

## OPINION 6

ADOPTION OF NETAJI'S  
VISION BY NEW INDIA

## WORLD 8

RUSSIA ACCUSES WEST OF PLOTTING  
'PROVOCATIONS' IN UKRAINE

## MONEY 9

SENSEX SKIDS FOR 3RD DAY  
TO CLOSE BELOW 60K

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY JANUARY 21, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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INDIA HOPE  
TO MAKE  
TURNAROUND  
12 SPORTCong poster girl, MSY's  
brother-in-law join BJP

*'Ladki hun, lad sakti hun'* face says Cong's slogan farce; MSY's brother-in-law claims 20 SP MLAs ready to shift loyalty to BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav joined the BJP, Mulayam's brother-in-law and former party MLA Pramod Gupta and the former Congress leader and poster girl of the party "*Ladki Hun, Lad Sakti Hun*" campaign Priyanka Maurya joined the BJP.

Maurya was the face of the "*Ladki Hun, Lad Sakti Hun*" campaign spearheaded by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Uttar Pradesh.

"Congress slogan is just a farce. The party has no strategy to promote women. They have already decided whom they will give tickets and the rest is all a big drama," Maurya, told reporters after she joined the BJP.

Maurya had asked for a ticket from the Auraiya constituency but the Congress

didn't oblige her. Congress leaders claim that the party's internal survey showed that it cannot win the election.

"The Congress used my face to launch the '*ladki*' campaign. Then they found virtue in my face but now the leadership is saying that I cannot win the election," Maurya said.

Mulayam's brother-in-law Pramod, who was the SP MLA from Auraiya in 2012, a folk singer from Ayodhya Vandana Mishra, and the BSP's candidate from Govind Nagar seat of Kanpur, Sunil Shukla, too joined the BJP in the presence of State BJP joining committee chairman Dr Laxmikant Bajpai here at the State party headquarters on Thursday.

After joining the BJP, Pramod Gupta made very serious charges against Akhilesh Yadav alleging that Akhilesh has taken Netaji (Mulayam) hostage. "In the Samajwadi Party, only goons call the shot," Gupta said, adding Akhilesh is surrounded by sycophants.

"Mulayam has become old. Neither Akhilesh nor party leaders listen to him. Today his condition is only because of Akhilesh," he said.

Pramod claimed that around 20 SP MLAs are ready to join the BJP if the party allows them to take them.

Ravan to challenge  
Yogi on his home turf

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, alias Ravan, has announced that he will challenge Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in his home turf — Gorakhpur Sadar constituency — in the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Azad Party's chief election in-charge Mohammad Aqib said in a statement that Azad

has decided to challenge the biggest Hindutava face in UP and would contest election against Yogi.

The polling of Gorakhpur would be held in the second last phase on March 3 where nominations will commence from February 4. Gorakhpur is the home turf of Yogi and he was elected MP from this city five times in a row before he was made the CM in 2017.

Continued on Page 2

515 dists report over 5%  
+vity; Kerala, K'taka lead3 lakh cases a day  
first time in 3rd  
wave of Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu saw a massive spike in Covid-19 cases during the last 24 hours on Thursday even as the situations seem to stabilise in Mumbai and Delhi. India logged more than 3 lakh cases for the first time during the third wave on Thursday.

The Union Health Ministry said that at least 515 districts in the country are reporting a positivity rate of over 5 per cent in the last one week, while Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh remain the "States of Concern" reporting high positivity rate.

Both Karnataka and Kerala reported a record surge in the last 24 hours. Kerala's count of 46,387 fresh cases on Thursday is the highest-ever single-day spike. During the peak of the second wave, Kerala reported 43,529 Covid cases in a day.

Kerala Health Minister Veena George said both Delta and Omicron are responsible for the surge in the State.

Similarly, Karnataka too saw a huge surge Thursday recording 47,754 fresh cases. Out of these cases, 30,540 are



A medic walks inside the Shehnai Banquet Hall, a Covid-19 care centre, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

from Bengaluru.

Tamil Nadu on Thursday reported as many as 28,561 new Covid cases and 39 deaths.

While Delhi reported 12,3036 cases on Thursday, less than half it reported a week ago, the national Capital saw 43 Covid deaths, the highest number of deaths due to Covid-19 since June 10 last year when 44 people had died.

The positivity rate in Delhi has declined to 21.48 per cent from 23.8 per cent a day before.

Continuing with its declining trend, Mumbai on Thursday reported 5,708 new Covid-19 cases and 12 deaths. Meanwhile, the State Government has decided to open schools across Maharashtra for all classes from January 24.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi caps RT-PCR  
test at ₹300 at lab

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Government on Thursday capped the maximum price for the RT-PCR Covid-19 test at private laboratories at ₹300 amid rise in virus cases leading to increased testing in the national Capital. Along with that, it also fixed ₹500 for RT-PCR samples collected from home. The Rapid antigen test will now be done at ₹100.

"The rates for conventional RT-PCR and RAT test for Covid-19 in Delhi by private labs has been reduced. The cap for the RT-PCR test has been set at ₹300 and for the home collection of samples has been set at ₹500," said Health Minister Satyendar Jain.

Parrikar's son missing  
from Goa BJP first listUtpal insists on  
Panjim, party  
offers 2 options

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday released its first list of 34 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Goa. An important name missing from the list is that of former Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's son Utpal Parrikar.

Utpal wanted to contest from Panjim but the party has given him two other options. So far Utpal is insistent on contesting from Panjim itself.

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday tweeted that Utpal is welcome to join and fight elections on an AAP ticket. "Goans feel very sad that the BJP has adopted use and throw policy even with Parrikar family. I have always respected Manohar Parrikar. Utpal is welcome to join and fight elections on AAP ticket," Kejriwal tweeted.

People close to the Parrikar family told news agency ANI that it is unlikely that Utpal will budge and agree to contest from any other seat as it is more

of a sentimental and emotional issue for him than a political one. In the last one month, several top leaders of the party, including Amit Shah and JP Nadda, tried to convince him.

The BJP has fielded Scheduled Tribe candidates from three general seats and one Scheduled Caste candidate from a general seat in the 40 strong Goa Assembly.

The party has fielded 11 Other Backward castes candidates and nine from the minority community.

Six new faces have been included in the list.

Incumbent Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant would contest from Sankhli.

Jointly addressing a Press conference with BJP general secretary Arun Singh, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the BJP will return to power as it has brought "stability" and development in the State.

He said people will reject other competitors as Congress has "disgraced" the State by corruption and the new entrants TMC is trying to "buy" politicians and the cadre of the MGP with which it has struck an alliance are disenchanted with it.

Continued on Page 2

BJP names 59 of 70  
seats in Uttarakhand;  
Dhami from Khatima

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday announced the names of candidates for 59 out of the total 70 Assembly constituencies of Uttarakhand.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has got the party ticket from Khatima constituency in the State.

Out of the 59 names announced, five are women candidates, said Prahlad Joshi, BJP's election in-charge of Uttarakhand, while addressing a Press conference.

Former Congress rebel like Umesh Sharma Kau has been fielded from his traditional seat of Raipur. He was earlier speculated to return to the Congress fold.

The name on the list, seen

as surprise, is Kunwarani Devyani Singh, the wife of four-time MLA Kunwar Pranav Singh "Champion". Devyani Singh has been named for the Khanpur, a constituency held by her husband currently.

Other major women candidates include Sarita Arya, who recently defected from the Congress after she was denied a ticket. She will fight from the Nainital reserved seat.

Rekha Arya, the Woman and Child Development Minister, has been fielded from the Someshwar Assembly constituency.

The polling for Uttarakhand Assembly Election will take place in a single phase on February 14. The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

First conviction in  
Delhi riots: Youth  
gets 5 years in jail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its first judgment in cases related to Delhi riots of 2020, a Delhi trial court on Thursday sentenced Dinesh Yadav to five years in jail for being part of a riotous mob that set on fire a 73-year-old woman's house in Gokalpuri.

Last month, Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat had convicted him. Yadav has been directed to pay a fine of ₹12,000, said advocate Shikha Garg, who had represented him during the trial.

As per the prosecution, Yadav was an "active member of the riotous mob" and participated in vandalising and putting on fire the house of a woman named Manori on February 25 night.

Manori had alleged that a mob of around 150-200 rioters attacked her house when her family was not present and looted all the articles and even the buffalo.

The 25-year-old Yadav was arrested on June 8, 2020. The court framed charges against him on August 3, 2021, to which he pleaded not guilty and claimed trial. He was convicted on December 6. Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi in February 2020, after the violence between the Citizenship (Amendment) Act supporters and its protesters spiraled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

Booster neutralises  
Omicron: Lancet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A "booster" dose of the Covid-19 vaccine successfully raises antibody levels that neutralise the Omicron variant, according to laboratory findings, published in The Lancet.

Researchers from the Francis Crick Institute and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) UCLH Biomedical Research Centre found that antibodies generated in people who had received only two doses of either the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine or the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were less able to neutralise the Omicron variant as compared to the Alpha and Delta variants.

They also found that antibody levels dropped off in the first three months following the second dose but that a third "booster" dose raised levels of antibodies that effectively neutralise the Omicron variant.

In people who had received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for all three doses, antibody levels against Omicron after a third dose were similar to those previously reached against Delta after only two doses. Overall, antibody levels were nearly 2.5 times higher against Omicron after three doses compared to after two.

Higher levels of antibodies against the Omicron variant were found in people who received two doses of either vaccine and also reported previously having Covid-19 symptoms, compared to those who had not previously had Covid-19 symptoms.

Whilst levels of antibodies alone do not predict vaccine effectiveness, they are a very good indicator of protection against severe Covid-19. This study confirms that three doses of Covid-19 vaccine are essential to boost antibodies to quantifiable levels and maximise the amount of protection against severe disease and hospitalisation.

Researchers have submitted their findings to the Genotype-to-Phenotype National Virology Consortium (G2P-UK), the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG) and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The researchers found Xevudy (sotrovimab), a recently-approved synthetic monoclonal antibody used to prevent and treat high risk Covid patients was able to neutralise the Omicron variant.

Continued on Page 2

Country creating system where  
discrimination has no place: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the country is creating a system in which there is no place for discrimination and building a society that "stands firmly on the foundation of equality and social justice".

Delivering the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore", Modi also flagged off seven initiatives of Brahma Kumaris.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a programme organised by Brahma Kumaris as part of national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore' via video conferencing, in New Delhi

Patel, Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy, Bhupender Yadav, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Parshottam Rupala, and Kailash Choudhary were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said the programme by Brahma Kumaris Sanstha, in the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebration, exemplifies the feeling, spirit and inspiration for a golden India.

He said that there is no difference between personal aspirations and successes on the one hand and national aspirations and successes on the other.

Continued on Page 2

27% OBC quota in  
NEET is not at odds  
with merit, says SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the Constitutional validity of providing twenty-seven per cent quota to OBC in NEET All India Quota seats for UG and PG medical courses, saying "reservation is not at odds with merit."

The bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud observed that "merit" could not be narrowed to the limit of success in open competitive exams. The merit of a person was a sum

total of "lived experiences" and his or her struggle to overcome cultural and social setbacks.

"Merit cannot be reduced to narrow definitions of performance in an open competitive examination, which only provides formal equality of opportunities. Current competencies are assessed by competent examinations but are not reflective of excellence, capability and potential of an individual, which are also affected by lived experiences, individual character, etc," said the verdict.

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Army contacts PLA as Arunachal  
youth lost in woods untraceable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army is in touch with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China to find a missing youth from Arunachal Pradesh.

While some reports said the 17-year-old boy was abducted by the Chinese army, other versions indicated that the youth lost his way in the thick jungles and could not be located so far.

"Regarding the incident of the missing youth named Miram Taron from Arunachal Pradesh, it is informed that on receipt of the information, the Indian Army immediately contacted the PLA through established mechanism of hotline



informing that an individual, who was collecting herbs and hunting, has lost his way and cannot be found. Assistance from the PLA has been seeking to locate the individual on their side and return him as per established protocol," sources in the defence establishment said here on Thursday.

The teenager, a native of Zido village in the Upper Siang district, went missing on Tuesday. The district authori-

ties said the youth along with others were hunting in the border area.

Earlier on Thursday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi targeted the Centre over the missing boy. "Just a few days before Republic Day, the future of India is kidnapped by China. We stand with the family of Miram Taron and we will not give up hope, will not give up, won't accept defeat. PM's stupid silence is his statement - he doesn't care!" Gandhi tweeted.

Incidentally, the PLA had detained five youths in September 2020 from the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh and released them after a week.

