

OPINION 6

NATIONAL INTEGRITY,
COHESIVE PEOPLE

WORLD 8

CHINA CITES CORONA ON PACKAGING,
DESPITE DOUBTS ABROAD

AVENUES 10

LAND OF
OPPORTUNITIES

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Step up Covid testing, States told

Detection, isolation
key to stem spread
of pandemic: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The numbers of daily Covid-19 cases have come down in several States without any reversal in positivity rate. Taking note of this trend to play with the numbers, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has asked the States to increase the pace of testing "in a strategic manner".

Issuing an updated set of guidelines for the care of Covid-19 patients, the Ministry has urged doctors to avoid the use of steroids and to test patients for tuberculosis if severe coughing persists. According to the revised guidelines steroid use increases the risk of secondary infections, such as black fungus and must, thus, be avoided.

In a letter to States and UTs on Monday, additional secretary in the Union Health Ministry Arti Ahuja advised them to immediately increase the testing in a strategic manner keeping in view the trend of case positivity in specific areas.

Referring to the Ministry's earlier letters and the Home Ministry advisory of December 27 last year laying out the broad framework of pandemic management in the context of Omicron, Ahuja said testing remains a key and crucial com-

ponent. "However, it is seen from the data available on the ICMR portal that testing has declined in many States and Union Territories," she wrote. The additional health secretary said in all advisories on testing issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), including the latest on January 10, the basic objective remains early detection of cases for quick isolation and care.

In addition, testing remains a key strategy for pandemic management as it helps in the identification of new clusters and new hotspots of infection which can, in turn, facilitate immediate action for containment such as setting up of containment zones, contact tracing, quarantining, isolation and follow-up.

This can enable the State and district administrations to curb the spread of infection. Also this will ensure a reduction in mortality and morbidity. "Progression of disease to a severe category can be averted by strategic testing of those who are at high risk and more vulnerable, as well as in areas where the spread is likely to be higher," Ahuja said.

Reiterating the advisory on purposive testing strategy issued by the ICMR on January 10, she said in community settings all those who are symptomatic must be tested and all at-risk contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases must also be tested.

Continued on Page 2



Workers carry Covid waste from a State Government-run Covid hospital for dumping in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI

Covid cases rise 58 times in 3 weeks in paramilitary forces

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 active cases swelled Cover 58 times in the last three weeks in the paramilitary ranks, from just 148 cases on December 28 to 8,671 cases as on Monday. During the period, two deaths were recorded, taking the toll due to Covid-19 to 350 in the forces' ranks.

The combined tally of Covid-19 cases in the paramilitary ranks has crossed the one lakh mark with a tally of 1,00,210 cases.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) topped the list with 2,764 active Covid-19 cases followed by 2,747 cases in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and 1,330

cases in the Border Security Force (BSF).

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has 1,018 active cases followed by 586 cases in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 149 cases in National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 77 cases in National Security Guard (NSG).

Continued on Page 2

3 Navy officers killed in explosion on warship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

A blast onboard frontline warship INS Ranvir on Tuesday killed three Navy personnel and injured several others in Mumbai. The Navy has ordered the mandatory board of inquiry to find out the cause of the blast.

In a statement issued late in the evening, the Navy said, "In an unfortunate incident today at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, three naval personnel succumbed to injuries caused by an explosion in an internal compartment onboard INS Ranvir. The ship's crew responded immediately and quickly brought the situation under control. No major mate-

rial damage has been reported."

INS Ranvir was on cross-coast operational deployment from the Eastern Naval Command since November last year and was due to return to base port shortly.

The incident took place when the Rajput-class destroyer was docked at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

A preliminary probe indicated the blast had nothing to do with weapons or ammunition explosion. The court or board of inquiry will investigate all the angles, sources said.

The fourth of the five Rajput-class destroyers, INS Ranvir was commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 28, 1986.

Last year in October, a fire onboard India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya injured four people. The incident happened when the warship was docked at the Visakhapatnam Naval Harbour.

In May last year, a fire onboard India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya caused an alarm. However, the fire was doused and all personnel on board were safe and suffered no major injuries.

The ill-fated ship in Mumbai is 5,000 tons, nearly 500 feet long with a beam of 52 feet. It carries Brahmos missiles besides has the capability of launching two helicopters. The ship can travel at a top speed of 40 knots.



Bhagwant Mann picked as AAP's Punjab CM face



Delhi CM and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal with party's Chief Ministerial candidate Bhagwant Singh Mann ahead of Punjab polls, in Mohali

PTI

MONIKA MALIK ■
CHANDIGARH/MOHALI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday decided to bet on its trusted general Bhagwant Mann to win the electoral battle in Punjab, and named him as the party's Chief Ministerial candidate.

Since 2014, comedian-turned-politician Mann has remained AAP's face not only in Punjab but also in the

national politics — being the only party MP to tide through the Modi wave that swept the nation in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. And the announcement of two-time MP from Sangrur as AAP's CM face in Punjab did not come as a surprise to many.

AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced Mann as "AAP da CM" in Punjab. Continued on Page 2

Channi's nephew among men raided for illegal mining

Cong cries foul

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days ahead of the high-octane Punjab Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple locations in Punjab, including the Mohali residence of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's nephew, in connection with an illegal sand mining case.

In all, the raids were conducted in Ludhiana, Mohali, and Pathankot districts, including the offices, residences as well as godowns of several accused companies. As per reports, about a dozen premises of the Chief Minister's relatives have been raided by the ED officials at different places including Mohali (Homeland Heights), Ludhiana and even Panchkula (in Haryana).

The raids were reportedly conducted in a money laundering case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act based on an FIR registered in 2018 by the

Punjab Police against one Kudrat Deep Singh, the main accused, who owns a quarry in Nawanshahr.

It has been learnt that Kudrat Deep Singh had formed two companies, and the director of one of the companies was Bhupinder Singh Honey — Chief Minister Channi's nephew.

The illegal sand mining case was initially registered by the Punjab Police at Rahon police station of Nawanshahr on the complaint of the mining officer under section 21(1) and 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957, and under section 379, 420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code. There were 26 accused in the case, most of them truck drivers.

As per the FIR, the police had stopped 30 tipper trucks filled with sand, most of which was taken from an area that was not marked for mining. Several types of machinery were also recovered, which were not to be used for mining at the site.

Continued on Page 2

Cong's Def Band deal with Devas 'fraud on India': FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday accused the Congress-led UPA of entering into a "fraud" and "scandalous" deal with Devas Multimedia by allocating S-band spectrum used by the defence for "pittance".

At a Press conference, she said the Government is now fighting in every court to save taxpayers' money that would otherwise go towards paying for arbitration awards that Devas has won against the cancellation of the 2005 deal. She said the Supreme Court on January 17 comprehensively upheld the liquidation of Devas Multimedia on grounds that it was incorporated with fraudulent intentions.

Her comments came as Devas shareholders pursue Indian assets abroad to recover USD 1.29 billion that international arbitration tribunals awarded over a cancelled satellite contract. They have got a French court order for freezing Indian properties in Paris and are seeking Air India funds in Canada. The 2005 agreement was "a fraud on people of India, fraud against the country," she said, adding the S-band spectrum, which is otherwise



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

used for defence purposes only, was given away for a pittance.

Devas, she said, promised to deliver on things for which it didn't even have rights. In 2005, Devas Multimedia signed an agreement with Antrix — the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) — to provide multimedia services to

mobile users using the leased S-band satellite spectrum. The deal was cancelled in 2011 on the ground that the auction of the broadband spectrum was mired in fraud and that the Government needed the S-band satellite spectrum for national security and other social purposes.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

No tie-up with SP even for 100 seats: Chandrashekhar

Noida: Aazad Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar Azad on Tuesday said it will no longer approach the SP for a tie-up for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections even if Akhilesh Yadav offers it 100 seats. Azad said his party is open to stitching an alliance with others and maintained that his fight has always been with the BJP.

GATE ASPIRANTS WANT EXAM POSTPONEMENT

New Delhi: Over 23,000 candidates appearing for the GATE in February have joined a petition demanding the exam be postponed in view of the third wave of Covid-19.

BIHAR DOCTOR TOOK 5 COVID VACCINE SHOTS

Patna: The Bihar Government has ordered an investigation after records showed that a Patna-based civil surgeon was administered five shots of the Covid-19 vaccine.

NEPAL RENAMES IT TO 'MADHES PRADESH'

Kathmandu: Nepal's south-eastern Province 2 has been renamed Madhes Pradesh with Janakpur retained as its capital, settling a long-standing debate on the region's official reference after it was made a province in 2015.

R-Day events shadowed by Covid to have many firsts

Auto drivers, safai workers get spl invite; max 7,000 visitors allowed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Republic Day parade this year will have many firsts to mark 75 years of Independence. People, who never get an opportunity to witness the event at Rajpath will get special invitations. They include auto-rickshaw drivers, safai karamcharis and construction labour to name a few.

But the pandemic has cast its shadow on the Republic Day parade. Only 5,000 to 7,000 vis-



Indian Coast Guard personnel during the rehearsal for Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

itors are allowed to be at Rajpath as against 25,000 last year.

At the same time, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets will visit the homes of 5,000

martyrs on January 26 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be paying homage to the

brave hearts at the National War Memorial here before the parade commences.

The cadets will present a letter signed by the Prime Minister to the next of the kin of the martyrs whose names are etched at the National War Memorial, sources said here on Tuesday.

Announcing that henceforth, the Republic Day week will commence from January 23, the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose, they said the week will end on January 30, the martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi.

In another first, the Prime Minister will give away awards on January 23 evening at the India Gate to those engaged in disaster management. The award was instituted in 2018.

Continued on Page 2

Why women's intake in NDA only 19, same as last yr: SC to Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to explain why despite its orders, the intake of women candidates in the National Defence Academy (NDA) for the year 2022 has been restricted to 19, the figure the same as last year.

The apex court asked the Centre to place the figures on record about the total number of candidates, including women, who have appeared in the NDA examination 2021, for entrance tests for Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and for Rashtriya Military School (RMS).

A bench of Justices Sanjay



Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, that the Government will have to explain why the figure of 19 women has been fixed for the year 2022 as per the notification issued by UPSC.

"The figure is the same as for the 2021 test. Last year, you said that it was due to infra-

structure problems that the intake of women will be less. Now, again for the year 2022, you have proposed to take the same number of women candidates. Why have you fixed this figure? You have to explain this. 19 seats cannot be for all times to come. It was only an ad hoc measure," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

India to host five BRICS S&T events through '22

New Delhi: Even as India has successfully handed over the BRICS Chair to China from January 2022, it will be hosting five international events through the year, it was decided at the 15th meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee.

BRICS STI is a forum for the scientific community from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to discuss and deliberate on topics of common interest in the field of science and technology.

The calendar of BRICS STI activities and expected deliverables were discussed at the meeting organised virtually on Monday, a release from the Ministry of Science & Technology said on Tuesday.

The five high-level events that India will host are: BRICS Startups Forum's Working Groups meeting on Energy; Biotechnology & Biomedicine;

ICT & High-Performance Computing and the STIEP (Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group Meeting, which will also witness the launch of BRICS innovation launchpad as a microsite (Knowledge Hub).

The BRICS STI Steering Committee meeting was attended by representatives from BRICS scientific ministries and foreign missions. The Indian delegation was led by Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor and Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, the release said.

The Chinese side presented a broad outline of activities to be carried out during the entire year, which would mainly include thematic meetings, BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, senior official and ministerial-level meetings.

A total of 25 events have been planned, of which India will host five. The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the main executing agency for the BRICS Startups Forum and creation of innovation Knowledge Hub.

The BRICS Young Scientist Conclave will be held in September 2022 in a virtual format, and thematic focus areas will possibly be carbon peak neutralisation, biomedicine, artificial intelligence, material science and modern agriculture.

China has proposed to host the 10th BRICS S&T ministerial-level meeting and the Senior Official Meeting in September 2022. On the sidelines of the ministerial meeting, an exhibition will be organised to showcase the outcomes of successful projects supported under the BRICS Framework Programme (2015-2022). *LANS*

Channi's...

From Page 1

However, the CM's nephew, Honey, was not named as an accused in the 2018 FIR.

After the FIR registered by the Punjab police, the ED had initiated its investigation in the case.

The Congress has accused the BJP and its Government at the Centre of defaming Punjab and Punjabiyat by raiding a relative of Channi in an old case, and said the people of the State will give a befitting reply to the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the BJP Government is insulting a Dalit who was made the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Dalits and backward classes would not forgive the party for this. He also accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of working in cahoots with the BJP as its convener Arvind Kejriwal was the first to attack Channi over the raids conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Surjewala alleged that the ED has turned into the "election department" of the BJP.

"Today we saw the limit of vindictiveness. To seek revenge on a Dalit Chief Minister, the ED has been unleashed in Punjab, with which the Chief Minister and his family have

nothing to do. The BJP is taking revenge on a Dalit Chief Minister. The ED is not the enforcement directorate but the BJP's election department," Surjewala said at the AICC press conference.

The party alleged that the AAP and the BJP are working together, adding that when the Prime Minister's convoy was stalled in Punjab, it was the Kejriwal-led party that jumped in his defence. "Today, it was Kejriwal who gave the first statement on the raids. In Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa, the AAP and the BJP are working together. One does a wrong act and the other supports it," it said.

ED officials maintained that the raids were being conducted in connection with an illegal sand mining case it was already investigating. ED sources claimed that it has received information regarding the accused allegedly mining the sand illegally, making profits, and then laundering the money. Several companies and their directors are being probed in the matter. Responding, Channi maintained that ED raids are "pressure tactics" being used to target him and the Congress party ahead of polls. "These tactics were also used during the West Bengal elections against Mamata Banerjee's relatives," he said.

Why...

From Page 1

The top court has given the Centre three weeks to file an affidavit and asked the parties to file their rejoinder in two weeks thereafter and listed the matter for further hearing on March 6. At the outset, senior advocate Chinmoy Pradip Sharma, appearing for petitioner Kush Kalra, said they have filed an additional affidavit stating that on November 14, 2021, the NDA exam was held and 8,009 candidates qualified for the Service Selection Board test as also medical tests, out of which 1,002 candidates were women and 7,007 men.

He said that as per the information made available in the advertisement issued by UPSC and by the Government, NDA will take in 400 cadets in the current NDA-II 2021 intake. "Of these, 208 candidates, including 10 women, will go to the Army. The Navy will take in 42 candidates, including 3 women, while the IAF will admit 120 candidates, of which 6 will be women. Thus, the total number of women to be inducted into the NDA in June 2022 is 19," Sharma said, giving a detailed split of the number of women allowed in each branch of the forces.

Cong's Def Band deal with Devas 'fraud on...

From Page 1

Devas Multimedia initiated arbitration against the annulment at the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC).

Two separate arbitrations were also initiated under the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) by Mauritius investors in

Devas Multimedia under the India-Mauritius BIT and by Deutsche Telekom -- a German company -- under the India-Germany BIT. India lost all three disputes and has to pay a total of USD 1.29 billion in damages.

The Finance Minister said arbitration tribunals have

awarded USD 1.2 billion-plus cost and interest on pleas by Devas shareholders against cancellation of Antrix deal. Sitharaman said her Government was fighting in all courts to save taxpayers' money that otherwise would be going for payment of awards of such a fraud deal.



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL
Water Work Department
Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Forth-Call
Online tenders are being invited for the following work from the appropriated firm that Registered in the office of Madhya Pradesh (Central Registration Cell). The tender documents can be obtained online on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in> as per the Key Dates in the Notice published on the above website and detailed information can also be seen on website <http://mptenders.gov.in>
Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in news papers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website. <http://mptenders.gov.in>

S. No.	Tender ID.	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee (INR)	Period of Work
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1.	2021_UAD_160547_4	Survey, Designing Drawing, Providing laying, testing, and commissioning of 400 mm dia DI-K9 pipe line with necessary fitting, including road restoration work from ZMGD Filter plant to One tree hill GSR Sant Hiraadaram Nagar Under Zone 01, Bhopal. Estimate based on C.S.R.- -MPUADD Water supply Sewerage and tube well Works, 2021	15860641.00	79303.00	10000.00	270 Days Including Rainy Season

Key Dates:-
Publish Date 15-Jan-2022 09:00 AM
Document Download/Sale Start Date 15-Jan-2022 09:00 AM
Clarification Start Date NA
Bid Submission Start Date 15-Jan-2022 09:00 AM
Bid Opening Date 02-Feb-2022 11:00 AM
Document Download/Sale End Date 31-Jan-2022 06:00 PM
Clarification End Date NA
Bid Submission End Date 31-Jan-2022 06:00 PM

City Engineer (H)
Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

T.N.1074/021/022



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M-10) ENGINEERS BHAWAN, 2ND FLOOR, ANDREWS GANJ, NEAR MOULI CHAND CROSSING, NEW DELHI-110049
Mail: acem10.djb@gmail.com
NIT No. 14UACE(M-10)/AEE (T) M-10/2021-22

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Amount put to tender	Completion Period	Date of release of tender in procurement Solution	Last date/ Time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of old damaged sewer line at Munirka Village near Rama Market to Anupam restaurant and adjoining lane under AC-44, R.K Puram (Re-invited)	52,800/-	500/-	26,36,713/-	90 Days	17-01-2022	24-01-2022 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhiprocurement.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1018 (2021-22)
"STOP CORONA! Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
ASSTT. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T) M-10
Sd/-
(Pukhraj Singh)

UP reports more Covid recoveries than fresh cases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

For the first time in three weeks, the number of recovered Covid-19 cases in Uttar Pradesh was more than the fresh infections as 14,803 people tested positive for coronavirus infection in the state in the last 24 hours while in the same period, 20,191 patients recovered.

At present, there are 1,01,114 active COVID-19 cases in UP and 99 per cent of them are undergoing treatment at home.

The figures were disclosed

during a high-level meeting of Team- 9 chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A maximum of 38,000 new COVID-19 cases were registered in a day during the second wave in April- May 2021 while this figure was 17,185 during the third wave on January 16.

