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# Step up Covid testing, States told

Detection, isolation  
key to stem spread  
of pandemic: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

ponent.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

## Covid cases rise 58 times in 3 weeks in paramilitary forces

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

cases in the Border Security Force (BSF).

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

Continued on Page 11

## MODEL CODE VIOLATION AT PARTY OFFICE

# Be careful in future, EC cautions SP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission had on Saturday let off the Samajwadi Party with a light rap for violating COVID-19 norms on its office premises last week, advising it to be careful and ensure such breaches do not happen in the future.

Considering that it is the first reported violation during the current round of elections on the part of the Samajwadi Party, the Commission advised it to follow all the extant guidelines diligently, according to an order.

The poll panel also asked the party to instruct its members to adhere to COVID-19

guidelines during the period of elections "without fail".

The Election Commission had on Saturday issued a notice to the Samajwadi Party for organising a public gathering in the name of virtual rally at its Lucknow office in violation of COVID-19 norms.

The Commission noted that necessary cases have already been lodged in view of the violations, which it said, "will take its own logical conclusion".

The EC order noted the Samajwadi Party's reply to the notice where the Akhilesh Yadav-led party had denied any violation.

An FIR was lodged under

relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Disaster Management Act against 2000-2500 political functionaries of Samajwadi Party on January 14.

The party has, however, submitted that it had received several applications for grant of tickets to contest the assembly polls. It said candidates are being interviewed and being allowed entry in office complex only if they follow-19 COVID protocols.

The procedure of interview is a part of the election process and has not been prohibited by the Election Commission under its guidelines, the party observed.

## 3 Navy officers killed in blast on warship

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

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

In a statement issued late in the evening, the Navy said, "In an unfortunate incident today at Naval Dockyard Mumbai, three naval person-

nel succumbed to injuries caused by an explosion in an internal compartment onboard INS Ranvir. The ship's crew responded immediately and quickly brought the situation under control. No major material damage has been reported."

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

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

A preliminary probe indicated the blast had nothing to do with weapons or ammunition explosion. The court or board of inquiry will investigate all the angles, sources said. The fourth of the five Rajput-class destroyers, INS Ranvir was commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 28, 1986.

## Bhagwant Mann picked as AAP's Punjab CM face



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

PTI

MONIKA MALIK ■  
CHANDIGARH/MOHALI

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

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

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

AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced Mann as "AAP da CM" in Punjab. **Continued on Page 11**

## Channi's nephew among men raided for illegal mining

Cong cries foul

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

PTI

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

## R-Day events shadowed by Covid to have many firsts

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

PTI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

A bench of Justices Sanjay



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

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

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

Continued on Page 11



# SP's door-to-door campaign from today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that his party would launch a door-to-door campaign to register domestic consumers for up to 300 units of free electricity in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. Yadav said in a press conference here on Tuesday that the new scheme that would be implemented if the SP was voted to power in the upcoming assembly election would be launched on Wednesday.

Yadav had announced the free power scheme on January 1.

The SP chief said that 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers and free power for irrigation to farmers would be the "number one promise" in the SP manifesto that would soon be formally released.

"While filling up forms to avail the scheme, the applicants should fill in the name exactly as mentioned in their power bill, or Aadhaar card and ration card," Yadav explained.

The SP cadre would get the forms filled in a door-to-door campaign from Wednesday onwards, he said.

Speaking on SP's manifesto for the upcoming election, Akhilesh said the party's manifesto had taken into consideration the suggestions of the general public, various communities such as that of doctors, traders and farmers.



Akhilesh Yadav with Abdullah Azam during a press conference on Tuesday

## Mamta to campaign virtually for SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamta Banerjee will campaign for the Samajwadi Party in the Uttar Pradesh assembly election.

She is likely to address her first rally on February 8 through virtual mode. In the first phase of assembly elections, 58 constituencies will go to polls on February 10.

Akhilesh Yadav had requested the TMC chief to campaign in UP. She has already extended her party's support to the Samajwadi Party-led alliance. The UP

polls will be held in seven phases from February 10 to March 7 to elect 403 legislators. The votes will be counted on March 10.

Akhilesh Yadav has sent Samajwadi Party national vice-president Kiranmoy Nanda to Kolkata.

Nanda said, "Mamata Banerjee is undoubtedly one of the tallest leaders today. She is a strong political force against the Bharatiya Janata Party. The way she battled back to power in Bengal is commendable. The entire country saw how she fought against the BJP and showed them the door. Therefore, we want her to campaign for us virtually for

the UP elections," Nanda said and added, "Due to COVID-19 restrictions and as per our initial plan, we are opting for a virtual political campaign and everything will be finalised soon."

Nanda said, "Mamta Banerjee is a strong leader and she is very popular nationally. She silenced everyone with her thumping majority in Bengal. You must have noticed how a large number of people are turning up at Akhilesh Yadav's rallies and, on the other side, chairs are empty in BJP rallies in UP. We personally felt that she can add momentum to our campaign."

crops, interest-free loans, insurance and pension to farmers, Rs 5 lakh to cyclists who die in road accidents and Rs 5 lakh to those who die in bull attack.

Akhilesh Yadav defended the party's leader and candidate from Kairana in Shamli district Nahid Hasan, presently in jail after being booked by the police under UP Gangster Act. He said Nahid Hasan had been framed on fake charges and a large number of SP leaders had been arrested and sent to jail on trumped up charges by the Yogi Adityanath government. He said the district police had booked Nahid Hasan, his mother and 38 others under the Gangster Act in February 2021.

Abdullah Azam, son of the SP MP Mohammad Azam Khan was also present in the press conference. Azam Khan has been in jail since the last two years and Abdullah Azam was released from jail last week.

Abdullah Azam is likely to contest the assembly election from Rampur assembly seat. Abdullah was first elected to assembly in 2017 from Swar Tanda constituency in Rampur district. His election was quashed by the Allahabad High Court in 2018 and he was disqualified from the membership of the UP Assembly on grounds of fake birth certificate. He was later arrested on this charge and was in jail for nearly two years.

## AAP announces 20 more candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Aam Aadmi Party announced the second list of its 20 candidates for the UP assembly elections.

AAP state president Sabhajeet Singh asked the candidates to contest the election with full confidence and go for a campaign in a big way. He said the party would contest all the 403 seats in the election.

On Sunday, AAP had announced the list of 150 candidates. AAP is fielding

Veerpal Singh from Hapur, Jeewan Lal Jatav from Baldev seat in Mathura, Anmol from Hastinapur seat, Sumit Jatav (Sumit Singh Rann from Etmadpur seat in Agra, Banwari Lal Sharma from Khairagarh, Sunita Sharma from Barauli, Sushil Kumar Baghel from Chharra, Manoj Sharma from Kol, Harendra Singh from Bulandshahr, Jagveer Singh Pradhan from Sikandarabad, Lalit Yadav from Ghaziabad, Anant Kaushik from Govardhan, Krishna Sharam from

Mathura, Rahul from Kithor, Sanjay Gupta from Sardhana, Kuldeep alias Kalyan Gautam from Sivalkhaas, Yavar Roshan from Charthawal, Firdaus Khan from Khatauli, Abha Sharma from Muzaffarnagar and Amit Sharma from Kairana seat.

The AAP state president asked the party workers and leaders to work hard for the success in the election while focusing on the party manifesto and the Kejriwal model of governance.

## Sharma questions AKY's free electricity promise

**Lucknow (PNS):** Reacting to the promise of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav that his government would give 300 units of electricity free, UP's Energy Minister Shrikant Sharma asked how a government which provided free electricity to just four districts during its rule would give free electricity in the entire state.

Sharma, who is also the government spokesman, said that before 2017, the poor could neither get a house nor electricity. He said that the Yogi Adityanath government had given 1.41 crore free electricity connections and brought light to every village.

He further attacked Akhilesh Yadav and said people knew how much free electricity they got during the SP regime.

"Corruption was the buzz word in the SP government, commission was fixed and there was darkness in villages. Our government has provided electricity to the homes of every poor. This is the reason that today electricity is being supplied for 18 hours in villages and for 24 hours in tehsils and cities," he said.

## Murmurs growing in SP over entry of 'defectors'

**Lucknow (PNS):** Samajwadi Party is closely analysing the political consequences of the spate of inductions of leaders from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies as murmurs are growing. The SP, claiming to be at a striking distance from power in March 2022, has welcomed the "revolving door politicians" ministers and MLAs from the BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party.

"The party will have to do a close scrutiny whether in the face of incumbency and limited clout, the defectors will be a boon or liability. There is a difference between being a leader from a caste and being the caste's undisputed leader," a SP leader said.

The BJP has witnessed desertion by OBC leaders such as Swami Prasad

Maurya, Om Prakash Rajbhar and Dharm Singh Saini. The defections to SP has prompted speculation regarding the state elections, the key question being whether these leaders bring in enough electoral heft to fill the vote gap of over 10 per cent between the BJP and the principal challenger SP.

The SP leaders apprehending threat to their clout in the party say "the party leadership will, have to categorically establish whether these turncoats from the BJP ensured three successive victories of the BJP in 2014, 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2017 UP assembly elections or was it the Narendra Modi wave that helped these leaders win their respective seats after joining the BJP bandwagon".

Specifically targeting Swami

Prasad Maurya, a SP leader said, "In his over three-decade-long political career, Swami Prasad Maurya has been in six different political parties. Did his switching sides on the last five occasions make any headlines whatsoever? Did his entry into the BJP a couple of years back make any headlines on that matter?"

The over reliance shown by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav over Om Prakash Rajbhar, is also being questioned in the party. At present, the defectors from the BJP are not influential beyond a few districts and their claim to transfer votes across the entire state is disputed by the Samajwadi Party leaders.

Moreover, SP sources pointed out, "The BJP MLAs who switched sides were to be denied tickets by the BJP for

2022 elections and in 2017 they had defected to the BJP from other parties and do not represent the organic BJP cadre."

A former minister in Akhilesh Yadav government said, "The OBC leaders deserting the BJP were left with no options in the BJP and they flocked to the SP only to protect their political future."

"If the rebellion and desertion by sitting MLAs were to be a metric for measuring the political trend, then the BJP should have won West Bengal assembly elections. The BJP was able to attract several leaders from Trinamool Congress in the run-up to Bengal polls. However, most of these leaders proved to be a liability as they shifted back once the BJP lost," a SP leader said.

## RLD rakes up Lalitpur power plant issue, demands CBI inquiry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In the poll bound UP, the Rashtriya Lok Dal raked up the Lalitpur power plant issue by demanding a CBI inquiry into it while putting the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party in the dock.

While accusing the state government of having its hands painted in corruption, Team RLD national convener Anupam Mishra said the capital cost of the Bajaj Group-constructed Lalitpur power plant was increased by about Rs 4,662 crore and no one was questioned for increasing the cost

which was higher than the previous one. "In 2015, the 1,980 megawatt capacity power plant was billed at Rs 11,848 crore (capital cost) which was increased to Rs 17,295 crore and now the cost has been billed at Rs 18,575 crore. The power corporation also turned a blind eye towards the anomaly," he said.

Mishra said in Maharashtra the cost of construction of one megawatt NTPC-made power plant was only Rs 5.25 crore. "In view of this rate, how can the cost of construction of Lalitpur power plant be Rs 18575 crore? It was

surely and purely due to the corruption. This is a plundering of public money," he said. He said the RLD demanded a CBI inquiry into the issue so that the people knew the truth behind this and the culprits were punished. "It is very necessary as it will expose those who were involved in corruption and now are claiming themselves as honest," he said.

By raising the issue, the RLD is aiming to upset the apple cart of the ruling BJP in the area where the latter hopes to fare well in the election. "The BJP has kept focusing on

Bundelkhand region which covers Chitrakoot, Banda, Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba and Lalitpur districts. The RLD has raised the issue to flay the BJP for the alleged anomaly in the fixing of the capital cost and making the latter defensive on its poll plank of zero tolerance towards corruption," the RLD leader said.

### ANNOUNCES 2 MORE CANDIDATES

Rashtriya Lok Dal has fielded Gulam Mohammed from Sivalkhaas and Manisha Ahalawat from Meerut

Cantonment on the two seats it got under the seat-sharing formula following in the alliance with Samajwadi Party.

Manisha Ahalwat is the daughter of former MLA Chandraveer Singh. RLD leader Anil Dubey congratulated the candidates and wished them success. He asked the party workers and leaders to work hard for the victory of RLD candidates. He said RLD, which had a strong presence among farmers in west UP, had gained an edge over others due to the farmers' agitation.

## Priyanka launches virtual campaign, targets Modi, Yogi

**Lucknow (PNS):** Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is



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also party's in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, made fierce attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by communicating live on Facebook. She said that Yogi Adityanath talked about controlling the "power" of women and this explained the ideology and mentality of the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, Yogi Adityanath and his party towards women.

"I do not agree with the BJP leaders. Women's power can change the country, women's power, their compassion, love, conscience, perseverance are their special qualities. Who is Yogi Adityanath, the one who controls the power of women?" she questioned on Tuesday.

Appealing to vote and support Congress candidates in the assembly polls, Priyanka Vadra said, "I want to tell my sisters that where there are women candidates, you should support them. Their struggle is your struggle too. Those who have reached here today have struggled a lot." Attacking the law and order situation in UP, she said that many Congress candidates were tortured by the police and the government. "We have decided that we will snatch power from their hands and give it to those whom you have tortured," she added.

On the controversy surrounding Congress's decision to field actor-model Archana Gautam from Hastinapur constituency, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Why are such questions not asked from PM Narendra Modi? Why are only women targeted for wearing bikinis and clothes."

Priyanka further said that the BJP wanted to portray Archana Gautam as a lightweight candidate. "However, if there was a man in her place, no one would ask him this question even if he belonged to any other party," she said.

The Congress leader said that Archana Gautam had reached this place after a lot of struggle but now mud was being thrown at her and the way the media was asking questions. "I want such politics in which there is positive talk, in which there is talk of development, in which there is talk of yours. The opposition may think that our candidates are weak, but we have given them tickets so that those who are suffering and struggling in their lives can be strengthened," the Congress leader said.

In response to a question, she said that the women's marathon had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but the party had decided to conduct

online competitions. "Any of you girls who are excited about it can participate online. The difference between our politics and that of other parties is that we understand that we are accountable to you. Those who are not accountable, are seeking votes on the basis of caste and religion. But we are accountable to the public so we have to act," she said.

Targeting Prime Minister Modi, Priyanka Vadra said, "We understand that working for you is our duty, our religion. We don't show favours in return for work. Vaccine manufacturing started at the time of Congress, our view was that this is the need of the country. We did not do favours. Foundation stones are being laid before the elections, but they do not tell what happened in the last five-seven years. They ask what happened in 70 years, but they do not tell what they themselves did. The foundation on which we stand today has been laid in the last 70 years."

She said that the biggest challenge was that the purpose of politics should be positive. "The politics of development is important and can be achieved by ending the politics of partition. We also have an economic challenge about how our youth should get employment,

better health and education," she added.

It may be mentioned that ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly election, the Congress launched its virtual campaign "Priyanka Ke Saath Live" on Tuesday. During the 30-minute Facebook Live session, Priyanka interacted with people and answered their queries. In response to a question on her childhood, Priyanka said there were many fights with her brother Rahul Gandhi. Sometimes, their father Rajiv Gandhi had to intervene to stop the tussle between siblings, she said. Priyanka said she still helped her children do their homework despite being busy with political activities and campaigns.

Responding to a question why the party gave ticket to the mother of Unnao rape victim along with an ASHA worker, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Because of the struggle that these women have faced, my party thought that they deserved a chance to fight for their right by entering politics and the party would provide them the resources that they need to fight and win the elections."

Due to an increase in Covid cases, Priyanka, after consulting with Uttar Pradesh Congress leaders, stopped

physical mega-rallies, chaupals, samvads, and marathons in the poll-bound state.


Meanwhile Priyanka on Tuesday attacked the Yogi Adityanath government over the issues of employment and education, and urged the youth to stick to this agenda in the upcoming assembly polls.

Citing a media report, Priyanka said that in Uttar Pradesh, 16.5 lakh youth lost their jobs in the last five years and four crore people gave up hope of jobs.

"But @myogiadityanath ji neither talks nor tweets on this. Because he knows that if the curtain is lifted then the secret will be revealed," the Congress general secretary said in a tweet in Hindi. "Youngsters stick to the agenda of employment," she said.

In another tweet in Hindi, Priyanka alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government made "massive" cuts in the education budget of Uttar Pradesh in five years. "If the budget would have been more, then the youth would have gotten new universities, internet, scholarships, libraries and hostels," she said.

"Youngsters, this is the real agenda of this election. Ask questions on this and give a befitting reply with the power of your vote to the one who misleads you," she said.