Continued on Page 2



# SC breather for Mamata’s poll agent in murder case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to Trinamool Congress leader S K Supriyan, who was the election agent of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, in connection with a murder case being investigated by the CBI.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai was hearing an appeal filed by Supiyan challenging an order of the Calcutta High Court which rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

The apex court directed the West Bengal government to file statements recorded under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Manish, S/o Sh. Subhesh Kumar, R/o H.No. 16/998E, Khalsa Nagar, Balaji Gali, Tank Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, wearing Sky Blue colour Jeans Pant, Check Shirt, Black Jacket and Black colour Chappal in feet**, has been missing from the area of P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi since 11.01.2022 at 8.00 PM. In this regard a **FIR No. 7/22, U/s 363 IPC, dated 13.01.2022 has been registered at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

**SHO P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**  
**DP/1207/CD/2022 Ph. No.: 011-25725652, 25751048**



**SECTION-1**  
**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**  
**OFFICE OF THE, BHOPAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (M.P.)**  
**Electrical Section (First CALL)**  
**E-mail: (2x10mwsolarplant.bmc@gmail.com)**

**Dispatch Number:- 821/Electric Section/BMC/2022 Dated: 20.01.2022**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**(NIT NO. BMC-2022-TN00001)**  
  
Nagar Nigam, Bhopal, invites proposals from prospective developers for Design, Engineering, Supply, Construction, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of 2X10 MW AND Operate & Maintain for 25 years (AC) Solar PV Power Project on part payment based on stage progress during construction and remaining on the basis of Annuity Payment linked to Monthly Unit Generation. The due date for proposal is 18.02.2022. For further details please visit e-tendering portal <http://www.bharat-electronictender.com>  
  
**Chief Engineer**  
**T.N.1091/021/022 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL**

**Government Of Jharkhand Urban Development Department**  
**OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD MADHUPUR**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
E-Tender Reference no-UDD/MMC/04/2021-22 Date : .....  
एतद् द्वारा सुचित किया जाता है कॉलम नं० 05 में दिये गये राशि 10,000 होगा, जिसका PR No. 261443 Deoghar (21-22):D है। पूर्व में शुद्धि-पत्र के द्वारा दो गई सूचना निम्न है :-

Sl. No	Name of work	BOQ Amount cost (Rs.)	Earnest Moneyor Bid security(Rs.)	Cost of tender paper (Rs.)	Class of contractor eligibility	Time of Completion	Name of the concerned office
1	Construction of marriage hall at panahkola under Madhupur nagar Parishad, district-Deoghar	Rs. 31931848	Rs. 319318	Rs. 25000/- (Non-Refundable)	Class1 only	18 Months	Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Madhupur

शुद्धि-पत्र में संशोधित की गई सूचना निम्न है :-

Sl. No	Name of work	BOQ Amount cost (Rs.)	Earnest Moneyor Bid security(Rs.)	Cost of tender paper (Rs.)	Class of contractor eligibility	Time of Completion	Name of the concerned office
1	Construction of marriage hall at panahkola under Madhupur nagar Parishad, district-Deoghar	Rs. 31931848	Rs. 319318	Rs. 10000/- (Non-Refundable)	Class1 only	18 Months	Executive Officer Nagar Parishad Madhupur

Sl. No.	1	2
1.	Date/Time for receiving of Bid online	08.01.2021 to 25.01.2022 (10 :00 am to 6:00 pm)
2.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	28.01.2022 after 2:00 pm
3.	Date of receiving hard copy of Earnest money & Cost of Tender Paper	27.01.2022 up to 2:00 pm

**PR262052 (Deoghar)21-22\*D Executive Officer,Nagar Parishad, Madhupur**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICI Home Finance**  
Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
Branch Office: Ground floor, B-1/4, Community Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058  
Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Kumar (Borrower), Mrs Omwati (Co-Borrower), Mrs Rekha (Co-Borrower), LHDWJ00001299606	WO Roof Right Plot No 37C2 Mohan Garden Uttam Nagar 2nd Floor Delhi Delhi 110059. Bounded By-north: Other Property, South: Road 20ft, East: Plot No 37-B, West: Other Property/ Date of Possession- 19-Jan-2022	10-05-2021 Rs. 16,75,834/-	Delhi (Janakpuri)-B

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

**Date : January 21, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICI Home Finance Company Limited**

# Centre to rank States on green approval speed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry will rank States based on the time taken in granting environmental clearances to developmental projects to encourage "transparency, efficiency and accountability".

According to an office memorandum issued by the ministry on January 17, a meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary on November 13 last year on the action taken on "Ease of Doing Business" discussed the issue of "ranking of states based on the time taken in according clearances".

"It has been decided to incentivise states through a star-rating system, based on the efficiency and timeliness in grant of EC. This is intended as a mode of recognition and encouragement as well as for prompting improvements where needed," read the memo sent to state environment impact assessment authorities and expert appraisal committees.

It said the "rating system will encourage transparency, efficiency and accountability".

According to the proposed ranking system, a state environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA) will get two marks for granting environmental clearance (EC) to projects in less than 80 days, one mark for less than or equal to 105 days, 0.5 for 105 to 120 days and zero for more than 120 days. SEIAAs will be given one mark for accepting a proposal for terms of reference (TOR) or environmental clearances within five days, 0.5 for five to seven days and zero for more than seven days.

According to the memorandum, one mark will be given if essential details are sought more than once in less than 10 per cent cases, 0.5 mark if it is 20 per cent and zero if it is 30 per cent or more.

One mark will be awarded if more than 90 per cent of the fresh proposals for environmental clearances and EC amendment proposals awaiting for over 105 days are cleared.

## Ravan to...

**From page 1**

On January 16, the BJP had announced that Yogi will fight the upcoming election from Gorakhpur urban seat.

Earlier, Azad Samaj Party tried to join hands with the SP but it did not materialise. On January 18, Azad who is a staunch BJP critic said his political outfit - Azad Samaj Party - is open to stitching an alliance with others and maintained that his fight has always been with the ruling party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

## Parrikar’s...

**From page 1**

He described Aam Admi party as a "liar" which had not fulfilled its promises to the people of Delhi. Asked about denial of ticket to Utpal, Fadanvis "we gave two options to UtpL.one he declined.."

While BJP dropped two Ministers - WRD minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues and PWD Minister Deepak Prabhu Pauskar -- it also announced candidature to Milind Naik from Mormugao who had resigned as Minister over the alleged sex scandal case.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named: Shankar, S/o: Dilip, R/o: Jhuggi No. C-73/2, Juggi Pir Bagichi Kishan Ganj, Delhi Age: About 40 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White Shirt and Brown Pant was Found Dead on Foot Over Brige of Railway Station Kishan Ganj, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi on dated 24.06.2020.**

In this regard a DD No. 37A dated 24.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.

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 to the following.

**SHO P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**  
**DP/1900/N/2022(UIDB)Ph.: 011-23528060, 8750870125**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	POH (Periodic Overhaul) of VPR-59 machine at NR TrackMachine Workshop including mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, cabin repair and other ancillary works.
2. Completion period of the work	120 days
3. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 23.37 Lakhs
4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 46800/-
5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online)	Rs. Nil.
6. Date & Time for submission of E-Tender and opening of tender	Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 28.01.2022 upto 15:00 Hrs. on 21.02.2022. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 07.02.2022 & upto 15:30 hrs on 21.02.2022 on IREPS web site. The tender will be opened soon after 15:30 hrs on 21.02.2022.
7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 07.02.2022 to 21.02.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 1-W-DyCETMC-L-08-21-22-VPR-59 Dated: 20.01.2022. 139/22

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## 'WHY I KILLED GANDHI' ROW

# NCP MP Amol who played Godse in film distances self from Gandhi's killer ideology

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A head of the release of his controversial Hindi documentary film "Why I killed Gandhi", an anxious lead actor and NCP MP Amol Kolhe – who plays the role of Nathuram Godse – clarified on Thursday that he shot for the film before he entered politics and said that as an actor sometimes he had acted in film even though he did not agree with the ideology of the protagonist in the film.

Sensing that his documentary film "Why I killed Gandhi -- which will release on the OTT platforms on Martyr's day on January 30-- will trigger a political controversy, Kolhe sought to distance himself from the Nathuram Godse's role he has played in the 45-minute documentary film. The film begins with a commentary based on the 12th chapter of the report submitted by the Kapur Commission of inquiry which went into the conspiracy behind the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi On January 30, 1948.

The promo of the controversial film has hit the OTT platform screens.

Dr Kolhe --- a prominent Marathi actor who did his MBBS from King Edward Memorial Hospital and Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College in Mumbai and later become an MP representing NCP – said that he had shot for "Why I killed Gandhi" in the role as Nathurao Godse two years before he was elected to Lok Sabha from Shirur constituency in Maharashtra in 2019.

"When I shot for this film in 2017, I had not



entered active politics. When you take up a role in a film, it does not mean that you agree with the ideology of the protagonist or the character you play in the film. We do the roles even when you do not agree with the ideology of the character you are playing. As far as Nathuram Godse is concerned, I have not taken any public stand on the acts of Nazthuram Godse. It was just that I played his character in the film. That does not mean that I can be linked to that character played in the film," Dr Kolhe said.

Dr Kolhe – who is a popular face in Maharashtra after having portrayed the roles of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in the television serials – said: "I accepted Natrthuram Godse's role by exercising my freedom of expression as an as actor. It is another matter that my political ideology is different. Hence, my stand on the issue is clear. I expect people not to link my choice as an actor and political ideology and image".

The film "Why I killed Gandhi" is based on the real life events and the Mahatma Gandhi assassination trial involving the assassin of the father of the Nation.

## Country...

**From page 1**

The Prime Minister stressed that our progress lies in the progress of the nation. "The nation exists from us, and we exist through the nation. This realization is becoming the biggest strength of us Indians in the making of a new India. Everything the country is doing today includes 'Sabka Prayas'," he said.

He added that "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" is becoming the guiding motto of the country. Commenting on the innovative and progressive new thinking and new approach of the New India, the Prime Minister remarked that "today we are creating a system in which there is no place for discrimination, we are building a society that stands firmly on the foundation of equality and social justice".

## 27% OBC...

**From page 1**

delivered by the bench of Justices Chandrachud and AS Bopanna, adding that exams did not reflect how social, economic and cultural advantages that accrued to certain classes contributed to their success in them.

Reading out excerpts from the judgment, Justice Chandrachud said the power of the State Governments to provide reservations under Article 15 (4) and (5) of the Constitution was not an "exception" to Article 15 (1), which enshrines the mandate that "the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them". Apex court held that the power of the State Government to craft reservations for the OBC amplified the principle of "substantive equality" manifested through Article 15 (1).

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL**  
**HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- [xenmhchdtk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdtk@yahoo.in)  
**GIST of e-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/287/e-tendering**  
**Dated: 14.01.2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered , reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:  
**Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System in Oxygen Plant at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar.**  
**Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 1.21, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200, Time of completion (in days) :- 10, AA Accorded Vide No :- 51 MCS of 2020 Dt: 28-08-2020, TS.NO :- MHCHD/TS/219 Dated 01/22, Earnest Money (in Rupees) :- 2500/-**  
**1.** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **14.01.2022 (18.00 hrs)**.  
**2.** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **15.01.2022 (10:00 hrs) to 24.01.2022 (16:00 hrs) in two (02) covers**.  
**3.** The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on **25.01.2022 (14.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the **Office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.**  
No. DIPK-16746/21  
Dated:- 15.01.2022  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL**  
**HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
Telefax No. :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- [xenmhchdtk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdtk@yahoo.in)  
**G(Short-term)(Fresh)**  
**e -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22 /296/e-tendering**  
**Dated:- 17.01.2022**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from Authorized dealers of Suggested makes of Split ACs or Registered/ Reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned work:-  
**Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing Commissioning of Hot cold (reversible acs) at Laser Centre of Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.**  
**Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) :- 3.75, Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200, Time of completion (in days) :- 10, AAA :- 51 80 MCSof 2021 Dt:-22.12.2021, TS.NO :- MHCHD/TS/227 Dated 01/22, Position of Funds :- Available, EMD Amount (Rs) :- 7500/-**  
**1.** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **17.01.2022(18.00 hrs)**.  
**2.** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **18.01.2022 (18:00hrs) to 24.01.2022(14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover**.  
**3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 24.01.2022(16.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the office of **Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.**  
No. DIPK-16860/21  
Dated:- 18.01.2022  
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar**







# SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

## Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Konection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd/ Nitin Kamboj/ Aman Sahnii/ A/C No. 002105014346/ 002160000714/ 002160000752	Unit No 524 5th Floor Silverton Tower Sector 50 Village Badshapur Gurgaon 122001/ January 19, 2022	June 22, 2021 Rs. 75,75,211.94/-	Gurgaon

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

**Date :** January 21, 2022  
**Place:** Gurgaon

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



## IAS (CADRE) RULES AMENDMENT

# Didi to PM: Rethink ‘draconian’ plan

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has dashed off yet another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to reconsider the decision to amend the service rules of the Indian Administrative Services officers.

Claiming that the amendment to IAS (cadre) Rules, 1954 would “destroy” the federal fabric and basic structure of the Constitution by creating a “fear psychosis” among the officers Banerjee wrote that the proposed amendment — seeking to pull out any IAS officer without one’s consent and the “agreement of the State Government,” putting both at the mercy of the Centre — was “draconian” in nature and hinted at “centralization of power.”

“It is completely going to render them and the State Governments at the mercy of



the Central Governments since the all-India service serves as the backbone of a State’s administrative machinery,” Mamata said in her second such letter in a span of eight days.

The Centre earlier proposed an amendment to the IAS Rules, which would empower it to post IAS officers on Central deputation, ignoring reservations of State Governments.

