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**KOHLI LONE
RANGER IN
SA MATCH**
12 SPORT

Tall OBC leader Maurya quits Yogi Cabinet, BJP

4 BJP MLAs too resign, all set to join Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a major setback for the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh, State Cabinet Minister for Labour, Employment, and Coordination Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet along with four party MLAs here on Tuesday.

They are all set to join the Samajwadi Party.

Maurya, a tall OBC leader representing the numerically dominant Kushwahas, had joined the BJP in 2017 after quitting the BSP, where he was second to Mayawati.

"I am now resigning from the UP Cabinet in the wake of severe discrimination and neglect of the poor, farmers, marginalised, unemployed in the State," Maurya said in his resignation letter to Governor Anandi Ben Patel, which was released to the Press.

He further said in his letter, "I tried my best to work for the welfare of people in UP despite ideological differences with the BJP."

Maurya's exit, days ahead of seven-phase State election, spells trouble for the BJP which seeks to appeal to all other backward classes and therefore exercise began to control the damage.

Sources claim that senior BJP leaders are in touch with Maurya.

Maurya has so far denied he has joined the Samajwadi Party. "I will let you know



Former UP Minister Swami Prasad Maurya joins the Samajwadi Party in the presence of the party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on Tuesday. PTI

Mayawati not to contest UP polls

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati will not contest the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, party general secretary SC Misra said here on Tuesday.

Misra said he too will not contest the Assembly elections, which will be held in seven phases starting on February 10. Since elections are being held in five States, including Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, the BSP president will not contest the polls and help party candidates win, he said. Later, he said, "The decision of the party for now is that Mayawati ji and I will not fight Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. However, future decisions will be taken by Mayawati ji herself."

Mayawati is neither a legislator nor an MP. Misra is a Rajya Sabha member.

about my future plans within a day or two," he said.

But by evening, SP president Akhilesh Yadav tweeted a picture of him with Maurya. Later he wrote, "Saamajik nyay ka inqalab hoga, baas me badlav hoga (There will be a revolution in the field, or social justice and there will be change)."

Maurya's leaving BJP was an indicator of crumbling of rainbow coalition of backwards, upper caste and Dalits, which the BJP had built assiduously in last many years. But the message went that backwards were being neglected in the party.

NC will fight UP polls in ties with SP: Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar said here on Tuesday that his party would contest the forthcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur and indicated that in UP, the NCP would have an alliance with the Samajwadi Party.

Addressing a news conference here, Pawar said the NCP would contest the Assembly polls in alliance with the like-minded parties in three of the five States between February and early March.

"In Uttar Pradesh, we intend to be a part of the SP-led alliance. In Goa, our talks are on with the Congress and the Trinamool Congress. In Manipur, we will have an alliance with the Congress," Pawar said.

The NCP chief said he would attend a joint meeting of the like-minded party called by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav at Lucknow on Wednesday. "In UP, the SP, NCP and smaller parties will form an alliance to contest the Assembly polls. I have discussed with the SP leaders the seats we would contest in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Pawar said the people wanted "change" in Uttar Pradesh and the public mood in that State was for showing the door to the BJP. "People want a change in UP. And there will be definitely parivartan in



UP," he said.

Slamming Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's statement that it was 80:20 situation in UP — where "80 per cent people are with BJP and 20 per cent are against it", Pawar said it did not behoove well for the Chief Minister to seek division of the people on religious lines and to hurt the sentiments of the minority community there.

"People in UP there are not happy with the communal politics practised by the BJP. The BJP is trying to polarise the UP on communal lines ahead of the polls. I am confident that the voters there will give a befitting reply to this," the NCP chief said.

Alluding to the abrupt exit of UP Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya from the BJP to join the SP, Pawar said "this is just the beginning" and he anticipated 13 more MLA and other supporters would join the SP in the coming days.

"The BJP can expect more jolts in the run-up to the Assembly polls there," he said. Pawar said in Goa, NCP leader Praful Patel, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut are talking with local Congress leaders there.

All private offices shut in Delhi, to follow work from home mode

National Capital sees 21,259 Covid cases, 10% spike from previous day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All private offices in Delhi will remain closed except those granted exemption, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) said on Tuesday. The private offices, which were till now operating with 50 per cent workforce, have been asked to follow work from home (WFH) practice.

"DDMA directs that in the territory of NCT of Delhi (outside containment zones), the following additional activities shall also be prohibited/restricted with immediate effect till further orders: (i) All private offices shall be closed, except those which are falling under the 'exempted category'. The practice of work from home shall be followed. (ii) All restaurants and bars shall be closed. However, restaurants will be allowed only for home delivery/takeaway of food items," the DDMA notification read.

On Tuesday, Delhi reported 21,259 cases of coronavirus, a ten per cent increase from

What is allowed in Delhi?

- All private offices shall follow the work from home practice and will remain closed. Only offices under the "exempted category" will be allowed to remain open.
- All restaurants and bars will remain closed for dine-in. However, restaurants will be allowed for home delivery or takeaway of food items.
- Movement of pregnant women and patients seeking medical/health services along with an attendee are allowed.
- Individuals going for Covid-19 testing or vaccination will be allowed to move with valid proof.
- People going to/from the

- airport, railway station will be allowed to travel with a valid proof of ticket.
- Movement of electronic and print media people on production of valid ID cards is allowed. Students shall be allowed to appear in the examination hall on the production of valid admit cards.
- Movement of individuals for marriage-related gatherings up to 20 people.
- Delhi Metro to operate with 100% capacity with no standing passengers.
- Movement of Government officials/officers and PSUs are

- allowed on the production of valid ID cards.
- All private medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff are allowed to move with the production of valid ID cards.
- Officers/officials functioning in the offices of diplomats of various countries as well as persons holding any constitutional post are allowed to move with valid ID cards.
- Movement of person for the essential goods and services or "exempted category" shall be allowed during night/weekend curfew with possession of e-pass.

Monday. The positivity rate stood at 25.65 per cent, the highest since May 5 last year. Delhi also reported 23 deaths, again the highest in the last eight months, according to health officials.

According to health officials, there are currently 74,881 active Covid patients in the city, the highest in nearly eight months. About 50,796 patients are in home isolation and the recovery rate stands at 93.70 per cent. As many as 12,161 patients were discharged in the past 24 hours. The number of containment zones is now 17,629. Nearly 83,000 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

Molnupiravir not to be included in Covid treatment

New Delhi: The ICMR's National Task Force for Covid-19 has decided against including antiviral drug Molnupiravir in the Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19 as of now, official sources said on Tuesday.

The experts of the task force cited safety concerns and argued that Molnupiravir was not of much benefit in Covid treatment to arrive at the decision in a meeting held on Monday. PTI

Lata Mangeshkar, tests +ve for Covid

Mumbai: Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has tested positive for Covid-19 with mild symptoms and is undergoing treatment at a city hospital here, her niece said on Tuesday.

The 92-year-old veteran, also known as the Nightingale of India, was admitted to the ICU of Breach Candy hospital in south Mumbai two days ago. "She is mild COVID positive. Considering her age, doctors advised us that she should be in the ICU because she requires constant care," said Mangeshkar's niece Rachna.

50% Europeans to get positive for Omicron in 2 mths: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sounding a dire warning, the World Health Organization has said that more than half the Europe's population will be infected with the Omicron variant of coronavirus in the next two months.

Speaking at a Press conference, WHO's Europe Director Hans Kluge said the region had recorded more than 7 million new cases in the first week of 2022. He said more than 1 per cent of the population was catching Covid-19 each week in 26 countries.

Kluge said the variant had been reported in 50 of the Europe region's 53 States and was becoming dominant in Western Europe. He said that at this rate, more than 50 per cent of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks.

"At this rate, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) forecasts that more than 50 per cent of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks," Kluge told reporters.



People wait in a line of vehicles at drive in Covid-19 test centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on Tuesday. AP

According to the WHO, 26 of those countries reported that over one per cent of their populations were "catching Covid-19 each week" as of January 10, and that the region had seen over seven million new virus cases reported in the first week of 2022 alone.

Referencing data collected over the last few weeks, Kluge said the variant was confirmed

CAPSULE

INDIA'S OLDEST SLOTH BEAR GULABO DIES

Bhopal: India's oldest sloth bear, fondly named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal, an official said on Tuesday.

WOMEN HAVE RIGHT TO SAY NO TO SEX: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday wondered how the dignity of a married and unmarried women can be differentiated and asserted that irrespective of their marital status, every woman has the right to say 'no' to a non-consensual sexual act. The High Court said the rationale and the thrust is that a relationship cannot be put on different pedestal as a woman remains a woman.

NARSINGHANAND CHARGED IN 3 FIRS

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday said that charge sheets have been filed in all three FIRs registered against Dasna Devi temple priest Swami Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Hindu women. A purported video clip of priest has been circulating on social media.

ITR filing deadline for corporates till Mar 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday extended till March 15 the deadline for corporates to file Income Tax returns for the fiscal ending March 2021.

The deadline to file tax audit report and transfer pricing audit report for 2020-21 fiscal too has been extended till February 15. This is the third extension given to corporates for filing the income tax return for 2020-21 fiscal. The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31, and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a

statement said that on consideration of difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders due to COVID and in electronic filing of various reports of audit, it has decided to further extend the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns and various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2021-22 (2020-21 fiscal).

