal at Dalit house, says it was 'social exploitation' during SP rule in UP

Gorakhpur: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had a meal at a Dalit household here on Friday and said during the Samajwadi Party rule it was "social exploitation" and not "social justice", whereas the BJP government was working for the development of every section of society without any discrimination.

Adityanath's visit to the Dalit family in Gorakhpur came a little before Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan and Dharam Singh Saini, who resigned from the government accusing it of being anti-Dalit, gathered at the Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow to take up its membership in the run-up to the assembly polls beginning February 10

Several BJP and Apna Dal legislators have also quit their respective parties to join the SP. After having meal at Amritlal Bharti's home on the



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath having lunch with BJP worker Amrit Lal Bharati at his residence, in Gorakhpur

occasion of Makar Sankranti, Adityanath told reporters, "Only 18,000 houses were given to people under PM Awas Yojna in full five-year term of the Akhilesh Yadav government in UP, whereas the present BJP government has given 45 lakh houses to the poor and the deprived under the

"It was 'samajik shoshan'

(social exploitation) and not 'samajik nyay' (social justice) during the SP rule in UP," he said, taking a swipe at his predecessor and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

He said 2.61 crore households got toilets and 1.36 crore families benefitted from the Ujjwala Yojana under the "double engine" government, referring to the BJP rule at the Centre and in the state. PTI

Noida: The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has chosen educated candidates hailing from the constituency and with no criminal background, while partner the Samajwadi Party picked them on their 'winnability' factor as the alliance announced the first list of nominees for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

The alliance of Akhilesh Yadav's and Jayant Chaudhary's parties, which was stitched last year, on Thursday announced candidates on 29 seats - 10 from the SP and 19 from the RLD - in western Uttar Pradesh which will go to polls on February 10.

These seats across districts like Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Aligarh, Agra, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Hapur, Ghaziabad were largely won by the BJP candidates in the 2017 elections but have now seen a considerable influence of the recent farmers' agitation and changing caste equations.

"The criteria for ticket distribution have been a candidate's background. Of the candidates announced by the RLD today, no one has a criminal background. They are all educated and qualified candidates having a good connect with the Uttar Pradesh. people of their region. None of our candidate is an outsider. All belong to the assembly seat where they are contesting the

He added that party leaders have held campaigns and panchayats in recent months which has led the RLD to also take decisions on the basis of 'public feedback''.

election," RLD spokesperson

Sandip Chaudhary told PTI.

Chaudhary also highlighted that the recent agitation of farmers against the four contentious central farm laws, which have now been repealed, have dented the BJP's prospects in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the western region.

"The farmers are unhappy. The Muslim community is also unhappy with the BJP. The people have realised the BJP's false promises and false dreams it had shown to them last time," he claimed.

As the tickets were announced, Samajwadi Party spokesperson Abbas Haider said the alliance of his party

and the RLD has a "definite influence" in western part of

On distribution of tickets, Haider told PTI, "Winnability of a candidate is the first criteria for ticket distribution in the alliance. The party workers are also being kept in mind

during the process. The atmosphere in the region is against the BJP and that is evident as people across sectors have come out in support of the SP-RLD alliance," he claimed.

Of the 29 seats on which the alliance announced candidates Thursday, the Samajwadi Party's Nahid Hasan had won the 2017 polls from Kairana and Rafeeq Ansari from Meerut and the party has repeated both the candidates this time.

Sahender Singh Ramala was the only RLD candidate who won the party a seat in the last elections. He had won from the Chhaprauli seat in Baghpat district, once considered a party stronghold. The 2022 candidate from the seat is vet to be announced.

## Didi and not anybody else is my leader, says TMC MP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Voice of decent against alleged dynastic politics seems to have begun in the Trinamool Congress with senior party MP Kalyan Banerjee reiterating that he "will continue in the Trinamool Congress till Mamata Banerjee is around ... no one except her is my leader."

Referring to TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's statement that he for one was opposed to any public gathering ---political or religious --- for another two months in view of rising corona cases, Kalyan Banerjee said that "such decisions are taken by our supreme leader Mamata Banerjee and not anyone else."

He said "such statements need her approval and since my leader MamataBanerjee has not spoken anything about it I will assume that it is nother view ... in that case I do not subscribe to whatever he

(Abhishek) has said."

On whether he regarded Abhishek Banerjee --- who is also the nephew of the Chief Minister --- as his leader the TMC Lok Sabha Chief Whip said, "I consider only Mamata Banerjee as my leader ... I am around till sheis there ... I do not accept anyone else as my leader."

Attacking Abhishek for making a statement that was in tune with what the BJP demanded Kalyan Banerjee said "whatever he said matches witht he views of the BJP ... because his statement came soon after the BJP leadership made similar statements ... but did he (Abhishek) tell anything about the UP elections ... did he tell anything about thecrowds gathering in other parts of the country.

Though there was no immediate reaction from the Chief Minister another senior leader and party disciplinary committee chairman Patrho Chatterjee asked all sides to

make statements commensurate to the party policy.

"No statement against any leader that goes against the party's conductrules will be tolerated ... everyone is asked to exercise restraint,"Chatterjee said even as State party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said cognizance of Kalyan Banerjee's statements would be taken by the party.

Another TMC MP from Hooghly Aparupa Poddar too came out against Kalyan Banerjee seeking his resigna-tion as the Chief Whip. "He knows full well that Abhishek Banerjee is the party national general secretary and we are bound to follow his line ... now after he has made statements against him, Kalyan Banerjee should resign as the Chief Whip of Lok Sabha because he has acted like Bivishana --- the epic figure of Ramayana who left his brother Ravana the demon king to join the ranks

## MP Rupa seeks CBI probe into train mishap which killed 9 people

PNS KOLKATA

Technical snags might have led to the Thursday's train accident at Moynaguri in North Bengal that left 9 people dead and many others injured, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said aftervisiting the spot.

This, even as BJP MP Rupa Ganguly demanded a CBI investigation into the mishap considering the timing of the accident.
"Are the Railway tracks

thinking creatures that they will cause the train to derail ... Do trains derail out of nothing ... we have to consider the timing of the accident ... the elections are around and considering the fact that no big mishap has taken place in the past several years it becomes imperative to get the investigation conducted by the CBI to ascertain the truth," Ganguly said drawing instant reaction from the

ruling Trinamool Congress.
"Even the Union Railway

Minister has not said anything about any conspiracy ... even he has pointed at some technical snag and here their leader is raising political issues which is unacceptable ... instead of reaching out to the people they are politicizing the matter," saidTMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

Meanwhile, former engineers of the Railways said that prima facie it seemed that one of traction motors of the engine had fallen off blocking the tracks and causing the coaches to derail. "We are conducting a high level investigation and will make things known soon after we come to a conclusion," Commissioner for Railway Safety Latif Khan said.

Twelve coaches of the Bikaner-Guwahati Express train had derailed and some of them capsized near Domohani in Jalpaiguri district on Thursday.

## Bengal BJP dissolves all departments, cells

#### 35 depts, 15 cells all bound to shut amid growing resentment among leaders

Kolkata: BJP's West Bengal unit president Sukanta Majumdar on Thursday dissolved all the departments and cells of the party in the state amid growing resentment among its leaders. The BJP has 35 departments and 15 cells in West Bengal. Among these are the legal department and the refugee cell. As per instructions of Dr

Sukanta Majumdar, all departments and cells stand dissolved till the time they are reconstituted, and new appointments are made," said a statement issued by the state BJP.

The announcement was made days after Union

leader from the politically powerful Matua community, quit the party's WhatsApp groups amid disappointment over the newly-formed state office bearers' committee. Last month, five MLAs

Minister Shantanu Thakur, a

had left the WhatsApp groups in protest after being dropped from the committee. A senior state BJP leader

said dissolving the departments and cells is a usual process in the party after a new president takes over.

"Whenever a new president takes charge, he forms new committees, departments and cells. After Sukanta Majumdar took over last year, he did not form the new committees and cells," he said.

However, a disgruntled BJF leader said all the party oldtimers and experienced leaders have been sidelined by the new dispensation in the state

### Over 3L take holy dip at Gangasagar on Makar Sankranti

Sagar Island: Over 3.5 lakh pilgrims took the holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal here on the occasion of Makar Sankranti on Friday, even as officials carried out RT-PCR tests as part of the measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

Those who have taken the double dose of COVID vaccines and found negative for the disease have been allowed to enter Sagar Island for the Gangasagar fair, a senior official of West Bengal's South 24

Parganas district said. The holy bath began at midnight as pilgrims from different parts of the country gathered at the confluence oraving cold and steady drizzle.

They also offered prayers at the Kapil Muni temple here.

According to locals, physical distancing went for a toss during the dip even though disaster management and civil defence personnel, policemen and volunteers were active to maintain Covid protocols.

The district administraproceedings to a great extent and most of the pilgrims followed the instructions, an offi-

"We didn't allow anyone without RT-PCR test and double vaccination certification this time. The screening was done at all embarkation points, including Kolkata's Babughat and South 24 Parganas' Namkhana and Lot 8. As of now, an estimated 3.5 lakh pilgrims took the

holy dip," he said. According to Hindu Calendar, the holy dip on Makar Sankranti is scheduled from 6.02 am on Friday and will continue till 6 am on

Saturday.

A two-member panel formed by the Calcutta High Court to monitor adherence to COVID-19 norms at the fair had inspected the preparations since Wednesday.

### **COVID BULLETIN**

## 'No shortage of vaccines in Maha<sup>;</sup> Union Health Ministry scotches media reports on scarcity of jabs

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI Aday after the Maharashtra Government asked the Centre to provide 40 lakh

Covishield doses to increase the vaccination coverage, the Union Health Ministry on Thursday scotched reports in a section of the media that the State was facing vaccine shortage and said that it had 24 lakh unutilised doses of Covaxin and that it received additional

Covaxin and 50 lakh

Alluding to media reports stating that the State Government was unable to increase the pace of vaccination

6.35 lakh doses during the

in the State owing to shortage of vaccine, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement: "Such reports are ill informed and incorrect. It is clarified that, as per the reports available today (14th January 2022), Maharashtra has over 24 lakh unutilized doses of Covaxin available with it. An additional 6.35 lakh doses have been received today".

'As per their weekly consumption data available on Co-WIN, the average con-sumption by Maharashtra for Covaxin to cover the eligible beneficiaries for 15-17 years and for precaution dose is almost 2.94 lakh doses per day. Therefore, the State has

adequate vaccine doses for about 10 days to cover the eligible beneficiaries with Covaxin," the Health Ministry

"Furthermore, Covishield, the state has 1.24 crore unutilized and remaining doses available as on date. With an average consumption of 3.57 lakhs per day, this will sustain for more than 30 days for the beneficiaries to be vaccinated using the vaccine," the Union Health Ministry statement said.

"Hence, the media reports are not factually correct and do not reflect the correct picture of the available stock of balance and unutilized Covid vaccine doses with Maharashtra," the

statement added At a meeting of Chief Ministers and ministers of various states called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take stock of the Covid-19 situation across the country, the Maharashtra government had asked the Centre to provide 40 lakh Covaxin and 50 lakh Covishield doses to increase the vaccination coverage.

Talking to media persons after the meeting, State Public Health Minister Rajesh Tope had said: "Covaxin is required for the vaccination for the 15-18 age group and Covishield for people over 60 years of age and the frontline workers".



Devotees react as they take a holy dip in the Ganga river on 'Makar Sankranti' in Prayagraj, on Friday

### Karnataka Govt seeks Central assistance to raise number of oxygenated beds, O2 plants

Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday sought Central assistance to raise the number of oxygenated beds and oxygen plants in the State.

Bommai sought the assistance today while taking part in a video conference held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Ministers of various states over the COVID-19 situation in the country.

"I explained the measures taken by the state government to control and manage Covid. The Prime Minister appreciated the high rate of testing and vaccination in the state which is higher than the national average," the CM was quoted as saying by his office in a release.

Noting that the PM was also apprised about measures initiated to ramp up the medical infrastructure, he said, "I

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief sought the central assistance to raise the oxygenated beds and

The Prime Minister gave instructions on making all preparations based on the experience of the first and second wave of Covid, as the pandemic is expected to peak in February, the CM said.

During the third wave over 94 per cent infected are in home isolation, and therefore the Prime Minister wanted to give priority to ensuring supply of medicines, appropriate care and measures to instill a sense of confidence among the infected, he said.

Further Bommai said, the Union government has suggested ramping up testing, purchase of ambulances and improving medical infrastructure under the Rs 32,000 crore package it has provided. PTI

### Kerala, TN see surge in Covid-19 cases in 24 hours **CHENNAI** ■ KOCHI

Ablack Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala. That's how doctors in the two States described the status of pandemic in the two southern States. While the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 shot up to 23,459 in Tamil Nadu during the last 24 hours (out of 1.5 lakh samples tested), Kerala registered 16,338 cases on Friday. The death toll in Kerala reached 50, 568 while Tamil Nadu's Department of Health Directorate said the number of victims succumbed to the pan-

demic till date reached 36,956. Tamil Nadu Government, shocked over the spurt in the number of Covid-19 cases have tightened the rules and declared a partial shut down



and Colleges have been asked to stick to online classes till further notice taking into account the warning issued by the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association The Kerala Government in

a review meeting held on Friday decided to shut down all schools and asked the Government and private establishments to opt for online mode in districts where Test Positivity Rate is more than 20 per cent. The State's TPR on Friday stood at 23.68 per cent.

### Maha Opp seeks delegation of power after CM skips PM meet due to ill health T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI said that the chief minister did Upping the ante over the ill-health of Chief Minister

Uddhav Thackeray once again, the Opposition BJP on Friday asked him to step aside and hand over his post to someone elsewhere till his health condition improved. The BJP's demand should

be seen in the context of the fact that Uddhav -- who has been recouping from the cervical spine surgery that he underwent at HN Reliance Hospital here on November 12 - did not attend the Covid-19 review meeting through video conferencing called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, owing to health rea-

Talking to media persons at Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil said: "The State Health Minister has

not attend the Covid-19 review meeting called by the Prime Minister as he cannot sit at one place for two to two and a half hours. That being the case, Uddhav Thackeray should hand over the chief minister's responsibility to someone else in the party till recovers fully from his illness".

"People are saying that the chief minister has not met people for almost 70 days now. That being the case, Uddhav Thackeray should delegate his powers to someone who can attend daily meetings and sometimes visit some places in the state," Patil said. "He (the chief minister) is

like our friend, so I wish him a speedy recovery. However, the task of administering the state, which has a population of around 12 crore, cannot be done just by sitting at home. Such responsibilities should

be taken more seriously," the state chief said.

On Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's criticism of the BJP, Patil said: "Raut should understand that the Sena is losing due to this coalition government. A Shiv Sena candidate cannot win the election of Mumbai cooperative Bank, whereas an NCP candidate becomes its chairman."

Uddhav should delegate powers if he is not well: BJP

Referring to the NCP's decision to contest the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, Patil said: "If Sena is contesting upcoming elections in Goa and Uttar Pradesh, it is merely to win a certain number of votes in order to get the tag of a national party. You need to get a certain number of votes in more than one state to get such recognition".