"Looking at the intensity and positivity rate of Omicron, it is clear that the situation in Uttar Pradesh is under control. Very few people need hospitalisation. A normal patient can stay at home in isolation and treat himself with the advice of

a doctor. People should be made aware of this," the chief minister directed the officials.

The chief minister said in view of the current situation of COVID-19, at least one hospital in each district should be reserved as a dedicated covid hospital.

He said publicity about this should also be done among the general public and other hospitals should be available for non-Covid patients while running the OPD services with full Covid protocol.

"In the midst of the new wave, traditional fairs, bathing

festivals, etc. are also being organised in different areas of the state. This is the success of the UP Model of Covid management that traditional Magh Mela is still on in Prayagraj. There is no report of excessive spread of infection from anywhere.

Taking precautions, lakhs of devotees are offering prayers. For this our health workers, local administration and devotees deserve congratulations," the chief minister said and added that this sequence of vigilance and caution should continue.

He also directed the officials to complete the first dose Covid vaccination of the targeted population within a week. The vaccination of teenagers between 15 and 17 years should be completed by January 22 and of those above 18 years latest by January 25, he said.

The chief minister said 94.54 per cent of the people above 18 years of age had received the first dose of the Covid vaccine, while more than 60 per cent of the population had taken both doses of the vaccine.

Bhagwant Mann picked...

From Page 1

"A total of 21,59,437 people had expressed their opinion on the number released by AAP on January 13 for voting, and 93.3 per cent people voted for Bhagwant Mann as their choice to be Punjab's CM... While 3.6 per cent people voted for Navjot Singh Sidhu as the second choice," said Kejriwal while declaring Mann as AAP's CM face in Punjab, amid thunderous cheers.

"Every Punjabi is proud of my younger brother Bhagwant Mann," said Kejriwal, reminding the promise he made to the people to announce a CM candidate which will be a Sikh face and every Punjabi would be proud of.

Amid the demand to declare Mann as party's Chief Ministerial candidate, the AAP has been looking for a suitable face. And in the process, it has got in touch with several prominent personalities. From Bollywood actor-cum-philanthropist Sonu Sood to Dubai-based hotelier and social

activist SPS Oberoi, from renowned farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal to former diplomat KC Singh — various names went around, with AAP all along been claiming that there were no discussion with them.

There were also reports that some of the party leaders from Delhi are also nurturing the desire to occupy the CM's chair. But, considering the fact that Punjab's voters would not accept any "parachute leader" as CM candidate, the AAP did not null over the same.

In fact, in 2017 polls, when the AAP and even the poll analysts were confident of forming the government, the AAP bore the brunt of contesting the polls under Kejriwal's leadership not projecting any Punjab's leader as the CM face.

This time, the party decided to contest with its CM face, with Kejriwal also promising a respectable "Sikh face" which "every Punjabi would be proud of". However, the delay and

uncertainty over the same send a wrong signal within the party cadre, which also resulted in an exodus of sorts.

Despite Mann's brush with controversies, particularly his alleged drinking problem, the AAP chose him as the party face considering his mass appeal, a proven crowd-puller, and massive popularity among all sections of the people — be it young or old.

"I had already excluded myself from the race of Chief Minister, but some people still suggested my name which I excluded.... Bhagwant is my younger brother, if I had declared him as the Chief Minister's face myself, people would have said that I've chosen my brother as CM candidate. That's why we started a new democratic tradition to elect the Chief Minister candidate. For the first time in the history of India, the people of Punjab have chosen their Chief Minister candidate," said Kejriwal, making the announcement.

R-Day events...

From Page 1

The Prime Minister will present awards to the winners for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, sources said. It is the first award of its kind, they added.

In an effort to make the celebrations more broad-based to mark "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," the Government has also advised the States and Union Territories to invite participation from one or more other States for their Republic Day parade. These guest States may send their contingent for a Parade to promote engagement among people of different states so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding in the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat."

Similarly, the Governor's "At Home" function should have a diverse set of invitees like Divyangjans, achievers in different fields, Next of Kins of martyrs, Olympics participants, exceptional educators, frontline health workers and children bravery awardees.

Apart from these initiatives, the visitors at the Rajpath for the parade will see huge paintings commemorating 75 years of progressive India and as a tribute to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom movement.

Ten scrolls each of 75 metres in length and 15 feet in height will be erected near the spectator stands along the parade route, they said. These paintings were made by artists in two camps at Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar respectively.

For the first time, dancers who perform during the cultural programme at the Republic parade have been selected through a nation-wide competition "Vande Bharatam", jointly organised by Ministries of Defence and Culture.

The competition that began at the district level with the participation of 3,870 dancers in 323 groups progressed to state and zonal levels over a period of two months in November and December. The zonal level competitions were organised in early December in Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru and New Delhi.

More than 800 artists were shortlisted for the Grand Finale which was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium - Auditorium in New Delhi on December 19. Finally, 600 dancers were selected. They will showcase their talent during the parade at Rajpath.

The objective of the "Vande Bharatam" competition was to

select the top dancing talent from across the country and provide equal opportunity to all to perform during this mega event.

This year, the Republic Day parade will begin at 10.30 am instead of 10.00 am to provide better visibility to the parade and fly past. Also, the audience at Rajpath will be entertained by static band performance by the para-military forces before the parade starts.

Moreover, for a better viewing experience of spectators at the parade, 10 large LED screens - five on each side of Rajpath - will be installed.

films combining footages of previous Republic Day Parades, short films on the Armed Forces and stories related to various events in the run-up to the RDC - 2022 will be screened before the Parade begins and thereafter the screens will show the live event.

Moreover, the Republic Day for the second consecutive year will also not have any chief guests from foreign country. India was keen to have heads of state of five Central Asian countries for the national event but the third wave of the pandemic has come as a dampener. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the chief guest for 2021 parade.

He called off the visit due to raging pandemic in his country.

India had invited the leaderships of the five Central Asian nations (CA-5) including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

invitation was extended to the leaders during the third meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterparts representing the CA-5 in December last year.

The leaders of these five countries are likely to hold summit with Modi on January 26 in the virtual mode, sources said here on Tuesday adding modalities were being worked out.

Giving details of the forthcoming celebrations, defence ministry sources said here on Tuesday, the number of visitors or invitees was "significantly curtailed" given the present situation in the national capital.

They said the Government was of the view that the Republic Day parade should not turn into a "super spreader" with the presence of a large number of people at the Rajpath.

People are encouraged to enjoy the spectacle on the tele-

vision, sources said adding the invitees at the parade venue will have to go through the Covid protocol. It includes proof of double vaccination, strictly adhering to the social distancing of six feet, checking body temperature, and other related precautions, they said.

Meanwhile, days after West Bengal and Tamil Nadu alleged discrimination in rejecting the tableaux of their States for the Republic Day parade here, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday rejected the charge and said their tableaux were part of the parade for several years including last year.

This response in the form of letters by him to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin came after they wrote protest letters to Modi claiming bias.

Covid cases rise 58 times in 3 weeks in paramilitary forces

From Page 1

These six forces recorded 731 cases of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours. The CISF recorded 240 cases of coronavirus infection during the last 24 hours followed by 239 cases in the CRPF and 117 cases in the SSB ranks during the period.

The ITBP contracted 90 cases during the last 24 hours followed by 28 cases in the BSF, 10 cases in NDRF and seven cases in NSG. The CRPF and ITBP lost one personnel each due to Covid-19 during the last three weeks.

The CRPF tops the list of Covid-related casualties with 133 deaths till now followed by 90 fatalities in BSF and 83 loss of lives in CISF. While the SSB lost 23 personnel due to Covid-19, the ITBP suffered 18 casualties followed by two deaths in NDRF and one casualty in NSG.

Out of the 1,00,210 cases of Covid-19 cases, 91,189 patients have recovered, 350 patients have died due to the disease and 8,671 patients continue to be active.

During the last three weeks, the combined daily case count stood at about 413 cases of Covid-19 infection.

Step up Covid testing, States...

From Page 1

This advisory needs to be read in conjunction with the earlier guidelines and advisories of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, wherein it has been recommended that strategic and focused testing should be done of people who are vulnerable, living in closed surroundings, in densely populated areas in emerging new clusters and new hotspots of positive cases, etc., Ahuja said.

"In order to ensure that an effective track of the spread of the pandemic is kept and also immediate citizen-centric action is initiated, it is incumbent upon all States/UTs to enhance testing," she said.

India has so far recorded 3,76,18,271 coronavirus cases and 4,86,761 deaths due to it. On Tuesday, the country registered 2,38,018 new infections with a positivity rate of 14.43 per cent.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Sanjog Garwa who is purchasing Plot No. D14-65, area measuring 250 Sq. Yards, in Block-D, situated at "Parklands", at Sector-85, in the revenue estate of Village Bhatola, Kheri Khurd and Kheri Kalan etc. Tehsil & Distt. Faridabad (Haryana) from Mr. Radhey Shyam Ahuja & Mr. Harish Ahuja who were owners of the property vide Sale Deed dated 28.06.2021, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd.** That the 1) Original Plot Buyer Agreement 30.12.2006 executed by Mr. BPTP Ltd. 2) Original Possession Letter/Certificate issued by Ms BPTP Ltd. 3) Original Conveyance Deed 08.08.2014, which is registered as Doc No. 2248, registered in Sub-Registrar, Tuganore Local/Nilplacel. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned at below address:
Lucern Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.III, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011- 4046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that Mrs Premwati Goel W/o Sh. J.K. Goel who is the original allottee/owner of Commercial Shop No. GF-43, (Ground Floor) Plot No. K-84, Ansal Fortune Arcade Sector-18, Noida (U.P.) Mrs. Premwati Goel W/o Late J.K. Goel R/o EF11/R, Inderpuri, New Delhi-110012 was executed a Will in favour of her daughter Mrs. Rajni Gupta W/o Ashok Gupta R/o AM 61, Shalimar Bagh New Delhi-110088. So it is informed to all concern that the said Commercial Shop No. GF-43, (Ground Floor) Plot No. K-84, Ansal Fortune Arcade Sector-18, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of her daughter. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the office of Commercial Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Mrs. Rajni Gupta W/o Sh. Ashok Gupta

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. 58 of 2021-22 (Open)-Engg/DDU
On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRME/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.
Tender No. 11-DDU-SROEN-1-21-22.
(i) Name of work with its location : Deep Screening work of track in ARA-SSM section (KM 1.50 to KM 97.00) under ADEN/AXBKJ and in GC-I section (KM 643.35 to Km 649.375 and Km 666.375 to Km 668.000 in Rev line) under ADEN/II/ DDU, (ii) Approx. cost of the work : ₹17909143.18, (iii) Earnest Money : ₹239600.00
Tender No. 12-DDU-SROEN-1-21-22.
(i) Name of work with its location : Casual Renovation of Ordy. PSC Sleepers in ARA-SSM under ADEN/AXBKJ, (ii) Approx. cost of the work : ₹694140.33, (iii) Earnest Money : ₹13900.00
(iv) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender : 08.02.2022, Up-to 12:00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of E-tendering : www.irops.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager
E. C. Railway, DDU
PR01516/DDU/ENGG/T21-22/40

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BG LINE FROM ARARIYA TO GALGALIA
Tender Notice No. : CON/2022/JAN/02.
Dated: 07-01-2022. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work.
S.No. : 1; Tender No. : CE/CONA-G/PA/ 2022/01; Name of Work: Construction of 3 Nos. B CLASS, 1 No. D Class RBG Room, High Level Platform, PP Shed, FOB with Ramp, etc.. Ch-3.35 Km to Ch-4.60 Km for Rahmatpur, Ch-9.10 Km to 10.40 Km for Banshabari Halt in connection with construction of new BG line from Arariya to Galgalia of N.F. Railway (Construction).
Approx. Value : ₹ 55.07.44,022.22/-
S.No. : 2; Tender No. : CE/CONA-G/PA/ 2022/02; Name of Work: Construction of 2 Nos. B CLASS, 3 Nos. D Class RBG Room, High Level Platform, PP Shed, FOB with Ramp, etc.. (10 Nos.), RUB (3 Nos.), etc.. from field Ch 15.65 Km to 16.75 Km for Khawaspur halt, Ch 24.85 Km to 50.60 Km for Kalgany Station, Ch 55.30 Km to 56.10 Km for Teragachhi halt in connection with construction of new BG line from Arariya to Galgalia of N.F. Railway (Construction).
Approx. Value : ₹ 79.60.32,219.41/-
Closing time of both tender at 14:30 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 07-02-2022. For details please visit in website www.irops.gov.in
Chief Engineer/Con/3, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

R-Day: Delhi-NCR under high security cover

After intel inputs of possible terror attack

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After Delhi Police received inputs from Intelligence agencies about a possible terror attack, the national Capital and its peripherals have been put under very high security. Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana on Tuesday also issued an order which prohibited operation of "sub-conventional aerial platforms" including UAVs, paragliders and hot air balloons over the national Capital from January 20.

The order was issued by Asthana in the wake of reports of the possibility of certain criminal or anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India posing a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations in the Capital.

According to police, there is a three layered security system in place. The force is always alert and conducts anti-terror measures, especially ahead of any events of national importance and termed it as a usual protocol.

"Police is focusing on anti-terror sabotage activities. Although it is a usual protocol everyday we do it ahead of any event of national importance. With the upcoming Republic Day event, it perhaps



gives more scope to anti-national elements. So we have heightened our activities in terms of alertness, deployment of extra manpower," said a senior police official.

"As Prime Minister's security is of highest order and we have intensified our vigil and manpower to ensure no such incident is repeated. We have also received intelligence inputs that there are chances of a possible terror or drone attack," said the senior police official.

"In view of Republic Day, the security has been tightened with the entire area where the celebration would take place being placed under multiple CCTVs fitted with facial recognition software. All the units of the Delhi Police

force including local police, Special Cell, Special Branch, Traffic, SWAT (all-woman Special Weapons and Tactics) units and teams from National Security Guard will also be part of deployment besides the paramilitary forces," said Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi district.

"Anti drone systems have been put up in two different locations. Police personnel will also be deployed on high rise buildings for extra vigil. There's also air defence gun to keep a watch and tackle any hostile aircraft if found any. Those who have been completely vaccinated will only be allowed to attend the event. No children are allowed. Around 14,000 invi-

tees have been allowed this year out of which around 4,000 tickets have been issued for public," the DCP said.

Patrolling teams along with PRAKHAR Van's with attached camera will also be part of the security wing, he said.

Keeping in view of covid appropriate behaviour, personnel have been directed to follow the covid-19 protocol and there is no compromise on security aspect, police said.

The force has prohibited operation of "sub-conventional aerial platforms" including UAVs, paragliders and hot air balloons over the national capital from January 20 in view of Republic Day celebrations.

The order shall come into force with effect from January 20 and shall remain in force for a period of 27 days i.e. up to February 15 (both days inclusive) unless withdrawn earlier.

The Republic Day celebrations will now begin every year from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Subash Chandra Bose, Government sources said on Saturday.

This is in line with the Narendra Modi government's focus on commemorating important aspects of India's history and culture, they said, noting it had earlier started celebrating Bose's birth anniversary as 'Parakram Divas'.

Clubhouse chat targets Muslim women; DCW asks police to take action against culprits

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) on Tuesday issued a notice to Cyber Crime Cell, Delhi Police seeking FIR against persons for allegedly "making obscene comments against Muslim women" on an app.

In its notice, the panel said it had taken sou-moto cognisance of a video posted online on Twitter which showcased a Clubhouse conversation on the topic 'Muslim gals are more beautiful than Hindu gals'.

"In the said conversation, the participants are clearly heard making obscene, vulgar and derogatory remarks targeting Muslim women and girls. The Commission took strong note of the case and has sought from Delhi police urgent and strict action against the persons involved," the panel said.

It asked the police to register an FIR immediately and arrest the accused.

"The Delhi Police has been given five days to submit a detailed action taken report to the Commission," it said.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said "Someone tagged me on Twitter the detailed audio conversation on the Clubhouse app which targeted Muslim women and girls and made disgusting sexual comments against them. I feel outraged over the fact that such incidents are increasing in the country. Strongest action needs to be taken against the culprits and that's why



I have issued a notice to Delhi Police seeking immediate IR and arrests in the matter."

This incident comes days after hundreds of Muslim women were listed for "auction" on the "Bulli Bai" mobile application with photographs sourced without permission and doctored. The app appeared to be a clone of "Sulli Deals" which triggered a similar row last year.

PTI

Over 11K new Covid cases, 38 die in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

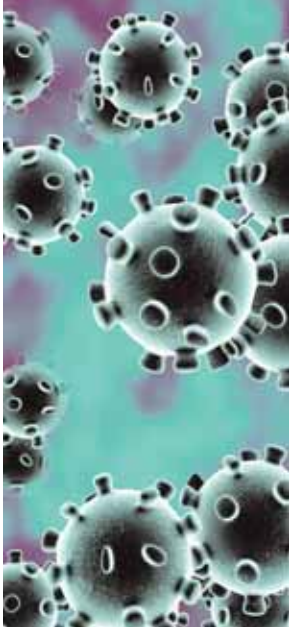
Delhi on Tuesday reported 11,684 new Covid-19 cases and 38 deaths in the last 24 hours. According to the Delhi Health Bulletin, active cases are 78,112 and the positivity rate stood at 22.47 per cent, which is 5.52 per cent less than Monday.

Importantly, for the first time in a week, the positivity rate in the city has fallen.

A total of 17,516 patients recovered from the virus in the preceding 24 hours. Delhi now has 37,540 containment zones. Total 52,002 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, a total 38,678 corona vaccines have been administered for 15 to 18 years. Total 15,414 precautionary doses administered to Health Care Workers (HCW), front-line and above 60 years citizens.

On Monday, the capital city registered 12,527 new cases Covid-19, a 31.4 percent drop from Sunday's case count.



The number of fresh Covid-19 cases per day in the national capital has been decreasing for four consecutive days now.