Apprehending a drastic misuse of the proposed changes she further wrote “the proposed changes are very much prone to be misused by the

party ruling at the Centre. We at the helm of governance in the country should not get misled by immediate gains which may sound tempting but have the potential of causing damage for all times to come... This will essentially nullify India’s constitutional scheme in letter and spirit.”

The issue started last year when BJP national president JP Nadda’s convoy was attacked by alleged Trinamool Congress men in the Diamond Harbour area of South 24 Parganas.

Amid subsequent war of words between the State Government and the Centre over the issue ahead of the Assembly elections repeated attempts by the Union Home Ministry to summon the IPS officers responsible for Nadda’s security was thwarted by the State Government.

In another incident the Centre had summoned then Chief Secretary Alapan

## Amendment will be another nail in coffin of Indian federal structure: Omar Abdullah

**Srinagar:** National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the Centre’s plan to appropriate powers of transferring IAS and IPS officers will be “another nail” in the coffin of the country’s federal structure.

He was reacting to media reports that the Union Government is planning to acquire for itself overriding powers to transfer IAS and IPS officers through central depu-

tation, doing away with the requirement of taking the approval of the State Governments.

“This would be another nail in the coffin of India’s federal structure. How would CM Modi react if PM Modi summarily removed his DG or CS? J&K lost all its powers of appointment in 2019, now it looks like the rest of India’s states will go the same way,” Abdullah tweeted. **PTI**

Bandopadhyay to Delhi for failing to attend Prime Minister’s meeting at Kaalikunda. But the State Government refused to release him.

The BJP has been of the

## PIL filed in Calcutta HC over dropping of Netaji’s tableau from R-Day parade

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Amid raging controversy over the Centre’s refusal to accommodate Bengal’s tableau themed upon Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Republic Day parade a Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Calcutta High Court. Advocate Rama Prasad Sarkar filed a PIL in the Division Bench of the Chief Justice seeking to know why Netaji’s tableau was dropped. The matter is likely to be heard on Monday.

Earlier clarifying the Centre’s stance Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had written a letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying “this time the tribute is being paid on the occasion of the 125th . This is being done on behalf of the country. This is a special moment for each State. I hope.”

Earlier the Chief Minister had written a protest letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi wondering why Netaji’s tableau was dropped.

Incidentally the country has been celebrating Netaji’s 125th anniversary and the country’s 75th year of Independence.

## Kejriwal invites Parrikar’s son to join AAP in Goa

**Panaji:** After Utpal Parrikar, son of late Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, failed to make it to the BJP’s list of candidates for the next month’s Goa assembly polls, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday accused the saffron party of adopting a “use and throw policy even with the Parrikar family”.

Kejriwal invited Utpal Parrikar to join the AAP and contest the assembly election on its ticket.

“Goans feel v sad that BJP has adopted use and throw policy even with Parrikar family. I have always respected Manohar Parrikar ji.

Utpal ji is welcome to join and fight elections on AAP ticket,” the Delhi Chief Minister said in a tweet minutes after the saffron party announced the list of candidates.

Utpal Parrikar, who had been demanding the BJP’s ticket from the Panaji seat, did not get the party’s candidature as per its list of 34 candidates which it announced on Thursday.

Manohar Parrikar, who died in March 2019 while serving as the chief minister of the coastal state, had represented this constituency for more than two decades. While announcing the list of candidates for the February 14 Goa polls, BJP’s state election in-charge Devendra Fadnavis said in Delhi that the party had given four other options to Utpal Parrikar, which he did not accept. **PTI**

## Uproar over auction of farmers’ lands in Raj; CM asks officials to stop it

**Jaipur:** BKU leader Rakesh Tikait on Thursday met in Rajasthan’s Dausa farmers whose lands have been auctioned by commercial banks over the non-payment of loans, while peasants led by BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena protested against the action outside the chief minister’s residence.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot asked officials to stop the auction of agricultural land of farmers.

Land attachment and auction is being undertaken by banks that are controlled by the Reserve Bank of India, he said, urging the Centre to waive farmers’ loans. Notably, many instances of land auction notices being issued to farmers who have been unable to pay back their loans have come to the fore recently.

Tikait, who is the

spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, met farmers in Ramgarh Pachwara in Dausa district whose lands were auctioned by banks after they failed to repay their loans.

Talking to reporters, Tikait said, “Why was the auction done? An investigation should be carried out against bank officials and a case registered. You cannot auction a farmer’s entire land for a small loan. It was an illegal auction. The land mafia have their eyes on prime land.”

He claimed several farmers have received land auction notices. “We will meet bank officials on the issue and decide the future course of action,” the BKU leader said. Separately, a group of farmers from Dausa led by BJP MP Dr Kirodi Lal Meena managed to reach the high-security zone near Gehlot’s residence. **PTI**

## Textile printing mill catches fire in Gujarat, ten workers rescued; no casualty reported

**Bardoli :** At least 10 workers were rescued after a three-storey textile dyeing and printing mill, located near Bardoli town in Gujarat’s Surat district, caught fire early on Thursday, officials said.

As the fire is still raging, nearly 100 firemen from Bardoli, Surat city and other nearby places are involved in the firefighting operation, but the blaze has gutted the entire building, Bardoli’s chief fire officer P B Gadhvi said.

“The fire broke out at the dyeing and printing mill located in Palsana area around 3.30 am and it is still raging. It has engulfed all the three floors of the unit. While majority of the workers came out safely with the help of locals after the fire started spreading, firemen rescued around 10 workers who had got stuck in the rear part of the mill. But no one was injured in the incident,” he said.



Since it is a major fire, nearly 15 firefighting vehicles, 100 firemen from Bardoli, Surat, Sachin, Vyara, Gandevi, Navsari, Bilimora and two private firms were pressed into service since early morning, he said.

“Locals claimed that a short circuit followed by blasts of gas cylinders were responsible for the fire at the mill. Fire spread quickly because of the highly flammable chemicals, dyes and yarns. A large quantity of the ready-made garments and raw material was also gutted in the fire,” Gadhvi said, adding that efforts are on to douse the flames. **PTI**

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Though the Opposition BJP emerged as the single largest party in the Nagar Panchayat elections in Maharashtra by romping home in 25 urban local bodies and winning 419 seats, it is the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)—comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress—gained control over a majority of nearly 75 out of the total 106 Nagar panchayats, for which full results were declared on Thursday.

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s order asking the State Election Commission (SEC) to convert the OBC seats to open category seats, the elections to the 106 Nagar Panchayats in the state were held in two phases on December 21 and on January 19. On Wednesday, the SEC declared the results of the 97 Nagar Panchayats in 31 dis-

tricts of the state..

In the results for the nine Nagar Panchayats in the remaining one district of Gadchiroli in eastern Maharashtra declared on Thursday, the Congress captured on its own in three urban local bodies – of Korchi, Chamroshi and Dhanora – out of the total nine bodies that went to polls in the naxalite-infested district. The BJP captured power in one urban panchayat of Kurkheda. In Etapalli Nagar Panchayat, the Congress and NCP are poised to come to power as an alliance.

Though the Nagar Panchayat elections were held on individual party lines, the MVA – as a collective entity and the ruling alliance in the state – has emerged stronger in the polls. In terms of seats, the NCP (381), Congress (344) and Shiv Sena (296) have collectively won 1021

seats out of the total Nagar Panchayat seats. In essence, the MVA has won 56.81 per cent of the total Nagar Panchayat seats that went to polls.

In terms of power captured in urban local bodies, the Congress (17), NCP (16) and Shiv Sena (11) – have gained control over the 44 local bodies out of the total 106 Nagar Panchayats. As a ruling entity in the state, the MVA – which will cobble a post-poll alliance with its constituents -- is poised to capture in nearly 75 out of 106 urban self-local bodies that went to polls in 32 districts of the state in two phases.

On its part, the BJP – which has emerged as the single largest in the Nagar Panchayat polls in the State –has captured power in 25 urban self bodies, while it expects to capture power in six other Nagar Panchayats.



A tailor stitches national flags at his workshop-cum-shop ahead of the Republic Day celebration in Kolkata on Thursday

## In deep snow, jawans patrol forward areas to check infiltration

**Poonch:** Back-deep into a tapestry of heavy snow, Indian jawans brave extreme weather and inhospitable terrain to conduct patrolling and keep a ‘hawk’s eye’ on infiltrating terrorists ready to sneak into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch sector.

Sepoy Surinder Singh (named changed), walks through deep snow daily to man the listening post in forward area at a height of 7000 feet along LoC in Poonch sector to keep vigil on the movement of infiltrating terrorists camped in launching pads across the border ready to sneak into this side, if they get slightest opportunity on the surveillance front. “Snowfall or no snow---chilly winters or dangerous gorges---threat of attacks - our morale is high to keep round the clock vigilance along LoC”, a soldier said. **PTI**

# Kerala logs highest-ever daily Covid cases

46,000 out of 1L people test +ve for Covid-19 in 24 hrs

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala on Thursday recorded the highest ever daily Covid-19 cases as 46, 387 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic out of 1.15 lakh samples tested during the last 24 hours.

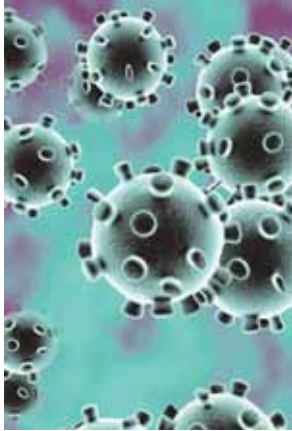
The State Government ordered the closure of all schools and asked the education department to opt for on-line classes but remained non-committal with regard to colleges. A late evening release by the administration said heads of educational institutions were free to order the shut down taking into consideration the situation prevailing in the districts.

The next two Sundays

(January 23 and 30) will see a total lock-down like situation across the State as only essential services would be allowed to function on these days.

A Review Meeting was held at Thiruvananthapuram presided over by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who is undergoing treatment for a serious ailment in a US Hospital. It was decided to open a war room in the Government Secretariat to monitor the Covid-19 situation, according to health minister Veena George. The Test Positivity Rate in the State reached 40. 21 per cent as on Thursday evening, said George.

The review meeting accepted the fact that situation in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode was grave and serious. A senior doctor, an authority on contagious diseases, told The Pioneer on condition of anonymity that the Government should



declare the State out of bounds for people from other States. “Situation in Kerala is dangerous as the figures which have been released by the Health Department are deceiving. There will be four times more Covid-19 patients than what has been disclosed officially,” said the doctor who insisted that tourists and trav-

elers should not be allowed in the State as they were vulnerable to get afflicted with the disease.

“There is no system to monitor whether the hotel employees are positive or not. Many persons afflicted with the pandemic are roaming free in the roads throwing the safety protocols to the winds. Why should we cover it up from the general public,” asked the doctor.

K Sudhakaran, KPCC President, issued a scathing letter to chief minister Vijayan lambasting the latter for the lopsided policies being followed by the administration which resulted in the shooting up of the Covid-19 situation. “The holding of the CPI(M) meetings across the State to sing peans to the chief minister has led to the present position. The KPCC president begins with what was spoken by Vijayan in Thursday’s cabi-

net meeting. “I have been hospitalized and am fine,” Sudhakaran quoted Vijayan as telling which proves that the proceedings of the cabinet meeting has reached the former.

“Though you are happy and fine in the USA, dear Vijayan, people in Kerala are suffering the worst and undergoing the hardest of times. The persons whom you have entrusted with the responsibility of running the administration and party, your son-in-law and Kodyeri Balakrishnan, have proved their incapability and inefficiency. Those who attended the district meetings of the CPI(M) have been afflicted with Covid-19 despite the unanimous declaration passed in these meetings that they would tame the pandemic,” said Sudhakaran in one of the harshest letters ever written by a KPCC president to the chief minister of the State.

## Single day recoveries outnumber cases in Andaman & Nicobar

**Port Blair:** Single-day recoveries outnumbered new Covid-19 cases in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as 176 people were cured of the disease and 159 tested positive for the infection in the last 24 hours, a health department official said on Thursday.

The fresh cases raised the tally in the Union Territory to 8,938, while 8,366 people have recuperated from the disease so far, he said.

Of the new patients, 43 have travel history and 116 were detected during contact tracing. Eighty-four fresh cases of the coronavirus infection were reported on Tuesday.

The death toll remained at 129 in the archipelago as no new fatality due to the disease was registered in the last 24 hours, the official said. The Union Territory now has 443 active cases. **PTI**

## Telangana Govt to undertake door-to-door survey for fever

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana government would undertake a door-to-door fever survey in the State from Friday as part of measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

The survey would help in controlling the spread by identifying those suffering from fever and others, State Health Minister T Harish Rao told reporters here on Thursday.

Some people are asymptomatic despite testing positive for the infection, while some others are not getting themselves tested in spite of having symptoms like fever, he said.

The survey would help address such issues.

He said a home-isolation kit, comprising medicines and others, would be provided to those with symptoms.

Observing that a similar survey and the provision of the same kits helped save many

lives during the second wave of COVID-19, he said this has received appreciation from the NITI Aayog.