Patil had made a similar demand that Uddhav should step aside from his chief minister's post till he recovers fully from his

cervical spine surgery that he underwent at HN Reliance Hospital two months ago.

The reiteration of his demand by Patil comes a week after the a BJP social media functionary Jiten Gajaria had sparked a controversy by putting out an "objectionable" tweet describing Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's wife Rashmi Thackeray as "Marathi Rabri Devi".

In his tweet put out along

with photograph of Rashmi Thackeray, Gajaria had likened her to Bihar's former chief minister Rabri Devi, who had taken over the reins of the northern state after her husband and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav resigned in the wake of his involvement in the fodder scam. Through his tweet, Gajaria had indirectly referred to the health issues faced by chief minister Uddhav www.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Stepping up

The Govt and the SC are on same page on the need to bring about criminal law reforms

or the last few days, the Delhi High Court is hearing petitions seeking to criminalise marital rape. During the hearings, the Centre has informed the court that it proposes a comprehensive revamp of the criminal law. This is an echo of the Union Home Minister on Tuesday seeking views from the Chief Justice of India, Members of Parliament and Chief Ministers on forging a "people-centric legal structure". The Home Minister said the same once before, way back in 2016, when he sought similar views on changes to the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Arms Act, and so forth. The same year, the Supreme Court too asked the Centre to reform police laws as well. Better late than never, as they say. Several sections of these laws and many other statutes like the sedition law are of colonial vintage and are antiquated. They are still used, most in their breach, and should go at once. The one that decriminalises marital rape is another one that is so obviously not 'people-centric' and yet exists in the statute books. The Home Ministry is bound to get numerous suggestions on reformation and change. But it is for the Ministry to identify the provisions that require a revision. Some would say the reforms

need to be sweeping because some provisions related to classes of offences, legal procedures, the quantum of punishment and principles of criminal jurisprudence have not seen changes in decades.

The IPC, drafted in 1860, has seen only 77 amendments to date, 37 of them coming after Independence. The CrPC has amended 18 times between 1974 and 2014. Social progress and technology upgradation mean these laws need to be modernised to keep pace with the times. New types of punishments, with restorative and reformative justice in mind, need to be introduced into the Indian

system. Principled sentencing is the need of the hour on the procedural side to ensure that different sentences for crimes of similar nature do not have major variations. The Government has to explain how it wants to give the reforms a 'people-centric' push. For, in democratic parlance, it means having suitable procedures in place to quickly identify the reasons for victimisation and reforming laws to uphold the rights of victims of crime. The extant laws of Macaulay's time are tuned to serve the interests of the Crown. They need to be oriented towards people — once the victims of colonial rule who, after Independence, became the victims of colonial laws. They need to enjoy the benefits of victim protection schemes and victim participation in criminal trials, compensation and restitution schemes for victims. Victim advocacy and human rights are the thrust points. But that will not amount to much without the fundamental tightening of the mental resolve to tackle crime: One, political non-interference in the roles of crime investigation agencies; two, a change in the attitude of the police towards complainants; and, three, no external pressures on the police.



Pilgrims gather for a holy dip in the Ganga on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, at Gangasagar Mela

## **Rough & tumble**

The game of UP's throne is getting exciting by the day, and the Opposition is thrilled

■ith just about a month to go for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, scheduled to be held in seven phases between February 10 and March 7, there are significantly noticeable rumblings in the electoral playfield. Three Ministers in Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet (Labour & Employment Minister Swami Prasad Maurya, Environment Minister Dara Singh Chauhan, Ayush Minister Dharam Singh Saini, besides legislators Roshanlal Verma, Brijesh Prajapati, Bhagwati Saran Sagar, Mukesh Verma, Vinay Shakya, Bala Prasad Awasthi and Avtar Singh Bhadana) have resigned in three days, and there is high probability that they may join the Samajwadi Party in the com-



ing days. In fact, Saini warned the party that "every day till January 20, a Minister and two-three MLAs will resign from the BJP". So far, a total of 14 lawmakers, including the three Ministers, have signaled their exit from the BJP since the poll schedule was announced on January 8. All the major political parties in the fray in the politically significant State the SP, Congress, BSP and the AIMIM — are contesting separately and the BJP was hopeful that it would easily breast the tape yet again against a splintered Opposition.

Though Assembly elections are going to be held

in five States, seen as a template for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, all eyes are on UP. Only a few months back, everything was going well for the UP Chief Minister. Backed by PM Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath seemed unstoppable and ready to return to power, but sudden large-scale desertions have hit his Government and image hard. The recent resignations have dented the BJP's efforts at consolidating the Hindu vote, which helped it win in 2014, 2017 and 2019. The formula was built around the BJP's strategy of social engineering, a concept perpetuated by former general secretary and ideologue K Govindacharya, but it appears to be wearing off now. Needless to say, the recent developments are quite comforting to the Opposition camp, and the satraps would likely enter the humdinger of the electoral battlefield with renewed zest and vigour. Meanwhile, the saffron party would need a lot more than its social engineering formula and development slogans to keep its ship stable and on course. This is where the experience of poll-hardened veterans, including the Modi-Shah masterminds, could come in handy. Alas, time is not exactly a friend of the BJP this time.

# Fear is the key to rule minds, or is it? DEEPAK SINHA



Today's politicians exploit every opportunity to use fear for recruiting volunteers to their own personal causes without realising the flipside

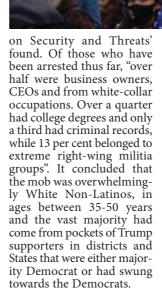
e live in a world that, as Canadian philosopher Brendan Myers puts it, is "utterly saturated with fear. We fear being attacked by religious extremists, both foreign and domestic. We fear the loss of political rights, a loss of privacy, or a loss of freedom. We fear being injured, robbed or attacked, being judged by others, or neglected, or left unloved.

Politicians understand this well. With the COVID-19 pandemic having already laid us low and in the absence of any real health-revival hopes on the horizon, they have lost no time in using fear to entice and recruit volunteers to their own personal causes.

Former American President Donald Trump is a prime example of a politician who has successfully used fear to his advantage, and continues to do so despite having lost the Presidency by approximately seven million of the popular vote. With absolutely no evidence to show, he has still been able to sell the "Big Lie" that he was denied victory because the election machinery was compromised and allowed incumbent Joe Biden to win fraudulently, something that millions continue to believe even to this day.

This issue, as we are all aware, boiled over on January 6, 2021, the day Congress was to formally certify President-elect Biden's win. An unruly mob of Trump's supporters, egged on by him but he choosing not to join them, attacked Capitol Hill in an effort to stop Congress from carrying out its constitutional mandate. In the ensuing violence, two policemen were killed and over 150 injured, leading to the arrest of over seven hundred of those involved, with many more still

One would have expected that the fanatics who attacked the Capitol and unleashed utter mayhem there would belong to the very iringes of American society. Surprisingly, that was deliberately by Nonnot the case, as a study by the University of Chicago's 'Project found much traction not just



The most interesting aspect of the study was the revelation that the single most important motivation for those who participated in the insurrection was their belief in the "Great Replacement Theory". A conspiracy theory first propounded in France by author Renaud Camus in which white nationalists claimed that the French white population was being demographically and culturally replaced European peoples. It has



THE FEAR OF

THE UNKNOWN **OBLITERATES ALL REASONING AND BRINGS OUT A PURELY EMOTIONAL** RESPONSE. WHAT MOST PEOPLE **OVERLOOK IS** THAT WHILE IT IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO START A FIRE, THE CONFLAGRATION UNSCATHED

in France but also in other European nations and in the United States and New Zealand. In America, it has come to be seen as the Non-Latino White population being replaced by Blacks, Hispanics and People of Colour. In essence, a growing fear of losing their privi-leged and entitled position in society that the colour of their skin provided.

A fear that Donald Trump was able to effectively harness not just in the presidential campaign of 2016 but also, even more successfully, in his 2020 campaign despite his eventual loss. Interestingly, the Replacement Theory with appropriate modifications can just as easily be adapted in support of other extremist ideologies as well, both religious and ethnic. În our own context, for example, there are groups within the Hindutva fold that use a similar argument, not supported by any scientific data, to suggest that birth rates in minority communities are so high that they will eventually overtake the majority Hindu population in a few decades. There are groups

that have recently gone further in propagating even more radical views than this.

Clearly, one need not be a social scientist to understand that the motive for such baseless assertions is completely rooted in politics, and works as an effective tool for propagating fear to garner votes. What is truly dangerous is the insidious nature of the threat posed. The fear of the unknown, as we all know, obliterates all reasoning and logic and brings out a purely emotional response. Unfortunately, what most people overlook is that while it is relatively simple to start a fire, the conflagration leaves none unscathed. Those fanning the flames of religious bigotry would do well to heed 18th century English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge's wise words that "in politics, what begins in fear usually ends in failure".

(The writer is a military veteran, who is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. The views expressed are personal.)

### LETTERS TO T

#### **PASSENGER SAFETY JUST FOR MANUALS?**

Sir —Since the derailment of Seemanchal Express in February 2019 in Bihar where six people lost their lives, and the curtailment of the railways due to COVID-19, the Railways was trying hard to renew its claims of safety and development. Just at that moment, at least seven people were killed and over 40 injured after 12 coaches of the Bikaner-Guwahati Express derailed in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. The people are unable to digest the claim that due to the pandemic, there were fewer passengers on board the train. It seems to be a wrong statement by the officials concerned. There were 550 passengers in the affected coaches and 1,100 passengers in the train; so, it's not less.

Moreover, it's 2022 and still these trains are using IFC coaches instead of LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches. Instead of inaugurating stations after stations, there's a pressing need to develop the rail compartments first. The silver lining amid the tragedy was to see about 50 ambulances reaching the spot in no time at such a remote place, also thanks in no small measure to locals for a quick helping hand and all parties for overcoming petty politics and joining hands to help the passengers. It shows that our medical system and coordination improved. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and praying for early recovery of

**Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee** | Faridabad

**TOLERANCE THERAPY NEEDED** Sir — We have too many people around whose sentiments are too easily hurt by what happens in the advertisements but not enough by what happens out there in reality. Added to the fact that we generally lack a sense of humour and every imagined slight is blown out of proportion, it has made it nearly impossible for any creative person to take a different, independent view from the accepted traditional view. After 2014, there is a growing constituency of eagle-eyed 'protectors' of Indian cultural and religious traditions waiting to getting offended at the

### Allay fears of the workforce



ith the surge in COVID cases, the migrant workforce from other States is in the grip of fear as they had bitter experiences of the previous lockdown. They should not be left in lurch and it is expected of the authorities concerned to step forward and allay their fears as some of them have already started trickling homeward. Some reports indicate that labourers from Delhi and the NCR as well as the port hubs of Mumbai and Kolkata are getting infected

slightest chance.

Thanks to the attitude of the Government in power and other elements that are patronised by it extra-constitutionally, which offers them protection from the essence of the law of the land, this creed believes they have the sole proprietary rights over Indian culture. Culture is dynamic and the fossilised thought processes of the many 'guardians of Indian values' need a changeover if the nation is to progress.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

#### **AMBIDEXTROUS BOWLERS**

Sir - While cricket has seen a lot of innovations over the years like coloured clothing, emergence of T20 format, introduction of pink ball, etc, ambidextrous bowling is something that hasn't made its way yet into the game. But being an ambidextrous bowler, and more so a fast bowler, is highly challenging and far more demanding in terms of physical fitness because the bowler needs to rewire his body very often durand returning to their native towns in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. On January 1, PM Narendra Modi said India would not allow the pandemic to adversely impact the economic development, suggesting that India would not enforce another lock-

The workers, however, seem unconvinced as several States are imposing partial restrictions and night curfews and they are worried about being left high and dry if the situation worsens. These workers have to migrate to cities as in their villages, there is lack of economic opportunities. These migrant need to be given the confidence that even if the health situation worsens, their interests would be cared for by their employers as well as by the Governments. The agony of a daughter who travelled eight days along with her ailing father to reach her residence in Bihar is still fresh in the memory of many.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

ing the game. Across cricketing nations, only five cricketers have so far tested out ambidextrous bowling - Akshay Karnewar (India), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Yasir Jan (Pakistan), Shaila Sharmin (Bangladesh) and Jemma Barsby (Australia.)

But how far can ambidextrous bowling be really effective and sustainable at international level is the moot question as these days, batsmen like Glen Maxwell are adept at employing switch-hitting at will, a shot which is highly productive in T20 cricket. In fact, ambidextrous bowling was in use long ago when Pakistan's Hanif Mohammed tried it out a few times, though in desperation, like he did to Gary Sobers during his monumental knock of 365 n.o. at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1958. It's believed to be the first-ever instance of ambidextrous bowling in

international cricket. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to:

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Who will understand what the public wants more than Mamata Banerjee? The party's policies are decided by her.





Imran Khan is my leader and prime minister and I did not tell him that I will not vote for him.

**Pak Defence Minister** —Pervez Khattak

Jah iski shaka dekhi thi na, mujhe nahi laga tha ye bachcha kar paega (to husband Haarsh)

comedienne Bharti Singh's





losing the first Test... then win the second and now the third Test is pretty

South Africa head coach —Mark Boucher





Madhya Pradesh Home Minister -Narottam Mishra www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

## **FIRST COLUMN**

## **SEARCHING FOR ANTIDOTE TO COMMUNAL HATE**

Hate speeches against any religion serve to imbalance public order and peace



JAGDISH KAUR

India woke up to the new year with shocking revelations regarding the "Bulli Bai"app targeting minority women in a derogatory and humiliating manner. The app had misused photographs of a number of Muslim women, including students, prominent personalities, journalists, and social workers. Protests were lodged all over the country. With pressure from human rights and women groups, the Bulli Bai app was blocked by Github. A couple of owners of the Bulli Bai App have now been arrested by the CERT-IN (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) and currently in police custody. The 'Sulli Deals' App, which was launched last year, had listed Muslim women for 'auction' with photographs sourced without permission and doctored. Its mastermind has also been arrested now. Will these arrests stop this kind of humiliating intent against certain religions, sects, communities, castes, or groups? Certainly not, because these are not one-time or stand-alone crimes. These are the



result of organized and sustained hate campaigns poisoning the minds of Indians, especially youth, against minority communities. For last some years, the social media has been extensively used to create platforms and material by these perpetrators of hate. As per Statista Research Department, most hate crimes during 2015-2019 were targeted at Dalits, followed by Muslims. There have been several reports of Muslims not being allowed to pray in certain places in North India and Christians being targeted on suspicion of being involved in religious conversions. Human rights groups which monitor atrocities against Christians in India have documented the violence by Hindutva groups from all states and released a fact-finding report titled 'Christians under attack in India'. The report released by the Association of Protection Civil Rights, United Christian Forum and United Against Hate at a press conference in Delhi in October 2021 says over 300 such instances were reported from across 21 states, particularly in North India, in nine months of 2021.