The extended deadline for filing ITR for corporates is now March 15, and the tax audit report is February 15, 2022.

The last date for filing 2020-21 ITRs without penalty for individual taxpayers ended on December 31, 2021, and nearly 5.89 crore ITR were filed by the due date.

Covid-19: Active caseload now above 29K

4 deaths take Covid toll to 5176

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Covid toll in Jharkhand drew closer to 5200 on Tuesday, while the active caseload crossed the 29,000-figure mark as the State reported four casualties and close to 4,719 fresh cases in the past 24 hours, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) revealed.

As many as 4,719 Jharkhand residents, including 1,592 from Ranchi and 1,160 from East Singhbhum, tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday, taking the Covid tally in the state above 3.86 lakh, a bulletin released by the NHM



Senior citizens show victory sign after getting booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination Centre in Ranchi on Tuesday. photo Vinay Murmu

highlighted. As per the bulletin, the state also reported 1,692 Covid recoveries on the day and East Singhbhum and Ranchi accounted for 278 and 372 recoveries respectively. The four deaths were reported from East Singhbhum district only, where the toll has reached 1,065. As per NHM

accounted for more than 60 per cent of the active cases in the state. As per government data, at least 11,165 Ranchi residents were battling the viral infection by the end of Tuesday, while 5,578 people were infected in East Singhbhum. Active caseload in Jharkhand was 29,042 by the end of Tuesday.

The state tested swab samples of 73,309 residents on the day and around 6.4 per cent of them were found infected. The daily positivity rate in the state has been higher than 10 per cent in the past couple of weeks.

The growth rate of infection in Jharkhand was 0.97 per cent against the national average of 0.31 per cent, while the doubling rate in the state was 71.85 days against the national average of 226.36 days. The mortality rate in the state was 1.33 per cent, which is less than the national Covid mortality rate of 1.40 per cent.



CM Hemant Soren presents a bouquet to his father and JMM Chief Shibu Soren on his 78th birthday at Shibu Soren's official residence in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS

National Youth Day: Turn possibilities into realities

BY ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

Every Year 12 January, the National Youth Day marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda makes a significant churning underneath every individual. It is yet another quick opportunity to strengthen further the determination to achieve the resolution framed as part of welcoming the New Year. In the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the nation is preparing a blueprint to take a transformational journey for the upcoming Amrit Kaal to complete the independence century of the nation. Today's younger generations have the most significant stake of responsibility in this proposed journey of the nation. Thus, the National Youth Day radiates the wisdom to scratch through the untapped potential of youth and streamline it to turn the possibilities into realities. It was the wisdom of Swami Vivekananda that restored self-respect & national awakening. He gave a clarion call to masses to raise themselves & work for the

uplift of the nation. His transpired wisdom among masses led to believe that despite the adverse circumstance of the British Raj, India is a living entity and a message to nations of the world. His participation in the world parliament of religion, Chicago & subsequent travels witnessed the introduction of Vedanta Philosophy to the Western world. As the earliest architects of the patriotic sentiments, he called countrymen having linguistic, cultural & religious differences to adore Bharat Mata for the next 50 years as the only god that is awake. Since the lifetime of Swamiji, the world has changed drastically in many aspects, and two world war has been witnessed. It was the spiritual consciousness, deep & sound perception of historical forces of the Swami Vivekananda, that out of three predictions made by him in his Michigan University during the last decade of the 19th century, two predictions have come true. His predictions related to India's independence for in next 50 years, and the proletariat rev-

olution of Russia & diminishing the idea of communism turned out to be true. Yet another prediction for India's rise to great heights of prosperity & power far more than the Past is awaited to become true. Thus, the youngster would take the nation to the desired place for making this prediction accurate. Highlighting the role of youth in nation building Swamiji said "my faith is in the younger generation, the modern generation, out of them will come my workers. They will work out the whole problem, like lions." India is a young, aspirational country. 65% of our population is below 35 years of age. 62% of our population is in the working-age group of 15-59 years. It is estimated that the median age in India would be 28 years by 2022-23, in contrast to 37 in China and 45 in Western Europe, which reflects that India's non-working population would be outnumbered by the working people, leading to a favorable demographic dividend. The determination of our younger generation sup-

ported by the ecosystem of government & strong leadership is reflecting the green shoot of the very long journey. Now India is emerging as a fast-growing nation. The increasing numbers of unicorn start-ups, the improved performance of Indian in the Olympics Games, the proven metal of Indian leadership in Silicon Valley, emerging strong women leadership, the scientific & technological advancement, achievements of the space sector, vaccination, among others, are few nodes, making us proud. A serious introspective exercise is needed in an individual & collective manner for the inner self to act purposefully in the outer world. The challenges of today's complex world are challenging entire humanity. The youth needs to learn from the repository of India's historical and ancient wisdom to take upfront action against the challenges of the 21st century. If not tackled properly, the world will bear grave consequences leading to havoc and excruciating crisis for the most beautiful creature of the uni-

verse, the Human. The ongoing pandemics, emerging threats from Global Warming, Climate change, Bio-terrorism, and drug trafficking, space wars are the demons that require significant attention and energy of youth to expand dimensions of their action. The younger generation also must extend the helping hand & careful responsibility for catering to the needs aged population. It is a heart-warming fact that now the younger generation is more climate-conscious. One thing that remains constant is 'Change.' Now, youth is the torchbearer of this change, and its speed & scale is increasing more than ever. The ongoing paradigm shift towards a digital economy and parallel emerging virtual world like metaverse are making the world a global village and signifying the wisdom of 'Vasudhaiva KutubKum.' However, such developments & their application require a serious & continuous ethical recalibration. It is the responsibility of value-loaded individuals to remain vigilant

& prompt checkup that the upcoming innovations and technological advancements are ethically supporting the cause of humanity. Its ignorance can cause massive catastrophes for all stakeholders. The solid individualistic foundational values can achieve collective good in a sustainable manner. It is high time that everyone & especially youth, must internalize that means are equally important as the ends at this juncture. In the above context, it is the need of the hour that every individual & particularly the youth invest themselves to realize the goal of taking the nation to great heights of the prosperity of power. The youth of India has an unbounded potential for achieving the objectives envisioned by our forefathers. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government of India is leaving no stone unturned to provide the ambience for maximizing their potential. The Modi government is practicing the intense spirit of activities as preached by Karamyogi Swami

Vivekananda, and it is reflected in the implementation of government schemes. Administering more than 150 Crore vaccines doses in a time-bound manner, Supplying indigenously manufactured vaccines & aids to more than 95 countries through Vaccine Maitry initiative, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Infrastructure development, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, International Solar Alliance, among others are testimonies to it. The policies have been designed to make India a 5 trillion US \$ economy by 2024-25 and a knowledge superpower of the world. The National Education Policy, Industry-academia Linkages, nurturing the entrepreneurial skills, world-class infrastructure, Promotion of sports culture, improved R&D ecosystem, among others, are a few measures to integrating youth in Nation Building. Affirmative actions are resulting in social upliftment of the downtrodden sections of societies and building a Just society. However, with the prompt efforts of civil societies, local & state governments,

Private players, Media & active citizenry & all other relevant stakeholders, the implementation needs to be ensured in the letter & spirit. This National Youth Day is an apt moment to improvise on the intense spirit of activities by emphasizing the will, right approach & character to achieve our individualistic goal synchronized with the national goals. Let's our action during the Amrit Kaal take us closer to realizing the 3rd prediction of Swami Vivekananda by turning possibilities into realities for making India as leader of the 21st century. *The writer is Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs & represents Bikaner constituency in Lok Sabha.*

Note: Reference to three predictions of Swami Vivekananda
Book Title: My India, the India Eternal (Page No. - 7-8)
Publisher: Ramakrishna Math, Nagpur

Vivekananda's triumph of the idea of service to humanity over desire for complete self-realisation

BY AMARDEEP YADAV AND HITENDRA ANUPAM

The Spiritual Union of Ramkrishna and Narendra Nath (Vivekananda) is symbolic of the meeting of the Ancient culture with modern age. At the time of meeting Aramkrishna, Vivekananda represented the searching, analytical, rationalistic, truth seeking and vigorous spirit of the West. He had mastard different systems of Western philosophy. He had tried the impassioned pantheism of Shelley, spiritualism of Wordsworth, was also attracted towards pure monism of Vedanta and the objective idealism of Hegel together with the basic ideas of Liberty, equality and fraternity. He had asked so far from many renowned, seers and saints whether they had seen God but always had received ambiguous answers, until the firm affirmative reply of Ramkrishna that Yes he has seen him. For the first time he realised that religion was a reality to be felt, to be sensed in an infinitely more intense way then we can sense the world. But Vivekanand's inner life became a field of conflict between his domineering intellect and spiritually disposed heart. It was his heart that had resisted, his intellect's unrestricted march towards the ideas of the modern West, and it was his intellect that stood in the way of his heart's outgoing impulses for renunciation.