HC junks plea against ban on sale of herbal hookah

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition seeking a direction to the city Government to not interfere with the sale and service of herbal hookahs in restaurants.

Justice V Kameswar Rao noted that all restaurants and pubs have been closed by virtue of an order passed by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on January 11 on account of the surge in positive cases of Covid-19.

The judge said that no directions can be passed on the petition by a restaurant owner. Delhi Government counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi said that the government authorities are reviewing the situation of the pandemic in consultation with experts and the larger public interest.

He stated that when an order was passed by the court in November last year to permit the sale of herbal hookahs in restaurants, there was no surge of Covid-19 cases and the ban was on account of an

order passed by the Delhi health department and not DDMA.

"In view of the order dated January 11, 2022, no direction can be given as sought in the writ petition. The order dated November 16 is distinguishable. There is no merit in the petition and the same is dismissed," the court ordered.

Lawyer Anubhav Singh, appearing for the petitioner, sought direction from the court to stop the authorities from interfering in the sale and service of herbal hookah from the establishment of the petitioner.

He submitted that the court had earlier passed an order on November 16 last year to permit its sale and service subject to compliance with COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

The petitioner contended that the ban of herbal hookah violated rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19(1)(g), and Article 21 of the Constitution.

PTI

Cong takes a dig at AAP's Punjab CM face Mann

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at AAP national Convenor Arvind Kejriwal over his announcement to make Bhagwat Mann as Punjab Chief Minister face, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that Kejriwal has adopted a devious method of taking bogus "public opinion" on every issue to fool the people.

"The move was announced as Mann had already threatened to leave AAP if his name was not projected as the Chief Ministerial candidate. Kejriwal had no option but to project him as CM conducting a fake survey," he said.

Kumar said that the people of Punjab know very well that Mann is just a rubber stamp of Arvind, and his incompetence and inability to do anything worthwhile, have been thoroughly exposed.

"Delhi CM was in habit of fooling people on the name of public opinion as he did not consult Delhiites, including residents' welfare associations, social welfare, religious and educational institutions before liberalizing the Excise Police, including lowering of the liquor consumption age from 25 to 21 years, to make easy availability of liquor in the Capital," he added.

The Congress president also said that the few AAP leaders who stayed with the party have already deserted AAP, and Arvind had no other choice but announce the name of Mann in the absence of a viable alternative, as no one wants to associate with Arvind's autocratic style of functioning. Kumar said that Arvind told such blatant lies that on the one hand, he had promised to make Punjab "Nasha Mukh" while on the other hand, he liberalized the liquor policy in Delhi to drive the unemployed youth to liquor addiction.

HC seeks stand of Delhi Govt on plea to remove stray cows from roads

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the stand of the Delhi Government and other authorities on a petition seeking the removal of stray cows and bulls from roads and highways to prevent accidents.

Justice V Kameswar Rao issued notice to the Delhi Government, Deputy Commissioner (Traffic), and Deputy Commissioner of South Delhi Municipal Corporation on the petition by Satish Sharma, a lawyer, who claimed to have suffered injuries after "stray cows and bulls started fighting" on the road.

In the petition, the lawyer said that there are several stray cows and bulls wandering freely on the roads after being abandoned by their owners and despite several complaints to the authorities concerned, the animals are yet to be removed.

"On December 15, 2021, the petitioner was going to his home over his bike, suddenly a flock of stray cow and bulls started quarrelling over the road. By the quarrel of flock of stray cow and bulls, the petitioner had sustained the injuries over his palm, wrist, knee, and ankle. Immediately the petitioner fall down over the road and anyhow the passer bye had saved him," the petition said.

"In these kinds of incidents and circumstances, there can be grave possibilities of the road accident. With the grace of God, the life of the petitioner has been saved in two incidents. Although the authorities and officials failed to perform their lawful duties and obligations," it added.

The petition contended that it is the duty of the authorities to prevent the gathering of cows and bulls on the roads and their inaction is illegal, wrong, and uncalled for.

Python rescued from power station in Okhla



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-foot-long Indian Rock Python was spotted in an electricity sub-station in Okhla Phase-II of New Delhi's Okhla Industrial Estate. The large snake was rescued by the Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit.

Employees at a power station located in Okhla Phase-2 of Okhla Industrial Estate received an unusual visitor in the form of a massive Indian Rock Python.

To avoid harming or mishandling the snake, the manager of the station called and intimated Wildlife SOS on the helpline. The Wildlife SOS Rapid Response Unit immediately rushed to the location and it took the team nearly 15 minutes to safely rescue the snake.

The python is currently under observed and will soon be released safely back into its natural environment.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-founder and CEO, Wildlife SOS said, "Our rescuers are very well trained for such kinds of operations and even in this case, they followed all the safety measures while extricating

the python. The Wildlife SOS helpline's primary objective is to provide assistance to distressed wildlife, as well as help people, in order to avoid human-wildlife conflict situations."

Wasim Akram, Deputy Director - Special Projects, Wildlife SOS said, "With more and more habitats being fragmented, snake sightings in urban areas have become very common. We are grateful to the power station staff for taking the right measures and alerting our team. It is very important to acknowledge the presence of wild animals around us and learn to co-exist with them."

The Indian Rock Python (Python molurus) is a non-venomous snake which can grow up to 20 feet in length and mostly inhabit scrub jungles, tropical evergreen forests and grasslands. The species is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), which regulates the international trade of wildlife species.

PhD student molested inside JNU campus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) PhD student was allegedly molested when she was walking inside the campus on the intervening night of Monday-Tuesday.

According to police, on Tuesday around 12.45 am, a PCR call regarding molestation in JNU was received in Vasant Kunj North police station. Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), southwest district along with SHO Vasant Kunj North and staff rushed to the spot.

"It was revealed that on Monday around 11.45 pm, a PhD student was taking a stroll in the campus. When she was walking on the east gate road of the university, a man came on a bike from inside the campus and tried to molest her," Sharma said.

The girl raised an alarm and the accused ran back in the campus on his bike. A case of outraging the modesty has been registered at Vasant Kunj North police station and efforts are on to nab the accused, the DCP said.

QRT deployed ahead of R-Day celebrations

Gurugram: The security in and around across Gurugram has been beefed up in view of the Republic Day celebration on January 26.

Commissioner of Gurugram police, KK Rao has deployed various Quick Response Team (QRT) police teams across the district to avoid any untoward incident.

"All QRT police teams will keep a close watch 24X7 on suspicious persons and places, especially in vulnerable areas, markets, shopping malls, bus stands, railway stations and other public places," Rao said.

Rao said Republic Day is celebrated with great pomp and



gaiety in Gurugram and Elections are also certain to be held in many states soon. Taking advantage of such situations, anti-social elements can execute unpleasant incidents.

"In order to ensure law and order in Gurugram 3 additional QRTs of Gurugram Police have been constituted and

deployed. These police teams are mainly keeping an eye on suspicious persons and places including crowded areas, markets, shopping malls, bus stands, railway stations and other public places," he said

In addition to QRT, Gurugram Police, Police Riders Teams, Police PCR Teams,

Intelligence Teams and Crime Branch teams have also been deployed at the identified places.

To tighten the noose on the suspicious elements all concerned station house officers (SHOs), Incharge Crime Staff, Incharge Traffic Staff are also being patrolled in their area along with their police teams.

"Gurugram Police has an appeal to the general public that if they see any suspicious person or thing of any kind or if someone tries to disturb the law and order, then they must inform the police by any means. Gurugram Police is stationed 24X7 at your service," Rao said.

SR

PICTALK



Passengers wait at a platform at a railway station, during a cold winter day in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Man stabbed to death over his frequent interactions with a girl

New Delhi: A 29-year-old married man was stabbed to death by three persons for his alleged frequent interactions with the sister of one of the men despite repeated objections, police said on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Salman. He married four years ago and is survived by two children, his wife and mother, they said.

Police said two women have been apprehended in connection with the incident that took place on Monday night, and efforts are on to catch the three absconding men.

According to the police, the victim's mother, a resident of Trilokpuri, approached Mayur Vihar police station with a complaint stating that her son Salman used to speak to a girl residing near their house before his marriage. Both the families always objected to their friendship.

On Monday, at about 10 pm, the girl called Salman near her house and was talking to him. Meanwhile, her sister spotted them talking to each other and alerted her family.

She immediately called her brother Fardeen, alias Addu, who came to the spot along with two-three persons and started abusing and beating Salman.

The girl's sister and mother instigated Fardeen and his associates to teach a lesson to Salman, the victim's mother alleged in her complaint. Fardeen stabbed Salman with a knife and when the victim's mother called out for help, Fardeen and his associates ran away from the spot, according to the complaint. Salman was taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Priyanka Kashyap said a case of was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) at Mayur Vihar on the complaint of mother of the deceased.

PTI

REPUBLICDAY2022: BEATING THE RETREAT EVENT
1K drones to mark 75 yrs of Independence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will join the elite club of nations during the Beating Retreat ceremony here on January 29 when more than 1,000 locally made drones will depict 75 years of Independence at Rajpath. US, China and Russia are the other three countries in the world to have the capability to launch 1,000 drones simultaneously for events of such magnitude and size.

Giving details here about the exceptional event, defence ministry sources said on Tuesday the drones show is brainchild of a start-up venture of the Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Delhi.

Moreover, for the first time, on the parapet of the North Block and the South Block, there will be a laser projection mapping show to commemorate

75 years of independence, they added. This is the first time that the Beating the Retreat ceremony will have a laser show and a drone show, officials said.

These two shows will take place in addition to the foot-tapping music and classical renditions that are there every year at the ceremony, they said.

Botlab, a startup from IIT-Delhi, will put up the drone show with nearly 1,000 drones. It will be themed on 75 years of independence. With this launch, India will become the fourth country to conduct a drone show of this size that has been designed and conceptualised indigenously, sources said.

The Beating the Retreat ceremony marks a centuries-old military tradition, dating back to the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset.

New Delhi: Eastern Command chief Lt General Manoj Pande will be



the next Vice Chief of Army after incumbent Lt General C P Mohanty retires this month end. Pande will be senior most after present Army Chief General M M Naravane retires in April end. If the government follows the tradition of appointing the senior most officer as the top boss, Pande will then be the next Army chief, sources said here on Tuesday adding he will be the

first officer from the Engineer Corps if he makes it to top. The government is yet to select the next Chief of Defence Staff after first CDS General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash in December last year.

As soon as the buglers sounded the "retreat", the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield.

PM interacts with BJP men in Varanasi digitally

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his election campaign under Covid-19 restrictions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday digitally interacted with BJP workers in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and asked those at booth-level to make farmers aware of central schemes benefiting them.

In the first of such interactions following the announcement of poll dates by the Election Commission (EC), the Prime Minister said that the BJP is set to carry forward its election campaign till January 22.

Modi connected with an estimated 10,000 BJP workers



and included those from booth, district and State level BJP functionaries.

On account of the EC's restrictions on physical rallies due to the spread of Omicron virus the Prime Minister's interaction seen as poll campaign- held through audio-

conferencing.

Speaking to the workers the Prime Minister reaffirmed the BJP's commitment towards development of the state with double-engine at work.

Restoration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, women empowerment, infrastructure

PM'S WEF ADDRESS

Rahul takes 'teleprompter' jibe at Modi, BJP leaders cite 'technical glitch'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to restart his Davos Agenda address, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a swipe saying "even the teleprompter could not take so much lies", even as BJP leaders pointed to a "technical glitch" at event organiser World Economic Forum's end.

While there was no official reaction from the government or the WEF on the incident, several Congress leaders and social media users claimed that it was a "teleprompter gaffe" as Prime Minister Modi had to pause and then restart his special address to the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda 2022 summit.

BJP leaders and several others pointed out that it was a technical glitch due to which the WEF people were not able to patch the PM and requested him to start again.

In an apparent dig at Prime Minister Modi, Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, "Even the teleprompter could not take so much lies." Congress, on its official Twitter handle, shared the video of the prime minister taking a pause in his speech, calling him the "teleprompter guy".

BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga slammed those criticising the PM. "Don't those getting excited at the tech glitch not realise that the problem was at WEF's end? They were not able to patch PM, so request-



ed him to start again, which is evident in the way Klaus Schwab said that he will again give a short introduction and then open up the session," he said.

Several other BJP leaders cited the same reason for the incident and some posted a video from the WEF's YouTube channel, showing the sequence of events.

According to the video and pointers along with it shared by BJP leaders, Prime Minister Modi's speech started abruptly from the middle without English interpretation. The prime minister was interrupted by the co-ordinator who asked him to check if all had been connected, Schwab then started the official session and Modi again started his speech with English interpretation being shared.

A website, however, said it

is unlikely that the prime minister had a teleprompter gaffe. "If you look at the WEF version of the recording of his speech, someone in the background says, 'Sir, aap unse ek baar pooche ki sab jud gaye kya' (Sir, ask them once if everyone is connected). This portion is not clear in the video live-streamed on PM's YouTube channel."

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, "Teleprompter se bhashan chal sakta hai, shasan nahin. Kal ye poore desh ki samajh mein aa gaya (You can give a speech but not rule using a teleprompter. The whole country understood this yesterday)."

"Failed to address after teleprompter stopped working, PM Modi failed to represent the country on World Economic Forum!," posted the Youth Congress.

'Disturbing trend': SC on courts deciding rape, murder cases in haste

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the "disturbing tendency" of trial courts deciding cases involving rape and murder charges in haste as it commuted the death sentence of a man, convicted for raping and killing a 11-year-old girl, to 30 years imprisonment.

A bench, headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao and comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and B.V. Nagarathna, said: "It is travesty of justice as the appellant was not given a fair opportunity to defend himself. This is a classic case indicating the disturbing tendency of trial courts adjudicating criminal cases involving rape and murder in haste. It is trite law that an accused is entitled for a fair trial which is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Noting that the trial court passed the order of conviction and sentence on the same day, Justice Rao, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said: "The object and purpose of Section 235 (2) CrPC is that the accused must be given an opportunity to make a representation against the sentence to be imposed on him. A bifurcated hearing for convicting and sentencing is necessary to provide an effective opportunity to the accused."

The bench added that adequate opportunity to produce relevant material on the question of death sentence should be provided to the accused by the trial court.

The judgment came on an appeal filed by Bhagwani, whose appeal challenging the death sentence awarded by the trial court was dismissed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The top court noted that the accused was 25 years old on the date of commission of the offence and belongs to a Scheduled Tribes community, eking his livelihood by doing manual labour. It added that no evidence has been placed by the prosecution on record to show



that there is no probability of rehabilitation and reformation of the accused and the question of an alternative option to death sentence is foreclosed.

"The appellant had no criminal antecedents before the commission of crime for which he has been convicted. There is nothing adverse that has been reported against his conduct in jail. Therefore, the death sentence requires to be commuted to life imprisonment," noted the bench, sentencing him to 30 years imprisonment for committing rape and murder of a hapless girl.

The incident occurred in April 2017 and the other accused Satish died during the pendency of his appeal.

Servomax India MD held in ₹402 cr fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Avasarala Venkateswara Rao, Promoter and Managing Director of Servomax India Private Limited (SIPL) on money laundering charges for causing a loss of around Rs 402 crore to a consortium of Public Sector Banks by indulging in various fraudulent practices.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of CBI FIR dated February 2, 2018 Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, forgery for the purpose of cheating and using forged documents as genuine.

Investigation by ED revealed that SIPL had taken loans from a consortium of banks and Rao was the promoter cum Key Managerial Person who was responsible for the entire business operations. Rao indulged in fraudulent transactions and the loan amounts were not repaid, and the consortium of Banks suffered a non-performing asset (NPA) of Rs 402 crore, the ED said.

The accused firm SIPL had circulated loan amounts to various related entities to inflate its books of accounts to become eligible for higher loans and had issued letters of credit (LCs) to related entities without any real purchase of goods and which ultimately devolved causing losses of Rs 267 crore to the banks, it said.

The ED investigation

established that Avasarala Venkateswara Rao was continuously indulging in benami transactions and had diverted loan funds for personal benefit. He has used a web of more than 50 entities to route proceeds of crime and layer the same.

Rao was non-cooperative during the investigation and was not supplying documents of his own business entities on one pretext or the other. Once the loan accounts became NPA, he was using his own shell entity (with his employee as controlling Director) to initiate the CIRP (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process) by fraudulently declaring it to be a creditor by passing bogus journal entries.

Rao even managed to get



his own person appointed as Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) for some time. He has also managed to retain the brand name of 'Servomax' illegally and even during the CIRP process, he controlled the website of the company and diverted work orders to his related entities.

Based on the investigation done till date and the material evidence available on record, he was arrested under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act and was produced before the PMLA Special Court Hyderabad on Tuesday. The Court has remanded him to 14-day judicial custody.

Vikram Dev appointed as Air India CMD: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A 1993 batch IAS officer of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, Vikram Dev Dutt, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India Ltd as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Tuesday. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

Dutt's appointment comes nearly a month after the Competition Commission approved Tata Group's proposed acquisition of Air India, Air India Express, and AISATS.

Prior to this, Dutt was appointed as Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare Department of the Delhi government in June 2020. However, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Anil Bajjal transferred the IAS officer of AGMUT 1993 batch and posted him as principal secretary of the Services department in

March 2021. Dutt, in 2020, assumed the charge of Delhi's Health and Family Welfare Department as principal secretary to push government's measures to contain the COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

Talace Pvt Ltd, part of Tata Group, is to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Air India and Air

India Express and a 50 percent shareholding in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd (AISATS).

The Tata group firm had emerged as the winning bidder for Air India in October 2021, with a bid worth Rs 18,000 crore. It will pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

Over 50 lakh HCWs, frontline workers get booster dose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said over 50 lakh healthcare and frontline workers and citizens aged 60 years

or above have received 'Precaution Dose' since January 10. With the administration of nearly 80 lakh vaccine doses in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country

has exceeded 158.04 crore as per provisional reports till 7 am. Taking to Twitter, the Union minister wrote "Another Day, Another Milestone over 50 lakh healthcare and frontline workers and citizens aged 60 years or above have received Precaution Dose, since 10th January. I request all those who are eligible to get their precaution dose at the earliest".