The farmers who protested for almost a year were repeatedly labelled as 'Khalistanis' and hate messages against them were doing the rounds on all social media platforms. Various forms of provocative incidences against minorities have been on the rise in the last few years. We keep hearing about the incidences of 'love jihad', 'ghar wapsi' and other newly coined terms to target certain communities. The Supreme Court has agreed to take up a PIL seeking probe into alleged hate speeches at two separate events at Haridwar and Delhi in December 2021. There are messages and videos circulating on social media regarding the atrocities committed on Hindus by Mughals (Muslims) during the Middle Ages. The voices for making India a 'Hindu Rashtra' are getting louder by the day. The hate speeches and hateful actions against any religion can only serve to imbalance the public order and peace in society. Educated young people are debating religion and hate rather than constructive issues for nation building. Do we have a solution? The harrowing trend of communal hatred is likely to meet with retaliation by those targeted in due course leading to destruction of the very fabric of multi-cultural Indian society. As Mahatma Gandhi said "an eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind ".The Constitution of India enshrined and ensured equality and respect for all Indians. Hate campaigns against any religion, community or sect need to be condemned in the strongest words and strict legal action should be taken against the perpetrators. Politicians, religious and community leaders, and people from all walks of life should come together to oppose hate campaigns. School curricula should have mandatory content on communal harmony so that future generations learn to value of compassionand brotherhood.

(The writer is President, Women's Initiative for Liberation, Growth & Action, a national body working for women empowerment. The views expressed are personal.)

# Mahatma Gandhi an ecological economist?



Gandhi's ideas could not be more relevant than today when India is witnessing jobless growth and facing the worst unemployment crisis

ndia was earlier known for its flourishing trade in spices and textiles, along with precious metal and stone.

AfterIndependence, India inherited an economy that was one of the poorest in the world with no industrial base and mostlydevastated land deprived of forest and fertility. The Britishleft a poor base for the already developed handicraftsuniversally acclaimed for their quality and craftsmanship.

In Mahatma Gandhi's view,industrial civilisation fostered by British rule was the main cause of India's social, ecological and economic distress. He believed that India's salvation lay in the restoration of its ancient civilisation where economic progress and moral progress intertwined. Gandhi knew that "India lives in her

seven lakh villages" thereforethe economic and social revival of these villages is a pre-condition for reconstruction of India. He wanted to make the villages selfsufficient and build a rural economy which is not solely based on agriculture and allied activities but also has strong rural industries thereby generating employment for the villagers.
Gandhi once said, "If the village per-

ishes, India will perish too". He imagined his ideal village will consist of cottages made from locally sourced materials with sufficient light, ventilation, proper sanitation and produce its own grains, vegetables, fruits, and Khadi. It will have wells, places of worship, a common meeting place, a common grazing field, a co-operative dairy, primary and secondary schools where vocational training will be imparted and panchayats for settling disputes.

Gandhi was againstthe concentration of power and the system that makes the individual subservient to the machine and material. He wanted a development process which is harmonious, poverty free, nonviolent, based on cooperation and ethics. Therefore, he proposed an ecological model centered on limitation of wants in contrast to the modern civilization that promotes material welfare and individual profits. He was sure that too much emphasis onmaterialism could lead to violence, unhappiness and a culture of oppression, exploitation, and dominance.

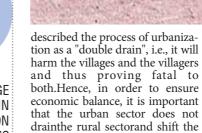
Gandhi's concept of sustainable development is rooted in a holistic approach which emphasizes the development of an individual and society as a whole in conliving," Gandhi sought to curb both human greed and mindless exploitation of natural resources. He said, one should know the difference between 'need' and 'want' and taking more than required to fulfil our need, in a way is theft from other species, humans and the future.

Gandhi often said,"The earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed"

He warned against the perils of massive industrialization and unsustainable patterns of consumption in the west. He



**CLIMATE CHANGE** HAS ONCE AGAIN SHED LIGHT ON **GANDHI'S** PHILOSOPHY OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MADE THE WORLD REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTISING A LIFESTYLE THAT HAS MINIMAL **ENVIRONMENTAL** IMPACT. THESE **PRINCIPLES** REMAIN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ALL THE **UN'S CLIMATE** AGREEMENTS, **ENVIRONMENTAL** CONSERVATION TREATIES AND SUSTAINABLE



greatly undermine the ecological fabric on which millions depend. Therefore, to increase the productivity, we should avoid indiscriminate use and non-selective adoption of imported technology. He foresaw that the development of  $small\text{-}scale\ technology\ could\ boost$ efficiency in rural production without displacing rural labour andadvocated an appropriate technological mix with controlled production to maximise the social benefits of science and technology and to

focus from centralization to decen-

tralization. He argued, that a tech-

nologically sophisticated economy

will have two major consequences:

it would disempower the econom-

ic autonomy of the masses and

He emphasized the development of village and cottage industries where handicrafts, spinning, weaving, and likewise remain constant sources of income andrevenue generation. This will protect the village crafts and the workers from the driven machinery and ensure jobs

maintain a proper balance between

man and environment.

for the villagers. Gandhi ideas couldnot be more relevant than today when India is witnessing jobless growth and facing the worst unemployment crisis in this pandemic situation. It is evident that the current paradigm of developmentis causing serious environmental problems whichis neither ecologically nor socially sustainable. It is leading the planet into a vortex of inequality, widening the rift the millions living in poverty. Gandhi was well aware of the

pitfalls of such developmentas well as the consequences of unequal distribution of wealth between different classes. The World Inequality Report 2022 ranked India as the most unequal country in the world. The top 10 per cent and top one per cent hold 57 per cent and 22 per cent of the total national income,respectively,while the bottom half's share has come down to 13 per cent and they barely have anything. Thomas Piketty asserts in his influential book, Capital in the Twenty-First Century, that inequality is rapidly intensifying and global cooperation is desirable to prevent the wealthy from simply shifting assets into other jurisdictions.He proposed, an extremely high income-tax rates on upper-income taxpayers along with a global wealth tax. Economic progress devoid of moral elements will deepen divisions and increase dissensions

among people.

With growing population, the increase in food demand has considerably altered land-use practices whichhas led toagricultural intensification at the expense of forests and grazing lands. Increased use of chemicals and fertilizers are causwater contamination, loss of biodiversity and killthebeneficial organisms whichincreases fertility.Gandhi believed in sustainable agriculture and advised the use of bio-manures and bio-pesticides to improve soil fertility. Today, the experts in the healthcare are emphasizing the importance of chemical-free crops because excessive amounts of chemicals in plants are causing health related problems in humans as it affects kidneys,

between rich and poor, and proved inadequate to address the issues of inadequate to address the inadequate the inadequate to address the inadequate the inadequ nourished children, etc.

Gandhi's understanding of the ecological crisis was far ahead of his time and anticipated many of our greatest challenges of today. Knowing that afforestation can be an effective step to combat future water crisis, he urged people to plant trees. He also proposed, water harvesting for irrigational purposes to prevent droughts and

Climate change has once again shed light on Gandhi's philosophy of self-sufficiency and sustainable development and made the world realize the importance of practicing a lifestyle that has minimal environmental impact. These principles remain the driving force behind all the UN's climate agreements, environmental conservation treaties, and sustainable development goals. Many of his ideas foreshadow the holistic thinking behind the "Agenda 2030: Transforming Our World" for Sustainable Development. The central idea of Agenda 2030 is captured by the tagline "Leave No One Behind." The plan aims to achieve prosperity for people and the planet and calls for "transformative" change, which includes changing the way we live, produce, and

Thus, the current climate crisis and the need to find sustainable means has brought a long-suppressed and quintessentially Galbraith's unanswered question to the fore — "How much should a country consume?" — along with Gandhian corollary — "How much should a person consume?". They have become fundamental questionsfor the 21st century and will dominate the intellectual and polit-



DEVELOPMENT

**GOALS** 

#### Indian Forest Šervice officer. The views expressed are personal.)

THE POLICE CLOSE THEIR EYES WHEN THE RULING PARTY CONDUCTS RALLIES. WE WERE ONLY FIVE BUT THEY STOPPED US FROM CAMPAIGNING. —BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT **DILIP GHOSH** 





DILIP GHOSH IS LYING THAT ONLY FIVE OF THEM WERE CAMPAIGNING. HIS SECURITY GUARDS ALONE ARE FIVE IN NUMBER. —TMC LEADER **MOLOY GHATAK** 

## Poisonous tobacco products must be made unaffordable

### The sale of 'sin products' needs to be limited and kept out of reach of the maximum number of citizens, especially teenagers

**¬**obacco consumption is a menace that is worse than the current Covid019 pandemic and causes innumerable fatalities. Both Finance Ministry and GST Council appear to have overlooked the causes of this malady despite representations by civil society organizations, Members of Parliament, the medical fraternity, state representatives, Ministers and citi-

There have been no major tobacco tax increases after the GST council placed tobacco products in the 28 per cent bracket in 2017. The option of tax increase on tobacco products gives the government a golden opportunity to raise badly required finances. Remember, lower taxes increase the affordability of



KIRIT BHAI **SOLANKI** 

(The writer is a medical

practitioner and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.

The views expressed

tobacco consumers, especially teenagers and children. The Union Government has the option of hiking the excise duty and NCCD in the annual budget while the GST Council can increase the cess. This will ensure India has optimal tobacco taxation as mandated by WHO.

submission Parliament mentioned that a small excise duty hike ensured tax collection of Rs 4962 crores. This proves the point that raising excise duty and calamity duty substantially in the coming budget can fetch a handsome revenue

The costs imposed on our society and our economy, both direct as well as indirect, have been huge. India has over 27 crore tobacco users today and the consumption of tobacco



kills more than 13 lakh Indians annually. At a global level, eight million deaths are reported people every year. Overseven million deaths are due to direct use of tobacco while the rest are caused by passive smokers exposed to the poisonous smoke. As per the data of GYTS (Global Youth Tobacco Survey) in 2019, nearly one-fifth of the stu-

dents aged 13-15 have used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life. Clearly, consumption of tobacco isnot just about one's health at the individual level, but a societal problem we face nationally

Tobacco taxes and, therefore, the prices have to be increased regularly, so as to significantly reduce the affordability over a period of time. This was the practice in the pre-GST era with additional options of the states adding VAT. Tobacco taxes and prices have not been increased enough over time to reduce the affordability of these products resulting in more numbers of consumers getting addicted. A long, four-year gap of no tax increase has tobacco companies share prices eases (CVDs) - nearly 4,49,844

soaring on the one hand, and on the other, we see rampant consumption leading to more deaths and spread of dreaded diseases. The tobacco industry may have its reason to look the other way, but the government has no such option.

The annual economic cost from all tobacco products is estimated to be Rs 177.341 crores in 2017-18 amounting to more than one per cent of India's GDP. This will continue to grow in the post-Covid era and the next GATS report will surely point out the alarming rise of casualties. In a country like India, an estimated 1.3 million deaths are accounted for by tobacco abuse. As per WHO data, the most common way tobacco kills isthrough cardiovascular dis-

deaths such deaths occurred in India as of 2018. The high prevalence of non-communicable diseases due to tobacco use is posing a huge challenge to the country's response to Covid-19 management, amplifying India's health burden in such difficult times

It is time that the Finance Ministry launches a multipronged attack for the social cause of tobacco control by increasing taxes on tobacco products both in the annual budget and also in the GST council to wipe out the gap of the last four years. Doing this social good will not raise any eyebrows and citizens will welcome it for reasons of public health.

I am sure that the listening posts in the Ministry will convey the right message to the

Minister and also work out the modalities of tax rationalization which mandates that a sin product sale needs to be limited and citizens be protected. We are especially talking about children and teens who are major contributors to our econ-A resilient healthcare sys-

tem as an outcome will emerge that complements our 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' mission, which not only focuses on revival of the economy but also on overall improvement of the health of our citizens. To mark the National Youth Day which has the theme, 'SakshamYuva, Sashakth Yuva', by making tobacco products unaffordable we may save the young generation from this deadly product and make them healthy and aatmanirbhar.

## **Rich nations dump** on poor countries

IANS LONDON

Third world nations were **I** offered about 100 million Covid-19 vaccines that were near expiry, which countries were forced to dump, according to UN's children's fund Unicef. According to Unicef's head of supply Etleva Kadilli, more than 100 million vaccines were, in December alone, rejected by countries as they were unable to

distribute them, BBC reported. The problem was compounded by many countries' insufficient storage facilities, Kadilli was quoted as saying to members of European Parliament on Thursday.

Many of world's poorest countries, most of them in Africa, have been relying on UNbacked Covax scheme for their

The programme faced challenges in accessing doses early last year, but situation significantly improved towards end of 2021 with wealthier countries releasing doses they were hold-

ing. According to provisional tracking by UNICEF, about 910 million doses were delivered through UN-backed initiative as of December 30. Nearly half of doses delivered in Décember came from three US-backed vaccine manufacturers: Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer.

However, many of doses offered have been close to their expiry date, and have been rejected by recipient nations, BBC report said. Some countries such as Nigeria struggled with administering vaccines forcing them to destroy expired jabs.

Only about 10 per cent of population on continent has been fully vaccinated. "More than 9.4 billion vaccine doses have now been administered globally. But 90 countries did not reach target of vaccinating 40 per cent of their populations by end of last year, and 36 of those countries have not yet vaccinated 10 per cent of their populations," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, chief of World Health Organization.

#### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.) Durg, Dated: 07.01.2022

e-Procurement Tender Notice 1st Call

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are

NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
353/90590	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Durg Division Durg	195.00
354/90591	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Bernetara Division Bernetara	195.00
355/90592	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Balod Division Balod	195.00
356/90593	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Sub Division No 1 & 2 Rajnandgaon	175.28
357/90594	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Sub Division A.Chowki	103.31
358/90595	SPECIAL REPAIR OF CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD AT GUNDERDEHI ARJUNDA ODARSAKRI AMTI ROAD IN KM 6/4 TO, 6/8(60) = 460 M (ODARSAKARI VILLAGE) KM 8/10 TO 9/4(70) =470M (CHICHA VILLAGE) & 11/6 TO 11/10(80) = 480 M ( BHILAI - VILLAGE), BLOCK- GUNDERDEHI	87.35
359/90597	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Khairagarh Division Khairagarh	195.00

1. NIT No 353 are under Public Works Department Durg Division, NIT No 354 are under Public Works Department Bemetara Division, NIT No 355,358 are under Public Works Department Balod Division, NIT No. 356,357 are under Public Works Department Rajnandgaon Division, NIT

No 359 are under Public Works Department Khairagarh Division. 2. General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web

rtal or departmental website http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in. 3. NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the

envelope through the Registerd Post/Speed Post in this office

R.O No:- 66883/5

P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)

Superintending Enginee

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Vinod Singh Bisht is the absolute owner of Flat no. 491 at Paryatan Vihar Co-operative Group Housing Society also known as Paryatan Vihar, Plot no.B-8 Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-96 having acquired by Relinquishment Deed dated 13.12.2021 (registration No. 10142) executed by Vijay Singh Bisht, Subhash Singh Bisht, Savitri Bisht & Kiran Negi legal heirs of Late

Baldev Singh Bisht
All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage(equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vlhar-II, Delhi-91 011-43052822, 09810063351

### PUBLIC NOTICE Surrender OF SEBI Investment Advisor registration by PROFITGATE INVESTMENT ADVISORS

ROFITGATE INVESTMENT ADVISO a registered partnership firm NGP000002179, is registered with SEE as an investment Advisor under the SEBI (Investment Advisor) Regulation, 2013 from 06-05-2016. After doing a detail business evaluation, the firm has decided to surrender its Investment Advisor License on 20-08-2020. There are no outstanding or pendin investment advisory mandates as o 31-03-2020. In view of the same, if an one has any grievance, they can inform the grievance with us at mohit@profitgate.in or SEBI scores.gov.i

within 15 days of the date of this notice.