fering through his intuitive realisation. He found the the rational that would reconcile divine graciousness with the miseries of the world. And there started the main problem, when he strongly realised that the life of a householder was not meant for him and he opted for complete renunciation and self realisation. He practically started a new career. His atheistic reactions were over. The new outlook enabled him to surrender himself completely before his Gurus. Ramkrishna had two distinct categories of disciples. The elder ones were asked not to denounce the world. He taught them how they were to practice detachment in the midst of worldly concerns. They were to give up the idea of proprietorship and believe that all their earthly possessions really belonged to God. As humble servants of God, they were to take up seriously the worldly duties as so many other sacred tasks allotted by the divine power. His instruction for them in his own words were "When you are at work, use only one of your hands and let the other touch the feet of the Lord. When your work is suspended, take His feet in both of your hands and put them in your heart." In fact Ramkrishna believed that each individual had a distinct line of spiritual growth and guided each along his or her own path. The younger disciples including Vivekananda, however, were required to tread a different Path. Their search for spiritual truth was not to end up merely in attaining their own blessedness and salvation, but also in helping the spiritual uplift of thousands of human souls. When Vivekananda wanted to remain absorbed in Nirvikalpa Samadhi, Ramkrishna rebuked him by saying that "Shame on you! I thought you were to be the great banyan tree giving shelter to thousands of weary souls. Instead you are selfishly seeking your own well-being. Let these Little things alone, my child." With this group of disciples, Ramkrishna was building up a new order of monks to whom he was to bequeath, the legacy of his spiritual attainment. This was precisely the reason why Ramkrishna was particular about the physical as well as moral stamina of every person, before admitting him into this select group. This batch came to be composed of most young and holy band from educated

middle class Bengal. But during the last days of Ramkrishna, when Vivekananda was about 23 years of age he again became adamant for merging his soul completely in the absolute Reality through Nirvikalpa Samadhi and remaining absorbed in the state forever. Ramkrishna insisted again and charged him with the mission of his life. He gave in the charge of the mission consisted in serving mankind. And then only Vivekanand resolved to sacrifice even the intense bliss of transcendental Union with the supreme self. Vivekananda and his brother-disciples of Ramakrishna, decided to rent a small old house at Baranagore halfway between Cossipore and Dakshineswar, and eventually the little group shifted there with Ramkrishna's relics and eventually ushered into existence of a monastery for the Ramakrishna order of monks. This was followed by Vivekananda's extensive travel of North India including the Himalayan region of Garhwal and Dehradun. Still his mind was not at rest. He had not perhaps discovered his precise line of action. He decided to go for a closer study of the condition of people, and so he had resolved to travel to the Southern extremity of India and visit the holy temple of Kanyakumari. Thus he completed his cultural and economic survey of India. The itinerary included Meerut, Delhi, Rajasthan, Kathiawar, Mumbai, Mysore, Travancore cochin, Chennai and till the end of 1892. He reached the temples of Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari. The real self of India stood revealed before him, which required to stand on its feet through spiritual awakening. There he also resolved of carrying a mission of the West. Soon the God sent opportunity knocked his door. He heard about parliament of Religions to be held in Chicago, USA in connection with World's Fair of 1893. He thought that he was duty-bound to place before the World, The Spiritual Treasures of Hindu India. He proceeded to America along the Pacific route. He had occasion to shortly see China and Japan, where he perceived the existence of an undercurrent of spiritual thoughts that had flowed out of India during the ancient glorious days.

Voice to include 'Mathili' for jobs in Jharkhand gains momentum

PNS ■ BOKARO

International Maithili Council (Antarrastriya Maithili Parishad) has demanded from the Jharkhand government to add Maithili language to the list of regional languages that could be opted by candidates for job examinations to do district level posts. With more voices, Maithili speaking people of different constituencies raised their voices to support their

demand. They threatened to conduct a strong movement across the state, informed Arun Pathak, a member of the Antarrastriya Maithili Parishad. "The movement will be started by running a signature campaign, postcard campaign, Twitter campaign. This decision was taken in a state-level meeting organised online on Google Meet," he added. Notably, Maithili is the second official language and



has a place in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Over lakhs of Maithili-speaking people are residing in Jharkhand, he said. It was decid-

ed that the members of the Parishad would meet the Chief Minister to submit a memorandum soon after the Coronavirus impact diminished. Besides others, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Choudhary, the founder and national spokesperson of the council, Dr. Dhanakar Thakur, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Dhruv Jyoti Singh, Om Prakash Mishra, Ashish Mishra, Praveen Jha, Girijanand Jha

'Ardhanarishwar', Arun Pathak, Aman Kumar Jha, Dr. Santosh Kumar Jha, Neelam Jha, Vijay Kumar Jha, Ajay Jha, Amarnath Jha, Hitnath Jha, Rajiv Ranjan, Lalan Chaudhary, Pankaj Kumar Jha, Kamal Kant Jha, Vinay Jha, Pramod Kumar Jha, Gangesh Pathak, Vivekanand Jha, Narendra Jha, Vijay Shankar, Ashwini Kumar, Abhinav, Nibha Pathak and Neelam Jha were also present in the meeting.

Tata Steel joint winner at CII Industrial Innovation Awards 2021

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Steel has been recognised as one of the top 25 most innovative Indian Companies by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for its product, process, and business innovation. As part of the submission process, multiple innovation cases were presented to showcase the innovation culture in the organisation including two shining cases - 'First-of-its-kind' 5 tonnes per day CO2 capture plant and 'First-in-World' Digital Twin in Sinter Making. The award evaluates all kinds of new processes, products, services, technologies, innovations, and approaches which have brought tangible results or made radical changes within or across the industry. Tata Steel was felicitated with the 'CII Industrial Innovation Award' at a virtual award ceremony held during the 27th edition of DST-CII Technology Summit 2021. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Past President, CII and Chairman, CII Industrial Innovation Awards 2021 along with Dr S Chandrashekhhar, Secretary-DST, Government of India presented the award to Tata Steel. Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee, vice president, Technology & New Materials

Business, Tata Steel, said: "It is an honour to be recognised by CII for Excellence in Manufacturing & Innovation and declared as one of the joint winners in the Large Manufacturing category. Innovation is the new engine of socio-economic growth and a key lever for business sustenance, productivity, and future readiness in any industry. We will continue to focus on manufacturing, digitalisation, and sustainability as key pillars of our organisation. This award is a testimony to our commitment to be the global steel industry benchmark for Value Creation and Corporate Citizenship." Tata Steel commissioned a 5 tonnes per day (TPD) carbon capture plant at its Jamshedpur Works in September 2021, making it the country's first steel company to adopt such a carbon capture technology that extracts CO2 directly from the Blast Furnace gas and reuse the captured CO2 on site to promote circular carbon economy. As the next step, the Company aims to establish scaled up facilities of CO2 capture installations integrated with utilisation avenues. "Digital Twin", the replica of the sintering process, was conceptualised as a first-in-world solution to reduce stack emission in Sinter making process.

Covid Care Hospital to come up at KGMH

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In the wake of possibilities of the Third Covid wave getting intense by February, the district administration has decided to come up with a special corona facility at Kantilal Gandhi Memorial Hospital (KGMH) at Bistupur. The hospital will be set up by the district administration for Covid patients, as part of its strategy to combat Covid and it will start functioning from January 15. Revealing about the plans, district civil surgeon, AK Lal said the district administration has taken up the KGMH for combating Covid. "As part of our strategy to counter the third wave of Covid we are setting up a Covid hospital at the KGMH. Once the pandemic is over, we will hand over the hospital to the KGMH trust," said Lal. The civil surgeon stated that all necessary steps regarding the starting of the Covid hospital have been completed and the work in this regard will be completed soon. Located at South Park in Bistupur, Kantilal Gandhi Memorial Hospital has been referred to as Medica Hospital since September 2014 when the Kolkata-based hospital chain signed a deal to manage it. However, with the



end of the contract the hospital management decided to wind up. In view of the shortage of beds the hospital has been revived. The hospital will come up alongside the existing Covid treatment facility there. With a surge in Covid cases in the New Year, the East Singhbhum deputy commissioner, Suraj Kumar took up the decision to take over the hospital to set up a hospital there. District administration has also plans to take number of dedicated beds for corona patients to 1000. Currently the district has around 600 dedicated Covid-19 beds ready but with number of cases rising every day the administration needs to have additional beds. "We have asked private Covid hospitals to share information about vacant and engaged beds. The hospitals are already updating their bed status with

This information will help the rural population too to get a pinpointed location of a hospital where they can get admission," said an official. According to a district administration source, the demand for updated information regarding bed availability was raised by people's representatives and some officials during the Covid review meeting at the office of the divisional commissioner. The team members will meet daily in evening to also monitor the storage and transportation of vaccine. He went on to inform that the room has been at the forefront of compiling COVID-19-related data. "The team has been given different sets of responsibilities, it will become easier for them to focus on specific challenges and take up matter during meetings," said another official.