The State Government is geared up to deal with the third wave as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had ordered procuring two crore testing kits and one crore home-isolation kits, he said.

The Minister said 27,000 hospital beds have been provided with oxygen supply. Oxygen generation plants have been established in 76 hospitals and the generation capacity has increased to 340 MTs from about 130 MTs during the second wave. The capacity would be enhanced to 500 MTs, he said.

While 56,000 COVID beds are available in the State, the bed occupancy rate is below one per cent at present. **PTI**

### COVID BULLETIN








FIRST COLUMN

BUDGET SHOULD FOCUS ON TRADE AGREEMENTS

Keep FTA in centre of budget theme to keep the money inflow intact



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

When Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the budget on February 1, she will have a tough balancing act to negotiate. First, she will be up against her previous year's 'dream' budget which was called reformist, bold and visionary by most economists. It maybe argued that given the pulls and pressures of a noisy democratic process and fatal impact of Covid waves, many of the proposed reforms remained in the budget document. Secondly, this year's budget will be presented on the eve of crucial state elections, including Uttar Pradesh, which will decide the contours of the Rajya Sabha, and therefore the government's ability to push through reforms in the coming months. A reformist policy document is not necessarily populist and therefore has little voter appeal. Thirdly, she will be speaking to a huge section of the population many of whom have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic even as they battle inflation driven by fuel prices and increased

spend on life-saving pandemic medicines. Against this backdrop are external trade relations, bilateral or free trade, that India has decisively steered towards, to keep the money inflow intact. India is currently trying to negotiate 16 free trade agreements while upgrading on seven existing ones, with trading blocs.

UK's international trade secretary Anne Marie Trevelyan was in India a few days ago when India and the UK announced the launch of free trade agreement negotiations. The target for completion is middle of next year. India wants removal of access restrictions on free movement of professionals between the two countries, reduction in visa fees, have guardrails for protecting India's agricultural interests and better access for its vaccines, pre-mixed tea and coffee, yarns, etc. The UK in return wants a significant strip down of the excruciating duties, imposed by India on British whiskies and cars. However, the trick lies in selling the benefits of such trade deals to domestic constituencies or voters. In the run up to the budget, India has for the first time in several years shed its protectionists image and is willing to engage with powerful trading blocs for ensuring future prosperity. The NDA government had so far focused on domestic reforms such as uniform GST, insolvency and bankruptcy code, labour codes, etc., to bring a competitive edge for India, when it comes to external economic relations. However, the failure to rally all the constituents together on the potential benefits of the now-withdrawn farm sector reforms is a bellwether of what lies ahead. If the finance minister has to unveil a future trade agreement friendly budget, she will have to open up locked doors on high customs duties and other taxes faced by many imported goods in India. These high duties or taxes on most imported products create a huge burden on domestic consumers or, they settle for many a times low quality domestically manufactured similar items. Most of this is done to protect the interest of the local manufacturers and businesses. Any move to open these doors, allowing free movement of certain goods and services from a robust economy at near zero input duties and taxes, while having concurrent benefits in the partner country, is definitely not a populist move and can lead to a push-back. For instance, the attempt to privatize Centra Electronics Limited, announced in last year's budget and worth under ₹300 crore has run into a legal challenge and the Government seems not in a hurry to push for a favorable verdict. The message, therefore, for the finance minister is to make way for enriching trade agreements silently, while making loud announcements on the populist measures.

*(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Final line-up of the CM faces in Punjab

Charanjit Channi, Bhagwant Mann, Sukhbir Badal and Capt Amarinder Singh: It is now almost certain that there would be no parachute candidate in Punjab

With the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) naming comedian-turned-politician Bhagwant Mann as its chief ministerial candidate, the long-drawn suspense within the party and outside has ended and brought in a sense of closure for the swelling party cadres who are fighting with their tails up in the forthcoming Assembly polls.

As far as the chief ministerial faces of the rival parties are concerned, Congress so far seems to be indicating that it will settle for Charanjit Singh Channi, who made a mark for himself in his short tenure after being sworn in Chief Minister following the unceremonious ouster of long-serving Amarinder Singh.

Then comes the third serious angle in the Punjab polls-Shiromani Akali Dal where leadership has now become hereditary and has passed on to party President Sukhbir Singh Badal. His father, Parkash Singh Badal, five-time chief minister, is now in his 90s and despite his public appearances now and then in the last five years, has clearly paved the way for his son, who also served as Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister when the party was in power in alliance with the BJP from 2012 to 2017. SAD is in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party this time after breaking its over two-decade-old alliance with BJP on the controversial farm laws. BSP has already been offered the post of Deputy Chief Minister if the alliance is voted to power.

The Patiala royal Amarinder Singh would obviously be the chief ministerial candidate of the Punjab Lok Congress-BJP alliance even though his new party would get a lesser number of seats than BJP in the seat-sharing pact. Of course, the alliance has hardly got much effect on the ground given that it has no traction in the rural areas. In urban pockets, BJP has some influence but overall, political analysts are almost certain that it will not cross into double figures. They have obviously written off the alliance as a serious contender for power despite some aggressive inductions from left, right and centre in recent days. They see the Patiala royal parting ways with Congress and deciding to fight elections more as an "ego trip of a dethroned emperor" rather than a serious attempt at political resurrection.

As of now, it seems that the strategy of AAP in naming Mann, the popular face of the party after a tele-voting campaign, has helped get it traction with the voters. Publicizing a phone number for tele-voting, asking voters to give missed calls, SMS and WhatsApp, helped the party connect with the voters. All of this had an element of surprise and political freshness. This was obviously a new exercise of its kind and such novelty helps the party catch the imagination of



AS OF NOW, IT SEEMS THAT THE STRATEGY OF AAP IN NAMING MANN, THE POPULAR FACE OF THE PARTY, AFTER A TELE-VOTING CAMPAIGN HAS HELPED GET IT TRACTION WITH THE VOTERS. PUBLICISING A PHONE NUMBER FOR TELE-VOTING, ASKING VOTERS TO GIVE MISSED CALLS, SMS AND WHATSAPP, HELPED THE PARTY CONNECT WITH THE VOTERS. ALL OF THIS HAD AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE AND POLITICAL FRESHNESS

*(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)*



the voters. Remember the days of the "Chai pe charcha" campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 Lok Sabha polls and the "Coffee with Captain" campaign of Amarinder Singh in 2017 assembly poll which catapulted both of them to power. Of course, the man behind those popular slogans-Prashant Kishor-is now on a sabbatical, not coining any new slogan for anyone after West Bengal where Mamata Banerjee emerged victorious.

The "AAP da CM" tele-voting exercise saw over 21 Lakh people expressing their opinion on the number released by AAP on January 13 for voting, and 93.3 percent voted for Bhagwant Mann as their choice to be Punjab's CM. Of course, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip and this is true in politics more than anything else, it is now certain that there would be no parachute candidate in Punjab now, as was believed by almost all the other political parties. In the last Assembly polls in 2017, when AAP did reasonably well, getting the Leader of Opposition space by piping out the Akali Dal, it had not declared a CM face and obviously did not want to repeat the mistake in 2022.

On the other hand, ruling Congress has so far not made any official announcement though in 2017 it had named Amarinder Singh as the CM face of the party days before the polls. As public

campaign is not allowed and no big rallies are being held due to Election Commission's COVID-19 guidelines, top leadership of Congress (read Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi) have not yet had the opportunity to go on stage with Channi or Sidhu so that any guesses could be made.

However, Congress, on its Twitter handle, indicated that Channi could be the candidate as it shared a video clip in which Bollywood actor-cum-philanthropist Sonu Sood is seen saying that people want a person from humble origins as the Chief Minister, indicating Channi. In the video, there are visuals of the incumbent Chief Minister, fuelling speculation that the high command has sort of endorsed the name. It is understood that Channi's logical and emotional stand on the recent controversy over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security lapse in Ferozepur seems to have helped his cause. In addition, he has in a calculated manner cultivated the image of the 'aamaadmi' (common man) who has no pretensions to cut into the votes of the AAP.

The Congress high command knows it well that PCC chief Navjot Sidhu is not the one to accept anyone's name as the CM face except his own without any protest. So, it is perhaps buying peace as of now by not making any official announcement. "Collective leadership" is the term coined to

keep everyone happy till the crunch time comes. Sidhu has been urging the high command to name the CM face, going to the extent of saying, "dulhe bin baraat kaisi" (What is a wedding procession without a groom). Obviously, he was referring to the wedding procession as an election campaign and groom as the chief ministerial candidate. But given the compulsions of the top leadership in keeping everyone happy, it seems, there would be no "groom" in the "wedding procession" as of now from Congress and all it would do is keep indicating and suggesting Channi's name, without doing so.

Surprisingly, in the tele-voting campaign of the AAP, Sidhu was the second most-preferred CM candidate of the party getting a little over three percent of the votes. Many in Punjab had two interpretations or questions on this, one whether Sidhu would move to AAP and two, what kind of methodology AAP adopted in tele-voting where Sidhu too figured. But political speculations apart, as of now, Sidhu seems to be a few steps behind Channi as the CM face of the party in the eyes of party cadres as well as the central leadership.

So, the name of the captains of the respective teams as of now are out-Bhagwant Mann, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhbir Singh Badal and Amarinder Singh. The results will flick the coin.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE SAMAJWADI PARTY PATRIARCH'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW BELIEVES THE BJP'S RULE IS SAFE FOR WOMEN. —UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR



I AM HAPPY THAT OUR SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY IS EXPANDING. IT WILL WORK TO SAVE THE CONSTITUTION AND DEMOCRACY. —SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF AKHILESH YADAV



# Raise tobacco tax to heal economy and people's health

## Many tobacco users also favour tax hikes as they want to get rid of their habit

As it prepares for the next Budget, the Union Government will be looking for ways to generate more revenues to heal the economy battered by COVID-19. But it must ensure that its moves do not add to the woes of the common man already reeling under Covid-induced health worries, inflation and skyrocketing prices of essential commodities in the face of salary cuts and widespread job losses.

In such a gloomy scenario, one of the areas which the Government can explore is enhancing tax on 'sin products' — cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco churned out by the tobacco giants blatantly at the cost of lives of the youth. This also puts a burden on the economy.

The tobacco industry has



RIJO JOHN

*(The writer is a health economist and adjunct professor, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi.)*

been since 2017 — when GST came into effect — enjoying almost an extended tax-free season. Post GST, there has been no major hike in tax on any of the tobacco products for the last four years, making tobacco products in India more affordable to the common man.

In India, the tax burden on bidis, cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco, on an average, stands at 22 per cent, 53 per cent, and 64 per cent respectively in 2021, while the World Health Organization recommends a uniform tax of at least 75 per cent for each tobacco product. Clearly, we are much below the WHO-recommended tax slab.

Use of tobacco is known to be the cause of several non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic

lung diseases. In India, annually around 13 lakh deaths are attributable to tobacco consumption. India also bears an annual economic cost of over ₹1,77,000 crore spent by people for treating diseases caused by tobacco as well as the monetary value of premature death due to the consumption of tobacco. It accounts for more than one per cent of India's GDP. Economic burden due to bidi consumption is also estimated to be ₹80,000 crore. This burden is likely to increase enormously in the near future as tobacco consumers have a higher risk of contracting coronavirus infection.

Over 28 per cent of adults above 15 years and 8.5 per cent of students aged 13-15 years use tobacco in some form or the other which makes India the second largest consumer of tobacco in the world. Experts have confirmed that smokers are more likely to develop severe

symptoms or die from Covid infection, as it primarily attacks the lungs.

Hence, if taxes are not hiked immediately and significantly, some of the hard-won gains in tobacco consumption reduction achieved in the past few years as reflected in the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2009-17, might reverse at the cost of the economy and public health. The GATS has shown 17 per cent reduction in tobacco consumption. If we don't increase the taxes significantly, use of tobacco products, especially by youths, will increase.

So, there is a necessity for a stiff increase in tax on tobacco products at the earliest so that we can discourage the youth from using products.

Studies and surveys from multiple countries reveal that

many tobacco users also favour tax hikes as they want to get rid of their habit adopted unwittingly or due to peer pressure. In the pandemic times when we need major revenue to spruce up the health infrastructure, heavily taxing tobacco products is ideal to discourage its consumption.

Imposing tax on tobacco will rather present Government's image as 'pro-poor.' For, in India, tobacco consumption is in general higher among the poor and middle-class people who are more prone to tobacco related diseases and can't afford the medical expenses. Imposing tax will help save the poor on tobacco items.

Levying tax on tobacco is not anti-farmer too, as cultivators have little say in profits accrued from the sale of tobacco

products. For instance, out of ₹100 earned on tobacco products, less than ₹3 goes to the farmers. In fact, when you increase taxes, decrease in consumption does not take place instantly, it takes time. That window should be utilized by the Government to provide the tobacco growers and others to find alternative sources of livelihood in the short run. Notably, there are about 48 lakh bidi workers in the country.

The Government has a plethora of tax options available. Like National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD), Compensation Cess and Excise Duty which was re-introduced for tobacco taxation two years ago. These can be exclusively used by the Government to raise prices of the tobacco products.