Registration Name: PROFITGATE
INVESTMENT ADVISORS Registration No.: INA000004641

Category of intermediary: Investment ◆Registered Address: ▶ PROFITGATE INVESTMENT ADVISORS lot No. 95, 2nd Floor, Sarda Transport Bldg

CA Road, Bagadganj, Nagpur 440008

13 January 2022

#### APPENDIX IV A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation an Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been take by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is" as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 17.02.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery o Rs. 22,10,384/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four only) Pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNDA00341973 by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and nterest till 11.01.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.01.2022 legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AKASH TIWARI and RAKHI TIWARI.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour o INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 32180585427 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balanc of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES) P.NO. B-152, UGF (REAR SIDE/EASTERN PORTION), BLOCK-B, VISHWAS

PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, PIN-110059, NEW DELHI. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and

www.auctionfocus.in **Authorized Office** Date: 11.01.2022

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Place: NEW DELH

## **UK PM faces fresh 'partygate'** near expiry Covid jabs allegations at Downing Street

British Prime Minister Boris
Johnson on Fridayfaced mounting leadership pressure amid further allegations of parties

held at his Downing Street office-residence by staff, categorisedas a "partygate" scandal due to the apparent serial breaches of lockdown rules in place at the time.

The Daily Telegraph' reported on two farewell parties made up of about 30 people drinking alcohol and dancing to music until the earlyhours of April 17 last year, the night before the funeral of

Philip - the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. Downing Street said thetiming was "deeply regrettable" and that it had apologised to Buckingham

"It is deeply regrettable that this took place at a time of nationalmourning and Number 10 has apologised to the Palace," the UK Prime Minister's spokesperson said."You heard from the prime minister this week, he's recognised Number10 should be held to the highest standards and take responsibility for things we did not get right," the spokesperson said.

It is understood that a call from the Prime Minister's office was made to the Palace on Friday. Restrictions at the time banned indoor mixing between different households and Queen Elizabeth II sat alone during the church ceremony for her late husband in keeping with social distancing rules. "This event should not

that it did. I am deeply sorry, and take full responsibility, said James Slack, the UK Prime Minister's former Director of Communications, at the centre of the farewell that led to the party last April.

Slack, now deputy editor-in-chief at 'The Sun' newspaper, apologised"unreservedly for the anger and hurt caused".
While Prime Minister Johnson was not at either of the two gatherings in April 2021 as he was spending the weekend at his Buckinghamshirecountry

estate Chequers, the latest rev-

elations add to the saga around

rules being broken at the heart

of the UK government. Ministers have insisted that top civil servant Sue Gray's ongoing internal investigation into such gatherings will determine the extent of wrongdoing and therefore judgment should be reserved until her probe

"If the details that are in this story turn out to be true, clearlypeople are going to form their judgment," UK Security Minister Damian Hinds said on Thursday, with reference to the fresh revelations which call Boris Johnson's leadership of his party and country into question.

"I am entirely behind the Prime Minister and the government, and I think the leadership that the Prime Minister has shown, particularlythrough the coronavirus, has been very strong," said Hinds. But battle lines are being drawn within the Conservative Party, with many of Johnson's own MPs demanding he step down as leader. "I want to apologise.

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under

sir	ngle packet system for the under noted work:				
1	Name of work with its location	modification work	ection, testing & commissioning of 25 Kv ac OHE required in connection with augmentation of homing IB from 200 to 225 Locomotives.		
2	Appro	x. Cost of work	Rs.2036062.22		
3	Earnes	t Money Deposit	Rs.40800/-		
4		der Bid Online nission Period	23.01.2022 (00.00 Hrs.) to 07.02.2022 (15.00 Hrs.)		
5	End D	r Bid Submission late & E-Tender n Date & Time	07.02.2022 (15.00 hrs.)		
6	Fur	nd Allocation	21426203		
7	Website particulars where 7 complete details of tender documents can be seen				
E-	Tender No	.: 16-TRD-NDLS-2	021-22 Dated : 14.01.2022 95/2022		

#### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ der Notice Number: PUB/AF/Zone-III/2022/01

Serving Customers With A Smile

E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Comme Manager, North Central Railway, Agra invites e-tender on prescribed forms under single packet system for the period of 05 years from the interested parties for the following works. Details of tenders to be awarded:

e-tender No.	Description of work	Area and type of media for commercial Publicity	of contract for	of Contract fo
PUB/ AF/ Zone-III/ 2022/01		ANNEXURE-	1,97,760/-	10,50,106/-

Earnest Money (in ₹): 21,100/-, Cost of Tender Form (Including GST) 2360/-, Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 10.02.2022. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway websi "www.ireps.gov.in". Tender can only be submitted through web portal

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



DP/698/SHD/22

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of female Age: Approx. 62 years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, **Identification:** A small cut mark on face, wearing pink colour saree, cream colour blouse and cream colour jersey, was found

dead on 05.01.2022 at T-16/19, Safeda Jhuggi Parking, Near Shamshan Ghat Picket, Geeta Colony, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 21-A dated 05.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

> SHO - P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-22506665, 9813813768

# part of the property by way of sale, exchange, fease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, intheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any tible, documents pertaining the said property sall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or such person shall be considered to have been waived and or the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or Williams (as a way one has any objections in saide after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or Williams (as one anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan, Mr. Sudihr Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9° Floor, GD-ITI. Tower, (8-08), Netaji Subhash Piace, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M) PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

*)	of this public hotice.		
).	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice
	Progen Sas Technologies India Private Limited, sanjay Rawat (Director), Puja Rawat (Director), Sandeep Rawat (Director), Sushil Kaushik (Director), Bhawna Kaushik (Director), Sandeep Rawat, Sanjay Rawat, Sushil Kaushik, Puja rawat, Sanjay Rawat, A/c No:- 777705790029	BQ- 58 Shalimar Bagh, Sarawati Vihar, Delhi- 110088	11/12/2021 Rs. 22,09,705.75/-

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

Date : January 15, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

31/08/

## Rishi Sunak: British PM in waiting?

PTI ■ LONDON

s Boris Johnson's "party-A gate" troubles mount and members of his own Conservative Party demand he step down as the British Prime Minister, one name is doing the rounds as a frontrunner to take charge –his Indian-origin Chancellor DowningStreet neighbour Rishi Sunak. The UK-born son of a pharmacist mother and a National Health Service

(NHS) general practitioner (GP) father is an Oxford University and Stanford graduate. He is married to Akshata Murty, the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, and the couple has two youngdaughters Krishna and Anoushka. The MP for Richmond in Yorkshire first entered the UK Parliament in 2015 and has quickly risen up the Tory party ranks as a staunch Brexiteer, who had backed Johnson's strategy to leave the European Union (EU).

From working in my mum's tiny chemist shop to my experience building large businesses, I have seen how we should support free enterprise and innovation to ensure Britain has a stronger future," Sunak had

said during the Brexit referendum.He co-founded a 1billion-pound global investment firm and specialised in investing in small British businesses before his entry into politics. As the first Chancellor of the Exchequer of Indian heritage, Sunak made history in February 2020 when he was appointed to the most important UK Cabinet post.

If the Tory party murmurings and bookie betting odds are anythingto go by, then the 41-year-old may well be in line to make historyas Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister. "No, definitely not. Seeing what the Prime Minister has to deal with, this is a job hard enough for me to do," Sunak said back in

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender No.: W2 623 16 Br17A-SDAH

21-22, dated 14.01.2022. e-Tender is

invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Eastern

Railway, Kolkata from reputed & eligible

contractors for the under mentioned work

Name of the work: Construction/rebuil-

ng of Bridge No. 17A (Jalangi Bridge (Span 1x18.3m composite girder + 1x45.7m

open web girder +2x76.2m open web girde

+1x30.3m open web girder) on Up line in

between Krishnanagar & Bahadurpur

station of Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of

Sealdah Division. Approximate Cost of

the work: Rs. 55,82,23,782.13. Earnes

Money Deposit: Rs. 29.41.100/-. Date &

Time of closing of tender: 09.02.2022

at 15.00 hrs. The details of tender docu

www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requeste

to submit their offer online on the above

ebsite. No manual offer will be accepted

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : 2 @EasternRailway

Eastern Railway Headquarter

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

NOTICE is hereby given that Sn. Amit Gupta (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortagary/Sorrowers) is intending to purchase the Entire Third Floor (With Roof Rights) "Said Floor" Property Bearing No. 264 area measuring 185 Sq. yds., Block-B, Sitauted in the Layout Plan of the Govt School leachers Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd. Known as Saraswath Vihar, Pitampura Delhi-110034 (Hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mrs. Daya Gupta and Mr. Vital Gupta. Who are the owners of above the said property in the property of the

Jiay Gupta, who are the owners of above the said property by way of Sale Deed dated 19.02.2016 Doc No. 2170 and Sift Deed dated 05.02.2021Doc No. 1750 and Now, Sh.

Amit Guptahas agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and /or objection in respect

of or against or relating to or touching upon said property o part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien

MISC-181/2021-22

nents are available at website https:/

October 2020, when asked if he had prime ministerial ambitions. But a lot has happened since, with Sunak leading the charge for the country's economic fightback against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of the schemes he put in place as finance minister, including the furloughbased Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and COVID support grants for struggling businesses over the course of several lockdowns have proved largely popular.

However, proposed tax hikes coming up from this April and consistentlyrising energy and cost of living costs have proved less popular within the Conservative Party base. The famously low-tax favouring Tories may find his high tax plansto recoup some of the lost economic ground during the pandemic hard to digest when things real-

ly come to a leadership scrum. In fact, there is already talk within the party ranks of him having overplayed his hand by not speaking out more firmly in support of

57-year-old Johnson, following his Parliament apology earlier thisweek over a Downing Street garden party in apparent breach of lockdown rules. Sunak, who was miles away on a business visit, tweeted much later in evening to say that "the PM was right to apologise and I support his request for patience while Sue Gray carries out her enquiry". This was seen as a half-hearted show of support and viewed as reflectiveof his own leadership ambitions.The wealth associated with Sunak and his wife Akshata has also often hit spotlight for wrong reasons, with the Chancellor's 95-pound pair of slippers spotted in official photographs released pre-Budget last October the latest luxury item to hit the headlines. This followed being pictured with a 180- pound so-called "smart mug", which was reportedly a gift from his wife.

### **CHINA EXPANDING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

IANS NEW DELHI

China devoted resources to expanding mass surveil-lance systems nationwide, in the absence of meaningful legal protections against unlawful or abusive government surveil-lance, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its World Report 2022.

Chinese companies with reported links to government continue to draw global scrutiny for their data collection practices, the HRW report said.

March 2021 marked fifth anniversary of landmark Anti-Domestic Violence Law, yet victims continued to face an uphill battle in seeking authorities' protection and accountability for their abusers. In February, an article by former journalist Ma Jinyu on violent abuses she suffered by her husband ignited a heated discussion on social media about government's persistent failure to prosecute domestic vio-

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), announced in 2013, is the government's trillion-dollar infrastructure and investment program stretching across some 70 countries. Some BRI projects have been criticized for lack of transparency, disregard of community concerns, and negative environmental impacts, the HRW said. The HRW published a

report last August that documented economic, social, and cultural rights violations in Cambodia resulting from Lower Sesan 2 dam's displacement of nearly 5,000 people between 2013 and 2018 and impacts on livelihoods of tens of thousands of others upstream and downstream.

The dam was a BRI project funded mainly by a Chinesestate owned bank and built by a Chinese-state owned electricity generation company. China Labour Watch, an NGÓ, reported, in April, that overseas Chinese workers working on BRI infrastructure projects in Algeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, and other countries were victims of human trafficking and forced labour, including being deceived into working illegally, held against their will, and

forced to work while infected with Covid-19 in early and mid-2020. China is by far largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally, making a major contribution to climate crisis that is taking a mounting toll

on human rights around globe. China's imports of agricultural commodities drive more deforestation globally than those of any other market, including imports of all 27 member states of European Union (EU) combined.

Canada, the EU, the UK, and US imposed coordinated and bilateral targeted sanctions on Chinese government officials and companies responsible for serious human rights violations, including international crimes, in

The US also imposed sanctions on several senior Hong Kong officials for imposing the National Security Law. In August, the US gave Hong Kong people in US a temporary 18-month "safe haven." In September, UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet expressed "regret" that authorities had not given her meaningful access to Xinjiang, and said that her office would issue an assessment of human rights in that region Parliamentarians in

Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and UK passed resolutions accusing Chinese government of committing genocide against Uyghurs; some also called on their governments to limit participation in 2022 Beijing Winter

The UK Parliament passed a non-binding motion supporting a diplomatic boycott of Games. Members of European Parliament halted EU's proposed Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China, citing human rights concerns, and freezing consideration of deal for as long as they are subject to Beijing's counter sanctions. In September, they also adopted a recommendation for a new, more assertive, and better coordinated EU strategy on China, placing human rights at

### Meta faces \$3 b Capitol Hill lawsuit in UK over exploiting users' data

IANS LONDON

Meta (formerly Facebook) is facing a \$3.1 billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a \$68 payout each. Competition law expert

Dr Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail reported on Thursday. The lawsuit claims that

Facebook should pay its 44 million UK users compensation for the exploitation of their data between 2015 and 2019. "It is claimed this allowed

the firm to generate billions in revenues from their data, while users received no monetary returns, which the claim labels an 'unfair deal', said the report. The lawsuit alleged that

Facebook made billions by "imposing unfair terms and conditions that demanded consumers surrender valuable personal data to access the net-"In the 17 years since it was

sole social network in the UK where you could be sure to connect with friends and family in one place," Gormsen said in a statement. 'Yet, there was a dark side

created, Facebook became the

to Facebook; it abused its market dominance to impose unfair terms and conditions on ordinary Britons giving it the power to exploit their personal data. I'm launching this case to

secure billions of pounds of damages for the 44 million Britons who had their data exploited by Facebook," she elaborated. Dr Gormsen is a Senior Research Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) and the director of the Competition Law Forum.

## attack: House panel raps Meta, YouTube, Twitter

IANS WASHINGTON

Disappointed after months of engagement, a US House panel has slammed YouTube parent company Alphabet, Meta (formerly Facebook), online discussion forum Reddit and Twitter for failing to provide additional information on how those platforms were used to organise violent events at the US Capitol on January 6 last year.