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
No. SSA/Esstt/EPB-V/2021-22/472/2021/8528    Date : 17.01.2022  
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender from reputed exercise book manufacturers through e-Tendering process for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class –V (Single Line and Plain).  
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.  
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**ABSENTEE NOTICE**  
**Address:-**  
**Name: Shri Nagendra Rai**  
**S/o Shri Rishidev Rai,**  
**Trackmaintainer 172/SRJ,**  
**VIII- Kesharpur, Post-Shitampur, Didhiwans,**  
**Dist-Chhapra, State-Bihar, Pin Code- 841301**  
**Shri Nagendra Rai S/o Shri Rishidev Rai TM-III Unit No- 172/SRJ is unauthorized absent from duty since 02.11.2020 and SF-5 was issued by ADEN/NCR/NYN dated- 15.03.2021. Shri Surendra SSE/P.WAY/Sec./NYN-II appointed as enquiry officer dated- 03.04.2021. Enquiry report submitted on dated- 28.12.2021 as per Shri Nagendra Rai is not participating in enquiry.**  
**Therefore he is being given last opportunity to represent his case within a week of this notice otherwise ex-party decision for "Removal from Service" will be initiated by Railway Administration.**  
**Asstt. Divisional Engineer,**  
**North Central Railway, Naiin**  
55/22(R)  
f North central railways    www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in    @ CPOR NCR

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
**No.: 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/EIG/2022    Dated: 17.01.2022**  
**Indian Railway**  
**"Introduction of AC 25 kV Traction"**  
**"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"**  
It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of "25 KV AC electric traction over the section "Harduaganj yard power house sidings between KM 153/HGJ/1007N to 149/PH/L-6/2" of the Prayagraj division of N. C. Railway", height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height of 4.78 mtr above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire.  
Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.  
The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows: -  
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.  
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.  
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.  
**Division:- Prayagraj    Date of Energisation:- on or after 25.01.2022**  
f North central railways    www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in    North Central Railway@CPOR NCR    61/22 FA

**Form No. 5**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Areas of Jurisdiction: Part of Uttar Pradesh)  
**SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY AND APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION**  
**O.A.No. 18/2021    Dated: 21.09.2021**  
(Summons to defendant under section 19 (4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules 1993))  
**O.A.No. 18/2021**  
**UNION BANK OF INDIA    .....Applicant**  
**VERSUS**  
**SHESHMANI CHATURVEDI    .....Defendant**  
To,  
1. **SHESHMANI CHATURVEDI** S/o Shri Shriram Tapeshwar Chaturvedi R/o Chak Ahmadpur Nazool, Near Sahkari Bank, Raibareilly.  
**Second Address :-** Premises No. C-126, Awas Vikas, Indira Nagar, Raibareilly.  
2. **SMT. SUNITA CHATURVEDI** W/o Shri Sheshmani Chaturvedi R/o Premises No. C-126, Awas Vikas, Indira Nagar, Raibareilly.  
3. **MAYANK BAJPAI** S/o Shri Govind Swaroop Bajpai R/o T-IIIB, Railway Station, Raibareilly.    .....Defendant  
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply/evidence in paper book form in two sets alongwith documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on **04.02.2022** at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.  
**REGISTRAR**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW**



# Recoveries outnumber fresh cases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

At present, there are 1,01,114 active COVID-19 cases in UP and 99 per cent of them are undergoing treatment at home. The figures were disclosed during a high-level meeting of Team- 9 chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A maximum of 38,000 new COVID-19 cases were registered in a day during the second wave in April- May 2021 while this figure was 17,185 during the third wave on January 16.

“Looking at the intensity and positivity rate of Omicron, it is clear that the situation in Uttar Pradesh is under control. Very few people need hospitalisation. A normal patient can stay at home in isolation and treat himself with the advice of a doctor. People should be made aware of this,” the chief minister directed the officials.

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



Chief Minister reviewing the Covid situation in UP through virtual medium

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

“In the midst of the new wave, traditional fairs, bathing festivals, etc. are also being organised in different areas of the state. This is the success of the UP Model of Covid management that traditional Magh Mela is still on in Prayagraj. There is no report of excessive spread of infection from anywhere. Taking precautions, lakhs of devotees are offering prayers. For this our health workers, local administration and devotees deserve congratulations,” the chief minister said and added that this

sequence of vigilance and caution should continue.

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

The chief minister said 94.54 per cent of the people above 18 years of age had received the first dose of the Covid vaccine, while more than 60 per cent of the population had taken both doses of the vaccine. The vaccination status in the state is better than the national average, he said, adding that around 42 per cent of adolescents in the age group of 15-17 years had received the

vaccine cover and 35 per cent of the eligible people had received booster doses also.

Meanwhile in Lucknow, 2,173 tested positive for Covid while 3,007 patients recovered on Monday. However, a death was also recorded in the last 24 hours. CMO office spokesperson Yogesh Raghuvanshi said maximum cases were detected in Chinhat (399), followed by Aliganj (379), Alambagh (361), Silver Jubilee (254), Indiranagar (233), NK Road (185), Red Cross (96), Tudiaganj (89) and Aishbagh (48). The fresh cases included 202 travellers and 389 contacts of patients detected earlier.

Nodal officer for Covid at KGMU, Dr D Himanshu said that there were 60 patients admitted in the Covid facility.

# City shivers at 4.5 deg C



The icy cold winds made people shiver despite being covered with several layers of woollens

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It was bone-chilling cold in Lucknow with the day temperature plummeting by nine degrees and settling at 12.2 degree Celsius on Tuesday. The minimum temperature was recorded at 4.5 degree Celsius, which was three notches below normal.

Met officials have already forecast severe cold conditions till January 20 owing to snowfall in the hills and north-westerly winds blowing as a result. The sun showed up briefly in the morning, but it made no difference to the weather con-

ditions. The icy cold winds were sharp and people shivered despite covering themselves with layers of woollens. The weatherman has predicted moderate to dense fog at isolated places in the morning in the city while the weather is expected to be dry over the state.

Ghazipur was the coldest in the state at 2 degree Celsius, followed by Kanpur and Fursatganj (2.6 deg C each) and Muzaffarnagar (2.8 deg C).

Doctors said that infants should be protected from the cold weather by keeping them warm while senior citizens

should also keep themselves warm using heaters and blowers. The Met department has forecast severe cold day conditions to prevail over Lucknow, Bijnor, Moradabad, Amroha, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Agra, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Lakhimpur Kheri, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Etawah, Auraiyya, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Barabanki, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Amethi, Hapur and adjoining areas.

# Absentee voters to exercise their franchise through postal ballot

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

For the first time, the absentee voters of a certain category will get a chance to exercise their franchise in the UP assembly elections through postal ballot. These voters can approach the returning officer through booth-level officers and submit an application in this regard.

An official from the district election office said that as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the absentee voters who will be allowed to vote include persons with disabilities (PwD) in the electoral roll, electors above 80 years of age, those employed in notified essential services, and those who are Covid positive or suspects in isolation.

He further said that by notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice dated October 22, 2019, the Conduct of Election Rules have been amended on the recommendation of the Election Commission to enable absentee voters to vote through postal ballot. “These will include electors employed in essential services as may be notified by

the Commission under Section 60 (C) of the RP Act, 1951, electors who are above 80 years of age and the electors marked as persons with disabilities in the electoral roll will have the option to seek postal ballot paper for casting their votes. All such voters will have to apply for the postal ballot within five days of notification for election in their respective assembly constituencies if they wish to exercise their franchise,” he said. He added that as per the directions of the Election Commission, all eligible electors would be given application forms by the BLOs who would then collect the filled-up forms.

“As per the instructions, a polling team consisting of two polling officials, along with a videographer and security, will then go to the elector’s house along with a voting compartment and get the latter to vote through the postal ballot while maintaining complete secrecy. The candidates will be provided a list of these electors in advance as also the schedule of voting and the route chart of the polling parties so that they can send their representatives to witness the polling procedure. Postal ballots will then be stored

securely by the returning officer,” he explained.

The Election Commission has also issued directions that all persons with disabilities and senior citizens should be identified, tagged to their respective polling stations, and necessary disability-specific arrangements be made for their smooth and convenient voting experience on the day of polling. Identified persons with disabilities and senior citizens will be assisted by volunteers appointed by returning officer. Special facilitation will be made for them at the polling stations. The differently-abled will be given priority in entering polling booths while provisions should be made for designated parking spaces close to the entry points of polling stations. Special focus has been laid on sensitisation of polling personnel regarding special needs of the differently-abled electors. The Election Commission has asked the chief electoral officers to arrange proper transport facilities for the specially-abled electors and senior citizens electors at all the polling stations. They will be provided free passes for using public transport on the day of polling.

# Woman killed by husband having extra-marital affair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was killed by her husband who allegedly had an extra-marital affair with her sister-in-law, in Alambagh on Tuesday morning. The victim was identified as Meera Yadav (32) of Saadatganj. She got married to Sushil Yadav of Bada Barha in 2009 and the couple had no issue from the marriage.

As per reports, the couple used to have verbal spats over childlessness off and on. It was alleged that Sushil and his mother wanted to get rid of Meera for the same reason.

A complaint by Meera about her relations with Sushil turning sour and his excesses to her mother culminated into a police case. Following that, Sushil and his mother became defensive and he patched up with Meera. In due course of time, Meera’s father Mewalal sold his property.

Sushil started cosyng up to Meera’s parents and then took money from them to purchase a four-wheeler. He also pampered Meera’s grandmother and took Rs 2.5 lakh from her

to get a house constructed.

However, misfortune struck Meera’s parents who lost their son Daya Shanker six months back, and Sushil took it as an opportunity to visit Meera’s house.

Meera’s mother Shobhawati alleged that Sushil inveigled her daughter-in-law in love and poisoned her ears against Meera. “He went out with my daughter-in-law and set her against us. As a result, she started living on the top floor of the house separately. Meera was averse to Sushil’s closeness with my daughter-in-law and they used to fight over this issue,” Shobhawati told the police.

She said Sushil picked up a fight with Meera when the latter opposed his extra-marital affair and he attacked her with an iron rod. “Meera sustained head injuries and she bled to death at her house in Alambagh,” she said. Police registered a case of murder against Sushil, who was said to be absconding. The police said that the motive for murder was to eliminate Meera and usurp her parents’ property.

# e-commerce main poll issue for traders

**Lucknow (PNS):** For traders, e-commerce remains the main issue for voting in this election and the trading community has already submitted their demands to two political parties —BJP and SP— in this regard. President of Adarsh Vyapar Mandal Sanjay Gupta said the traders have pledged to vote on real issues and not on those related to caste and creed.

“We did an analysis as to why we are not taken seriously as voters, and we realised that we do not vote as a community of traders. We realised that when we go to vote, we become representatives of different communities while the political parties take advantage of the traditional divisions among voters. For the past six months, we have been spreading awareness in the community to vote keeping our issues in mind,” he said. He added that theirs is the biggest vote bank in the state after farmers. “We will vote only for those who promise to fulfil our demands within three months of forming the government,” he said.

He said awareness is the key but this time the voters are silent and they will be waiting on concrete and real issues, and not on non-issues like caste and creed. “Traders are concerned because of the foreign e-commerce companies which have hit us hard. e-commerce cannot be ignored because of public convenience. We want the government to help us compete with e-commerce,” he said. He

added that the e-commerce companies which have been given permission under the FDI were allowed to develop the marketplace, but they are working on the inventory-based model by purchasing their own products and selling them. He further pointed out that the list of the 15 demands which they have submitted highlights the importance of having an e-commerce policy. “Also, in order to help the traders, the state government can start an e-platform. This is easy to establish but requires funds for running, which needs manpower and godowns. Not less than Rs 200-300 crore are required to compete with the bigger brands. The government can create such a market either through its own resources or through a PPP model, and make a provision in its budget for the same because if a desi platform is created, we can fight the foreign companies,” Gupta said, adding that they have also asked for helpdesks for all the traders at the police stations.

“We have also demanded the setting up of a traders’ commission which should have a prominent participation by the traders, so that they can put forth the ground realities which will bring relief to all sections of the traders. We have also demanded a GST suggestion committee at the state level with representatives from different sections of the traders,” he said.

# Two seats approved for MS course at SGPGI’s Ophthalmology dept

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the recognition of MS (Ophthalmology) course in the department of Ophthalmology, SGPGI, by the National Medical Council, two seats have been approved for it. SGPGI spokesperson said the department of Ophthalmology was established in the year 2013 as an independent department for specific treatment and surgery of eye diseases.

“After the establishment of a separate Ophthalmology department in 2013, the treatment of different eye diseases like glaucoma, retina, orbit and cornea is being done by latest techniques,” she said.

SGPGI is the first government institute in UP to provide the facility of refractive surgery by LASIK and SMILE.

“The various ophthalmic

subspecialties developed in the department will help the post-graduates in getting state-of-the-art ophthalmic training. The facility of corneal transplant and eye bank will be started soon. Latest techniques of glaucoma treatment, including laser and expanding micro-incision glaucoma surgery, and ocular oncology, including expanding the treatment facilities for patients with ophthalmic tumors and cancer, will be provided,” she said.

Meanwhile, arrangements have been made to facilitate the patients visiting OPD and given appointment for consultation and admission. They will have to produce a valid RT-PCR, TruNat negative report at the entry points.

“The report should be done within last five days from any ICMR-accredited lab. The

MSWs, data entry operators at the counters of each OPD investigation desk and residents, faculty members in ward area will verify the reports using QR code scanners. Patients and their attendants with forged reports will be notified to security incharge and a police complaint will be lodged against them.

The SGPGI spokesperson said that patients who are required to visit the hospital more than once a week for dialysis, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hemophilia or other hematological conditions needing frequent transfusions, and for antenatal care may be allowed entry in the hospital premises with valid RT-PCR or TruNat reports (tests done within last seven working days from an ICMR-accredited lab) and valid prescriptions from SGPGI doctors to visit within seven days.

main concern for railways, for which all-out efforts should be directed towards maintaining the tracks, rolling stock, signaling and overhead electricity wires. He asked the departments to regularly conduct training and refresher courses for the staff to keep them motivated and informed of the working of the system to minimise human error.

Heavy fog during the winter season poses a great difficulty in train operations across northern region. He advised all

divisions to take all necessary remedial actions for proper and efficient working of the signaling system. He expressed concern on rail fractures, assets failure, maintenance of points and crossings, shunting practices, work sites protection. He said monitoring of signals, rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error be left.

He also directed the officials to expedite approvals for tree cutting, wherever needed, from the Forest department.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
Branch-Main Branch, Faizabad (Ayodhya)

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property under Rule 8(1))**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank Of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice. The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s/Guarantors/Legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rule on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower /s/Guarantors/Legal heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India** for the amounts and interest thereon.

The Borrower/s/Guarantors/Legal heirs attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Detail of Property where possession has been taken are as follows:-**

Name & Address of the Borrowers/A/c No.	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged	Total Amt. o/s [as per Notice u/s 12(1)]	Date of Demand Notice [Date of Possession]
<b>Borrower: M/s Priya Tiles Udyog, Prop. Mr. Tejwant Singh S/o Mr. Randheer Singh, Add. [96 Kha Area-0.016 Hec. Pashchim Rath Distt.-Ayodhya, Plot No. 95 Kha Area-0.136 Hec. &amp; Jalandhar Singh, Add. [96 Kha Area-0.016 Hec. Sale deed Dated 29.08.2001, Bahi No. 1, Vill. &amp; Post-Kurawan, Jld No. 206, Page No. 195 -210, Serial 1491, Within the registration Tehsil-Milkipur, Distt. Ayodhya A/c No. 35612770283</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Commercial Plot Situated at Vill. Bhadokhra, Post-Kuchera, Teh.-Milkipur, Pargana- [Pashchim Rath Distt.-Ayodhya, Plot No. 95 Kha Area-0.136 Hec. & Jalandhar Singh, Add. [96 Kha Area-0.016 Hec. Sale deed Dated 29.08.2001, Bahi No. 1, Vill. & Post-Kurawan, Jld No. 206, Page No. 195 -210, Serial 1491, Within the registration Tehsil-Milkipur, Distt. Ayodhya A/c No. 35612770283	<b>Rs. 18,21,896/-</b> as on 11.08.2021 + Future interest & other expnses	<b>11.08.2021</b> <b>18.01.2022</b>

**Date: 18.01.2022****Place: Ayodhya****Authorised Officer, State Bank of India**

**Bank Of India** **BRANCH JAUNPUR**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized Officer of **BANK OF INDIA** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) Read with Rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 Issued **Demand notice date 01.11.2021**, calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date **12th day of January of year 2022**

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **BANK OF INDIA**, for an amount mentioned below along with interest and other charges incurred thereon.

The borrower's attentions is invited to 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 /Borrower/Guarantor Due Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property
1.	<b>Borrower : Sri Chandrashekhar Nishad S/o Sri Panchu Ram Nishad, Address: Village- Siddikpur, Post- Siddikpur, District- Jaunpur</b>	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of <b>Arazi No. 869, Mauza- Siddikpur, Pargana- Haveli, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt. Jaunpur</b> within the registration <b>Sub-District Jaunpur, Distt. Jaunpur, Area- 1050 sq.ft., Owned By- Mr. Chandrashekhar Nishad S/o Sri Panchu Ram Nishad</b> <b>Boundary: North- Jamin Santosh Seth, South- Shesh Rakaba Pratham Pachha, East- Proposed Kacheha Rasta, West- Jamin OmPrakash</b>

**Outstanding Amount : Rs. 6,50,389/-** + interest thereon + other expenses

**DATE : 18.01.2022****Place : Jaunpur****Authorised Officer, Bank of India**

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

[Rule-8(1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s. 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an Amount and Interest thereon.