# Sensex skids for 3rd day to close below 60k

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

BSE benchmark Sensex spiralled lower for the third consecutive session on Thursday to finish below the 60,000-level, weighed by hectic selling in IT, energy and finance stocks amid a sell-off in European equities.

A depreciating rupee and continued selling by foreign investors also affected the market sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index ended 634.20 points or 1.06 per cent lower at 59,464.62. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 181.40 points or 1.01 per cent to 17,757.

Bajaj Finserv was the top

laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 4.57 per cent, followed by Infosys, TCS, Sun Pharma, HUL, HCL Tech, Dr Reddy's, HDFC and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Maruti and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers, spurring up to 4.86 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 23 of the 30 Sensex counters closing in the red. "Persistent concern over global inflation and likely Fed rate hike acted as the major headwinds for the domestic market to tumble for the third consecutive day," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research



at Geojit Financial Services.

"High volatility due to rising bond yields is pressuring foreign investors to pull out funds from highly valued markets like India.

As the recent earnings failed to excite the market, the on-going global volatility drained investor confidence," he added.

On the results front, Asian

Paints' consolidated net profit fell 18.5 per cent to Rs 1,031.29 crore for the third quarter ended December 2021.

FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd reported an 18.68 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,300 crore for the third quarter.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said the markets are currently facing global headwinds and there's no relief from the domestic front as well.

"However, we feel it's a healthy correction so far and expect Nifty to hold the 17,600 zone. For traders, the major challenge is to tackle the volatility amid the earnings season.

We feel it's prudent to limit positions and prefer a hedged approach until markets resume the uptrend," he noted.

Sector-wise, BSE IT, tech, energy, healthcare and FMCG shed as much as 1.69 per cent, while power, utilities, metal and realty posted gains.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap index dipped 0.07 per cent, while the smallcap gauge inched up 0.05 per cent.

Asian markets ticked higher after China cut benchmark mortgage rates to support the embattled property sector. Bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while Shanghai closed in the red.

## Covid, lockdowns may shave off 100 bps growth in toll collections: ICRA



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The recent surge in fresh Covid infections as well as subsequent localised lockdowns emanating from Omicron spread are likely to shave off around 100 bps of growth in toll collections in fiscal year 2021-22, domestic rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said.

ICRA further said given that passenger vehicles (PV) category account for 20-25 per cent of overall traffic on toll projects, regional lockdowns imposed by state governments restricting people movement are expected to adversely impact the PV traffic as well as bus categories, as witnessed during the second wave of Covid-19.

The toll collections are, however, expected to be moderated by about 100 bps and will be supported by commercial vehicles as the manufacturing, construction activities and movement of goods are permitted, it added.

Giving more details, Vinay Kumar G, Sector Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said the FastAG collections peaked at ₹3,679 crore for December 2021, a growth of 12 per cent on a month-on-month basis as compared to November 2021.

He said restricted people movement owing to the third wave of pandemic is likely to affect the toll collections in the range of 7.5 per cent and 23.5 per cent on month-on-month basis in January and February 2022, respectively and recover thereafter.

## Doorstep diesel services provider Humsafar to enter EV space

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Humsafar India, an app-based doorstep diesel services provider, is all set to make a foray into the growing Electric Vehicle (EV)-charging and battery replacement business and plans to set up its first charging stations in Delhi and Noida, a release said on Thursday.

The company plans to set up charging stations across Delhi-NCR and other cities in the country and is in talks with oil marketing companies (OMCs) to set up EV stations in urban areas, starting from Delhi.

At present, Humsafar, which has tied up with OMCs -Oil India and BPCL--has set up doorstep diesel delivery service in 50 cities across 20 states.

The company said it plans to make a foray into other states and cities soon. With different parts of the country witnessing a steady increase towards EVs, the demand for ancillary units and charging stations is expected to rise manifold.

EVs will require investing

in infrastructure, possibly repurposing the existing network of fuel stations, building up the ecosystem of partners and stakeholders, including governmental policymakers, energy generation agencies, OEMs and mobility solutions providers, said Nishit Goel, Founder Director of Humsafar India.

"Humsafar will be developing charging stations at its tech platform and create its manufacturing consortia for standardized EV components such as batteries, powertrain and charging equipment. Humsafar India is expecting the market to unfold very quickly once the two-wheeler market fully extends in the EV space. We will try to reach for avenues other than fuel retail outlets for EV charging," he said.

The company, he said, is proposing a dealer-owned dealer operated model where Humsafar will act as a facilitator for the setting up of facility and tech support post set-up, including customer management, adding, this will be under the Humsafar platform only.

## 'Govt should abolish STT to encourage new investors to start trading'

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Market experts on Thursday said the government should consider relieving traders of the Securities Transaction Tax on equity trade in the Union Budget, which will be presented by the finance minister on February 1.

The move is expected to boost the capital markets and encourage new investors to start trading, they added.

The government had introduced Securities Transaction Tax (STT) in 2004 on transactions in different types of securities. The rate presently varies from 0.025 per cent to 0.25 per cent depending upon the type of security traded and transaction — whether sale or purchase.

"The investment industry will benefit if the Securities Transaction

Tax is abolished, as both long-term capital gains (LTCG) and short-term capital gains (STCG) are in place," Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of

True Beacon and Zerodha, said.

Nonetheless, if the government does not intervene with STT, it could look at removing the tax on long-term capital gains, he added.

Puneet Maheshwari, Director, Upstox, said the government may consider relieving traders of the STT. By doing so, new investors would be encouraged to start trading.

"There needs to be more participation in indexes or exchange-

traded funds. By offering a lock-in and tax incentives on the lines of equity-linked tax savings schemes, the government can encourage long-term savings in Nifty or Sensex," he noted.

A greater allocation by the government-owned provident funds and pension funds into equity markets could also help, he added.

Kamath believes that there is a strong case for easing the listing norms in India while tightening penalties for violation of laws.

## Retail inflation for farm, rural workers rise to 4.78 pc, 5.03 pc in December

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers rose to 4.78 per cent and 5.03 per cent respectively in December 2021, mainly due to higher price of certain food items, official data showed on Thursday.

"Point to point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (consumer price index for agricultural labour) and CPI-RL (rural labourers) stood at 4.78 per cent & 5.03 per cent in December, 2021 compared to 3.02 per cent & 3.38 per cent respectively in November, 2021 and 3.25 per cent and 3.34 per cent respectively during the corresponding month of the previous year (December 2020)," a labour ministry statement said.

Food inflation stood at 2.99 per cent (farm labour) and 3.17 per cent (rural labour) in December 2021, compared to 0.88 per cent and 1.07 per cent respectively in November 2021, and 2.97 per cent and 2.96 per cent during the corresponding month of 2020.

The All-India Consumer Price Index numbers for agricultural labourers and rural labourers for December 2021 increased by 5 points each to stand at 1,097 and 1,106 points respectively.

The CPI-AL and CPI-RL stood at 1,092 points and 1,101 points respectively in November 2021.

The major contribution towards the rise in general index of agricultural labourers and rural labourers came from 'fuel and light' and miscellaneous group to the extent of 1.72 and 1.58 points, and 1.02 and 1.06 points respectively, mainly due to rise in prices of firewood, kerosene oil, medicine, barber charges, bus fare, toilet soap, washing soap, etc.

The rise/fall in the index varied from state to state.

In case of agricultural labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 20 points in 11 states and a decrease of 1 to 12 points in 8 states, while it remained stationary for Odisha. Tamil Nadu with 1,290 points topped the index table, whereas Himachal Pradesh with 861 points stood at the bottom.

In case of rural labourers, it recorded an increase of 1 to 20 points in 11 states and a decrease of 1 to 14 points in 8 states, while it remained stationary for Odisha. Tamil Nadu with 1,276 points topped the index table, whereas Himachal Pradesh with 915 points was at the bottom.

## Rupee slips 7 paise to end at 74.51 against American dollar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Indian rupee weakened by 7 paise to close at 74.51 against the US dollar on Thursday as sustained foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices hurt forex market sentiment.

Further, massive sell-offs in domestic equities for a third session in a row on Thursday too made investors more cautious, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.43 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.29 and a low of 74.53 during the session.

The rupee finally settled at 74.51, down 7 paise over its previous close of 74.44.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.02 per cent up at 95.53.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.44 per cent to USD 88.11 per barrel.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

#### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) FORCETTFB FORCE

DL1VC2104 - YOM 2019

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 356265

2) FORCETTFB

DL1VC2247 - YOM 2015

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 296688

3) FORCETTFB

HR58B7576- YOM 2015

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 432608

4)CB\_ TATA LPS 3518 FULLY BUILT

TRAILER HR38S3571-YOM 2012

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 617760

5)CB\_ MAHINDRA\_ FURIO\_ 11

FULLY\_ BUILT UP14HT7805

YOM 2019

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 1108380

6) EICHER 10.95

UP14GT3720- YOM 2017

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 507212

7) SM\_ SAMRAT

UP15ET6450- YOM 2019

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 674360

8)CB\_ SML SARTAJ

UP15DT7330 - YOM 2018

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 612521

9) TLPT1109FB

UP14HT 7369 - YOM 2019

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 923837

10) BOLERO\_ MUV

UP14JT5634 -YOM 2020

MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 427232

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH

M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

IS UNDER SALE IN ITS

"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE

THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/

OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM

THIS PAPER PUBLICATION I.E. ON

OR BEFORE 05.02.2022 (PLEASE

NOTE THAT CLOSING AUCTION

DATE WOULD NOT BE A WEEKLY

OFF / HOLIDAY).

BRANCH ADDRESS:

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.,

PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA,

SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL

CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) UP-201313

OR CONTACT : RAJESH ANTIL

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.

CONTACT / 09711173320

EMAIL rajesh.antil@kotak.com

### NCLAT directs Jalan-Kalrock consortium to share resolution plan details with Jet Airways' workmen

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Thursday directed the Kalrock-Jalan consortium, the winning bidder for bankrupt Jet Airways, to share portions of the resolution plan pertaining to claims of employees with the airline's workmen.

The Association of Aggrieved Workmen of Jet Airways (India) Ltd had sought a copy of the approved resolution plan and the latest direction has come on a plea filed by the association.

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Vijay S/o Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown** Age about 25 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Wheatish, Oval Face, Normal Built, Wearing White colour shirt, blue colour pant and grey colour jacket was admitet in AAAGH vide MLC No. 2762/21 for treatment.

Later on 26.12.2021 he was declared dead in RBTB Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 93-A dated 15.12.2021 U/S 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Civil Lines, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**

**PS: Civil Lines, Delhi**

**Ph.: 011-23810638, 23815444**

DP/1896/N/2022

#### Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Pre-Primary/Procurement/445/2020/8582 Date: 19.01.2022

Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacturer of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM)/Authorised dealer of the manufacturer/Supplier of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) for supply of Teaching Learning Materials (TLM).

To participate in the 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 bid processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axiom 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/2961/21

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites **Open E-tender** under **Single Packet System** for the following work:-

1.	Name of work and location	POH (Periodic Overhaul) of UNIMAT-8293 machine at NR Track Machine Workshop including mechanical, hyraulic, pneumatic, electrical, cabin repair and other ancillary works.
2.	Completion period of the work	120 days
3.	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 25.87 Lakhs
4.	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 51,800/-
5.	Cost of Tender Document ( to be deposited Online)	NIL
6.	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 28.01.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs. on 21.02.2022. Tender bids may be uploaded from 07.02.2022 & upto 15.00 hrs. on 21.02.2022 on IREPS website. The tender will be opened soon after 15.00 hrs. on 21.02.2022.
7.	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 07.02.2022 to 21.02.2022. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 1-W-DyCETMC-L-07-21-22-UNI-8293 Dated: 20.01.2022 137/2022

**Serving Customers with a Smile**

## Healthcare likely to receive top priority in Budget: Assocham

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Healthcare sector is likely to receive the highest priority in the upcoming Union Budget 2022-23 on account of continuing challenges posed by COVID-19 and the imperative need for scaling up public health infrastructure, an Assocham survey said on Thursday.

The industry chamber noted that 47 per cent of the respondents in its survey pointed towards Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman according maximum attention to healthcare in the Budget.

Besides, MSMEs, energy and infrastructure and technology were also on priority list as per the survey done among

400 respondents across 40 cities from different sectors, it stated.

While the government's proactive measures and the frontline workers' tireless efforts have helped tide over the uncertain situation, the pandemic also brought forth certain gaps in the public healthcare system, Assocham said.

Besides, nearly 40 per cent of the Assocham survey respondents said the Finance Minister should reduce the income tax among other measures to boost private demand and consumption.

About 31 per cent said Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the poor households could be a demand driver at the bottom of the pyramid.

## FinMin to release ₹47,541 cr advance installment of tax devolution to States

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Centre will release an advance installment of tax devolution to the states amounting to ₹47,541 crore, the Finance Ministry said.

"Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has authorised the release of an advance installment of tax devolution to state governments amounting to ₹47,541 crore, here today. This is in addition to the regular devolution for the month of January 2022, also being released today," the ministry

said in a statement.

Thus, states would receive a total of ₹95,082 crore or double their respective entitlement during the month of January 2022, it added.