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced that the Select Committee has issued subpoenas to four social media companies as part of its investigation into the January 6 attack on the US Capitol and its causes. After inadequate respons-

es to prior requests for information, the Select Committee is demanding records from Alphabet, Meta, Reddit, and Twitter relating to the spread of misinformation, efforts to overturn the 2020 election, domestic violent extremism, and foreign influence in the 2020 election.

"Two key questions for the Select Committee are how the spread of misinformation and violent extremism contributed to the violent attack on our democracy, and what steps "if any" social media companies took to prevent their platforms from being breeding grounds for radicalising people to vio-lence," said Chairman Thompson.

It's disappointing that after months of engagement, 'we still do not have documents and information necessary to answer those basic questions". Alphabet's YouTube was a platform for significant communications by its users that were relevant to planning and execution of January 6 attack on US Capitol, including livestreams of attack as it was taking place, according to panel.

## N Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles: Seoul

IANS SEOUL

North Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles eastward on Friday, after Pyongyang publicly warned earlier in the day of a "stronger and cértain" response to the new US sanctions, South Korea's military

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the short-range projectiles were launched from Uiju in North Pyongan Province, a northwestern region bordering China, and that they flew around 430 km at an altitude of 36 km, reports Yonhap News Agency.

It detected one of the

missiles at 2.41 p.m and the other at 2.52 p.m. The missiles flew at top speed of around Mach 6, six times the speed of sound, according to

The intelligence authorities of South Korea and the US are conducting a detailed analysis for more information, the JCS said. The North's latest firing

marks its third show of force this year. The North fired what it claimed to be hypersonic missiles on January 5 and Tuesday. South Korea's military is

monitoring related North Korean movements and maintaining a firm readiness posture, the JCS said. Earlier in the day,

Pyongyang issued the warning after Washington slapped the sanctions on six North Koreans involved in the regime's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the US Indo-Pacific Command said that it is aware of the missile launches, but assessed they do "not pose an immediate threat to American personnel or territory or to our allies".

## **WPI** inflation eases to 13.56% in Dec

## RBI may hold rates steady in Feb

based inflation bucked the 4month rising trend in December 2021, and eased to 13.56 per cent, even though food prices hardened, and experts believe the RBI is expected to hold rates steady in its monetary policy next month.

WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the ninth consecutive month beginning April. Inflation in November was 14.23 per cent, while in December 2020 it was 1.95 per

Inflation in food articles, however, spiked to a 23-month high at 9.56 per cent in December, against 4.88 per cent in November. Vegetable price rise rate jumped to 31.56 per cent, against 3.91 per cent in the previous month.

paddy all witnessed a month-onmonth price rise, while potato, onion, fruits and egg, meat and fish saw some softening.

"The high rate of inflation in December 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products, food products, textile and paper and paper products etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in manufactured items was lower at 10.62 per cent in December, against 11.92 per cent in the previous month. In fuel and power basket the rate of price rise was 32.30 per cent in December, against 39.81 per cent in November.

Data released earlier this

based on Consumer Price Index (Combined) rose to 5.59 per cent in December, from 4.91 per cent a month ago as food prices inched up.

Chief Economist Aditi Nayar, said the food inflation has spiked from the marginal 0.1 per cent in October 2021, to an unpleasant 23-month high of 9.6 per cent in December 2021, reflecting the unfavourable base particularly for vegetables.

"Notwithstanding the continued double-digit WPI inflation in December 2021, we expect the MPC to pause in February 2022. The duration of the current wave and the severity of restrictions will determine whether policy normalisation (change in stance to neutral along with hike in reverse repo rate) can commence in April 2022, or be delayed further to

### WEF to hold Davos Agenda summit online; Modi's address on Jan 17

New Delhi/Geneva: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the online Davos Agenda summit of the World Economic Forum on the first day of the five-day event beginning January 17, joining a host of other global leaders who will share their visions for 2022 on the state of the world.

While the WEF had to defer its physical annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort town Davos due to the coronavirus pandemic, it will host the 'Davos Agenda' summit digitally for the second consecutive year in the previously scheduled week for the event. It hopes to convene the 2022 annual meeting later this year.

Announcing the schedule,

the WEF said 'Davos Agenda 2022' will be the first global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022 and it is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the

Heads of State and Government will join CEOs and other leaders for a virtual week-long dialogue on critical collective challenges and how to address them, while this dialogue will be a springboard to the Annual Meeting in Davos, scheduled for early summer.

### Bank credit grows 9.16%, deposits up 10.28%

Mumbai: Bank credit grew 9.16 per cent to ₹116.83 lakh crore and deposits rose 10.28 per cent to ₹162.41 lakh crore for the fortnight ended December 31, 2021, RBI data

For the fortnight ended January 1, 2021, bank credit stood at ₹ 107.02 lakh crore and deposits at ₹ 147.26 lakh crore, according to RBI's Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as on December 31, 2021, released on

In the previous fortnight ended December 17, 2021, bank advances had risen by 7.27 per cent and deposits went up by 9.58 per cent. In FY21, bank credit had risen by 5.56 per cent and deposits by

## Rupee slumps 25 paise to 74.15 per US dollar

winning run, the rupee on Friday slumped 25 paise to close at 74.15 against the US dollar, in line with other emerging market currencies as hawkish comments by Federal Reserve officials weighed on sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency witnessed an intraday high of 74.05 and a low of 74.21 against the US dollar. It finally settled at 74.15, down 25 paise over its previous close of 73.90. US Fed policymakers signalled they will start to raise interest rates in March to combat sky-high inflation.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent down at 94.78.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.01 per cent to USD 85.32 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 12.27 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 61,223.03, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 2.05 points or 0.01 per cent to

investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹ 1,390.85 crore,

as per exchange data. According to Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the domestic currency traded weak near 74.15 on the back of long

position unwinding in rupee. Rupee can be seen in the range of 74.00 to 74.50, he added. "The Indian Rupee depreciated on Friday as foreign banks continued to cover their dollar short positions," said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance

On a weekly basis, the rupee appreciated 19 paise against the dollar. rupee appreciated for the fourth straight week against the US currency, tracking gains in most regional currencies amid a persistent drop in the dollar

"The Rupee was also helped by corporate dollar sales, trade-related selling, fund flows and rumours of intervention from the Reserve Bank of India," Iyer said.

#### In the food articles category, pulses, wheat, cereals and week showed, retail inflation No impact of Covid Exports rose 39%

PNS NEW DELHI

on rabi crop sowing

The Ministry of Agriculture on Friday showed a total area sown under Rabi crops is 664.59 lakh hectare so far as against 656.44 lakh hectare area last year, an increase in total Rabi area coverage by 8.15 lakh hectare, which is clear a indication that there was no impact of the third wave of Covid-19. Though rainfall has affected some Rabi crops in Madhya Pradesh (48871 hectare), Rajasthan (69375 hectare), Úttar Pradesh (111700 hectare), Haryana (97676 hectare), Maharashtra (5276 hectare) and Tripura (13542 hectare).

"There has been no impact of the pandemic on farm operations and total acreages are expected to exceed last year's levels if current sowing trends holds," said officials. In 2020-21, when India faced a rare recession due to the pandemic, agriculture was the only sector to post positive growth of about 3.1%.

This helped keep farm incomes steady. Higher fertiliser subsidies, raised by ?14,000 crore during the summer-sown season, kept farm

The data showed wheat sown at 336.48 lakh hectare against 340.74 lakh hectare area of last year, a decrease in

area coverage by 4.26 lakh hectare as farmers shifted to oilseeds, mustard and rapeseed crops keeping in view of higher minimum support price.

According to officials, decline in wheat sowing is a matter of concern as the government has expected good wheat crops keeping in mind of normal to above normal rain-

Rice reported to be sown at 19.82 lakh hectare area against 24.33 lakh hectare of last year, which is decreased by 4.50 lakh hectare. The area coverage under Pulses reported to be at 160.20 lakh hectare against 160.13 lakh hectare last year, an increase by 0.07 lakh hectare.

Area coverage reported under Coarse Cereals is 47.82 lakh hectare against 48.91 lakh hectare last year which is marginally decreased in area coverage by 1.09 lakh ha in the

Area coverage reported under Oilseeds 100.27 lakh hectare area against 82.34 lakh hectare area of last year, thus significantly increase in area coverage by 17.93 lakh ha. In Oilseeds mainly significant increased area coverage has been recorded under Rapeseed compared to corresponding period of last year 72.93 lakh hectare, thus area coverage

## to \$37.81 bn in Dec: Govt data

New Delhi: The country's exports in December 2021 surged 38.91 per cent on an annual basis to USD 37.81 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure, due to healthy performance by sectors such as engineering, textiles and chemicals, even as the trade deficit widened to USD 21.68 billion during the month, government data showed on Friday.

Imports in December 2021 also increased 38.55 per cent to USD 59.48 billion, on account of an increase in petroleum and crude oil imports, which soared 67.89 per cent to USD 16.16 billion.

Gold imports expanded by 5.43 per cent to USD 4.72 billion. During April-December 2021-22, exports rose 49.66 per cent to USD 301.38 billion. Imports during the period surged 68.91 per cent to USD 443.82 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 142.44 billion, the data showed. The trade deficit in December 2020 was USD 15.72 billion. Merchandise exports in December 2021 were USD 37.81 billion, as compared to USD 27.22 billion in December 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 38.91 per cent. As compared to De exports in December 2021 exhibited a positive growth of 39.47 per cent," the commerce increased by 17.52 lakh hectare. | ministry said in a statement.

## Benchmarks snap 5-session rally as bulls take a breather

Mumbai: The Sensex and Nifty broke their five-day rising streak to close with slim losses on Friday, weighed by negative global cues and foreign fund outflows.

In a largely subdued session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 12.27 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 61,223.03. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 2.05 points or 0.01 per cent to 18,255.75.

Asian Paints was the top loser on the Sensex chart, shedding 2.66 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, HUL, M&M, Wipro, HDFC and Bharti On the other hand, TCS, Infosys, L&T, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the prominent gainers, climbing up to 1.84 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 18 declines and

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Savita Devi who is purchasing the Plot of

land admeasuring 75 Sq. Yds., carved out of Khasra No.1106min, situated in the

revenue estate of Village Baraula, Paragna

Budh Nagar (U.P.) from Mr. Sanjeev Sharma owner vide of General Power of

Attorney dated 14.02.2003 executed by Mr

Navneet Sharma, and same to be financed &

mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance

type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said

property, may inform in writing, at the address

nentioned below about his objections, within

presumed that the said property is free from

Office No.G-03, at Ground Floor, on Plot No.D-61, Sector-2, Noida, UP-201301

LOST AND FOUND

I Surinder Kawatra, S/o Late Shri Ram Lal

Kawatra R/c 1. North Avenue Road, West

Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, have lost/nor

traceable my Original Power Of Attorney in

name of Sh Anil Kumar Sud, S/o Shri Har

Dass Sud Executed by Sh Tej Bahadur Lal.

S/o Late Sh Ishar Dass Manger No.3 Pit

Chinakuri Colliery, P.O. Sunderchak, P.S

Kutli, Distt: Burdwan, Dated:13.05.1964

attested by the Sub Registrar Asansol or

13.05.1964. If Found Please Call at Above

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the Residential Plot No. 188, Block-D, Sector-51, NOIDA has been allotted/

transfered in the name of Mrs. Zulekha W/o Mr.

Islam R/o 67/19, Pokharpurva, Jajmau Siwans,

Tenray, Kanpur Nagar, U.P. and Mrs. Zulekha W/o

Noida in favour of Mohammad Mustafa S/o

Mohammad Islam R/o G01, Ground Floor, Tower-E, Amrapali Sapphire, Sector-45, Noida,

District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., and Mrs.

Zulekha W/o Mr. Islam has expired on 14.04.2021,

so with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above said plot goes in favour of

Mohd. Mustafa S/o Mr. Islam. If anyone has/have any objection he/she/they may submit his/her/their

objection in the residential plot department of

Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

number. 8459414760

Lucem Legal LLP

all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

12 advances. Indian market opened on a weak note following nervous-ness in global markets, however, it managed to erase most of its losses to close flat, supported by positive trends in IT, realty and healthcare sectors.

"Fed official's latest comment on a likely rate hike during March triggered selling in global equities. Globally, inflation worries worsened after the US reported a 40 year high CPI inflation reading while a slower rise in producer prices provided some relief," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex surged 1,478.38 points, or 2.47 per cent, while the Nifty gained 443.05 points or 2.48 per cent. S Hariharan, Head-Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services, said, "Strong

क्र 287 / व.ले.लि / जि.ज.स्व.मि. / का.अ. / 2021 / महासमुन्द

guidance from many members of US FOMC about hiking interest rates in CY22, alongside continuing high inflation prints globally, make for an adverse flow environment for equities in general."

"The reaction to strong results from frontline IT names appears to point to heavy prepositioning in the market, and might be a recurring theme for the ongoing results season -- in that good results are priced in and fresh catalysts may be needed to push the ongoing rally further," he noted.

Sector-wise, BSE telecom, FMCG, healthcare, auto and bankex shed as much as 1.20 per cent, while capital goods, realty, industrials and IT posted gains. In the broader markets, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices spurted up to

दिनांक 14/1/2

अनुमानित

लागत

(रू. लाख में )

49.21

48.66

43.22

47.94

46.53

48.89

68.49

53.22

76.68

55.70

81.84

79.30

69.40

93.50

64.67

93.83

61.34

85.93

217.17

कार्यपालन अभियंत

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासम्न

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

E-mail id :- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone :- 07723-223731

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

रुकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत समक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित

कार्य का नाम :– महासमुन्द जिले के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अन्तर्गत

निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

सिंगल विलेज / रेट्टोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनाओं के समस्त कार्य ।

538 / 14-01-2022 | 90624 | ग्राम इमरडीह विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

540 / 14-01-2022 | 90600 | ग्राम कोटनपाली विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

542 / 14—01—2022 | 90602 | ग्राम कोटरीपानी विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

543 / 14—01—2022 | 90604 | ग्राम लामीसरार विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

545 / 14–01–2022 | 90606 | ग्राम सोनामृण्डी विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

546 / 14-01-2022 | 90607 | ग्राम करमापटपर विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

547 / 14-01-2022 | 90608 | ग्राम लोहराकोट विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

548 / 14—01—2022 | 90609 | ग्राम डोंगाझर विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

549 / 14-01-2022 | 90610 | ग्राम कोदोपाली विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

550/14-01-2022 | 90611 | ग्राम भरूवामुडा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

551/14-01-2022 90612 ग्राम सुईनारा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

553 / 14—01—2022 | 90614 | ग्राम खेडीगांव विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

554 / 14—01—2022 | 90615 | ग्राम बडेटेमरी विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

555 / 14–01–2022 | 90616 | ग्राम लिमदरहा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

556 / 14—01—2022 | 90619 | ग्राम रामपुर विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

557 / 14—01—2022 | 90620 | ग्राम बरतुंगा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

559 / 14—01—2022 | 90622 | ग्राम बम्हनी विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

558/14-01-2022 | 90621 | ग्राम देवलगढ़ विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

560 / 14--01-2022 | 90623 | ग्राम लोहारडीह विकासखण्ड महासमन्द

https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

2. उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा

विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई—प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल

निविदा डाउनलोंड करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.02.2022 सायं 5.30 बजे तक तथा

552/14-01-2022 | 90613 | ग्राम धनोरा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

544/14-01-2022 | 90605 | ग्राम रोडा विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

539 / 14-01-2022 90599 गाम बटोर विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

### Gold gains ₹93; silver up ₹59 on global trends

New Delhi: Gold price in the national Capital on Friday gained ₹ 93 to ₹47,005 per 10 grams, in line with a jump in prices of international precious metal along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹46,912 per 10 grams. Silver also jumped ₹ 59 to ₹61,005 per kg from ₹ The Indian rupee 60,946 per kg in the previous trade. declined by 26 paise to close at 74.16 against the US dollar on Friday. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,826 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.19 per ounce.

'Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.21 per cent up at USD 1,826 per ounce on Friday," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. PTI

# Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.JAIPUR.

नवीन ओखला औधोगिक विकास प्राधिकरण मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-06, नोएडा -: सार्वजनिक सूचना:-

सूचित किया जाता है कि मे॰एसोटेक रियल्टी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा संस्थागत भवन भुखंड संख्या 22, सेक्टर 135, नोएडा में कुल 7 टॉवर एवं रिटेल ब्लॉक-ए प्राधिकरण से दिनांक 29.10.2015 & दिनांक 29.11.2018 को स्वीकृत कराये गये थे, जिनमे से आवंटी संस्था द्वारा टॉवर 1, 2, 3 एवं ब्लॉक-ए का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 06.07.2016, टॉवर 7 का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 27.12.2016 तथा टॉवर 4 एवं 5 का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 15.03.2021 तक प्राप्त किया जा चुका है। वर्तमान में आवंटी संस्था द्वारा 1 टॉवर (टॉवर 6) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र हेतु प्राधिकरण में आवेदन किया गया है। आवेदित मानचित्रो को प्राधिकारण की वेबसाइट www.noidaauthorityonline.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

आवंटी संस्था द्वारा जमा कराये गए अधिभोग मानचित्रो के सम्बन्ध में परियोजना के निवासियो / फ्लैट क्रेताओं से आपत्ति / सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि किसी व्यक्ति को प्राधिकरण में जमा कराये गए उक्त अधिभोग मानचित्रों के सम्बन्ध में कोई आपत्ति / सुझाव हो, तो विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर लिखित रूप में "महाप्रबंधक (नियोजन), मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-06, नोएडा" के कार्यालय में उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं अथवा इ-मेल के माध्यम से captpnoida@gmail.com पर प्रेसित कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित समयाविध के उपरांत प्राप्त आपत्ति / सुझावो पर विचार नहीं किया

अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

#### Govt. of Bihar

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara SBD BASED DETAILED NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Through E-procurement mode Only Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser 2. Date of issue of Notice inviting Tender 3. Period for download of Tender Document

4. Time Date & Place of Pre Bid Meeting

5. Last Date & Time for uploading tender

documents by bidder 6. Last Date. Time & Place for submission

of original instrument of EMD and cost of BOQ + processing fees.

7. Date & Time & Place of opening of

: Date 12.01.2022

: 27.01.2022 to 15.00 PM. Chief Engineer, South RCD, CDO Building, Bishweshwaria Bhawan Bailey Road, Patna

Date 02.02.2022 till time 15.00 P.M.

above serial-5 Place of office of the

(i) Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara.

(i) Superintending Engineer, Bhojpur Road Circle, Ara

date of uploading of tender document by the bidders as stated in

8. Details of works

Technical Bid

Bid Time of Earnest Cost of processing B.O.Q. B.O.Q. fee (non of work Amount work (in Lakh) (in Rs.) refundable! (in Lakh) in month (in Rs.) 8 Widening & Strengthening work from km 0.00 to 16.00 of Ara-10000.00 SBD 4410.74 54.11 5900.00 18 months Salempur Road for the year 2021-22 (RIDF XXVII, NABARD)

10. Any Contractor registered with the Central Government / any State Government or any PSU or an agency of international or national repute may participate in the tender, but registration with the Road Construction Department, Bihar will be essential after issue of L.O.A. and before executing the agreement.

11. Detailed NIT can be seen on web site state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar or https:// www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in or on the notice board of the office of the undersigned. For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT NIT No. RCD/Ara-11/2021-22

: Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara

: From 25.01.2022 to 01.02.2022 up to 15.00 P.M. (From Website: https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in )

: Date-03.02.2022, Time-15.00P.M. or next working day of last date of uploading of tender document by the bidders as stated in

(ii) Chief Engineer, South RCD, CDO Building, Bishweshwaria

Date-04.02.2022, Time-15.30 P.M. or next working day of last above serial-5. Place- on website- https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Bid Validity: 120 Days.

**Executive Engineer** 

Shahabad Road Division, Ara

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

नेविदा खुलने का दिनांक 09.02.2022।

R.o. No - 66885/8

R.o. Date - 14/01/2022

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 genera 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

Sr. No.	Lass Assessed Normalisas	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1.	Steni C Jacob/ Jeanne Poulose/ LBDEL00001932116	Apartment No E1601, Plot No- GH-12/2, Sec- Zeta-I, 16th Floor Avj Heights, Greater Noida Noida/ January 10, 2022	September 27,2021 Rs. 27,66,338/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Himanshu Agarwal/ Babita Agarwal/ LBNOD00001576633	Plot No 33/8-013 B- 13, Sector- 33, Noida/ January 10, 2022	October 05, 2021 Rs. 14,90,809/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Satish Kumar/ Rita Singh/ LBNOD00002385225	Flat No 508, 5th Floor Tower A10 Habitech Panchtatva Plot No Gh 08a Tech Zone IV Noida/ January 10, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs. 37,13,215/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Manisha Khanna/ Ankur Khanna/ Door Devices India Pvt Ltd/ Neeraj Khanna/ LBNOD00003048485	Unit No H-301, Block H, Stellar Park Plot No 58/24 Sec- 62 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar/ January 10, 2022	September 28,2021 Rs. 62,87,501/-	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 15, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR

**Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**  APPENDIX IV A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties -Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] "Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is" "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 17.02.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 inutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 25,02,942/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two only) Pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLLAJ00487623 (Earlier being Loan Account No. 00044652 of DHFL). by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and terest till 11.01.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.01.2022 along with egal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ARPIT KISHORE and SHIVANI KISHORE.

Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will and the Earnest Money Rs. 16,00,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh only) Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1.60,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Thousand only) .e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 32180585427 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

PROPERTY BEARING NO. RZF -988/16 (STILT + UG+3 STOREY) LAND MEASURING AREA 250 SQ. YDS. I.E. 209.03 SQ. METERS KHASRA NO. 59/17/1 SITUATED AT REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE PALAM COLONY AS RAJ NAGAR-II PALAM COLONY NEW DELHI -110077 AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)

EAST :OTHER PROPERTY WEST :OTHER PROPERTY :ROAD 18 FEET NORTH :ROAD 20 FEET

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshome ww.auctionfocus.in **Authorized Officer** 

Date: 11.01.2022 Place: NEW DELHI

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Bollywood It's amazing to see Atul Sabharwal's conviction towards his writing and direction"



**PRIYANKA CHOPRA** In hindsight, the part (Mary Kom) should have probably gone to someone from the Northeast. But I was just greedy as an actor to get a chance to tell her story because as a woman she inspired me so



#### **BHUMI PEDNEKAR**

2021 was definitely a challenging year for me. I again got an opportunity to play an array of characters that are so different from me and each other. But what made this year extremely special was that I got a chance to work with some of my most favourite film makers from my bucket list.

#### **SHORTCIRCUITS**



**AMRITA TANGANIYA** 

In Dreamy Singh I will be portraying Mrudula. a nomad. It is something very creative and interesting role I'm enjoying acting for. My audience will get to see me in a completely new role. We are currently shooting in Haridwar for the same.

#### **ANDREW GARFIELD**

I remember I was so desperate. I auditioned for Prince Caspian in 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and I thought, 'This could be it, this could be it.' And that handsome, brilliant actor Ben Barnes ended up getting the role. I think it was down to me and him, and I

#### **GEENA DAVIS**

Women peak in their 20s and 30s, and men peak in their 40s and 50s as far as actors go. So the male stars of the movies want to appear to be younger than they are, or they want to appeal to younger people, so they always want a co-star who is really young. That is why that happens and that is why women don't get cast very much after 40 and 50. It is because they are felt to be too old to be a romantic interest.



## ONE STEP AT A TIME

Actor WAMIQA GABBI has been seen in a variety of projects in several languages and, with 83, she has made a mark, says HARLEEN KAUR

n excited teenager who played third or even fourth fiddle to Kareena Kapoor's Geet in *Jab* We Met, Wamiqa Gabbi has slowly but steadily started charting her course in celebdom. Appearances in Punjabi films followed and she got recognition for Tu Mera 22 Main Tera 22, Ishq Brandy, Nikka Zaildar, Parahuna, Dil Diyan Gaalan and Grahan, the web series on 1984 riots. The actress has appeared in many notable Bollywood movies and many other regional films too.

Recently, Gabbi played cricketer, Madan Lal's, wife in the film, 83. She shares, "I'm grateful to get the chance to be a part of this movie. You know when the film is made on such a historical moment, it's a different kind of happiness. So... when Chhabra Ji's (Mukesh Chhabra)office called, nothing came to my mind regarding how that part is and what it is... I just wanted to be part of this film and I'm so glad that people loved the film,"

she giggled.

Talking about the reason she took up the role, she shares, "A film on the 1983 World Cup was a good enough reason for me to be its part. And then, Kabir Khan was directing it! I knew that I wanted to work with him and I was excited to be part of a project like this. Deepika Padukone, who was the producer, played Romi Dev while I was Anu Lal. The two were like best friends and there were several scenes with her. When all this became clear, I was like, I'm quick-

ly doing this."

Gabbi has primarily worked in Punjabi cinema and has done films in other languages too. She says, "I have worked in Punjabi films. And Telugu, Tamil as well as two Malayalam films. So there were no challenges. When you are working with good people, everything works working with difficult people and when you feel that it's getting too difficult. But this was very pleasant, you know, the atmosphere was such that it was good working in this. So, I'm really happy that I was part of 83."

Further, while talking about *Grahan*, where Gabbi played the role



of Manu, she elaborates, "Grahan was.... the first show, the first promeeting, director Ranjan Chandel read paragraphs from the book Chaurasi/84 which touched my heart. He read out Manu and Rishi's love story which gave me goosebumps. While listening, Manu started seeming to be very beautiful and I got so excited that I would get to

'A FILM ON THE 1983 WORLD CUP WAS A GOOD ENOUGH REASON FOR ME TO BE ITS PART. AND THEN, KABIR KHAN WAS DIRECTING IT! I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO WORK WITH HIM. DEEPIKA PADUKONE PLAYED ROMI DEV WHILE I WAS ANU LAL'

play this character. And Ranjan, Anshuman... all of us started preparing for our characters and Ranjan sir helped all of us in getting in the skin and bringing out the minute details." *Galwakdi*, another Punjabi film

released last month. She said, "We shot in London for a month and it was quite a ride. My co-star, Tarsem (Jassar) ji, is a very calm and patient person, I enjoyed working with him." On the challenges that she faced in the film, she expressed, "An accident takes place. I had never accident takes place... I had never done that before so that seemed very difficult to me... but I'm glad that it

looks good on screen."
About *Galwakdi*, to her fans, Gabbi says, "The film is not just a love story or it's not just about two people falling in love. It talks about life, its way and balance."

In addition, while talking about choosing roles, she says, "Anything that touches my heart. Anything that I feel, that I should be part of ... 'Yeh mere begair nahi banna chahiye, to uss cheez ko mai haan kar deti hun (Wherever I feel that this should not be made without me, I says, yes)."

Her favourite actor is Irrfan Khan. "Unfortunately I'll never be able to work with him, that was one dream. I'll always remember him, he'll always inspire me as an actor. The kind of rawness that he brought to his character, vo bohot kam dekhne ko milti hai (It is not seen often)... that rawness, simplicity and the small things that he brought. I would love to work with Ranbir Kapoor. He is one of the finest actors, we have in our industry. I'm always excited to see what he has to offer, the kind of films he is doing the characters that films he is doing, the characters that he is playing and what he is doing in those characters, so maybe in future... in the next five-six years... will get a chance to work with him."

and forthcoming projects, she says, 'Mai is also there of Clean Slate Filmz. It's for Netflix and also stars Sakshi Tanwar. Then Khufiya with Vishal (Bhardwaj) sir and Tabu. Working with Vishal sir, one of the best directors, along with Tabu is like a dream come true."

their devices at home. Both mediums will

He adds, "Being a massive film buff myself and having seen pretty much all aspects of filmmaking, I can say for sure that nothing can replace the immersive cinema experience and the joy & thrill that it brings along with it So yes movies

that it brings along with it. So yes, movies

get made – while some will be designed espe-

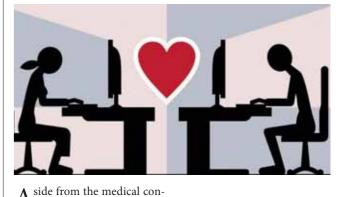
cially for home

happily co-exist and thrive."



## Online dating, a new norm

With the pandemic becoming almost a part of our regular lives, will people make a permanent shift to the virtual space?



A side from the meaning prethere was also an overwhelming sense of loneliness and fear that contributed to mental health problems. Humans are social beings, so it's only natural that they want to connect with others and develop meaningful bonds. In fact, in the 21-30 age range, 90 per cent of men and 78 per cent of women showed a strong desire to venture out during these difficult times.

Eagerness to get out and

meet new people Two out of every three males in the 18-21 age group believe that they are obligated to go out and meet intriguing people; they believe that they no longer have a choice. Instead, it's an absolute

must to keep them sane. According to QuackQuack CEO Ravi Mittal, the epidemic has produced a global feeling of agonising isolation triggered by stay-at-home standards. 'The yearning among people, particularly young people, to return to regular conduct is stronger than ever. They've been glued to their screens for the past 18 months and can't take it any longer.'

The sweet spot between

video calls and restaurant dates. While the epidemic has caused certain mental problems, it can never be regarded casually. It is necessary to maintain vigilance since lives are at stake. A decent strategy would be to keep the interactions online for as long as feasible and then organise for 'meets-in-person' when the pain of nostalgia becomes too much to bear. Men and women can communicate via phone conversations, chats, and video calls while also planning meet-ups at a favourite

hangout.
At least 52 per cent of men aged 21 to 30 and 45 per cent of men aged 31 and up are willing to leave their homes on occasion for brunch or dinner dates. The fact that this population has already been vaccinated is one clear reason. According to App, 75 per cent of males in the 18-20 age bracket are willing to go out with their dates while adher-

STRATEGY WOULD BE TO KEEP THE **INTERACTIONS** ONLINE FOR AS LONG AS FEASIBLE AND THEN GO TO **MEET-IN-PERSON** 

A DECENT

A combination of online and physical dates, according to 44 per cent of women, is the great-est option for pursuing a roman-tic relationship.