We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**Branch : Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur**

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date
1.	<b>Borrower : Shri Kunwar Pal S/o Shri Sukhwasi Lal &amp; Smt. Chhidana Pal W/o Shri Kunwar Pal, Both R/o : House No. 249, Block-J, Near Hanuman Mandir, Gujaini, Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor : Shri Om Prakash Sharma S/o Shri Ram Dulare Sharma, R/o : F-6, Site No. 1, Panki Industrial Area, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date: 29-09-2021 + Date of Constructive Possession: 13.01.2022</b> <b>Property : House No. 249, Block-J, EWS-II (KUDP), Gujaini, Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Smt. Chhidana Pal W/o Shri Kunwar Pa, Area : 36.75 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North : House No. 248, South : House No. 250, East : House No. 262, West : Road 45 Mtr.</b> <b>O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 2,48,948.00 + Intt. +Others Charges</b>
2.	<b>Borrower : Shri Kamlesh Kumar Verma S/o Shri Ram Lal Verma, R/o : 101/117-K Block, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date: 29-09-2021 + Date of Constructive Possession: 13.01.2022</b> <b>Property : House No. E-1/322, Block EWS, Ratanpur Vistar Part-2, Panki, Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Shri Kamlesh Kumar Verma S/o Shri Ram Lal Verma, Area : 30 Sq. Mtr., Bounded - North : 6 Mtr. Road, South : Plot No. E-1/41 &amp; B-1/42, East : E-1/321, West : Plot No. E-1/323. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,42,540.18 + Intt. +Others Charges</b>

**Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**





Dense fog paralyses life in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

# Modi interacts with BJP workers, gives them victory mantra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi interacted with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers of the district through a virtual platform on Tuesday. During his 45 minutes long interaction with the party workers through NaMo App, he not only asked about various development projects and response of the local people but also gave some mantra of the victory in the upcoming assembly elections. Thousands of party booth presidents not only of his parliamentary constituency but also of various districts of party's Kashi region comprising 71 assembly constituencies of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) listened to the PM.

'An election is a training camp in itself. We can prepare maximum people as workers. There should be expansion of the organisation and development of the workers. We have to make people understand the value of each and every vote'; he told the party workers, giving emphasis on strengthening of party's organisation. He also said that he and Yogi were able to do something only because people had voted and supported them.

During his interaction, Modi mainly talked to eight workers of different Vidhan Sabha (VS) constituencies of



District chief Hansraj Vishwakarma, city president Vidyasagar Rai and sitting MLA (Rohania) SN Singh watching PM's interacting with booth workers of Varanasi through virtual media on Tuesday.

Pioneer

the district, starting with one of the booth presidents of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Mandal (falling in City South VS) Shrawan Rawat and asked the latter in local Bhojpuri dialect whether he visited Shri Vishwanath Dham. When Shrawan replied that he had offered prayers there along with the family a few days ago, the PM asked about the difference between the corridor now and what it was earlier, stressing the need for giving more focus on cleanliness in the city. He also suggested the party workers that when the tourists come to offer prayers at Kashi Vishwanath temple, they should also be approached to visit Kabirchaura and Sant

Ravidas temple, giving a clear indication on targeting the voters of downtrodden and dalit communities.

Then while interacting with party worker Ashutosh Sharma (City North VS), Modi asked about recently constructed parking sites at Godowlia and Benia Bagh. In his interaction with booth president Seema Upadhyay (Varanasi Cantonment VS), the PM asked about corona. She replied that all members of her family are fine and the party workers are trying to create awareness among the people to maintain COVID-19 guidelines. She also praised the PM for making the women empowered by giving them the keys of houses made

under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Talking to yet another worker Narayan Prajapati (Sewapuri VS), Modi asked about his health condition as well as corona situation and when the latter replied that the situation is well under control, the PM asked about Ayushman card and some newly built hospitals.

Interacting with a booth president (Pindra VS) Akhilesh Dubey, Modi said that just a few ago he visited there to inaugurate a dairy project. The PM asked about the electricity situation and in reply, Akhilesh said that during the last four years, the power situation has improved a lot. He also praised the PM for beautification of Ganga ghats, making roads pothole free, laser light show in Sarnath, development of Man Mandir and Panchkoshi Marg apart from laying underground electric cables in the city.

The PM also asked about the changes being seen in Varanasi while interacting with a booth president of Chiragaon (Shivpur VS) Mithun Rajbhar and in reply, the latter hailed the PM for his efforts to develop sports culture in rural areas also. Later, in his talks with booth presidents Shivjatan Saroj (Ajgara VS) and Manoj Patel (Rohania VS), Modi stressed the need for cent per cent vaccination in Kashi.

# Prayagraj shivers at 4 degree Celsius

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Tuesday proved to be the season's coldest day in Prayagraj as the minimum temperature plummeted to 4 degrees Celsius. People are facing cold waves throughout the day these days. Earlier, on January 12 last year, the minimum temperature was recorded at 3.7 degrees Celsius.

Though the sun showed up on Tuesday, the second day of Paush Purnima, there was no relief from the shivering cold. The arrangement of bonfires by the municipal corporation is proving to be insufficient.

According to the Meteorological department, similar conditions would persist for three to four days.



# BJP MP Rita Bahuguna seeks ticket for son

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

BJP MP from Allahabad Lok Sabha seat Rita Bahuguna Joshi has demanded a ticket for her son from Lucknow Cantt. Joshi, the daughter of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna and sister of former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna, is seeking a ticket from BJP for her son Mayank Joshi.

For this, she met Union Minister and BJP's Uttar

Pradesh in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on Tuesday. She had talks with the state in-charge about this for a long time.

On this issue, it has been learned that Prof. Joshi had demanded a ticket for the son from the UP in-charge of the BJP. However, Dr. Rita Bahuguna said that she has not advocated for her son from the party. She said that she had gone to tell the state in-charge about the situation in Prayagraj. Her son is seeking

a ticket for the assembly elections from Lucknow Cantt. This is his right. BJP has his profile, the party will churn over it.

She also said that she will no longer contest elections. Joshi said that she was not angry. There is no issue of resentment in this. It is the job of the party high command not to give it to the son who has asked for the ticket. BJP Prayagraj City Unit President Ganesh Kesarwani also said that there is no such thing as

displeasure on this issue from the MP's side.

Joshi was earlier a cabinet minister in the UP government. In the year 2019, the party gave her a ticket from the Allahabad parliamentary seat. On being victorious, she resigned from the post of minister.

Joshi, who was a professor in Allahabad Central University, has also been a mayor. She was first in SP and later in Congress. Then she joined the BJP.

# 2.65 lakh more voters in Prayagraj this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Over 46 lakhs voters of Prayagraj will also have a say in deciding which political party comes to power in UP in the upcoming elections.

This would be 2.65 lakh more voters as compared to the number of voters registered in the last assembly elections held in 2017.

Barring Meja, the remaining 11 assembly constituencies have more new female voters than male voters. Maximum 19,900 women have come forward to get their names registered as new voters in Allahabad West assembly constituency.

"As per the revised voter list, which was published by the election office of the district on Wednesday, now the total

number of voters in the district are 46,02,812 registered voters. Whereas in the last assembly elections there were 43,37,119 voters in the district", said ADM (administration), Harsh Deo Pandey.

Following the campaign carried out under systematic voter's education and electoral participation (SVEEP) program, under which the work of adding new voters was done, the district now has over 2.65 lakhs more voters. A day before the publication of the final list, the administration got the list matched with the last election, said Pandey, who is also the officer in charge of SVEEP.

As per the voter list, the maximum number of voters are in the Allahabad West assembly constituency of the district. The total voters in

this assembly are 4,54,293 voters. Women voters are also highest in this assembly constituency. There are a total of 2,06,355 women voters here. Even if the electoral rolls of the 2017 assembly elections are matched, then Allahabad West was at the forefront. This time 37,994 new voters have been added to this assembly seat.

Following Allahabad West, Pratappur stands at second place in terms of adding new voters. At this assembly constituency, 31, 272 new voters have been added. Likewise, 31,195 new voters have joined the list in Handia and 26,718 in Allahabad North assembly constituency. In the list of voters, Meja has the least number of voters amongst the 12 assembly constituencies of the district. There are 3,24,789 voters

of which the total female voters here are 1,45,905. Meja is the only assembly constituency where 7,976 additional male voters have been registered in the list, while female voters are 7,383 more.

A maximum of 19,900 women have come forward in Allahabad West assembly constituency. This time the Election Commission had emphasized on increasing women voters. Its result is visible in the final list. The difference is evident in the Bara. Phaphamau, Soraon and Pratappur assembly constituencies.

If male voters are compared to women voters in these assembly constituencies, the names of around 3,000-4,000 new women voters have been added in the list.

# EC approves change of many polling places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO) Ranvijay Singh said that one polling booth of Ajgara (SC) assembly constituency, seven of Shivpur, four of City South and 13 of Varanasi Cantonment seats have been changed to other places. The proposal in this direction was sent to the Election Commission (EC) and the latter has given its approval.

According to DDEO, 238-Primary School Murli will now be replaced by HL Scholars Academy Murli in Ajgara (SC) assembly constituency while in Shivpur constituency, Nandgar Bhawanipur will replace 30-Primary School Bhawanipur (Serial number-4)

and 149-Dharamshala Khalispur (No-1) will be replaced by MT Public High School, Khalispur (No-1), 150-Dharamshala Khalispur (No-2) by MT PHS (No-2), 151-Dharamshala Khalispur (No-3) by MT PHS (No-3), 300-Siddharth Girls Primary School, Chhahi (No-1) by Government High School, Chhahi (No-1), 301-Siddharth GPS, Chhahi (No-2) by GHS (No-2) and 302- Siddharth GPS, Chhahi (No-3) by GHS Chhahi (No-3).

In City South assembly constituency, 298-Saswat Khatri Junior High School Sudiya Bulanala (No-1) will be replaced by Agrasen Girls Inter College Maidagin (No 4), 299 SKJHS Sudiya (No-2) by Agrasen GIC (No-5), 300-

SKJHS (No-3) by Agrasen Girls PG College Maidagin (No-1), 301- SKJHS (No-1) by Agrasen Girls PG College Maidagin (No-2).

In Varanasi Cantonment Assembly Constituency, 17-Markazi Madrasa Ansarul Uloom Kazipura Khurd (No 5) has been replaced by Sindhi Panchayat Bhawan, Amar Nagar Colony (No-1), 18-Markazi Khurd (No 6) by Sindhi Bhawan (No 2), 156-Lal Bahadur Inter College Sarayanandan Naria (No-1) by Primary School Sarayanandan 2 (No-1), 157- LBIC (No-2) by Primary School Sarayanandan 2 (No-2), 173- Royal Academy Saraysurjan Bajardiha (No- 1) by Glorious Public School, Sarayanandan (No 5), 174-

Royal Academy (No-2) by Hamidia Madrasa Police Outpost, Bajardiha (No- 1), 175- Royal Academy (No-3) by Hamidia Madrasa (No- 2), 176- Royal Academy (No-4) by Hamidia Madrasa (No- 3), 176- Royal Academy (No-4) by Hamidia Madrasa (No-3), 177- Royal Academy (No-5) by Hamidia Madrasa (No-4), 188-Basic Primary School, Jolha, Bajardiha (No-3) by Hamidia Madrasa (No-5), 264-Central Academy Church Ramapura (No- 1) by Jai Narayan Inter College Ramapura (No- 4), 265-Central Academy (No-2) by JNIC (No 5) and 442- Balak Primary Patshala Cantonment Board (No-4) by Prathamik Pathshala, North Eastern Railway Stadium Colony (No- 2).

# Security of Kashi Vishwanath Dham to be upgraded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After giving a splendid look to Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham, its security will be upgraded with high-tech equipments so that it could be protected from any attack even by drone. Its red and yellow zones will be determined afresh in view of the extension of the premises of Shree Kashi Vishwanath Mandir. A committee has been constituted to draft out a plan for the full-proof security of the entire premises of Dham. To discuss about the security of Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham, its security committee met on Monday late afternoon at the hall of the office of the division-

al commissioner here and made an assessment of the old security arrangement of Shree Kashi Vishwanath Mandir through the map. The committee members also made an assessment of Dham, which is the extension of the temple after giving a splendid look to it. The Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal chaired the meeting. The meeting discussed the security of temple and Gyanwapi mosque and how to manage the rush of devotees in a well planned way. As the temple is highly sensitive due to security point of view and this, the meeting constituted a committee and decided that its members will visit Tirupati

Balaji Mandir in Andhra Pradesh and Akshardham Mandir in Gujarat to study their security arrangement. The members will also study the arrangement made in Tirupati Balaji Mandir to manage the rush of devotees as the temple management is known to manage the crowd of devotees in lakhs very well. The feedback of the members will be included in the action plan to be drafted out for the Dham.

Earlier, the red and yellow zones of the temple were determined for the security purpose according to streets around it but after the extension of temple premises everything has changed and so, both zones will be determined afresh and the

security personnel will be deployed as per new arrangement. The security of red zone will be under the paramilitary force, while the security of yellow zone and crowd management will be under the civil police as per earlier. The meeting asked the new committee to chalk out a detailed action plan as per new geographical status of temple premises and seek the help of the Airport Authority, CISF and security experts, if required. The new committee has been asked to submit its report next month. Thereafter, the final report will be sent to the government for approval and after the green signal of the government, it will be implemented.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The 18th annual convocation of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology was held on Tuesday in virtual mode. Students of various courses were awarded degrees. Dr Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, was the chief guest of the event. Prof Rajeev Tripathi, Chairman of Board of Governors and Director of the Institute and Chairman of the Senate, Prof RK Singh, Dean (Academic), Senate Members and Dr Sarvesh Tiwari, Registrar, were also present on the occasion.

In this event a total of 1,464 degrees were awarded out of which 860 BTech, 367 M Tech, 85 MCA, 35 MBA, 18 MSc, and 99 PhD scholars received their Degrees. During the Convocation event, 61 foreign students admitted through DASA received their degrees. Meritorious students of the Institute were awarded with Gold Medals. As many as 32 Gold Medals were given away to postgraduate students and 13 Gold Medals to undergraduate students. Apart from these gold medals 12 sponsored Gold Medals constituted by Faculty, Alumni and Industry were conferred on the students for their outstanding performance.

It is to be noted that a total of 229 girl students were awarded degrees. Akshat Jain of Civil Engineering Branch was awarded with overall Institute Gold Medal as the best student amongst all the B Tech Final Year students passing out batch 2021. He was awarded Five Gold Medals. In the Year-wise Gold Medal Category, Aryan Mittal (CSE) for third year, Shubham Dixit (CSE) for second year and Amisha Sinha (ECE) for first year were awarded gold medals. The Institute has crafted its own niche in the present pandemic times by securing attractive placement offers for its final year students. More than 67 per cent of BTech students and 57 per cent of MCA students, and 19 per cent of M Tech students have been placed in more than 158 companies till date. Students have brought laurels to the institute by bagging CTC upto Rs 57.28 LPA for B.Tech., Rs 32.47 LPA for MCA, Rs 32.56 LPA for M. Tech. while average CTC rose to Rs 14.02 LPA for B.Tech., 11.05 LPA for M. Tech., 11.05 LPA for MCA students. This is also to highlight that the Institute has taken several initiatives to improve the overall academic performance by focusing on composite development of

physical infrastructure as well as intellectual inputs. The institute augmented its luminary position by securing its position in Top Ten in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements. Further, Institutions' Innovation Council, MNNIT Allahabad was awarded Four [4] Star Rating by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) which is also the best rating awarded to any Institute/University amongst all zones of India.

As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the Institute, several National and International Conferences, Workshops and Short-term Courses are being organised. It is highly remarkable to mention that several faculty members of Institute have brought laurels to the Institute by securing their names in coveted Stanford's leading researchers list. This Institute is elated to share that its research paradigm was boosted with the grant of two Patents owing to its incubation of best research and innovation practices. The Institute has shown its commitment in making the campus access friendly by installing lifts in its academic block and exec-

utive development center. Also a Cafeteria sponsored by B.Tech. 1996 Batch was inaugurated. With the dedication and devotion of Faculty and Staff towards the environment the Institute was awarded the District Green Champion award. The Institute was honoured to host Swarnim Vijay Mashal commemorating 50 Years of Indo Pakistan War of 1971. The Institute is committed to connect and enhance the innovative and entrepreneurial zeal for the benefit of greater society. To tap and channelize the potential of synergy of Academia and Industry, Institute has signed MoUs with several leading players such as Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited (A joint venture of NTPC and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)), Wyton Pharmaceuticals & Agrotech Private Limited, Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited (PPGCL) and ITI limited. In order to boost inter-academia collaboration the Institute has signed MoUs with IIIT Allahabad, Prayagraj and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Raebareli which is aimed towards fostering academic excellence and holistic development of faculty and students.

# 10-km railway line to be laid in Prayagraj

ALLAHABAD (PNS): This is indeed good news for Prayagraj. A 10-km railway line will be laid here. Rs 490 crore will be spent in laying the fourth railway line. The fourth line will be laid from platform No 6 of Prayagraj railway junction to Bamrauli. Its preparations are being finalised. The fourth railway line will start from the Kanpur side of plat-

form number 6 of Prayagraj Junction and will join the up loop of Bamrauli. For this, the work of the first survey has also been completed, the report of which has been submitted. Now the bridge and roof company is doing the final location survey. 490 crores will be spent to complete this railway project. It is to be completed by 2023-2024. For the trains which will

now come from Delhi on platform number 6, this fourth railway line will be very special. Trains passing through this line will not cross the main line of Prayagraj yard. Rather, they will be able to operate directly from the new line from Bamrauli. Trains coming from Varanasi and Prayag station on platform number 6 will also use this new line and while going

towards Delhi will go directly to Bamrauli on the new line. This will eliminate the problem of traffic jams on the main line for many trains.

