Follow us on: @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/dailypioneer instagram.com/dailypioneer/

RNI No. 2016/1957, REGD No. SSP/LW/NP-34/2019-21
Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA
Late City Vol. 158 Issue 14
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 8
FEAR IS THE KEY TO RULE MINDS, OR IS IT?

WORLD 11
RISHI SUNAK: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN WAITING?

SPORT 14
SINDHU, SEN ENTER SEMIFINALS OF INDIA OPEN

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY JANUARY 15, 2022; PAGES 14 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

LOVED BEING A PART OF *83*: WAMIQA
12 VIVACITY

Maurya, Saini embrace SP

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Addressing the meeting at the SP headquarters, Maurya said Makar Sankranti will mark the beginning of the end of the BJP. "The big leaders of the BJP who never paid any heed to our demands are having sleepless nights now. The BJP has duped the OBCs, Dalits, minorities and youth of the country. They formed the Government by encashing on the name of Keshav Prasad Maurya and Swami Prasad Maurya. There were talks about making either of us the CM, but they brought someone from Gorakhpur and duped Dalits and Backwards", alleged Maurya.

He alleged that under the Yogi Adityanath regime, upper caste people were enjoying their life, while backward castes and Dalits were struggling. "They say the elections are 80 per cent vs 20 per cent, but I say now its 85 per cent vs 15 per cent, 85 per cent hamara hai and 15 per cent me bhi bantwara hai (85 per cent is ours and there is division in 15 per cent too). BJP leaders say they will win on the Hindu card, then why did they try to play with the reservation given to Dalits and Backwards. Appointment letters were given to 19,000 general category people, when 69,000 appointments were Okayed. I want to know if Backwards and Dalits are not Hindu? If yes, then why did you give their reservation to others," asked Maurya.

Further attacking the BJP, Swami Prasad Maurya said, "When I was in the Cabinet, there was a proposal that the posts should be filled with general category applicants

Continued on page 11

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

Corrupt cannot be supporters of social justice: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting out at the leaders who left the Bharatiya Janata Party recently in the name of social justice, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that those practising politics of dynasty and were neck-deep in corruption could not be supporters of social justice.

"Social justice means extending the benefits of the government schemes to every poor, every section of the people and no socio-economic discrimination against them. And, this is the basic mantra of BJP," the chief minister said while interacting with media persons after a lunch at a Dalit's house near Jhungia Gate in Gorakhpur on Friday.

Yogi said that he had come to this Dalit settlement to give the message of good governance and development and fulfill the resolve to eliminate untouchability completely.

"Establishment of an egalitarian society, corruption-free, crime-free system is part of good governance," the chief minister said.

Yogi said that in the last five years, the government had brought the benefits of welfare schemes to every village and to the doorsteps of every poor, every farmer, labourer, woman and youth without any discrimination.

"The result is that 45 lakh poor people have got houses and 2.61 crore poor have toilets at their houses. Go to any Dalit basti and the impression of benefits of government schemes will be visible. During the coronavirus pandemic, people were being given free ration. All this is part of social justice," he said.

Yogi said that in comparison, the Samajwadi Party government had given only 18,000 houses in five years.

"People getting patronage from the government grabbed the houses meant for the poor and even grabbed their land. If this is social harmony, then I oppose it," Yogi said.

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

FIR against SP over gathering

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow police have registered an FIR against the Samajwadi Party under the Epidemic Diseases Act and for violation of prohibitory orders of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Lucknow's District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash earlier in the day had issued a notice to the Samajwadi Party for the huge gathering at the party office without obtaining permission from the district administration.

SP state president Naresh Uttam, however, denied violation of the Covid protocol and guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

The FIR was registered according to the directives of the Election Commission on Covid-related norms, officials said.

The FIR was registered at the Gautam Palli police station against 2,000 to 2,500 unknown Samajwadi Party activists for violation of Covid norms at the party's office, Lucknow Police Commissioner DK Thakur said.

On the complaint of Sub Inspector, Gautam Palli police station, Ajay Kumar Singh, the case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 188 (violation of instructions), 269 (spreading infection of disease), 270 (endangering the life of others by spreading infection) and 341 (wrongful restraint of a person).

The FIR also has charges mentioned under the Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act.

The sub-inspector has alleged in his complaint that 2,000 to 2,500 SP workers blocked the road by parking vehicles haphazardly around the party's headquarters and illegally organised the gathering, Thakur said.

It has also been said in the complaint that through loudspeakers, the SP's workers were asked to clear the crowd and to remove vehicles but there was no effect. Singh

Continued on page 11

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

India records 2.64 lakh cases in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, Mumbai, and West Bengal, three Covid-19 hotspots in the latest wave of Covid infection saw marginal dips in new cases on Friday.

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

Overall, fresh Covid-19 cases in India rose by 7 per cent to nearly 2.64 lakh in the last 24 hours, a day after a record rise of more than 50,000 had pushed the day's tally to 2.47 lakh. Deaths from the virus remained relatively low but were rising.

Among the poll-bound States, Uttar Pradesh is seeing big jump in the number of fresh cases by the day.

Karnataka on Friday reported 28,723 new Covid-19 cases and 14 deaths. Capital Bengaluru alone accounted for 20,121 new cases and seven deaths. The positivity rate is now at 12.98 per cent in the State. On Thursday the State had recorded 25,005 new cases of Covid-19 and 8 fatalities.

State Health Minister K Sudhakar said the number of hospitalisations in the third wave so far is less than that recorded during the second wave last year.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has sought Central assistance to raise the number of oxygenated beds and oxygen plants in the State. The total number of active cases across the State is now 1,15,733.

Doctors in the two States described the status of pandemics in the two southern States as black Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala.

Continued on page 11

Relatives and health workers wearing PPE carry the body of a Covid-19 victim for cremation, at Shastri Nagar cremation ground in Jammu on Friday PTI

Entry into clouds led to CDS chopper crash: CoI

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

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

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

Continued on page 11

India's BrahMos missile to arm Philippine Navy

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Philippines armed forces are implementing a revised modernisation programme. India and the

Continued on page 11

Budget Session of Parl to begin on Jan 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

After a month-long recess, part two of the session would begin from March 14 and conclude on April 8, the sources said. The recess allows department-related Parliamentary Committees to examine budgetary allocations made to their respective Ministries.

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

Continued on page 11

Batting has let us down, rues Kohli after SA series loss

Cape Town: A South African team going through one of its toughest transition phases embarrassed a star-studded Indian team with a seven-wicket victory in the third Test to clinch a memorable 2-1 series triumph here on Friday even as India Test captain Virat Kohli rued batting failures. The target of 212 wasn't a tough ask and starting the day at 101 for two, Keegan Petersen (82, 113 balls) along with Rassie van Der Dussen (41 not out) added 54 runs for the third wicket to seal the match before Temba Bavuma (32 not out) helped in putting the final touches.

Continued on page 11

Bishop Mulakkal acquitted of all charges in Kerala nun rape case

PNS ■ KOCHI

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

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

Bishop Mulakkal, who hails from Thrissur district in Kerala, had denied the charges of rape as "baseless and concocted" and said allegations were born out of her ire against the religious order for rejecting her demands for favours.

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

The judge said that the evidences do not match with the charges made by the nun and hence the Bishop was being acquitted of all rape charges.

S Harishankar, former superintendent of police, Kottayam, who was the investigating officer, expressed dismay and disappointment over the verdict. "We, the investigation team and the public prosecutor, were confident of the authenticity of our findings and were expecting the court to convict the accused. But this is a shocking verdict," said Harishankar while interacting with the media after the pronouncement of the judgment.

Continued on page 11

CAPSULE

META FACES $3.1 BN LAWSUIT IN UK

London: Meta (formerly Facebook) is facing a $3.1 billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a $68 payout each. Competition law expert Dr Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail reported on Thursday.

5-KG IED RECOVERED NEAR PAK BORDER

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

BJP will win 3-4 seats: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday, took a swipe at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying that "far from three-fourth seats in UP assembly the BJP will get only 3-4 seats".

He claimed that the UP assembly elections will be 80 versus 20 where the 80 per cent Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Muslims will vote for Samajwadi Party-led coalition and the Bharatiya Janata Party will have to be content with the 20 per cent of the votes.

"Baba mukhya mantri (Adityanath) should engage a maths teacher," the SP president said, referring to the chief minister's "80 Vs 20" remarks.

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

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

"During the 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections, BJP had 'lied' its way to power. There had been constant propaganda to 'slander' the image of SP and the BJP had used the 'politics of hatred' to win in the 2017 elections. This time, however, the people of UP would bring victory to those practising 'positive politics'," Yadav said.

"There has been constant slander propaganda against SP to dub us as mafia. When Netaji Mulayam Singh Yadav invited former US President Bill Clinton for dinner, people wrote against us. But when the US embassy checked, nothing was found against us, and President Clinton came for dinner. There has been a conspiracy to malign SP's image," Akhilesh Yadav said.

He added, "We have formed the government four times, but last time the BJP lied its way to power, they influenced people and spread hatred. This time UP has decided to bring victory to positive politics, and throw out those practising negative politics. This time progressive people will win, the socialist party will win."

So far five BJP MLAs and Apna Dal (Sonelal) legislator Amar Singh Chaudhary have joined the SP in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav.

Former cabinet minister and prominent OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Friday joined the Samajwadi Party along with another rebel minister Dharm Singh Saini. BJP MLAs and Apna Dal (Sonelal) legislator Amar Singh Chaudhary also joined the SP in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav.

The five BJP MLAs who joined the SP are Bhagwati Sagar (Bilhaur in Kanpur), Roshanlal Verma (Tilhar in Shahjahanpur), Vinay Shakya (Bidhuna in Auraiya), Brijesh Prajapati (Tindwari in Bahraich) and Mukesh Verma (Shikohabad in Firozabad). Chaudhary is MLA from Shohratgarh.

They were given the SP membership at its office.

Cong manifesto 'poster girl' alleges 'injustice' in ticket distribution

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Within 24 hours of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claiming to have made history by starting a new politics by giving 40 per cent representation to woman in her party tickets in Uttar Pradesh, the poster girl of the party's women's manifesto 'Shakti Vidhan', Dr Priyanka Maurya, took up the fight against the Congress general secretary after being denied ticket by the party.

Maurya, the state vice-president of Mahila Congress (Central Zone), Uttar Pradesh since 2019 and the face of the party's women's manifesto 'Shakti Vidhan', made some stunning allegations against the grand old party. Speaking to media persons here on Friday, the Uttar Pradesh state convener called Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's election campaign 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' a sham.

She said it was a "lollipop" that was given to her by her party which, she said, in reality was anti-women and anti-Other Backward Classes. She also took to twitter to register her anger.

Dr Maurya revealed how women were ill-treated and misbehaved during the marathon organised by the Congress party in Uttar Pradesh as part of its 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' (I am a woman, I can fight) election campaign. She alleged that the party created a lot of fuss while distributing two-wheelers as promised in the manifesto.

The Congress had promised its women members that only those who got the maximum number of women to participate in the marathon would stand a chance to get an election ticket, but all that was a mere pretence, alleged Priyanka Maurya.

She added that the ticket distribution was all pre-planned and the party was actually averse to its women candidates. "We were asked to work hard for the party and we did. However, the party came out as anti-women and anti-OBC when it came to ticket distribution."

Setback for Cong as candidate leaves party to join Akhilesh

Lucknow (PNS): In a big setback for the Uttar Pradesh Congress, Ali Yusuf Ali, a candidate from Chamraua assembly constituency in Rampur district, quit the party to join Samajwadi Party on Friday. Ali's name was included in the list of 125 candidates announced by Congress general secretary incharge UP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Thursday.

He joined Samajwadi Party in Lucknow on Friday.

"We were asked to work hard for the party and we did. However, the party came out as anti-women and anti-OBC when it came to ticket distribution"

Dr Maurya further said that 24 candidates applied for the Sarojini Nagar seat in Lucknow district. One of the aspirants, Rudra Daman Singh, applied for the election ticket after the date of submission of the application was over. The party brought him with an intention to give him the ticket for the constituency. It was all pre-planned, but we kept working hard on the assurance of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who coined the slogan 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon', she said.

Dr Maurya further alleged that she was asked for a bribe for the ticket. She alleged that this bribe was sought by none other than Priyanka Gandhi's secretary Sandeep Singh.

She made many other allegations against the party. She claimed that due to malpractice, her ticket from Sarojininagar assembly seat in Lucknow was cut and given to Rudra Daman Singh. She alleged that Sandeep Singh got her ticket cut.

Hours after the list was released, Dr Maurya tweeted from her twitter handle about the bargaining of tickets in the Congress party. She has alleged that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's secretary Sandeep Singh had made her call someone for money. On not giving the money, someone else's name was announced in her place. She said that she had evidence of every allegation which would soon be made public.

Dr Maurya claimed that now the party, through its leaders, was trying to pacify her by assuring a ticket from some other constituency but she made it clear that she was a doctor by profession and had worked a lot in the constituency so she would shift to some other place.

Dr Maurya asked why the Congress went through the drama of screening candidates if it was pre-decided that Rudra Daman Singh would be given the ticket. "We were told a committee of 37 members would be tasked with the screening process. Observers will be called to evaluate the candidates. The survey was done and my name appeared at the top of the list. Then why the discrimination," she asked.

When questioned on being the cover face of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's women's manifesto for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh polls titled 'Shakti Vidhan', the miffed state vice-president of Mahila Congress, Dr Priyanka Maurya, called it a "lollipop" given to her by the Congress party. "The party has used my face to attract women and OBC voters, but when it came to ticket distribution they chose a non-OBC candidate over me," she said.

Meanwhile, one more senior officer-bearer of Mahila Congress, Sheila Mishra, who also was denied ticket, staged a dharna inside the UP Congress Committee office on Friday. She also claimed that those who gave their lives for the party were ignored by the high command and outside leaders were roped in to give them tickets.

Another leader accuses BSP of selling tickets

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party leaders once again faced charges of selling tickets for assembly election after a video emerged on social media wherein a party leader is seen crying profusely in the Muzaffarnagar city Kotwali for being denied a ticket from Charthawal constituency of the district despite paying the party Rs 67 lakh for it.

Sobbing inconsolably in front of the police, BSP leader Arshad Rana alleged that a senior party leader, namely Shamsuddin Raeen, the West UP convener, sought Rs 67 lakh from him for a ticket two years ago but he was removed from the ticket list without his knowledge.

The BSP leader threatened to commit self-immolation if he did not get justice.

Arshad Rana, a resident of Dadhedu village in Charthawal assembly constituency, has been in the BSP for a long time. His wife had also run for district panchayat member on the BSP ticket. Rana was planning to contest the Charthawal assembly seat for a long time in the hope of securing a BSP ticket.

BSP supremo Mayawati, on the other hand, has tweeted that the party has decided to field Salman Saeed from Charthawal assembly seat. Salman Saeed is the son of Sayeduzzaman, a Congress leader and former state minister.

Rana was so upset by the tweet that he wrote about it on Facebook and afterwards went to the city Kotwali with his supporters. He alleged that party leaders had made a spectacle of him and demanded that the money he gave for the election ticket be returned to him. According to reports, Arshad Rana has filed a formal complaint against a BSP office-bearer. Inspector Anand Dev Mishra, in charge of City Kotwali, said the matter was being examined and that required legal action would be taken after investigation.

Meanwhile, in another setback for the BSP, another veteran Brahmin face of the party, Ramveer Upadhyaya, also quit the party. Upadhyaya who was minister in the Mayawati cabinet, was upset over the step-motherly treatment meted out to him on Thursday that he submitted his resignation and is likely to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in the coming days.

It may be noted that the BSP is contesting all 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. However, BSP president Mayawati will not contest the polls, party general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra had said on Tuesday. Since elections are being held in several states, including Punjab and Uttarakhand, along with Uttar Pradesh, the BSP president will not contest the polls and help other party candidates win, Mishra said.

UP's forest cover sees 9.23% net increase

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There has been an increase of 9.26% in the total forest cover in Uttar Pradesh, as per the latest Forest Survey Report, which was released by the Central government.

A senior forest official said that as per the report of 2019, the very dense forests in the state occupy 2,617 sq km area, the moderately dense forests occupy 4,080 sq km area and open forests occupy 8,109 sq km area, making it a total of 14,806 sq km.

"As per the report of 2021 released on Thursday, the very dense forests occupy 2,627 sq km area, moderately dense forests occupy 4,029 sq km area and open forests occupy 8,162 sq km area, making it a total of 14, 818 sq km area," the official said. "The total increase in the forest area is 91 sq km, with an increase of 10 sq km in the very dense forests, 53 sq km decrease in moderately dense forests and 79 sq km increase in the tree cover outside the forest area. These are figures of the satellite data between October 2019 and February 2020," he pointed out.

It may be noted that the Forest department has planted 100 crore trees in the past four years. There has also been an emphasis on the plantation of herbal and medicinal plants.

Girl killed by brother for 'family honour'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Upset by the affairs of his sister with several youths, a youth in Fatehpur killed her in the name of saving 'family honour'. The youth also dumped the body of his sister to conceal the crime but the local police on Friday arrested him and made the sensational disclosure.

Disclosing the incident, Superintendent of Police in Fatehpur, Rajesh Kumar Singh, said that last Saturday, the body of an unknown girl was found lying in a mustard field.

The girl was brutally murdered somewhere else and the body was dumped there. The police started investigation after taking the body in possession and sending it for post-mortem.

The SP claimed that the police later identified the girl as a resident of Korra Kanak village in Lalauli police station area. He claimed that the call details record of the girl's mobile phone raised suspicion of the involvement of some family members in the killing so the police took him in custody and grilled him on Friday after which he confessed to the crime.

The SP said that the teenage girl had illicit relations with some boys of the village to which his brother used to oppose continuously. The girl, however, continued to chat with boys over mobile phone for several hours so on the fateful day, agitated with the behaviour of his sister, the youth killed her with sharp-edged weapon and to conceal the crime, he dumped the body at a secluded place. Singh said that the police had arrested the youth and sent him to jail.

Meanwhile in Saharanpur, a sensational incident took place on Friday morning in Rasulpur Khedi village of Nagal police station area. A mother of five children was murdered by slitting her throat and later her body was dumped in the nearby jungles. Her body was recovered by the police on Friday morning. A team of forensic experts was called to collect evidence. The husband of the deceased accused the woman's lover, a resident of a neighboring village, of murder due to illicit relations. The police sent the body for post-mortem after registering a case.

According to the husband, his wife suddenly disappeared on Thursday night at 10 pm. He claimed that the family members searched for her all through the night but failed to trace her out. On Friday morning, when the people of the village went towards the jungles, they found his wife murdered. On information, CO Deoband Durga Prasad Tiwari, SHO Binu Chaudhary, crime branch and forensic team reached the spot.

After investigation, the police sent the body for post-mortem. Tiwari said that the husband of the deceased accused a villager of the neighbouring village of killing Seema. It is alleged that Seema had illicit relations with the accused. He said that on the basis of the report, efforts were being made to arrest the accused.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

In the marksheet of my son Ishan Kar. By mistake father's name has been written as Ajay Kar instead of Ajay Kumar Kar. I want this to get amended and written as Ajay Kumar Kar .UID- 7438159 Mobile No.-7007528047, Address- 3/M/7, Dabauli, Kanpur.

सूचना

भवन संख्या के–/108, ई0डब्ल्यू0 एस0–प्रथम, बर्रा– के0यू0डी0पी0, कानपुर नगर का कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा दिनांक–03/03/1987 को श्री माता प्रसाद पुत्र श्री तेज राम को जारी किया गया आवंटन पत्र संख्या 27/के0यू0डी0पी0/विक्रय/87–88 कहीं खो गया है। ममता साहू पत्नी श्री अश्वनी कुमार साहू।

NOTICE

| have changed my name from SHADAB ALAM ANSARI to SHADAB ALAM. SHADAB ALAM S/o MUSHTAQ AHMAD R/o 245 C Lal Kuan Chandari shujat ganj kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from SHAZIA FATIMA AHMAD to SHAZIA FAISAL. SHAZIA FAISAL W/o MOHAMMAD FAISAL R/o 49 Albadar Compound Jajmau kanpur.

NOTICE

I have change my name from Krishna Sharma to Abhigyan Sharma both name are one same person in all future purpose. Abhigyan Sharma S/o Abhishek Sharma 128/1180, Y Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh-208011

WANTED

UNITY DEGREE COLLEGE
IIM By Pass Road, Sector-B, Basantkunj, Lucknow-226101
Invites applications for the following post
REVISED ADVERTISEMENT
Assistant Professor in B.A. Course
Qualifications & Salary as per Lucknow University norms.
Hindi-02, English-02, Urdu-02, Education-02, Psychology-02, History-02 & Socialogy-01
Apply within 21 days Candidates may mail their resume to-hrudclko@gmail.com or post to College address
Ph: 7570006104, 7570006102
www.unitypgcollege.com

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

NAIK RANJEET SINGH
15 JUL 1995 - 11 DEC 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK RANJEET SINGH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL RAMGARH.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

SEPOY KULBIR SINGH
11 OCT 1994 - 23 DEC 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEP KULBIR SINGH WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 405 FIELD HOSPITAL.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

HAVILDAR CHAYAN MUKHERJEE
12 MAY 1992 - 20 DEC 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR CHAYAN MUKHERJEE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH CMDC KOLKATA.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

HAVILDAR GAWASHKAR VARMA
02 AUG 1985 - 22 DEC 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR GAWASHKAR VARMA WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL NAMKUM.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

HAVILDAR BHINYA RAM
06 JUN 1983 - 02 JAN 2022

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR BHINYA RAM WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 166 MILITARY HOSPITAL .