Mock drills held amid surge in Covid cases

PNS ■ BOKARO

A mock drill to test medical preparedness to tackle the new cases of Coronavirus infection was conducted at 56 government (CHCs) and private hospitals across the district on Tuesday. In view of the rapid surge in COVID-19 infections, Deputy Commissioner Bokaro, Kuldeep Chaudhary, was directed to review preparedness to tackle the resurgence, informed DPRO, Bokaro. At around 11.30 am, mock drills were organized simultaneously in all the government and private hospitals in the district. During the drill, the entire process of bringing the COVID infected patient to the hospital (through ambulance),



admitting them to hospital ward, and starting their treatment under supervision of doctors was done," he added. In this sequence, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of COVID, issued by State Government, was adhered to by all. The DC explained that the purpose of mock drill was

to assess hospital's preparedness, including beds, equipment, and oxygen. "In course of exercise, I have kept a careful eye on it. It was effectively implemented at 56 healthcare facilities. And administration is now prepared to deal with any unprecedented scenarios," he added. Amidst the Omicron



scare and restrictions imposed by the state government to contain the surge in coronavirus infections, Bokaro saw a major boost in fresh cases in COVID-19 during the past few days. The district passed the 21 thousand mark. The total number of positive cases reached to 21,296 with 1476

active cases. According to the official reports, 194 fresh, positive cases were reported on Monday, with the district's death toll standing at 290. Meanwhile, 19,530 people were recovered, including 105 who were discharged from the COVID hospital, informed the DPRO.

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HEC workers' 40-day-long tool-down strike ends

PNS ■ RANCHI

After talks between the trade unions and the management on Tuesday, the tool-down strike of 40 days of employees in HEC ended.

A six-point agreement was reached between the management and the trade unions. As soon as the information about the agreement was received, the employees themselves returned to work. Production has started in all the three plants of HEC.

The tool down strike had started on December 02 for payment of seven months' outstanding salary. Officials signed the MoU on behalf of the management. Earlier, the infor-



mation about the end of the strike was given by the HEC management on January 7, but the full work in the plants had not started. On January 8 and January 10, the employees raised slogans in front of the HEC headquarters. The HEC

management was pressurized for a settlement, then the management reached a compromise. In the MoU signed between HEC management and labour unions, it has been said that on January 10, one month's salary was given to the

employees. Efforts will be made to give half a month's salary by the end of the month. At the same time, regular salary will be paid to the employees from February 2022. At the same time, the matters of promotion of employees will also be executed.

Canteens in all three plants will function as before. The problems which are being faced in the pending fees of the children of the employees will also be removed immediately.

The agreement was unanimously signed by recognized union Hatia Project Workers Union, Hatia Mazdoor Union, Hatia Kamgar Union, HEC Ltd Shramik Karamchari Union, Janata Mazdoor Union,

Hatia Mazdoor Union and HEC Shramik Sangh. Due to tool-down strike going on for last 40 days, where HEC has suffered a loss of Rs 40 crores, production of about 125 crores has been affected. The three plants of corporation, Heavy Machine Building Plant HMBP, Forging Forge Plant FFP and Heavy Machine Tools Plant HMTPT were closed on December 2, 2021.

Due to the strike, the work of manufacturing important equipment of many companies including defence, ISRO, railway, steel plant, mining sector has been hanged. In the last month of the third quarter of current financial year 2021-22, there has been an econom-

ic loss of one crore every day due to strike, according to HEC management. Till now company has incurred a loss of 40 crores due to tool down strike. At the same time, according to management, the dispatch work of many important equipment had stopped in all three plants of HEC, which will be operational.

The furnace has cooled down in FFP plant, which will take hours to heat up again, while lakhs of rupees will be spent on fuel. Now, such machines were also kept closed in the company, which is considered mandatory to keep running. These include large FFP furnaces, gas plants and other machines.

Rainy weather to continue in Jharkhand for few days



PNS ■ RANCHI

Girls hold umbrellas as they walk amid light rain in a cold winter day in Ranchi on Tuesday photo Vinay Murmu

Jharkhand is likely to experience rainy weather in the next couple of days due to a western disturbance passing through north Pakistan, extending between 3.1km and 7.6km above mean sea level.

This western disturbance has drifted to Jharkhand via Madhya Pradesh.

Jharkhand witnessed an unusual weather change on Saturday after the sky became cloudy leading to a drop in the temperature.

On Sunday the sky remained cloudy in Palamu and Garhwa as districts of the Palamu division were first to

witness the impact of the weather change. And very quickly several places namely Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Chatra, etc reported early morning fog which also reduced visibility.

On Monday, the western disturbance triggered a light to moderate rain.

IMD's Ranchi Meteorological Centre said that an induced cyclonic circulation formed over eastern Rajasthan, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level. That cyclonic circulation has caused a situation of light to moderate rain

in several parts of northern and central Jharkhand on Monday as well as Tuesday. Ranchi Meteorological Centre has also said that rainfall may take place till Saturday at many places across Jharkhand with thunderstorms and hail. The weather may improve on January 16.

Life came to a standstill due to bad weather. There was less traffic on the road and the offices witnessed low attendance. There is no report of the cancellation and diversion of any flight but the number of passengers remained very less.

Sr Citizens, under 18 youth not allowed for Republic Day function

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Deputy Commissioner, Chhavi Ranjan said on Tuesday that as per the guidelines received by the State Government, the elderly above 60 years and children below the age of 18 years are not allowed to attend the function. He directed all the officials to follow the guidelines received by the State Government.

A meeting was held regarding the Republic Day celebrations here on Tuesday. In the virtual meeting held under the chairmanship of Ranjan, the concerned officials were given necessary guidelines regarding preparation.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ranchi, Surendra Kumar Jha, Deputy Development Commissioner, Ranchi, Vishal Sagar and other officials of the district administration were present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner and the SSP gave directions to the officials regarding the preparations to make the Republic Day a peaceful environment.

Jha said that for the Republic Day to be held in a better environment, elaborate security arrangements would



Ranchi DC Chhavi Ranjan holds virtual meeting on Republic Day programme preparations in Ranchi on Tuesday PNS

be made, as well as special attention would be given to ensure that there is no traffic problem. Necessary guidelines were also given by the DC to other concerned officials regarding the preparations for the Republic Day celebrations.

In the meeting, Ranjan directed to complete the preparations for the Republic Day celebrations in view of the COVID transition.

He directed to make preparations following the guidelines regarding parade and display of tableaux. In the meeting, the Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department were instructed by the DC to make arrangements for drinking water supply, VIP toilets. The

Road Construction Division was asked to ensure repair and cleanliness of the roads leading to Morhabadi.

Executive Engineer Building Division-1 was directed by Ranjan to ensure the arrangement of tower construction for the visitors, barricading at the venue, stage and sound box for the construction of the gallery.

The Superintendent of Police Traffic has been directed to ensure the arrangement of parking of vehicles in Morhabadi ground, appointment of traffic policemen in the connecting roads and making traffic routes and publishing them in newspapers.

District Nazarat Deputy Collector was directed to ensure preparation related to minute-to-minute programme, seating arrangement for guests etc. Necessary instructions were also given to other officials along with making arrangements for medical camps for Civil Surgeons and for making arrangements for fire-fighting in Morhabadi to District Fire Officers.

The officials of the Municipal Corporation were directed to ensure cleanliness around the venue and the Morhabadi ground.



Sapna Kumari, wife of Sanju Pradhan, who was killed by a mob, and BJP MLA Amar Kumar Bauri meet Governor Ramesh Bais at Raj Bhawan in Ranchi on Tuesday. Sapna told the Governor that his husband was beaten and burnt alive by a mob in the presence of police and no one tried to save him. She urged for a CBI inquiry of the killing PNS

Police seize ₹61 lakh cash of PLFI chief Dinesh Gope

PNS ■ RANCHI

Ranchi Police seized Rs 61 lakh extortion amount from the possession of a PLFI operative whom police arrested on Sunday from the heart of Ranchi. This is one of the biggest successes of Ranchi police against the PLFI and its chief Dinesh Gope.

A few days back Ranchi SSP Surendra Kumar Jha had headed a successful operation against PLFI where three PFI operatives with two costly SUVs, cash, and jungle warfare accessories like sleeping bags and tents to stay in the forest area. Besides, arrests, in the last week Ranchi police have made a seizure of cash and money

worth over Rs two crore from PLFI. It was revealed that PLFI extremists were using high-end vehicles to dodge police from detecting them. Both SUVs of BMW and Thar make are worth over Rs one crore. These vehicles bear registration number of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The arrested accused were identified as Amirchand Kumar (Dhurwa), besides Arya Kumar Singh and Ujjwal Kumar Sahu alias Lipu from Khunti. During the questioning, the accused revealed that a huge amount has been extorted as levy on name of Dinesh Gope. They said that one Nivesh Kumar who absconded during raid manages levy and investment on behalf of Gope.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 06-MC-Depot Clean-2021-22, Dhanbad, dated: 08/01/2022

E-Tender in Two Packet System are invited for execution of the following works by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), East Central Railway, Dhanbad.

- Name of Work with its Location :** Outsourcing of daily cleaning of service building, sick line, ROH Shed & Open Yards at PEH, PTRU, BRWD & OBRA Freight Depot for a period of two years.
- Approx. Cost of the work :** ₹ 1,97,46,930.70/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Seven Lakh Forty Six thousand Nine Hundred Thirty & seventy paise only)
- Cost of Tender Document :** Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five thousand) only
- Earnest Money to be deposited :** ₹ 2,48,800/- (Rupees Two lakh forty eight thousand eight hundred) only.
- Date & Time for submission of tender :** 15.01.2022 to 29.01.2022 up to 14:00 Hrs.
- Date & time of opening of Tender (Technical Bid) :** At 12:30 hrs. on 31.01.2022
- Date & time of opening of Tender (Financial Bid) :** Will be informed after scrutiny of technical bid.
- Website particulars :** <http://www.ireps.gov.in> No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), East Central Railway, Dhanbad. PR/01482/DHN/MECH/T/21-22/44

Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's 1893 Chicago address in modern times



BY DR. NEHA SINHA & NIKHIL YADAV

In the history of mankind, there have been rare instances where the introductory words spoken by a person have electrified the whole audience as much as Swami Vivekananda's groundbreaking speech to the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions. Beginning with the words "Sisters and Brothers of America", the speech managed to eliminate the distance between Swami's status as a person belonging to a different nation and religion.



today's times, Swami's speech serves as a beacon light and a 'source of truth' for the nation and the leaders to help them implement strategies, formulate policies and take corrective steps to bring their citizenry together, in order to help build bridges with other nations.