Trains will not have to stop outside. That is, now the movement of the main line will not be stopped while the train is passing. This new line will help in passing trains through the yard.



# DM: Spread awareness among voters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate and DEO Vishak G Iyer, while addressing a voters' awareness meeting on Tuesday, directed the officials to work out a detailed plan for voter awareness with programmes suited to various groups of people. He said these programmes should be more focused on women, physically challenged and youth. He said enough awareness needs to be generated among all, especially these three special groups.

He said as part of the awareness campaigns, special posters and banners and flax needed to be set up.

He said special focus should be laid on youth who had completed 18 years of age on January 1, 2022 and their names were not included in the voters list and special drives be carried out to apprise them as to how their names could be included in the voters list. He said they should be explained all the options available and the last date to become voters should be given a proper hype.

He said selfie points need to be set up in the city and posters stating 'We will Vote' should be put up at all these sites. He said special care should be taken to ensure where to put up these selfie points and with proper aware-



District Magistrate, City, Vishak G Iyer, addressing a meeting on voter awareness at the Collectorate.

Pioneer

ness material around. He said January 25 would be observed as Voters Awareness Day and thus schoolchildren should be involved in co-curricular activities virtually and painting contest should be organised in all the schools. He said special arrangements for facilitating the winners of the contests should also be made on top priority.

He said while there were some who genuinely cast their

vote, many people sat back and relaxed on voting day, and others were cajoled into voting for particular candidates. He said the importance of voting was lost amongst the hustle and bustle of city life. He regretted that almost half of the population paid little attention to elections despite casting vote being a fundamental duty.

He said help from Udyog Vyapar Mandal and other social organisations should be

taken to spread awareness among voters. The DM said on January 30 a special voter poster competition would be organised and first, second and third prizes would be given. He said voter awareness campaigns should keep on continuing so that voting percentage increased.

Prominent among those who took part in the meeting were SK Singh, Sudhir Srivastava and Kamal Kishore.

# Number of COVID-19 patients cured in home isolation high: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr Nepal Singh, while addressing a meeting of supporting staff of LLR Hospital, said there were many doubts relating to hospital and home care both of adult or child with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. He said the last wave had clearly proved that the biggest number of COVID-19 affected people who got cured were in home isolation under the medical supervision and the administration ensured the supply of medicine kits to them.

He said in the event of the third wave, home isolation of people who were infected could make an important contribution to breaking the chain of transmission of the coronavirus.

He the decision whether to isolate and healthcare to an infected person at home depended on three important factors -- clinical evaluation of the COVID-19 patient, evaluation of the home setting, and the ability to monitor the clinical evolution of a person with COVID-19 at home.

He said a trained health worker should assess whether the home in question was suitable for the isolation and the provision of healthcare to a COVID-19 patient, including whether the patient, caregiver or other household members had all they needed to adhere to the recommendations for home care isolation.

He said for home isolation one needed hand and respiratory hygiene supplies, environmental cleaning materials,



Special vaccination camp being held in Sachendi on Tuesday for those left out of the drive carried out earlier.

Pioneer

the ability to impose and adhere to restrictions on people's movement around or from the house. He said even the ability to address safety concerns such as accidental ingestion of and fire hazards associated with alcohol-based hand rubs and cleaning products should also be made and symptomatic patient meeting the case definition for COVID-19 without evidence of viral pneumonia or hypoxia.

Dr Singh said moderate illness may include in an adult or adolescent, clinical signs of pneumonia (fever, cough, dyspnea, fast breathing) but no signs of severe pneumonia. He said in case there was limited or no access to water and sanitation, as well as to resources

for cleaning and disinfection and hygiene it posed risks for caregivers and community members for transmission of COVID-19. He said as per Union Health Ministry guidelines, children should remain with their caregivers wherever possible and this should be decided in consultation with the caregiver and the child.

He said to prepare families with children for potential illness in a family, community protection focal points and caseworkers should help families plan and agree in advance on how they would care for children in case the primary caregivers became ill.

He said children living with primary caregivers who were elderly, disabled or had

underlying health conditions should be prioritised. He added that if vulnerable persons were present in home setting and could not be kept apart from the patient, then the health worker should offer to arrange for an alternative location for isolation for the patient if available. He said in case this could not be done then isolation may need to be arranged, with consent from the patient, and agreement from the caregiver, and members of the household in designated and equipped community facilities.

He said in the third phase seven days quarantine was being advised after which the person should go for a RT-PCR test to confirm if one was negative or not.

# Urban Clap co-founder's tips on how to start a startup

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Co-founder of Urban Clap, Raghav Chandra, while addressing a virtual seminar on 'How to start a startup' organised by FICCI-FLO on Tuesday, said startup was a flagship initiative of the government and intended to give a push to startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. He said the broad scope of startup was managed by a dedicated Startup India Team, which reported to the Department for Promotion Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). He said youth wanted to set up their business but they were unaware from where to start and how to grow, thus there was a need for conducting in-depth market research like running surveys, holding

focus groups, and researching and public data. He said before one started selling product or service, one needed to build up one's brand and get people who were ready to jump when one extended business. He said prominent points to be taken into consideration were refining ideas, writing business plans, assessing finances, legal business structure, registering with the government, purchasing insurance policy, setting up a team and selecting vendors. Chandra said if one were thinking about starting a business one would already have an idea of what one wanted to sell online, or at least the market one wanted to enter. He advised youth that if one thought one could deliver something other companies did not then one had a solid idea and were ready to create a business plan. He said it

would be wise to differentiate between why a business serves a personal or why a marketplace. He said when, why was focused on meeting a need in the marketplace, the scope of business would always be larger than a business that was designed to serve a personal need. He said another option was to open a franchise of an established company and all one needed was a good location and the means to fund one's operation. He said it was vital to understand the reasoning behind one's idea. He said often people jumped into launching their business without spending time to think about who their customers would be and why would they want to buy from them or hire them. He said one needs to clarify why one wanted to work with these customers. Chandra said one needed to

iron out the major details and if the idea was not something one were passionate about or if there was not a market for creation, it might be time to brainstorm other ideas. He said one needs to ask oneself a few important questions like what was the purpose of business? Who were one selling to? What were one's end goals? How will one finance the start-up costs? He said thus there was a need for writing business plans.

He said a lot of mistakes were made by new businesses rushing into things without pondering these aspects of the business and thus one need to find ones target customer base. He said market research helped understand one's target customer – their needs, preferences and behaviour – as well as one's industry and competitors.

## ‘Covid third wave trajectory almost flat at present’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur professor Manindra Agrawal said that the Omicron-triggered coronavirus third wave had reached its peak in Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai as predicted by IIT's Sutra model. He also said that COVID-19 would peak in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana this week.

"In Maharashtra, it is predicted to peak on the 19th of January since the trajectory is almost flat at present. Gujarat is predicted to peak on the 19th. Haryana is predicted to peak on 20th," Dr Agrawal explained. He further mentioned that the COVID-19 wave was predicted to peak on 23rd in Karnataka and on 25th January in Tamil Nadu. The IIT-Kanpur also predicted that COVID-19 was predicted to peak on the 30th in Andhra Pradesh.

Dr Agrawal, however, added that the number of hospitalisations continued to be very low as less than 1 per cent cases reported in Uttar Pradesh need hospitalisation.

"Hospitalisations continue to be very low. UP, I understand, has less than 1 per cent reported cases needing hospitalisation. We now need to wait for new phases everywhere to stabilise. We can capture the trajectories much better, and also understand the reasons for deviations," he said.

Agrawal tweeted, "There appear two plausible reasons for this: first, there are two groups in population, one with less immunity against Omicron and other with more. The mutant first spread in the first group causing a sharp rise. Now the first group is exhausted and so the spread is slower."

He further noted, that secondly, there was a lot of concern when Omicron started spreading, but in the last week or so, people almost everywhere concluded that it causes only mild infection and have decided to handle it with standard remedies instead of getting tested.

## CCTV alerts landlord in America as thieves enter his house in Chakeri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With the help of high technology equipment installed at his locked house in Shyam Nagar here, an America-based landlord alerted the local police after noticing three miscreants entering the house on his mobile phone linked to the CCTV late on Monday night.

The police immediately rushed to spot and on seeing the cops, the miscreants opened fire. In the exchange of fire, one miscreant was injured and he was taken into custody while his two other accomplices managed to escape.

According to reports, Hari Om Awasthi owns a house in D Block, near Harihar Dham at Shyam Nagar in Chakeri. He lives with his two sons Vijay and Ashutosh, both software engineers in HCL, in New Jersey, America.

The caretaker appointed to look after the house in Shyam Nagar was not present on Monday night. As the CCTV installed in the house is linked to the cell phones of Hariom's sons, they suddenly received a security alert message late Monday night. Hariom immediately contacted his neighbours Karmendra Dwivedi and Ashutosh Mishra and informed them about the presence of three miscreants in his locked house. Meanwhile, his sons asked the thieves to go out of the house as they were caught in cameras but the latter refused and damaged the camera. Meanwhile, the neighbours informed the Chakeri police which rushed to spot and took the handling of the CCTV cameras on their system with the help of a surveillance team. Hariom also informed his two daughters Poonam Pandey and Preeti Dwivedi living in Kanpur about the incident and they also reached the spot with the keys of the house. Around 2:30 am, the police entered the house and took the injured miscreant into custody. However, his accomplices were not found as they had managed to escape.

## NCL CMD visits Block-B Area

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Singrauli based Coal India arm, Bhola Singh visited the Block-B Area on Sunday. During it Singh inspected the operations, First Mile Connectivity Project, mine infrastructure, heavy machines etc. He also reviewed the current production, despatch and future roadmap of the project. During the visit, he especially emphasised on environmental protection and gave necessary directives to officials concerned for massive plantation, dust suppression and maintenance of roads. Singh also set the momentum to expedite the process of forest and environmental clearances. He exhorted the team Block B to pave



the path to produce eight MT coal in next financial year in wake of growing energy demand of the nation. Singh appreciated the way the heavy machines and CHP are being taken care of and expressed satisfaction on coal exposure and

quality of coal. Notably, Block B Area has been entrusted with the production target of 5.47 MT for FY 2021-22, whereas till date the unit has produced 4.64 MT of coal with a remarkable 10 per cent growth against the target.

## Trains to be cancelled

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In context of the doubling work between Alamnagar-Transport Nagar of Northern Railway (NR) due to block non-interlock/non-interlock, cancellation of trains and their control will be as follows Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

### CANCELLATION

■ The 15073 Singrauli-Tanakpur Express to depart from Singrauli on January 20 and 22 will remain cancelled.

■ The 15074 Tanakpur-Singrauli Express to depart from Tanakpur on January 19 and 21 will remain cancelled.

■ The 15075 Shaktinagar-Tanakpur Express to depart from Shaktinagar on January 19, 21, 23 and 24 will remain cancelled.

■ The 15076 Tanakpur-Shaktinagar Express to depart from Tanakpur on January 20, 22 and 23 will remain cancelled.

■ The 11109 Virangana Lakshmibai (VBLB)-Lucknow Jn Express to depart from Virangana Lakshmibai from January 18 to 23 will be cancelled. Besides, the 11110 Lucknow Jn - Virangana

Laxmibai Express departing from Lucknow Jn will be cancelled from January 18 to 23.

### CONTROL

■ The 15654 Jammu Tawi-Guwahati Express will on January 21 be run by being controlled by 30 minutes.

■ The 15910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh Express will be run on January 22 by being controlled by 60 minutes.

■ The 15652 Jammu Tawi-Guwahati Express will be run on January 19 by being controlled by 40 minutes.

■ The 12588 Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur Express will on 22nd January, 2022 be run by being controlled by 120 minutes.

### PCPO GIVEN FAREWELL

As a result of Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) of North Eastern Railway (NER) Rita P Hemrajani being appointed to the post of Managing Director of National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) a farewell was given on Monday. In a virtual meeting through video conferencing under the presidency of NER General Manager, Anupam Sharma, Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit

Kumar Agrawal, Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) DK Singh including principal heads of departments, while bidding farewell appreciated her remarkable working as PCPO. During her tenure, the Personnel department of NER achieved many accomplishments. A 1990 batch Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer, Hemrajani, had taken over as the NER PCPO on February 15 last year. Her first posting was on the post of Assistant Personnel Officer (APO), Vadodara in Western Railway (WR). A graduate in Chemistry from Gujarat University, Hemrajani developed several information technology based systems for human resource development on Indian Railways. She has successfully discharged her responsibilities in Central Railway and Western Railway's various divisions, workshops and EDP centre. Moreover, she has also worked on deputation in the Film Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting where in the years 2014 and 2016 along with organising International Film Festival she has produced and directed many documentaries, CPRO PK Singh said.

## Police station inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/City) Sanjay Kumar inspected Padari police station on Monday. He inspected registers related with crime, land disputes, village level disputes and records of the police station thoroughly. Inspecting the store room, computer room, kitchen, toilets, lock up, residential campus etc ASP directed the staff concerned to keep the records updated. The station house officer (SHO) was directed to dispose the

pending investigations on priority, conduct night patrolling and checking regularly, remain updated with the activities of the area etc. In view of assembly elections he directed the police personnel to adopt all precautionary measures to ensure their peaceful conduct and make aware people to follow Covid guidelines.

### MATDATA EXPRESS FLAGGED OFF

Matdata Express was jointly flagged off by the SVEEP

incharge /Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS and Deputy Election Officer /Additional District Magistrate (Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla at Collectorate on Monday. A publicity bus equipped with banners, posters and audio cassettes to make the people aware about voting has been sent from the state capital to all districts. After flagging it off the bus was sent to the tehsil and block headquarters to motivate voters to exercise their franchise on a large scale to strengthen democracy.

## Flag march conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In view of the assembly elections a flag march/area domination exercise led by Circle Officer (Sadar) Shailendra Prakash Tripathi was conducted under Kachhawan police station area on Monday. The flag march passed through Baraini, Mahamulpur, Baadaapur, Katka, Vyaspur, Nigatpur, Chakia, Heerapur, Jamuaan, Aahi, Pahon, Khaira villages etc. The CO said that

the flag march was conducted with the purpose of creating a sense of security among people. During the flag march he was accompanied by police outpost incharges of Bhainsa, Jamuaan and Khaira along with and heavy police and para military force. Meanwhile at tehsil headquarters Lalganj a flag march was taken out under the joint leadership of sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Lalganj Vijay Singh and CO Lalganj

Uma Shankar. The march passed through the main roads of the market and people were made aware about Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, an appeal was made to follow the Covid prevention guidelines. Through the march a message was given to vote in large number without any fear. Station House Officer (SHO) Lalganj Vijay Kumar Chaurasiya, incharges of police outposts along with paramilitary forces accompanied the march.

## Drive to create awareness about Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW)-situated Jalalipatti Gumbi Market and in the vegetable market shifted to BLW Inter College Ground for protection in view of surge in Covid-19 cases and awareness among citizens under the leadership of Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar in collaboration with Paschami Bazar Vyapar Mandal (PBVM) and in the presence of Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (ACMS) Dr Sunil Kumar and Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar masks were distributed on a large scale in BLW on Monday evening. They were distributed along with principal office-bearers of PBVM – patron Yogita Tiwari, secretary Virendra Yadav, president Rajesh Singh, office and security president



Ramesh Singh, vice-president Virendra Gupta, Information and Broadcasting secretary and treasurer Anoj Sharma, general secretary Ajay Sharma and chairperson, Women's Cell Bina Singh. The objective of the campaign is to prevent the increasing Covid-19 infection through awareness among people so that they while understanding their responsibilities follow social distancing guidelines and use masks reg-

ularly. Masks were given to those who were not wearing them and an appeal was made to them to use them regularly in view of the pandemic. Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, playing their active role in the campaign, in order to ensure its strict compliance while appealing to the vegetable vendors and buyers in BLW explained to them and everyone assured to extend their cooperation.



**G-21585/21**



## REPUBLICDAY2022: BEATING THE RETREAT EVENT

# 1K drones to mark 75 yrs of Independence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Botlab, a startup from IIT-Delhi, will put up the drone show with nearly 1,000 drones. It will be themed on 75 years of independence. With this launch, India will become the fourth country to conduct a drone show of this size that has been designed and conceptualised indigenously, sources said. The Beating the Retreat ceremony marks a centuries-old military tradition, dating back to the days when troops disengaged from battle at sunset.

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



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

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

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

## PM interacts with BJP workers in Varanasi digitally

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Modi connected with an estimated 10,000 BJP workers



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

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

conferencing.

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

Restoration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, women empowerment, infrastructure

and healthcare development were among the subjects that came up for discussion during the interaction.

Modi spoke to BJP workers who informed him of their "regular interactions with poor who are provided with food and other essentials".

Prime Minister asked BJP workers "to convince farmers about central schemes about their well-being", saying they need to create awareness among farmers.

Modi said his government has made all inclusive schemes for the farmers that is to say "beej se bazaar tak", he said.

The Prime Minister also asked BJP workers to encourage farmers in their region to go for "natural farming and

thus reduce the cost of their produce."

The polls in UP will be held in seven phases starting February 10.

Top BJP leaders including BJP president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ND State election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have been currently holding meetings of the BJP's core committee here to finalise candidates' list and seat-sharing arrangement with allies like the Apna Dal and the Nishad Party.