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

CITYBRIEFS

FDP CONCLUDES

A five-day online faculty development programme (FDP) on 'Data Science with Statistical Modeling Using R Programming', organised by Amity Institute of Information Technology, Amity University, concluded on Friday. The programme was organised in association with All-India Council for Technical Education. More than 200 faculty members, industry and corporate representatives and research scholars from various government and non-government institutions participated in the FDP. The programme was inaugurated by GGSIP University Vice-Chancellor KK Agrawal. The special guest was AICTE member secretary Rajiv Kumar and assistant VC, Amity University, Anil Kumar. Speaking on the occasion, KK Agrawal mentioned the incorporation of modern technology into the education world and talked about the importance of training teachers in modern times. He urged all the participants to keep improving their knowledge base as this is the only way to produce world-class engineers and researchers. Prof Shalabh from IIT-Kanpur discussed the fundamentals of R programming in detail. In the second session, Dr Praveen Kumar Mishra explained the principles of machine learning in detail and discussed its various applications and utility in detail.

FIRST PRIZE

Insha Khan, a class VIII student of City Montessori School, Station Road Campus, brought fame to Lucknow by winning the first prize in an inter-school painting competition. She was awarded a cash prize of Rs 2,000 for her outstanding painting. The competition was organised under the aegis of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR - NBFGR) in which students of various noted schools participated. Insha not only displayed her artistic talent and noble ideas but also disseminated the message that India can prove to be a leader on the world map only with the progress of agriculture sector. The organisers lauder her talent and awarded her a certificate and the cash prize.

Kamal Khan dies of heart attack

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Renowned TV reporter Kamal Khan died of a massive heart attack early Friday morning. He was 61. The family members said Kamal complained of chest pain at around 0400 hours and he was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead. Khan was associated with NDTV for the past several years and was known for his reporting skills on different issues. He is survived by his wife and a son.

UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati and UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu were among many dignitaries who expressed condolences over the sudden demise of Kamal Khan.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Number: NCR-PRYJ0COMM(NFR)/7/2021/367040
Date: 10.01.2022

TENDER NOTICE

Following open e-tenders on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.

1	Tender No.	02/2022-15/2022
2	Details of work including place	Commercial Advertisement Rights through Vinyl Stickers / Wrapping of the exterior surface of the entire side walls (barring windows) of Mail/Express/Superfast and other trains whose primary maintenance at Prayagraj & Kanpur depot. of Prayagraj Division for a period of five (5) years as per details mentioned in "As per Tender document Chapter -N".
3	Approximate cost in Rs.	Details as per chapter-N of tender document
4	Cost of Tender Form in Rs.	"As per Tender document Chapter -N".
5	Office address from where the tender information can be obtained.	Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, N. C. Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj
6	Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.	Details as per chapter-N of tender document
7	Period of Contract	Five years
8	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time.	At 16 hrs. On 24.01.2022
9	I. Date & time for dropping the tender form II. Date & time for the opening of Tender	I. From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 02.02.2022 Upto 13 hrs. II. At 15 hrs. On 02.02.2022
10	Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen	Tender shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13.00 hrs. on 02.02.2022 i.e. date of opening of the tender. The tender notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 27/22 (A)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRO NCR

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Vijay Prakash Singh for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. Resident Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900

3 deaths, 16,016 fresh cases in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical and Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that 16,016 fresh coronavirus positive cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh on Friday with three COVID-19 deaths during the same period. He said that in the last 24 hours, 2,554 people recovered from novel coronavirus infections.

"There are 84,440 active cases of COVID-19 in the state and 82,412 of them are in home isolation," Prasad said.

Three COVID-19 patients, including two in Meerut and one in Gautam Buddha Nagar districts, died during the last 24 hours.

The highest 2,209 fresh COVID-19 cases were reported from Lucknow where the total number of active cases has gone up to12,195 -- the highest in the state. It is followed by Ghaziabad with 1,887 fresh cases, Gautam Buddha Nagar with 1817 and Meerut 1,203 fresh cases.

Prasad said that the Covid vaccination was being carried out at a fast pace and a total of 24,91,529 doses were given on Thursday. So far, a total of 21,86,29,035 doses have been given to people above 18 years of age.

He said that so far 43,55,278 first doses of Covid vaccine had been given to adolescents in the 15-18 age group -- 31.08 per cent of their estimated number. He said that 2,69,636 precaution doses had also been given so far.

Over 14 cr partially vaccinated

Covid vaccination at Civil hospital in Mahanagar on Friday — Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh became the first state to go past 14 crore-mark in terms of the first dose coverage on Friday. The state completed 14.07 crore first, 8.42 crore second and 3.27 booster or precautionary doses on Friday.

Ballia has completed 76.71% first dose coverage, Kushinagar 77.72%, Deoria 81.03%, Shamli 82.24%, Maharajganj 83.10%, Amroha 83.42%, Moradabad 84.54%, Prayagraj 84.67%, Gorakhpur 84.79%, Saharanpur 85.36%, Jalaun 85.52%, Sant Kabir Nagar 88.76%, Aligarh 89.93%, Kanpur 89.95% and Hapur 91.11%.

A senior official from the Health department said that the chief secretary has been reviewing the vaccination drive for the 18+ group for the past ten days along with the district magistrates, CMOs and commissioners.

"We have a large population to cover under the vaccination campaign and therefore, the doses administered will always be high though there are several states which have surpassed UP in terms of population coverage" he said.

He added that continuous efforts have been made to increase the numbers with calls being made from the Integrated Control and Command Centre and nigrani samitis being involved in the exercise on a war-footing.

12,195 active cases in Lko

Shoppers throng Aminabad market on Friday in the midst of a raging third wave — Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 2,209 people tested positive for Covid in Lucknow on Friday while 229 patients recovered in the last 24 hours. The active cases in the Lucknow as on Friday were 12,195. CMO office spokesperson Yogesh Raghuvanshi said the maximum cases (397) emerged from Aliganj, closely followed by 385 from Chinhat, 246 from Indiranagar, 213 from Alambagh, 178 from Silver Jubilee, 139 from Sarojininagar, 137 from Tudiaganj, 98 from Red Cross, 78 from Aishbagh, 63 from NK Road and 36 from BKT. The fresh cases included 682 contacts of people who had tested positive earlier and 279 travellers.

As the third wave rages on, even those who have had severe Covid in the past and those who have been fully vaccinated are not being spared by coronavirus current wave.

A 30-year-old frontline worker, who had moderate infection in April last year and was also vaccinated thereafter, has once again tested positive. "I was told that since I had been infected and vaccinated, I was unlikely to get Covid again, but it was not to be," she said.

A doctor at an urban CHC who was down with severe Covid in April last year has also contracted the infection again. She had also taken both vaccine doses.

"For the past few days, I have had a slight cough and now I have a fever. When I got myself tested, I was diagnosed with Covid," she said.

Former director of SGPGI and current director of Medanta Hospital, Dr Rakesh Kapoor said there are several people who have had the infection twice and even thrice.

"If you have the infection once, it does not mean you cannot have it again. Even if you are vaccinated, you can still have the infection. Covid is not like other diseases such as chickenpox or polio which do not reoccur if you have it once or if you have been vaccinated. Covid is happening again and again because of the mutations which are taking place in the coronavirus," he said.

Regarding the memory cells which develop once the infection occurs, he said it depends on how much of these cells develop. "However, the best thing about Omicron is that the symptoms are less severe. But one has to be careful, especially those who are immunocompromised and elderly," he said.

He added that if one takes drugs and lots of fluids, the infection subsides in 6-7 days like a common flu. However, he admitted that one cannot say for sure whether it is Omicron or Delta for those who are getting infected the second time.

"This is an assumption that these could be Omicron cases because the severity is less. Until genome sequencing is done, one cannot be sure," he added.

For those who are testing positive, doctors have advised them to do gargles, drink hot soups, juices and take rest.

"You can take paracetamol thrice a day even if you do not have fever because it can help in relaxing. One tablet of Azithromycin needs to be taken along with any decongestant," a senior doctor said.

Meanwhile, DSW at Lucknow University Poonam Tandon said that hostellers who are Covid negative are leaving for their homes. "We have carried out 100% testing of the students and staff in the three hostels where several cases emerged. A mess worker tested positive and he was sent to home isolation. Those who are positive and cannot leave are being provided meals separately, and the CMO office is also sending medicine kits for the students. We have also told the students to collect the vitamin tablets from the university dispensary which has a number of these vitamins," she said. She added that a health committee has been formed to monitor the oxygen levels and temperature of the foreign students.

3 members of robbers' gang held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police claimed to have arrested three members of a gang of robbers involved in stealing mobile phones, motorcycles, four-wheelers and auto spare parts. They were identified as Mohammed Azeem (22), Ritik Singh (20) and Hariom (21). Two stolen motorcycles, a four-wheeler, six mobile phones, four country-made pistols and seven live cartridges were recovered from their possession.

The police said the accused were spotted moving in a suspicious manner near Balaganj crossing late on Thursday night. They tried to escape when the cops on night patrol asked them about their identities and occupation. They were nabbed with the help of locals. They were taken to the police station for interrogation as a country-made pistol and three live cartridges were recovered from the bag that one of them was carrying.

The police later raided their hideout in the wee hours on their information and recovered a stolen four-wheelers, bikes, mobile phones and live cartridges.

Khichdi served to patients, attendants on Makar Sankranti

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences served khichdi in the Covid wards of the hospital while a social organisation distributed khichdi to the patients and their relatives at the KGMU Trauma Centre.

RMLIMS distributed khichdi in the Covid and other wards. Head of the department of Dietetics Dr Poonam Tewari said that in the Covid ward they served khichdi made of moong dal instead of urad.

"It is important that the patients also enjoy what is being eaten during festive celebrations so that they don't feel away from home. This has been a regular practice at the hospital," she said.

"As we move towards summers after a severe winter season, the dietary changes which happen are very well projected in this festival. In different parts of India, it is celebrated as a harvest festival and people also celebrate the new crop harvest which will be incorporated in the diet in the coming months. The main emphasis in whatever part of the country it is celebrated is to have a one-pot meal. This is a good thing which one must follow. If you ask anyone, they would say that khichdi is made for sick people but khichdi is treated as a delicacy this particular festival. Khichdi is a first-class protein source which has pulses and rice and both combine to make it easily digestible," she said.

She further pointed out that this festival has a lot of nutritional significance as people eat a lot of sesame seeds and jaggery as in 'til ke laddoo'.

"Sesame seeds have calcium and jaggery has iron. The festival indicates that all the heavy things which we have been devouring in the winters have to be stopped and one has to go for lighter meals," she added.

Meanwhile, a social organisation distributed khichdi to the patients and their attendants outside the KGMU Trauma Centre. President of the organisation Sardar Ranjit Singh said Makar Sankranti is one of the most important festivals of the country and a marker of change of season.

"It is celebrated as Magh Mela at Prayagraj and Lohri in Punjab and is popularly called 'Khichdi Parv'. We decided to serve khichdi to the patients and their relatives on this auspicious occasion," he said.

Rare procedure performed at SGPGI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An open-heart surgery was successfully avoided by a rare procedure performed at SGPGI. Cardiologists performed balloon dilatation of heart valve through neck veins. The rare procedure was performed on a 25-year-old lady who had marked narrowing of left heart valve. This procedure is commonly done through leg veins.

"The procedure through the leg veins was not possible in case of this patient due to her abnormal leg veins and hence she needed an open-heart surgery," doctors said.

Dr Roopali Khanna from the department of Cardiology accepted the challenge and admitted the patient. She, along with her anesthetic colleague Dr Amit Rastogi, took a daring decision to perform this procedure through the neck veins which need an exceptional experience and expertise. Till date, only a few cases have been done across the world through the neck veins.

Her team successfully resolved the mitral valve narrowing with balloon dilatation and avoided a high-risk and costly surgery for a young woman. After the successful procedure, the patient was also able to walk and was discharged from the hospital within a day, the SGPGI spokesperson said.

People woke up to a thick fog cover in Lucknow on Friday morning — Pioneer

Covid-19 wave prevents interaction with veterans

Lucknow (PNS): As India celebrates Armed Forces Veterans' Day on January 14, Surya Command expressed gratitude to all its veterans for their immense sacrifice and selfless service to the nation. Over the years, high professional benchmarks have been set by the veterans for future generations of soldiers to emulate and the same are lauded and acknowledged on Veterans' Day.

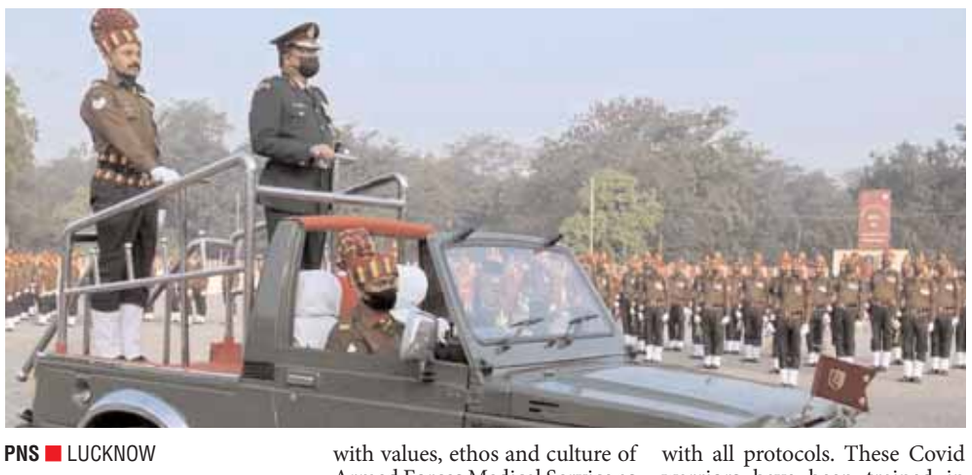
Armed Forces Veterans' Day is observed each year on January 14 as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by the veterans. It was on this day in 1953 that Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, superannuated from active service.

The traditional interaction with veterans was not organised this year due to the current Covid wave. However, efforts to enhance the welfare of veterans were continuously undertaken by Surya Command.

Various innovative measures were introduced to enhance the outreach to veterans and veer naris through websites, social media and helplines to address their grievances. Over the past year, over 1.30 lakh veterans and veer naris were contacted to enquire about their well-being and to look into their problems. An active intervention of Veterans' Cells helped to credit emoluments and pension arrears of veterans and veer naris amounting to nearly Rs 430 crore into their accounts during the past year. Improvements in CSD services were also looked into. The respite between the Delta wave and onset of Omicron wave was utilised to bolster the medical facilities in service hospitals to provide enhanced services, oxygen availability and better care.

With a view to further improving the outreach, all veterans have been requested to log into the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans website and use the listed helpline numbers to contact various Veterans' Cells across the country.

103 non-commissioned officers take part in ceremonial parade



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A ceremonial parade was held at the Officers Training College, Army Medical Corps Center and College as part of the training curriculum of Senior Cadre Course. As many as 103 non-commissioned officers will be assuming higher ranks in time to come were trained at the Officers Training College. Military training to brave soldiers at the Officers Training College, AMC Centre and College, has raised their morale, confidence and self-esteem, preparing them to assume junior leadership roles with values, ethos and culture of Armed Forces Medical Service as flag-bearers effectively. The ceremonial parade was witnessed by the course officers of the Medical Officers Junior Command Course (MOJCC) and Basic Nursing Officers Course (BNOC).

The parade was marked by military precision and customary elegance. The ceremonial parade was reviewed by Major General JP Prasad, Commandant and Chief Instructor, Officers Training College, AMC Centre and College.

The course was conducted during challenging Covid times with all protocols. These Covid warriors have been trained in various aspects of Covid management from the lessons learnt in the past. Havildar (nursing assistant) Pramod Kumar P was adjudged the best in drill while Havildar (nursing assistant) E Juno the best in physical. Major General JP Prasad exhorted the NCOs to uphold the traditions of Army Medical Corps by maintaining the highest order of professional competence. He complimented all of them for their excellent turnout and meticulous conduct of the parade.

इंडियन बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) इलाहाबाद
Indian Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking) ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office: 15/287 Civil Lines, MG Road, Bada Chauraha, Kanpur - 01

Under [RULE - 8 (1)] of Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13 (12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest [Enforcement] ,Rules , 2002 , the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies 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 dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank (e-ALLAHABAD BANK)** for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below.
The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of Account, Branch Name & Contact No.	Name of Borrower/Mortgager (owner of the Property)	Description of the Charged/Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice, Possession Notice & Amount outstanding
	Branch: Bipin Bihari College, Jhansi, Mob. No.: 8758260925			
1.	Sri Abid Ali S/o Sri. Sahadat Ali	Sri Kamlesh Amarya S/o Sri Ram Gopal Verma (Guarantor), Sri Mohd. Abbas S/o Sri Abdul Jabbar (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of Land and Building Situated at part of Mortgage of One Residential Building House No. 77 (old)/ House No. 88 (New), Situated at Mohalla- Bisat Khana, Near Imam Bada, Distt. Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, **Area: 1198.32 Sq. feets.** In the name of Sri Abid Ali S/o Sri Sahadat Ali., Boundary:- **East:** Govt. Road, **West:** Gali After House of Late Sh.Barkat Ali, **North:** Imam Bara Comnigar Panchyati, **South:** House of Aafir Ikwal,	**29.07.2021 11.01.2022 4,20,069.54** + int. & Others charges
	Branch: Govind Nagar, Kanpur, Mob. No.: 7355554163			
2.	Sri Sudhir Singh Chauhan & Smt. Kavita Singh	Sri Sudhir Singh Chauhan S/o Sri Bhola Singh	All that part and parcel of House No. 4-A-245, Scheme No.2, Awas Vikas Hanspuram, Kanpur situated at Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar, having its Total **Area: 114.10 Sq. meter,** in the name of Sri Sudhir Singh Chauhan S/o Sri Bhola Singh, Boundary:- **East:** House No. 4-A-246, **West:** House No. 4-A-244, **North:** House No. 4-A-242, **South:** 12 mtr. wide road	**11.10.2021 11.01.2022 29,38,228.00** + int. & Others charges
	Branch: Gumti No. 5, Kanpur, Mob. No.: 9648655557			
3.	M/s Anand Cards, (Prop.: Sri Sunil Kumar Pandey S/o Sri Om Prakash Pandey)	Smt. Bitto Devi Pandey W/o Sri Om Prakash Pandey	All that part and parcel of Land & Building consisting of Property at House No. 68, EWS, Phase-3, Scheme-2, Barra-3, Kanpur Nagar **Area: 36.228 Sq. meter,** in the name of Smt. Bitto Devi Pandey W/o Sri Om Prakash Pandey, Boundary:- **East:** 9.00 meter road, **West:** House No. 59 EWS, **North:** House No. 69 EWS, **South:** House No. 67 EWS	**08.12.2020 13.01.2022 9,61,729.00** + int. & Others charges

Date : 14.01.2022 **Place: Kanpur** **Authorised Officer Indian Bank**

Thousands take holy dip in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Devotees taking a holy dip in river Ganga on the occasion of Makar Sankranti in Varanasi on Friday. Pioneer

Despite all Covid restrictions including permission to double vaccinated people only, thousands of devotees thronged 84-odd ghats of river Ganga on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti here on Friday. No any fear of the recent surge of third wave of COVID-19 and Omicron was seen on the faces of the devotees. As the festival is popularly known as Khichadi in this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP), at several places including Khichadi Baba Mandir near Dashaswamedh, Khichadi was distributed among the people as 'prasad'. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also organised Khichadi Sahbhoj at several places along with the beneficiaries of various central and state government schemes.

As a majority of local people will celebrate the festival on Saturday, it is expected that there will be more rush of bathers during the day apart from the rush of devotees coming here from Magh Mela in Prayag (Allahabad). Right from morning hours, the devotees started thronging various ghats to take a holy dip in sacred water of river Ganga. Rush was also seen at different ghats of Ramnagar and Balua ghats. The ghats like Dashaswamedh, Rajendra Prasad, Ahliyabai, Assi, Sheetla, Scindia, Nagwa, Bhainsasur, Rajghat, Narad, Kedar, Hanuman, Ravidas and Tulsi Ghat witnessed gathering of huge number of devotees. A good number of devotees also reached Panchganga Ghat. As per mythological beliefs it is said that there is confluence of five rivers including Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Trishna and Dumrathapa.

After taking bath at various ghats, the devotees offered 'daans' to the Brahmins and poor people including beggars as it is considered important for the festival.

They donated rice, pulses, teel and gur made items, potatoes, coins and others. Elaborate security arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incidents and right from the wee hours.

Water Police personnel were seen active along with expert divers. In view of the rush of devotees, the local police have imposed several traffic restrictions.

Magh Mela: Lakhs of devotees take holy dip

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Amidst tight security, lakhs of devotees took holy dip in the sacred waters of the Sangam, confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, which marked the beginning of Magh Mela 2022.

The shivering cold could not dampen the religious enthusiasm of the bathers who threw themselves in spine chilling water in early morning hours raising religious slogans to generate some heat.

Though Makar Sankranti started in late evening hours on Friday, devotees thronged the ghats since Thursday night to take a dip in the Brahma Muhurat.

People had started pouring in for the past two days with bags and baggage to celebrate Makar Sankranti on the Sangam bank and distribute alm. The whole mela area was under CCTV camera watch and security personnel were deployed at every strategic point. Bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs were quite active in the mela area along with senior officials.

At all the entry points efforts were being made to check temperature through thermal scanners, and masks, but the heavy inflow of bathers defeated the health staff.

The month of Magh will begin from January 18, and the real month long Kalpawas will begin from that day, still thousands entered their Kalpawas camps on Friday itself.