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination has commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.



Ensure only Covaxin given to 15-18 group: Bharat Biotech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raising concern over unapproved vaccines being administered to children, Bharat Biotech on Tuesday issued a statement urging healthcare workers to be "vigilant" and ensure only Covaxin is being administered to the

age group of 15-18 years. The statement comes after the company received reports of other vaccines, which have not been approved for children, being administered to the newly eligible group.

"We have received several reports of other Covid-19 vaccines being administered to

EC adds new column to mention expenditure on digital campaigning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has added a new column in candidates' election expenditure returns to submit information on money spent on digital campaigning in the upcoming polls in five states. The candidates used to mention money spent on digital campaigning in previous elections also, but this is for the first time that a dedicated column has been created to "capture" details of such expenditure.

In a bid to check the spread of COVID-19, the poll panel has extended a ban on holding physical rallies, roadshows and similar physical campaigning events till January 22. With the ban on outdoor physical events in place, parties are using digital and online platforms to reach out to voters. The new column has been created for the first time for elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur by tweaking the format of returns.

"Parties and candidates (so

far) used to disclose on their own such expenditure ... They used to provide details of expenditure on things like digital vans ... They used to show expenditure under this category. Now, a dedicated point has been created to capture such expenditure from this (set of) polls," a functionary explained.

The functionary said it is not for the first time such disclosure by the candidates and parties will be made. "But the manner of disclosure now is dedicated," the functionary explained. According to section 10A of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a candidate who fails to lodge his or her election expenditures within the prescribed time is liable to be disqualified by EC for a period of three years from contesting polls.

Ahead of the announcement of the election schedule, the expenditure limit for candidates for campaigning was hiked by the government based on the recommendations of the poll panel.

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/Pre-Primary/Gen.Corres/189/2018/8531 Date: 17.01.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission(Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer/ Distributor of manufacturer of plastic moulded furniture for supply of Low Height Plastic Table and Chair.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2919/21

Didi to visit UP on Feb 8 in support of Akhilesh

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress is likely to throw its weight behind Samajwadi Party and Akhilesh Yadav in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections, senior SP leader and former Bengal Minister Kiranmoy Nanda who was on Tuesday sent to meet Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a special emissary of Yadav said.

Nanda said that the Bengal Chief Minister would visit UP on February 8 where she would hold a meeting with the SP chief.

The former Bengal Fisheries Minister — in Buddhadeb Bhattacharya cabinet — and presently the vice-president of SP said, Banerjee and Yadav would hold a virtual press meeting in Lucknow



and Varanasi.

“The TMC ... does not want to contest in UP. All seats will be given to Akhilesh Yadav,” Nanda was quoted as saying.

The SP leader also said that “a large section of the political society thinks that Mamata Banerjee is the principal face against the BJP in India,” and



hence his party would like to go with her.

According to sources the SP leadership also requested Banerjee to join Yadav in campaign in UP. Whether Banerjee had given words was not known. The TMC however did not demand any seat in the north India State for now, sources said.

UP court rejects bail plea of SP MLA Nahid Hasan

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A special court in Kairana in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of Samajwadi Party MLA Nahid Hasan, arrested last week in a case under the stringent Gangsters Act.

Hasan, who was arrested on January 15, has filed his nomination from the Kairana assembly constituency on a Samajwadi Party ticket for the February 10 election.

MP/MLA special court judge Subodh Singh said there was no case for bail and rejected Hasan's plea. Hasan's lawyer said they would move the high court soon seeking his bail.

According to Government lawyer Ashok Pundhir, the legislator was sent to 14-day judicial custody by a court in Kairana in Shamli district on January 15.

According to police, 40 people, including Hasan, were booked last year. While most of the accused were released on bail, Hasan had failed to surrender in court following which a non-bailable warrant was issued against him and he was arrested.

Earlier, the police had invoked the stringent Gangsters Act against the 34-year-old MLA from Kairana.

According to an affidavit filed with his nomination, Hasan, who did his BBA from Australia in 2010, is an accused in 16 cases lodged in police stations of Shamli, Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar districts.

All the cases are pending in courts and Hasan has so far not been convicted in any of them.

Under attack over fielding candidates with a criminal background in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday alleged that his party leaders have been framed in false cases by the ruling BJP.

Yadav also described as BJP-sponsored a PIL which sought a direction from the Supreme Court to the Election Commission to de-register any political party which violates the directions of the apex court on making public information about their candidate's criminal record. **PTI**

Army rescues civilians stuck in avalanche in J&K's Kupwara

PNS ■ JAMMU

More than two dozen stranded passengers were safely rescued by the jawans of the Indian Army and GREF near Chowkibal-Tangdhar road amid fresh spell of snow-fall in the last 24 hours in North Kashmir district of Kupwara.

The passenger vehicles were stuck on the Tangdhar-Chowkibal axis, following which the nearest Army unit was alerted and a rescue operation launched.

According to local reports, some of the passengers stranded in the area had a narrow escape as their vehicles were stuck in the avalanche prone areas.

According to a Defence spokesman, the civilians, which included a child, were evacuated to safety by the Army rescue team. The spokesman said two rescue teams comprising avalanche rescue teams from the Indian Army and a team of GREF were mobilized for rescuing the



civilians who were stuck in their vehicles.

"Despite adverse weather conditions compounded by twin avalanches, 14 civilians were rescued and brought to Neelam and 16 civilians to NC pass, which is also commonly known as Sadhna pass. All the rescued civilians were provided food, medical care and shelter for the night", defence spokesman added. He said twelve vehicles were later retrieved during the day on 18 January, post avalanche and snow slides clearance from the road. GREF played a difficult but stellar role in snow clearance amidst dangerous conditions.

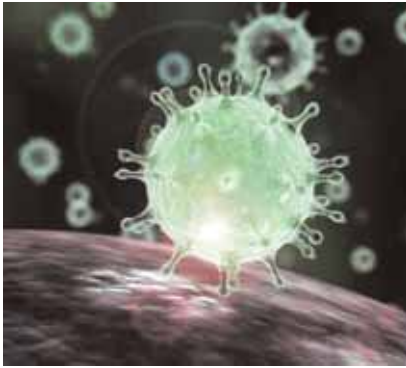
Daily Covid cases shoot past 28,400 in Kerala Schools and Colleges to be shut in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Situation in Kerala has taken a turn for the worse as the Minister for Health Veena George said in a release that 28,481 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 during the last 24 hours and death toll reached 51,026 by Tuesday evening.

The *Pioneer* has been quoting medical doctors and front line warriors who had warned that the Covid-19 situation in Kerala was going out of control as the Safety Protocols like wearing face masks, maintaining social distance and crowding in public places were ignored by the population as well as the administration.

The Test Positivity Rate on Tuesday was 35.27 per cent. The Government of Kerala had given up releasing the TPR figures following a dip in the number of daily pandemic cases diagnosed in the State. On Tuesday, Education Minister V Sivankutty was tested positive and was admitted to a city hospital. The minister was opposing the plea from all sections of the society to close down schools in the backdrop of the



increase in the Covid-19 cases. By Tuesday evening, sources in Government secretariat confirmed that the all schools and colleges would be shut down in the State.

More than 500 employees (drivers and conductors) of Kerala State Road Transport Corporations were tested positive for the pandemic and this forced the public sector unit to cancel many schedules. A senior nurse in Varkkala government hospital, described as a front line covid warrior, suc-

cumbed to the pandemic which she contracted while attending to patients in the Covid-19 ward.

Dr Rajiv Pillai, a frontline medical doctor, working among the Covid-19 patients too was tested positive and has been quarantined at home. The situation in the capital city as well as in Ernakulam district continued to be alarming. The triennial CPI(M) conferences are being cited as one of the reasons for spurt in the number of Covid-19 cases in the State. The “Mega Thiruvathirakali” (a traditional song and dance programme eulogizing Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan) held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Thrissur which saw the participation of more than 1,500 women artists is being blamed for the hike in the Covid-19 cases.

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, party secretary, said on Tuesday that safety protocols may have to be reworked for holding the State Conference of the party at Kochi next month and the Party Congress scheduled to be held in Kannur during April 2022.

J&K logs nearly 5K new cases

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday recorded close to 5,000 fresh cases of coronavirus with both Jammu and Srinagar districts reporting more than 900 cases while three Covid-19 patients died in the last 24 hours.

The majority of front line health workers in different medical colleges and other health institutions have tested positive adversely impacting the health care services. To run the show the staff of Government Ayurvedic hospital has been diverted to the GMC Jammu along with final year MBBS students, nurses and other para-medical staff.

In Jammu region alone over 450 health care workers have been tested positive in the last couple of days while over 250 doctors and paramedics

were isolated after they contracted coronavirus while delivering health care services in Kashmir valley. The UT administration has already stalled planned surgeries across different health institutions and running emergency services only to break the chain of coronavirus.

According to a health bulletin, the total active positive cases have crossed the barrier of 20,000 in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A total number of 4651 cases were detected on Tuesday, 3015 from Kashmir region and 1546 from Jammu region. More than 74,000 tests were conducted on Tuesday.

Night curfew has already been imposed in the UT to prevent the spread of the virus while all educational institutions have been closed down. Weekend curfew was also imposed last week.

Rajnath writes to Didi on Netaji tableau exclusion

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid raging controversy over the Centre's alleged “misdemeanour” in rejecting Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's tableau for the Republic Day parade, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday wrote a letter to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee clearing the Union Government's stance on why the decision to exclude Bengal's tableau on Bose taken.

Claiming that the “selection process for the tableaux in the Republic Day parade is very transparent,” Singh said that a committee of experts from the field of art, culture, music and dance was responsible for the selection of tableaux and that the selection of such tableaux was done after a series of evaluations.

The Defence Minister wrote, “I respect your feelings

and would like to personally inform you that out of the 29 proposals received from states/union territories this year, 12 have been selected.” Then he hoped that the letter would resolve all suspicions she had.

The Chief Minister had on Sunday written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi registering her protest against dropping of Bengal's tableau featuring Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the year of his 125th birth anniversary.

While Singh hoped to resolve the issue through the letter Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked the parties that be to “stop seeing bad politics in a display that celebrates India,” even as she tweeted “States, GoI ministries & PSUs send proposals for Republic Day tableaux every year. The duration of Parade

itself is limited. An Expert Committee of eminences from the arts shortlist from those received. For RD 2022, GoI received 56 proposals; 21 were shortlisted.”

Closing her argument she said: “Incidentally, this year the tableau of CPWDGOV includes Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose... Stop seeing bad politics in a display that celebrates India.”

Meanwhile the ruling Trinamool Congress and Bengal intellectuals continued to see “bad politics” in the Centre's decision even as they said that last year Netaji's 125th anniversary was started by the BJP Government as Bengal was going to polls but the tableaux of the great hero was dropped this year because the polls were over and the BJP had lost in it.

Mala Roy the TMC MP from South Kolkata --- where

Bose lived before living in the darkness of a night for Germany via Afghanistan --- said “it is very unfortunate ... I have no words to express ... never was a tableaux rejected in such a manner ... as this is not only an insult to Netaji but also an insult to the people of India.”

The Left too criticized the Centre for “acting in a mean manner by rejecting Netaji's tableau.”

Nirbhed Roy, a critic and a scholar said that “in rejecting Netaji's tableaux the Centre had shown a sick mentality ... peculiar to less enlightened and uneducated people only ... They name the Kolkata Port after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee while use Netaji's name for elections ... this shows their meanness of mind ... Netaji did not belong to Bengal only ... he belonged to the whole country.”



5-month-old Oscar swims inside the penguin enclosure at Byculla Zoo in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI

HC commutes death sentence of sisters who killed children

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nearly seven and a half years it stayed the execution of two gallow-bound Kolhapur sisters Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit whose mercy petitions had been rejected by then President Pranab Mukerjee, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday commuted the two sisters' death sentence to life imprisonments, after pulling up the officers of the State Government for the inordinate delay in deciding on their mercy petitions.

Passing strictures against the officers of the Maharashtra Government for the delay of “seven years, ten months and 15 days” in deciding the mercy petitions of two Kolhapur sisters who were convicted for the murder of six children, a HC bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sarang Kotwal attributed the commutation of the two convicts from capital punishment to life imprisonment to the “gross delay” in the disposal of mercy petitions.

“...the position of law that unexplained and gross delay in disposal of mercy petitions may result in commuting the death sentence was already holding the field when the mercy petitions by and on behalf of the Petitioners were made. Despite this legal position, wholly due to the casual approach of the officers of the Respondent- State, the mercy petitions were not decided for seven years, ten months and 15 days,” the two Judges observed, while commuting the death sentence of two

Kolhapur sisters' death sentence to life imprisonments.

“Though the procedure for deciding the mercy petitions mandates speed and expediency, the State machinery showed indifference and laxity at each stage of processing the files. That it took seven years only for the movement of files such a grave issue is unacceptable when electronic communications were available to be used. The argument of the State that the Petitioners should be executed even today overlooks that it is the dereliction of its officers that is the cause for commuting the death sentence to that of life imprisonment,” the Judges noted.

“The State represents the interest of the society in the criminal justice system. The Respondent-State not only has violated the constitutional rights of the Petitioners but also failed the innocent victims of these heinous crimes,” the Judges said.

While rejecting the petitioners' prayer that they be directed to be released on bail forthwith having completed 25 years of imprisonment, the HC bench noted: “That is so because the legal position is that sentence for imprisonment for life is for the remainder of the convict's life unless the Competent Authority remits the remaining sentence. The crimes committed by the Petitioners are heinous. The brutality shown by the Petitioners in murdering innocent children is beyond words to condemn.”

It may be recalled that the trial

court had on June 21, 2001 held Renuka and her Seema Mohan Gavit guilty of killing only six children and convicted them to death for six murders. When the matter came up in appeal before it later, the Bombay High Court later on September 9, 2004 ruled that the Prosecution could prove conclusively the involvement of the two sisters in the murder of five children - Santosh (2), Anjali alias Pinky (2), Shraddha alias Rani alias Bhagyashree (one year, nine months), Kranti (9 years) and Bhavana (1 year, six months). Subsequently on August 31, 2006, a two-member bench of the Supreme Court - comprising Justices K G Balakrishnan and G P Mathur - confirmed the death sentence awarded to the two Kolhapur sisters.

In late July 2014, the then President Pranab Mukherjee rejected their mercy petition by President Pranab Mukherjee.

In its order commuting the two Kolhapur sisters, the HC bench noted: “While confirming the death sentence, the High Court found no mitigating circumstances, nor any material that the Petitioners could be reformed or introduced in the society as responsible citizens. The Supreme Court dismissed their appeals observing that there are no circumstances in favour of the Petitioners, and they were a menace to the society”.

“Therefore, if and when the issue of remission of the Petitioners sentence arises for consideration, we have no doubt that the Competent Authority

will consider the gravity of the offences, the adverse observations of this Court and the Supreme Court that the Petitioners are beyond being reformed. As a result, the death sentences imposed on the Petitioners - Renuka Kiran Shinde and Seema Mohan Gavit be and hereby are commuted to one of the life imprisonments,” the two Judges ruled.

“The warrant to execute the death sentence of the Petitioners, which was not given effect during the pendency and hearing of this Petition, is cancelled and set aside,” the HC bench added.

It may be recalled that between 1990 and 1996, the mother and the Kolhapur daughters had created a sensation by managing to kidnap more than three dozen children - mostly infants and others aged below 12 - forcing them into begging, thefts, kept them half-fed, ensured they did not run away and continued to commit a series of big and small crimes, totalling to over 125 as per police records. In one such theft attempt at a public market place, Seema was caught but Renuka, standing nearby with a kidnapped boy, suddenly banged his head on the footpath.

As the child bled profusely and screamed, the entire crowd's attention was diverted and the sisters vanished to safety, with their modus operandi succeeding handsomely.

Over the five years from among the 40-plus children they abducted, the police could prove the kidnappings of Santosh, Bunty, Swati, Guddu, Meena,

Raja, Shraddha, Kranti, Gauri and Pankaj and brutal killings of Santosh, Shraddha, Gauri, Pankaj and Anjali.

The killings were calculated, calm and coldblooded - one 18-month old boy was killed by hammering his head repeatedly on an iron rod at a bus stand as the trio giggled and ate vada-paav. They killed another two-and-half-year old girl, stuffed her body in a bag and took it to a cinema theatre where they coolly watched a film and later dumped it on the way home.

A year-old boy was killed by repeatedly hammering his head on the stony footpath, another child was inflicted with 42 wounds, and they drew designs on another child of around 4 years.

In 1996, owing to some feuds over the loot-share, at one point, Anjanabai, Renuka and Seema decided to kill her step-daughter from her ex-husband, but a tip-off to the police led to their arrest. Raids on their home proved to be a clincher, the discovery of many children's clothes and toys, and with Renuka's husband Kiran turning an approver, the Kolhapur Police finally cracked the sensational case, as the erstwhile royal city of the Chhatrapatis heaved a sigh of relief.

Initially, the three accused - the mother and two daughters-- remained tight-lipped but after Kiran's statement, Renuka blurted out everything, revealing the gory details of over 40 kidnappings-cum-murders, though the police could ultimately prove 13 abductions and 5 killings.

To make higher education affordable, TN University adds more courses online

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Chennai based Hindustan University is getting ready to live with Covid-19 pandemic as well as for the post-pandemic days with a state-of-the-art teaching process. A revolutionary scheme to bring higher education to the doorsteps of students at affordable cost is on the anvil and the university hopes to establish its commanding presence in the world of education through this system.

Chennai based Hindustan University is the first institution to make use of the opportunity offered by the pandemic and lock down. The on-line classes launched by the University during the pandemic induced lockdown has been extended and more and more degree/post graduate degree courses have been added to the list of courses. “We have graduate and post graduate programmes in management, marketing, humanities and English literature. These courses lead to the award of MBA, MCA and MA in English literature,” Ami Agarwal, head, Centre for Open and Digital

Education (CODE), told *The Pioneer*. The university is offering six graduate and post graduate programmes which would help the students to walk into the world of opportunities with boldness, said Agarwal, a mathematics teacher-turned-educational entrepreneur who has studied the potential of on-line courses.