On Saturday, the BJP released the list of candidates for 57 out of 58 seats in the first phase and for 48 out of 55 in the second phase.

## PM'S WEF ADDRESS

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

A website, however, said it

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

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

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

## ‘Disturbing trend’: SC on courts deciding rape, murder cases in haste

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS

## Servomax India MD held in ₹402 cr fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Investigation by ED revealed that SIPL had taken

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

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

The ED investigation

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

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

Rao even managed to get



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

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

## Vikram Dev appointed as Air India CMD: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Over 50 lakh HCWs, frontline workers get booster dose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said over 50 lakh healthcare and frontline workers and citizens aged 60 years or above have received 'Precaution Dose' since January 10. With the administration of nearly 80 lakh vaccine doses in a span of 24 hours, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 158.04 crore as per provisional reports till 7

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

India began administering precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers including personnel deployed for election duty and those aged 60 and

above with comorbidities from January 10 amid the country witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by Omicron variant of the virus.

However, the countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people

over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions. The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1, 2021.

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



## Kheri violence: HC reserves order on bail plea of Union minister's son

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail plea of Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra alias Monu in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, in which eight people including four farmers were killed.

The Lucknow bench of the court reserved its order on Mishra's plea after concluding the hearing through video-conferencing.

The counsel appearing on behalf of Mishra told the court that his client was innocent and there was no evidence against him that he incited the driver of a vehicle to crush the farmers.

Opposing the plea, Additional Advocate General VK Shahi said at the time of the incident, Mishra was in the car that crushed the farmers under its wheels.

After hearing the pleas, the bench of Justice Rajeev Singh reserved its order.

On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

individuals in the 15-18 years age group," the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker said in a statement, shared on Twitter.

"We humbly request healthcare workers to be highly vigilant and ensure that only Covaxin is administered to individuals in the 15-18 years age group," it added.

## EC adds new column to mention expenditure on digital campaigning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"Parties and candidates (so

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

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

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



## Mockery

Political goodwill reaches to Dalits only when the elections are around

The Election Commission has postponed the date of voting for the election to the Punjab Assembly from February 14 to 20. By itself the change is not noteworthy; a mere administrative exercise. Politically, however, the significance is not lost on anyone in the country. It is a curious display of unity amid diversity by all political parties to set aside their electoral differences to ensure that the election date does not come in the way of a section of Punjab's electorate conducting an important religious ritual. The deferred election date allows a particular Dalit community to visit Varanasi on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti on February 16. The 'Ravidassias', as the followers of the mystic poet-saint are called, mostly inhabit Punjab's Doaba region and their numbers have a say in 23 Assembly constituencies. Dalits comprise 32 per cent of the State's population. Over a third of them are concentrated in the Doaba. And over 60 per cent of Doaba's Dalits are Ravidassias. This is the political context to the 'humanitarian' gesture by the political parties. After the deferment, the parties are in a race to take credit for it. The prize is such. In a multi-cornered election, anybody bagging the maximum support of the Dalits can dream of an edge in the 117-member Assembly.



Would not the Dalits be wondering why the goodwill of the political parties does not reach out to them when elections are not around? The Dalits, for whom the election date was changed because their votes count, otherwise complain of indifference from these very parties. They are certainly on the path to emancipation because of affirmative actions like reservation, but are as vulnerable today as before to casteist attacks in terms of a ban on entry into temples, sporting a moustache, riding a horse, using cremation grounds and the like. The National Crime Records Bureau tells us that a Dalit in India was the victim of a crime every 10 minutes in 2020 and the situation was no different in 2021. Dalits are attacked for the silliest of excuses — beaten up for wearing leather shoes in Gujarat, paraded naked for swimming in a well in Maharashtra, even killed for sitting cross-legged during a temple ritual in Tamil Nadu. They are subjected to gross and inhuman insults like being urinated upon. In a case from Bihar a month ago, a person who lost a village election blamed the Dalits for his defeat and forced a Dalit to lick spit as punishment. Dalit women and girls are molested, raped and killed at whim. Dalit politics takes centre stage whenever elections are around and sympathy to their cause replaces the usual indifference. If the deferment of the Punjab election date is not to be construed as merely a gesture with a selfish motive, political parties must proactively address discrimination and violence against Dalits and not dismiss them as an embarrassing relic of the past.

### PICTALK



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal on a cold winter day

PTI

## Due diligence

The CPI(M) is better advised to be responsible and speak in cohesion and unity

Political discourse in Kerala touched the nadir of decency as leaders shout at each other using the choicest of abuses. Though there is no election round the corner in Kerala, political one-upmanship continues to rule the roost. KP Anil Kumar, a Congress leader who defected to the CPI(M) for not getting his share in the reorganisation of the party, was seen threatening K Sudhakaran, the Pradesh Congress chief of dire consequences. "We will lynch Sudhakaran like a mad dog in the streets of Kerala," shouted Kumar while addressing a public meeting. The recent murder of an activist of the SFI owing allegiance to the CPI(M) is the root cause of the outbursts by Anil Kumar. The CPI(M), which returned to power in the 2021 Assembly election much against the precedence of the party in power biting the dust in the subsequent election, should have shown maturity and restraint on the murder of its own activist. Though the police has arrested three Congress workers in connection with the murder, the CPI(M) leaders allege Sudhakaran to be the master brain behind the killing. The media in Kerala known for its pro-CPI(M) stance parroted the allegation and blacked out the version of Sudhakaran from the narrative. This led to a verbal



duel between the PCC chief and journalists at the Press Club in the Capital.

Media is entrusted with the responsibility of reporting facts and they should never misinterpret words. Let it be done by political observers or commentators to suit their line of thinking. If the media has strong evidence linking Sudhakaran to the murder, it could ask him for clarification and not accuse him of a crime about which he was in the dark. Sudhakaran, who is known for his boldness and uprightness has always been an eyesore for the Marxists because of his ability to take the comrades head on in northern Kerala's party villages where only the writ of the Marxists run whoever is in power in Thiruvananthapuram. The CPI(M) is better advised to speak in cohesion and unity. Polit Bureau member SR Pillai was heard alleging that India is tormenting China. Party's State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan is on record declaring that India got independence because of the CPI(M), a political outfit that was formed in 1964. Re-education is a must for leaders and cadres alike because of the information technology era in which we live.

# National integrity, cohesive people

Despite the Partition on religious lines, we are still religious factions whose ultimate loyalties are similar to those of Indians in the UK



PRAFULL GORADIA

The anniversary of Capitol Insurrection — when an incumbent President Donald Trump gestured through an apparent revolt that he was not accepting the electoral verdict in favour of Democrat Joe Biden — was all over the media last fortnight. Some writers seem to suggest that the Red States in the USA (Republican majority) could be prepared to separate from the Blue ones (Democratic majority). That might be a split between the Liberal and the Conservatives Americans, but by no means is wide enough to justify the breakup of the country. Lest one forgets, a bitter Civil War was fought for four years from 1861 to 1865 between the northern Yanks and the southern Confederates. Abraham Lincoln led the former with a missionary zeal, winning the war and preserving the Union, gaining recognition as the greatest President of the USA.

It is, however, true that being a creation of random immigration from the 15th century onwards, the USA does not have an integrated ethos. There are people of European, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Hispanic, Arab and other Islamic origins. Most Indians do not raise their political heads. The others have a political muscle which they could use to further their cause. Indian-origin citizens, when they show up at cricket grounds in the UK, cheer the ethnic team, i.e., India, despite themselves holding British passports. Nevertheless, this is not a desirable symptom because it reflects that the nation does not have a single ethos and holds out a threat of a breakup which we are discussing.

But why go far? India has one single ethos plus several other political sentiments. Despite the partition on entirely religious lines in 1947, we are still religious factions whose ultimate loyalties are similar to those of Indians in the UK. Unlike the USA and the UK, India has not undergone random immigrations. India's is a unique tale, which can be told by a historian who cannot justify its lack of an integrated ethos that can ensure national unity for all times and under all circumstances.



There are times when circumstances override national interests. In fact, until the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, there was little by way of a national awakening. If there was an ideology, it was either religion or language.

More than circumstances, the fault lay with the leadership at points of time of the countries concerned. Take France, for example. As a gesture of civilisation, Paris declared its overseas empire to be metropolitan France. This made it easily possible for people from French colonies like Algeria, Morocco, etc., to emigrate to the cities and towns of France. Today, this European country has two huge segments of people, European and African. Being culturally and religiously very different, they find it difficult to coexist. Germany and Turkey were allies during the two world wars. There were many Turks who did not have sufficient employment whereas Germany wanted cheaper labour. The former, therefore, arrived in droves to make Deutschland their home but Berlin insisted that they could settle only as guest workers, not as citizens. But what happens to children born to such guest workers? To add



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES OVERRIDE NATIONAL INTERESTS. IN FACT, UNTIL THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY, THERE WAS LITTLE BY WAY OF A NATIONAL AWAKENING. IF THERE WAS AN IDEOLOGY, IT WAS EITHER RELIGION OR LANGUAGE

further to the population of Asians in the country, when refugees recently came rushing in from the civil war-ravaged Syria, Chancellor (now former) Angela Merkel welcomed many of them.

Britain made the same mistake after World War II when it needed cheaper labour. There were ready arrivals from the West Indies, India and Pakistan. Now there are problems with civic living in this multi-racial national life. In the 17th and the 18th centuries, the USA imported slaves from West Africa on a large scale. As we have noted, there was a four-year civil war between the northern States who wanted to abolish slavery and the southern ones, who saw this evil and inhuman institution as their legitimate way of life. But the American leadership did not learn their lesson and freely allowed in more and more settlers. The Democratic Party supports them whereas the Republicans wish to largely retain the white (European) character of the USA. Hence the Blue versus Red States divergence referred to above.

Who is India to give advice to these countries? It has also blundered. At Partition time and throughout 1946-47, the Muslim League insisted on an

exchange of population as the homeland called Pakistan was for all the Islamic people of the subcontinent. Dr Rajendra Prasad, Independent India's first President, wrote a book on the subject called India Divided, offering an answer for those who could not move out. They could stay on, but not as citizens. Instead, they would be treated as aliens with residence visas, sans political rights. Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah endorsed Dr Prasad's views. But Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru not only opposed this practical solution, but were unjust to millions of people. The distinguished Pakistani scholar Ayesha Jalal in her book The Sole Spokesman has raised the question: why Partition then? The Muslim-majority provinces like Punjab and Bengal did not need nor want the break; it was mainly the Muslim-minority provinces like UP and Bombay Presidency which pressed for it. Eventually, their minorities largely got left behind in India. What a fiasco it has turned out to be?

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DIRTY POLITICS OVER TABLEAUX

Sir — The exclusion of tableaux proposed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal from this year's Republic Day Parade has no rational explanation or justification; it constitutes a politically motivated and biased move to exclude what is not in conformity with Hindu Right's exclusive Hindutva or Hindu nationalist narrative and agenda and a response to the electoral defeats inflicted on the BJP in the aforesaid States. India is a federal Republic for the ruling dispensation to be so summarily dismissive of regional pride. We are totally justified in saying that the Republic Day pageantry should showcase India's diversity. We are not so naive as to believe that the Union Government had no role in nixing the tableaux of the three Opposition-ruled States and the 'apolitical subject experts' found them without merit 'after due process and deliberations' and took the decision.

By dropping the tableau of West Bengal featuring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Nazrul Islam and Birsu Munda and the tableau of Tamil Nadu portraying Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar, VO Chidambaram, Rani Velu Nachiyar and Maruthu Brothers, the Modi Government has betrayed the kind of patriotism it practises. As a descendant of those political forces that took no part in the freedom struggle, the BJP does not seem to be quite interested in celebrating India's valiant freedom fighters on the occasion of the Republic Day.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### BANK SERVICES NEED IMPROVEMENT

Sir — It has been reported that the State Bank of India (SBI) has hiked the interest on fixed deposits. The hike is nothing but a pittance. What was 4.9 per cent is now 5.1 per cent. It means an increase of 20 paise over the previous rate. Does this require publicity? The publicity given indicates as though we are living in the 1950s when a rupee was able to

## Kohli will only emerge stronger



In the majority of team sports, a captain is as good as his team. A win, and the captain takes most of the credit. A loss, and the captain is panned more than anybody else. There is no denying that there were, and there will be, exceptional captains. Great captains are born leaders who marshal their team members with a deep sense of instinct. Their gut feelings almost always fall in place when they carry their teams to glory. These leaders are respected and loved — generally these don't go together. In recent

times, Saurav Ganguly and MS Dhoni were two Indian cricket captains who commanded awe and affection in equal measure. The former was flamboyant while the latter kept to himself. But the end result was the same. Players who played under Ganguly and Dhoni recall their association with the two with admiration and fondness.

Everything was not hunky-dory in the Indian dressing room, and Kohli's reported rift with Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin will rankle. But nothing can beat his repeated display of tantrums on the ground that prompted experts to call him "immature". The Cape Town Test against South Africa saw Kohli in full blast on the field; not as a batsman but as a captain. That said, free from the captaincy burden, master batsman Virat Kohli should regain his pristine touch, and carry India to more victories with his batting exploits.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

fetch 20 seers (not kgs) of rice.

The quality of service in banks has been deteriorating. Bank customers have been given the responsibility of making pass book entries by themselves in the machine kept outside. Installation of ATM machines has further reduced the work burden of bank employees in the case of withdrawal of deposit amount. When a bank account holder shifts to another place, a single request letter to transfer his account to the bank branch of his choice does not draw the attention of the concerned to consider the request. Fixed Deposits account is also not being transferred easily on request. Because of this, aged persons in particular are facing an ordeal of traveling to the bank where the account was held earlier. The difficulty is more pronounced at a time when the corona is at its peak.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### RAJAPPA'S DEMISE IS A BIG LOSS

Sir — The passing away of veteran journalist Sam Rajappa, whose name is syn-

onymous with the Kolkata based daily The Statesman, is a huge loss to Indian print journalism. His rich experience in the profession, deep knowledge in politics, and absolute command over the English language, have all made him one of the finest ever Indian journalists. A fact well known by contemporary journalists that Sam Rajappa strongly favoured and followed "Queen's English" throughout his journalistic career and never compromised on the language, both in style and grammar.

Years ago, I was working with a leading publication office in Chennai, located close to The Statesman's office, and I had the opportunity to interact with Mr Rajappa a few times. Not only was he affable and down-to-earth, but I also found him to be an encyclopedia, who could reel out information on any subject at the drop of a hat.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

All-out war between Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek. Mamata's pictures missing from posters in Diamond Harbour.

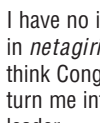


BJP leader — Amit Malviya



I don't regret it (my arrest) for a second. This is our country and we have no other.

Kremlin's critic — Alexei Navalny



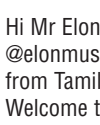
I have no interest in netagiri .... but I think Congress will turn me into a leader.

Film director — Kangana Ranaut



Saleem Malik had this smug look on his face, like, 'You should have taken the cash'.

Australia ex-bowler — Shane Warne



Hi Mr Elon @elonmusk. I'm from Tamil Nadu. Welcome to India's EV capital. #tnforpartnership



TN Industries Minister — Thangam Thennarasu



FIRST COLUMN

NEET AND THE POLITICS OF TAMIL NADU

That the test is against social justice is a fallacy



S KALYANASUNDARAM

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



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

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

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

Caste coalition in UP at crossroads

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



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

OBC is the new catchphrase in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh

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

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

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

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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



heeded their protests against the three farm laws passed in Parliament in 2019. The Jats hold the key in Western UP and they back RLD.

The junior Yadav has astutely moved away from his father's trusted Muslim-Yadav formula to a new kind of social engineering for a larger social coalition. Akhilesh has learned lessons the hard way. He had experimented with several combinations. As joining hands

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

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

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

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

switched to SP.

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

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

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

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

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

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



# E-com policy: DPIIT meets stakeholder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Tuesday held a meeting with different stakeholders, including domestic and foreign companies, on the proposed e-commerce policy, an official said.

The meeting was attended by domestic and foreign e-commerce firms besides domestic traders body CAIT (Confederation of All India Traders) and associations related to the MSME sector, the official added.

CAIT in a statement said the meeting was attended by All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF), Retailers Association of India, Laghu Udyog Bharti, and Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FSME).

Representatives of e-commerce firms, including Amazon and Flipkart, also attended the virtual meeting, which was chaired by DPIIT Additional Secretary Anil Agarwal, along with other senior officials of the min-



istry.

Confirming his participation in the meeting, CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said the e-commerce policy should have clear stipulations about transparent operations of e-commerce platforms, easy accessibility and adequate grievance redressal system, and non-discriminatory access of marketplace platforms to all stakeholders and value chain.

It should also have stipulations about the avoidance of conflict of interest among marketplace platforms, sellers and various service providers on the platform.

The meeting holds significance as the department is in the process of formulating the policy.

# Cyberattacks surge amid accelerating pace of Covid-driven digitalisation: WEF study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/DAVOS

The accelerating pace of digitalisation, fuelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, has led to a record-breaking year for cybercrime with ransomware attacks rising 151 per cent in 2021, and an average of 270 cyberattacks per organisation being faced, a new study showed on Tuesday.

The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022, released during its online Davos Agenda summit, further said that each successful cyber breach cost a company USD 3.6 million (nearly Rs 27 crore) last year, while the average share price of the hacked company underperformed NASDAQ by nearly 3 per cent even six months after the event in case of the breach becoming public.