WOMAN FAINTS: Madhu Singh, who had arrived here from Kushinagar, fainted in the Sangam area after taking a dip. She was immediately rushed to the Triveni Road Mela Hospital where her condition was said to be better. According to reports, she could not brave the cold.

FIRE: Two pandals of Mahakaal Sewa Arti in Arail Ghat area went up in smoke. Firefighting units reached the spot to extinguish the flames. The fire broke out through an LPG cylinder and soon engulfed the fodder and clothes.

COLOUR CODING DONE FOR CONVENIENCE OF DEVOTEES: This time colour coding has been done for the convenience of the devotees in Magh Mela so that they do not have to wander here. Such an experiment is being done for the first time. Colour coding has been done at 'Khoya Paya Centres', Police Stations and toilets. This is so that the devotees do not have to ask and search here and there to reach these places.

Recently, Commissioner Sanjay Goyal had ordered for this move. Now work has started in this direction in the Magh Mela area.

There is a crowd of lakhs during Magh Mela. In this fair, when people get separated from their loved ones, they meet at the Lost and Found center only. The sound of the Lost and Found center reverberates throughout the fair. But people from far flung villages are often unable to reach even that centre. Therefore, special balloons will be placed on all the lost and found centers that will be built in the mela area. So that people can see it from a distance and reach there. Similarly, balloons will also be put up over police stations. The name of the police stations will also be written in it. Seeing this, devotees can reach the police station in case of any problem. Apart from this, coloured lights will be installed over the toilets. Bathers can keep their belongings safe while bathing. Therefore, the fair administration has also arranged for the clock room.

Clock rooms will be set up at all ghats where all the bathers will be able to keep their belongings safe for free. Mela Adhikari Sheshmani Pandey said that all arrangements will be made soon.

Modi, Yogi did a lot for OBCs, says regional BJP chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional president of Bharatiya Janata Party (Kashi region) Mahesh Chand Srivastava said that both the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had done a lot for the welfare of OBCs as with the help of various central and state government schemes, they had provided a lot of benefits to the last section of the society which had not been done by other parties during the last 70 years. Reacting indirectly over the recent resignation of some OBC ministers from Yogi government, he said that who are not getting the tickets of 'Double Engine' train, they are trying to get the tickets of 'Daggamar Vahan' of Samajwadi Party (SP) in 'black'.

According to him, the BJP is working continuously for the welfare of the backward communities, but there are some people for whom the welfare of the backward has remained only for their family. 'The poor, downtrodden, deprived and backward of this country reside in the heart of Prime Minister and the sections which were only exploited by the opposition, were embraced, honoured and empowered by Modi as the social, economic and political representation of OBC society has not been found in any government as much as it has got in BJP,' he said, adding that 'P' for us means 'Pichadon Ka Uthan (uplift of the backward) while the same denotes Pita-Putra and Parivar (father-son-family) for some persons.

'The Modi government has given constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes. The public will answer only those who do politics of their 'family' under the guise of backwards. In the Union Cabinet, 27 people coming from OBCs were included in the cabinet while in the state government too, 23 people from the same backward classes are part of the cabinet,' Srivastava said, adding that the BJP government came forward to support the backward class students who were the victims of neglect in the previous governments and provided scholarships of Rs 762.49 crore to 37.74 lakh.

Besides, he said that the Modi government has given opportunity to the poor, downtrodden, backward and downtrodden to live with self-respect and dignity. 'Dozens of schemes including double ration, financial help from e-shram card, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, electricity connection for all, gas connection in Ujjwala scheme, health protection cover of Ayushman Bharat, free toilets, Kisan Samman Nidhi etc have improved their standard of living. Even in the time of disaster, BJP stood with these sections while opposition remained busy in creating ruckus in the houses,' he said, expressing confidence about thumping victory of BJP in the state with 300 plus seats as the people would not be misled by the opposition.

DM issues show cause notice to 9 schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Taking a serious note of gross negligence to comply the order issued by the district administration under the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma on Friday issued show cause notice to the management of nine schools, all of rural areas, for not opening schools to immunise COVID-19 vaccines to the children aged between 15 and 18 years. Stern action will be ascertained against the schools who defy the order, the DM cautioned.

It is learnt that the DM had issued an order under the National Disaster Management Act-2005 that all the government schools, non-government schools of CBSE Board / ICSE Board, Degree Colleges, Universities, Sanskrit Schools, Coaching Institutions, Madrasas, ITIs, Polytechnics and other educational institutions will remain women from January 14 to 16 for the vaccination of children from 15 years to 18 years of age.

The Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary informed the DM that the management of some schools did not comply with this order and closed their school and thus the children of this age group who are studying in these schools could not get shot of vaccines. Taking a serious note of it, the DM issued a show cause notice to the Manager/Principal of these schools.

The schools which the DM issued a show cause notice included Nehru Inter College at Railirampur in Sevapuri, Girja Devi Memorial Children Academy in Sevapuri, Chowdhary Ganga Ram Secondary School at Jalhupur in Chiraigaon, Khandeshwari Baba Inter College at Chandpur in Chiraigaon, Mahamaya Malti Devi Inter College at Malhath Dabethua in Badagaon, KD Intermediate College in Chiraigaon, BSRN Inter College in Chiraigaon, Rajnandan Sahu Inter College at Narayanpur in Chiraigaon and Premchand Intermediate College at Bankat Gajapur in Sewapuri.

Sharma informed that after being found negligent in the work of Covid vaccination and disobeying orders, the above mentioned schools have been issued show cause notices and directed to reply by returning post that why not the strict departmental action will be taken by suspending their recognition and criminal action should be taken against them under relevant sections of National Disaster Management Act-2005 for the negligence in Covid vaccination programme for the adolescent beneficiaries. He said that negligence will not be forgivable at any level in the work of Covid vaccination.

666 POSITIVE CASES: The situation of Covid-19 continued alarmingly in Varanasi on Friday as the district recorded a total of 666 positive cases taking the tally to 4068. As many as 348 patients recovered and so, the active cases were reported as 3662.

Covid patients testing negative in 4-5 days, say doctors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Amidst the pandemic times, a relief message has come from the doctors treating the Covid patients admitted in hospitals. Doctors said that most of the patients do not require oxygen support. Due to the infection, complications like the second wave are not being found in the throat, lungs and heart and people are also testing negative in four to five days.

Doctors said that the patients have to be given steroids and it is also considered necessary to keep their nervous system running.

Dr Mohammad Shahid, a cardiologist at Swarooprani Nehru Hospital, has been treating Covid patients for the past several days. He said the infection is mild this time. During the second wave, the way the virus was directly attacking the lungs through the throat and due to that many other vital organs of the body were being adversely affected.

He further said that there is no panic among those being brought to the hospital and that there is also more confidence in the vaccine now.

Dr Shahid said the virus is less dangerous than what it was in the second wave. According to the experiments that he has done so far, there is no need to stay quarantined for long.

DIST ADMN TO ENFORCE ADHERENCE TO COVID GUIDELINES IN WEDDING SEASON: After the Makar Sankranti festival, the matrimonial season will start once again. The district administration is also active to enforce the new guidelines of Covid-19. Not more than 100 people will be allowed at a wedding ceremony as active cases in the district have already crossed 1,000.

The number of positive cases is continuously increasing. In such a situation, the new guidelines are also applicable in the district.

It will be necessary for everyone at the function to wear masks. Apart from this, the rule of maintaining social distancing will also have to be followed. Hand sanitisers will have to be used and Covid helpdesks will also have to be established at the wedding venues.

Hotels, restaurants can be called only with 50 percent capacity. Covid help desk will have to be set up at the gate.

Khan for holding camps to open accounts of women, children

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

ED of UCO Bank Ishraq Khan holding a meeting in Bhadohi recently. Pioneer

Executive Director of UCO Bank Ishraq Ali Khan emphasised on CASA (Current Account Saving Account) to enhance business of the bank and holding special camps to open accounts of women and children both online and offline.

Addressing the bank staff in bank zonal office here, Khan suggested that all the ATMs of the bank should be in operational mode for 24 hours with the cash because they play an important role in earning business profit. There should also be efforts to get registered the maximum customers in digital products such as e-banking, debit card, e-banking, m-passbook, Uco-Pay, Bhim Pay, POS, etc to make them smart customer, he suggested adding that the special attention should be paid to address the problems of customers because the customers are the base of banking service. He was in the city on his two-day visit on January 12 and 13.

The efforts should also be made to apprise the customers of all the banking products through cross selling, he further suggested.

He said that the bank has a reputation in the banking field and congratulated the staff that the bank is at fourth position in agenda edge 4.0 category of government-run banks. Khan also honoured the heads of branches which executed the schemes excellently. He also inaugurated the new premise of Pratappur branch during his visit.

The DGM and Zonal Head of the bank Ghanshyam Parmar welcomed Khan on his visit and put a brief presentation of business activities of the zone before him. The deputy zonal head SK Sinha, chief manager Ved Prakash, chief manager Rahul Ranjan and heads of branches were present on the occasion besides the staff.

Cong gives substantial representation to women candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With the Congress releasing the first list of 125 candidates for the upcoming assembly elections starting February 10, substantial representation has been given to the women candidates. Of the 125 assembly seats, names of party's candidates from eight assembly seats from Prayagraj and neighbouring districts have also been announced and Congress has given tickets to five women candidates.

Of the 22 assembly seats of the three districts-Prayagraj (12 assembly seats), Pratapgarh (7 assembly seats) and Kaushambi (3 assembly seats), Congress has announced its candidates from 8 seats.

While Aradhana Mishra would contest from Rampur Khas, Beena Rani from Babaganj (both in Pratapgarh district), Durgesh Pandey would be contesting from Phaphamau and Alpana Nishad from Allahabad South, the constituency having sizable number of Nishad votes. Likewise, Manju Sant would be the party's face from Bara (SC) assembly seat.

As per the list of 125 candidates released by the Congress party, the other candidates would be Neeraj Tripathi from Pratapgrah, Arun Kumar Vidyarthi from Manjhanpur (SC) and Anugrah Narain Singh from Allahabad North.

Among these, Congress party candidate from Rampur Khas Aradhna Mishra aka Mona would be fighting to retain this assembly seat which is considered to be the bastion of Congress. Mishra is the sitting MLA from here.

From another assembly seat of Pratapgarh, Congress would field Beena Rani from Babaganj. The seat is represented by Vinod Kumar (independent) who had defeated BJP's candidate Pawan Kumar in 2017 polls.

In terms of the 12 assembly seats of Prayagraj, the party has announced its candidate from four assembly seats of which three have been given to women candidates. From Phaphamau assembly seat, the party has fielded Durgesh Pandey. Former Zila Panchayat member, she is the wife of Ashish Pandey, the general secretary of the district Congress.

From Allahabad South, the party has given ticket to Alpana Nishad who is member of city women Congress and corporator from the Daraganj locality of the city. Likewise, Manju Sant would be the party's face from Bara (SC) assembly seat.

"By fielding women candidates in five out of the eight assembly seats, our leader Priyanka Gandhi has shown that the Congress party always fulfils the promise it makes. She had said 40% of the candidates in the assembly elections would be women, and she will do the same and our party will win the elections", said executive member of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC), Kishore Varshney.

SP SETS UP IT WAR ROOM: In an attempt to connect with the voters digitally, the leaders of Samajwadi Party (SP) have set up an IT war room, which will connect scores of party workers through WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms.

Equipped with smartphones and laptops, the party workers on the level of ward committees, Vidhan Sabha committee and block committees in all 12 assembly segments are adding people to WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms to take the message of party's national president Akhilesh Yadav and apprise them about the party's policies. The party has focussed on as many as 5,076 booths in all 12 seats to connect with voters.

DM asks officials to make arrangements for smooth conduct of election

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate, City, Vishak G Iyer, holding a review of security arrangements of Chaubeypur and Shivrajpur. Pioneer

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer along with SP (Outer) AK Sinha visited the sensitive and very sensitive booths of both Chaubeypur and Shivrajpur.

The district magistrate directed the officials to ensure that every arrangement was made for the smooth conduct of the elections. He said the responsibility rested on the officials under whom the election was to be held. He said the Covid protocol was to be strictly followed and the waiting area had to be set up mandatorily. He also warned that there should be no bricks, stones and debris/rubble around the pooling centres.

Iyer directed the PWD officials to repair the approach roads to the polling booths.

He then interacted with the people and advised them to strictly follow the Covid protocol and cast their votes. He also asked the people to get their children in the age group 15-18 vaccinated against COVID-19 and said that at the vaccinations centres and school vaccines were being provided free of cost. Iyer advised people above 60 years of age to take both their doses of Covid vaccine and also the booster dose after 39 weeks. He said all these vaccination drives were being carried out on the initiative of the government and people must avail themselves of the facility. He said the booster dose option for 60 plus age would show only if a 39-week period had passed after administration of the second dose of the vaccine. He said pre-booking a slot on Co-WIN would ensure one was going at a fixed time and leaving quickly, which was ideal given the rising cases of COVID-19. It may be mentioned here that pre-poll violence threatens the life and property of residents and thus it becomes necessary to maintain the safety of religious places and of all communities. The DM directed the officials to maintain a vigil in their respective areas. He warned mischief-mongers of strict action and said all arms need to be confiscated before the polls.

Polls: Police keeping an eye on anti-social elements, criminals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

ADCP (East) Rahul Mithas addressing a meeting of officials at Collectorganj police station on Friday Pioneer

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Rahul Mithas has directed his subordinate officers to ensure fair and peaceful assembly elections.

In a meeting held at the Collectorganj police station on Friday, ADCP (East)/Traffic/VIP Rahul Mithas alerted the cops and asked them to maintain strict vigil on anti-social elements during the assembly polls.

ACP (Collectorganj) Shikhar, station house officers of Harbansh Mohal, Badshahi Naka, Collectorganj, all police outpost in-charges and area beat in-charges were present in the meeting.

He said that in order to maintain law and order and conduct peaceful and fair elections in a fear-free environment, the city police commissionerate was taking out flag marches/route marches.

He said the presence of anti-social elements/criminals at different hotels/dhabas would also be checked from time to time.

He said strict vigil was being maintained on criminals and stern penal action would be initiated against them if they tried to disturb law and order during the elections. He also stressed on following the model code of conduct in letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, ADCP (Traffic/VIP) Rahul Mithas was felicitated with the Tiranga Kanpur Gaurav Samman by noted social worker and industrialist Pt Narendra Sharma at a function organised on Thursday.

Mithas was felicitated for presenting a role model for the city's traffic management.

General secretary of Kanpur South Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Abhishek Pandey Monu, senior journalist and social worker Dharmesh Chaturvedi, general secretary of Yuva Bharatiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal, Ashish Mishra, Satish Chaurasia, Vikas Pandey Dipu, Sanjiv Dixit, Rajendra Agarwal, Vivek Shukla, Akhilesh Chaturvedi and Ram Naresh Aryan also praised the efforts of ADCP Rahul Mithas in successfully managing the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the city on December 28 in coordination with other senior police officers.

Scientist stresses on popularising nutrition gardens in villages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

CSAUAT scientist Dr Ashok Kumar, displays the red radish developed by the varsity at the Augmented Nutrition Garden

India is said to be the world's second largest producer of food but it has the second largest undernourished population. Unbalanced diet and lack of food is directly linked to high rates of stunting, excessive weight and death in children under five years of age. The Narendra Modi government has implemented programmes for providing food security and ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food and thus it has laid emphasis on augmented nutrition gardens, an affordable way of ensuring healthy food and balanced nutrition.

This was stated by senior scientists of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUA&T), Dr Ashok Kumar, while reviewing the progress of the augmented nutrition garden at Dalip Nagar on Friday.

He said the government was focused on popularising nutrition gardens in villages. He said the Human Resource Development Ministry had issued guidelines to schools, to promote nutrition gardens. He said vegetables grown on the school premises could be used in the preparation of midday meals for schoolchildren.

He said the issue was critically important since cash crops contributed to livelihood diversification and improved food and nutrition security by directly increasing the farm household's income earning potential which, in turn, increased the household's spending potential. He said thus more emphasis was being laid on ANG and the university had decided to take the research work to the farmers so that its benefits can be reaped by the farming community.

He said cash crops were an integral part of strategies to improve food security, both at the level of governments as well as farm households in developing countries with a substantial agricultural sector. He said cash crops brought substantial wage and employment opportunities to the rural economy, even if these were characterised by rather strong income fluctuations. He said over time, cash crops provided a stimulus to agricultural innovation by raising capital for agricultural investment and accelerating the build-up of institutions that enabled further commercialisation.

Dr Kumar said it was necessary to understand the processes that determined food and nutrition security outcomes on the four dimensions. He said cash crops generated income and therefore improved access to food for those who earned that income. He said cash crop farmers or farm workers who generated an income from cash crops would have more money in their pocket to buy food. He said depending on price developments, this was a direct improvement of food access and thus ANGs would be highly beneficial.

He said several factors worked in favour of further expansion and commercialisation of the crops sector. He said agricultural policies had improved, becoming less distortive which, in turn, had improved price incentives for farmers. He said agricultural growth had a stronger potential to improve livelihoods at the base of the socio-economic pyramid than growth in many other sectors. He said the red radish especially developed by the university was not only highly nutritious but also a variety which could be grown in big numbers and could also cater to the nutrition of the people, especially the children.

Tajpuria gang's sharpshooter arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Bidhnu police have arrested Ritik Pandey alias Golu, a sharpshooter of Delhi's notorious Tillu Tajpuria gang, late Thursday night.

He was involved in the firing between two groups in Rohini Court in Delhi in August last year when Jitendra alias Gogi of a rival group was killed.

Police arrested Golu when he was having dinner at a dhaba in Ramaipur and recovered two country-made pistols and four live cartridges from him.

In 2018, Golu had freed his gang member Sandip Dhillu from police custody in LNPG Hospital, Delhi, by throwing chilli powder in the eyes of cops.

Bidhnu Station House Officer Atul Kumar Singh said on a tip-off, he arrested Golu from Balaji dhaba in Ramaipur late Thursday night.

During questioning, Golu told the police that his father, Jagdamba Pandey, was a truck driver and used to live with the family in a rented house in GF Sector, Rohini, Delhi, and he studied in a public school there.

Suddenly, he developed a friendship with Radhey, a member of the notorious Tillu Tajpuria gang. Radhey then introduced him to Sandip Dhillu in Mandawali jail. Thereafter, he managed the escape of Sandip Dhillu from police custody and was lodged in Tihar jail for about 11 months.

Golu disclosed that as there was enmity between Tillu Tajpuria and Jitendra Gogi, the former had plotted the murder of the latter in Rohini Court.

After some time, Golu's childhood friend Radhey was also shot dead by unidentified persons. Thereafter, he left Delhi and started living in his native village Rathigaon in Ghatampur with family.

SHO Atul Kumar Singh said many criminal cases of loot and other crimes were registered against Golu in different police stations of Delhi.

Exports growth pace phenomenal: FIEO

KANPUR (PNS): President of the Federation of Indian Exports Organisation, Dr A Sakthivel, reacting to the sudden high exports on Friday, said the high exports in a quarter, crossing US$ 300 billion in merchandise exports till December, 2021 was phenomenal in itself as it showcased the continuous resilience of the exports sector. He said the current pace of growth of 38.91 per cent during the month and US$ 103 billion during the October-December quarter of 2021-22 along with an merchandise exports of US$ 301.38 billion with an increase of 49.66 per cent during April-December, 2021-22 was phenomenal in itself and had broken all previous records. He said the enthusiasm with which the Exim community had impressively performed during the year had further given a boost to the sector, thereby helping the economy further move towards recovery. He said the forecast of growth in the economy along with the recent GDP numbers also showcased the positive impact of exports. He praised the hard work of exporters and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that his clarion call to exporters further enthused the exporting community for such an outstanding performance. He also welcomed the steps taken by the government under the dynamic leadership of the prime minister and Union finance and commerce and textile ministry for showing confidence and trust on the exporters during these challenging times. He said the top sectors, which performed impressively during the month were engineering goods, petroleum products, gems & jewellery, organic & inorganic chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals, electronic goods, RMG of all textiles, cotton yarn and loom products etc. He said plastic and linoleum and rice contributed to about US$ 30 billion. He said out of these, many of them were labour-intensive sectors contributing majorly to the exports basket.

NER GM reviews projects

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Anupam Sharma, through video conferencing here on Thursday did a detailed review of all the ongoing construction projects in NER. Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agrawal, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Construction Rajiv Kumar, principal heads of department, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of all three divisions and others joined it through video conferencing.

In the meeting GM did the review of the progress of doubling of Banaras-Prayagraj, Phephna-Indara, Mau-Shahganj, Bhatni-Aunrihar, Ballia-Chhapra, Ghazipur-Ballia, Daliganj-Malhaur, Roja-Sitapur-Burhwal and Aunrihar-Jaunpur, Gorakhpur-Nakha Jungle rail sections and of Domingarh-Gorakhpur-Gorakhpur Cantt-Kusumhi and Gonda-Burhwal third line work in detail. In this sequence he also obtained information about the status of gauge conversion work of Mailani-Pilibhit and Indara-Dohrighat rail sections from the officials concerned. On the occasion the GM also discussed about the Tadighat-Ghazipur new line, the important Ganga rail bridge under construction on Ganga river and Bhatni-Peokol bypass line in detail with the officials concerned. Besides, the progress of electrification work of Bhojipura-Lal Kuan and Rampur-Lal Kuan-Kathgodam sections was also reviewed during the meeting. On the occasion the GM directed to complete all the remaining yard plan and signal index plan, L-section and general arrangement drawing of bridges. He further said that all the projects should be completed within the stipulated timeframe with high quality. During the meeting, the GM gave guidelines to the officers for the removal of difficulties faced in various construction projects and gave many valuable and practical suggestions to complete the projects in an excellent manner.