She said there were 150 new students who have joined for these on-line graduate and post graduate courses and that include many working professionals. “These are all students who are upskilling and re-skilling their talents,” said Agarwal.

She termed the courses revolutionary as it would considerably bring down the cost of education. “The students need not come to the campus at all except for examination. They save money as there is no commutation expenses and no hostel fee. Since they are all matured students who understand the seriousness of life, we do not foresee any problems though we have taken enough measures to tie up them to the courses,” said Agarwal.

FIRST COLUMN

NEET AND THE POLITICS OF TAMIL NADU

That the test is against social justice is a fallacy



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Tension is brewing between Tamil Nadu’s ruling DMK and state Governor over the latter not forwarding the Tamil Nadu Admission Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, passed by the Legislative Assembly, for consideration of the President. The bill seeks to bypass the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical students in Tamil Nadu by allowing admissions to be made based on marks obtained by students in Class XII or Plus Two. All parties, except the BJP, support the Bill. As it attempts to bypass a Central law, the Bill needs Presidential assent to come into force. Now as the state governor has not acted on the legislation sent to him, the state government has put pressure on him. Various DMK MPs tried to meet the President of India but in vain. They had to satisfy themselves by submitting a memorandum to the President’s office. Their meeting with the Union Home Minister also did not materialise. A meet-



ing of all the legislature parties chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister was conducted on January 8 to take necessary legal steps to abolish NEET. The meeting decided to take other state governments into confidence and put up a collective fight against NEET. Senior BJP leader and MLA Vanathi Srinivasan rightly denied the contention of the Dravidian parties that NEET for medical admissions was against the principles of social justice and the reservation policy followed in Tamil Nadu. When all the reservations applicable for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Class, etc., are intact even after NEET system, how is it against any social justice? Hence, the contention that NEET affects social justice is a blatant lie.

The Constitution backs the governor who “shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President.” When it is not a Money bill there is no compulsion for him to return the bill immediately. Even if the said bill is sent to the President, the Central Government in all likelihood may not agree for giving consent for the legislation of the Tamil Nadu Government due to the following factors. First, the TN legislation is against the Central Government Act and any tinkering will amount to violation of a Supreme Court ruling. Secondly, among all the states in India, only Tamil Nadu is against NEET and there is no political compulsion for Centre to side with the TN government. Thirdly, the ruling dispensation in TN is politically against BJP at the Centre and there is no need for BJP to help DMK to fulfil its election promise. Fourthly, even when BJP’s alliance partner AIADMK was in power in TN, the BJP government was not inclined to remove NEET. When the GO issued by the TN Government for admission to academic year 2017-18, it was contested by the students from CBSE stream. While delivering the judgement the following comments were made by the judge: “The case as projected by the Government by treating the students from the CBSE Board undoubtedly indicates the mind of the State Government that they want to look at those students as though they do not belong to this State.” It seems still the present state government has not learnt any lesson from the above observation. More number of students from Tamil Nadu have cleared NEET this year. Among the top 50,000 national rank holders, the number of TN students has increased to 2874 this year, as against 2747 last year. Hence there is no truth in the statement that TN students cannot pursue medical education due to introduction of NEET.

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

Caste coalition in UP at crossroads



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

OBCs may have been satisfied with the call of Mandirs and mutts, but what they want is true empowerment where they have an equal share of power

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party got a major setback when a tall OBC leader representing the numerically dominant Kushwaha, quit Yogi’s cabinet and later joined Samajwadi Party with a vow to finish the BJP from the State. The day he joined SP, Swamy Prasad Maurya claimed that “it is a history that the party I leave is finished with the passage of time”. It could be a boastful assertion which he made when probably he got swayed by the massive crowd that assembled at the Samajwadi Party office to welcome him. But this switch is an indication that the rainbow coalition of upper caste, backward, and Dalits which the BJP had stitched assiduously in the last seven years has started crumbling.

The importance of Swami Prasad Maurya could be gauged from the fact that after him quitting the Government, two more ministers and around a dozen BJP lawmakers, all non-Yadav OBC leaders, resigned from the party. They have shown their loyalty to Maurya and claimed that they will swim with him. The indications are more desertions may follow. Incidentally, the majority of them were originally with BSP and had joined BJP along with Maurya after deserting Mayawati.

The revolt by these OBCs leaders against the BJP leadership ahead of the crucial UP assembly elections has come as a shot in the arm for the opposition Samajwadi party. Akhilesh Yadav tweeted a picture of himself with Maurya and wrote: “Saamajik nyay kaa inqalabhoga, baae me badlavhoga (There will be a revolution in the field or social justice and there will be change in UP).”

The sudden political development caught the BJP leadership, which appears to have grown complacent after three back-to-back electoral successes in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the 2017 UP assembly elections, unawares. This victory centered around the support of backward communities, which account for 54 percent of the population. This support base was built brick by brick by Amit Shah in 2016 when he was the national president of the party. He was the one who picked up Swamy Prasad Maurya and persuaded him to join BJP along with his supporters. The BJP needs to introspect as to why and how this support group disintegrated putting the party in a soup.

The resentment among backward against the Chief Minister Yogi is not new. The anger was simmering for the last couple of years. There is an impression that the BJP Government is pro-Thakur because Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath belongs to that caste. Word started spreading that the members of the backward community were being ignored.

Even the Deputy Chief Minister in the Yogi cabinet, Keshav Prasad Maurya, himself an OBC who belongs to the same caste as Swamy Prasad Maurya, showed

his annoyance at the way the members of the backward community were ignored. The RSS leadership placated him and early last year when Yogi along with senior BJP leaders had a luncheon meeting with Maurya at his residence. The indications were that “everything has been sorted out” but the meeting failed to douse the anger of the backwards.

Political analysts, however, point out that the BJP in the last eight years with its social engineering politics along with the benefits through ‘Direct benefit transfer’ (DBT) believed that it has upstaged the caste-based identity politics. The BJP leadership believed that the members from the SC and the OBCs are no longer attracted to caste lines. It is believed that the economic needs of this section have been fulfilled by the Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments in the last five years through the free distribution of food grains.

In fact, BJP mis-read the trend. Free distribution of food grains does not lead to empowerment of any caste. It is a feelgood factor for shorter period of time but at a longer run, it proved detrimental for the party. There is a belief among the villagers that the freebie scheme which has started, will not be withdrawn by the next government.

The way OBC leaders are leaving BJP is not a good sign for the ruling party particularly when an election bugle has been sounded because leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya and his colleagues still command clout in their respective communities and enjoy ideological weightage.

The voters from the OBCs and SCs will face the dilemma on the day of voting whether to respond to the traditional optics of caste appeal or go with the politics of economic and social empowerment. The Yadavs are already with Samajwadi Party and after leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya, Lalji Verma, and Ram Achal Rajbhar joined SP, now Akhilesh has become the focal point around whom the backward politics will revolve now.

What has happened last week is a clear indication that caste-based politics is threatening to upstage Hindutva politics, despite the saffron-clad Yogi Adityanath is the Hindutva icon for the BJP and the party’s campaign is revolving around Ram Janmabhoomi and Kashi Vishwanath Dham. There were rumours that Yogi would comment assembly elections from Ayodhya but later it was communicated he would contest from Gorakhpur.

BJP continued to play around the arrogance of Yogi by projecting him as the staunch Hindutva icon. Slogans like “Raj tilak ki karo tayari, aa rahen hai bhagwadhari (Get ready for coronation as a saffron-clad is coming)” were shared widely during the digital campaign kicked off two days back.

The party added further doses of Hindutva by propagating the construction of Ram Mandir and the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham as its achievements. A new twist was added to this Hindutva story when BJP leaders started talking about Mathura.

In contrast, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav who had contested the 2017 election on the development plank with the tagline of “Kaam bolta hai”, chose realpolitik as he shed all inhibitions and joined the caste bandwagon. He started his crusade by first asking for the caste-based census and even gave a slogan of “85 vs15” indicating that the OBCs were 85 percent of the population while the upper castes were a minuscule minority of 15 percent.

He followed it up by scouting for new caste-based parties as allies. He even made it clear that Samajwadi Party will never have any trucks with big parties. He patched up with his estranged uncle Shivalp Yadav to consolidate the backward caste vote bank. The creation of a large coalition of the neglected, excluded and undocumented backward castes and Dalits could be a game-changer for the Samajwadi Party.

On the other hand, BJP’s social engineering tactics meant regrouping of the non-Yadav, non-Jatav OBC, and Dalit sub-castes in its favour. But what had happened in last two days is a clear indication that the members of the backward community are now asking for their pound of flesh. They are satisfied with the call of Mandirs or mutts but they want empowerment in the true sense — where they have an equal share of power. This has crumbled the cookie of Hindutva.

In short, the ghost of Mandal is out of Kamandal and it is set to turn the UP election on its head.

“

IN THE BUDGET FOR 2021-22, THE FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNC

POINT COUNTERPOINT

MY ASSESSMENT THAT THE AAP WILL ONLY FRACTURE THE NON-BJP VOTE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ARVIND KEJRIWAL. —CONGRESS LEADER P CHIDAMBARAM



GOANS WILL VOTE WHERE THEY SEE HOPE AND THE CONGRESS IS HOPE FOR THE BJP, NOT GOANS. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL

OBC is the new catchphrase in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh

Akhilesh has astutely moved away from his father’s trusted Muslim-Yadav formula to a new kind of social engineering for a larger social coalition

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has emerged as the primary challenger to the BJP in the February Assembly polls now that the poll scene is explicit.

The massive turnout at the young Yadav chieftain’s election rallies is testimony to Akhilesh’s growing popularity. Most psephologists say that the polls have become a bi-polar contest between the Samajwadi Party and BJP. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also remarked about the growing support base saying ‘Lal topi’ (red cap) is a ‘Lal batti’ (red light) for UP.

Yadav Junior came out of the shadows of his father and former chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav a long time ago,

and today he is the only leader for his party. Akhilesh has gone through many ups and downs in his two decades of political life. Leading the election campaign for the coalition, he is a much more mature politician today.

SP’s political strategy is well calibrated. Akhilesh has strengthened himself within the party and sorted out his family fights with his uncle Shivalp Yadav who is now back in the fold.

Single-handedly he stitched up alliances, particularly with Jayant Chaudhary-led Rashtriya Lok Dal. What is working to the benefit of the SP is the support from the farmers community in western Uttar Pradesh. They have been upset with the BJP for almost one year, as the Centre did not

with Congress in the 2017 Assembly elections and with the BSP in 2019 polls failed to yield the desired results, he is now depending on smaller caste-based regional parties, particularly those with a non-Yadav OBC base. He has roped in smaller parties like Rashtriya Lok Dal, Mahan Dal, Sanjay Singh Chouhan’s Democratic (Socialist) Party, Krishna Patel’s Apna Dal (Communist), Rajesh Siddhartha’s Political Justice, and Ram Raj Singh Patel’s Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Sena.

Interestingly, the SP chief has promised a caste census if elected to power. Though backward classes parties have been in power in Uttar Pradesh since the early 1990s, his predecessors did not take any risk.

His calculations are based on the Samajwadi Party’s internal survey which revealed that in the 2017 elections, over 50 per cent of OBCs voted for BJP while around 15 per cent supported SP. Akhilesh has given an open invitation to all parties and sections to join him in throwing out the BJP.

He successfully poached on several OBC leaders from the BJP, including Swami Prasad Maurya, in his efforts to broaden his party’s social base. Two influential ministers and some MLAs quit BJP and joined SP days before the poll announcement. Swami Prasad Maurya, a powerful OBC leader and five-time MLA, joined BJP in 2016 after quitting Mayawati’s Bahujan Samaj Party. Many from BSP like Yogesh Verma, Mithai Lal Bharti have already

switched to SP.

As for countering Kamandal politics, Akhilesh has embraced the “me too” line to counter BJP’s politics. He has also promised to establish Vishnu Nagar and a massive statue of Parashuram on the Purvanchal expressway.

He raises other issues like Covid handling, development, law, and order, poor health infrastructure, reservation, and inflation. He also presents the controversial incidents in Gorakhpur, Hathras, and Unnao.

BJP is counting on Brand Narendra Modi to get votes. Yogi is contesting for the Assembly for the first time. The BJP seems to be banking on the polarisation of Jat votes like in the 2017 polls to maintain its dominance.

To counter the SP caste strategy, BJP has given tickets to 44 OBC names, including 16 Jats, followed by 43 upper castes and 19 from Scheduled Castes. The list indicates that the BJP is hopeful of getting the Jat votes in western UP, where the rural community is concentrated.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who leads the Congress in UP is banking on women’s votes and has promised all kinds of freebies. The BSP chief Mayawati is lying low but working quietly after her party’s miserable performance in 2017 and 2019.

UP is known for casting votes on a caste basis. Whether Akhilesh’s Mandal politics or BJP’s Kamandal politics works in these polls is a million-dollar question.



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

China cites corona on packaging, despite doubts abroad

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese state media say parcels mailed from overseas may have spread the omicron variant of the coronavirus in Beijing and elsewhere, despite doubts among overseas health experts that the virus can be transmitted via packaging.

The State Post Bureau said it has ordered stronger measures to ventilate and disinfect sites where items mailed from overseas are handled. Postal workers must wear protective equipment, receive booster shots and undergo regular testing, it said on its website. International

packages must be isolated, cleaned and held for a waiting period to ensure they are free from the virus, it said. Global health experts say the virus mainly spreads through respiratory droplets when infected people breathe, speak, cough and sneeze. The World Health

Organization says coronaviruses "need a live animal or human host to multiply and survive and cannot multiply on the surface of food packages."

"However, China has repeatedly emphasized what it calls the danger of infections from packaging, despite only trace amounts of the virus being found on such items, and has boosted testing of frozen food and other items shipped from overseas.

The Communist Party newspaper Global Times cited the Beijing Center for Disease Control and virologists as linking recent infections to packages from abroad. It said Tuesday that investigators found people newly infected had picked up packages mailed from Canada and the U.S.

China has locked down parts of Beijing's Haidian district following the detection of four cases, just weeks before the capital is to host the Winter Olympic Games. Another per-

son in the southern technology hub of Shenzhen who tested positive for omicron handled packages sent from North America, the newspaper said.

An additional case was reported in the city's Chaoyang district, and an office building in Shunyi, where the capital's main international airport is located, was placed under lockdown with all inside required to undergo testing after a suspected case was reported.

Local schools in Beijing have mostly been moved online in the two weeks before the start of the Lunar New Year holiday on Jan. 31.China remains on high alert for new outbreaks ahead of the Olympics.

Around 20 million people are under lockdown and mass testing has been ordered in entire cities where cases have been discovered. Beijing Games organizers announced Monday that only "selected" spectators will be permitted at

the events, which officially open Feb. 4. Beijing had already announced that no fans from outside the country will be permitted and has not offered tickets to the general public.

China has largely avoided major virus outbreaks with lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions, although it continues to fight surges in several cities, including the port of Tianjin, about an hour from Beijing.One city that has endured weeks of lockdown under China's "zero-COVID"

policy appears to have received some relief. Falling numbers of cases in Xi'an, a city of 13 million famed as the home of the Terracotta Warrior statue army, have prompted authorities to gradually allow people to leave their homes and return to work.

Just one additional case was reported in the city among China's 127 new domestically transmitted cases announced on Tuesday.

Russia moves more troops westward amid Ukraine tensions

Moscow: Russia is sending troops from country's far east to Belarus for major war games, officials said Tuesday, in a deployment further beefing up Russian military assets near Ukraine amid Western fears of an invasion.

Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin said drills are intended to practice a joint response to external threats by alliance of Russia and Belarus, which have close political, economic and military ties. Fomin didn't say how many troops and weapons were being redeployed for exercises, or give number of troops that will be involved in war games.

Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia could launch an attack from various directions, including from territory of its ally Belarus. The deployment would dramatically bolster an estimated

100,000 troops with tanks and other heavy weapons amassed near Ukraine in what West fears could be a prelude to an invasion. Russia has denied an intention to attack its ex-Soviet neighbour, but demanded guarantees from West that NATO will not expand to Ukraine or other ex-Soviet nations or place its troops and weapons there.

Washington and its allies firmly rejected Moscow's demands during last week's Russia-US negotiations in Geneva and a related NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels. Fomin said drills, which involve an unspecified number of troops from Russia's Eastern Military District that encompasses Eastern Siberia and the Far East, reflect need to practice concentrating country's entire military potential in western Russia. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients, Sh. Pradeep Kumar, s/o,Dharm pal, R/o,H.NO-447, Gautam gali, Ambekar park, New Vishwas nagar,Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have disowned and debarred their son Parmest soni and Deepak from all their movable and immovable assets. Any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility as my clients shall have no responsibility or liability of any kind whatsoever arising out of act(s) and/or omission(s) of Parmest soni and Deepak.

Kushagra azad (Advocate)
Enrolment No.: D-1894/2020
Ch. No. D-218, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

Public Notice

I, Bhagwan Das S/o Chedilal R/o B-200, J.J Colony, Dwarka Sector-7, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075, I, have disowned/ debarred / discarded my younger son namely Raja Ram and his wife Militheshram all of my movable and immovable property/assets and have also ceased all relations in every respect and it is further declared that any person who-so-ever deals with my above said younger son & his wife do entirely at his/her/their own costs and risks and responsibilities. I am and will not be responsible for any act done by my above said son namely Raja Ram and/or his wife.