Challenges that stem from dating the 'hybrid' way
In this time of uncertainty and disease, about 55 per cent of women between the ages of 21 and 30 are nervous about going out on a date. They do agree, however, that if they are too lonely or miserable to stay at home for too long, they may reconsider their decision not to go on an offline date. Moving out of your gates and attempting to enjoy a few moments with the one you love is both exciting and terrifying. Hybrid dating may not be the greatest option for lovers who are so enamoured with each other that they don't want to be apart for even a second. It is still the most ractical approach that is precisely aligned with the current circumstances.

It has the support of a large number of people of various ages, and as the trend gains traction, it is safe to assume that hybrid dating is not risky - 83 per cent of males in the 30+ age group agree. People are catching on to this new trend: in the last three months, the number of women who agree with the concept of hybrid dating has increased by 50 per cent. After all, mental health is at the top of the list of the install. the list of things that might assist you in living a happy life. There are no questions to be asked if anything assists you in achieving that goal. Everything is fair and just when it comes to finding ways to spend time with the people you



## A GOOD PERSON

Squid Game creator HWANG DONG-HYUK says he still believes in humanity

Squid Game creator Hwang Dong-hyuk has said he still believes in a humanity that moves people to put confidence to help each other even under the life-and-death pressure of social sur-

vival games.

"We are living in a society where people dare to tread on other people to survive," he said in a pre-taped interview by the Seoul-based Corea Image based Corea Image Communication Institute. "But I still believe that this society does-

n't have to be one where we need

to kill others and override them to

He cited a quote by Sae-byeok (the character played by Jung Hoyeon) in the eighth episode: "Don't do it. That isn't you. You're a good person at heart." The words interrupt Gi-hun (Lee Jung-jae), who tries to stab his old friend and final competitor Sang-woo while he is sleeping, ahead of the final round of the deadly contest of heavily debt-ridden people to win the equivalent of \$38.2 million in

prize money.

The simplicity of the children's games and satire of modern capitalist society in Squid Game won enthusiastic response across the

world, becoming the most successful Netflix show in history. It was viewed for more than 1.65 billion hours in the first four weeks after its release on September 17 last

Hwang, who wrote and directed the nine-part dystopian series, said that the world has changed to a large extent since he first conceived the idea of making Squid Game about 10 years ago. A draft of Squid Game had been shelved for about a decade, as local investors and producers turned down Hwang's project.

## Coexistence shows the way

#### JACKKY BHAGNANI says theatres are here to stay despite rise of OTT during pandemic

Actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani asserts that the medium of cinema is here to stay. Taking a cue from history, he opines that it takes at least two to four years for things to get back to normal after a pandemic strikes.

Of course, a pandemic expedites and triggers evolution but it doesn't necessarily mean that theatres will shut down

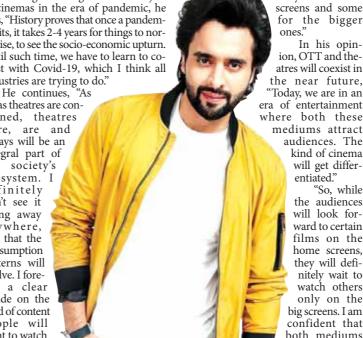
Sharing his thoughts on the subject of cinemas in the era of pandemic, he says, "History proves that once a pandemic hits, it takes 2-4 years for things to normalise, to see the socio-economic upturn. Until such time, we have to learn to co-exist with Covid-19, which I think all industries are trying to do."

far as theatres are concerned, theatres were, are and always will be an integral part of the society's ecosystem. I definitely don't see it going away anywhere. just that the consumption patterns will evolve. I foresee a clear divide on the kind of content people will want to watch on the big

screens vs what

they will like to

consume on



kind of cinema will get differentiated." "So, while the audiences will look forward to certain films on the home screens. they will definitely wait to watch others only on the big screens. I am confident that both mediums will run parallel and successfully" he concluded.

ing to all pandemic restrictions.

## SOUTH AFRICA WRAP UP SERIES WITH SEVEN-WICKET WIN

South African team going through one of its toughest transition phases embarrassed a star-studded Indian team with a clinical seven-wicket victory in the third Test to clinch a memorable 2-1 series triumph here on Friday.

The target of 212 wasn't a tough ask and starting the day at 101 for two, young pretender Keegan Petersen (82, 113 balls) along with Rassie van Der Dussen (41 not out) added 54 runs for the third wicket to seal the match before Temba Bavuma (32 not out) helped in

putting the final touches.

Petersen walked away with both the player of the match as well as player of the series honours.

Sunil Gavaskar termed it as a "Nightmare for India" as they were not even close to competing in the last two Tests and Dean Elgar's ear to ear grin and the bear hugs that he shared with his teammates said it all.

It was especially sweet for the hosts who lost premier pacer Anrich Nortje to injury before the series and were then hit by Quinton de Kock's sudden mid-series retirement.

The Indian team, meanwhile, lost it in their mind after the contentious DRS review of Elgar that went wrong on Thursday and their focus on using stump microphone more to take digs at broadcaster Supersport instead of focussing on getting Petersen out spelt their doom.

everyone to watch; hard-fought series. Great first game but SA did amazingly well. In both Tests they won, they were clinical with the ball in crunch moments," India skipper Virat Kohli admitted after the game.

With this series defeat, India's record of never having won a Test series in the Rainbow Nation for three decades, remained intact.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the only India captain to have managed a drawn series back in 2010.

It was one of the strongest

Indian teams on paper against one of the weakest South African teams However, the operative word

here was "on paper" as Elgar's unheralded bunch showed a lot of character in punching above their weight and also getting heavily rewarded for their relentless efforts.

"The way our bowling unit delivered throughout the series is

I threw down the challenge after the first game and the guys responded brilliantly," said an elated Elgar.

The mindless chatter and incessant sledging didn't bother the likes of Petersen and Van der Dussen as they went about their job in a thoroughly professional manner.

India's batters were far too dependant on bowlers to bail them out for the past few years but this series showed that this attack is human too even though they put their best foot forward, which was-



n't complemented at all by the willow wielders.

The only hope for India was the first spell from Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami in sultry conditions with the semi-new ball and they did their bit with all sincerity.

Petersen was beaten time and again but, in between, scored his

runs to keep the scoreboard ticking. Their strategy was to see off the first spell and capitalise when Umesh Yadav, who is known to bowl

Bumrah, in his second spell, did get one to straighten but Cheteshwar Pujara, enduring a poor series with

boundary balls, was brought into the

the bat, dropped a crucial regulation slip catch with the batter on 59.

If one remembers, it was Ross Taylor, who had got a 'life' when Pujara dropped a sitter during World Test Championship final and the bowler at the receiving was again, Bumrah.

It was Shardul Thakur who

finally had the young man played on but by then Petersen had ensured a

It needs to be put as it is. India did not lose the Test because of one DRS that went wrong but for the consistent poor batting throughout the series save the first innings of the

series win for his team.

is the reason India lost and the second innings effort at both Wanderers and Newlands showed that Indian bowlers could only do

as much. The heavy duty tirade against the host broadcasters Supersport with their customised diatribe did not look good in the face of a dis-

mal performance.

The skipper himself led the attack and it seemed like a forceful way of trying to put the blame squarely on technology that "may or may not have gone wrong".

The die-hard Kohli fans believe that the Indian skipper needs a narrative to spur him on and his favourite script is "he and his team against the entire world" as his deputy for the series KL Rahul would have fans believe on the stump-mic. It's far from truth but it works

well for him to push the envelope. Van der Dussen was subjected to intense sledging on the fourth morning and so was Petersen but they remained unfazed.

Once Bavuma started hitting those boundaries, the strokes did the

But Kohli losing his counsel and blowing his top was also a projection of a man who is under immense pressure and a Test defeat against a much lower-ranked side which had been grappling with all kinds of socio-political issues over the past few years, isn't going to go down well with the BCCI.

## It's really immature, you can't be a role model in this manner: Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli's outburst against a controversial DRS decision during the third Test against South Africa was "immature" and with such "exaggerated" reaction, the India skipper will never be a role model for youngsters, feels former opener Gautam Gambhir. Kohli, his deputy KL Rahul and

off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin made some unsavoury comments about umpiring and technology in stump mic after rival skipper Dean Elgar got a massive reprieve due to a contentious DRS decision in the last hour on day 3 on Thursday.
"This is really bad. What Kohli

did, going near the stump mic and reacting in that manner, that is really immature. This is not what you expect from an international captain, from an Indian captain," Gambhir told Star Sports.

Australian great Shane Warne felt the ball was hitting the stumps. "That's going on to smash half

shook his head," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox Sports.

Gambhir pointed out that Mayank Agarwal too had got a reprieve during the first Test in Centurion but it didn't invite similar response from the South African skipper.

way that's going over, even Erasmus same manner when there was a

caught-behind appeal on the legside, neither did Dean Elgar react in that manner. During that Mayank Agarwal appeal, it looked out from the naked eye, but Elgar

Former England captain "Then technology isn't in your Michael Vaughan was critical of the

did not react in that manner," he

"I think that is disgraceful from expressed similar reactions.

the Indians personally," Vaughan said on Fox Sports.

"Decisions go with you, they go against you, that didn't go the way they think it should have gone. Virat Kohli is a legend of the game, but that's not the way to act, that is not the way to act in a game of Test match cricket.

"The ICC have to stamp this down, they have to stamp down on the Indian side, you can't get away with talking down the stump microphone like Ravi Ashwin has done and the Indian captain has done," said Vaughan. In the 21st over, Elgar was

adjudged LBW by on-field umpire Marais Erasmus when he was hit on the pads by an Ashwin delivery. However, the decision was overturned on review.

Livid with the decision, a fuming Kohli went up to the stumps and said: "Focus on your team as well when they shine the ball eh, not just the opposition. Trying to catch people all the time."

## Head's century lifts Australia from 12-3 to 241-6 vs England

Travis Head spoiled a promising ■ start for England in the Ashes on Friday with his second century of the series as Australia recovered from 12-3 to reach 241-6 at stumps on a rain-hit first day of the fifth Head, who scored 152 in the

opening test at Brisbane, counterpunched England's early success with an aggressive 101 off 113 balls in the day-night test as Australia came back strongly after losing the Cameron Green contributed an

authoritative 74 and Marnus Labuschagne scored a rapid 44 before rain arrived around half an hour after tea and prevented further

Head entered with Australia in serious trouble after a brilliant spell of swing and seam bowling from Ollie Robinson (2-24), one of the five changes England made, and Stuart Broad (2-48) on a lively green wicket.

Test due to the coronavirus, first put ing the right decisions -- attacking to a trap

the innings back on track with a 71-run stand with Labuschagne, but not before Zak Crawley had dropped Labuschagne at second slip before the batter had scored.

That drop proved costly for England which has already lost the Ashes after losing the first three test matches at Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne before the draw in Sydney. "Nice to be back and contributing," Head told Channel 7.

the right balls, defending the right ones, being hard to get out.

I felt like I came into this test

Labuschagne counterpunched

the pace of Chris Woakes (1-50) and Mark Wood (1-79) by clobbering nine boundaries before getting dismissed in a bizarre fashion just before the first session. Labuschagne was clean bowled in an unusual style when he appeared to slip in the crease and Broad had the middle stump knocked back with the batsman falling over on his knees while going way across his stumps. But Head and Green continued to prosper against Wood and Woakes in a dominant middle session which yielded 130 runs. Head played some exquisite drives on both sides of the wicket, particularly in front of square as he hammered 12 boundaries before raising his century by cutting Woakes to backward point for two runs. However, Head fell a ball later after reaching his hundred when he lobbed a gentle catch to mid-on. Green didn't have trouble

## Can class of 2022 go all the way at U-19 World Cup?

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

Record four-time champions India will be aiming to maintain their envious record and unearth a plethora of talent along the way when they begin their U-19 World Cup campaign against South Africa here on Saturday.

Expectations will be high from the likes of Harnoor Singh, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, skipper Yash Dhull and Ravi Kumar, who have already shown glimpses of their potential in tournaments leading into the World Cup.

India flew into the Caribbean straight after

their Asia Cup triumph and tuned up for the ICC event with wins over hosts West Indies and Australia in the warm-up games.

India have been the most successful team in the tournament's history and getting into the final of the last three editions is a testimony to their remarkable consistency.

No player from the 2020 batch, which finished runners-up to first-time champions Bangladesh, has gone on to play for India and only time will tell if someone from the class of 2022 reaches the highest level.

The current batch doesn't posses prodigies like Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill (2018 pass outs) but some of the players have already attracted attention.

Jalandhar-born left-hand opener Harnoor is expected to score a bagful of runs in the tournament, much like what Yashasvi Jaiswal did in the previous edition.

The 18-year-old was India's leading rungetter in the Asia Cup with 251 runs in five games and struck an unbeaten 100 against Australia in the team's final warm-up game on January 11.

Right-arm pacer Hangargekar, who has played senior cricket for Maharashtra, is another player to watch out for.

He impressed with his raw pace in the Asia Cup, picking up eight wickets, and is also a handy batter down the order.

Left-arm pacer Ravi Kumar will also be expected to provide timely breakthroughs and he will be high on confidence following a fourwicket haul against the Australians.

Skipper Dhull, who is a highly rated batter in Delhi cricket circles, did not do anything noticeable in the Asia Cup but his back-to-back



fifties in the warm-up games show he is in good touch. All-rounder Raj Bawa, who bowls right-arm medium pace and bats left-handed, will also play a crucial role for the team.

Head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar spoke about India's rich legacy in the competition ahead of the South Africa game.

"There is a huge legacy since India has done so well in this tournament.

It doesn't help that we have won four times. There is a new team, so you have to start afresh," said Kanitkar adding that the players are also getting used to bi-bubble life in COVID times.

India are placed in Group B alongside South Africa, Ireland and Uganda. Top two teams qualify for the knockouts.

The game against South Africa is likely to be the toughest one for India.

The 2014 edition winners South Africa's chances of success on home soil were ended at the quarter-final stage two years ago.

All-rounder Dewald Brevis has generated maximum attention in the junior Proteas

He played in the CSA Provincial T20 Knockout competition in October and his batting style drew comparisons with AB de Villiers, while his leg-spin caused West Indies plenty of problems in a recent warm-up series against the hosts.

Left-arm spinner Asakhe Tsaka and captain George van Heerden will also hope to make a name for themselves in the coming weeks as South Africa look for a second title.

## Ireland beats West Indies in rain-hit 2nd ODI

**AP** ■ KINGSTON

reland beat the West Indies  $oldsymbol{1}$  by five wickets in a raininterrupted second one-day international at Sabina Park.

Ireland was chasing 230 to win and was well ahead of the run rate at 157-4 in the 32nd over when rain stopped play for 90 minutes.