NCL CMD vists Bina, Kakri projects

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) Bhola Singh, visited its Bina and Kakri projects on Wednesday. Director (Technical/ Operations), NCL, Dr Anindya Sinha, was also present on the occasion. During the mine inspection, CMD NCL laid special emphasis on mine safety and production with protection from Covid. During his visit to Bina area, CMD gave necessary instructions regarding operation of dragline. Along with it emphasis was laid on welfare facilities for contract workers and directed the project management to provide better facilities. The outstanding personnel of the project were also awarded on the occasion. CMD also visited the mine of Kakri project and got to know about production and despatch status of the project and discussed the future action plan with the officials. During it he also visited the northern and southern parts of Kakri and directed the project management to increase the availability of machines.While interacting with the personnel, CMD for prevention and awareness from Covid-19 also called for full adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour at workplace and residential premises. In the current financial year the annual production target of NCL's Bina project is 9.5 million tonnes while that of Kakri project is 2 million tonnes.

Nodal officer's directive to officials

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Secretary Urban Sevelopment and nodal officer of the district Anurag Yadav at a meeting organised at Collectorate on Thursday directed the officials concerned to make people make aware about mask and use of sanitiser, especially in markets, in view of the third wave of Covid-19. On the occasion he asked the Superintendent of Police to ensure patrolling in markets and crowded places to make people aware about the use of masks and sanitiser along with maintaining social distancing. He stressed on administering the booster dose of Covid to all polling personnel. Reviewing the condition of cow shelter homes and rain baseras the nodal officer directed to make available all facilities properly. District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar said that 18,23,616 eligible persons above 18 years of age out of 18,55,058 had been given the first dose which was 98.31 per cent and 1,10,804 others the second dose which was 59.59 per cent. About the beneficiaries between 15 and 18 age group 57,483 out of 1,7,5127 had been vaccinated through mega camps. He said 912 monitoring teams equipped with medicine kits along with life saving drugs are active out of which 809 are in rural and 103 in urban areas. The teams had been directed to make available medicine kits to the needy instantly. The DM said four oxygen plants were operational along with 516 oxygen concentraters. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rajeev Singhal said in four L-1 hospitals eight ICU beds and 112 oxygen beds were available and at L-2 hospital 50 oxygen beds and as many ICU beds were available. He said there are 31 ambulances each of 102 and 108 services along with three ambulances of ALS service. He said 4,67,275 RTPCR tests and 6,69,014 antigen tests had been done so far. He apprised too that through RRT teams medicines were being made available to patients and regular monitoring of Covid patients who were under home isolation was being done. The meeting was also attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, Additional District Magistrate (Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla, Additional District Magistrate (Namami Gangey) Amarendra Verma, Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar Verma and other officials concerned.

Mega vaccination drive conducted

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the ongoing vaccination campaign for children in the 15 to 18 years age group under the guidance of General Manager Anjali Goyal and under the leadership of Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar and Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Pradeep Kumar Singh, a mega vaccination campaign was conducted at the Inter College of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Thursday. In this campaign the BLW Inter College students and other children and parents who came along participated with full enthusiasm. Under this campaign a total of 200 teenager, including students from 15 to 18 years of BLW Inter College, were vaccinated. Prominent among those present at the vaccination centre were BLW's Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (ACMS) Dr Sunil Kumar, Divisional Medical Officer (DMO) Dr Tanmay Anand, Principal, Inter College Rajesh Kumar Saini and Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar. PCMO Dr Devesh Kumar and PCPO Pradeep Kumar Singh, who were present at the vaccination centre, advised the students of Inter College to be alert about the increasing infection of Covid-19, take all necessary precautions to prevent its spread, follow Covid appropriate behaviour and encourage others to do the same, always wear masks and maintain physical distance from others. During it they were explained in detail all the measures to avoid the infection. Earlier, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel were given precautionary dose in BLW under the ongoing special campaign to give booster jabs to health care and frontline workers apart from 60 plus persons with comorbidities. Under the guidance of GM Anjali Goyal precautionary doses, also known as booster or third jabs, were given to health care workers and RPF personnel. The special vaccination programme was held at Employees' Club centre in BLW in the presence of PCMO Dr Devesh Kumar. During the day, as many as 197 RPF personnel were administered booster doses. PRO Rajesh Kumar, inspector (Administration Post, RPF) KK Singh and others were also present. Simultaneously, a massive awareness campaign was also conducted in BLW premises by the PRO under the leadership of PCMO in which they appealed to people to take necessary precautions, follow Covid guidelines and encourage others too to do so. They appealed to people to wear masks and maintain social distancing at public places. They also motivated them for cleanliness and sanitisation and appealed to residents to keep the BLW clean and infection free.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bengal BJP dissolves all departments, cells

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

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

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

The announcement was made days after Union Minister Shantanu Thakur, a leader from the politically powerful Matua community, quit the party's WhatsApp groups amid disappointment over the newly-formed state office bearers' committee.

Last month, five MLAs had left the WhatsApp groups in protest after being dropped from the committee.

A senior state BJP leader said dissolving the departments and cells is a usual process in the party after a new president takes over.

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

However, a disgruntled BJP leader said all the party oldtimers and experienced leaders have been sidelined by the new dispensation in the state unit. ***PTI***

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

FIRST CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum No.: 50195023
Date: 13.01.2022

On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj is issued a Corrigendum against Tender **No. 50195023 E**, Published against EPS Tender Notice No. 21/90 dated 24.12.2021 or RO No. 1346/21 (AN). **Tender No.: 50195023 E Sr. No.: 01 Particular: Tender Opening Date: From:21.01.2022 To: 31.01.2022 Sr. No.: 02 Particulars:** Specification **From: Existing To: Revised Sr. No.: 03 Particulars:** Description **From: Existing To: Revised.** Other Terms & Conditions of Tender remain unchanged.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 1346/21(AN)

Over 3L take holy dip at Gangasagar on Makar Sankranti

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

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

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

They also offered prayers at the Kapil Muni temple here.

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

The district administration claimed it regulated the proceedings to a great extent and most of the pilgrims followed the instructions, an official said.

"We didn't allow anyone without RT-PCR test and double vaccination certification this time. The screening was done at all embarkation points, including Kolkata's Babughat and South 24 Parganas' Namkhana and Lot 8. As of now, an estimated 3.5 lakh pilgrims took the holy dip," he said. According to Hindu Calendar, the holy dip on Makar Sankranti is scheduled from 6.02 am on Friday and will continue till 6 am on Saturday.

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

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

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.JAIPUR.

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 275/2021–22

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों द्वारा पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:

कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रू0)
SITC of Elevator work at Medical College, Shri Ganganagar. UBN: RRC2122WSOB00546	239.70.00 Lakh

ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 13.01.2022 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 01.02.2022 सायं 06.00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

महाप्रबंधक
Sd/-
(Anish Bhatia)
Manager(Enq.)

No. NIT/2021-22/19429-38
Dated: 13/01/2022

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

S. N	Name of Work	Amount Put to tender (Rs.)	EMD	Tender Fee's	Dt. of release of tender procurement solution / I.D. No.	Last dt./time of receipt of tender through E-procurement solution
1	Providing/Laying/ replacement of sewer line in Sultanpur Mazra village in AC-10 under EE(M) 10/ACE(M)7	39,37,956/-	78,800/-	500/-	13/01/2022/ 2022_DJB_214669_1	21-01-2022 at 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1004 (2021-22)

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

(Himanshu Agarwal)
EX. ENGINEER(M)10

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, KANPUR
B.No. 64, Subhash Chandra Bose Marg Kanpur Cantt. U.P. -208004

Applications are invited upto 22.01.2022 till 17:00 Hrs for the under mentioned post in Cantonment Board General Hospital purely on the honorarium basis: -

Sl. No.	Post.	Qaulification	No of Vacancy	Fixed Honorarium
1	Resident Medical Officer	MBBS	2	Rs. 60,000/-
2	Ayush	BAMS, MD	1	Rs. 40,000/-
3	Ayush	BAMS	1	Rs. 30,000/-
4	ICU Technician	Diploma in ICU Technician	2	Rs. 20,000/-

Prescribed format of application form can be downloaded from **https://www.kanpur.cantt.gov.in.** Duly filled form must reach this office on email **'ceokanpur@gmail.com'** by 1700 Hrs. of 22/01/2022

Arvind Kumar Dwivedi, CEO, Cantt. Board Kanpur

Railway Electrification, Jabalpur

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice No.: RE-JBP-EL-TS-OHE-OT-03 **Date:** 12.01.2022

Executive Electrical Engineer/Railway Electrification/Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on prescribed tender form for the following works, Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Offer received manually shall be ignored.

S.N.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of the work in Rs.	Cost of Tender form in Rs.	Date and Time for submission of the tender form online	Date and Time for opening of the tender online	Earnest Money in Rs.	Completion of work
1.	RE-JBP-EL-TS-OHE-OT-03 Date 12.01.2022	Electrification (OHE) of Proposed AC Loco Trip Shed in JBP & NKJ	5909955.48 (Rs. Fifty Nine Lakh Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Five and Forty Eight Paisa)	00/-	15:00 Hrs. ON 10.02.2022	15:30 Hrs. ON 10.02.2022	00/-	12 Months

Note:- Complete details of tender notice available on the Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in** and also placed on notice board of the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, beside Railway stadium, in front of M.P. tourism office, Jabalpur M.P.-482001. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

EEE/RE/Jabalpur
For Chief Project Director
Railway Electrification, Jabalpur
For & on behalf of President of India

PR-11-2022
PAMM
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-I
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-62 / T-2 E-BLOCK PARK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092
Phone No. 22502206, Mail ID: - djbeeeastii@gmail.com
PRESS SHORT NIT No. 35 / (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money	Tender ID No. & Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1.	Replacement of old damaged / rusted internal water distribution network in Vigyan Lok in AC-59 in East-II.	48,54,933.00	500.00	97,100.00	2022_DJB_214770_1 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
2.	Trapping of discharge of Patparganj Industrial area from SPS (DSIIDC) to interceptor sewer in AC-59 under AEE (M)-59.	37,90,455.00	500.00	76,000.00	2022_DJB_214770_2 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
3.	Replacement of old damaged / rusted internal C.I. water lines in Jagriti Enclave Ph-IIIrd in AC-59 in East-II.	33,18,400.00	500.00	66,500.00	202 2_ DJB _214770_3 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
4.	Replacement of settled sewer line (300 mm) dia in the back lane from H.No. 13 to H.No. 28, Gagan Vihar to prevent contamination in AC-59 under ACE (M)-I	31,75,318.00	500.00	64,000.00	202 2_DJB 214770_4 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. J.S.V. 1009(2021-22)

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

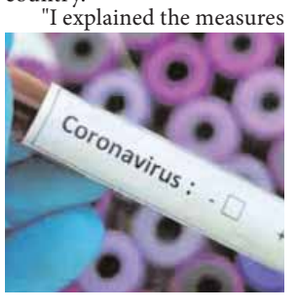
Devender Kumar
EX. ENGINEER (M) -59

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

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

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

"I explained the measures



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

Noting that the PM was also apprised about measures initiated to ramp up the medical infrastructure, he said, "I sought the central assistance to raise the oxygenated beds and oxygen plants."

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

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

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

Kerala, Tamil Nadu see surge in Covid-19 cases in 24 hours

CHENNAI ■ KOCHI

A black Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala. That's how doctors in the two States described the status of pandemic in the two southern States. While the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 shot up to 23,459 in Tamil Nadu during the last 24 hours (out of 1.5 lakh samples tested), Kerala registered 16,338 cases on Friday. The death toll in Kerala reached 50, 568 while Tamil Nadu's Department of Health Directorate said the number of victims succumbed to the pandemic till date reached 36,956. Tamil Nadu Government, shocked over the spurt in the number of Covid-19 cases have tightened the rules and declared a partial shut down with many restrictions. Schools and Colleges have been asked to stick to online classes till further notice taking into account the warning issued by the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association.

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

'No shortage of vaccines in Maha'

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after the Maharashtra Government asked the Centre to provide 40 lakh Covaxin and 50 lakh Covishield doses to increase the vaccination coverage, the Union Health Ministry on Thursday scotched reports in a section of the media that the State was facing vaccine shortage and said that it had 24 lakh unutilised doses of Covaxin and that it received additional 6.35 lakh doses during the day.

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

" As per their weekly consumption data available on Co-WIN, the average consumption by Maharashtra for Covaxin to cover the eligible beneficiaries for 15-17 years and for precaution dose is almost 2.94 lakh doses per day. Therefore, the State has adequate vaccine doses for about 10 days to cover the eligible beneficiaries with Covaxin," the Health Ministry said.

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

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

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

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

Uddhav should delegate powers if he is not well: BJP

Maha Opp seeks delegation of power after CM skips PM meet due to ill health

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Upping the ante over the ill-health of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray once again, the Opposition BJP on Friday asked him to step aside and hand over his post to someone elsewhere till his health condition improved.

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

Talking to media persons at Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil said: "The State Health Minister has said that the chief minister did not attend the Covid-19 review meeting called by the Prime Minister as he cannot sit at one place for two to two and a half hours. That being the case, Uddhav Thackeray should hand over the chief minister's responsibility to someone else in the party till recovers fully from his illness".

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

"He (the chief minister) is like our friend, so I wish him a speedy recovery. However, the task of administering the state, which has a population of around 12 crore, cannot be done just by sitting at home. Such responsibilities should be taken more seriously," the state chief said.

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

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

Patil had made a similar demand that Uddhav should step aside from his chief minister's post till he recovers fully from his cervical spine surgery that he underwent at HN Reliance Hospital two months ago.

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

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

WHO recommends two new Covid treatments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Only three other treatments for Covid-19 have received WHO approval, starting with corticosteroids for severely ill patients in September 2020. Corticosteroids are inexpensive and widely available and fight inflammation that commonly accompanies severe cases.

WHO has recommended two new Covid19 treatments — Baricitinib, an oral drug used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and Sotrovimab, an alternative to casirivimab-imdevimab, which is monoclonal antibody cocktail

Arthritis drugs tocilizumab and sarilumab, which the WHO endorsed in July, are IL-6 inhibitors that suppress a dangerous overreaction of the immune system to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

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

"When both are available, choose one based on issues including cost and clinician experience," the guidelines say.

Synthetic antibody treatment Regeneron was approved by the WHO in September and the guidelines say Sotrovimab can be used for the same type of patients. The WHO's Covid treatment recommendations are updated regularly based on new data from clinical trials.

Pranayama effective in preventing Covid: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Co-author Sarwal said that Pranayama modules may be promoted and adopted to improve immunity in all sections of the population. Considering the implications of the study for health care professionals and the general public living in fear of COVID-19, larger studies across different geographical, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are needed to extend and verify the generalization of the present results.

Over 75 lakh perform Surya Namaskar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

1 in 10 may have Covid after quarantine period

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Led by the researchers from University of Exeter, the study used a newly adapted test which can detect whether the virus was potentially still active. It was applied to samples from 176 people in Exeter who had tested positive on standard PCR tests.

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

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

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

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

Covid jumps 4-fold in paramilitary forces

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

As on Thursday, out of a total of 6.595 cases, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) tops the list with 2,237 active cases followed by 1,824 in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 1.048 cases in Border Security Force (BSF), 892 in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), 365 in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 181 in National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 48 cases in National Security Guard (NSG), according to official data.

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

During the last 24 hours, as many as 1,254 personnel were detected with the infection, including a maximum 423 in CISF, 362 in CRPF, 187 in SSB, 182 in BSF, 60 in ITBP, 21 in NSG and 19 in NDRF. This is nearly three times the number of paramilitary personnel contracting the disease in a single day as on January 7 with a tally of 441 cases.

In a single day, the tally of Covid cases had jacked up by 441 cases from 1,227 cases on Thursday to 1,668 cases on January 7.

Out of the total casualties of 349, the CRPF has taken the maximum toll at 133 deaths followed by 90 in BSF, 83 in CISF, 23 in SSB and 17 in ITBP. Likewise, the NDRF lost two personnel and the NSG suffered a casualty of one personnel due to Covid-19.

Earlier, the number of active Covid-19 cases in the paramilitary forces has jumped over 11 times in just 11 days from a meagre 148 cases as on December 28 to 1,668 cases on January 7.

EC asks poll observers to be accesible, neutral

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to conduct free, safe and fair elections, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday asked observers, who will be deployed for assembly polls in five states, to be visible, accessible, neutral and ethical while functioning as the eyes and ears of the poll body. The poll body will meet on Saturday to decide whether to continue with its ban on physical election rallies, road shows and pad yatras as the COVID-19 cases on Thursday crossed over 2.66 lakh cases in a day.During the briefings, observers are given comprehensive inputs about various aspects of election management by senior officials of the EC. Over 1,400 officials attended the briefing, with 140 officials attending it in person and the rest connecting virtually. In his address on Friday, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra also told expenditure observers to sharpen their skills and be innovative in countering newer methods being used to induce voters. Chandra made these remarks while addressing general, police and expenditure observers to be deployed in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur during the elections. Chandra asked the observers to work in coordination with enforcement agencies. This is the first briefing of the commission to the senior officers, who have been deployed in the forthcoming elections.Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar cautioned that even stray instances of human errors by polling personnel abd non-compliance of Covid protocols at polling material distribution centres can create a "deviant narrative and derail the smooth conduct of elections". According to an EC statement, Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, while acknowledging that conducting elections amidst COVID-19 was a challenging task, exhorted the designated observers to ensure that a level-playing field is maintained for all political parties and candidates. Officers drawn from IAS, IPS, IRS and other accounts services across the country are deployed as general, police and expenditure observers. Kumar reminded the observers that they are always under strict and microscopic scrutiny by stakeholders and thus should be careful and discreet about their own behaviour and conduct during the election process.He said observers are representatives of the commission and must be acutely aware and cognisant of this sacred and onerous duty entrusted upon them.

Sibal writes to UP, U'khand to prevent hate speeches

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"We are in the midst of general elections to the legislative assembly and while we do not want to attribute motives to any person, but if such speeches are made in the midst of an election, they will destabilize the social order and have serious consequences on the polity of this country. We request you to take such preventative action within your powers as is necessary, including under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and Sections 3 and 5 of the National Security Act, 1980," Sibal said in his letter.

He has also sent copies of his letters to chief ministers, home secretaries and police chiefs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand besides the superintendents of police in Aligarh and Haridwar. A copy was also sent to the Election Commission.

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

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

The senior Congress leader said the responsibility to take preventive measures to prevent any possible incident of mob violence falls on the district administration, "so the responsibility falls on your shoulders to take preventive action to ensure no speeches of this nature are made".

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

The Supreme Court had issued notice to the respondents and posted the matter for hearing after 10 days. The top court was hearing a petition filed by journalist Qurban Ali and former Patna High Court judge and senior advocate Anjana Prakash, who have also sought a direction for an "independent, credible and impartial investigation" by an SIT into the incidents of hate speeches against the Muslim community.

PM Modi to interact with 150 startups today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The event marks the 6th anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative.

The aim of the interaction, according to the PMO, "is to understand how startups can contribute to the national needs by driving innovation in the country."

As a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', a week-long event, "Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem", is being hosted by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, from January 10 to January 16.

Prime Minister has been stressing the potential of Startups to contribute significantly to the growth of the nation.

This was reflected in the launch of the flagship initiative Startup India in 2016.

Given the restrictions placed by the Covid-19 situation, the Government has been working on providing an "enabling atmosphere" for boosting the growth and development of Startups and the "startup ecosystem" in the country.

₹2.07 cr assets of former dy drug controller attached

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated December 14, 2012 and charge sheet dated March 7, 2018 of State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

The ED investigation revealed that Dhiman then Deputy Drug Controller Licensing Authority Solan, Himachal Pradesh used to take bribe for issuing and renewing license of pharmaceutical companies.

He acquired movable and immovable properties out of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 2.07 crore, in his name and in the name of his family members and firm/company and projected them as untainted properties, it said, adding further investigation is under progress.

2021 5th warmest year in 121 yrs in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The data showed that heavy rainfall and flood-related incidents claimed over 750 lives last year, while thunderstorms and lightning killed at least 780 people in different parts of the country.

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

IMD predicts cold wave with dense fog in North India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People should brace up to face severe cold wave along with dense to very dense fog in north India in the next few days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted dense to very dense fog over North India during next 4-5 days and a wet spell over east and adjoining central India during next two days, which will decrease significantly thereafter. "A Western Disturbance (WD) would affect northwest Himalayas on 16th & 17th and another WD affect Northwest India from 18th to 20th January, 2022", it said Meanwhile, no significant change in minimum temperatures is very likely over northwest and central India during next 4-5 days.

Centre all set to ask carmakers to provide six airbags

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

He further said that to minimise the impact of frontal and lateral collisions on the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments, it has been decided that 4 additional airbags be mandated in the M1 vehicle category.

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

According to latest government data, total 1,16,496 road accidents occurred on national highways (NHs), including expressways, in 2020, causing 47,984 deaths. Last year, Gadkari in an interview had said small cars, mostly purchased by lower middle-class people, should also have an adequate number of airbags and had wondered why automakers are providing eight airbags only in big cars bought by rich people.

His remarks had come against the backdrop of the automobile industry raising concerns that high taxation and stricter safety and emission norms for vehicles have made their products expensive. Mostly, lower middle-class people buy small economy cars and "if their car won't have airbags and when accidents happen, then it may result in deaths. So, I appeal to all car manufacturers to provide a minimum of six airbags across all variants and segments of the vehicle," he had said.