The WEF said the global digital economy surged on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic, but so has cybercrime and nearly 80 per cent of cyber leaders now consider ransomware a danger and 'threat' to public safety.

At the same time, there is a large perception gap between business executives who think their companies are secure and security leaders who disagree.

Some 92 per cent of business executives surveyed agree that cyber resilience is integrated into enterprise risk-



management strategies, but only 55 per cent of cyber leaders surveyed agreed. This gap between leaders can leave firms vulnerable to attacks as a direct result of incongruous security priorities and policies, the report said.

Even after a threat is detected, the WEF survey conducted in collaboration with Accenture, found that nearly two-thirds would find it challenging to respond to a cybersecurity incident due to the shortage of skills within their team.

Even more troubling is the growing trend that companies need 280 days on average to identify and respond to a cyberattack. To put this into perspective, an incident that occurs on January 1, may not be fully contained until October 8.

"Companies must now embrace cyber resilience -- not only defending against cyberattacks but also preparing

for swift and timely incident response and recovery when an attack does occur," WEF Managing Director Jeremy Jurgens said.

Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet said organisations need to work more closely with ecosystem partners and other third parties to make cybersecurity part of their ecosystem DNA, so they can be resilient and promote customer trust.

The survey also found that less than one-fifth of cyber leaders feel confident that their organisations are cyber resilient.

Also, they do not feel consulted on business decisions, and they struggle to gain the support of decision-makers in prioritizing cyber risks, while recruiting and retaining the right talent is their greatest concern.

Besides, nearly nine in ten see SMEs as the weakest link in the supply chain.

# Jewellery industry body urges Govt to reduce GST to 1.25%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) on Tuesday urged the Government to reduce the rate of GST (goods and services tax) to 1.25 per cent.

In its pre-Budget 2022-23 recommendations to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, GJC has sought a cumulative GST rate of 1.25 per cent based on the revenue equivalence principle on gold, precious metals, gems and articles of jewellery made of such goods, the apex industry body said in a statement.

Currently, the GST rate for gems and jewellery is 3 per cent.

The national industry apex body has also urged FM to raise the PAN card limit to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh, as many households in rural India do not hold PAN cards and face difficulty in arranging minimum required jewellery in times of need, especially post-pandemic.

GJC has urged the government that suitable clarification be issued on the minimum quantity of gold, which an individual can deposit under the gold monetisation scheme (GMS), without being questioned by any departmental authorities.

Further, the industry body requested that the EMI facility for the purchase of 22K gold jewellery should be allowed to the gems and jewellery industry, which in turn shall lead to a substantial growth of the business of the industry after the pandemic.

"Our industry has suffered a lot during these harsh times of the pandemic, and it is also identified as one of the 'stressed sectors' in K V Kamath's report.

"Hence, we have proposed changes in Section 40A of the Income Tax Act so that the existing daily cash limit of Rs 10,000 per day be increased to Rs 1,00,000 per day," GJC Chairman Ashish Pethe said.

GJC has also urged the government to waive



off the bank commission (1-1.5 per cent) on the purchase of jewellery through credit cards, thus ensuring a good boost to the 'Digital India' for the gems and jewellery industry, he said.

"We are confident and hopeful that there may be good reliefs announced for our industry during the Budget session," Pethe added.

GJC also urged the government that in case jewellery sold is reinvested in new jewellery, the exemption from capital gain as per Section 54F of the Income Tax Act 1961 should be extended to the gems and jewellery industry.

This will help the industry to move towards organized and compliant business practices, it added.

On making the GMS more effective, GJC emphasised that the government must give exemptions to households for minimum 500 grams of gold deposited, being of ancestral nature, from questioning by any tax department.

The same will make GMS more effective and benefit the government and participants at large, GJC added.

The total deposits accumulated by the banks under the GMS are at around 11.1 tonnes, which is a meagre number as compared to the estimated holdings of 23,000-24,000 tonnes, the industry body stated.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	18337.20	18350.95	18085.90	18113.05	-195.05
AXISBANK	717.50	735.90	714.25	725.35	12.70
ICICIBANK	821.00	836.00	818.20	823.00	3.70
HDFCBANK	1531.00	1530.00	1523.00	1528.10	6.60
DREDDY	4670.00	4724.05	4621.00	4691.25	18.85
NESTLEIND	19282.00	19450.00	19180.00	19409.15	75.95
KOTAKBANK	19300.00	1975.00	19300.00	19405.26	2.60
ITC	124.20	125.55	123.35	123.75	0.00
TITAN	2598.00	2635.00	2587.00	2597.00	-0.55
ASIANPAINT	3379.05	3396.45	3351.00	3374.50	-4.15
BPCL	401.80	406.90	396.35	399.00	-1.55
SUNPHARM	2703.00	2727.00	2655.20	2690.80	-10.70
SUPERMARKA	855.00	867.20	845.00	848.00	-5.20
TCS	4033.95	4041.70	3980.00	3993.95	-25.20
POWERGRID	206.25	207.85	204.60	205.00	-1.35
CIPLA	910.20	914.00	888.45	901.60	-8.60
M&M	902.00	910.60	898.30	892.15	-8.65
ONGC	168.00	168.40	163.40	164.25	-1.60
BRITANNIA	3668.00	3694.70	3611.10	3629.30	-35.85
HDFCLIFE	678.00	678.80	666.75	667.45	-6.70
HINDUNILVR	2408.70	2408.70	2357.40	2360.20	-24.35
INFY	799.95	7945.00	7716.05	7770.00	-82.60
RELIANCE	1922.10	1945.00	1914.15	1918.00	-21.50
BAJAJFINSV	2547.45	2562.35	2515.75	2523.00	-29.25
BAJAJFINSV	18376.85	18587.75	18100.05	18150.10	-215.50
NTPC	136.60	137.75	134.40	134.95	-1.65
SBIN	514.00	517.45	505.00	507.40	-6.60
HDFC	2713.00	2713.55	2656.80	2661.10	-41.70
SBILIFE	1287.95	1293.00	1263.10	1267.65	-20.30
COALINDIA	164.00	165.50	160.30	160.80	-2.90
ITC	224.60	227.30	220.30	220.60	-4.00
WIPRO	648.90	660.00	631.15	634.90	-11.75
HINDALCO	508.80	512.35	498.40	496.90	-9.95
BHARTIARTL	727.00	730.70	712.55	713.85	-14.75
ADANIPORTS	780.00	790.00	760.00	762.95	-16.10
BAJAJ-AUTO	3488.95	3497.20	3392.60	3416.90	-72.85
LT	2075.65	2078.55	2010.55	2025.95	-43.45
INDUSINDBK	920.50	927.35	895.35	901.00	-19.50
DIVISLAB	4635.00	4640.35	4521.05	4531.00	-99.35
SHEREEEM	27550.00	27639.65	26850.00	26900.00	-645.35
TATASTEEL	1230.00	1233.75	1190.00	1196.95	-32.80
TATAMOTORS	52.90	52.80	50.75	51.05	-14.05
UPL	821.55	825.00	795.85	802.00	-22.75
JSWSTEEL	703.35	704.65	677.55	679.25	-20.15
HCLTECH	1269.95	1269.95	1217.00	1220.10	-38.65
TECHM	1740.00	1746.55	1650.05	1662.50	-59.90
GRASIM	1927.95	1929.80	1842.70	1849.30	-69.40
EICHMOTR	2859.30	2859.30	2725.00	2740.00	-104.30
ULTRACEMCO	780.70	789.40	775.00	775.00	-300.10
TATACONSUM	763.80	770.00	728.40	734.95	-30.15
MARUTI	8248.95	8248.95	7891.50	7929.00	-336.50

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	18350.95	18350.95	18288.90	18258.55	-754.70
ADANI GREEN	1850.00	1923.90	1860.00	1916.90	81.60
CHOLAFIN	609.00	626.00	604.00	612.00	11.30
PGHIL	15960.00	16203.85	15926.45	16149.00	251.90
ICICIGI	1460.00	1465.00	1414.15	1451.25	18.90
ADANITRANS	2002.70	2050.00	1981.00	2027.50	24.80
DMART	4425.00	4500.00	4381.00	4440.00	39.50
GODREJCP	926.00	948.00	925.00	932.85	7.90
LUPIN	942.00	962.00	937.00	944.10	1.55
TORNTPHARM	3198.00	3233.75	3158.10	3194.95	3.95
BAJAJHLDG	5518.00	5587.00	5441.30	5500.35	3.95
COLPAL	1470.00	1489.00	1462.00	1467.85	0.70
IGL	457.10	464.90	450.00	453.90	-0.90
HAVELLS	1326.35	1341.50	1311.00	1318.00	-11.05
PIDILITIND	2737.25	2737.25	2671.10	2691.80	-22.75
SHCARD	890.00	892.00	875.00	878.90	-7.65
GLAND	3699.20	3717.00	3660.00	3665.00	-32.35
DABUR	569.60	571.30	562.60	564.00	-5.60
VEDL	324.90	327.95	320.15	322.50	-3.30
ICICIPRULI	618.50	648.05	605.45	609.45	-6.20
HDFCBANK	2494.00	2504.95	2430.65	2459.65	-29.50
HINDPETRO	328.10	330.45	323.00	323.90	-4.05
GAIL	144.60	146.00	141.95	142.80	-1.90
BANKBARODA	93.85	95.90	91.70	92.30	-1.45
BERGEPAINT	775.90	789.00	759.10	762.85	-13.05
YESBANK	14.10	14.15	13.70	13.85	-0.25
SAIL	108.00	108.10	105.05	105.10	-1.90
PNB	40.00	40.20	39.00	39.10	-0.75
MARICO	503.00	503.00	488.25	491.90	-9.45
INDIGO	2168.00	2183.00	2097.05	2122.00	-43.25
SIEMENS	2383.00	2397.25	2301.15	2333.70	-47.60
BANDHANBNK	302.80	305.50	293.50	295.00	-6.20
MUTHOOTFIN	1503.90	1518.90	1455.55	1465.20	-31.05
BIOCON	358.00	359.50	347.00	349.30	-7.80
ADANIEN	1885.00	1895.00	1830.05	1866.00	-41.80
AUROPHARMA	686.00	698.50	663.65	669.50	-16.30
JUBLFOOD	3924.90	3924.90	3775.00	3799.00	-94.95
MCDOWELL-N	947.00	956.50	913.45	920.50	-26.10
PIND	2814.90	2814.90	2705.40	2713.80	-82.30
BOSCHLTD	17849.50	17849.50	17603.85	17166.85	-525.45
NMDC	145.30	145.60	139.00	140.40	-4.40
INDUSTOWER	273.00	275.00	270.00	273.00	-4.00
LTI	7077.00	7158.80	6850.00	6869.95	-233.05
CADILAHC	439.00	439.00	424.00	422.00	-16.05
PEL	2679.00	2698.25	2557.00	2573.00	-98.85
JINDALSTEEL	420.00	421.60	400.50	402.50	-16.15
DLF	42.90	42.90	39.05	40.95	-17.85
NAUKRI	5674.00	5690.00	5266.55	5371.00	-281.35
ACC	2391.00	2392.90	2240.35	2249.00	-129.65
APOLLOHOSP	4900.00	4909.90	4505.00	4617.00	-294.75
AMBUJACEM	410.00	410.00	379.00	379.95	-27.85

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	STOCK	Open	High	Low	LTP	STOCK
TATAPOWER	250.20	250.60	237.85	239.05	POLYCAB	2741.00	2770.85	2646.25	2664.85	STAR
NTPC	136.90	137.75	134.45	134.90	EICHERMOT	2855.00	2855.00	2725.05	2740.50	IOC
HFCL	90.50	93.10	88.10	89.35	IOC	124.90	125.50	123.40	123.85	LUXIND
TATAMOTORS	528.20	528.35	507.10	510.95	LUXIND	3700.90	3925.00	3663.20	3847.30	TITAN
HCLTECH	1265.00	1270.00	1217.00	1219.85	TITAN	2605.00	2634.10	2587.60	2598.35	TATAMTRDVR
TRIDENT	70.90	70.90	64.60	64.60	TATAMTRDVR	267.00	268.05	255.85	259.10	LICHSGFIN
HDFCBANK	1531.50	1550.00	1523.25	1529.60	LICHSGFIN	394.95	394.95	377.00	379.10	GRAPHITE
RELIANCE	2553.00	2562.80	2515.50	2520.85	GRAPHITE	559.80	572.70	533.95	538.80	RAIN
SUZLON	12.75	13.10	12.28	12.28	RAIN	249.80	249.80	229.05	232.80	RAJESHEXPO
TCS	4045.50	4045.50	3981.00	3990.25	RAJESHEXPO	938.15	948.65	907.30	917.40	BALAMINES
IDEA	12.60	12.65	12.00	12.05	BALAMINES	3658.00	3723.95	3561.05	3598.60	JSWSTEEL
SBIN	514.05	517.40	505.00	506.65	JSWSTEEL	707.00	707.00	677.25	680.00	DREDDY
TATASTEEL	1232.00	1232.95	1190.00	1194.50	DREDDY	4673.60	4723.00	4621.00	4685.45	NAUKRI
ICICIBANK	821.00	836.00	818.25	823.35	NAUKRI	5674.95	5674.95	5266.25	5379.65	WELSPUNIND
WELSPUNIND	267.95	268.30	250.00	252.90	WELSPUNIND	148.90	154.95	146.25	148.45	DEEPAKNI
DEEPAKNI	7922.00	7944.40	7720.00	7747.15	DEEPAKNI	2655.10	2690.05	2573.00	2594.00	IDBI
AXISBANK	34.95	35.65	31.65	32.05	IDBI	52.80	52.80	50.40	50.65	BEL
APOLLOHOSP	4920.00	4920.00	4505.00	4618.20	BEL	217.40	218.40	207.55	208.00	BAJAJ-AUTO
AXISBANK	717.00	735.85	715.00	725.60	BAJAJ-AUTO	3490.00	3496.80	3392.35	3421.75	FEDERALBNK
ADANIPOWER	116.10	117.90	109.10	109.80	FEDERALBNK	99.95	101.00	97.85	98.35	CHAMBLFERT
SAIL	107.95	108.00	105.10	105.35	CHAMBLFERT	475.00	483.00	462.70	466.00	M&M
YESBANK	14.09	14.15	13.72	13.79	M&M	90.00	909.70	888.35	891.35	INDHOTEL
TECHM	1741.80	1746.30	1650.75	1660.65	INDHOTEL	213.45	214.15	206.05	206.40	METROPOLIS
BANKBARODA	94.10	95.90	91.65	92.20	METROPOLIS	2992.00	2992.00	2827.70	2856.00	BHARTIARTL
ADANI GREEN	1846.90	1919.30	1830.05	1906.80	BHARTIARTL	728.55	730.45	712.90	713.75	TATACOMM
ANGELONE	1408.00	1427.15	1368.65	1382.00	TATACOMM	1550.15	1564.15	1473.55	1483.65	TATAPATPOWR
BHEL	64.20	64.20	60.30	60.70	TATAPATPOWR	390.00	417.00	390.00	380.40	ECLERX
PNB	40.00	40.20	39.00	39.20	ECLERX	2859.60	2910.65	2770.20	2825.10	MCC
V18BRDCST	48.90	50.80	46.15	49.15	MCC	1630.00	1630.00	1560.25	1585.85	PERSISTENT
GODREJPROP	1990.00	2012.70	1894.30	1905.65	PERSISTENT	4350.00	4459.95	4312.00	4333.55	AUROPHARMA
IRCTC	897.95	904.00	855.75	861.45	AUROPHARMA	685.70	694.70	667.00	669.30	JUBFOOD
INDIGO	2180.00	2182.35	2097.85	2125.95	JUBFOOD	3895.25	3921.35	3775.15	3788.10	NLCINDIA
RBLBANK	156.50	156.50	149.15	149.15	NLCINDIA	70.35	71.00	68.05	68.40	CPIA
MAHINDRATOW	275.00	276.00	265.00	267.55	CPIA	910.50	914.05	899.60	902.25	INDIAMART
DLF	8255.00	8255.00	7887.95	7930.00	INDIAMART	6735.00	6735.00	6458.00	6503.00	GRAEVESCOT
MARUTI	427.45	429.80	390.95	403.15	GRAEVESCOT	244.60	250.10	224.00	227.05	STRANSFIN
INFIBEAM	43.40	46.85	43.40	44.35	STRANSFIN	1240.15	1266.25	1186.15	1203.40	DIXON
PRESTIGE	53.50	54.40	52.10	52.45	DIXON	5410.00	5498.00	5179.75	5263.60	IRFC
ADANIEN	1883.70	1908.55	1830.65	1841.85	IRFC	24.15	24.30	23.65	23.70	NMDC
POWERGRID	206.00	207.80	204.60	205.10	NMDC	145.25	145.70	139.75	140.20	SONAB
KPITTECH	734.90	737.35	711.20	714.05	SONAB	2335.45	2410.00	2302.85	2370.00	SNACOMS
RCF	84.05	85.55	83.50	84.35	SNACOMS	77.05	78.95	76.10	77.55	MASTEK
NATIONALNUM	110.35	111.80	106.40	107.05	MASTEK	3218.50	3311.00	3106.00	3136.70	ABFRL
ZEE	323.55	324.70	315.35	316.35	ABFRL	312.00	318.55	307.80	310.25	
BPCL	400.75	406.75	396.35	398.00						
TATACONSUM	764.65	769.80	728.30	731.90						
WANDHANBNK	303.00	305.25	293.35	295.15						
INDUSINDBK	65.00	65.00	63.35	63.40						
INDUSINDBK	915.90	927.15	895.40	900.20						
BCG	188.80	188.80	180.80	180.95						
LAXMIMACH	10229.95	10691.05	10275.00	10380.00						
ILUTHSGFIN	223.90	227.60	220.50	221.65						
SUNPHARMA	853.65	867.20	843.65	845.90						
DMART	4440.00	4503.60	4384.65	4439.85						
BALKRISIND	2512.50	2536.75	2489.80	2503.00						
VEDL	325.50	327.90	320.30	322.35						
BAJAJFINS	18400.00	18560.95	18104.60	18173.95						
TATACHEM	1031.00	1041.85	1000.05	1005.25						
MINDTREE	4529.00	4532.65	4431.05	4350.00						
CADILAHC	439.00	439.60	420.60	422.15						
PRAJIND	435.00	439.20	414.00	417.25						
DEEPAKERT	567.00	570.10	536.75	536.75						
AMBUJACEM	408.20	409.05	379.05	381.40						
ITC	224.90	227.30	220.40	220.80						
DELTAORCL	296.60	299.60	280.70	282.55						
OOREOIRLY	982.00	998.00	934.15	945.50						
LUPIN	942.80	961.50	936.80	944.80						
HINDALCO	509.00	512.15	493.65	495.95						
BSOFT	549.55	553.55	530.80	534.65						
KOTAKBANK	1934.00	1974.00	1930.00	1941.50						
SASBHA	970.60	1008.90	950.20	962.00						
ANIANSPOINT	3388.30	3393.90	3351.15	3372.40						
INFCE	1930.00	1944.00	1912.00	1920.95						
UDGL	64.35	65.45	62.20	62.60						
UTTRACEMCO	7800.00	7890.00	7520.60	7566.25						
ONGC	890.00	893.00	864.00	867.75						
DFCERSTB	49.00	49.65	47.55	47.75						
INDF	168.00	168.10	163.40	163.80						
ASHOKLEY	148.00	147.45	134.25	135.45						
MANAPPURAM	168.25	170.70	161.80	162.95						
ADANIPORTS	780.00	789.80	760.10	763.95						
M&MFIN	168.20	171.85	163.15	163.75						
INDIACEM	253.00	253.00	233.60	235.80						
PVR	1570.00	1605.55	1551.60	1578.15						
CHOLAFIN	613.75	625.95	605.00	611.55						
POONAWALLA	289.00	289.00	276.70	278.45						
AUBANK	1294.70	1314.20	1250.00	1262.65						
EXIDEIND	183.50	183.65	178.60	178.90						
CAMS	2955.00	2995.00	2861.15	2876.10						
JINDALSAW	113.00	119.15	113.00	113.80						
HINDUNILVR	173.95	173.95	165.20	166.10						
JINDALSTEL	2319.25	2400.00	2357.35	2369.05						
JGL	422.90	422.90	400.70	402.40						
BALRAMCHIN	457.55	464.65	450.50	453.05						
UP	427.50	458.80	437.90	439.65						
APOLLOTRE	84.00	825.00	796.15	799.05						
TATATELSI	245.00	245.00	234.20	235.25						
DBL	647.05	6521.95	6300.00	6370.50						
GAIL	384.80	384.90	342.55	346.80						
SBICARD	144.10	146.00	142.10	142.85						
IBREALEST	895.00	895.00	875.00	878.20						
L	186.10	179.00	162.30	163.40						
LT	2075.00	2078.20	2011.05	2025.05						
LFTH	80.15	81.65	78.15	78.50						
COMMINSIND	100.00	1025.00	981.25	988.75						
AMARAJABAT	66.10	66.10	64.00	64.65						
CANBK	328.20	329.95	221.70	223.65						
LALPATHLAB	250.00	350.00	335.40	336.05						