When the match resumed. the Duckworth-Lewis method reduced Ireland's ask to 168 from 36 overs, or 11 more runs from 28 balls. The Irish knocked them off in seven balls, winning on a pair of no balls at 168-5.

Victory tied the series 1-1, with the deciding ODI on Sunday on the same ground. This ODI was resched-

uled from Tuesday, when Ireland was too depleted to field a side because of five coronavirus cases and two injured players. Four weren't available on Thursday, including captain Andy

The West Indies successfully defended 269 last Saturday but not so much 229, which



was boosted by 30 extras. William Porterfield and stand-in skipper Paul Stirling gave Ireland a flying start of 37 in the first five overs.

Harry Tector anchored the show with 54 not out off 75 balls, his second straight halfcentury and fourth in his last

Tector featured in stands of 44 with Andy McBrine, who added 35, and 53 with Curtis Campher. McBrine also starred with

the ball when West Indies was made to bat first. The West Indies was cau-

tious from the start and medium-pacer Craig Young took

advantage with the first three wickets, all cheap. He took out openers Shai Hope, Justin Greaves and No. 3 Nicholas Pooran to have 3-12 off four

McBrine's offspin was introduced in the 18th over with West Indies 53-3, and he claimed Roston Chase then Kieron Pollard for 1.

Sharmarh Brooks, who made 93 in the first ODI, held the innings together again until he was out lbw for 43 off 64 balls, attempting to sweep left-arm spinner George Dockrell.

The West Indies didn't look like reaching 200 at 143-7 in the 40th, but Odean Smith immediately hit two sixes over McBrine's head, hit two more against Campher, and swatted Mark Adair over the long off fence. Smith made 46 off 19 balls in a partnership of 58 with Romario Shepherd to get West Indies over 200.

Shepherd then hit four boundaries and was the last man out with two overs left while trying to pull McBrine, who took 4-36.

### Rajapksa withdraws decision to retire from international cricket

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Ten days after announcing his retirement from international cricket, batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa has made himself available to play for Sri Lanka "for years to come.' The 30-year-old had tendered his letter of resignation to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on January 3. However, after meeting the Sri Lankan Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa recently, the Southpaw has changed his mind. "Pursuant to a meeting with the Hon. Namal Rajapaksa - Minister of Youth & Sports and after consulting with the National Selectors, Bhanuka Rajapaksa has notified SLC that he wishes to withdraw his resignation which he tendered to SLC on 3rd Jan. 2022, with immediate effect," a SLC stated in a media release. "In his letter to SLC withdrawing his resignation, he further states that he wishes to represent his country.

## Isolation hitch threatens NZ-Aus white-ball series

**AP** ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand's white-ball cricket tour to Australia later this month is in doubt because of extended border restrictions which require the team to have isolation places booked for their return. The Black Caps are due to

leave for Australia on Jan. 24, to play one-day matches on Jan. 30, Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 and a Twenty20 international at Canberra on Feb. 8.

New Zealand Cricket didn't book places in managed isolation for the team in February because they anticipated the implementation in mid-January of a policy which would allow New Zealand citizens and residents returning from Australia to do so without going through managed iso-

The change has now been delayed until late February because of the emergence of



the omicron variant which New Zealand so far has contained at the border. New Zealand Cricket on

Friday said it expects the Australian tour to go ahead but is discussing options with Cricket Australia. That might include rescheduling or delaying the team's return from Australia.

A spokesperson told media the team will not travel to Australia unless a plan is in place for its return.

# Sindhu, Sen enter semifinals of India Open

**¬**wo-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and world championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen registered contrasting wins to advance to the women's and men's singles semifinals, respectivelv. at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament here on Friday. Top seed Sindhu, a former world champion, got the better of compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-7 21-18 in 36 minutes, while Sen rallied his way to a hard-fought 14-21 21-9 21-14 victory over H S Prannoy in another all-Indian quarterfinal.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded Yeo Jia Min of Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever".

Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the

In the other women's semifinal, Aakarshi Kashyap will face second Ongbamrungphan after the Indian notched up a 21-12 21-15 win over compatriot Malvika Bansod on

Busanan trounced USA's Lauren Lam 21-12 21-8 in another last-eight

Second seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also entered the semifinals with a 21-18 21-18 win ver

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded **Yeo Jia Min of** Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever." Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the semifinals.



Singapore's Hee Yong Kai TerryAnd Loh Kean Hean.

Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayan and Ashna Roy also made it to the last four in women's doubles after beat-

ing Rudrani Jaiswal and Jamaludeen Anees Kowsar 21-16 21-16 in the quarterfinals.

The last time Sindhu was up against Chaliha, at the 83rd Yonex-

Sunrise Senior National Championship in 2019, the youngster from Assam had produced a spirited performance.

On Friday, Chaliha took time to

get into the groove and put up a good fight in the second game but could n't stop Sindhu from walking away

with the match. Sindhu came out all guns blazing

5 lead at the interval and then reeled off the last 10 points to earn the brag-

Chaliha gave a better account of herself in the second game as she tied 9-9 before Sindhu managed a slender one-point advantage at the break. Sindhu zoomed to 15-11 but Chaliha

Thereafter, Sindhu switched gears and grabbed four match points.
Chaliha saved two match points before Sindhu closed out the tie.

again clawed her way back to 15-15.

In men's singles, it was the first international meeting but third overall between Sen and Prannoy as the duo engaged in a battle of supremacy. On a comeback trail, Prannoy, who had reached the quarterfinals at the last world championships, dominated the proceedings initially to secure a 6-2 lead. He got his acts together in time to turn the tables at 12-10 and then zoomed from 15-14 to pocket the opening game.
"The pace was high in the first

game as both of us tried to up the pace but I made errors at 13-13 and it cost me the game," Sen said.

Sen, however, roared back into the contest in the second game as he ran up a huge 12-5 lead and didn't look back from that point, as Prannoy crumbled. In the decider, Prannoy took the early initiative, opening up a 6-1 advantage but couldn't sustain it as Sen moved to 11-9 at the interval and then pocketed nine of the next 11 points to seal the match in his favour.

## India withdraws from Asian Under-22 boxing championship

T he Boxing Federation of India has decided to pull out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women in Tashkent, Uzbekistan due to the global surge in COVID-19 cases but is willing to participate if the tournament is rescheduled to a time when the pandemic subsides

A reliable source in the federation has confirmed to PTI that a letter has been sent to the Asian Boxing Confederation as well as the tournament's organising committee confirming India's withdrawal.

The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30. The Asian event was originally slated to be held from December 7 to 17 last year but was postponed because of the pandemic.

Indian boxing has been hit by a COVID crisis of its own. The men's senior national camp in Patiala has reported 26 cases, including 20 boxers.

Boxers born in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are eligible to compete in the event that is being held for the first time in the conti-

The competition was to be held in 12 women's and 13 men's weight categories. The Indian men's squad featured

the likes of Asian youth bronzemedallist Mohammed Etash Khan (63.5kg) and reigning national champion Rohit Mor (60kg) among

The women's squad featured the likes of world youth champion Arundhati Chaudhary (71kg) and international medallist Jaismine (63kg). Chaudhary had recently made the headlines by taking the Boxing Federation of India to court for not holding trials in her weight category for the world championships in Turkey.

**AP** ■ MELBOURNE

No v a k Djokovic

faces deporta-

tion again after

the Australian

government

revoked his visa

for a second

time, the latest

twist in the

ongoing saga over whether

the No 1-ranked ten-

nis player will be

allowed to compete in the Australian Open

despite being unvaccinated for COVID-19.

Minister Alex Hawke

said Friday he used his

ministerial discretion

to cancel the 34-year-

old Serb's visa on public interest grounds —

just three days before

play begins at the

Australian Open, where

Djokovic has won a

record nine of his 20

Grand Slam titles.

to appeal at the Federal Circuit and

Family Court, which they already suc-

cessfully did last week on procedural

Djokovic's lawyers were expected

Immigration

## HI announces core probable group for women's hockey team



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday announced a new-look core probable group for the senior women's team which will play in many major international tournaments this year. The group was selected following selection trials held in Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru for a group of 60 who were called-in on the basis of their performances in various nation-

al level events. "It is time for us to start afresh and plan for the future. We have grown over the past year with our experiences in Tokyo and we must continue to develop, and grow in the coming years, ahead of Paris 2024," India women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release issued by Hockey India. While an 18-member Indian team, led by Savita, will be travelling to Muscat for the upcom-

ing women's hockey Asia Cup, the remaining players from the core group will stay on at the camp and continue to train for the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha next month. "The upcoming camp is important for us to recognise the players who are ready to showcase their skills on the biggest stages, and also to work on the areas where we need to improve upon," Schopman said. List of players: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, players: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Suman Devi Thoudam, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Mahima Chaudhary, Rashmita Minz, Nisha, Salima Tete Sushila Chanu Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Namita Toppo

## First target is to make quarters, which is realistic one: Dennerby

Indian women's football team Lhead coach Thomas Dennerby said his side is well prepared and its first realistic target is to reach the quarterfinals of the upcom-

ing AFC Asian Women's Cup. campaign against Iran on January 20. I said from the beginning when we started, we said that yes, to come to the quarter-final is our first target, first aim," Dennerby said during a virtual media interaction in the run-up to the continental tournament on Friday.

"And if we come all the way to the quarterfinal, everything can happen because when we are in quarterfinal and it's a knockout stage, everybody, all teams will play under pressure. But definitely (reaching) quarterfinals is our target and we also think it's a realistic target."

The Indian team has been drawn against Iran (January 20), Chinese Taipei (January 23) and China (January 26) in Group A of the competition that consists of 12 teams

Talking about the opposition, Dennerby said: "It is (like) three different teams with three different playing styles. I guess the first game against Iran will be a tough one for us because what we have seen so far (they are) defending very well. They are organized and they will play low, defending.

"They also have one really good striker that's always on the run. So, even if we dominate the game, as a defender you always have to be on your toes.

pieces, they scored a lot of goals on free-kicks and corners, so we also need to be very sharp on that (front). Don't give them any corners or easy free-kicks," he

According to Dennerby, Chinese Taipei will be an "equal game" but the final match against China will be a tough one.

"Finally, China, I will say from my point of view; classical Asian style with a lot of short passes with good combinations. It is going to be a tough one, of course, but still China is not at the level they were a couple of years ago and they won this tournament. But still a very good team and probably the toughest

game for us," he noted. The 62-year-old Swede said that the team is well prepared for the marquee tournament.

'We have (had) such a long preparation time now and we have been together for more than five months. In total there are over 200 different sessions including football, strength, running sessions and game against proper teams and different styles and all that. So, yeah, we finally feel that we are really well prepared now.'

For Dennerby, all the 23 players are important as he refused to single out a player when asked who would be his trump card.

"For us, all the 23 players are very important and I hope that all players are prepared and ready to play," Dennerby said.

PTI ISLAMABAD

#### Prime Minister Imran Khan will be travelling to Beijing next month to attend the opening ceremony of Winter Olympics, bolster the all-weather bilateral ties and seek more investments in various projects under the ambi-

tious CPEC, the Foreign Office said here on Thursday.

The Beijing Winter Olympics will be held from February 4 to 20, followed by the Paralympics Winter Games from March 4-13, amid a diplomatic boycott by several Western countries, including the US and the UK over concerns of China's alleged human rights

"The premier will be embarking on a three-day visit to Beijing from February 3 on the invitation

## Visa revoked again, Djokovic faces deportation grounds after his visa was first canceled when

he landed at a Melbourne airport. A hearing was scheduled for Friday night.

Deportation from Australia can lead to a three-year ban on returning to the country, although that may be waived, depending on the

Hawke said he cancelled the visa on "health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so.

His statement added that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government "is firmly committed to protecting Australia's borders, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandem-

Morrison himself welcomed Djokovic's pending deportation. The whole episode has touched a nerve in Australia, and particularly in Victoria state, where locals went through hundreds of days of lockdowns during the worst of the pandemic and there is a vaccination rate among adults of more than 90%.

Australia is currently facing a massive surge in virus cases driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant. On Friday, the nation reported 130,000 new cases, including nearly 35,000 in Victoria state.

Although many infected people aren't getting as sick as they did in previous outbreaks, the surge is still putting severe strain on the health system, with more than 4,400 people hospitalized. It's also causing disruptions to workplaces and supply chains.

"This pandemic has been incredibly difficult for every Australian but we have stuck together and saved lives and livelihoods. ... Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected," Morrison said in a statement.

"This is what the Minister is doing in taking this action today." Everyone at the Australian Open — includ-

ing players, their support teams and spectators is required to be vaccinated for the illness caused by the coronavirus. Djokovic is not inoculated and had sought a medical exemption on the grounds that he had COVID-19 in That exemption was approved by the

Victoria state government and Tennis Australia,

apparently allowing him to obtain a visa to trav-

el. But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa when he landed in Melbourne on January 5. Djokovic spent four nights in an immigration detention hotel before a judge on Monday overturned that decision. That ruling allowed Djokovic to move freely around Australia and hé has been practicing at Melbourne Park daily

to prepare to play in a tournament he has won each of the past three years. He had a practice session originally scheduled for mid-afternoon Friday at Rod Laver Arena, the tournament's main stadium, but pushed that to the morning and was finished several hours before Hawke's decision was announced in the early evening.

An Australian Open spokeswoman said tournament organizers did not have any immediate comment on the latest development in Djokovic's situation, which has overshadowed all other story lines heading into the year's first

### Mauritius' Pandoo appointed as first HPD for weightlifting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has I approved the appointment of Mauritian Aveenash Pandoo as the first High Performance Director (HPD) for weightlifting until the 2024 Paris Olympics. His appointment was recommended by the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Foreign Coach Selection Committee in conjunction with officials of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF). According to a statement issued by the SAI, his annual salary will be USD 54,000 (approx Rs 40.50 lakh).

The HPD has been appointed with specific focus on development of junior talent, with an eye on 2028 Olympics and to create strong coaching structure

Xinjiang province with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan is regarded as the flagship project of the multi-billion Belt and Road initiative, the pet scheme of Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at furthering China's influence globally with Chinese funded infrastructure

projects. Iftikhar said that Pakistan welcomes the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping as a timely and good intention to facilitate implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable develop-

## Imran Khan to visit China for Beijing Winter Olympics The US has accused China of

Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said during his weekly news brief-Khan will also have an inter-

action with the Chinese leadership to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to exchange views on regional and international issues, Iftikhar said.

Khan's visit is considered significant because several western and European countries have announced a diplomatic boycott of

Tensions have risen between China and several Western countries over a number of issues.



Pakistan welcomes the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping as a timely and good intention to facilitate implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

rejected. While projects pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be key to the talks between the two sides, Iftikhar opined that Khan's visit would help promote international cooperation required to over-come the challenges faced due to the ongoing pandemic and open

genocide in its repression of the

predominantly Muslim Uyghur

minority in the western region of Xinjiang - an allegation China has

other developing countries.
The USD 60 billion CPEC connecting China's resource-rich

"Pakistan and China are globup avenues of collaboration with al partners, and we look forward to further strengthening this partnership under China's Global Development Initiative," he added.