The speech by Swami has also been often referred to by leaders from across the globe in present times to remind the people of the values which Swami's speech stood for and are the most critical in today's times that are in compassion, brotherhood, tolerance, acceptance.

While we see the whole world living in the throes of sectarianism, fanaticism and persecution; there has never been a better time to turn

towards Swami's speech and really focus on the key values highlighted therein to make this world a better place.

Across the globe, we have countries fighting each other (externally) and their population divided over caste, creed and colour.

Swami, in his speech, emphasised on the two vital requirements for world peace - brotherhood and universal acceptance; and it would not be an exaggeration if we state that these are what the world needs to make it a better place to live.

If only people start imbibing the values which Swami stood for, if only nations start focusing on compassion and tolerance can this world become a better place for everyone. Swami Vivekananda, the great yogi of the nineteenth century was much ahead of his times because of his sheer vision.

At the point of time, when the world was fighting for religious, ideological superiority and was busy usurping each other's land, Swami gave the message of "To Serve man is to Serve God" - as he could see God in each and every human

soul. He not only broadened the concept of brotherhood but also explained its relevance by raising the model of "Universal Brotherhood", which incorporates each and every human soul irrespective of any form of discrimination.

The World Parliament of Religions which continued for seventeen days from 11th September to 27th September 1893, had six lectures of Swami in which during final session of the final day he spoke about the road ahead for humanity and mentioned - "The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian."

But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth." Swami looked upon humanity holistically, and not in compartments with different lenses.

He had deep rooted love for his motherland India. He loved his countrymen, but also believed that humans had no identity. He not only preached this message, but practiced it throughout his life. It is only because of his love for human-

ity in totality that the same countrymen who called him 'Black' and 'Niger' there Swami referred to them as "My Dear sisters and brothers of America" and the world was at his feet.

It would be fair to say that Swami's whole life and teachings have been a call to the people to rise and become a better version of themselves. The speech in 1893, was a small summary of the core values which Swami sought to impart.

The Chicago speech is a glimpse of what Swami truly stood for and the onus is on all of us to ensure that we benefit from the teachings of one of the most revered sons of India. It's India which has always believed in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family) and can lead the world towards universal brotherhood and truly become a 'Vishwa Guru', in its true sense.

Dr. Neha Sinha is an Assistant Professor-II Amity Institute of International Studies, Noida & Nikhil Yadav is a Research Scholar JNU & Youth Head, Vivekananda Kendra, North Zone.

IN BRIEF

IWCS RANCHI CELEBRATES INNER WHEEL DAY

Inner Wheel Day was celebrated under the chairmanship of Neeta Narayan, President and Secretary Mala Srivastava of Inner Wheel Club Swarnrekha Ranchi District 325, following Covid 19 protocol on Monday, January 10 is celebrated as International Innerwheel Day by all the members of Inner Wheels across the world. A wheel chair was provided by the club to a disabled old lady living in Ruggidigha, Madhukam Basti near Uphaar Cinema Bhawan, Platu Road. As many as 51 blankets and 51 packets of sanitary napkins were distributed in the basti. The remaining blankets were given to the lepers on the roads near Kali Mandir and Hanuman Mandir (Main Road) and Pahari Mandir and Durga Mandir. As many as 51 bags were also distributed from the Inner Wheel Cloth Bag Bank in Basti. The club put up hoardings at the prime location of the city under the cervical cancer awareness campaign. Club's Vice President Namrata Kumar celebrated Innerwheel Day by cutting a cake and releasing a balloon. Two member Satinder Chadha and Varsha Singh were established as new members. Poonam Sakhuja, Neeta Shekhar, Ambuja Sharan, Club CCC Deepa Chauhan and Sushma Sinha were involved in making the programme a success.



NPTEL AWARENESS ONLINE WORKSHOP HELD BY XISS

The online National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) Awareness Workshop was organized by Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) in association with Kumarguru College of Technology, Coimbatore on Tuesday. The introductory session began with a welcome address by Dr Amar Tigga, Dean Academics, XISS, Ranchi, who spoke about how online learning has enhanced for students and that the government has proposed NPTEL Exams for evaluation. Dr Saravanan D, Principal of Kumarguru College of Technology, in his Principal Address spoke about how students are taking the NPTEL Course as a source of their motivation and how it's also helpful for faculty members. Guest speaker Dr Shib Shankar Das, IIT Kharagpur, spoke about the vision, mission, and objectives of NPTEL and how it's creating awareness to every student in the form of online learning. Towards the end of the session, a question-and-answer round was organized post which Dr Madhumita Singha, Associate Professor, XISS concluded the workshop with the vote of thanks.



TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013. CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notices dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors"/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s), within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), the amounts indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and/or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Contract No.	Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs) as on below date	Date of Demand Notice Date of NPA
10650582 & 10601771	Somnath J Pandey as (Borrower) and Jyoti Pandey (Co-Borrower) and Ramkant Pandey (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 48,17,799/- as on 18-12-2021	18/12/2021 03/11/2021

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a plot of land, alongwith house built thereon, being Khata No. 166, R.S. Plot No. 1259, Part Plot No. 1259/B-II, Area Measuring 3 Cottahs And 8 Chittacks, At Village - Samlong, P.s. Namkum, Thana No. 212, Within The Jurisdiction Of District Collector Ranchi, in the District of Ranchi, in the State of Jharkhand. Property Boundd As: North: Part Plot No. 1259/B-I; South: Part Plot No. 1259/B-III; East: Sub-plot No. 1258; And West: 12 Feet Wide ROA

9295154 & 9289399	ANOOP BURMAN as (Borrower) and UMADEV (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 24,03,508/- as on 28-12-2021	28/12/21 07/11/21
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being the 2nd Floor roof area measuring 1753 sq. Ft. Being part house No. 639/B which is a part of house No. 639, alongwith proportionate undivided share in the land measuring 1 Cottah And 4 Chittacks, which is half the total land area of 2 Cottahs And 8 Chittack covered under M.S. Plot No. 1455, Sub-plot No. 1455/C-1, corresponding to Municipal Holding No. 639, Ward No. 18 of the Ranchi Municipal Corporation, at Mouza Hatma, Thana Lalpur, Thana No. 200, in the District of Ranchi, In The State Of Jharkhand. Property Boundd As: North: Mukund Apartment; South: Holy Cross School; East: 21 Feet Road; And West: Holy Cross School

10302103, 10114165 & TCHIN054400010	Rshikesh Mishra as (Borrower) and Ranjana Kumari (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 21,04,140/- as on 30-12-2021	30/12/21 07/11/21
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a plot of land, alongwith a house built thereon, being Plot No. 79/A, Halka No. 2, Under Khata No. 66, KISSIM - Don, at Present Homestead, measuring an area of 2.98 Decimals i.e. 1300 Sq. ft., Under Mouza Balrampur, P.S. Gambaria, Thana No. 52, District Sub-registry Office at Seraikela, In The District Of Seraikela-Kharswan, In The State Of Jharkhand. Property Boundd As: North: 12 Feet, East: Ravindra Prasad; East: Portion Of Plot No. 79; And West: Asha Devi

*with further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notice dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 12/01/2022
Place: - Jharkhand

Sd/-Authorised Officer,
For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank

... करोसे का प्रतीक! ... the name you can BANK upon !

Circle Office : Ranchi-North, Saluja Building - Fourth Floor, PP Compound, Main Road- Ranchi- 834001

PUBLIC NOTICE

In Our Endeavour to consolidate and strengthen our services to our customers, the following branch of Oriental Bank of Commerce, will be shifted and merged with other PNB branches and these will function at the new address on or after **11.02.2022** and shall cater all types of existing banking business from the new address :

A. MERGER OF BRANCHES

Sr No.	Branch Name (Merging Branch)	In which branch is merged (Name and Address)	Contact No.
01	e-OBCC Chatra Branch Code - 210510	e-UNI Chatra Branch code - 162920 Gudri Bazar, Main Raod, District- Chatra Pin - 825401, Jharkhand	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Ba e-UNI, Branch Manager MB - 9735494239 Mr. Umesh Viswakarma e-OBCC, Branch Manager MB - 7979975977

We also wish to inform to the valued customers of our above branches that utmost care will be taken while shifting the lockers to the new address. However, if any customers desires to take possession of the contents/items kept in locker, he/she can do the same before shifting and redeposit the same after shifting to the new address and we request you to do so on or before **11.02.2022** by contacting the concerned Branch Head.

We solicit co-operation of our existing customers of the above branches for the aforesaid shifting and assure them that our base branches, better equipped with resources, will extend services to all customers in more effective and efficient manner.

**Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank**

Date : 12.01.2022 | Place: Ranchi

Recognise unsung freedom fighters: PM

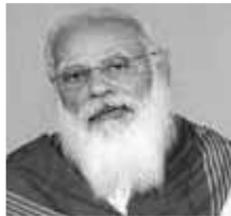
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inaugurating the 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked youth to do "research" on the forgotten freedom fighters who did not get "recognition" and bring them to the forefront.

During the event, the Prime Minister via video conferencing unveiled selected essays on "Mere Sapno ka Bharat" and "Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Movement".

These essays have been selected from submissions by over 1 lakh youth on the two themes.

Swami Vivekananda's birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day on



January 12.

The Prime Minister said, "We have had many such fighters in the freedom struggle, whose contribution did not get the recognition that they deserved. The more our youth write, research about such dignitaries, the more awareness will increase in the coming generations of the country."

He also called upon the youth to be vocal and contribute in the drive for cleanliness.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry with an investment of about Rs. 122 crore. He also inaugurated the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam - an auditorium with an open-air theatre.

Greeting the nation on National Youth Day and "bowing" to Swami Vivekananda, the Prime Minister said his birth anniversary in this year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is all the more inspiring.

The Prime Minister noted the added significance of this period as the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo and also the 100th death anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi is falling in the same period.

"Both these sages have a special relationship with

Puducherry. Both have been partners in each other's literary and spiritual journey", the Prime Minister said.

Commenting on the young profile of the ancient country, the Prime Minister said today, the world looks at India with hope and faith. Because, India's demography is young, and the mind of India is also young.

"There is youth in India's potential, and in its dreams. India is young in its thoughts as well as in its consciousness. India's thinking and philosophy have always accepted change and there is modernity in its antiquity", he said.

The Prime Minister said that the youth of the country have always come forward in times of need. Whenever the national consciousness gets divided, youth like Shankar come and stitch the country in

the thread of unity as Aadi Shankracharya. In times of tyranny, sacrifices of youth like the Sahibjaade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji guide us even today. When India needed sacrifice for its freedom, young revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad and Netaji Subhas came forward to dedicate their lives to the country.

"Whenever the country needs spiritual regeneration, sages like Aurobindo and Subramnayan Bharathi come to the scene", the Prime Minister said.

Union Ministers Anurag Singh Thakur, Narayan Rane, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and Nisith Pramanik, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister of Puducherry N. Rangaswamy also virtually attended the function.

Nagaland killings very regrettable: Army Chief

Says report to be submitted in 'day or two'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the incident as "highly regrettable" in Nagaland last month in which 14 civilians were killed, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Wednesday law of the land will prevail. He also said the Court of Inquiry is likely to submit its findings in the next two or three days.

A Major General is heading the Inquiry team asked to probe into all the aspects leading to the incident on December 4 in Mon district. In a case of "mistaken identity," the Army allegedly killed some civilians travelling in a mini-bus.

Irate village folks then clashed with the Army team leading to the death of a soldier and the Army reportedly opening fire killing some more civilians. In all, 14 civilians died in the incident leading to mass unrest in the state.

The state government immediately set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising high police officials. They recently questioned nearly 30 elite commandos of the army reportedly involved in the ambush which reportedly resulted in the killing of civilians.

Naravane said "appropriate



action", as required to uphold the law of the land, will be taken based on the investigation. He said the Army has standard operating procedures (SOPs) that encapsulate its operational experience and "appropriate action" will be taken and corrective measures instituted to further refine the SOPs based on the outcome of the investigation.

In the aftermath of the incident, the Eastern Command was quick in ordering an inquiry. It is headed by a Major General. That inquiry into the incident and the findings would be submitted in a day or two, Naravane said.

The Chief also said the force has been cooperating fully with the SIT and both the probe teams are taking the statements from a cross-section of people that will help in having a greater understanding of what has happened.

"Based on the findings of the inquiry, appropriate action will be taken. I would like to clarify that the law of the land is paramount and we will always uphold that and take action as required in upholding the law of the land," he said.

On overall security in the North-East, Naravane said the situation remained under control, noting that a robust security posture has significantly curtailed the operational space for terrorists.

Referring to insurgents ambushing an Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur district of Manipur in November last year killing a Commanding Officer, he said one incident is not reflective of the overall situation in the North-Eastern region. The Army Chief said gradual de-induction of the Army units has taken place from areas where the security situation has improved.

ED attaches ₹72.32 cr of Kudos Finance, its partner firms in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a Provisional Attachment Order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), attaching over Rs 72.32 crore lying in various bank accounts and payment gateway accounts of Kudos Finance and Investments Private Limited, an Indian NBFC company, and its various fintech partner companies.

The ED is conducting money laundering investigation against a number of Indian NBFC companies and their fintech partner Mobile Applications (Apps) which were booked by Telangana Police in multiple FIRs for illegal lending and for using extortionist means to recover exorbitant rate of interest from their customers.

The ED investigation revealed that various Indian companies which were flush with investments from China/Hong Kong created memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with defunct NBFCs and gave security deposits in the name of 'performance guarantees', the agency said in a statement.

"The NBFCs opened separate Merchant IDs (MIDs) with Payment Gateways like Paytm, Razorpay, etc and allowed these fintech companies to start full scale online lending operations. Against RBI guidelines, Indian NBFCs allowed fintech companies to piggyback on their license and do full scale lending in their names," it said.

Mobile Apps of the fintech companies were providing unsecured instant micro personal loans for term ranging from seven days to 14 days. They used to deduct 15 to 25 percent of the loan at the time of disbursement itself in the name of processing fee. The rate of interest charged was also exorbitant, it said.

The Apps captured the customers' mobile data by get-

ting various access privileges. In order to obtain more profits, they resorted to harsh recovery measures via call centers. Personal data of the customers was misused and calls were made to the friends and relatives of the customers and abusive language was used, it said.

Even social media posts were made against the defaulters to shame them. Unable to bear the level of harassment, certain people have committed suicide. These Apps managed to have a recovery rate of more than 90 percent and earned huge profits.

Accused firm Kudos Finance and Investment Private Limited is one such NBFC company which entered into MoUs with 39 fintech companies and illegally accepted 'security deposits' from them and allowed them to do lending activity.

With the help of extortionist type call centers, collectively they generated profits of Rs 544 crore for the Apps and also earned a commission of Rs 24 crore. Pavitra Pradip Walvekar, Director-cum-CEO of Kudos, was arrested on December 17 last year for the offence of money laundering and is in judicial custody.

ED arrests director of one of Chinese entities Hoewelai Jinsu in PMLA

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Director of Hoewelai Jinsu, Hong Kong, SAR, China Ltd., Anup Nagar under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case connected with fraud committed on banks under the guise of Merchant Trade. The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR dated July 18, 2009, registered by the High Ground Police Station, Bengaluru City.

Nagaral, is Director of Hoewelai Jinsu, Hong Kong, SAR, China Ltd. in the buyer leg of tripartite merchandise trade.

New discharge policy for mild, moderate Covid patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has revised the discharge policy for Covid-19 patients after categorising the severity of the disease into mild and moderate.

Addressing the media, Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry said after a review meeting by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Covid situation, the Ministry has revised their discharge policy with severity categorized into mild and moderate cases.

He said that patients with mild symptoms can get discharged after seven days of testing positive and having experienced no fever for three successive days. "Mild case discharge after at least 7 days from testing positive & non-emergency for 3 successive days, no need for testing prior to discharge," he added. In moderate cases - if there is resolution of symptoms, the patient maintains O2 saturation- 93% for 3 successive days (without O2)...such patients will be discharged," the official added.

On the other hand, if the patient's symptoms do not resolve and they continue to need oxygen support, they will be discharged only after their O2 saturation sustains above the prescribed level for three consecutive days (without support) and their co-morbidities are stable. According to the Ministry, "Omicron has a substantial growth advantage over Delta as per WHO...Data from South Africa, UK, Canada, Denmark suggests a reduced risk of hospitalisation for Omicron.

'Covaxin booster dose can neutralise Delta, Omicron'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Wednesday said that a study has shown that a booster dose of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin neutralizes the Delta and Omicron variants of coronavirus.

The company announced the results from the study conducted at Emory University in US which showed that sera from subjects who received a booster dose of Covaxin six months after getting a primary two-dose series of the same vaccine neutralized the SARS-

CoV-2 Omicron and Delta variants.

The study will be shortly published on pre-print server, medRxiv, it said.

"Sera samples from individuals who received a booster of COVAXIN (BBV152) were observed to be effective in neutralizing Omicron and Delta variants on a live virus neutralization assay. The neutralization activity of COVAXIN-boosted sera was comparable to what has been observed in mRNA vaccine-boosted sera against the Omicron variant," it said in a release.

More than 90 per cent of

all individuals boosted with Covaxin showed neutralizing antibodies. All participants received an initial two-dose schedule of Covaxin at Day 0 and Day 28, Bharat Biotech said.

"Data from this preliminary analysis show individuals receiving a booster dose of COVAXIN have a significant immune response to both the Omicron and Delta variants. These findings suggest that a booster dose has the potential to reduce disease severity and hospitalisations," said Mehul Suthar, Assistant Professor at Emory Vaccine Center, who led

the laboratory analysis.