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

LUCKNOW | SATURDAY | JANUARY 15, 2022

the pioneer

Opinion 08

www.dailypioneer.com

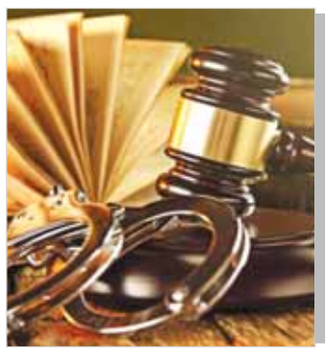
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Stepping up

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

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



The IPC, drafted in 1860, has seen only 77 amendments to date, 37 of them coming after Independence. The CrPC has amended 18 times between 1974 and 2014. Social progress and technology upgradation mean these laws need to be modernised to keep pace with the times. New types of punishments, with restorative and reformative justice in mind, need to be introduced into the Indian system. Principled sentencing is the need of the hour on the procedural side to ensure that different sentences for crimes of similar nature do not have major variations. The Government has to explain how it wants to give the reforms a 'people-centric' push. For, in democratic parlance, it means having suitable procedures in place to quickly identify the reasons for victimisation and reforming laws to uphold the rights of victims of crime. The extant laws of Macaulay's time are tuned to serve the interests of the Crown. They need to be oriented towards people — once the victims of colonial rule who, after Independence, became the victims of colonial laws. They need to enjoy the benefits of victim protection schemes and victim participation in criminal trials, compensation and restitution schemes for victims. Victim advocacy and human rights are the thrust points. But that will not amount to much without the fundamental tightening of the mental resolve to tackle crime: One, political non-interference in the roles of crime investigation agencies; two, a change in the attitude of the police towards complainants; and, three, no external pressures on the police.

PICTALK

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

Rough & tumble

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

With just about a month to go for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, scheduled to be held in seven phases between February 10 and March 7, there are significantly noticeable rumblings in the electoral playfield. Three Ministers in Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet (Labour & Employment Minister Swami Prasad Maurya, Environment Minister Dara Singh Chauhan, Ayush Minister Dharam Singh Saini, besides legislators Roshanlal Verma, Brijesh Prajapati, Bhagwati Saran Sagar, Mukesh Verma, Vinay Shakya, Bala Prasad Awasthi and Avtar Singh Bhadana) have resigned in three days, and there is high probability that they may join the Samajwadi Party in the coming days. In fact, Saini warned the party that "every day till January 20, a Minister and two-three MLAs will resign from the BJP". So far, a total of 14 lawmakers, including the three Ministers, have signaled their exit from the BJP since the poll schedule was announced on January 8. All the major political parties in the fray in the politically significant State — the SP, Congress, BSP and the AIMIM — are contesting separately and the BJP was hopeful that it would easily breast the tape yet again against a splintered Opposition.

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

Fear is the key to rule minds, or is it?

DEEPAK **SINHA**

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

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

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

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

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

One would have expected that the fanatics who attacked the Capitol and unleashed utter mayhem there would belong to the very fringes of American society. Surprisingly, that was not the case, as a study by the University of Chicago's 'Project on Security and Threats' found. Of those who have been arrested thus far, "over half were business owners, CEOs and from white-collar occupations. Over a quarter had college degrees and only a third had criminal records, while 13 per cent belonged to extreme right-wing militia groups". It concluded that the mob was overwhelmingly White Non-Latinos, in ages between 35-50 years and the vast majority had come from pockets of Trump supporters in districts and States that were either majority Democrat or had swung towards the Democrats.

The most interesting aspect of the study was the revelation that the single most important motivation for those who participated in the insurrection was their belief in the "Great Replacement Theory". A conspiracy theory first propounded in France by author Renaud Camus in which white nationalists claimed that the French white population was being demographically and culturally replaced deliberately by Non-European peoples. It has found much traction not just in France but also in other European nations and in the United States and New Zealand. In America, it has come to be seen as the Non-Latino White population being replaced by Blacks, Hispanics and People of Colour. In essence, a growing fear of losing their privileged and entitled position in society that the colour of their skin provided.

> THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN OBLITERATES ALL REASONING AND BRINGS OUT A PURELY EMOTIONAL RESPONSE. WHAT MOST PEOPLE OVERLOOK IS THAT WHILE IT IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO START A FIRE, THE CONFLAGRATION LEAVES NONE UNSCATHED

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PASSENGER SAFETY JUST FOR MANUALS?

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

TOLERANCE THERAPY NEEDED

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

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

Anthony Henriques | *Mumbai*

AMBIDEXTROUS BOWLERS

Sir — While cricket has seen a lot of innovations over the years like coloured clothing, emergence of T20 format, introduction of pink ball, etc, ambidextrous bowling is something that hasn't made its way yet into the game. But being an ambidextrous bowler, and more so a fast bowler, is highly challenging and far more demanding in terms of physical fitness because the bowler needs to rewire his body very often during the game. Across cricketing nations, only five cricketers have so far tested out ambidextrous bowling — Akshay Karnewar (India), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Yasir Jan (Pakistan), Shaila Sharmin (Bangladesh) and Jemma Barsby (Australia.)

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | *Chennai*

Allay fears of the workforce

With the surge in COVID cases, the migrant workforce from other States is in the grip of fear as they had bitter experiences of the previous lockdown. They should not be left in lurch and it is expected of the authorities concerned to step forward and allay their fears as some of them have already started trickling homeward. Some reports indicate that labourers from Delhi and the NCR as well as the port hubs of Mumbai and Kolkata are getting infected and returning to their native towns in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. On January 1, PM Narendra Modi said India would not allow the pandemic to adversely impact the economic development, suggesting that India would not enforce another lockdown.

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

Yash Pal Ralhan | *Jalandhar*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

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

Trinamool MP
—Kalyan Banerjee

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

Pak Defence Minister
—Pervez Khattak

Jab iski shakal dekhi thi na, mujhe nahi laga tha ye bachcha kar paega (to comedienne Bharti Singh's husband Haarsh).

Actor
— Mithun Chakraborty

To come back after losing the first Test… then win the second and now the third Test is pretty incredible.

South Africa head coach
—Mark Boucher

Online games are a serious issue. We are bringing an act regulating online gaming.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister
—Narottam Mishra

FIRST COLUMN

SEARCHING FOR ANTIDOTE TO COMMUNAL HATE

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

JAGDISH **KAUR**

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

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

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

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

Mahatma Gandhi an ecological economist?

BKP **SINHA**

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

India was earlier known for its flourishing trade in spices and textiles, along with precious metal and stone. AfterIndependence, India inherited an economy that was one of the poorest in the world with no industrial base and mostlydevastated land deprived of forest and fertility. The Britishleft a poor base for the already developed handicraftsuniversally acclaimed for their quality and craftsmanship.

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

Gandhi knew that "India lives in her seven lakh villages" thereforethe economic and social revival of these villages is a pre-condition for reconstruction of India. He wanted to make the villages self-sufficient and build a rural economy which is not solely based on agriculture and allied activities but also has strong rural industries thereby generating employment for the villagers.

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

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

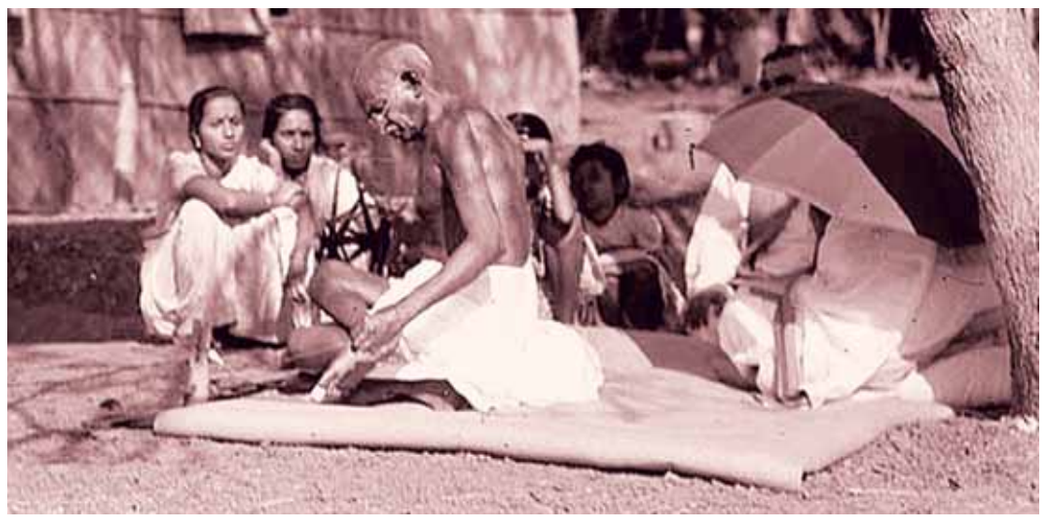
Gandhi's concept of sustainable development is rooted in a holistic approach which emphasizes the development of an individual and society as a whole in connection with nature.By preaching "simple living," Gandhi sought to curb both human greed and mindless exploitation of natural resources. He said,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

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

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

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

(The writer is a former Indian Forest Service officer. The views expressed are personal.)



described the process of urbanization as a "double drain", i.e., it will harm the villages and the villagers and thus proving fatal to both.Hence, in order to ensure economic balance, it is important that the urban sector does not drainthe rural sectorand shift the focus from centralization to decentralization. He argued, that a technologically sophisticated economy will have two major consequences: it would disempower the economic autonomy of the masses and greatly undermine the ecological fabric on which millions depend.

Therefore,to increase the productivity, we should avoid indiscriminate use and non-selective adoption of imported technology. He foresaw that the development of small-scale technology could boost efficiency in rural production without displacing rural labour andadvocated an appropriate technological mix with controlled production to maximise the social benefits of science and technology and to maintain a proper balance between man and environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTER POINT

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

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

Poisonous tobacco products must be made unaffordable

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

KIRIT BHAI **SOLANKI**

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

There have been no major tobacco tax increases after the GST council placed tobacco products in the 28 per cent bracket in 2017. The option of tax increase on tobacco products gives the government a golden opportunity to raise badly required finances. Remember, lower taxes increase the affordability of tobacco consumers, especially teenagers and children. The Union Government has the option of hiking the excise duty and NCCD in the annual budget while the GST Council can increase the cess. This will ensure India has optimal tobacco taxation as mandated by WHO.

(The writer is a medical practitioner and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

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

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

kills more than 13 lakh Indians annually. At a global level, eight million deaths are reported people every year. Overseven million deaths are due to direct use of tobacco while the rest are caused by passive smokers exposed to the poisonous smoke. As per the data of GYTS (Global Youth Tobacco Survey) in 2019, nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 have used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life. Clearly, consumption of tobacco isnot just about one's health at the individual level, but a societal problem we face nationally.

Tobacco taxes and, therefore, the prices have to be increased regularly, so as to significantly reduce the affordability over a period of time. This was the practice in the pre-GST era with additional options of the states adding VAT. Tobacco taxes and prices have not been increased enough over time to reduce the affordability of these products resulting in more numbers of consumers getting addicted. A long, four-year gap of no tax increase has tobacco companies share prices soaring on the one hand, and on the other, we see rampant consumption leading to more deaths and spread of dreaded diseases. The tobacco industry may have its reason to look the other way, but the government has no such option.

The annual economic cost from all tobacco products is estimated to be Rs 177.341 crores in 2017-18 amounting to more than one per cent of India's GDP. This will continue to grow in the post-Covid era and the next GATS report will surely point out the alarming rise of casualties. In a country like India, an estimated 1.3 million deaths are accounted for by tobacco abuse. As per WHO data, the most common way tobacco kills isthrough cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) - nearly 4,49,844 deaths such deaths occurred in India as of 2018. The high prevalence of non-communicable diseases due to tobacco use is posing a huge challenge to the country's response to Covid-19 management, amplifying India's health burden in such difficult times.

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

I am sure that the listening posts in the Ministry will convey the right message to the Minister and also work out the modalities of tax rationalization which mandates that a sin product sale needs to be limited and citizens be protected. We are especially talking about children and teens who are major contributors to our economy.

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

the pioneer
LUCKNOW | SATURDAY | JANUARY 15, 2022

WPI inflation eases to 13.56% in Dec

RBI may hold rates steady in Feb

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

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

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

In the food articles category, pulses, wheat, cereals and paddy all witnessed a month-on-month price rise, while potato, onion, fruits and egg, meat and fish saw some softening.

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

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

Data released earlier this week showed, retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (Combined) rose to 5.59 per cent in December, from 4.91 per cent a month ago as food prices inched up. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar, said the food inflation has spiked from the marginal 0.1 per cent in October 2021, to an unpleasant 23-month high of 9.6 per cent in December 2021, reflecting the unfavourable base particularly for vegetables.

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

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

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

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

Announcing the schedule, the WEF said 'Davos Agenda

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

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

Bank credit grows 9.16%, deposits up 10.28%

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

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

In the previous fortnight ended December 17, 2021, bank advances had risen by 7.27 per cent and deposits went up by 9.58 per cent. In FY21, bank credit had risen by 5.56 per cent and deposits by 11.4 per cent. ***PTI***

Rupee slumps 25 paise to 74.15 per US dollar

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

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

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent down at 94.78. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.01 per cent to USD 85.32 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 12.27 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 61,223.03, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 2.05 points or 0.01 per cent to 18,255.75.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹ 1,390.85 crore, as per exchange data.

According to Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities, the domestic currency traded weak near 74.15 on the back of long position unwinding in rupee.

Benchmarks snap 5-session rally as bulls take a breather

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

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

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

The market breadth was negative, with 18 declines and 12 advances. "The Indian market opened on a weak note following nervousness in global markets, however, it managed to erase most of its losses to close flat, supported by positive trends in IT, realty and healthcare sectors.

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

On a weekly basis, the Sensex surged 1,478.38 points, or 2.47 per cent, while the Nifty gained 443.05 points or 2.48 per cent. S Hariharan, Head-Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services, said, "Strong guidance from many members of US FOMC about hiking interest rates in CY22, alongside continuing high inflation prints globally, make for an adverse flow environment for equities in general."

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

Sector-wise, BSE telecom, FMCG, healthcare, auto and bankex shed as much as 1.20 per cent, while capital goods, realty, industrials and IT posted gains. ***PTI***

Exports rose 39% to $37.81 bn in Dec: Govt data

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

Imports in December 2021 also increased 38.55 per cent to USD 59.48 billion, on account of an increase in petroleum and crude oil imports, which soared 67.89 per cent to USD 16.16 billion. Gold imports expanded by 5.43 per cent to USD 4.72 billion.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	18185.00	18286.95	18119.65	18255.75	-2.05
TATACONSUM	730.20	777.00	727.00	760.80	30.60
IOC	121.50	124.40	121.35	123.30	2.15
TCS	3877.85	3977.00	3860.05	3965.35	67.45
INFY	1882.00	1933.00	1881.00	1925.00	28.20
ADANIPORTS	769.00	795.00	763.65	783.50	11.30
LT	2014.00	2049.95	2007.00	2042.00	23.60
BPCL	395.00	399.95	392.50	398.60	4.10
HDFCBANK	1530.00	1548.70	1519.00	1543.80	15.80
TECHM	1714.50	1746.80	1696.50	1736.40	17.60
DIVISLAB	4590.00	4636.00	4559.00	4615.30	25.25
SHREECEM	26830.00	27150.00	26577.25	27000.00	144.70
ULTRACEMCO	7634.00	7700.00	7566.90	7640.00	33.20
KOTAKBANK	1909.00	1945.00	1898.00	1931.00	4.65
NTPC	134.40	136.15	133.30	135.20	0.25
SBILIFE	1259.00	1272.25	1254.50	1260.90	2.20
BAJFINANCE	7775.00	7846.10	7728.50	7820.00	11.65
RELIANCE	2535.00	2567.30	2525.85	2537.00	1.70
MARUTI	7951.00	8145.00	7951.00	8081.05	4.00
COALINDIA	164.75	166.15	163.25	164.80	0.05
HDFCLIFE	668.00	674.85	666.20	670.50	0.15
GRASIM	1859.90	1867.75	1832.35	1855.00	-1.85
POWERGRID	207.95	209.65	206.55	207.75	-0.25
HCLTECH	1320.00	1342.95	1293.00	1330.00	-4.25
HINDALCO	506.00	509.50	503.00	505.90	-1.60
BAJAJFINSV	18044.00	18333.45	18000.00	18161.30	-63.70
CIPLA	926.05	933.00	916.30	920.60	-3.45
ITC	223.95	224.80	222.30	222.90	-1.05
TATAMOTORS	509.00	515.40	505.65	509.40	-2.55
BAJAJ-AUTO	3451.00	3462.20	3425.00	3429.00	-22.00
EICHERMOT	2838.00	2845.00	2798.75	2814.70	-18.00
SBIN	509.00	510.35	505.15	507.75	-3.60
ICICIBANK	821.00	822.00	811.60	818.35	-6.35
TATASTEEL	1213.00	1226.30	1206.10	1211.00	-10.15
DRREDDY	4720.20	4723.00	4660.55	4685.95	-40.00
INDUSINDBK	919.10	926.65	913.25	918.80	-8.30
SUNPHARMA	865.50	868.90	856.80	857.50	-8.00
TITAN	2626.00	2639.00	2588.85	2594.00	-25.25
JSWSTEEL	679.90	689.55	677.25	681.10	-6.75
HEROMOTOCO	2590.00	2594.80	2555.00	2566.00	-27.60
BRITANNIA	3749.05	3754.90	3695.30	3700.00	-49.05
BHARTIARTL	729.95	730.90	718.45	721.55	-10.25
WIPRO	649.25	649.25	636.50	640.25	-9.50
HDFC	2712.00	2731.60	2687.30	2710.95	-45.05
NESTLEIND	19714.40	19719.35	19270.00	19392.00	-322.40
M&M	889.80	895.95	879.65	881.00	-15.00
ONGC	162.95	163.30	160.20	160.90	-3.05
HINDUNILVR	2420.00	2421.00	2360.80	2364.50	-49.70
UPL	836.00	836.05	818.00	823.35	-17.65
AXISBANK	734.80	735.95	716.05	721.25	-19.45
ASIANPAINT	3462.00	3462.00	3346.00	3364.00	-92.25

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	43353.05	43602.45	43181.70	43551.75	63.00
NAUKRI	5570.00	5748.00	5499.95	5742.00	151.20
DMART	4266.00	4344.45	4256.15	4338.00	83.40
ADANIGREEN	1657.00	1720.50	1637.05	1690.00	28.20
ACC	2319.90	2374.00	2304.75	2353.05	38.90
DLF	408.00	419.00	405.10	416.60	5.80
AMBUJACEM	395.10	405.00	394.20	402.00	5.60
SIEMENS	2349.00	2401.10	2336.40	2393.00	32.90
BAJAJHLDNG	5355.00	5449.00	5310.05	5425.00	72.00
JINDALSTEL	411.00	421.40	408.60	417.60	4.40
INDIGO	2121.35	2169.00	2121.35	2166.00	21.10
HINDPETRO	321.50	326.40	319.50	324.60	2.85
ADANIENT	1850.00	1890.45	1831.10	1868.95	15.60
HAVELLS	1326.90	1350.00	1313.25	1338.00	11.10
YESBANK	13.95	14.15	13.85	14.10	0.10
ICICIGI	1402.50	1427.75	1401.55	1417.15	7.15
BANDHANBNK	291.50	300.15	289.25	295.65	1.10
BOSCHLTD	17350.00	17746.90	17318.00	17445.00	48.40
TORNTPHARM	3189.00	3208.75	3144.00	3193.35	4.15
JUBLFOOD	3900.00	4032.00	3860.00	3923.00	4.45
PEL	2637.00	2672.00	2617.00	2639.45	1.50
PGHH	16039.30	16170.00	15880.85	16000.00	7.35
SAIL	107.70	108.85	107.25	108.10	0.05
MCDOWELL-N	939.80	958.00	932.10	942.70	0.35
ICICIPRULI	592.50	603.40	587.25	590.80	0.05
HDFCAMC	2470.00	2499.00	2455.00	2471.45	-2.55
SBICARD	896.50	897.15	890.00	894.80	-1.25
APOLLOHOSP	4997.90	5015.00	4930.00	4970.00	-13.35
MARICO	500.75	501.00	496.05	499.25	-1.50
COLPAL	1465.00	1477.00	1452.00	1460.95	-5.40
PNB	39.95	40.35	39.80	40.05	-0.15
NMDC	145.15	146.90	144.30	145.50	-0.55
IGL	464.75	466.60	460.05	461.20	-2.35
GODREJCP	915.90	924.45	909.00	919.50	-4.85
BANKBARODA	93.10	94.60	92.95	93.35	-0.55
GAIL	144.40	145.60	143.20	144.05	-0.90
LTI	7087.20	7141.95	7030.25	7084.00	-48.60
CHOLAFIN	591.00	594.35	582.25	584.95	-4.45
DABUR	576.60	584.20	571.05	576.00	-4.70
GLAND	3745.00	3760.00	3707.00	3718.00	-31.80
MUTHOOTFIN	1498.00	1502.45	1477.10	1485.20	-12.85
ADANITRANS	1998.00	2030.00	1930.00	2001.75	-17.95
PIDILITIND	2720.00	2724.45	2650.00	2699.70	-24.65
PIIND	2830.00	2835.90	2791.25	2804.00	-28.30
LUPIN	958.95	962.85	948.55	949.20	-9.75
CADILAHC	447.25	448.75	441.25	442.10	-5.15
BERGEPAINT	783.00	784.85	766.00	771.00	-10.95
INDUSTOWER	275.00	276.55	271.20	271.80	-4.15
VEDL	340.00	343.20	334.05	334.30	-5.40
AUROPHARMA	686.00	705.00	684.45	696.00	-21.60
BIOCON	370.25	374.35	356.30	357.25	-13.00