RUPEE vs Dollar

74.58

73.94 (+11p)

73.90 (+3p)

73.93 (+1p)

74.15 (-25p)

74.25 (-10p)

11

12

13

14

17

18 JAN

Provisional

PTN GRAPHICS

Inverted Scale

UNITBANK

GRASIM

MRPL

MMTC

RVNL

COFORGE

VARROC

SRF

SUNTECK

IRB

MARICO

PIIND

PEL

MUTHOOTFIN

GLENNMARK

LTI

SBILIFE

JSL

AFLE

KEI

BRIGADE

HDPC

SONATSOFTW

ISEC

LINDEINDIA

LAURUSLABS

VALSARTS

HAL

DISVLB

FSTJL

ESORTS

GNFC

ROUTEL

GRANULES

BIOCON

ALKYLAMINE

ASTRAL

45.60

45.90

45.45

45.60

1939.00

1939.00

1842.70

1851.30

45.45

49.25

45.30

48.85

49.50

49.85

46.05

46.85

38.95

39.10

37.30

37.45

5700.00

5700.00

5387.15

5406.55

443.85

451.00

428.35

442.20

2649.00

2669.45

2594.20

2624.10

577.25

589.95

536.90

546.65

249.75

251.90

239.05

243.35

507.20

507.20

487.00

492.00

2785.50

2810.70

2710.37

2715.30

2680.75

2698.00

2560.00

2571.75

1496.50

1518.45

1454.50

1462.95

514.00

521.35

491.90

496.90

1096.00

1175.40

1260.15

1267.00

1292.70

1292.70

685.45

1269.90

207.60

214.30

200.20

203.25

1486.00

1510.00

1437.05

1449.15

1185.00

1220.75

1163.60

1174.30

509.60

530.85

497.05

501.20

2710.25

2711.00

2656.95

2662.65

921.00

928.85

845.15

862.15

826.60

836.55

803.05

813.00

2609.00

2709.80

2604.05

2605.45

509.55

514.40

496.60

500.15

1257.85

1303.50

1256.40

1287.50

1405.10

1430.95

1383.45

1393.60

4630.00

4637.80

4514.15

4538.15

884.70

887.55

835.60

839.00

177.70

179.20

165.60

167.20

1864.50

1882.00

1855.35

1862.45

495.00

499.00

471.00

475.60

420.00

420.15</



# China cites corona on packaging, despite doubts abroad

AP ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Japan ready to expand Covid restrictions as infections spike

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

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

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

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

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

## Russia moves more troops westward amid Ukraine tensions

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

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

Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia could launch an attack from various directions, including from territory of its ally Belarus. The deployment would dramatically bolster an estimated 100,000 troops with tanks and other heavy weapons amassed near Ukraine in what West fears could be a prelude to an invasion. Russia has denied an intention to attack its ex-Soviet neighbour, but demanded guarantees from West that NATO will not expand to Ukraine or other ex-Soviet nations or place its troops and weapons there.

Washington and its allies

firmly rejected Moscow's demands during last week's Russia-US negotiations in Geneva and a related NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels. Fomin said drills, which involve an unspecified number of troops from Russia's Eastern Military District that encompasses Eastern Siberia and the Far East, reflect need to practice concentrating country's entire military potential in western Russia. "A situation may arise when forces and means of the regional group of forces will be insufficient to ensure reliable security of the union state, and we must be ready to strengthen it," Fomin said at a meeting with foreign military attaches. "We have reached an understanding with Belarus that it's necessary to engage the entire military potential for joint defence."

Belarus' authoritarian president, Alexander Lukashenko said the joint maneuvers will be conducted on Belarus' western border and also in the country's south, where it borders Ukraine. Lukashenko has increasingly relied on the Kremlin's support amid Western sanctions over a brutal crackdown on domestic protests. The US and its allies have urged Russia to deescalate the situation by calling the

troops back to their barracks. "In recent weeks, more than 100,000 Russian troops with tanks and guns have gathered near Ukraine without an understandable reason, and it's hard not to understand that as a threat," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told reporters after the talks in Moscow with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Lavrov has responded by reaffirming Moscow's argument that it's free to deploy its forces wherever it considers it necessary on its territory.

"We can't accept demands about our armed forces on our own territory," Lavrov said, adding that "troops' training is something that every country does." "We aren't threatening anyone, but we are hearing threats to us," he added. "We will decide how to react depending on what specific steps our partners will take."

Baerbock emphasised that the West is ready to continue a dialogue with Russia to help defuse tensions.

"We are prepared for a serious dialogue on mutual agreements and steps to bring everyone in Europe more security," she said, noting that last week's security talks were a "first sensible step toward such a dialogue".

## Pak: Policeman killed, 2 wounded in Islamabad shootout

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In the first terrorist attack in Islamabad this year, a policeman was killed and two others were injured after two militants riding a motorcycle opened fire at a check post, officials said on Tuesday. The militants were also killed in the overnight shootout which took place in the Karachi Company area of the heavily guarded capital, the Islamabad Police said in a statement. The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a statement took responsibility for the attack. A policeman was killed, while two others were wounded, the police statement said, adding that the two militants were also killed in the retaliatory fire. Confirming the incident, Interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said it was the "first terrorist attack of this year and we need to say alert". "It is a signal that terrorist activities have started in Islamabad," he said. The TTP has been involved in several attacks against the security forces and civilians. The group announced a month-long ceasefire following talks with the government. But the temporary ceasefire ended on Dec 9 after the two sides failed to make any headway. PTI

## Kazakhstan's former leader rejects reports that he fled

AP ■ MOSCOW

Kazakhstan's influential former leader released a short video on Tuesday in which he talked about violent unrest that engulfed ex-Soviet nation earlier this month and rejected reports alleging that he fled the country amid tensions with current president.

It was first time that Nursultan Nazarbayev, who ran Kazakhstan for 29 years after it gained independence and kept an influential post after stepping down as president in 2019, spoke publicly about the protests and the bloodshed they descended into. Nazarbayev also denied that there were tensions between him and his hand-picked successor, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Some speculated that a rift between two could have played a role in exacerbating unrest. Protests in Kazakhstan, an oil and gas-rich nation of 19 million in Central Asia, began on Jan. 2 in a small western town over the near-doubling of fuel prices. But they quickly spread across the vast country, growing into a general protest against the authoritarian government and turning into violent riots that killed over 220 people.

Tokayev sought to calm the crowds by announcing a 180-day cap on fuel prices and removing Nazarbayev as head of the National Security Council, an influential post he occupied since stepping down. The move was seen by some as an attempt to end the former

leader's patronage that had ignited tensions among Kazakhstan's ruling elite, further fueling the unrest.

In his video address Tuesday, Nazarbayev, 81, rejected these allegations. "There is no conflict or confrontation within the country's elite. The rumours in this regard are completely groundless," he said.

He also brushed off reports that claimed he had fled the country, and backed Tokayev's move to take over as head of the National Security Council. "In 2019, I handed over the presidential authority to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and have ever since been a retiree, currently enjoying retirement in the capital of Kazakhstan, having never left anywhere. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has the full power, he's the chairman of the Security Council," Nazarbayev said. According to Kazakhstan's officials, 227 people died in the violence, including 19 police officers and servicemen. Saturday's toll of 225 rose on Tuesday, when the country's Health Minister Azhar Giniyat said two more people who were injured in the unrest died in the hospital.

More than 4,300 people were injured, and thousands have been detained by authorities. To quell the unrest, Tokayev requested help from the Russia-led military alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which is made up of six former Soviet nations. The bloc sent more than 2,000 troops to Kazakhstan and withdrew them after several days. (AP)

## Lankan President Rajapaksa vows rights reforms; promises 'justice'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said on Tuesday that Sri Lanka needs to "correct misconceptions" of international community on its human rights policies as he promised "justice" for missing persons from three decade-long civil war with LTTE. "We reject racism."

The present government wants to safeguard dignity and rights of every citizen in this country in a uniform manner," President Rajapaksa said while addressing a new session of Parliament. "Therefore I urge those politicians who continue to incite people against each other for narrow political gains to stop doing so," he said.

Talking about human rights issues in country, Rajapaksa said that he was willing to take suggestions from international community on it. "We need to correct misconceptions that have been taken to international community in past regarding our human rights," he said.

"I say with responsibility that during my tenure, the government did not support any form of human rights violations. We will also not leave room for any such act in future. We do not condone such actions in any manner," he added. The Lankan government's reluctance to address or investigate human rights allegations from civil war has been a source of tension in its ties with several Western countries. President Rajapaksa, who so far sidestepped calls to investigate missing persons from civil war, said that the issue is not something unique to a particular group.

"We will do maximum justice on behalf of all such persons," he said. According to the Lankan government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade separatist war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed at least 100,000 lives.

## FROM PAGE 1

### STEP UP COVID TESTING, STATES TOLD

This advisory needs to be read in conjunction with the earlier guidelines and advisories of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, wherein it has been recommended that strategic and focused testing should be done of people who are vulnerable, living in closed surroundings, in densely populated areas in emerging new clusters and new hotspots of positive cases, etc., Ahuja said. "In order to ensure that an effective track of the spread of the pandemic is kept and also immediate citizen-centric action is initiated, it is incumbent upon all States/UTs to enhance testing," she said.

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

### COVID CASES RISE 58 TIMES IN 3 WEEKS IN PARAMILITARY FORCES

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

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

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

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

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

### CHANNI'S NEPHEW AMONG MEN RAIDED FOR ILLEGAL MINING

However, the CM's nephew, Honey,

was not named as an accused in the 2018 FIR. After the FIR registered by the Punjab police, the ED had initiated its investigation in the case.

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

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

"Today we saw the limit of vindictiveness. To seek revenge on a Dalit Chief Minister, the ED has been unleashed in Punjab, with which the Chief Minister and his family have nothing to do. The BJP is taking revenge on a Dalit Chief Minister. The ED is not the enforcement directorate but the BJP's election department," Surjewala said at the AICC press conference.

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

ED officials maintained that the raids were being conducted in connection with an illegal sand mining case it was already investigating. ED sources claimed that it has received information regarding the accused allegedly mining the sand illegally, making profits, and then laundering the money. Several companies and their directors are being probed in the matter.

Responding, Channi maintained that ED raids are "pressure tactics" being used to target him and the Congress party ahead of polls. "These tactics were also used during the West Bengal elections against Mamata Banerjee's relatives," he said.

Congress leader and media co-ordinator of Punjab polls Alka Lamba tweeted, "CBI, ED & IT raids become a tool of

the BJP govt during the elections. 1. IT raid at DMK chief MK Stalin's daughter just 2-days before the elections; 2. CBI raid at Abhishek Banerjee just one month before the elections. 3. ED raid at NCP chief Sharad Pawar just before the elections."

### BHAGWANT MANN PICKED AS AAP'S PUNJAB CM FAVE

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

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

Amid the demand to declare Mann as party's Chief Ministerial candidate, the AAP has been looking for a suitable face. And in the process, it has got in touch with several prominent personalities. From Bollywood actor-cum-philanthropist Sonu Sood to Dubai-based hotelier and social activist SPS Oberoi, from renowned farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal to former diplomat KC Singh — various names went around, with AAP all along been claiming that there were no discussion with them.

There were also reports that some of the party leaders from Delhi are also nurturing the desire to occupy the CM's chair. But, considering the fact that Punjab's voters would not accept any "parachute leader" as CM candidate, the AAP did not mull over the same. In fact, in 2017 polls, when the AAP and even the poll analysts were confident of forming the government, the AAP bore the brunt of contesting the polls under Kejriwal's leadership not projecting any Punjab's leader as the CM face.

This time, the party decided to contest with its CM face, with Kejriwal also promising a respectable "Sikh face" which every Punjabi would be proud of. However, the delay and uncertainty over the same send a wrong signal within the party cadre, which also resulted in an exodus of sorts.

Despite Mann's brush with contro-

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

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

### CONG'S DEF BAND DEAL WITH DEVAS 'FRAUD ON INDIA': FM

Devas Multimedia initiated arbitration against the annulment at the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC). Two separate arbitrations were also initiated under the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) by Mauritius investors in Devas Multimedia under the India-Mauritius BIT and by Deutsche Telekom -- a German company -- under the India-Germany BIT. India lost all three disputes and has to pay a total of USD 1.29 billion in damages.

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

### WHY WOMEN'S INTAKE IN NDA ONLY 19, SAME AS LAST YR: SC TO CENTRE

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

out of which 1,002 candidates were women and 7,007 men.

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

ASG Bhati said that the intake of female candidates in the NDA and other institutions do not only depend on infrastructure but on several other reasons including the requirement of defence forces. "The court may allow us some time to file a detailed affidavit in the matter and we will try to put forth the reasons behind the number of intake of women candidates," she said.

The bench said it understands that not all fields are open for women candidates in defence forces and there will not be an equal number of men and women as of now but it will take time.

### R-DAY EVENTS SHADOWED BY COVID TO HAVE MANY FIRSTS

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

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

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

Apart from these initiatives, the visitors at the Rajpath for the parade will see

huge paintings commemorating 75 years of progressive India and as a tribute to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom movement.

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

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

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

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

The objective of the "Vande Bharatam" competition was to select the top dancing talent from across the country and provide equal opportunity to all to perform during this mega event.