Last week, the company had announced the results of its trial studying the immunogenicity and safety of Covaxin as a booster dose and said the vaccine is safe and highly immunogenic against all the variants of the coronavirus.

"The phase 2, double-blind, randomized controlled Covaxin trial demonstrated long-term safety with no serious adverse events," Bharat Biotech had said, adding that Covaxin booster dose neutralizes Alpha, Beta, Delta, Zeta and Kappa variants.

Irani: Who in Opp sought to benefit from Modi's security breach in Punjab?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not allowing to let go Congress off the hook on the issue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged 'security breach', the BJP on Wednesday asked as to why the Punjab DGP gave an "all clear" to his route and accused the State Government of deliberately ignoring the security threat to the PM.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP leader and Union Minister Smiriti Irani alleged that security protocol was breached by an "active connivance" even as state Police officials informed their superiors about the protestors. She asked who in the Opposition party sought to benefit from the breach.

Irani cited a 'sting' done by a news channel which purportedly showed some Punjab police officials saying that they informed their superiors about protestors blocking the route of Modi's motorcade but no action was allegedly taken.

"What is extremely disconcerting is that Punjab Police officials have highlighted how they continuously engaged with the Congress government and administration in Punjab to bring to light the threat to the security of PM and his route. The question this expose begets who in the Congress-led government in Punjab continued to deliberately ignore these threats to the PM's security," she asked. "Why did the state DGP give 'all clear to PM's route?"

"Why did the Punjab CM brief a private citizen (Priyanka Gandhi Vadra) on the PM's security protocol and the breach? Why is the private citizen, who is a part of the Gandhi family, an interested party," the Union Minister further asked.

Ex-servicemen affiliated to the BJP have also submitted a signed memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind expressing "serious concern" over the "security breach".

The Supreme Court on Wednesday has already appointed a committee chaired by its former judge Indu Malhotra to inquire into a security breach that led to the Prime Minister's convoy being stuck on a flyover in Punjab on January 5. Eom

JNU to discuss modalities of implementation of CUET in Academic Council meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the Delhi University, the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) too on Wednesday decided to hold admissions through the Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET) from the next academic session as announced by the Ministry of Education last month. The decision was taken at JNU Academic Council meeting and was "overwhelmingly endorsed" by the members, according to a statement issued by Jayant K Tripathi, Director of Admissions.

"During the deliberations in the Academic Council, a large number of members including the Deans of Schools, Centre Chairpersons, and External Members of the Council emphasized that CUET would provide a level playing field to numerous eligible students from across the country reducing the burden of taking several entrance examinations," it said. Recently, the Delhi University has also decided to hold admissions from the next academic session through the CUET.

The statement said that the university had earlier in its academic council meeting held in March last year, also decided that whenever the National Testing Agency would hold the CUET, the university would go by it.

"In fact, since 2019 Jawaharlal Nehru

University has been successfully conducting JNU Entrance Examination at various centres of the country to admit students in its various programmes of studies in collaboration with NTA in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode," read the statement. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) and the JNU students' union have expressed their opposition to the decision.

The Centre in December 2021 had announced for CUET, which is the entrance examination to enrol into central universities, will be held in Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Punjabi, Telugu and Urdu from the this academic year. Subsequently the University Grants Commission asked the Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to take appropriate measures to conduct the CUET that is to be organised by the National Testing Agency (NTA). UGC had notified that it was delaying the idea to implement the CUET by one year due to COVID-19 as per its original plan to begin in 2021. "It was resolved that the common entrance for UG and PG may be conducted from the academic session 2022-23," the letter to all the vice-chancellors of Central Universities by UGC joint secretary Jitendra K Tripathi mentioned.

Govt asks BARC to release news ratings with immediate effect

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Wednesday asked television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to release the ratings of news channels with immediate effect, along with data for the genre for the past three months, for fair and equitable representation of true trends.

As per the revised system, the reporting of news and niche genres will now be on a 'four week rolling average concept'.

TRP ratings were withheld since October 2020 after Mumbai Police's case against many TV channels for manipulating the ratings. BARC CEO Partho Dasgupta was arrested by Mumbai Police for allegations of accepting money for hyping the TRP ratings.

"In the spirit of the TRP Committee Report and recommendations by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), BARC has undertaken revision in its processes, protocols, oversight mechanism and initiated changes in governance structure", the ministry said in a statement.

"The reconstitution of the Board and the Technical Committee to allow for the induction of Independent Members has also been initiated by BARC. A permanent Oversight Committee has also been formed. The access protocols for data have been revamped and tightened.

"According to the revised system, the reporting of News and Niche Genres shall be on a 'four week rolling average concept', the ministry said in a statement. The ministry has also set up a 'working group' under the chairmanship of Prasar Bharti CEO for consideration of leveraging the Return Path Data (RPD) capabilities for the use of TRP services, as also recommended by TRAI and the TRP Committee Report. The committee shall



submit its report in four months' time, the ministry said.

BARC has indicated that in view of the changes undertaken by it, they are reaching out to related constituencies to explain the new proposals and are in readiness to actually commence the release according to the new protocols.

In an official order, the ministry said the Joint Working Group will study different aspects of the data capturing including RPD in context of the audience measurement, international practices, security of the viewership data etc.

"The Group may study successful global best practices in RPD, like that of Canada, the models/ pilots undertaken in India by BARC and other independent experiments by DTH operators and other relevant stakeholders and formulate a mandate for combining the data sources including RPD, if so decided with the existing sampling methodology(ies)," it said.

The Joint Working Group shall have Prasar Bharti CEO S S Vempati as the chairperson, and five members - one each from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Bureau of Indian Standards, BARC, All India Digital Cable Federation and Harit Nagpal, president of the DTH Association.

20L tonnes of free foodgrains distributed so far under fifth phase of PMGKAY: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been distributed for free so far to eligible beneficiaries under the fifth phase of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under the Phases I to V, the food ministry had so far allocated a total of about 759 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the States/UTs, which is equivalent to about Rs 2.6 lakh crore in food subsidies. So far, a cumulative total of about 580 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been distributed to the beneficiaries. In March 2020, the Centre had launched the scheme to provide free foodgrains to over 80 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as part of its effort to reduce the hardships of people during the coronavirus pandemic. The additional foodgrains of 5 kilograms per person per month is over.

I&B Ministry's twitter account hacked for mins

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another instance of a Government handle being hacked, the official Twitter account of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry was temporarily hacked on Wednesday morning but the account was promptly secured within a few minutes. The hackers renamed the account after Tesla founder "Elon Musk" and some tweets with text such as 'HURRRRY UP!!!', 'GREAT JOB!!!', 'SOMETHING AMAZZING!!!' and 'GREAT JOB!!!' were posted from this account. Moreover, a couple of tweets contained a link to a website.

"The account @Mib_india has been restored. This is for the information of all the followers," the ministry, which has 1.4 million followers on Twitter, tweeted after the account was restored.

According to officials, "It happened for around 10-15 minutes after which the Twitter handle was resumed. There were random posts and replies tagging Elon Musk. It is too early to comment on the inquiry aspect of the matter as



the plan of action is yet to be decided," a ministry official said.

The Twitter accounts of the Indian Medical Association, Indian Council of World Affairs and Mann Deshi Mahila Bank were also hacked on January 3. In that case, too, the hackers had renamed the handle as 'Elon Musk'. The fonts used to change the names of the profiles in today's (January 12, 2021) incident appear to be the same. The posted content 'AMAZZZING' also appeared to be similar, though the links tweeted in the, two cases seemed to be different.

Nearly 130 accounts, including that of Kim Kardashian West, Kanye West, Elon Musk, Bill Gates and Barack Obama were targeted in this attack.

This isn't the first time

HC upholds death penalty for rape-murder

7-yr-old mentally challenged girl was raped, murdered by convict in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court in a judgment which would go down in history as a landmark verdict upheld on Wednesday the death sentence awarded by a trial court to the accused in a rape and murder case. The bench consisting of judges S Vaidyanathan and G Jayachandran quoted profusely from Thirukural, the Holy Quran and The Bible along with previous judgments by the Supreme Court to explain why they were rejecting the appeal filed by the accused challeng-

ing the trial court verdict. The prosecution case was that a seven year old girl of a mentally challenged mother was enticed and wooed by Samivel alias Raja, the sole accused, and took her to a secluded place and subjected to aggravated penetrative sexual assault. The incident happened on June 30, 2020 at 3 pm. After fulfilling his desires the accused murdered the girl in a gruesome manner and dumped her body in a temple pond situated in a secluded area.

The girl belonged to scheduled caste community. When her father came to know that she has not returned home even after 6 pm, he filed a missing person complaint with the local police station. It was on the next day some local residents came across the dead body of the girl lying in the unused pond covered with shrubs and plants. The inves-

tigation by the local police based on the revelations made by local people took them to Samivel who spilled the beans on interrogation.

The charge sheet framed by the investigating officer established the culpability of the accused beyond any doubt and hence the sessions judge, Pudukottai sentenced Samivel to death penalty describing the case as a rarest of rare cases, a benchmark specified by the apex court.