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
SUZLON	11.40	12.37	11.26	12.34
TCS	3880.00	3978.30	3860.10	3969.25
SONACOMS	750.90	765.95	744.00	756.40
INFY	1879.00	1932.95	1879.00	1928.20
HFCL	85.00	93.40	84.45	91.80
WIPRO	649.80	649.80	636.50	639.80
RELIANCE	2530.00	2566.50	2525.80	2538.70
IRCTC	867.00	908.00	857.95	902.00
TATAPOWER	243.95	248.50	242.50	244.20
TATAMOTORS	509.90	515.30	505.65	509.75
MINDTREE	4640.00	4652.90	4477.25	4545.00
TATACONSUM	731.70	776.80	726.45	762.50
HDFCBANK	1530.00	1548.45	1519.65	1545.25
TATASTEEL	1214.00	1226.00	1206.10	1213.35
TANLA	2004.00	2071.45	2000.25	2066.90
IDEA	12.85	13.00	12.70	12.75
LAXMIMACH	9612.45	10436.20	9612.45	10073.55
HCLTECH	1328.10	1342.95	1292.80	1337.55
IEX	265.00	269.90	260.60	266.80
DMART	4270.00	4347.00	4255.25	4323.60
RBLBANK	147.00	157.70	145.50	156.20
HINDUNILVR	2410.00	2421.00	2361.05	2364.50
ADANIPOWER	115.50	119.60	114.90	117.00
ASIANPAINT	3460.00	3463.25	3347.00	3364.80
SRTRANSFIN	1252.00	1264.50	1229.80	1240.55
SAIL	107.55	108.80	107.00	108.25
POLYCAB	2685.95	2758.95	2654.10	2692.85
POWERGRID	208.00	209.55	206.75	207.80
ADANIENT	1855.00	1890.00	1830.70	1871.80
AUROPHARMA	689.95	705.00	684.50	695.15
POONAWALLA	287.00	297.90	284.90	292.60
BAJFINANCE	7798.00	7845.50	7739.55	7816.90
BHEL	62.70	64.50	62.05	63.70
KPITTECH	671.40	716.95	671.40	684.05
ADANIPORTS	771.00	795.00	764.15	779.20
SWSOLAR	392.20	419.50	388.70	409.65
YESBANK	13.99	14.17	13.87	14.06
HINDPETRO	320.00	326.50	320.00	324.95
INDIACEM	244.00	259.90	242.20	254.65
GRANULES	343.70	362.25	341.20	357.30
TECHM	1709.00	1746.00	1696.80	1739.25
AXISBANK	735.70	735.70	716.10	721.60
ANGELONE	1292.00	1337.85	1276.00	1318.00
HDFC	2728.00	2730.80	2687.85	2713.55
ITC	223.90	224.75	222.35	222.60
AMBUJACEM	396.65	404.95	394.15	402.65
TRIDENT	64.80	64.80	63.80	64.80
DEEPAKFERT	511.00	554.00	506.10	542.85
DELTACORP	293.95	306.50	290.70	296.00
SBIN	509.80	510.30	505.50	508.25
ALOKTEXT	28.55	30.90	28.35	30.05
LT	2016.00	2049.85	2006.90	2044.75
TATACOMM	1543.00	1566.50	1537.95	1541.25
PNB	39.95	40.50	39.85	40.25
LTI	7100.00	7135.20	7030.00	7089.95
FEDERALBNK	100.00	101.00	98.75	99.50
IOC	121.80	124.35	121.25	123.25
JUBLFOOD	3900.00	4027.35	3858.60	3931.80
ICICIBANK	824.00	824.00	811.55	818.90
EXIDEIND	172.95	176.40	171.80	173.95
BEL	208.70	221.95	208.50	219.80
TATACHEM	1012.05	1049.15	1003.30	1028.35
REDINGTON	167.60	178.70	165.50	173.55
JINDALSTEL	412.95	421.25	408.95	418.50
INDUSINDBK	922.00	926.75	913.50	920.15
NBCC	51.50	53.55	51.20	53.35
NATIONALUM	113.00	115.25	112.50	113.65
CANBK	224.20	228.30	223.60	227.65
IBULHSGFIN	220.05	222.80	219.50	221.70
PNBHOUSING	509.00	528.20	509.00	524.15
KOTAKBANK	1911.00	1944.45	1898.20	1937.15
IBREALEST	167.15	174.00	167.15	169.70
BANKBARODA	93.80	94.60	92.90	93.60
ADANIGREEN	1662.00	1720.00	1633.55	1697.50
COALINDIA	164.80	166.10	163.35	164.75
PRAJIND	386.60	401.65	386.50	401.50
ATUL	10271.45	10556.00	10150.00	10510.35
DLF	406.35	418.90	405.15	417.20
ALKEM	3703.05	3712.10	3594.15	3629.00
RECLTD	140.50	140.50	138.00	139.25
PVR	1521.40	1569.35	1521.40	1555.60
MCX	1614.15	1655.00	1604.65	1626.50
GODREJPROP	1912.00	1969.00	1906.35	1963.20
ABFRL	306.80	312.95	303.85	308.20
BANDHANBNK	294.00	300.10	289.70	296.60
RAIN	254.90	256.00	249.50	251.25
IGL	465.00	466.65	460.05	461.55
AFFLE	1425.00	1510.15	1420.00	1480.75
TITAN	2643.05	2643.05	2588.75	2594.90
UPL	837.95	837.95	818.10	823.95
BAJAJFINSV	18090.00	18317.45	17997.50	18188.00
ZENSARTECH	487.50	487.50	471.80	474.45
VGUARD	228.00	228.00	225.95	226.75
CHAMBLFERT	451.40	470.10	448.20	468.85
VOLTAS	1280.00	1317.15	1264.05	1303.15
VARROC	440.50	458.30	434.00	446.30
TATAELXSI	6401.25	6410.00	6236.85	6314.70
CONCOR	674.80	695.00	666.90	689.80
BALKRISIND	2468.00	2501.00	2451.05	2490.65
GUJGAS	714.45	721.15	695.05	704.15
SRF	2655.00	2679.00	2642.55	2660.00
HINDALCO	507.15	509.40	503.20	506.30
IRFC	23.00	23.75	22.90	23.70
SUNPHARMA	867.00	868.40	856.00	856.60
CAMS	2930.00	2966.00	2910.00	2944.20
JUSTDIAL	871.90	911.00	861.35	880.15
VEDL	340.70	343.15	334.25	336.20
SOBHA	882.00	924.95	872.60	912.90

MARUTI	8000.00	8143.75	7975.00	8085.00
SEQUENT	189.45	193.50	187.00	191.90
LAURUSLABS	520.00	525.50	518.05	520.95
NCC	75.95	78.50	75.50	77.65
BALRAMCHIN	445.95	452.00	439.65	441.70
HAVELLS	1330.40	1349.80	1313.30	1342.55
BIOCON	370.00	374.20	356.15	357.60
INDIGO	2140.00	2169.90	2122.40	2165.00
JAMNAAUTO	109.65	122.50	109.65	119.95
JUBLINGREA	597.50	644.35	597.50	635.70

LTTS	5660.00	5660.00	5505.10	5543.10
SIEMENS	2365.45	2400.30	2338.80	2394.00
INDIAMART	6720.00	6835.45	6655.75	6743.30
TATAMTRDVR	258.00	262.50	257.20	259.55
NTPC	134.50	136.10	133.25	135.35
TRITURBINE	179.00	204.10	177.85	201.70
MPHASIS	3310.00	3310.00	3218.00	3262.55
ASHOKLEY	137.90	139.50	136.90	137.65
ONGC	162.50	163.20	160.20	161.00
GAIL	144.40	145.60	143.15	144.15
COFORGE	5650.00	5709.75	5630.05	5690.15
BCG	168.00	182.85	168.00	182.85
ZEEL	325.55	326.50	321.45	322.60
GRASIM	1864.80	1867.15	1832.60	1859.80
NAUKRI	5590.00	5749.15	5499.30	5672.70
ULTRACEMCO	7610.00	7699.95	7569.05	7655.25
SHREECEM	26890.00	27149.25	26607.00	27011.10
APOLLOHOSP	4965.00	5013.00	4930.00	4971.00
BHARTIARTL	732.00	732.00	718.75	720.70
PRESTIGE	489.00	509.50	479.20	505.50
VBL	910.00	930.00	890.35	928.20
SOLARA	1107.00	1148.00	1090.95	1133.65
L&TFH	80.10	80.60	79.05	79.40
DEEPAKNI	2669.95	2687.45	2645.20	2660.00
VENKYS	2830.00	2948.05	2814.05	2833.35
AUBANK	1311.60	1311.60	1258.25	1260.85
CUMMINSIND	973.70	1017.90	972.20	992.05
RCF	81.50	83.85	81.50	83.20
GRAPHITE	558.80	560.00	543.50	552.50
IDFCFIRSTB	49.70	50.10	49.00	49.15
GREAVESCOT	228.45	235.00	224.60	228.95
BPCL	396.40	400.00	392.65	398.00
IDFC	63.60	65.70	63.40	64.15
ESCORTS	1859.90	1873.45	1852.00	1867.95
JSWSTEEL	682.00	689.00	677.55	682.70
COLPAL	1464.00	1477.00	1452.15	1463.65
GNFC	485.30	493.00	481.00	488.95
TRENT	1170.00	1199.00	1159.15	1166.90
NMDC	145.80	146.90	144.30	146.05
ABCAPITAL	133.00	136.30	132.60	133.60
CIPLA	923.70	933.05	916.40	921.45
FSL	181.00	181.00	176.00	178.10
M&M	894.50	895.35	879.45	880.95
CADILAHC	445.10	448.20	441.50	442.15
UNIONBANK	46.00	46.30	45.00	45.60
BSOFT	566.10	568.50	555.00	557.55
EIDPARRY	483.75	520.95	483.75	518.10
BOSCHLTD	17350.05	17743.90	17300.70	17401.10
KEI	1154.65	1191.75	1126.70	1160.00
BHARATFORG	762.55	783.75	761.15	780.40
INDHOTEL	209.00	213.80	207.45	210.85
ACC	2306.00	2372.90	2306.00	2355.00
SUNTECK	560.60	576.55	552.35	570.00
WELCORP	184.95	194.90	184.95	190.65
OBEROIRLTY	951.60	981.60	939.45	973.55
M&MFIN	166.85	168.05	164.45	164.85
CESC	92.30	93.85	91.70	92.55
TTML	249.60	249.60	249.60	249.60
BEML	1856.00	1928.25	1842.50	1901.10
KPRMILL	739.00	767.85	735.50	756.05
RAJESHEXPO	844.00	854.55	840.05	850.40
VTL	2649.60	2716.30	2613.80	2688.95
NLCINDIA	66.50	67.15	65.15	66.30
APOLLOTYRE	233.70	237.45	230.55	231.55
HAL	1316.40	1373.15	1312.80	1367.75
AMARAJABAT	650.00	650.90	637.60	638.90
LICHSGFIN	381.00	381.00	375.60	378.00
INDUSTOWER	275.50	276.50	271.35	271.55
ASTRAL	2480.10	2509.65	2451.00	2467.45
MUTHOOTFIN	1500.00	1501.45	1477.45	1485.30
HINDCOPPER	135.95	137.45	134.70	136.60
DIVISLAB	4599.00	4635.00	4559.95	4618.65
BATAINDIA	1963.30	2014.60	1956.15	2008.00
HEG	1895.90	1906.75	1862.95	1869.10

IDBI	52.50	52.50	51.35	51.65
SBILIFE	1259.25	1272.45	1254.70	1262.95
ROSSARI	1272.95	1375.00	1262.80	1341.40
FINOLEXIND	203.55	204.50	199.50	200.05
HIKAL	500.50	509.30	491.55	493.40
ICICIPRULI	595.00	603.35	587.30	591.00
MAHABANK	20.05	20.95	20.05	20.85
TATAMETALI	870.00	896.95	850.80	886.00
CENTURYTEX	990.10	1021.00	980.05	988.90
SUPREMEIND	2250.00	2250.05	2215.00	2215.00
CHOLAFIN	590.10	594.05	582.50	586.50
PIDILITIND	2730.00	2730.00	2685.00	2701.30
ISEC	800.00	826.65	798.60	820.00
RVNL	35.70	37.10	35.65	36.35
AEGISLOG	215.70	228.30	215.55	227.15
HATHWAY	23.60	23.80	23.05	23.20
SPICEJET	64.20	64.60	63.65	64.05
MASTEK	3212.00	3249.00	3162.25	3181.25
GLENMARK	521.10	528.05	514.00	516.00
MFSL	1047.75	1058.00	1020.05	1030.95
EICHERMOT	2831.35	2844.80	2800.00	2816.50
BERGEPAINT	782.25	783.40	766.60	771.35
METROPOLIS	3123.65	3123.65	3006.05	3048.20
DRREDDY	4740.00	4740.00	4662.00	4688.20
APLAPOLLO	926.25	939.50	919.05	936.65
TATACOFFEE	217.10	223.65	216.40	220.20
BIRLACORPN	1536.00	1610.30	1512.65	1604.00
TV18BRDCST	47.40	48.50	46.95	48.20
PEL	2630.30	2672.05	2618.05	2638.00
MGL	890.00	890.00	879.50	884.55
PRINCEPIPE	710.00	743.00	710.00	731.75
JSL	204.00	206.90	201.45	205.00
ALKYLAMINE	3790.00	3790.00	3709.05	3720.00
THERMAX	2017.60	2078.70	1994.25	2066.90
NESTLEIND	19757.35	19757.35	19272.55	19390.00
ECLERX	2919.00	2919.00	2818.20	2855.90
CYIENT	1037.40	1037.45	1015.25	1030.00
SBICARD	897.00	898.00	890.20	894.95
LXCHEM	461.20	481.55	457.00	471.30
PERSISTENT	4557.20	4557.20	4427.00	4450.05
SUMICHEM	390.95	400.90	387.40	397.95
DBL	404.00	405.00	388.05	389.25
WOCKPHARMA	429.95	435.25	424.25	428.40
VAKRANGEE	41.00	41.65	40.55	40.85
ABBOTINDIA	17802.00	17922.00	17660.05	17700.00
GSPL	318.20	324.00	305.05	313.25
WHIRLPOOL	1849.95	1886.20	1825.20	1866.80
RADICO	1180.55	1215.00	1180.55	1191.00
KRBL	258.70	267.70	255.00	263.00
BANKINDIA	54.50	54.90	53.90	54.40
KEC	523.90	523.90	503.85	510.55
KSCL	542.50	569.00	541.75	553.25
SUNTV	514.00	522.05	514.00	517.30
TATAINVEST	1469.00	1546.00	1469.00	1531.20
PIIND	2834.00	2842.40	2791.85	2801.90
FORTIS	292.00	292.00	283.20	286.15
GODREJCP	915.50	924.00	910.00	918.00
BAJAJCON	193.85	196.75	192.70	194.50
IPCALAB	1068.95	1068.95	1045.85	1065.90
NOCIL	260.00	262.30	256.00	258.65
HAPPSTMNDS	1349.50	1349.50	1320.75	1327.00
CAPPL	840.05	868.85	839.40	856.50
OFSS	4154.90	4164.45	4088.70	4090.05
MARICO	498.25	500.80	496.05	499.75
DIXON	5237.00	5310.30	5237.00	5264.00
ICICIGI	1411.00	1427.00	1401.50	1418.90
MINDACORP	191.70	197.80	190.80	193.25
NHPC	31.95	31.95	31.10	31.25
KIMS	1420.00	1458.00	1406.40	1440.00
LUPIN	954.00	962.35	949.00	950.00
JKPAPER	210.10	215.75	209.45	212.20
IRB	252.00	253.70	246.40	249.40
INDIANB	145.00	147.95	144.30	146.15
SKFINDIA	3875.00	3980.30	3875.00	3970.00
LINDEINDIA	2530.00	2624.90	2530.00	2571.00
TVSMOTOR	662.00	664.00	653.15	657.00
STAR	454.00	460.90	453.00	456.20
LALPATHLAB	3730.00	3730.00	3599.60	3637.05
JKCEMENT	3460.60	3538.25	3411.20	3469.45
AARTIIND	1097.75	1115.45	1089.70	1099.40
KNRCON	318.00	321.50	312.40	315.00
HDFCLIFE	670.00	674.90	666.25	671.95
CARBORUNIV	997.25	1002.85	970.10	976.70
MANAPPURAM	169.35	170.90	167.70	168.90
MRF	75790.55	76250.00	75351.20	76001.05
TIINDIA	1800.05	1829.70	1782.45	1798.00
SPARC	317.85	319.75	311.25	312.60
BAJAJ-AUTO	3471.00	3471.00	3426.05	3436.45
IOB	21.00	21.30	20.80	20.90
TORNTPOWER	579.00	584.85	575.70	579.85
BURGERKING	145.85	145.85	142.95	143.55
SHYAMMETL	350.00	355.50	348.00	350.90
HDFCAMC	2458.00	2499.85	2458.00	2473.10
ASAHIINDIA	552.40	581.00	551.45	578.25
GICRE	141.10	145.50	140.50	141.60
SOLARINDS	2277.95	2340.00	2231.00	2233.00
DABUR	581.00	582.45	571.25	576.45
HEROMOTOCO	2600.00	2600.00	2556.40	2566.70
INFIBEAM	40.90	41.20	40.55	40.80
GUJALKALI	721.00	727.00	705.75	715.20
ROUTE	1919.00	1919.00	1876.10	1891.55
DCAL	222.85	223.55	215.10	216.60
STLTECH	274.75	277.60	270.75	274.10
WELSPUNIND	155.50	155.50	149.75	151.25
ABB	2297.75	2354.00	2297.75	2342.20
LUXIND	3640.45	3705.80	3607.90	3697.00
FLUOROCHEM	2785.00	2812.65	2742.00	2790.00
IRCON	46.95	47.45	46.70	47.05
UBL	1632.40	1673.40	1632.40	1651.50

ALLCARGO	364.50	371.50	358.05	365.00
NAVINFLUOR	4150.05	4240.00	4131.15	4193.00
BDL	412.00	444.50	411.55	438.60
BRIGADE	474.10	486.50	470.80	478.50
RAMCOCEM	1021.20	1030.00	1004.45	1007.35
PFC	127.90	128.15	126.65	127.25
SPANDANA	389.30	397.15	387.20	390.00
AAVAS	2784.45	2788.40	2735.30	2769.25
SIS	448.00	448.00	438.35	440.90
HINDZINC	331.55	332.60	328.00	330.40
UCOBANK	13.17	13.40	13.17	13.24
PHOENIXLTD	1026.05	1028.70	995.90	1021.20
CENTRALBK	21.50	21.90	21.50	21.60
GODREJAGRO	538.65	556.40	534.60	550.10
CUB	148.20	149.25	146.40	146.95
PCBL	248.00	248.00	241.25	242.80
BRITANNIA	3760.00	3760.00	3698.45	3702.05
KALYANKJIL	71.75	71.75	69.45	69.90
PAGEIND	44100.05	44692.55	43850.00	44630.70
SONATSOFTW	870.00	879.45	855.00	868.00
SUVENPHAR	549.00	555.00	539.65	550.00
AVANTI	615.20	634.00	615.20	627.50
AARTIDRUGS	523.00	529.20	523.00	527.90
SCI	137.00	140.45	136.60	139.90
HONAUT	43810.05	44800.00	43810.05	44461.55
COROMANDEL	788.00	795.70	781.40	785.50
CANFINHOME	601.10	610.70	594.00	607.00
VAIBHAVGBL	535.00	545.45	533.50	542.15
IIFL	311.00	314.75	306.20	313.00
BLUEDART	7250.00	7253.15	7109.55	7188.15
MAXHEALTH	404.80	404.80	394.05	397.05
SJVN	31.40	31.55	31.10	31.35
HUDCO	42.10	43.00	42.10	42.30
TEAMLEASE	4106.90	4269.95	4010.00	4265.00
MOTILALOFS	952.00	961.95	943.05	953.95
MMTC	44.85	45.40	44.50	44.75
FINCABLES	536.00	536.00	528.30	529.40
GSFC	131.00	132.35	128.80	129.55
BAJAJHLDNG	5312.25	5456.10	5312.25	5436.85
BAJAJELEC	1225.00	1247.00	1214.80	1220.90
GHCL	438.25	444.25	432.30	439.85
POWERINDIA	2646.00	2693.95	2615.55	2636.00
INTELLECT	734.15	761.40	734.15	748.70
CROMPTON	448.25	451.50	445.00	445.35
ATGL	1851.00	1851.00	1770.00	1800.05
APLLTD	806.95	811.25	801.05	804.90
EDELWEISS	74.45	74.65	72.35	72.75
MAZDOCK	273.00	279.85	273.00	278.00
DCBBANK	86.90	87.25	85.20	87.05
JKTYRE	136.55	136.75	135.50	136.40
CREDITACC	570.60	595.10	563.00	595.10
RESPONIND	181.70	185.15	180.25	184.80
JINDALSAW	104.00	105.15	103.05	104.25
DALBHARAT	2005.35	2029.00	1985.00	2004.80
THYROCARE	1056.50	1056.50	1029.10	1035.00
NAM-INDIA	370.00	375.20	365.75	370.90
TORNTPHARM	3183.75	3206.70	3145.95	3190.05
OIL	222.00	222.10	218.00	218.55
VIPIND	582.80	594.00	579.30	584.15
ENGINERSIN	70.70	71.35	70.70	71.00
ITI	119.15	122.60	119.00	119.50
UJJIVANSFB	20.30	20.80	20.30	20.60
CSBBANK	244.00	245.95	241.00	244.15
PRSMJOHNSN	152.10	153.40	147.45	148.55
UFLEX	536.65	543.80	532.15	538.50
PFIZER	4915.95	4946.10	4881.50	4893.00
LEMONTREE	50.70	50.70	49.05	49.95