Last year in November too, the Centre had released the first advance installment of tax devolution amounting to ₹47,541 crore to states.

With the release of the second advance installment today, the states would have received an additional amount of ₹90,082 crore under tax devolution.

#### Re- Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

No.SSA/MDM/NABL-Testing/332/2021/8559 Date: 18.01.2022

Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re- Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for testing of dry and cooked MDM Food .

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

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director  
SSA, Assam  
cum State Nodal Officer-MDM

Janasanyog/CF/2967/21

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank hereby inform that all scheduled auctions, to be held for the period between January 20, 2022 till February 28, 2022 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 stands postponed until further notice, due to unprecedented outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19). The list of auctions that are postponed are given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Scheduled Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
1.	Mr. Sonu Kumar (Borrower), Mr. Shiv Kumar (Guarantor) Lan No LBNOD00002252451	G/Uh-801 8th Floor, Tower-G Urban Homes, Shahpur Bamhetta, NH-24 Ghaziabad, 201001 Super Area: 585 Sq. fts	January 27, 2022 from- 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM



# RAISE A TOAST TO TEA

MADHAV SARDA lists the reasons for the uptick in the sales of this hot beverage



Tea is one of the most loved beverages in India and across the world. People have enjoyed tea since time immemorial and consider it to be one of the most cherished parts of their native culture. Indians' love for this super beverage has given the tea industry a loyal customer base in the country, which has resulted in fast-paced growth. According to expertmarketresearch.com, the Indian tea industry is expected to grow at a CAGR of about 4.2 per cent in the 2021-26 period and reach an approximate valuation of 1.40 million tonnes by the end of this period. Some of the trends that are dictating the landscape of the tea industry in India are as follows:

**Tea as a wellness superfood**  
Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic situation, there is a huge resurgence of teas with proven health benefits. Immunity boosting teas and superfoods with Ayurvedic ingredients like turmeric, *ashwagandha*, moringa, tulsi etc are in big demand. As per a study by Numr Research, about 443 million Indian millennials spend more than ₹4,000 on their health and wellness every month. Both established companies and start-ups have caught on



to this trend and have witnessed phenomenal growth.

**Increasing customer preference for premium teas**  
With the advent of globalisation and increased internet penetration, there has been a substantial surge in the complexities of consumer demand. As the variety of teas available increased due to the removal of global barriers and the advent of e-commerce, discerning customers started seeking innovation and diversity in products being offered by tea brands. In this scenario, the demand for premium teas has

THE VARIETY OF TEAS HAS INCREASED DUE TO THE REMOVAL OF GLOBAL BARRIERS AND THE ADVENT OF E-COMMERCE SITES

increased. These premium teas include immunity-boosting, speciality and flavoured teas. The younger generation is lapping these up.

**Eco-friendly and sustainable packaging**  
Tea packaging has come a long way over the years. Stand up pouches have become the preferred choice for many of today's top brands in the beverage market. Stand-up pouches for tea packaging keep the leaves fresh and protect against outside elements. Zipper pouch bags help maintain a longer shelf life of the natural leaves.

These tea pouches are recyclable, landfill friendly, and don't rip, tear, or break like traditional boxes or cartons. The wide face of stand-up pouches acts as the perfect surface for your company's branding and designs.

**Growing brand consciousness**  
As gifting tea packages at corporate events and festivals has become a trend, brand consciousness comes into play. People are now progressively opting for branded labels instead of products from the unorganised sector. This has led to increased global investment in tea brands that have a compelling story to tell and with a scalable business model. As per Nielsen's insights, Indian consumers these days look at food labels more than ever before and are willing to pay more for products that make the cut, especially those with added nutrients. They are also more loyal to trusted brands. The surge in brand preference has also come because of the inclination towards health and hygiene factors. Since people generally expect a product to be premium and reliable if it is branded.

**Mushrooming of tea boutiques and cafes**  
Tea stalls are a common sight across India, but they are typically fragmented and unorganised. Tea café chains emerging across India are giving consumers a midway option between at-home consumption and the humble roadside stall. A number of companies with tea outlets similar to modern coffee chains have mushroomed, and are slowly revolutionising the tea industry in India. These companies are looking to appeal to young Indians by offering them an upgraded version of the tea *dhabas* and their efforts are paying off. Some of these start-ups are now national chains. These tea chains are a much better alternative to the open-air tea vendors, offering consumers a more relaxed environment, with seating and snacks. (The author is an expert tea taster and managing director of Golden Tips Tea.)



## What's in a name?

The terms — vegan and plant-based — are often used interchangeably. AARTI GILL sets the record straight by pointing out the subtle differences

With veganism and plant-based living gaining increasing popularity across the globe there is still a lot of confusion around these two lifestyles. People tend to use them interchangeably due to the various similarities between them. But plant-based diets are not the same as vegan diets. Essentially speaking, a vegan diet will remove every animal product from the diet. On the other hand, a plant-based diet entirely or mostly comprises plant-based foods. Plant-based diets are touted as a healthier alternative by many experts as these focus on deriving maximum nutrition from eating plant-based foods like whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables while eliminating highly processed foods.

The term vegan was first coined in 1944 by Donald Watson, an animal rights advocate and founder of the Vegan Society. It means a person who avoids animals and animal-derived products for ethical reasons. Someone who follows a vegan diet more often than not eliminates animals and animal-derived products not just from their diet but also their daily lifestyle. A vegan diet consists only of plant-based foods and eliminates every animal product whether dairy, meat, poultry, fish, eggs and even honey. Most people who turn vegan usually convert due to ethical, social and environmental reasons. Most health nutritionists argue that just because something is labelled vegan, it doesn't straightaway imply it's healthy. The ever-growing popularity of vegan culture has also led to a whole new category of vegan fast-foods like vegan chips, vegan cookies and more. Vegan-based junk, like other types of junk food, has more calories and less nutrition. While the term plant-based is used usually in the context of a diet, an increasing number of people have begun to adopt other plant-based products in other facets of their life as these have several benefits while being environmentally friendly. In a plant-based diet, the focus predominantly is on eating whole foods that have undergone zero or little processing. The food is in its nat-



ural and pristine state, as much as possible. These are better absorbed by the body and safe for long-term consumption due to the absence of harmful ingredients like additives. Plant-based diets include foods such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains (quinoa, farro, barley, oatmeal), plant-based oils (avocado, olive, canola), nuts and seeds. Green vegetables and fresh fruits are best consumed in their original form as they contain a huge amount of essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Plant-based fats such as almonds and avocados are also excellent sources of healthy fat. If you have a family history of heart disease or you are receiving warning signals from the body, it is best to switch to a plant-based diet; simply owing to its countless benefits. Whether you choose to go plant-based or vegan, two factors that one should keep in mind for a healthier body are:  
Consuming a balanced diet with the right amount of macros and micros  
Clean nutrition, without harmful chemicals, additives, artificial sweeteners  
Keeping track of these factors will ensure that you get the best out of your daily diets. (The author is co-founder of OZiva)

## R E C I P E S



### TRIO HEIRLOOM TOMATO BURRATA

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
● Assorted heirloom tomato: 200 gm  
● Burrata cheese: 3  
● Yellow pear tomato: 6  
● Red cherry blossom tomato: 6  
● Rucola: 1 cup  
● Pinenuts: 2 tsp  
● Garlic: 1/2 tsp  
● Grana Padano: 3 tsp  
● Salt: 1 tsp  
● First-pressed olive oil: 5 tsp  
● Pistachio: 2 tsp

#### METHOD

- Reserve the Rucola pistachio pesto. Dress heirloom tomatoes.
- To assemble; place the pistachio paste and tomatoes on the base of a serving dish.
- Place the burrata on top and then scatter the sun-dried tomatoes and halved well-seasoned heritage tomatoes. Drizzle with olive oil and top with basil leaves.
- Garnish and serve.

Courtesy: Ravish Mishra, executive chef at The Westin Goa

### KHAPSE

(A sweet biscuit from Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh)

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Refined flour: 500 gm
- Refined oil / Ghee: 200 ml
- Sugar: 100 gm
- Milk: 200 ml
- Breakfast sugar: 100 gm
- Oil/ghee: For deep frying

#### METHOD

- Dissolve the sugar in warm milk

### BURNT GARLIC SCHEZWAN FRIED RICE

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Boiled rice: 150 gm
- Green capsicum: 15 gm
- Carrot: 15 gm
- French beans 10 gm
- Green chilli: 2
- Garlic: 10 gm
- Spring onion: 5 gm
- Refined oil: 10 ml
- Schezwan sauce: 1 tbsp



- Combine flour, oil and milk. Mix everything to make a smooth dough, knead for about 10 minutes.
- Roll out the dough to about ¼ inch thickness.
- Cut the rolled-out dough into small rectangular strips.



Green chilli sauce: 1/4  
Tomato ketchup  
Salt and pepper to taste

#### METHOD

- Heat oil in a wok, add chopped

- In each rectangular strip make a slit in the middle and also make thin strips on both sides. Pull one strip at a time from each side and join in the middle continue for all the thin strips forming something like a shoelace pattern.
- Now heat oil/ghee in a pan and deep fat fry.
- Remove when golden brown and while hot sprinkle some breakfast sugar on top of each.

Courtesy: Chef Arvind Rai, executive chef at The Ashok, New Delhi

garlic and saute till golden. Add green chilli and saute for 20-seconds before adding chopped carrot, beans and capsicum. Stir fry it on high flame. Add Schezwan sauce, soya sauce, green chilli sauce, and toss for a minute. Add boiled rice and correct the seasoning. Toss on high flame. Garnish with chopped spring onions and serve with Del Monte Tomato Ketchup.

Courtesy: Del Monte

### PANEER STUFFED RAGI PARATHA

#### WHAT YOU NEED

##### For dough

- Ragi flour (Finger millets): 30 gm
- Whole wheat flour: 1/3 tsp
- Pomace olive oil: 1 tsp
- Salt as per taste

##### For paneer stuffing

- Grated paneer: 30 gm
- Finely grated green chilli: 1
- Few mint leaves, chopped
- Cumin powder: 1/4 tsp
- Salt as per taste



##### For cooking

- Pomace olive oil: 1.5 tsp

#### METHOD

- Start with kneading the dough by mixing *ragi* and wheat flour. Knead paratha dough for a couple of minutes until it gets smooth and elastic.
- Next, add a teaspoon of oil to coat the paratha dough and knead a little more.
- Cover the *ragi* paratha dough and allow it to rest until you get the filling ready.

- Make the paneer filling by combining the grated paneer, green chillies, mint leaves, salt, cumin powder and mix all the ingredients well.
- Divide the filling into equal portions.
- The next and final step is to stuff the filling into the ragi paratha dough.
- Dust the *ragi* paratha dough in flour, flatten it with your finger and place it on a flat surface. Roll it out thin.
- Take a portion of paneer filling

and place it in the centre. Next, gather the sides of the paratha dough and bring all the sides together.  
Remove the excess dough which pops out when you bring it together. Press the dough down.  
Dust the paratha dough in some flour and roll it gently until you get desired thickness.  
Proceed the same way with the remaining portions of paratha dough and filling.  
Preheat the skillet on medium heat and grease it with little oil.

- Place the paratha on it and allow it to cook on medium heat for 30 to 45 seconds and flip over.
- Spread a little oil over the paratha and cook evenly on both sides.
- Flip a few times to cook ensure both sides are properly browned and crisp evenly.
- Once the paratha is cooked, transfer it to a plate. Serve hot.

Courtesy: Celebrity nutritionist, Nmami Agarwal in association with Oleev

NEW IN TOWN



ROASTERY COFFEE HOUSE

Coffee roaster and café, Roastery Coffee House, is expanding its footprint by launching its third outlet in Noida. With coffees sourced from coffee farms in India, the brand is known to deliver a first-of-its-kind experience by going from 'crop-to-cup' and offering single-state speciality coffee.



HARAJUKU TOKYO CAFE

Harajuku Tokyo Cafe, a Japanese street food-inspired QSR, is gearing up to launch its second outlet in the NCR at Ambience Mall, Gurugram. The brand first opened in Select CityWalk, Saket and is looking to expand further. Some favourites from Japan include boba tea, freshly baked Japanese Jiggly Cheesecake, exclusively-crafted Japanese desserts and breads, and made-on-order street food like takoyaki, chicken karaage and the twelve-inch-long Japanese fries; fun desserts like taiyaki, and the popular Harajuku crepes; ramen, chahan, sushi amongst other lip-smacking dishes. The new outlet in Gurgaon spread across 2,400 sq ft and seating of around 50 guests will feature an upgraded menu with new additions like Shrimp dynamite, Gyoza ramen,



Lotus biscoff pancakes, Mochi doughnuts, new boba tea flavours and more.

Given the Covid protocol in Delhi, both outlets are open for delivery and takeaways.



# SINDHU, PRANNOY ENTER SYED MODI QUARTERFINALS

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu hardly broke any sweat but HS Prannoy had to toil hard as the two Indian shuttlers progressed to the women's and men's singles quarterfinals of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on Thursday.