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

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

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

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



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

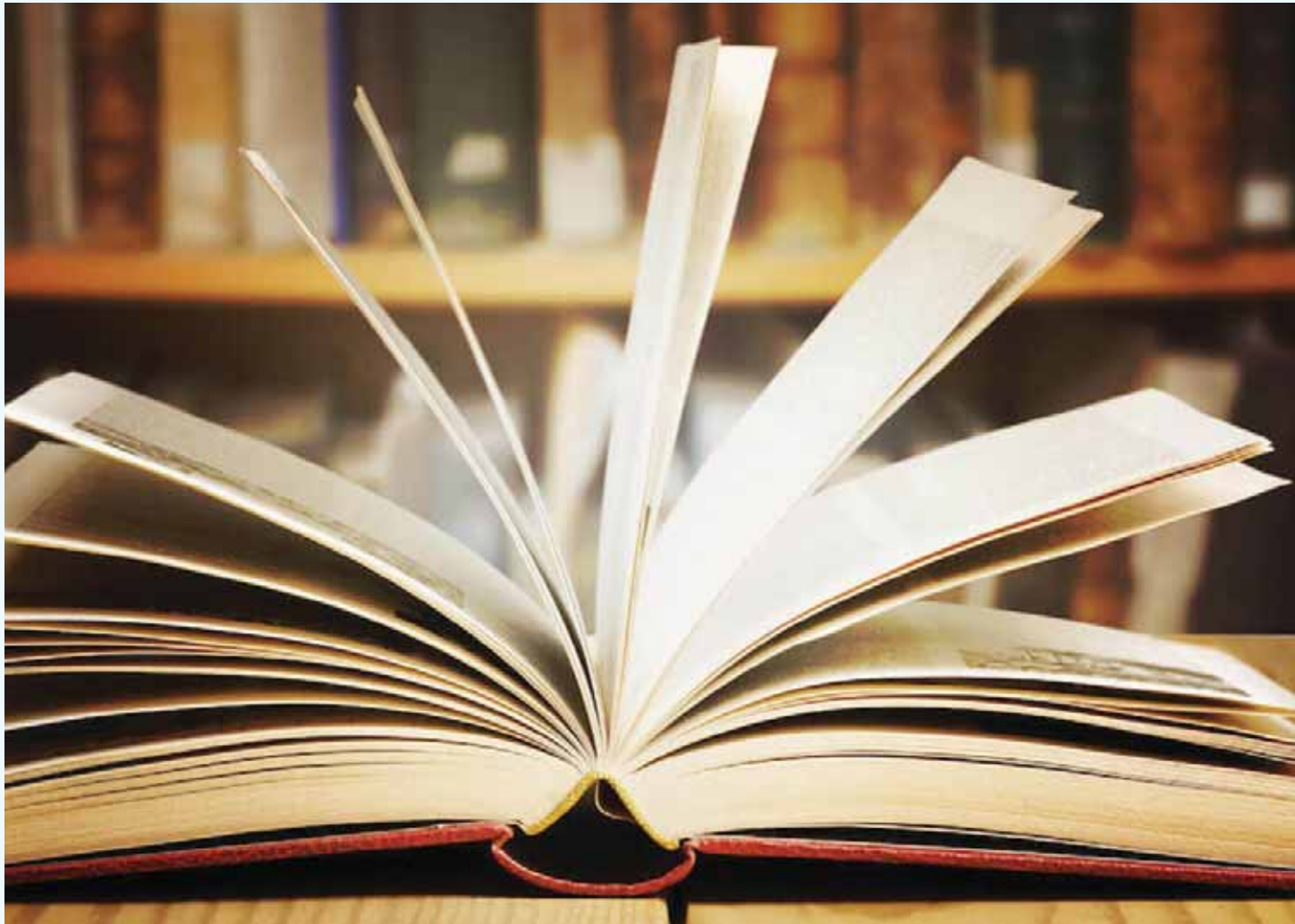
The progress of any country is primarily judged by the status of its education and healthcare industries. The Indian education system is expected to reach a valuation of USD 225 billion by FY 2025. The subcontinent is at a crossroads in terms of providing leadership in education.

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

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

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

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



# LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.**

— Cesar Chavez

## MBA PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

## UG AND PG AT THE DESIGN VILLAGE

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



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

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

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

Admission will be done on the basis of marks obtained.

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

**Last Date to Apply:** 27th January

## 2-day workshop on Pearson Test of English

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

People can register for the webinar by clicking on this link: [https://zoom.us/join/register/3116420715727/WN\\_0iqpQGuWQOGxUv-hqQmPUQ](https://zoom.us/join/register/3116420715727/WN_0iqpQGuWQOGxUv-hqQmPUQ)

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

# New Term Assessment Policy by CBSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ry and practical components.

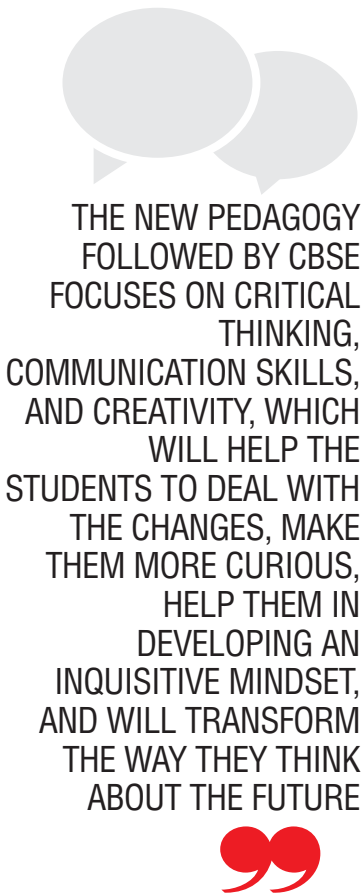
In my opinion, it is a welcoming move. Today, our focus should be to teach the students those skills, which will help them to survive and flourish in the competitive world of today. Unfortunately, the focus of most of the schools currently is on cramming the syllabus and passing the examination. There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

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

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

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

The type of questions, which are being



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

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

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

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

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

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

## UG programmes at JKLU

PNS ■ JAIPUR

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

Before candidates apply

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

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

The admission will be granted on a first come first

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

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

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

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

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

## Global Employability Test 2022

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The GET 2022 consists of

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

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

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

The writer is Vicky Jain, Founder, uKnowva, A 360-degree HR Automation Software



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

# MBA will be in fashion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## ‘Change starts with right kind of education’

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dr Jitin Chadha  
Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MINDIT

### Growth in every perspective:

Communication can be observed in either of the two ways internally and externally. That simply means the skills we possessed internally can deliver a message externally if we hold strong expressive language, this can be turned out to be a successful journey in your working life. What makes people differ in their career as everyone has their degree, knowledge, experience but lacks in the growth? Life is not all about hardworking

and continuously working without self-consciousness and awakening about the environment, when you are awakened you can modulate yourself and act as a stimulus towards success. This is proportional to communication skills.

**Strong management:** When superior team managers are strong communicators they can well manage their teams like assignment of tasks, dispute management, relationship building, motivation, and other

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

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

are successfully implemented due to the confidence and skills.

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

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

### FULL STACK DEVELOPMENT AT ADPUSHUP

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

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WHITE PANDA

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

### PODCAST HOSTING AT THECOINREPUBLIC

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

### MEDIA & PR AT NEWS10INDIA

Location - Delhi, Gurgaon  
Stipend - ₹ 10,000-15,000/Month  
Link - [internshala.com/i/2378a1](https://internshala.com/i/2378a1)  
Deadline - 27th January 2022

### CONTENT WRITING AT IMPACT MEDIA

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

### WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SOFTICATION TECHNOLOGY

Location - Ranchi, Gurgaon, Noida, Delhi  
Stipend - ₹ 10,000/Month  
Link - [internshala.com/i/0bc3f9](https://internshala.com/i/0bc3f9)  
Deadline: January 25, 2022

### DIGITAL MARKETING AT SPYNE

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

## INBRIEF

### GRANTS & INCUBATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

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

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

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

### GITAM EXTENDS ISDC PARTNERSHIP

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

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

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

### MATH++ DOTS LEARNING COURSE

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

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

### CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION AWARD FOR START-UPS

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

The participating start-

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

Kannan Soundararajan,

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

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

### HIRING OF HIGHLY SKILLED TECH PROFESSIONALS

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

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

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

### TWO NEW EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

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

The designing afford-

able living course will start on March 4, 2022 and the other in February. The course provides 30 students with the ability to build a business that innovates, creates, and sells affordable living products. The course offers knowledge about various materials used for designing affordable living products, with a deep dive into the properties of laminated corrugated cardboard, a highly affordable material.

By the end of the course, students shall build the prototypes of the products, enhancing learning by integrating theory and practice. Link for designing affordable living — <https://anu.edu.in/programme/designing-affordable-living/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esst/EPB/VI-VII/2021-22/473/2021/8529 Date : 17.01.2022  
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender from reputed exercise book manufacturers through e-Tendering process for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class –VI & VII (Single Line and Plain).

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



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

Janasanyogi/CF/2919/21



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

PTI ■ PAARL (SOUTH AFRICA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With the new leadership and support staff, India will look to win

the series with one eye on preparations for the 2023 World Cup and also make up for the disappointment of unexpectedly going down in the Tests last week.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## KL Rahul set to lead Lucknow IPL franchise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## India eye improved batting performance against Ireland

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

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

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

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

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

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



with 251 runs in five games and struck an unbeaten 100 against Australia in the team's final warm-up game on January 11, is expected to score a bagful of runs in the tournament but managed only 1 in the opener.

Right-arm pacer Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/38), who has played senior cricket for Maharashtra and impressed with his raw pace in the Asia Cup, and left-arm fast bowler Ravi Kumar both had ordinary outings against South Africa. Meanwhile in the other match of the day, Australia will take on Scotland in a Group D game in Basseterre.

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

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

## Former IPL cricketer R Sathish claims 'fixing approach'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The complaint has been filed with Bengaluru Police.

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

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

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

## Skipper Wellalage's all-round show hands SL 4-wicket victory

PTI ■ BASSETERRE ST KITTS & NEVIS

Dunith Wellalage led from the front with an all-round show as Sri Lanka defeated Australia by four wickets to register their second consecutive win in Group D of the ICC U-19 World Cup here.

Wellalage (5/28) first spun the web around Australia batsmen with his slow left-arm tweakers to bundle out the opposition for 175 runs after opting to bowl at the Conaree Sports Club on Monday.

Opener Campbell Kellaway was the top-scorer for Australia with a 77-ball 54-run knock as Sri Lankan bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals to make life difficult for their opponents.

Besides, Wellalage, Treveen Mathew (2/32) and Matheesha Pathirana (2/34) picked up two wickets apiece for Sri Lanka.

Chasing a modest target, Sri Lanka suffered early jolts and were reduced to 49 for four at one stage before Wellalage steadied the ship with a 71-ball 52 and stitched two crucial partnerships with wicketkeeper Anjala Bandara (33) and Ranuda Somaratne (32 not out) to take Islanders home in 37 overs.

Sri Lanka are leading Group D with four points from two games, while Australia are placed third with a win. West Indies beat Scotland in a Group D match in Basseterre.

In another Group D match in Basseterre, West Indies thrashed min-



nnows Scotland by seven wickets to register their first win of the tournament.

Electing to field, West Indies first bundled out Scotland for 95 in 35.4 overs and then chased down the target in 19.4 overs by losing just three wickets. Right-arm pacer Shiva Sankar (3/17) was the star performer for West Indies with the ball, while off-break bowler Onaje Amory (2/26) and left-arm spinner Anderson Mahase (2/16) also chipped in with wickets.

Pakistan register easy win over Zimbabwe in Group C in Trinidad.

Opener Haseebullah Khan smashed a brilliant century as Pakistan showed their batting prowess to start their campaign on a positive note, beat-

ing Zimbabwe by 115 runs in Group C at the Diego Martin ground.

Wicketkeeper Haseebullah scored 135 off 155 balls, the highest score of the tournament so far, while Irfan Khan made 75 off 73 deliveries to propel Pakistan to 315 for nine after being sent into bat.

Haseebullah and Irfan shared 192 runs for the third wicket to set the platform for the total.

For Zimbabwe, pacer Alex Felao (5/58) picked up a fifer.

Brian Bennett (83) played a lone hand for Zimbabwe but they were never really in the hunt after early dismissals and were all out for 200 in 42.4 overs.

## Bad day for Verma brothers; 4 test +ve

SHALABH SAXENA ■ LUCKNOW

It was a bad day for the Verma brothers at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament. Two-time champion Sameer Verma retired hurt against Ireland's Nhat Nguyen after he pulled the calf muscle. The tournament was also over for Sourabh Verma who lost to Ade Resky Dwicahyo of Azerbaijan 15-21, 21-19, 21-18.

Meanwhile, four players tested positive for Covid and were forced to leave the tournament. They included Ashmita Chaliha, Rahul Yadav Chittaboina and the doubles pair of Shruti Mishra and Sanyogita Ghorpade.

However, there was no stopping the 5th seed HS Prannoy, who just took 36 minutes to wind up the game against Ukraine's Danylo Bosniuk 21-14, 21-18.

Prannoy, who lost to Lakshya Sen in the quarterfinals of the India Open, will meet Priyanshu Rajawat, who got a first-round walkover from Rahul Yadav Chittaboina.



HS Prannoy in action at UP Badminton Academy on Tuesday

Subhankar Dey was another player who conceded his match due to injury. Trailing 2-9 against Kartikey Gulshan Kumar, Dey decided to pull out. Among women, Ashmita Chaliha gave first-round walkover to Malvika Bansod while Aakarshi Kashyap defeated Mugdha Agrey 21-13, 21-14 while Anupama Upadhyaya eased past Rituparna Das.

Earlier, Navneet Sehgal and Viraj Sagar Das inaugurated the tourna-

ment. Others present were Sonakshi Das, Arun Kakkar and Sudharma Singh.

**RESULTS: Men's Singles:** Amaud Merkle bt B Goonethilleka 21-10, 21-6; Sergey Sirant bt Kiran George 21-16, 21-18; Ade Resky Dwicahyo bt Sourabh Verma 15-21, 21-19, 21-18; Nhat Nguyen bt Sameer Verma 7-2 ret'd; HS Prannoy bt Sanylo Bosniuk 21-14, 21-18; Priyanshu Rajawat W/O Rahul Yadav Chittaboina, June Wei Cheam bt

Xiadong Sheng 19-21, 22-20, 21-17  
**Women's Singles:** Lauren Lam bt Ira Sharma 15-21, 21-16, 21-16; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Mugdha Agrey 21-13, 21-14, Anupama Upadhyay 21-7, 21-10, Malvika Bansod W/O Ashmita Chaliha  
**Mixed doubles:** Ashith Surya/Pranjal Prabhu bt Siddharth Jakar/Megha Bora 21-14, 22-20, Dhruv Rawat/Shikha Gautam 21-13, 21-12, B Yadav/Swetaparna Panda bt Kirtesh/Daksha 21-6, 21-9

**Women's doubles:** Vivian Hoo/Lim Chiew Sien bt Go Pei Kee/Yap Ling 21-15, 21-12, Riya Mookerjee/Shivani Singh W/O Sanyogita/Shruti  
**Men's doubles:** Fabien Delrue/William Villegier bt Tushar Sharma/Vinay Singh 21-8, 21-3, Ishaan Bhatnagar/Sai Pratheek K bt J Arif/M Haikal 21-18, 19-21, 21-17, V Ivanov/ Ivan Sozonov bt Sachin Dias/B Goonethikkka 21-16, 21-8, Akshay Kadam/Raju Rehan bt Bhaskar/Kapil 21-15, 21-17 21-15, 21-17, MR Arjun/D Kapila bt T Flaatten/V Rikheim 23-21, 21-9.

## Lakshya reaches career-high 13th

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Lakshya Sen reached a career-high 13th in the latest badminton world rankings after winning the men's singles crown in the India Open, a title triumph in which also lifted the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to eighth place. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and former world number one Kidambi Srikanth remained static at seventh and 10th spots, respectively, even as Satwiksairaj and Chirag moved up two places. Sen made a jump of four places, moving up from the 17th position with 66470 points to close in on reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew at 12th spot. Sen defeated Yew in the final of the India Open.

## Andy Murray wins in Australia for 1st time

AP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

He lost a five-setter in the first round in 2019 — a match he, and everyone else, thought might have been his last in

Australia — after missing the 2018 edition with an injury. He missed the 2020 tournament with a pelvic injury and last year's event because of COVID-19.

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

"I've played on this court many times, the atmosphere is incredible.

This is the one where I thought I'd played my last.

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

Murray beat Basilashvili in a



three-hour three-setter last week in Sydney, where he reached the final of the tune-up tournament.

This one went almost four hours.

When the 34-year-old Murray clinched it on his third

match point, he turned to the back of the court, closed his eyes and pumped his fists to celebrate.

After walking over to his courtside chair and dropping his racket, he returned to the court, punched the air and

yelled "Let's go!"

It was Murray's 49th win in an Australian Open singles match, moving him ahead of Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl into fifth-place all-time. Match win No 50 is the immediate priority. "I think there's things in my game I can do better," said Murray, who lost the 2010 final to Roger Federer and four others to Novak Djokovic.

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

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

Murray's wasn't the only dramatic five-setter that finished in the early evening on Day 2.

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

Second-seeded Daniil Medvedev, one of the biggest potential beneficiaries of Djokovic's deportation, had a much more routine first round. Nine-time champion Djokovic was already back in Serbia — two days after losing his legal challenge to stay in Australia despite being unvaccinated against COVID-19 — when Medvedev went into Rod Laver Arena for a 6-1 6-4 7-6(3) win over Henri Laaksonen.

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

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

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

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

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

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

Janasanyogi/CF/2919/21