HAWKINCOOK	5765.05	5857.00	5765.05	5820.00
CCL	424.00	427.25	417.45	420.55
BALAMINES	3663.00	3725.35	3630.00	3639.45
GMM	5067.80	5083.60	4970.05	4993.70
LODHA	1221.00	1221.40	1193.05	1204.75
BASF	3140.00	3155.00	3108.00	3146.90
PTC	110.40	110.60	108.75	110.05
NH	629.40	636.10	614.45	624.55
LAOPALA	400.50	409.20	400.00	404.00
ADANITRANS	2016.95	2030.00	1930.10	2015.35
TTKPRESTIG	985.00	998.00	981.45	995.15
KALPATPOWR	390.85	390.85	382.35	386.20
CEATLTD	1140.00	1145.05	1134.00	1142.00
PETRONET	226.00	227.05	224.50	225.55
JBCHEPHARM	1700.05	1738.10	1700.05	1725.00
GLAND	3731.85	3755.65	3706.00	3723.35
MHRIL	200.50	208.80	200.00	207.40
NETWORK18	90.00	90.50	89.20	89.70
GALAXYSURF	3119.50	3147.20	3100.00	3147.00
KAJARIACER	1352.70	1366.00	1339.00	1363.80
TCNSBRANDS	810.00	812.30	785.95	795.00
GILLETTE	5270.55	5325.00	5180.05	5213.55
MINDAIND	1160.00	1160.00	1130.60	1152.15
RELAXO	1350.00	1350.00	1329.50	1332.30

MAHLOG	695.85	711.85	688.60	704.65
FDC	314.80	316.35	306.55	308.15
SCHAEFFLER	9355.75	9550.00	9319.75	9375.00
TIMKEN	2070.05	2118.80	2059.25	2063.25
NIACL	143.00	143.00	140.55	141.90
DHANUKA	759.95	782.35	742.45	762.50
CASTROLIND	124.00	125.60	123.60	125.60
AMBER	3457.90	3472.15	3438.75	3446.45
PNCINFRA	305.00	309.75	303.00	303.20
IOLCP	465.45	465.45	459.20	462.15
PGHH	15969.20	16155.55	15969.20	15972.15
SYNGENE	629.40	638.95	628.60	635.35
JYOTHYLAB	142.00	142.90	141.30	142.45
RALLIS	280.50	284.50	280.30	282.50
SUDARSCHEM	605.00	608.75	590.00	591.00
SHILPAMED	561.00	570.60	557.00	564.95
ADVENZYMES	329.80	333.80	327.60	332.20
GPPL	101.95	101.95	99.00	99.20
RHIM	410.15	426.90	410.15	420.65
ASTRAZEN	3079.70	3114.05	3050.00	3070.00
GESHIP*	313.80	316.30	311.30	312.80
SFL	3581.10	3704.45	3581.00	3650.00
JMFINANCIL	76.60	76.75	75.50	76.00
CRISIL	2993.60	2995.00	2930.50	2959.60
EMAMILTD	501.00	502.00	499.00	500.00
EIHOTEL	133.15	138.60	132.05	134.75
GLAXO	1765.10	1787.70	1733.30	1756.20
JSWENERGY	309.00	314.00	303.05	308.00
SWANENERGY	173.05	177.85	172.85	173.95
ORIENTELEC	363.50	370.45	363.50	368.50
MAHINDCIE	227.00	229.00	226.35	227.90
INOXLEISUR	379.60	383.40	376.25	377.05
MRPL	44.45	45.45	44.35	44.90
ZYDUSWELL	1860.05	1868.25	1843.15	1859.10
NESCO	612.70	612.70	595.00	595.00
GARFIBRES	3335.00	3351.65	3235.00	3337.50
JKLAKSHMI	588.00	603.50	586.80	595.85
CENTURYPLY	648.00	652.35	644.40	648.15
STARCEMENT	99.95	101.80	99.00	100.20
SAREGAMA	5220.00	5323.90	5203.05	5284.70
ERIS	737.80	748.90	736.55	742.70
MOIL	170.05	172.75	170.05	171.70
KANSAINER	614.10	623.85	604.15	609.50
BLUESTARCO	1021.85	1038.00	1015.65	1034.40
RATNAMANI	1980.00	1980.00	1916.05	1920.00
EQUITAS	120.95	122.40	119.00	119.35
JSLHISAR	390.65	391.75	378.75	383.55
ELGIEQUIP	356.90	361.00	354.20	358.65
MAHLIFE	265.50	266.45	262.80	265.20
NATCOPHARM	935.00	935.00	915.15	921.80
POLYMED	925.00	944.70	918.00	930.00
ANURAS	1049.00	1049.00	1016.45	1017.00
CGCL	516.05	527.05	510.15	526.00
SUPPETRO	732.00	735.00	718.90	726.00
IIFLWAM	1569.70	1641.05	1569.00	1632.00
JUBLPHARMA	569.00	576.00	568.60	571.60
SANOFI	7558.00	7593.85	7548.00	7593.85
WESTLIFE	533.00	537.90	528.00	532.40
BAYERCROP	5027.65	5091.40	5025.00	5065.90
HATSUN	1223.50	1240.00	1215.70	1220.00
AJANTPHARM	2273.65	2315.00	2273.65	2311.65
INDOCO	428.70	442.80	428.65	440.05
EQUITASBNK	58.80	59.95	58.80	59.00
FINEORG	3755.60	3806.70	3710.00	3730.00
UTIAMC	1075.70	1095.00	1073.80	1080.85
DCMSHRIRAM	1021.30	1036.20	999.55	1012.00
QUESS	804.20	812.20	796.15	798.85
SYMPHONY	1050.00	1067.00	1037.70	1067.00
COCHINSHIP	351.95	352.75	348.10	348.50
KIOCL	266.75	269.55	257.90	260.20
HEIDELBERG	236.30	240.00	234.20	237.00
GRINDWELL	1949.95	1950.00	1943.15	1950.00
ASTERDM	184.85	185.45	182.65	183.65
VINATIORGA	2063.30	2085.55	2046.15	2069.25
SUNDRMFAST	905.30	918.55	905.30	907.20
VMART	3892.95	3960.50	3891.05	3944.15
GODREJIND	638.00	643.95	629.35	632.45
CHOLAHLDNG	652.15	652.55	641.30	647.00
RUCHISOYA	919.95	919.95	898.55	901.05
MIDHANI	182.50	183.60	181.80	182.85
BBTC	1107.55	1114.45	1090.85	1100.15
MAHSCOOTER	3995.00	4014.45	3983.00	3999.00
TASTYBIT	14135.05	14135.10	13871.30	13871.30
JCHAC	1951.05	1961.90	1931.20	1941.00
KSB	1241.45	1260.00	1241.40	1250.10
TCIEXP	2236.55	2249.00	2193.00	2193.95
CERA	4948.10	4962.95	4894.10	4926.15
INDOSTAR	273.15	277.00	267.55	267.70
ENDURANCE	1684.00	1708.85	1682.25	1708.85
CHALET	236.00	241.75	234.55	241.00
GODFRYPHLP	1159.80	1160.00	1145.65	1145.65
NILKAMAL	2677.75	2698.00	2642.30	2642.30
SHRIRAMCIT	1794.05	1821.40	1785.90	1792.30
3MINDIA	25105.80	25154.40	25041.45	25154.40
GULFOILLUB	466.90	466.90	457.15	459.05
VSTIND	3210.00	3220.10	3182.30	3214.25
PGHL	5181.90	5201.95	5130.50	5141.50
RITES	275.30	277.75	274.00	275.65
INDIGOPNTS	2076.55	2077.85	2070.00	2075.60
EPL	196.75	197.30	196.00	196.95
AIAENG	1860.55	1888.90	1857.15	1857.15
SUNCLAYLTD	3878.70	3959.30	3878.15	3903.05
IFBIND	1173.70	1184.60	1167.75	1175.50
PSB	16.90	17.05	16.80	16.90
AKZOINDIA	1978.00	1988.65	1978.00	1984.85
ESABINDIA	3389.10	3445.15	3385.40	3417.40
ITDC	372.40	382.65	372.40	377.80
WABCOINDIA	8367.35	8461.10	8367.35	8461.10
MASFIN	597.75	603.95	596.70	598.20

Rich nations dump near expiry Covid jabs on poor countries

IANS ■ LONDON

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

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

Many of world's poorest countries, most of them in Africa, have been relying on UN-backed Covax scheme for their vaccines.

The programme faced challenges in accessing doses early last year, but situation significantly improved towards end of 2021 with wealthier countries releasing doses they were holding. According to provisional tracking by UNICEF, about 910 million doses were delivered through UN-backed initiative as of December 30. Nearly half of doses delivered in December came from three US-backed vaccine manufacturers: Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer.

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

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

UK PM faces fresh 'partygate' allegations at Downing Street

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

It is understood that a call from the Prime Minister's office was made to the Palace on Friday. Restrictions at the time banned indoor mixing between different households and Queen Elizabeth II sat alone during the church ceremony for her late husband in keeping with social distancing rules. "This event should not have happened at the time that it did. I am deeply sorry, and take full responsibility," said James Slack, the UK Prime Minister's former Director of Communications, at the centre of the farewell that led to the party last April.

Slack, now deputy editor-in-chief at 'The Sun' newspaper, apologised"unreservedly for the anger and hurt caused".

While Prime Minister Johnson was not at either of the two gatherings in April 2021 as he was spending the weekend at his Buckinghamshirecountry estate Chequers, the latest revelations add to the saga around rules being broken at the heart of the UK government.

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

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

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

Rishi Sunak: British PM in waiting?

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

If the Tory party murmurings and bookie betting odds are anythingto go by, then the 41-year-old may well be in line to make historyas Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister. "No, definitely not. Seeing what the Prime Minister has to deal with, this is a job hard enough for me to do," Sunak said back in October 2020, when asked if he had prime ministerial ambitions. But a lot has happened since, with Sunak leading the charge for the country's economic fightback against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

to digest when things really come to a leadership scrum.

In fact, there is already talk within the party ranks of him having overplayed his hand by not speaking out more firmly in support of

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

China expanding surveillance systems

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The dam was a BRI project funded mainly by a Chinese-state owned bank and built by a Chinese-state owned electricity generation company. China Labour Watch, an NGO, reported, in April, that overseas Chinese workers working on BRI infrastructure projects in Algeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, and other countries were victims of human trafficking and forced labour, including being deceived into working illegally, held against their will, and forced to work while infected with Covid-19 in early and mid-2020. China is by far largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally, making a major contribution to climate crisis that is taking a mounting toll on human rights around globe.

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

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

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

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

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

The UK Parliament passed a non-binding motion supporting a diplomatic boycott of Games. Members of European Parliament halted EU's proposed Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China, citing human rights concerns, and freezing consideration of deal for as long as they are subject to Beijing's counter sanctions.

In September, they also adopted a recommendation for a new, more assertive, and better coordinated EU strategy on China, placing human rights at its core.

Multinational companies came under greater pressure to withdraw operations from Xinjiang over concerns about forced labor.

Meta faces $3 b lawsuit in UK over exploiting users' data

IANS ■ LONDON

Meta (formerly Facebook) is facing a $3.1 billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a $68 payout each. Competition law expert Dr Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail reported on Thursday.

The lawsuit claims that Facebook should pay its 44 million UK users compensation for the exploitation of their data between 2015 and 2019.

"It is claimed this allowed the firm to generate billions in revenues from their data, while users received no monetary returns, which the claim labels an 'unfair deal', said the report.

The lawsuit alleged that Facebook made billions by "imposing unfair terms and conditions that demanded consumers surrender valuable personal data to access the network".

"In the 17 years since it was created, Facebook became the sole social network in the UK where you could be sure to connect with friends and family in one place," Gormsen said in a statement. "Yet, there was a dark side to Facebook; it abused its market dominance to impose unfair terms and conditions on ordinary Britons giving it the power to exploit their personal data. I'm launching this case to secure billions of pounds of damages for the 44 million Britons who had their data exploited by Facebook," she elaborated. Dr Gormsen is a Senior Research Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) and the director of the Competition Law Forum.

N Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles: Seoul

IANS ■ SEOUL

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

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

FROM PAGE 1

MAURYA, SAINI EMBRACE SP

without advertisement as there were no applicants from Dalit and Backwards communities. I strongly objected and the CM noted down my objection, but still he didn't stop the proposal."

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

"I thought after spending 14 years in exile, the BJP would have learnt its lessons, but it seems that once again they will return to what they were before 2017. I want to tell BJP leaders that after today, there will be a tsunami in the State which will devastate the BJP. I joined hands with Akhilesh Yadav as he is young, educated and able, I will make crores of people stand behind him and will destroy the BJP. I also challenge that whomever I leave, they stand nowhere. Behen Ji (Mayawati) is a living example, till the time I was with her, she was the CM. I left her, today she is nowhere," said Maurya.

Another former BJP Minister who joined the SP, Dharm Singh Saini said, "Today's programme is being held in the party office because of the Model Code of Conduct, otherwise if there was no ban, there would have been more than ten lakh people. We take oath on Makar Sankranti to save the Constitution, and to save the oppressed Dalits from atrocities. We take a pledge that we will form a Samajwadi Government on March 10. The humanity and respect that I got from Akhilesh ji was not found anywhere else because I have been both in the BSP and BJP. Will get you (Akhilesh Yadav) sworn in as Chief Minister in March and will get you sworn in as Prime Minister in 2024."

FIR AGAINST SP OVER GATHERING

has alleged violation of the election code of conduct and Covid norms.

Video clips showed hundreds of party workers gathered at the SP office and a majority of them not wearing masks. "Prima facie, there was violation of COVID-19 norms, and investigations are underway. A team of officials of the district administration and police had gone there," a senior official of the Lucknow district administration said.

The Election Commission has banned public rallies, roadshows and corner meetings till January 15 in the five poll-bound states, citing the fresh surge in Covid-19 cases, and issued stringent safety guidelines.

The Commission listed out 16-point guidelines for campaigning as it banned *'nukkad sabhas'* (corner meetings) on public roads and roundabouts, limited the number of persons allowed for the door-to-door campaign to five, including the candidate, and prohibited victory processions after the counting of votes.

ENTRY INTO CLOUDS LED TO CDS CHOPPER CRASH

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

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

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

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

The CoI investigated all the aspects including the possibility of malfunction in the helicopter mechanism, any technical or human error leading to the accident. The investigators also examined the black box or flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder, they added.

The probe team examined all likely scenarios for the crash, including possible human error or whether it was a case of disorientation of crew when the helicopter was preparing for landing, sources said.

The helicopter crew had not made any distress call to the ground station when it suddenly encountered thick clouds indicating that the pilots were in control of the helicopter. The commander of the flight was Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan and Squadron Leader Kuldeep Singh was the co-pilot. Both of them were highly skilled pilots with Master Green rating, they said. The CIFT phenomenon says the pilot or crew is unaware of the looming disaster until it is too late, and it most commonly occurs in the approach or landing phase of a flight.

Moreover, the CFIT occurs when an airworthy aircraft, while under the complete control of the pilot, is inadvertently flown into terrain, water, or an obstacle.

According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), the term refers to accidents in which in-flight collisions with terrain, water, or another obstacle occur without indication of loss of control.

The United States' Federal Aviation Administration says CFIT is " ... an unintentional collision with terrain (ground, mountain, body of water, or an obstacle) while an aircraft is under positive control." The critical distinction in such incidents is the fact the aircraft is under control of the flight crew.

BATTING HAS LET US DOWN, RUES KOHLI

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

India Test captain Virat Kohli rued the batting failures in the 2-1 series loss to South Africa. He added that the team will continue to back the under-fire senior batters Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane despite their failures in the three-match series. After leading 1-0, India went on to lose the next two matches in Johannesburg and Cape Town to squander a chance of winning their first-ever Test series in South Africa.

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

BUDGET SESSION OF PARLTO BEGIN ON JAN 31

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, it would be mandatory for MPs as well as those entering the Parliament complex to have a negative RT-PCR report and a fully vaccinated certificate, parliamentary sources said.

A decision on whether the two Houses should meet simultaneously or in separate shifts to ensure that not many people are present in the complex to ensure distancing norms is yet to be taken, the sources said.

The Monsoon Session of 2020 was the first full Session held under Covid protocol with the Rajya Sabha meeting in the first half of the day and the Lok Sabha during the second half. The same was followed for the first part of the Budget Session during 2021.

For the second part of the Budget Session and Monsoon and Winter Sessions last year, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha reverted to normal timings, but with members sitting in the chambers and galleries of respective Houses to ensure distancing.

BISHOP MULAKKAL ACQUITTED

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

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

This was the first case filed against a Bishop of the Catholic Church in India under sections of rape, molestation and assault. While the investigation team took their own time in pursuing the leads, the civil society in Kerala staged demonstrations and marches demanding the arrest of the accused. A group of nuns, including the victim, sat on a fast in front of the Kerala High Court demanding the arrest of the Bishop.

He was arrested on September 22, 2018 by the Kerala Police. On October 15, 2018, he was granted bail by the Kerala High Court. Though he had approached the judiciary with requests to discharge him from the case, the trial court, the High Court and the Supreme Court had rejected his pleas.

INDIA'S BRAHMOS TO ARM PHILIPPINE NAVY

Philippines signed an implementing arrangement in March last year for the Government- to- Government deals regarding military equipment including the BrahMos missile.

The Philippines will acquire the BrahaMos missile which can cover a target range of 290 kms with a capability to carry a 200 kg warhead. India has other variants of this missile also having a range of more than 400 kms.

This deal came about in the backdrop of India engaging with several Southeast Asian countries including Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam for the sale of the missile system, they added. India's ties with the Philippines were stepped up in the past few years. The two countries signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence and Logistics in 2018. In 2020, an MoU on Sharing of White Shipping Information (non-military/non-government shipping vessel information) was signed. In 2019, the Philippine Navy participated in a group sail in the South China Sea along with the navies of India, the United States, and Japan.

India has inducted the land and sea version of the BrahMos into its security architecture. The supersonic cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, and land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The Army and Navy have already inducted the highly versatile missile. Given the effectiveness of the missile capable of hitting targets at a range of more than 350 kms, operational commanders have deployed the BrahMos at various critical points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China.

SOUTH INDIA, UP SEE COVID SURGE, +VE CASES IN DELHI, MUMBAI DIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday's positivity rate in Delhi is the highest since May 1 last year, when it was 31.6 per cent.

The national Capital reported 34 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the death count to 25, 305.

Mumbai reported 11,317 fresh Covid-19 cases and nine deaths on Friday as against 13,702 cases on Thursday. Nearly eighty-five per cent of the fresh cases are asymptomatic and don't require any hospitalisation.

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

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday visited the "E-Sanjeevani" hub at CGHS headquarters in Delhi to review services being provided. He interacted with the doctors providing teleconsultation and personally viewed some sessions. "Tele-medicine services have been very useful in Covid. This E-Sanjeevani platform is used for teleconsultation. Lakhs of people use the platform every day to seek doctors', experts' advice.

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

SHORTCIRCUITS

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

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

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

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

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

ONE STEP AT A TIME

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

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

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

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

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

Further, while talking about *Grahan,* where Gabbi played the role of Manu, she elaborates, "*Grahan* was…. the first show, the first project I did after the pandemic. At our meeting, director Ranjan Chandel read paragraphs from the book *Chaurasi/84* which touched my heart. He read out Manu and Rishi's love story which gave me goosebumps. While listening, Manu started seeming to be very beautiful and I got so excited that I would get to play this character. And Ranjan, Anshuman... all of us started preparing for our characters and Ranjan sir helped all of us in getting in the skin and bringing out the minute details."

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

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

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

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

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

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

A GOOD PERSON

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

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

"We are living in a society where people dare to tread on other people to survive," he said in a pre-taped interview by the Seoul-based Corea Image Communication Institute. "But I still believe that this society doesn't have to be one where we need to kill others and override them to go up."

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

The simplicity of the children's games and satire of modern capitalist society in *Squid Game* won enthusiastic response across the world, becoming the most successful Netflix show in history. It was viewed for more than 1.65 billion hours in the first four weeks after its release on September 17 last year.

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

—*IANS*

Coexistence shows the way

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

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

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

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

He continues, "As far as theatres are concerned, theatres were, are and always will be an integral part of the society's ecosystem. I definitely don't see it going away anywhere, just that the consumption patterns will evolve. I foresee a clear divide on the kind of content people will want to watch on the big screens vs what they will like to consume on their devices at home. Both mediums will happily co-exist and thrive."

He adds, "Being a massive film buff myself and having seen pretty much all aspects of filmmaking, I can say for sure that nothing can replace the immersive cinema experience and the joy & thrill that it brings along with it. So yes, movies get made – while some will be designed especially for home screens and some for the bigger ones."