Bhagwan Das.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Asha Sethi is owner of DD Flat No. 337, Ground Floor, Block-D, Pocket-6, Sector-06, Category-IIG, Rohini, Delhi (the said property) by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 09.12.2021, registration No. 12221, executed by Mrs. Himani Sethi & Mr. Jatin Sethi after demise of Mr. Jagdish Kumar Sethi who was owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 24.08.2007, registration No. 15628. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Shankar Kumar Bernalwal who taking loan from ICICI Bank Ltd, for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs. Asha Sethi of the above property its sale /Mortgage /litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing. The below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 12nd Floor, 23, Shwaji Marg, Near Rajgarh N, Delhi-15 Ph: +91-11-4112527-28, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mr. Rajeev Jindal & Mrs. Asha Jindal were joint owners of the Dwelling Unit No. A2/301, on Third Floor, super area admeasuring 1235 Sq. Ft., "Silver Estate", Plot No. 25, Block-F, Sector-50, Vodia, Delhi. Gautam Bugh Nagar, U.P (the said property) by virtue Sub lease deed dated 28.02.2009, Registration No. 2913, and after demise of Mrs. Asha Jindal her husband Mr. Rajeev Jindal is claiming ownership of remaining 1/4 share of the said property by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 05.01.2022 in the record of India Authority. All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Sachin Behar who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd, for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Rajeev Jindal its Sale /Mortgage /litigation, & any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 12nd Floor, 23, Shwaji Marg, Near Rajgarh N, Delhi-15 Ph: +91-11-4112527-28, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. ACE-II/2021-22/313 Date: 18.01.2022

NIT : 07/2021-22

Bids for (1) External Electrification, Decorative Lighting, HV AC and Fire Fighting work for development of Fountain Square at V.T. road, Mansarovar, RHB, Jaipur. (2) Lighting work of Jogging track at City Park Mansarovar, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 20.01.2022 (6.00 PM) to 09.02.2022 upto 6.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb> department website.

UBN :- (1) RHB2122WSOB00232 (2) RHB2122WSOB00233

Raj.Samwad/C/0060/2021-2022 **Addl. Chief Engineer-III, Jaipur**

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड राजेन्द्र पार्क चौक, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)
दूरभाष क्र. 0778-23236633, E-mail:- eedurg-phe-cg@nic.in
पू.क्र. 85 /तथा (निविदा) /का.अ./लो.स्वा.यां.खंड/2022
दुर्ग, दिनांक :- 14.01.2022
// ई-प्रकोशमेंट निविदा सूचना //

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग छ.ग. शासन में एकीकृत पंजीजन प्रणाली अंतर्गत 'बी. सी' एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र "ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर दुर्ग जिले के विकासखंड दुर्ग के निम्नलिखित ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत सिंगल विलेज नलजल प्रदाय योजना योजनांतर्गत विभिन्न कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	नि.सू.क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्र.	विकासखंड	ग्राम का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1.	208 / 14.01.2022	90797	दुर्ग	आगटी, मासामाट, रुदा	170.45
2.	209 / 14.01.2022	90798	दुर्ग	चंदखुरी	346.22
3.	210 / 14.01.2022	90799	दुर्ग	गिसेगांव, कोलिहापुरी	336.38
4.	211 / 14.01.2022	90800	दुर्ग	करगाडीह, बुम्खडीह	213.35
5.	212 / 14.01.2022	90801	दुर्ग	अजोटी, कोडिया	262.20

नोट:- उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रकोशमेंट वेबपोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> दिनांक 24.01.2022 से देखे जा सकते हैं तथा बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 31.01.2022 है।

हस्ता /— कार्यपालन अभियंता,
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

Japan ready to expand Covid restrictions as infections spike

Tokyo: Japan's government is preparing social restrictions in Tokyo and other regions as the omicron variant of the coronavirus infects more people. Japan has never had a lockdown during the pandemic but has focused instead on asking restaurants and bars to close early. Crowds are back in many parts of Japan, with people packing stores and events, while COVID-19 cases jump.The order will be finalised this week and is likely to take effect Friday for Tokyo and nine other regions, including Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi and Kumamoto, the government spokesman said Tuesday.An order was issued earlier this month for Okinawa, Yamaguchi and Hiroshima prefectures. Other areas seeing

surging infections, such as Osaka, may be added later. "The infections are rising at an unprecedented speed," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Worries are growing about infections spreading so quickly that hospital systems may get stretched thin, he said. He acknowledged additional action may be needed if the numbers of people shoot up, required to undergo quarantine or hospitalisation. About 80 per cent of the Japanese population have received two vaccine shots, but only 1 per cent the booster. The government has promised to speed up boosters, but most people won't be getting them until after March or later, under the current schedule. AP

Pak: Policeman killed, 2 wounded in Islamabad shootout

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In the first terrorist attack in Islamabad this year, a policeman was killed and two others were injured after two militants riding a motorcycle opened fire at a check post, officials said on Tuesday. The militants were also killed in the overnight shootout which took place in the Karachi Company area of the Islamabad guarded capital, the Islamabad Police said in a statement. The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a statement took responsibility for the attack.A policeman was killed, while two others were wounded, the police statement said, adding that the two militants were also killed in the retaliatory fire.Confirming the incident, Interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said it was the "first terrorist attack of this year and we need to say alert". "It is a signal that terrorist activities have started in Islamabad," he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed Shakurbasti for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Tender for the under noted work.	
Bid No.	GEM/2022/B/1865859, dt. 17.01.2022
Name of work	Hiring of 3 Nos. SUV's (to be utilized for multipurpose) on monthly basis for DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti for a period of three years.
Approximate cost	Rs. 59,15,916/- including GST @5%
Earnest money	Rs. 0.00 (Vide Rly. Bd. letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC /Policy 30./12./2020)
Completion period of the work	03 Years
Bid end Date / Time	01.02.2022 14:00 hrs.
Bid Opening Date / Time	01.02.2022 14:30 hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on GeM (Government e Marketplace) website i.e. www.gem.gov.in w.e.f. 17.01.2022
No. - 25.8.738.DSL.SSB Dt. 18.01.2022	117/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esst/EPB/VI-VIII/2021-22/473/2021/8529 Date : 17.01.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender from reputed exercise book manufacturers through e-Tendering process for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class –VI & VII (Single Line and Plain).

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2919/21

CAPRI GLOBAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED		CAPRI GLOBAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED		
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013		Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005		
APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.				
S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No.LNHEKKID000019544 of our Karkardooma Branch) Balaji Educational Society (Borrower) Sachin S, Kamlesh K, Ompal, Sachin Dagar Electrical, Balaji Institute of Hotel Management & Science (Co-Borrower)	All Piece and Parcel of Plot land admeasuring 104 Sq Yds part of Kharsa No. 873, Village Nistauli, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh Alongwith Construction Thereon, present and future Both. Boundaries as under:- East :- 18 ft Road West :- Other property North :- Other property South :- Other Property	21-06-2021 Rs. 27,09,432/-	14-01-2022
Place : Delhi/NCR Date: 19-01-2022		Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Housing Finance Limited (CGHFL)		

Nepal's Province 2 bordering India named 'Madhes Pradesh'

Kathmandu:Nepal's south-eastern Province 2 bordering India has been named Madhes Pradesh with Janakpur retained as its capital, settling a long-standing debate on the region's official reference after it was made a province in 2015. The Provincial Assembly on Monday voted in two-thirds majority for both decisions. Of the 99 voting members, 78 voted for Janakpur as capital and 80 voted for the provincial name Madhes.Madhes is Nepal's smallest province in terms of area but second largest in terms of population. It borders India (Bihar) in the south and has eight districts - Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari.Majority of the population in the region is of Indian descent and Maithili is the most widely spoken language. Senior Lokatantrik

Samajwadi Party leader Rajendra Mahato said the new province name is a milestone in Nepal moving towards complete federalism, with the identity of Madhesi.Colloquially Madhesi means people from the southern plains. In Hindu religious text, Madesh refers to Lord Shiva.Province 2, or Madhes Pradesh now, was formed after Nepal's new Constitution came into effect in September 2015, turning the country into a 'Federal Democratic Republic'.Before attaining provincial status, Madhesi parties had extensively campaigned for greater rights, representation and autonomy. Nearly 50 people had died in agitations between September 2015 and February 2016. The provincial government declared a public holiday on Tuesday to mark the occasion. PTI

Malta legislator becomes 3rd female EU Parliament president

Brussels: Roberta Metsola, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of European Union's parliament Tuesday, putting women in three of four biggest jobs in 27-nation bloc. Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who died last week. She is only third woman elected to post. Her birthday was Tuesday, and at age 43, she is the European Parliament's youngest president. Metsola was the candidate of the parliament's biggest group, and she received 458 of 616 votes cast Tuesday. She had already been acting president since Sassoli's Jan 11 death. AP

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392

Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: + 91-11-47107398

NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 201 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that Modi Rubber Limited (the "Company") is proposing to make and application to the Central Government to obtain approval under Section 196, 203 read with Schedule V and other applicable provisions of the Act, for re-apPOINTment of Mr. Alok Kumar Modi (DIN-00174374) as Managing Director of the Company for a period of 5 years i.e. from 01st October, 2021 to 30 September, 2026.

Any person having any objection to the above proposal may, if he/she so desires, communicated his/her objection(s) in writing, duly substantiated within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, "A" Wing Shastri Bhawan Garage, No.14, Dr Rajendra Prasad Rd, New Delhi, Delhi 110001 with a copy of the same to the application Company at the aforementioned registered/ Corporate office.

By order of the Board
For Modi Rubber Limited
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Place : New Delhi
Date : January 18, 2022
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

Sale Notice

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SUBODH KUMAR, CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL 30659/2020	Vehicle No-UP14TF6208, Make & Model - RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Year-2016, Reserve Price : Rs 125000, EMD Amount:Rs 12,500, DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, CS (COMM) No. 945/20	Vehicle No- UP16AS1600, Make & Model- AUDI A6 2.0 TDI, Manu. Year-2013, Reserve Price: Rs.80,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.80,000, DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Parmesh, Suit No.2206/2018	Vehicle No- DL3SDR3086, Make & Model – Hero HF-Deluxe, Manu. Year-2017,
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. MOHD. GULSHATAB, CS SCJ 2314/18	Vehicle No- DL10ST6474, Make & Model- Yamaha Motors Pvt. Ltd SZ -RR, Manu Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. HEMANT VERMA, CS (COMM) NO 770/19	Vehicle No-UP16BQ3857, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD SWIFT DZIRE ZXI, Manu. Year-2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASHISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1374/2020	Vehicle No-DL4CAZ1019, Make & Model - HYUNDAI I20 MAGNA + CRDI, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: 27-January-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. PREM LATA, CS No. 1137/2021	Vehicle No-DL8CAP7287, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R LXI, Manu. Year-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs ATA ABBAS CS No. 3387/18	Vehicle No-DL1RTB2176, Make & Model - MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R LXI, Manu. Year-2016, Reserve Price : Rs 90000, EMD Amount:Rs 9,000 DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED Payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO at site with KYC

Auction Date: 3-February-2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram-122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction sitewith original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi (Wherein applicable) to participate in the auction. .

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount wherein applicable) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, yourEMD amount will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Centre, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 40 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Normal, Face: Oval, Wearing: Grey Pant, Light Grey Coat, Light Blue Shirt**, was found dead at Qudeshiya Ghat, Civil Lines, Delhi on 13.01.2022

In this regard a DD No. 30A, dated 13.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, North District, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform the following.

SHO
P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
DP/1893/N/2022(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23815444, 8750870127

NOTICE
No.Duba/Cons7434/MR/2022-(07)
Date: 12/04/2022.,
Mr. Amit Mohan Thadani,
S/o Mohan Bulchand Thadhani.
Resident of A-86 Chankya place Pankha Rd. Delhi Pin: 110059. Delhi, India, Present Address: Sajaya 3 Flat No 404 PO Box737, Dubai,UAE.
And Miss. Raquel Salac Basa
Daughter of Ruben Basa
Resident of 24arayatt Pampanga Philippines
Present Address: Sajaya 3 Flat No 404 Al Qusaib, Dubai,UAE.
Mr. Amit Mohan Thadani, Indian national and Ms. Raquel Salac Basa Philippines National Presently Residing in UAE have given notice of intended marriage between them under the foreign marriages act. 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, He/She should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the act/rules within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice on email: Cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, Cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in
Jitender Singh Negi
Marriage Officer & consul (consular & Labour)
Consulate General of India PO Box737, Dubai,UAE.
Fax no. +97143970453, Email:Cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, Cons3.dubai@mea.gov.in
Homepage:www.cgidubai.org

India is believed to be the epicentre of knowledge and education. The evidence of this is present in places like Takshila and Nalanda. These places had pioneering institutions, and the ruins still stand tall on their grounds. However, over the last few centuries, the legacy of the Indian education system was sadly lost. Post the British rule, Indians realised the existence of these education hubs and excavated their ruins for further study. Since independence, there has been an immense focus on the improvement, growth and development of this critical sector.

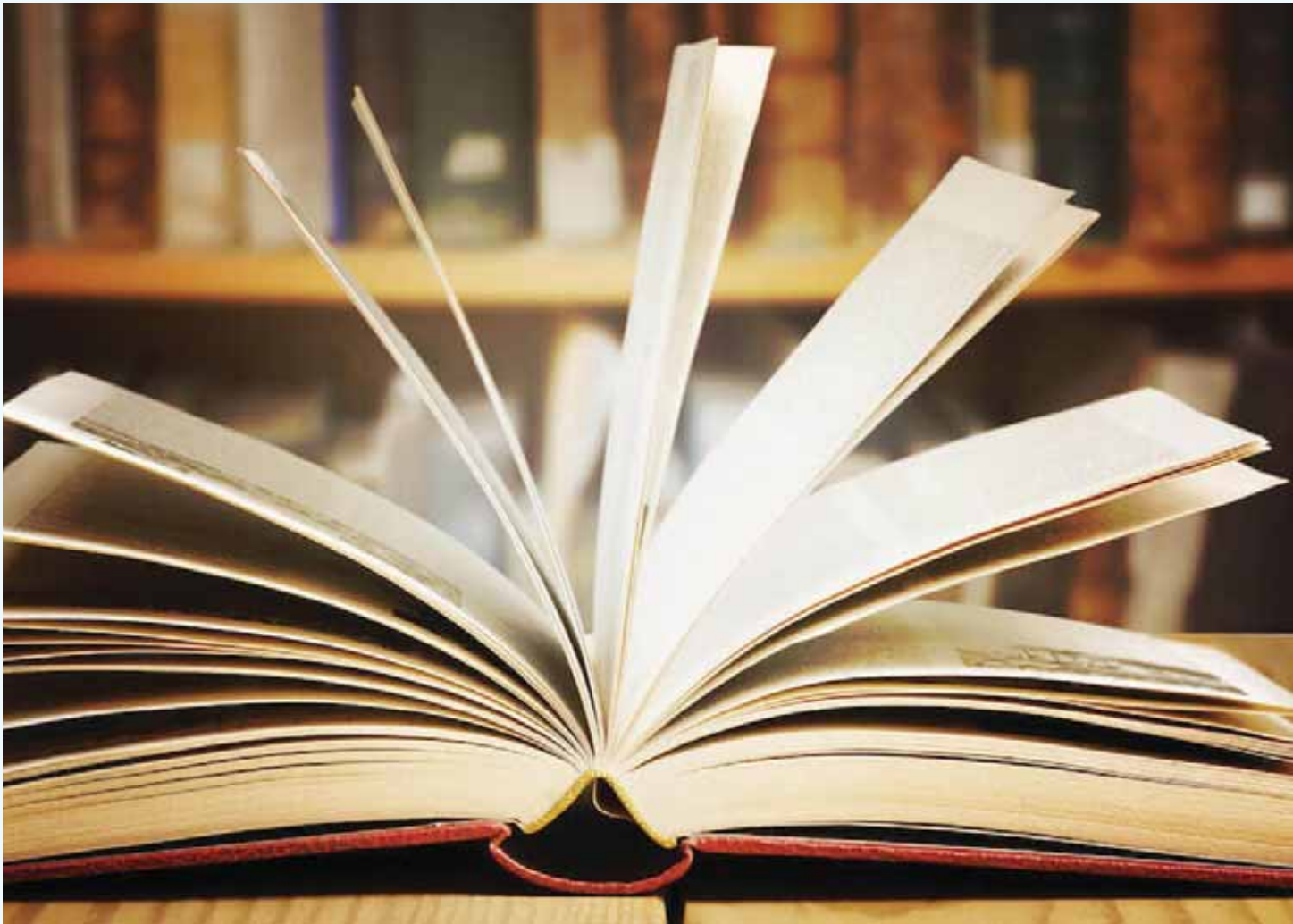
The progress of any country is primarily judged by the status of its education and healthcare industries. The Indian education system is expected to reach a valuation of USD 225 billion by FY 2025. The subcontinent is at a crossroads in terms of providing leadership in education.

India is poised to be perhaps a superpower in its own right, and the expectations of the world from India make these two factors especially important as markers for our progress. Further, with the second-largest population across the globe and youngest population in the world, education becomes an imperative aspect for the subcontinent's growth.

Even the states and central governments are realising the cruciality of this sector. The education policies that are being formulated in recent times are embedded with strong reforms that encourage the private sector to contribute to the field of education. The inclusion of private parties will help in boosting the quality of education that is imparted.

There will be greater academic and administrative autonomy, which will lead to the rapid growth of research-oriented institutions. Again more knowledge centres will lead to a majority of the country's youth having access to thorough education. Access, equity and inclusiveness are the fundamental goals the New Education Policy 2020 entails to establish India as a global hotspot for quality education. It aims to provide all the facilities available to students abroad at much lower costs. Such measures are indicators of the fact that this sector has adopted an upward trajectory.

Further, the rapid economic growth in the country is creating an enormous demand for skilled manpower. This growing requirement can only be fulfilled by education institutions preparing students to be future-ready. Many schools and colleges have redesigned their curriculum to adopt an industry-first approach. Students are now gaining theoretical knowledge as well as advancing their skill-set. They are



LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

Rapid economic growth is creating an enormous demand for skilled manpower, which can only be fulfilled by education institutions preparing students to be future-ready, says DR VIJAY PATIL

not only trained to be strong on the theory front. The motive is to imbue in them qualities like critical thinking, analytical skills, creativity and problem-solving, among others. It is safe to say that the development of other industries, be it IT or Finance, depends on the output offered by the education sector.