Top seed Sindhu took just 33 minutes to get the better of American Lauren Lam 21-16 21-13 in her second-round match, while fifth seed Prannoy topped off a stiff challenge from compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat before prevailing 21-11 16-21 21-18 at the BBD indoor stadium here.

Sindhu, a former world champion, will take on sixth-seeded Thai shuttler Supanida Katethong in the last-eight stage in a repeat of the India Open Super 500 semifinals.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad will look to set the record straight against the left-handed Thai, who had beaten the Indian last week.

Prannoy, a former top 10 player, will clash with France's Arnaud Merkle, who ended



India's Kartikey Gulshan Kumar's campaign with a 21-8 21-12 win in another second-round match.

In other results, Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod have set up an exciting quarter-final clash against each other

after notching up straight game wins over Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka and Prerana Neeluri respectively.

While Aakarshi beat Sai 21-9 21-6, Malvika defeated Prerana 21-10 21-8 in two lopsided contests.

In another women's singles second round match, India's Samiya Imad Farooqui beat compatriot Kanika Kanwal 21-6 21-15 and will face Anupama Upadhyaya in another all-Indian clash.

Anupama beat Smit Toshniwal 21-12 21-19 in another match.

In the men's singles, Mithun Manjunath fought for an hour and 20 minutes before prevailing 16-21 21-16 23-21 against Malaysia's Soong Joo Ven but it was curtains for Chirag Sen, Kaushal Dharmamer and Raghu Mariswamy.

While Russia's Sergey Sirant quelled Chirag's challenge 18-21 22-20 21-12, Kushal lost 16-21 13-21 to Cheam June Wei of Malaysia and Raghu went down 9-21 9-21 to Lucas Claerbout of France.

Manju will cross swords with Sergey next.

Fourth seeded men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also reached the quarterfinals after getting a walkover from compatriots Ayush Makhija and Venkat Gaurav Prasad.



## Sania-Ram pair moves into Australian Open mixed doubles second round

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Sania Mirza and her American partner Rajeev Ram moved into the mixed doubles second round of the Australian Open with a confident straight-set win over the Serbian team of Aleksandra Krunic and Nikola Cacic, here on Thursday.

Ram came out serving big and also stayed like a rock at the net as he anchored the 6-3 7-6(3) win in the opening round that lasted 69 minutes. Ram is a defending champion in the event. He had won the mixed title here with Czech partner Barbora Krejickova in 2021.

Mirza, who will retire after the 2022 season, also served well in the contest.

They had a chance to go up as early as in the second game but Mirza buried a forehand into the net on the deciding point.

The team got another chance on the serve of Krunic but that chance also went abegging when Mirza could not finish the point with a volley.

However, they got the break on the deciding point.

Ram then served out the next game at love for a 4-1 lead.

Mirza too made a lot of first serves as the team cruised towards a first-set lead. Ram's solid serving and Mirza's smooth volleys sealed the set for the Indo-American team.

Mirza unleashed her big forehand to Krunic on a weak return from Cacic to earn the first break chance of the second set. But the Indian hit the forehand long on the deciding point.

A stunning cross court winner by Mirza earned the team two break points on Krunic's serve in the sixth game.

But the Serbians held the game as Krunic served wide and Mirza's return was dispatched for a volley winner by Cacic.

At 5-5, Krunic came out serving big for a crucial hold and now Mirza had to serve under pressure to stretch it to a tie-breaker.

But the Indian made no mistake and served out the game at love.

Both Krunic and Cacic lost a point each on their serves to hand the Indo-American duo three match points. An error in return of serve by Cacic sealed it for Mirza and Ram.

Rohan Bopanna is also in fray in the mixed doubles event. He has paired up with Croatia's Darija Jurak Schreiber and will be in action on Saturday.

# HOLDERS India look to continue momentum after Olympic high

PTI ■ MUSCAT

The Indian women's hockey team will look to carry on the momentum from the historic Tokyo Olympic campaign when it opens its title defence against Malaysia in the Asia Cup here on Friday.

The Indian women recorded their best-ever Olympic result after finishing fourth in Tokyo last year, narrowly missing out on a podium.

The Savita Punia-led side, the most experienced in the tournament, will now be hoping to use that experience to good effect in its first major event after the Olympics.

Goalkeeper Savita will lead the side in the absence of Rani Rampal, who has been rested to recover from a hamstring injury.

Savita has admitted that India's experience will be key to the team's success at the prestigious quadrennial tournament, which is also a qualifying event for this year's FIH Women's World Cup, to be co-hosted by Spain and Netherlands.

"The best part about this team is that, many of us have been playing together for a long time and I feel this experience and team camaraderie will give us the edge over other teams.

"Our main priority will be to remain focused on our game and ensure we execute the plans against each team without making errors," Savita said on the eve of their opener.

The defending champions are grouped in Pool A along with Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.



After Malaysia, the Indians will play against Japan on Sunday before squaring off against Singapore in their final pool game on January 24.

The Indian skipper also emphasised on the need to make a positive start to

the tournament.

"We have played Malaysia quite a few times in the past and they are a good side. Doing well against them will give us the right start to the tournament," Savita said.

As a team, we believe in focusing on

our own game and not worry too much about what the opponent team can or cannot do. We just want to play to our strength."

The Tokyo campaign has also been instrumental in instilling a 'never-give-

## Garbiñe: No 3 Muguruza bows out at Australian Open

AP ■ MELBOURNE

The surprises started early at the Australian Open on Day 4, with No 3 Garbiñe Muguruza becoming the highest-seeded player to exit the women's draw just minutes after No 6 Anett Kontaveit lost.

Not long after, No 2-seeded Aryna Sabalenka served a dozen double-faults in the first set and appeared to be on the brink of a second-round defeat before recovering to hold off 100th-ranked Wang Xinyu 1-6 6-4 6-2.

Muguruza never managed to earn a single break point and made a whopping 33 unforced errors, more than twice her opponent's total, in a 6-3 6-3 loss to Alize Cornet under a bright blue and cloudless sky at Rod Laver Arena on Thursday.

"A little bit surprised about my level. I am a little disappointed, too," said Muguruza, who won the season-ending WTA Finals in 2021.

"I feel like my shots weren't as accurate and precise. I feel, also, my aggressive game wasn't that aggressive today."

Here's how unexpected that result was: Muguruza is a two-time Grand Slam champion and a two-time major runner-up, too, including making it to the final at the Australian Open in 2020.

And the 61st-ranked Cornet? She's appearing in her 63rd career major tournament — and 60th in a row — but never has been beyond the fourth round.

Cornet will get a chance to equal that showing when she plays Saturday, her 32nd birthday.

She called herself "a little bit (of) a dinosaur."

"I don't know how many years I have left," Cornet said.

"Today was a perfect gift I could give myself and I really hope the journey's going to go even farther for me." Sam Stosur's 6-2 6-2 loss to No 10 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova ended the 2011 US Open champion's 20th, and last, singles campaign at the Australian



Open.

"I've done more than I ever thought possible. I dreamed of winning a Grand Slam (singles title), and I couldn't have asked for anything more," Stosur told the crowd in Kia Arena.

Muguruza said she didn't feel at her best physically and noted that the start of this season was "kind of stressful," because COVID-19 spread through her support team and she was apart from them for two weeks.

Kontaveit, who lost to Muguruza in the title match at the WTA Finals, was beaten 6-2 6-3 by 19-year-old Clara Tauson of Denmark.

"I just went in there believing I could win, but it wasn't like I have to win," said Tauson, who will make her debut in the third round at a major against 2019 Australian Open semifinalist Danielle Collins. "It was more: I can win, but we'll see what happens." Sabalenka finished with 19 double-faults, including nine in her first two service games, in her win over Wang. She said she regained her composure during a quick trip to the locker room following the first set.

The US Open and Wimbledon semifinalist from last year said she had "a lot of experience of playing without the serve," and she'd reassured herself that she had enough other weapons to win "even if you can't serve."

## Star archery couple Deepika, Atanu dropped from TOPS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star archer Deepika Kumari and her husband Atanu Das were on Thursday dropped from the Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) due to their below-par performances in the national ranking tournament.

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) last month decided to review support for Deepika, a former world number one recurve archer, and Atanu after the National Ranking Archery Tournament in Hyderabad, where they cut a sorry figure. "Considering their below-par performances in the event, MOC decided to not include them in the TOPS list for now," Sports Ministry said in a statement. The archery couple was rated highly after their exploits in the different World Cups, but both Deepika and Atanu have



time and again failed to shine at the multi-sport events -- the latest being the Tokyo Olympics, where much was expected from them but they returned empty-handed.

Their problems compounded after they flopped at the World Cup Finals in Yankton, USA last October.

Aware of their immense contribution in raising the profile of archery in the

country, the decision was conveyed to the duo by MOC members, SAI and Archery Association of India officials.

Deepika said the TOPS omission will only motivate her to comeback stronger.

"I appreciate that SAI officials informed me before the MOC meeting itself that there was a possibility of me being excluded from the TOP Scheme.

## Judges didn't consider "wisdom" of deporting Novak Djokovic

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Three Australian Federal Court judges on Thursday revealed their reasons for backing a government order to deport tennis star Novak Djokovic, explaining they did not consider the "merits or wisdom of the decision."

The judges on Sunday unanimously endorsed Immigration Minister Alex Hawke's decision to deport the 34-year-old Serb following an urgent court challenge on the eve of what was to be Djokovic's first match in defense of his Australian Open title. Djokovic accepted the verdict and flew from Melbourne to the United Arab Emirates hours later.

Chief Justice James Allsop and Justices James Besanko and David O'Callaghan on Thursday released a 27-page explanation of why they rejected Djokovic's challenge.

"The court does not consider the merits or wisdom of the decision," the judges said. "The task of the court is to rule upon the lawfulness or legality of the decision."

"Another person in the position of the minister may have not cancelled Mr. Djokovic's visa. The minister did," they added. Djokovic had his visa revoked at Melbourne's airport on Jan. 6 hours after



arriving because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19.

A judge later found that the border officer's decision to cancel the visa was legally unreasonable and restored it.

But Hawke used his sweeping discretion under the Immigration Act to cancel the visa again on Friday on the broad ground of public interest.

Djokovic was a "high profile unvaccinated individual" whose presence in Melbourne "may foster anti-vaccination sentiment" and increase pressure on the health system, Hawke said in his 10-page decision to revoke the visa.

Hawke had rejected Djokovic's arguments that his deportation would appear to be "politically motivated decision-making."

## Man United beats Brentford 3-1 after 2nd-half turnaround

AP ■ LONDON

Manchester United staged a second-half turnaround as goals from Anthony Elanga, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford earned a 3-1 win at Brentford to boost the team's top-four ambitions in the Premier League.

It was another less-than-convincing display from United on Wednesday, though, with Cristiano Ronaldo ostensibly far from impressed at being substituted with 20 minutes left.

Elanga, a 19-year-old winger starting only his fourth Premier League match,



broke the deadlock in the 55th minute by latching onto Fred's pass behind Brentford's defense and then nodding the ball into the corner. Brentford, by then, had wasted a host

of chances to take the lead in the first half.

Greenwood then notched his first Premier League goal since October, tapping in from Bruno Fernandes' pass, to make it 2-0 in the 62nd.

Rashford climbed off the bench to add the third — again off a pass from Fernandes — in the 77th for a first league win of 2022.

"First half was not good in all aspects of the game," United manager Ralf Rangnick said.

"In the second half, we were more urgent, attacking higher up the pitch and taking the right decisions in the counter-attack and we scored, which is the big differ-

ence."

It was incredibly hard on Brentford, which had dominated the first league meeting between these sides since 1946 but only had Ivan Toney's late scrambled consolation to show for it.

"Unbelievably proud of my team," Brentford manager Thomas Frank said.

"We are the smallest club in the Premier League, Manchester United the biggest. We destroyed them in the first half.

"They didn't have a sniff, three huge chances and there could only have been one winner of this game. They are unbelievably lucky."



# India hope to make turnaround

With very little time to rest, India will be hoping to put up a better batting show and make a turnaround against South Africa in the second ODI at Boland Park on Friday

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

**K**L Rahul will have to show drastically improved leadership acumen when he leads India against a buoyant South African side in the second ODI on Thursday, with the three-match series and his long-term Test captaincy ambitions both at stake.

Rahul was at best mediocre in terms of "on-your-feet-thinking", something that's basic to art of captaincy, and also didn't look the part with the bat in a deflating 31-run defeat in the opening ODI where India were outplayed for the better part of the game.

The middle-order, which had been a problem since Virat Kohli's heady days as captain, is still sticking out like a sore thumb and no one knows what exactly the solution is.

Once again, it was a case of one opener -- Shikhar Dhawan on this occasion -- and the indomitable Kohli holding fort before the middle-order caved in on a slower pitch where there was turn and the

ball gripped, making a run-of-the-mill seamer Andile Phehlukwayo look formidable.

South Africa crushed India both strategically as well as on skills and there-in lay serious questions about Rahul's wares as captain.

The most dominant query was what exactly was Venkatesh Iyer doing in the team if he was not bowling at least four to five overs as the sixth bowler when Yuzvendra Chahal and Shardul Thakur were being taken to the cleaners by Rassie van der Dussen and Temba Bavuma?