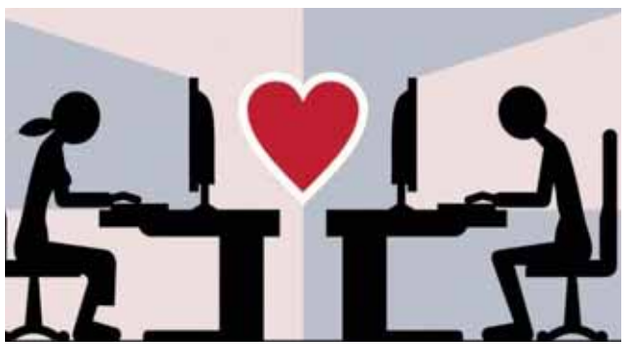
In his opinion, OTT and theatres will coexist in the near future, "Today, we are in an era of entertainment where both these mediums attract audiences. The kind of cinema will get differentiated."

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

—*IANS*

Online dating, a new norm

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



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

Eagerness to get out and meet new people

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

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

The sweet spot between video calls and restaurant dates.

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

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

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

A combination of online and physical dates, according to 44 per cent of women, is the greatest option for pursuing a romantic relationship.

Challenges that stem from dating the 'hybrid' way

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

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

IANS

South Africa wrap up series with seven-wicket win

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was one of the strongest Indian teams on paper against one of the weakest South African teams on paper.

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

"The way our bowling unit delivered throughout the series is brilliant.

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

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

India's batters were far too dependant on bowlers to bail them out for the past few years but this series showed that this attack is human too even though they put their best foot forward, which wasn't complemented at all by the willow wielders.

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

Petersen was beaten time and again but, in between, scored his runs to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Their strategy was to see off the first spell and capitalise when Umesh Yadav, who is known to bowl boundary balls, was brought into the attack.

Bumrah, in his second spell, did get one to straighten but Cheteshwar Pujara, enduring a poor series with the bat, dropped a crucial regulation slip catch with the batter on 59.

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

It was Shardul Thakur who finally had the young man played on but by then Petersen had ensured a series win for his team.

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

The scores of 202, 223 and 198 is the reason India lost and the second innings effort at both Wanderers and Newlands showed that Indian bowlers could only do as much.

The heavy duty tirade against the host broadcasters Supersport with their customised diatribe did not look good in the face of a dismal performance.

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

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

It's far from truth but it works well for him to push the envelope.

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

Once Bavuma started hitting those boundaries, the strokes did the answering.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

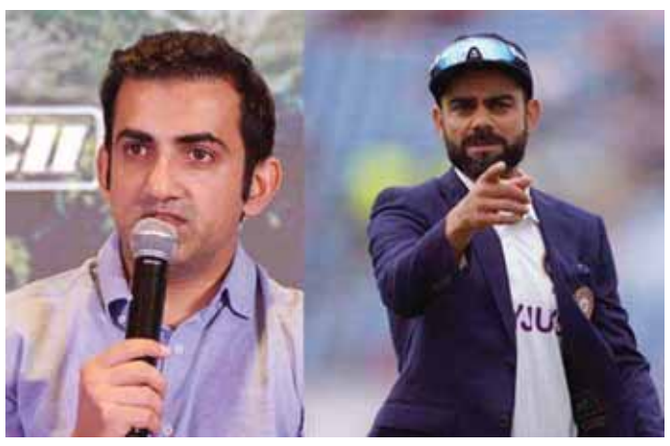
Virat Kohli's outburst against a controversial DRS decision during the third Test against South Africa was "immature" and with such "exaggerated" reaction, the India skipper will never be a role model for youngsters, feels former opener Gautam Gambhir.

Kohli, his deputy KL Rahul and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin made some unsavoury comments about umpiring and technology in stump mic after rival skipper Dean Elgar got a massive reprieve due to a contentious DRS decision in the last hour on day 3 on Thursday.

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

Australian great Shane Warne felt the ball was hitting the stumps.

"That's going on to smash half way up middle though, there is no way that's going over, even Erasmus shook his head," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox Sports.



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

"Then technology isn't in your hand. Then you have reacted in the same manner when there was a caught-behind appeal on the leg-side, neither did Dean Elgar react in that manner. During that Mayank Agarwal appeal, it looked out from the naked eye, but Elgar did not react in that manner," he said.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan was critical of the Indian skipper.

"I think that is disgraceful from the Indians personally," Vaughan said on Fox Sports.

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

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

In the 21st over, Elgar was adjudged LBW by on-field umpire Marais Erasmus when he was hit on the pads by an Ashwin delivery. However, the decision was overturned on review.

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

Rahul and Ashwin also expressed similar reactions.

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

AP ■ HOBART

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

Head, who scored 152 in the opening test at Brisbane, counterpunched England's early success with an aggressive 101 off 113 balls in the day-night test as Australia came back strongly after losing the toss.

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

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

Head, who missed the Sydney Test due to the coronavirus, first put the innings back on track with a 71-run stand with Labuschagne, but not before Zak Crawley had dropped Labuschagne at second slip before the batter had scored.

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

"I was really conscious of making the right decisions -- attacking the right balls, defending the right ones, being hard to get out.

I felt like I came into this test ready to go."

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

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

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

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

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

India flew into the Caribbean straight after their Asia Cup triumph and tuned up for the ICC event with wins over hosts West Indies and Australia in the warm-up games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skipper Dhull, who is a highly rated batter in Delhi cricket circles, did not do anything noticeable in the Asia Cup but his back-to-back fifties in the warm-up games show he is in good touch. All-rounder Raj Bawa, who bowls right-arm medium pace and bats left-handed, will also play a crucial role for the team.

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

"There is a huge legacy since India has done so well in this tournament.

It doesn't help that we have won four times. There is a new team, so you have to start afresh," said Kanitkar adding that the players are also getting used to bi-bubble life in COVID times.

India are placed in Group B alongside South Africa, Ireland and Uganda. Top two teams qualify for the knockouts.

The game against South Africa is likely to be the toughest one for India.

The 2014 edition winners South Africa's chances of success on home soil were ended at the quarter-final stage two years ago.

All-rounder Dewald Brevis has generated maximum attention in the junior Proteas camp.

He played in the CSA Provincial T20 Knockout competition in October and his batting style drew comparisons with AB de Villiers, while his leg-spin caused West Indies plenty of problems in a recent warm-up series against the hosts.

Left-arm spinner Asakhe Tsaka and captain George van Heerden will also hope to make a name for themselves in the coming weeks as South Africa look for a second title.

Ireland beats West Indies in rain-hit 2nd ODI

AP ■ KINGSTON

Ireland beat the West Indies by five wickets in a rain-interrupted second one-day international at Sabina Park.

Ireland was chasing 230 to win and was well ahead of the run rate at 157-4 in the 32nd over when rain stopped play for 90 minutes.

When the match resumed, the Duckworth-Lewis method reduced Ireland's ask to 168 from 36 overs, or 11 more runs from 28 balls. The Irish knocked them off in seven balls, winning on a pair of no balls at 168-5.

Victory tied the series 1-1, with the deciding ODI on Sunday on the same ground.

This ODI was rescheduled from Tuesday, when Ireland was too depleted to field a side because of five coronavirus cases and two injured players. Four weren't available on Thursday, including captain Andy Balbirnie.

The West Indies successfully defended 269 last Saturday but not so much 229, which was boosted by 30 extras.

William Porterfield and stand-in skipper Paul Stirling gave Ireland a flying start of 37 in the first five overs.

Harry Tector anchored the show with 54 not out off 75 balls, his second straight half-century and fourth in his last five ODIs.

Tector featured in stands of 44 with Andy McBrine, who added 35, and 53 with Curtis Campher.

McBrine also starred with the ball when West Indies was made to bat first.

The West Indies was cautious from the start and medium-pacer Craig Young took advantage with the first three wickets, all cheap. He took out openers Shai Hope, Justin Greaves and No. 3 Nicholas Pooran to have 3-12 off four overs.

McBrine's offspin was introduced in the 18th over with West Indies 53-3, and he claimed Roston Chase then Kieron Pollard for 1.

Sharmarh Brooks, who made 93 in the first ODI, held the innings together again until he was out lbw for 43 off 64 balls, attempting to sweep left-arm spinner George Dockrell.

The West Indies didn't look like reaching 200 at 143-7 in the 40th, but Odean Smith immediately hit two sixes over McBrine's head, hit two more against Campher, and swatted Mark Adair over the long off fence. Smith made 46 off 19 balls in a partnership of 58 with Romario Shepherd to get West Indies over 200.

Shepherd then hit four boundaries and was the last man out with two overs left while trying to pull McBrine, who took 4-36.

Rajapksa withdraws decision to retire from international cricket

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Ten days after announcing his retirement from international cricket, batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa has made himself available to play for Sri Lanka "for years to come." The 30-year-old had tendered his letter of resignation to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on January 3. However, after meeting the Sri Lankan Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa recently, the Southpaw has changed his mind. "Pursuant to a meeting with the Hon. Namal Rajapaksa – Minister of Youth & Sports and after consulting with the National Selectors, Bhanuka Rajapaksa has notified SLC that he wishes to withdraw his resignation which he tendered to SLC on 3rd Jan. 2022, with immediate effect," a SLC stated in a media release. "In his letter to SLC withdrawing his resignation, he further states that he wishes to represent his country.

Isolation hitch threatens NZ-Aus white-ball series

AP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand's white-ball cricket tour to Australia later this month is in doubt because of extended border restrictions which require the team to have isolation places booked for their return.

The Black Caps are due to leave for Australia on Jan. 24, to play one-day matches on Jan. 30, Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 and a Twenty20 international at Canberra on Feb. 8.

New Zealand Cricket didn't book places in managed isolation for the team in February because they anticipated the implementation in mid-January of a policy which would allow New Zealand citizens and residents returning from Australia to do so without going through managed isolation.

The change has now been delayed until late February because of the emergence of the omicron variant which New Zealand so far has contained at the border.

New Zealand Cricket on Friday said it expects the Australian tour to go ahead but is discussing options with Cricket Australia. That might include rescheduling or delaying the team's return from Australia.

A spokesperson told media the team will not travel to Australia unless a plan is in place for its return.

Sindhu, Sen enter semifinals of India Open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and world championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen registered contrasting wins to advance to the women's and men's singles semifinals, respectively, at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament here on Friday. Top seed Sindhu, a former world champion, got the better of compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-7 21-18 in 36 minutes, while Sen rallied his way to a hard-fought 14-21 21-9 21-14 victory over H S Prannoy in another all-Indian quarterfinal.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded Yeo Jia Min of Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever".

Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the semifinals.

In the other women's semifinal, Aakarshi Kashyap will face second seeded Thai Busanan Ongbamrungphan after the Indian notched up a 21-12 21-15 win over compatriot Malvika Bansod on Friday.

Busanan trounced USA's Lauren Lam 21-12 21-8 in another last-eight clash.

Second seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also entered the semifinals with a 21-18 21-18 win ver Singapore's Hee Yong Kai TerryAnd Loh Kean Hean.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded Yeo Jia Min of Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever." Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the semifinals.

Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayan and Ashna Roy also made it to the last four in women's doubles after beating Rudrani Jaiswal and Jamaludeen Anees Kowsar 21-16 21-16 in the quarterfinals.

The last time Sindhu was up against Chaliha, at the 83rd Yonex-Sunrise Senior National Championship in 2019, the youngster from Assam had produced a spirited performance.

On Friday, Chaliha took time to get into the groove and put up a good fight in the second game but couldn't stop Sindhu from walking away with the match.

Sindhu came out all guns blazing in the opening game, jumping to a 11-5 lead at the interval and then reeled off the last 10 points to earn the bragging rights.

Chaliha gave a better account of herself in the second game as she tied 9-9 before Sindhu managed a slender one-point advantage at the break. Sindhu zoomed to 15-11 but Chaliha again clawed her way back to 15-15.

Thereafter, Sindhu switched gears and grabbed four match points. Chaliha saved two match points before Sindhu closed out the tie.

In men's singles, it was the first international meeting but third overall between Sen and Prannoy as the duo engaged in a battle of supremacy. On a comeback trail, Prannoy, who had reached the quarterfinals at the last world championships, dominated the proceedings initially to secure a 6-2 lead. He got his acts together in time to turn the tables at 12-10 and then zoomed from 15-14 to pocket the opening game.

"The pace was high in the first game as both of us tried to up the pace but I made errors at 13-13 and it cost me the game," Sen said.

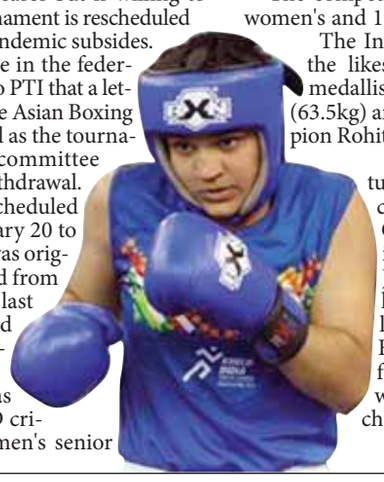
Sen, however, roared back into the contest in the second game as he ran up a huge 12-5 lead and didn't look back from that point, as Prannoy crumbled. In the decider, Prannoy took the early initiative, opening up a 6-1 advantage but couldn't sustain it as Sen moved to 11-9 at the interval and then pocketed nine of the next 11 points to seal the match in his favour.

India withdraws from Asian Under-22 boxing championship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Boxing Federation of India has decided to pull out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women in Tashkent, Uzbekistan due to the global surge in COVID-19 cases but is willing to participate if the tournament is rescheduled to a time when the pandemic subsides.

A reliable source in the federation has confirmed to PTI that a letter has been sent to the Asian Boxing Confederation as well as the tournament's organising committee confirming India's withdrawal.



The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30. The Asian event was originally slated to be held from December 7 to 17 last year but was postponed because of the pandemic.

Indian boxing has been hit by a COVID crisis of its own. The men's senior national camp in Patiala has reported 26 cases, including 20 boxers.

Boxers born in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are eligible to compete in the event that is being held for the first time in the continent.

The competition was to be held in 12 women's and 13 men's weight categories.

The Indian men's squad featured the likes of Asian youth bronze-medallist Mohammed Etash Khan (63.5kg) and reigning national champion Rohit Mor (60kg) among others.

The women's squad featured the likes of world youth champion Arundhati Chaudhary (71kg) and international medallist Jaismine (63kg). Chaudhary had recently made the headlines by taking the Boxing Federation of India to court for not holding trials in her weight category for the world championships in Turkey.

HI announces core probable group for women's hockey team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday announced a new-look core probable group for the senior women's team which will play in many major international tournaments this year. The group was selected following selection trials held in Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru for a group of 60 who were called-in on the basis of their performances in various national level events. "It is time for us to start afresh and plan for the future. We have grown over the past year with our experiences in Tokyo and we must continue to develop, and grow in the coming years, ahead of Paris 2024," India women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release issued by Hockey India. While an 18-member Indian team, led by Savita, will be travelling to Muscat for the upcoming women's hockey Asia Cup, the remaining players from the core group will stay on at the camp and continue to train for the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha next month. "The upcoming camp is important for us to recognise the players who are ready to showcase their skills on the biggest stages, and also to work on the areas where we need to improve upon," Schopman said. List of players: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Suman Devi Thoudam, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Mahima Chaudhary, Rashmita Minz, Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Namita Toppo.

First target is to make quarters, which is realistic one: Dennerby

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby said his side is well prepared and its first realistic target is to reach the quarterfinals of the upcoming AFC Asian Women's Cup.

Hosts India will open their campaign against Iran on January 20. "I said from the beginning when we started, we said that yes, to come to the quarter-final is our first target, first aim," Dennerby said during a virtual media interaction in the run-up to the continental tournament on Friday.

"And if we come all the way to the quarterfinal, everything can happen because when we are in quarterfinal and it's a knock-out stage, everybody, all teams will play under pressure. But definitely (reaching) quarterfinals is our target and we also think it's a realistic target."

The Indian team has been drawn against Iran (January 20), Chinese Taipei (January 23) and China (January 26) in Group A of the competition that consists of 12 teams.

Talking about the opposition, Dennerby said: "It is (like) three different teams with three different playing styles. I guess the first game against Iran will be a tough one for us because what we have seen so far (they are) defending very well. They are organized and they will play low, defending.

"They also have one really good striker that's always on the run. So, even if we dominate the game, as a defender you always have to be on your toes.

"They are also good on set pieces, they scored a lot of goals on free-kicks and corners, so we also need to be very sharp on that (front). Don't give them any corners or easy free-kicks," he added.

According to Dennerby, India's second game against Chinese Taipei will be an "equal game" but the final match against China will be a tough one.

"Finally, China, I will say from my point of view; classical Asian style with a lot of short passes with good combinations. It is going to be a tough one, of course, but still China is not at the level they were a couple of years ago and they won this tournament. But still a very good team and probably the toughest game for us," he noted.

The 62-year-old Swede said that the team is well prepared for the marquee tournament.

"We have (had) such a long preparation time now and we have been together for more than five months. In total there are over 200 different sessions including football, strength, running sessions and game against proper teams and different styles and all that. So, yeah, we finally feel that we are really well prepared now."

For Dennerby, all the 23 players are important as he refused to single out a player when asked who would be his trump card.

"For us, all the 23 players are very important and I hope that all players are prepared and ready to play," Dennerby said.

Visa revoked again, Djokovic faces deportation

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic faces deportation again after the Australian government revoked his visa for a second time, the latest twist in the ongoing saga over whether the No 1-ranked tennis player will be allowed to compete in the Australian Open despite being unvaccinated for COVID-19.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said Friday he used his ministerial discretion to cancel the 34-year-old Serb's visa on public interest grounds — just three days before play begins at the Australian Open, where Djokovic has won a record nine of his 20 Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic's lawyers were expected to appeal at the Federal Circuit and Family Court, which they already successfully did last week on procedural grounds after his visa was first canceled when he landed at a Melbourne airport.

A hearing was scheduled for Friday night.

Deportation from Australia can lead to a three-year ban on returning to the country, although that may be waived, depending on the circumstances.

Hawke said he cancelled the visa on "health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so."

His statement added that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government "is firmly committed to protecting Australia's borders, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Morrison himself welcomed Djokovic's pending deportation. The whole episode has touched a nerve in Australia, and particularly in Victoria state, where locals went through hundreds of days of lockdowns during the worst of the pandemic and there is a vaccination rate among adults of more than 90%.

Australia is currently facing a massive surge in virus cases driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant. On Friday, the nation reported 130,000 new cases, including nearly 35,000 in Victoria state.

Although many infected people aren't getting as sick as they did in previous outbreaks, the surge is still putting severe strain on the health system, with more than 4,400 people hospitalized. It's also causing disruptions to workplaces and supply chains.

"This pandemic has been incredibly difficult for every Australian but we have stuck together and saved lives and livelihoods. ... Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected," Morrison said in a statement.

"This is what the Minister is doing in taking this action today."

Everyone at the Australian Open — including players, their support teams and spectators — is required to be vaccinated for the illness caused by the coronavirus. Djokovic is not inoculated and had sought a medical exemption on the grounds that he had COVID-19 in December.

That exemption was approved by the Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, apparently allowing him to obtain a visa to travel. But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa when he landed in Melbourne on January 5.

Djokovic spent four nights in an immigration detention hotel before a judge on Monday overturned that decision. That ruling allowed Djokovic to move freely around Australia and he has been practicing at Melbourne Park daily to prepare to play in a tournament he has won each of the past three years.

He had a practice session originally scheduled for mid-afternoon Friday at Rod Laver Arena, the tournament's main stadium, but pushed that to the morning and was finished several hours before Hawke's decision was announced in the early evening.

An Australian Open spokeswoman said tournament organizers did not have any immediate comment on the latest development in Djokovic's situation, which has overshadowed all other story lines heading into the year's first Grand Slam event.

Mauritius' Pandoo appointed as first HPD for weightlifting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has approved the appointment of Mauritian Aveenash Pandoo as the first High Performance Director (HPD) for weightlifting until the 2024 Paris Olympics. His appointment was recommended by the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Foreign Coach Selection Committee in conjunction with officials of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF). According to a statement issued by the SAI, his annual salary will be USD 54,000 (approx Rs 40.50 lakh).

The HPD has been appointed with specific focus on development of junior talent, with an eye on 2028 Olympics and to create strong coaching structure with a capabilities

Imran Khan to visit China for Beijing Winter Olympics

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be travelling to Beijing next month to attend the opening ceremony of Winter Olympics, bolster the all-weather bilateral ties and seek more investments in various projects under the ambitious CPEC, the Foreign Office said here on Thursday.

The Beijing Winter Olympics will be held from February 4 to 20, followed by the Paralympics Winter Games from March 4-13, amid a diplomatic boycott by several Western countries, including the US and the UK over concerns of China's alleged human rights abuses.

"The premier will be embarking on a three-day visit to Beijing from February 3 on the invitation of the Chinese leadership," Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said during his weekly news briefing.

Khan will also have an interaction with the Chinese leadership to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to exchange views on regional and international issues, Iftikhar said.

Khan's visit is considered significant because several western and European countries have announced a diplomatic boycott of the event.

Tensions have risen between China and several Western countries over a number of issues.

Pakistan welcomes the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping as a timely and good intention to facilitate implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The US has accused China of genocide in its repression of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur minority in the western region of Xinjiang - an allegation China has rejected.

While projects pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be key to the talks between the two sides, Iftikhar opined that Khan's visit would help promote international cooperation required to overcome the challenges faced due to the ongoing pandemic and open up avenues of collaboration with other developing countries.

The USD 60 billion CPEC connecting China's resource-rich Xinjiang province with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan is regarded as the flagship project of the multi-billion Belt and Road initiative, the pet scheme of Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at furthering China's influence globally with Chinese funded infrastructure projects.

Iftikhar said that Pakistan welcomes the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping as a timely and good intention to facilitate implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

"Pakistan and China are global partners, and we look forward to further strengthening this partnership under China's Global Development Initiative," he added.