Looking at the current trend and talking about the next five years, the education market in India is expected to become US\$ 225 billion by 2025. This will eventually put a lot of pressure on the existing educational institutions to fulfil the workforce requirement necessary to facilitate such growth. It will also pave the way for numerous new schools and colleges,



Dr Vijay Patil
MCA President and Chancellor-
DY Patil University, Navi Mumbai

The education policies that are being formulated in recent times are embedded with strong reforms that encourage the private sector to contribute to the field of education. The inclusion of private parties will help in boosting the quality of education that is imparted

increasing the availability of courses, modules, curriculum and institutions for students. There have also been modifications made in the pedagogy, and teachers are encouraging students to indulge in more and more exhibitions, training programmes and internships.

With the wheels of such dynamic changes set in motion, India can become the land of opportunity and a premier destination for education, even for international students.

After all, it is not by accident that there are multiple Indians who perhaps started their education domestically and are now holding leadership positions in companies that are international giants.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.
— Cesar Chavez

MBA PROGRAMME

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is delighted to be running its full-time MBA programme in September 2022. In 2021, the university took the decision to pause entry to the course for a year owing to the uncertainties presented by COVID-19.

But as the University is committed to its values in providing globally responsible business education, the course will run again in September 2022.

The last date of submission of the application is 31 July 2022. The admission process has begun and students can apply by visiting *MBA Master of Business Administration - UEA*

Full details on this process can be obtained from UEA's website: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/>

UG AND PG AT THE DESIGN VILLAGE

The TDV Noida is inviting applications for Admission Bachelor of Design and Master of Design through entrance test. The entrance exam will be



held on 29th January 2022. Students need to fill the application form through the official website.

How to apply: Online application form available on The Design Village official Website. The submission of the Application Form can be done online Rs.2000/.

Admission Process: Open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognised Board of Education.

Admission will be done on the basis of marks obtained.

Candidates also have to clear the TDV Design Entrance Test of that year followed by an interview for both courses.

Last Date to Apply: 27th January

2-day workshop on Pearson Test of English

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Great Learning, one of India's edtech companies for professional and higher education, has announced that it will be hosting a workshop on PTE (Pearson Test of English Academic) in collaboration with the Pearson Group on January 22 and 23, 2022, at 1 pm. These free-of-cost sessions are designed for students who wish to apply for international universities abroad and acquire more information about PTE, the world's leading computer-based English language test trusted by universities, colleges and Governments.

The interactive workshop will be conducted by master trainers from Pearson Group: Christopher Morley and

Gagandeep Singh, who will shed light on the Application Process of PTE, test formats and the preparation tips and strategies.

People can register for the webinar by clicking on this link: https://zoom.us/join/registration/3116420715727/WN_OiapQGwWQOGxUv-hqQmPUQ

It offers comprehensive, industry-relevant programmes across various cutting-edge Technology, Data and Business domains. Great Learning's programs are developed in collaboration with academic institutions like Stanford University, MIT, The University of Texas at Austin, National University Singapore, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, IIIT-Delhi, Shiv Nadar University and Great Lakes.

New Term Assessment Policy by CBSE

The latest curriculum prescribed by CBSE endeavours to provide competency-based learning and imbibe the components of the 21st century, which focuses on learning, literacy, and life skills, says MK YADAV

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the entire dynamics of school education. The last two years have been really difficult for our school students. The continuous closure of schools, shifting of classes to online mode, postponement of examinations, and lack of peer group learning has created a wide learning gap in the system.

There is an increased awareness and demand in the education system to integrate the latest technology and techniques in educational systems to shift the pedagogy from rote learning to critical thinking.

To overcome these challenges posed by the pandemic and make our students ready for the 21st century, CBSE has announced term based examination at secondary and senior-secondary level, i.e., from class IX-XII.

The latest curriculum prescribed by CBSE endeavors to provide competency-based learning and imbibe the components of the 21st century, which focuses on learning, literacy, and life skills.

CBSE has categorised the school examination for Class IX-XII into three parts: Term-1 (Nov- Dec), Term-2 (Feb- March), and Practical & Internal Assessment. Both the terms are having equal weightage; the unique syllabus and the syllabus of each term are not overlapping with each other.

Term-1 is having MCQs based questions and there is no practical examination in Term-1. Also, in Term-1 the students would be getting marks and no tag like pass, fail, or compartment. Term-2 will have subjective based questions and it comprises theo-

ry and practical components.

In my opinion, it is a welcoming move. Today, our focus should be to teach the students those skills, which will help them to survive and flourish in the competitive world of today. Unfortunately, the focus of most of the schools currently is on cramming the syllabus and passing the examination. There are very few schools in the country, which focus more on skill-based education than cramming information.

Today, the students need to have conceptual clarity, an exploratory mindset, and do a critical analysis of the information. They should be in a position to sift out the important information especially in this era of information overload and should have clarity about their focus areas. What we decide at present shapes our future.

If the students lack comprehension ability, they won't be able to make a proper decision and will not be able to take charge of their lives. Most of the school students in India still follow a typical trend when it comes to choosing their career, and succumb to parental and peer pressure. Most of them are ignorant about their ability and the field in which they can flourish and lack the decision-making ability.

The new pedagogy followed by CBSE focuses on critical thinking, communication skills, and creativity, which will help the students to deal with the changes, make them more curious, help them in developing an inquisitive mindset, and will transform the way they think about the future.

The type of questions, which are being



THE NEW PEDAGOGY FOLLOWED BY CBSE FOCUSES ON CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, AND CREATIVITY, WHICH WILL HELP THE STUDENTS TO DEAL WITH THE CHANGES, MAKE THEM MORE CURIOUS, HELP THEM IN DEVELOPING AN INQUISITIVE MINDSET, AND WILL TRANSFORM THE WAY THEY THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE



asked in exams like assertion- reasoning, statement, and conclusion, the case studies will make them ready for the real-life problem-solving scenario.

Also, when we look at the various career-orientated entrance examinations, which are conducted after class 12th, they focus more on the reasoning ability and critical thinking of the students. If this is not being taught at the school level or if students have not developed such a type of ability at the schools level, it gets very difficult for them to crack these exams.

We all are aware of the CUET, which is going to be there for 41 central universities, which will most likely have an objective and subjective type of questions (information through different newspaper articles) and if a Student has practiced such types of questions at the school level, the entrance examination will be a cakewalk for them.

The current term assessment policy will help students to think for themselves, think about future perspectives, and will help them make a calculated decision based on learning, literacy, and various life skills. And last, but not the least, it will reduce the burden and stress of the students. Earlier where students used to fear examinations, now they will enjoy giving these papers.

Finally, I would like to suggest that we should shift our focus to analytical learning for our students from primary schools and develop critical thinking ability from the tender age and give India a better future.

The writer is CMD, AI Testified (Incubated at IIT Kanpur)

Global Employability Test 2022

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Registration to much-awaited Entrance Exam for admissions & scholarships to India's first-ever Employer Funded PG Programme commences in January 2022:

EduCLaaS Singapore & Yangpoo Education has opened its application window for the much-awaited Global Employability Test 2022 — a national level entrance exam conducted for admissions to its two flagship programmes, *Earn*

While You Learn PG Applied MasterCLaaS in Software Engineering, AI-MI & PG Applied MasterCLaaS in Digital Business backed by the alliance of top MNC's across the globe.

Global Employability Test 2022 is conducted by AMCAT (Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test) on Yangpoo's behalf and is designed to check the employability quotient & aptitude of applicants.

These 24 months, full-time, future tech programmes designed

in Asia's innovation & technology capital — Singapore offer six months intense learning by international faculty, industry experts delivered through flipped classes & live-online sessions along with 18 months of paid, virtual, on-the-job training with global companies.

Successfully cracking the GET 2022 will enable students to apply for these one-of-its-kind PG programmes that offer a chance to cover almost 70 per cent of the programme fees.

The GET 2022 consists of

four sections: English Comprehension, Quantitative Ability, Logical Ability, and Domain-based technical skills to check employability as required by the prospective employers supporting the programmes.

It is an online CBT (Computer Based Test) held in a remote proctored mode where students will be supervised via proctoring software that monitors students' computer's desktop, webcam video, and audio.

Yangpoo & EduCLaaS Exam Help Desk — 1800-547-8003.

UG programmes at JKLU

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The educational institute JK Lakshmipat University, is offering early admissions to the students appearing for their Class XII Board Examinations in 2022 or XII passed, for all the UG programmes like B Tech, BBA, B Des, and BCA for the upcoming academic session 2022-2023.

Before candidates apply

for admission, they are advised to check the eligibility criteria laid down by the JK Lakshmipat University. Only those candidates who fulfill the eligibility criteria can fill the application form.

The early admission process is particularly suitable for those who are clear about pursuing engineering, design, or management studies.

The admission will be granted on a first come first

served basis to only those applicants who meet all the admission criteria as defined for respective admission and considered as Provisional Admission.

Early Admissions ensure that the student can be stress-free and can focus on excelling in their Class XII Board examinations. Early Admissions students will get financial benefit in terms of their admission fee paid; admission fee (INR

5000) for the Students taking early admission has been waived off. JKLU offers a limited number of meritorious scholarships on a first-come-first-served basis.

Early Admissions students have an additional advantage of securing these scholarships by early admission offer acceptance.

Last date to apply in early Admission Round 1: 15 February 2022.

The demand for an MBA degree will continue to be high because of the massive returns it has to offer to students. It helps develop leadership skills, business principles, professional networking and makes you job-ready, says DR AKHIL SHAHANI

MBA will be in fashion



Management is one of the most elite professions and hence introducing yourself as an MBA graduate is always a matter of pride. An MBA degree is a perfect way to stimulate one's career. The MBA programme was first offered by Harvard University in Cambridge, MA in 1908. In India, in the year 1953, the Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management was established in Kolkata and was the first college to offer an MBA degree in India.

Since then, the demand for MBA is ever increasing. But you may be wondering, will this demand for MBA be this high always? How long will an MBA degree help one's career is still a question for many.

The demand for an MBA degree is still high and will continue to be high because of the massive returns it has to offer to students. It helps you develop leadership skills, business principles, professional networking and makes you job-ready.

It gives you a push that is essential for entering and sustaining in the market. An MBA degree offers a range of specializations such as marketing to finance, operations to human resources. These specializations develop managerial skills and make you aware of various industry offerings.

From a job market perspective, employers are now looking for highly skilled candidates over novice candidates. Many consulting firms like Deloitte, Larsen & Turbo, Axis Bank, Hindustan liver, Accenture, HDFC Bank, Aditya Birla, and Bain, etc. want employees with MBA qualifications because these candidates possess analytical abilities and domain knowledge that are essential to do the job efficiently.

They prefer candidates with an MBA degree who know how to pitch ideas and sell products or services. Another reason why employers prefer MBA candidates is that the MBA course improves communication skills and helps to develop a student's personality. This complete package of benefits upskills you and helps you succeed in your future.

The demand for MBA will never sink as it has a lot to offer to aspirants and fulfill their dreams, whereas, we strongly believe the demands and its popularity will be towering after decades and ages too and it will never go out of fashion.

A few international & indigenous companies that have a high demand for MBAs are as follows.

■ BCG: The Boston Consulting Group is one of the highest recruiters of MBA students with offices in 45 countries

EMPLOYERS PREFER MBA CANDIDATES AS AN MBA COURSE IMPROVES COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND HELPS DEVELOP A STUDENT'S PERSONALITY. THIS COMPLETE PACKAGE OF BENEFITS UPSKILLS YOU AND FURTHERS THE PROSPECTS

- JP Morgan: The JP Morgan not only employs management graduates from the financial sector but also from other sectors too.
- Microsoft: The company has its offices in 70 countries and it preferably recruits MBA graduates for various positions in finance, marketing, operations, and sales.
- Morgan Stanley: It is a company that offers the best payment to employees and picks MBA graduates in the financial sector for employment.
- TCS: The TCS offers the best remuneration to its employees and hires the finest talent from famed B-Schools for leading positions.
- Infosys: The company looks for young MBA enthusiasts who can help the company succeed and expand greatly. It also provides excellent opportunities to candidates who possess great skills and abilities.
- Wipro: This company too is not behind in the race. It offers the best package to its employees and hunts the best talent with highly skilled and knowledgeable MBA graduates from renowned Institutes.

The writer is MD, Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, Shahani Group and CEO

‘Change starts with right kind of education’

It is our responsibility to understand effects of our decisions. It is an essential step towards a more sustainable future, says DR JITIN CHADHA

One of the biggest challenges we face as a collective whole is sustainable development. The resources we have are finite, available in limited quantities. Our needs, however, as a growing population are rapidly increasing. As we continue to consume, we are encroaching upon resources that are gradually depleting. There is no denying the fact that we are experiencing the effects of global warming, environmental degradation and climate change around us.

In this context, it has become more important than ever before to understand the implications of our decisions as consumers and contributors to the environment that we live in. As we witnessed alarming levels of pollution in the national capital in the past few days, our attention has been brought back to our surroundings and the world that we reside in.

According to The World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainable design or development is one that 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Right from how we use the resources that are available to us to creating a more sustainable future, designers are constantly exploring new ways to solve the dichotomy of how limited resources can satiate the infinite demand for them.

The onus does not solely lie with the designer or manufacturers and producers of the products we use. It is also equally, if not more, our responsibility as consumers, as citizens and as part of the larger ecosystem to better understand the effects of our decisions. This is the first and most essential step towards a more sustainable future.

In recent times there has been an increasing awareness about the consequences of our choices, particularly what we choose to consume and how we dispose of our products at an individual and societal level. The age we live in is both blessed and cursed by the one omnipresent influence in our life — social media. While this is a great medium to raise awareness, it is equally important that we practice a more sustainable way of living and working as well.



Dr Jitin Chadha
Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

In the process of manufacturing new products, companies and designers alike can advocate for the use of greener and more eco friendly materials. This not only helps in minimising energy consumption and waste production but it also goes a long way in optimizing any given product's life cycle. Avoiding chemicals, using recyclable and easily decomposable materials, taking into consideration transport and operation are all imperative facets that need to be thought about when designing and manufacturing a product.

Change, of course, starts with the right kind of education. Equipping the youth of tomorrow with not only the knowledge and awareness of their surroundings but also the skills and aptitude to design equitable solutions to the problems we face as a society is imperative. Creating a new generation of designers, who are conscious, empathetic, ethical and innovative is more important than ever before.

With the kind of multi-disciplinary learning, hands-on approach to problem solving and a practical outlook that colleges are now espousing in their pedagogy, the future looks bright, one where we can live in harmony with our surroundings, one where the impacts of our decisions do not weigh heavily on the environment that nurtures us.

Well-developed communication skills are essential for academic as well as for future perspective; at all levels, students should know to communicate effectively. It is an essential leadership function and a major characteristic of a good leader, the beneficiaries are in many ways like teamwork bonding i.e good skills help the team member to achieve the desired goals. As many colleges make a session on the personality development for students which focuses on all the skills required for an interview or professional life, this can be utilised during academic life. Employees who communicate effectively

with their team members, manager, and corporate leaders are considered as valuable assets.

Innovation and team building: What makes people unique and different in the queue is the ability to speak and openly communicate ideas without fear of anyone and can produce innovative ideas in front of everyone at the table of discussion. Making a strong and effective team is all about communicating well with the team member and solving the puzzles together for any business project. Giving effective strategies collectively working can bring a good conclusive work this, in turn, gives employee

MIND IT

satisfaction and improve morale.

Growth in every perspective: Communication can be observed in either of the two ways internally and externally. That simply means the skills we possessed internally can deliver a message externally if we hold strong expressive language, this can be turned out to be a successful journey in your working life. What makes people differ in their career as everyone has their degree, knowledge, experience but lacks in the

growth? Life is not all about hardworking and continuously working without self-consciousness and awakening about the environment, when you are awakened you can modulate yourself and act as a stimulus towards success. This is proportional to communication skills.

Strong management: When superior team managers are strong communicators they can well manage their teams like assignment of tasks, dispute management,

relationship building, motivation, and other responsibility of management. They are the presenter of their company if holding strong skills they can convince everyone, ability to freely communicate with their peers, colleagues, and superiors.

Conference meeting: There was a time when everything opened but the COVID situation made many things shut down and made people work from home, this simply they have to attend the meeting through a video call itself. While conferencing over videos if you can't be confident to put your ideas in front of people then it can make things not understandable. There are virtual

conferences which are held for the meeting are successfully implemented due to the confidence and skills.

Resolves conflict: Many times it happens there is a situation where conflict arises. Effective communication is not about telling who is right or wrong; it's about having open-mind, honest and positive energetic discussions to make everyone satisfied and their needs are met. Your power of making the situation and environment good is the only thing that can make the working culture enjoyable.

The writer is Dr Neelima Kamrah, principal, KIIT World School Gurugram



national/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate-scholarship-2022.

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its international UG scholarship for international students wanting to study UG studies at the university.

The scholarship is worth £2,000 per year for courses in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences and £2,500 per year for Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health and Faculty of Science.

Eligibility: Commence studies of UG degree at the university in September 2022. All undergraduate degree courses are included except for Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200); You must choose the university as your firm or insurance choice before 16:00 (UK time) on 17 June 2022.

The scholarship is applicable to each subsequent academic year of study, subject to achieving 60% or above and achieving a minimum of 120 credits in the previous academic year. The scholarship is not applicable to any compulsory or optional years in industry, work placements or year abroad.

How to apply: The scholarship will be awarded automatically; no scholarship application is required in the first or any subsequent years.

To know more: Visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/international-undergraduate-scholarship-2022>.

Applications are invited for 25 **Engineering International UG Excellence Scholarships** at Monash University, Australia.

Eligibility: Are an international student who is currently in Year 12 (or equivalent), or completed Year 12 (or equivalent) in the previous year, and have not undertaken any other tertiary study. The candidates must have a full offer or a conditional offer on meeting English requirements.