If Venkatesh is playing as a specialist batter at No.6 then why not use Suryakumar Yadav, who is more experienced with a better range of strokes under pressure?

The next question that arose was whether Rahul spoke to Chahal or Ashwin when Van der Dussen and Bavuma started playing the sweep shots -- both conventional and reverse sweep on a good batting strip.

There wasn't a singular inspired bowling change unlike Proteas who introduced Aiden Markram's off-breaks first-up and bottled up the Indian skipper.

When India batted, the game was lost at the halfway stage once Dhawan and Kohli were out in quick succession following their 90-plus stand. Suddenly, the strip where batting looked easy became difficult.

Shreyas Iyer's well-documented struggles against the short ball were again exposed on the day and the Mumbaikar would know that a place in the Indian playing XI comes at a premium and he can't go on wasting chances like a million-aire.

But going by Rahul Dravid's template, he would get his share of chances.

On a slow track, where rotating the strike is a must, the likes of Rishabh Pant and the two Iyers will have to play a bigger role.

Similarly, Shardul Thakur, despite his fifty which came when the match as a contest was over and there was no pres-

sure of a target, will have to measure up as a bowler which is his primary skill.

Going for 70 plus runs in his 10-over spell with too many loose balls didn't help the team's cause and even Bhuvneshwar Kumar looked insipid on his return to the national playing eleven after the tour of Sri Lanka.

The difference between the two sides was how the spinners fared -- Ashwin and Chahal in their combined 20 overs gave away 106 runs for a single wicket while Markram, Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj bowled 26 overs between them for 124 runs and snared four wickets between them.

"It was a sort of wicket that we get back home. It was not a typical South African wicket. There was turn (on offer) in the wicket, and the ball was also keeping straight, so it wasn't easy for the new batsmen to score runs," senior batter Dhawan had said after the match.

"The plan of the set batsmen was to take it deep, but unfortunately I got out on the ball which turned a lot and I didn't

expect that, but yes that happens," he said.

Test captaincy is a different ball-game compared to white ball but Rahul only knows too well that when it comes to decision-making, the top brass will fall back on references they have.

And a series defeat against South Africa isn't going to do his case any good unless the head coach is bent on trying to make a leader out of him.



## Tough times made me stronger but needed calm and clarity: Shikhar Dhawan

PTI ■ PAARL

**S**hikhar Dhawan believes that every lean patch in his career has made him "stronger" but it is his clarity of mind and calmness that has enabled him to ride over the rough times.

The oldest player in the Indian ODI set-up, there were lot of talks about Dhawan's poor form in domestic cricket but as it has been with the 36-year-old, he was back with a bang in his favourite blue shirt with a top-score of 79 off 84 balls, albeit in a losing cause in the first ODI against South Africa. "I don't listen to the media or don't read newspapers or watch news, that way I don't take all that information," Dhawan said when asked how he keeps himself way from negativity.

For him, neither the bad patch has affected him for the first time nor is it going to be the last time but one needs to have the self belief in one's abilities. "I have full confidence in myself



that what my game is and I have clarity on that and I stay quite calm. And this is part of life, this happens in life, everyone's life has ups and downs, so it is nothing new and happening for the first time or for the last time in my career or my life, so it is alright, that only makes me stronger," said Dhawan. Dhawan came into the series after

a poor run of Vijay Hazare Trophy scores -- 0, 12, 14, 18, 12 -- in five List A games. But if one carefully looks at Dhawan's career, just when there have been calls to drop him, he has invariably responded with a big knock like he did in the first ODI, where he looked the best batter in his side.

"These talks (to drop him) always are there and I am used to it and I just know how to give my best and I always make sure that my preparation is quite good and process is good and then I leave it on God.

"...And I know that with my experience and my self-confidence, I'll do good and I am happy that I did well today," the flamboyant opener quipped.

His endeavour is to remain fit and healthy for the last part of his career.

"With my experience I'll keep scoring lots of runs and yeah till the time I keep playing cricket I stay healthy and happy and I score lot of runs," he said knowing well that he is

reaching the business end of his career.

Dhawan's assessment of his team's 31-run defeat against South Africa was its struggle to keep the scoreboard ticking in the middle overs as the pitch got slower.

"We had a good start and I feel the wicket was slow, it was offering a bit of turn as well. So, when you are chasing (around) 300 runs, when the middle-order comes to bat, it is not easy to play shots. "Our wickets fell in a heap and that had an impact on us as a batting unit," Dhawan reasoned.

Dhawan also praised the South African duo of Temba Bavuma (110 off 143) and Rassie van der Dussen (129 not out off 96) for their well crafted hundreds that laid the platform for a convincing win. Dhawan believes that handling varied match situations comes with experience and the likes of, Rishabh Pant, the two Iyers -- Shreyas and Venkatesh -- will understand better as they play more games.

## India veterans Raj, Goswami feature in ICC Women's 'ODI Team of the Year'



PTI ■ DUBAI

**V**eteran India players Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami featured in the ICC 'ODI Team of the Year' for women after they extended their consistent run in international cricket.

The ICC Team of the Year recognises the achievements of exceptional players who impressed with their on-field exploits in a calendar year.

The 39-year-old Raj, the veteran India batter and captain, amassed the same number of runs as England opener Tammy Beaumont and at exactly the same average.

But her 503 runs came when the Indian team struggled as a unit, making her contribution even more important. She didn't score any century this year but made a total of six half-centuries.

Long-time pace spearhead Goswami,

who is also 39, is still proving herself to be a force to reckon with.

She claimed a total of 15 wickets in 2021 and maintained an excellent economy rate of 3.77 as well.

An experienced bowler who can keep runs in check, and pick up wickets at the same time, Goswami is an asset for any side, the ICC said in its appreciation for the Indian.

With 340 ODI scalps, Jhulan, who is also an ICC Women's Cricket of the Award winner, leads the tally for most wickets in the international arena.

Raj and Goswami are the only two Indian players to have featured in the side captained by England skipper Heather Knight.

The team has three players from South Africa, two each from England and West Indies and one from Australia.

Biopics are being made on both Raj and Goswami. The two seasoned cricketers are now looking forward to this year's upcoming ODI World Cup in New Zealand.

Knight, the England captain has been a vital cog of their middle-order for a number of years now and she was one of the top performers in that role once again in 2021.

Knight accumulated a total of 423 runs this year, at an average of 42.30, including one century and three fifties. She also played a key role with the ball, chipping in with five wickets at an average of 19.80.

## Tried reverse sweeps to put pressure back on Indian spinners: Van Der Dussen



PTI ■ PAARL

**S**outh African batter Rassie van der Dussen was satisfied that he could execute his sweep shots to perfection against the Indian spinners which unsettled them during his team's 31-run win over the visitors in the first ODI here.

Van der Dussen's 129 not out off 96 balls and his 204-run stand with skipper and fellow centurion Temba Bavuma formed the cornerstone of an easy vic-

tory for the Proteas.

"Yeah, I think it was 68 for 3 when I came in. It was taking a bit of turn, so I knew I had to get my sweeps out. Generally, the wicket is quite slow here. I tried reverse sweeps, a few of them came off, got off to a flyer. I tried to put pressure back on the them (Indian spinners)," Van der Dussen said at the online media interaction after the opening ODI here on Wednesday. Van der Dussen was involved in two high pressure chases in

the Test victories recently and that certainly increased his confidence in the first ODI where he took the Indian attack to cleaners. "Two high pressure run chases in the Tests meant we were quite confident as a unit. All in all, a good day for the batters," he added.

Van der Dussen swept really well against Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin, something he works hard on during net sessions against quality slow bowlers.

"Conditions in Paarl generally suit spinners and slower bowlers.

The way we upskilled ourselves...Starting from the T20s in West Indies, then the series in Sri Lanka and the T20 World Cup.

"Up-skilling our batters against spin.. Making sure that we can dominate spin. In the past SA batters were known to dominate against the seamers, now with the work put in by the coaching unit against spin bowling has helped a lot," he added. Van der Dussen, was all praise for his skipper Bavuma, who anchored the innings well.

"Obviously, played with Temba for long in my career. It was very hot out there today and when he got to 70 or 80, he felt the heat a bit and he reminded me to remind him to keep the intensity.

## Zimbabwe's Chirwa suspended from bowling in international cricket

PTI ■ DUBAI

**Z**imbabwe's Victor Chirwa has been suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect after the Event Panel of the ICC U-19 World Cup confirmed that he uses an illegal action.

The Event Panel comprised members of the ICC Panel of Human Movement Specialists.

Chirwa was reported by the match officials during Zimbabwe's match against Papua New Guinea on Saturday. Video footage of him bowling in the event was shared with the Event Panel for review.

The Event Panel concluded that Chirwa employed an illegal bowling action and, as such, in accordance with Article 6.7 of the regulations, he is immediately suspended from bowling in international cricket, the ICC said in a media release.



PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

**R**ecord four-time champions and title contenders India stormed into the Super League quarterfinals of the U-19 World Cup after thrashing minnows Ireland by a whopping 174 runs in a league game here, in which they barely managed to field a playing XI.

India started their campaign on a winning note, beating South Africa by 45 runs on last Saturday and the win on Wednesday by such a huge margin is significant as the team fielded only the available 11 players after six members of the side were forced into isolation after testing COVID positive.

Put into bat at the picturesque Brian Lara stadium, India first rode on Harnoor Singh's brisk 88, which was well complimented by a run-a-ball 79 by his opening partner Angkrishh Raghuvanshi, to post a challenging 307 for five.

The Hrishikesh Kanitkar-coached side then bundled out the opposition for meagre 133 in 39 overs to register a comfortable win.

Skipper Yash Dhull and his deputy Sheikh Rasheed were among

those isolated after testing positive as Nishant Sindhu led the side.

Left-handed Harnoor and Angkrishh stitched a 164-run stand at the top to ensure Indian bowlers had a decent total to defend.

Harnoor hit 12 fours in his 101-ball knock while Angkrishh found 10 boundaries and two sixes.

Stand-in skipper Nishant Sindhu (36 off 34; 5x4s) and Raj Bawa (42 off 64; 2x4s; 1x6) shared a 64-run stand for the third wicket, ensuring that the platform created by the openers was well-utilised to set a big score.

Just when it seemed India lacked enough firepower towards the end as big hits had dried up, Rajvardhan Hangargekar hit five sixes, including a hat-trick of maximums in the last over, in his fiery 17-ball 39-run unbeaten cameo that took India past the 300-run mark.

Harnoor, who has been in sparkling form, drove the ball elegant-



ly. If it was pitched up on the middle and leg, the left-hander from Jalandhar flicked it exquisitely. The ones pitched up on the off-side were driven in the cover region as Harnoor

ticked the board nicely.

In contrast, Angkrishh chose to muscle the ball around. He cut, pulled and also drove in an aggressive manner as none of the Ireland

bowlers could trouble the Indian openers.

The 16-year-old from Delhi pulled left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys (1/69) over deep mid-wicket for a six to raise his half-century.

It was the same bowler who trapped him leg before later.

Angkrishh was dismissed by spinner Jamie Forbes (1/38).

Chasing 308, Ireland was teetering at 17 for three after losing both openers Liam Doherty (7), David Vincent (8) and one-down Jack Dickson (0) cheaply inside the first seven overs.

Ireland never recovered from the early blows as right-arm medium pacer Garv Sangwan (2/23) sent back skipper Tim Tector (15) in the 15th over, to leave the side reeling at 36 for four.

Wicket-keeper Joshua Cox (28 off 46 balls) tried to take the game

deep, but it was too little and too late.

Sangwan struck again, this time removing Cox, who was caught by Dinesh Bana in the 21st over as Ireland lost half its side for 66.

Scott Macbeth (32) only delayed the inevitable but from here on, it was just a matter of time and India folded up Ireland's innings for just 133 with left-arm orthodox spinner Aneeshwar Gautam (2/11) and off-spinner Kaushal Tambe (2/8) cleaning up the lower middle order and tail-enders.

For India, Sangwan, Gautam and Tambe picked two wickets each while Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/17), Ravi Kumar (1/11) and spinner Vicky Ostwal (1/22) too played their parts to perfection.

India now need to have enough players for their last Group B game against Uganda on Saturday as besides Dhull and Rasheed, batter Aaradhya Yadav, Vasu Vats, Manav

Parakh, and Siddharth Yadav also tested positive for the virus.

### AUSTRALIA BEAT SCOTLAND IN BASSETTERRE IN GROUP D

In a Group D match in Basseterre, Australia defeated Scotland by seven wickets.

Put into bat, Scotland rode on Charlie Tear (54), Thomas Mackintosh (54) and Oliver Davidson's (33) to post a respectable 236 for eight.

Australia sent Scotland in to bat first at the Conaree Cricket Centre, a decision that looked like it might backfire when Scotland's openers made a positive start with Tear and Davidson sharing 88 runs for the first wicket.

For Australia, Aiden Cahill (2/33) and William Salzmann (2/38) picked up two wickets apiece.

Chasing, Australia started well, with run-machine Teague Wyllie and Campbell Kellaway attacking in the powerplay.

The pair stuck 100 on the scoreboard without loss, before Kellaway (47) departed just shy of a half-century.