Supporting documents: Submit a transcript, a statement, a copy of educational certificates and other required at the time of application. Check all documents to be emailed. Email your documents as a single PDF to sebs.csu.documents@monash.edu.

Admission requirements: Applicants must have achieved a minimum equivalent ATAR score of 95.00 to take enrolment in an engineering course at Monash.

Language requirement: Before you apply to Monash, you must meet the minimum English language requirements.

How to apply: Applications are not necessary, when you submit a course application at Monash University you will automatically be eligible for the grant programme.

Application deadline: It is March 4, 2022.

FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT ADPUSHUP

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹30,000-₹40,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/84089f
Deadline: January 27, 2022

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WHITE PANDA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/9a5c5b
Deadline: January 27, 2022

PODCAST HOSTING AT THECOINREPUBLIC

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹14,000-₹23,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/56aea9
Deadline: January 27, 2022

MEDIA & PR AT NEWS10INDIA

Location - Delhi, Gurgaon
Stipend - ? 10,000-15,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/2378a1
Deadline - 27th January 2022

CONTENT WRITING AT IMPACT MEDIA

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/bb6acb
Deadline - 26th January 2022

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SOFTICATION TECHNOLOGY

Location - Ranchi, Gurgaon, Noida, Delhi
Stipend - ? 10,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/0bc3f9
Deadline: January 25, 2022

DIGITAL MARKETING AT SPYNE

Location: Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/7279c0
Deadline: January 27, 2022



IN BRIEF

GRANTS & INCUBATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, is taking several steps to encourage start-up and entrepreneurial activities. Aimed to boost industrial interactions and start-up activities, Research and Industrial Conclave is being organised from January 20-23, 2022.

Technology incubation centre at the campus allows virtual incubation, and student start-ups are permitted. New grants and incubation are being provided by IIT Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation. Speaking on the significance of the initiatives,

Professor TG Sitharam, director IIT Guwahati said, "As stated by our Prime Minister we are in the golden era of start-up, being one of the leading institute for research and innovation, IIT Guwahati wishes to contribute to create start-up friendly ecosystem. I invite the entrepreneurs to join us where we provide not only the technical mentorship but also access to our resources and opportunities to work with our faculties and students to develop new technologies."

The start-up can apply through email incharge@iitg.ac.in. It will be evaluated by a committee. Based on its recommendation of council of management of TIC will approve the start-ups for incubation.

GITAM EXTENDS ISDC PARTNERSHIP

The GITAM (Deemed-to-be-University) extended its International Skill Development Corporation partnership to its

Bengaluru campus by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The aim is to provide degree programmes integrated with

global qualifications. The MoU allows students access to in-depth understanding of industry-oriented finance and analytical tools.

MATH++ DOTS LEARNING COURSE

AUS-based ed-tech start-up has created a new generation unique program called math++ that blends Math with Data and AI thinking, to empower students to meet the demands of the rapidly advancing digital world.

The programme is designed for Classes I to IV. Designed by global social visionaries with over 20 years of experience in Data and AI, the programme is backed by inputs and guidance from experienced leaders globally.

CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION AWARD FOR START-UPS

The The Indian Institute of Management Udaipur announced Climate Change Innovation Grant for eligible start-ups in association with Meity Startup Hub and corporate partner Transworld Group. The grant focuses on supporting early-stage climate tech ventures whose products or services are explicitly focused on reducing GHG emissions or addressing the impacts of global warming.

The participating start-

ups will receive the opportunity to brainstorm and validate solutions with corporate partner Transworld Group, get tailored training and support, learn and share in a community of like-minded founders in a collaborative environment, incubation, and co-working space at the incubation centre, and also an opportunity to pitch for follow-on funding under other programs of the incubation centre.

Kannan Soundararajan,

CEO, Incubation Centre, IIM Udaipur said, "We want to provide you and your start-up with state-of-the-art mentoring and online training, as well as access to financial support and networking opportunities. The bottom line is success, both for you and your start-up and for the environment with tangible climate solutions."

Each focus area will target ill-effects of the above challenges and will deep-dive into solutions.

HIRING OF HIGHLY SKILLED TECH PROFESSIONALS

The Aarna Network is planning to expand its engineering team in India by hiring technology professionals in cutting edge technologies from across the country. The additional technological capabilities will help expand company portfolio.

Amar Kapadia, CEO of Aarna Networks said: "One of the key values that is guiding

our hiring strategy is that we intend to employ smartly, with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity. It has enabled us to assemble very talented teams of engineers. Our hiring process is completely backed by technology and virtual interactions. We're committed to providing the best possible working environment."

TWO NEW EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The Anant Centre for Sustainability launched two new executive education programmes delivered via a blended learning model — a one-week certificate course in Designing Affordable Living and a one-year, Entrepreneurs in Residence programme. Interested candidates can enroll in both programmes until February 10, 2022.

The designing affordable living course will str

on March 4, 2022 and the other in February. The course provides 30 students with the ability to build a business that innovates, creates, and sells affordable living products.

The course offers knowledge about various materials used for designing affordable living products, with a deep dive into the properties of laminated corrugated cardboard, a highly affordable material.

By the end of the course, students shall build the prototypes of the products, enhancing learning by integrating theory and practice.

Link for designing affordable living — <https://anu.edu.in/programme/designing-affordable-living/>

Link for Entrepreneur in Residence Program — <https://anu.edu.in/programme/entrepreneurs-in-residence-eir/>

ALL EYES ON VIRAT KOHLI THE BATTER AS INDIA TAKE ON SA

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

The mighty Virat Kohli's presence in the Indian playing eleven as a mere player for the first time in seven years will be keenly followed while his potential successor in red-ball cricket, K L Rahul, will be judged for his captaincy in the three-match ODI series against South Africa beginning here on Wednesday.

Whether he is batting in the middle or fielding at the boundary line, Kohli's every move is tracked but some of that attention will now have to be shared by Rahul.

More importantly, will he be at his usual animated best on the field or will the cricketing world see a rather subdued Kohli after his stunning resignation from Test captaincy brought an end to his innings as official leader of the

team across formats?

He did not want to leave ODI captaincy after relinquishing the role in the shortest format and it led to a war of words with the BCCI on how the entire matter was handled.

His supporters and Indian cricket in general will be hoping that Kohli has put his differences with the BCCI firmly behind him and come Wednesday, he starts a new innings with his willow doing most of the talking. A highly desired century after two years would be cherry on top.

Rahul, who is leading the side in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma, is expected to turn to Kohli for advice during the series.

Not only Kohli has a major role to play as a batter, but as vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah said on the eve of the series, the star "will always be a leader" in the team.

With the new leadership and

support staff, India will look to win the series with one eye on preparations for the 2023 World Cup and also make up for the disappointment of unexpectedly going down in the Tests last week.

The last time a full strength India played an ODI series was at home against England in March before a second string squad travelled to Sri Lanka in July.

Rahul batted in the middle-order against England but it remains to be seen if he moves back to the top alongside Shikhar Dhawan. Ruturaj Gaikwad, who made the squad following an exceptional domestic season, might have to wait longer for his ODI debut.

It will be crucial three games for the seasoned Dhawan, who has already lost his place in the T20 side. The southpaw has thrived under pressure in the past and will be looking to solidify his

position as the first-choice opener alongside Rohit when the latter returns from injury. Kohli will bat at his usual number three spot while there will be a toss-up between Suryakumar Yadav and Shreyas Iyer for the number four position.

Rishabh Pant is expected to come at number five while Venkatesh Iyer is likely to make his 50-over debut as the all-rounder at six, having shown promise in the T20s against New Zealand.

The two spinners likely to play are Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin, who has made a comeback after more than four years.



K L Rahul set to lead Lucknow IPL franchise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

K L Rahul will captain the yet-to-be-named Lucknow franchise in the upcoming IPL, a league source told PTI on Tuesday.

It is learnt that Rahul is one of the players Lucknow has picked from the draft ahead of the mega auction on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru.

The other two are likely to be Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and uncapped leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

"Rahul will captain Lucknow. The team is deciding on the other two draft picks," an IPL source told PTI. Rahul led Punjab Kings for the past two seasons but did not want to stay at the franchise. Bishnoi was also with Punjab while Stoinis represented Delhi Capitals. RPSG Group had shelled out Rs 7090 crore to buy the Lucknow franchise.

Rahul is currently the stand-in captain of the Indian ODI team in South Africa in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma.

India eye improved batting performance against Ireland

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

In-form batter and captain Yash Dhull will be expecting a much improved batting effort from his team when record four-time champions India take on Ireland in their second Group B match of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Having started their campaign with a 45-run win over South Africa, the Indians are brimming with confidence and are expected to steamroll Ireland at the Brian Lara Stadium.

Both India and Ireland have registered wins in their openers. While India beat South Africa, Ireland defeated Uganda by 39 runs.

Dhull single-handedly anchored the Indian innings against the Junior Proteas as they lost both their openers — Harnoor Singh and Angkrish Raghuvanshi early after being put into bat. Dhull added vital 71 runs with Shaikh Rasheed (31) for the third to resurrect the Indian innings first and then stitched valuable contributions with Nishant Sidhu (27), Raj Bawa (13) and Kushal Tambe (35) to give his bowlers a decent target to defend. But come Wednesday, Dhull would be looking for more support from his openers to ease the pressure on middle and lower-order going into the knockout stages of the tournament. If Indian batters were not upto the mark against South Africa, it was completely contrasting performance from the bowling unit. Left-arm spinner Vicky Ostwal (5/28) turned out to be the star performer with the ball while right-arm fast bowler Raj Bawa (4/47) gave the perfect support from the other end as India bowled out South Africa for 187 runs.

Jalandhar-born left-handed opener Harnoor, who was India's leading run-getter in the Asia Cup



India vs Ireland
Live from 6:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

with 251 runs in five games and struck an unbeaten 100 against Australia in the team's final warm-up game on January 11, is expected to score a bagful of runs in the tournament but managed only 1 in the opener. Right-arm pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/38), who has played senior cricket for Maharashtra and impressed with his raw pace in the Asia Cup, and left-arm fast bowler Ravi Kumar both had ordinary outings

against South Africa. Meanwhile in the other match of the day, Australia will take on Scotland in a Group D game in Basseterre.

Squads (from):

India: Yash Dhull (c), Harnoor Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, SK Rasheed (vc), Nishant Sindhu, Siddarth Yadav, Aneeshwar Gautam, Dinesh Bana, Aaradhya Yadav, Raj Angad Bawa, Manav Parakh, Kaushal Tambe, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Vasu Vats, Vicky Ostwal, Ravi Kumar, Garv Sangwan.

Ireland: Tim Tector (c), Diarmuid Burke, Joshua Cox, Jack Dickson, Liam Doherty, Jamie Forbes, Daniel Forkin, Matthew Humphreys, Philippus le Roux, Scott MacBeth, Nathan McGuire, Muzamil Sherzad, David Vincent, Luke Whelan, Reuben Wilson.

Former IPL cricketer R Sathish claims “fixing approach”

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former first-class and IPL cricketer Rajagopal Sathish was allegedly offered Rs 40 lakh to fix matches during the Tamil Nadu Premier League 41-year-old Sathish was part of Chepauk Super Gillies squad that won the TNPL last season. The former Tamil Nadu player has also been part of Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. A person named Bunny Anand made the offer to Sathish via Instagram.

"He informed us as well as the International Cricket Council earlier this month that he was offered money through social media. Since we are only facilitators in such cases, we advised him to lodge a police complaint. He has done that and now police will investigate and do the needful," BCCI ACU chief Shabir Khandawala told PTI.

The complaint has been filed with Bengaluru Police.

The TNPL was played from July 19 to August 15 last year.

Asked why Sathish chose to approach the BCCI only now, the ACU chief said: "Whatever the circumstances were, it needs to be seen by the police.

"We don't want to discourage him. If he has decided to come out, our duty is to show him the way," Khandawala, who is a former Gujarat DGP, added.

Prannoy enters second round of Syed Modi badminton



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India's HS Prannoy entered the second round of the men's singles competition at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament after registering a straight-game win over Ukraine's Danylo Bosniuk but seventh seed

Sourabh Verma was stunned by Azerbaijan's Ade Resky Dwicahyo here on Tuesday.

On a comeback trail, the fifth seeded Prannoy took just 36 minutes to get the better of Bosniuk 21-14 21-18 in his opening match.

A former top-10 player, Prannoy,

who gave a good account of himself before being stopped by 20-year-old Lakshya Sen in the quarterfinals of the India Open last week, will next meet compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat, who got a first round walkover from Rahul Yadav Chittaboina.

However, the tournament was over for fourth seed Sameer Verma after he retired hurt against Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

Sameer was trailing 2-7 in the first game before he decided to concede the match due to a calf muscle injury, which he had sustained in October last year.

Subhankar Dey also conceded his match against compatriot Kartikey Gulshan Kumar due to an injury when he was trailing 2-9 in the opening game. Later in the day, Sourabh suffered a 15-21 21-19 21-18 first-round defeat to Dwicahyo in a match that lasted one hour and seven minutes.

Among women, Ashmita Chaliha gave a first round walkover to Malvika Bansod, while Aakarshi Kashyap defeated Mugdha Agrey 21-13 21-14 and Anupama Upadhyaya eased past Rituparna Das.

Lakshya reaches career-high 13th

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Lakshya Sen reached a career-high 13th in the latest badminton world rankings after winning the men's singles crown in the India Open, a title triumph in which also lifted the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to eighth place.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth remained static at seventh and 10th spots, respectively, even as Satwiksairaj and Chirag moved up two places.

Sen made a jump of four places, moving up from the 17th position with 66470 points to close in on reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew at 12th spot. Sen defeated Yew in the final of the India Open.

Last year, Sen reached the BWF World Championships semifinal where he lost to Srikanth in a hard fought match 21-17, 14-21, 17-21 and settled for a bronze medal.

We hope to break down Iran defence to start with a win: Dennerby

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India head coach Thomas Dennerby on Tuesday said the hosts would aim to break down a strong Iranian defence with an attacking game to eke out a win in their women's AFC Asian Cup opener here on Thursday.

The match against Iran would be crucial for India in their bid to qualify for the quarterfinals. Iran are the lowest ranked team in Group A which also has China and Chinese Taipei. They are ranked at 70th in the world as against India's 55th.

"Our first target is to get to quarter-finals, we think we have a realistic chance to do that. Iran is going to be a real tough game.

We have followed them through videos and they are really a fighting (team)", Dennerby said in

a virtual media interaction.

"They (Iran) have strong defence, they defend very well around their box. It is going to be a challenge for us to score. It is not going to be an easy game. We are hoping that with some creative and good passing game, we can break down their defence," he added.

"We have a lot of players that can create chances and score goals.

We have to be good all through the match."

A win against Iran will give India a big chance to make it to the knock-out stage -- the quarterfinals. A quarterfinal berth will virtually ensure at least an Intercontinental Play-offs berth for the 2023 FIFA World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

Five teams from the tournament will directly qualify for

the 2023 women's FIFA World Cup while another two will make it to the Intercontinental Play-offs. Australia, which finished runners-up in the last edition of the AFC Asian Cup, have already qualified for the 2023 FIFA World Cup as co-hosts.

"It is a big challenge obviously for us, but it is also a very big opportunity. If we qualify for the quarterfinals, we have a chance for qualifying for the FIFA World Cup next year and that will be huge for Indian football," said captain Ashalata Devi.

"We are hoping that the Asian Cup being hosted in India will give a big boost to women's football in our country. Everyone in the team now wants to play the first match right away," said the pivot of Indian defence with 64 caps under her belt.

Since taking charge of the Indian team in August last year, Dennerby has been trying to change the playing style from a predominantly long ball game to short passing one.

early evening on Day 2.

Ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime fended off Emil Ruusuvuori 6-4 0-6 3-6 6-3 6-4, and Maxime Cressy overcame 20 double-faults to upset fellow American and No 22-seeded John Isner 7-6(2) 7-5 6-7(4) 6-7(4) 6-4.

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of Djokovic's deportation, had a much more routine first round.

Nine-time champion Djokovic was already back in Serbia — two days after losing his legal challenge to stay in Australia despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19 — when Medvedev went into Rod Laver Arena for a 6-1 6-4 7-6(3) win over Henri Laaksonen.

moving him ahead of Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl into fifth-place all-time. Match win No 50 is the immediate priority.

"I think there's things in my game I can do better," said Murray, who lost the 2010 final to Roger Federer and four others to Novak Djokovic.

"Would love to have a deep run here, if possible.

"It's something I've not had in one of the Slams since I've come back from the injury, and it's something that's motivating me."

Murray's wasn't the only dramatic five-setter that finished in the



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Five years and five long sets later, five-time Australian Open runner-up Andy Murray finally has won another match at the season-opening Grand Slam tournament.

The former No 1-ranked Murray, playing thanks to a wildcard invitation as he continues his career comeback from hip operations and thoughts of retirement, beat 21st-seeded Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-1 3-6 6-4 6-7(5) 6-4 on Tuesday to reach the second round at Melbourne Park.

He lost a five-setter in the first round in 2019 — a match he, and everyone else, thought might have been his last in Australia — after missing the 2018 edition with an

Andy Murray wins in Australia for 1st time

injury. He missed the 2020 tournament with a pelvic injury and last year's event because of COVID-19.

"It's been a tough three, four years. Put in a lot of work to get back here," Murray said in his post-match TV interview at John Cain Arena, which was formerly known as Hisense and is parochially referred to as the People's Court.

"I've played on this court many times, the atmosphere is incredible. This is the one where I thought I'd played my last.

"Amazing to be back, winning a five-set battle like that. Couldn't ask for more." Murray beat

Basilashvili in a three-hour three-setter last week in Sydney, where he reached the final of the tuneup tournament.

This one went almost four hours.

When the 34-year-old Murray clinched it on his third match point, he turned to the back of the court, closed his eyes and pumped his fists to celebrate.

After walking over to his court-side chair and dropping his racket, he returned to the court, punched the air and yelled "Let's go!"

It was Murray's 49th win in an Australian Open singles match,