The High Court judges concurred with the findings of the trial court. "We find that the judgment of the Trial Court fulfilled all the touchstone to determine that it is one of the rarest of rare cases for imposition of death sentence, as imposition of any other punishment much less life imprisonment is completely insufficient and inadequate and would not meet the ends of justice. Taking into

consideration the brutality of attack, the barbaric manner in which the deceased child was murdered and the mental agony undergone by the parents, we find that except death sentence, no other sentence will be adequate. We have examined this case more carefully and having given our anxious thought to the facts, we have found that the mitigating circumstances in favour of the accused herein is no match to the aggravating circumstances," said the Justices.

The justices further stated that they were little hesitant initially to take away a life of a person by way of a judicial order and thought of converting the punishment into the one of life imprisonment. "But, after due deliberation and contemplation, we were reminded of the preaching of Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the battle field that everyone is going to disappear

from the World, even if he (Arjuna) does not shoot the enemies with arrows, even though they are relatives / known persons. Further saying, when a particular duty is given to a person, he has to discharge the same without fear or favour".

Their Lordships also pointed out that no religion will encourage murdering of other fellow human being. "In the Holy Quran, it is unequivocally stated, "Whosoever killed a person... it shall be as if he had killed all mankind" (5:32). In the Bible (Numbers 35:30-31), it is ascribed that "If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death".

Bengal Govt to go ahead with Sagar Mela with Covid norms

CM asks pilgrims to get double dose, exercise utmost caution

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With corona positive rates rising to an alarming level in Bengal and particularly Kolkata, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asked the Ganga Sagar bound pilgrims to exercise "utmost caution" and "cooperate with the Government in following corona protocols".

Despite repeated appeal from the medical fraternity and the Opposition parties, the Bengal Government has decided against banning Ganga Sagar Mela this year.

The Chief Minister's appeal to the people came on a day when Health Ministry reports said that Kolkata had recorded more than 60 percent positivity rate in the past one

week where as the figure for the State had gone up to an alarming 32 percent mark.

"We want to receive you all but the way Omicron has been infected people is a cause of great concern ... we have no other way but to impose strict norms as per the Calcutta High Court order," the Chief Minister said appealing to the pilgrims.

She said no person without double dose vaccinations would be allowed to proceed to Ganga Sagar Islands. The State Government had arranged for vaccinating people with the second dose right at the starting point at Babu Ghat in Kolkata, she informed.

"One sample of high positivity rate will suffice," said a senior official of the Indian Railways adding "about 4,000 employees of the Eastern Railways have tested positive." The "only silver lining" was however that total daily rate had slightly dipped in Kolkata which was little more than 6,000 infections on Tuesday as compared to about 8,000 a

day or two before, said Dr Dipendra Sarkar of the State-owned SSKM Hospital.

Following the surge in daily cases, Bengal's tally of active cases stood at 1,02,236. The State also recorded 19 deaths in the past 24 hours. Currently, its caseload and toll stand at 17,95,430 and 19,936 respectively. "It seems that the infections are gradually shifting towards the rural and semi-urban areas and districts which has to be taken care of by the Government," Dr Sarkar said.

Meanwhile, in a determined show of intent the Diamond Harbour administration on Wednesday vaccinated more than 50,000 people in ten hours, officials said. Diamond Harbour parliamentary constituency is represented by Trinamool Congress national general secretary and the Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

The TMC MP had earlier directed the administration to show an 'intent of purpose' by vaccinating at least 30,000 people, officials said.

UP politics set for change, says Raut after many MLAs quit BJP

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday claimed a political change was imminent in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and the recent move by a State Minister and some other BJP MLAs to leave the saffron party was just the beginning.

Talking to reporters here, Raut also said he wants to tell the people of Goa, where polls to the 40-member Assembly are scheduled on February 14, not to fall prey to monetary inducements, and that the Shiv

Sena will stand against any such move by the BJP in the coastal state.

In a jolt to the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya resigned from the state cabinet on Tuesday and three other MLAs announced they are quitting the party.

Raut on Wednesday said, "This is just the beginning and politics in Uttar Pradesh is set for a change."

Referring to the Goa poll scene, the Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson said, "Our fight is against notes (money power) of the BJP."

"The Shiv Sena is the common man's party. We want to tell the people not to fall prey to monetary inducements," he said.

To Devendra Fadnavis's reported comment that unlike Maharashtra, the BJP will not

allow the sale of mandate in Goa, Raut said leaders like Pravin Zantye and Michael Lobo had quit the saffron party in Goa under Fadnavis's watch.

After the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Shiv Sena fell out with long-term ally BJP over the issue of chief ministerial post. The Uddhav Thackeray-led party later tied-up with the NCP and Congress to form government in the state.

Raut had on Tuesday said the Shiv Sena will contest 50 seats in Uttar Pradesh, where elections to the 403-member Assembly will be held in phases over the next two months.

He had also said that in Goa, discussions were on for an alliance with the Congress and NCP, and if the Sonia Gandhi-led party does not agree, the Sena will contest the elections on its own. **PTI**

Prez Kovind greets people on Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday greeted citizens for Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Bhogali Bihu and Pongal among others, saying he prays that these harvest festivals develop spirit of fraternity among the people.

"I pray to God that these festivals develop the spirit of fraternity among the people while prosperity and happiness prevail in our country," the President said.

The President has greeted his fellow citizens on the eve of Lohri (which falls on 13th January), Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bhogali Bihu, Uttarayan and Paush Parva (which fall on 14th January), a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

A majority of the festivals celebrated in our country depict our integral relationship with nature and agriculture, he said.

The festivals of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Bhogali Bihu, Uttarayan and Paush Parva, mark the harvesting season of crops as the winter season ends and ushers in the spring, Kovind said.

People enjoy the fruits of good harvest and celebrate these festivals which also underline the need to preserve our environment, he said, adding that it is not only an example of Indian diversity but also that of unity in diversity of our country. **PTI**



People buy kites and other decorative items on the eve of 'Makar Sankranti' festival in Thane on Wednesday **PTI**

No intention to go back to BJP: Ex-UP Min Maurya

Lucknow: Ex-BJP leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Wednesday said he was not going back to the saffron camp and indicated joining Samajwadi Party on Friday.

Maurya, who quit as Minister on Tuesday, claimed that his resignation from the Cabinet has triggered an earthquake in the BJP.

Meanwhile, a Sultanpur district court during the day issued an arrest warrant against him in a seven years old case in which he was accused of making objectionable comments against Hindu deities. Asked if Sanghmitra Maurya, his daughter and a BJP MP from Badaun, will follow the suit, he said she would take a call on her own.

Though he hasn't yet announced joining Akhilesh Yadav, the five-time MLA from Padrauna in Kushinagar, thanked the SP chief for welcoming his decision to quit the state cabinet. Akhilesh had shared a photograph of him with Maurya after the latter's high voltage resignation from the BJP Tuesday. Asked who else is joining SP with him, Maurya said "everything will be clear on January 14". Maurya ruled out returning to the BJP despite efforts by its several leaders to placate him. **PTI**

UP Min, BJP MLA among 74 acquitted in Kanth violence case of 2014

Moradabad: A special court here has acquitted all 74 accused, including UP Cabinet Minister Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and local BJP MLA Ritesh Kumar Gupta, for allegedly attacking policemen during the protest in Kanth area of the district in 2014.

The protest was called by the then opposition party BJP against the Moradabad administration for removing a loud-speaker from a Dalit temple in Kanth police station area.

On Tuesday, Additional District and Session Judge Punit Kumar Gupta of MLA-MP court here acquitted all the accused, who were on bail, for want of proof.

Additional District Government Counsel (ADGC) Maneesh Bhatnagar said the prosecution will move the upper court if required after studying the court order.

The incident took place on

July 4, 2014 when the BJP had called a mahapanchayat, in defiance of state orders banning it, against the removal of loud-speaker from the Dalit temple in Muslim-dominated Akbarpur village in Kanth area of Moradabad in June by the police.

The clashes began after the police lathicharged and fired bullets in the air to disperse the crowd.

The stone-pelting by the BJP workers had allegedly left the then district magistrate with severe head injuries. The police, however, succeeded in pushing back the mob from the railway tracks, where hundreds had obstructed the way for hours, affecting train schedules.

The prosecution produced 24 witnesses, including then District Magistrate, before the special court during the hearing but couldn't prove the fault of accused. **PTI**

J&K records 1,695 fresh Covid cases, 1 death

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday recorded the highest ever tally of 1695 fresh cases of coronavirus while only one death was reported from Jammu region. So far 8 cases of Covid-19 have been reported across the Jammu region. The condition of all patients is stable.

Amid the fresh surge, the total number of active positive cases have surpassed the 6000 mark. On Tuesday 1148 cases of coronavirus were detected in J&K. The UT administration had conducted over 65,000 tests on Wednesday to check the spread of the virus.

The twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar Wednesday reported the highest tally of positive cases. Jammu district recorded 438 positive cases while Srinagar district recorded 320 fresh cases of Coronavirus.

According to the media bulletin, 1695 new positive cases of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), 812 from Jammu division and 883 from Kashmir



An elderly man receives a third dose or booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine during a door to door Covid vaccination campaign at a snow-covered village in Budgam on Wednesday **PTI**

division were reported while only 01 Covid death has been reported from Jammu Division.

Moreover, 262 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 140 from Jammu Division and 122 from Kashmir Division.

To prevent the spread of the virus 71,541 doses of COVID vaccine have been administered in the last 24

COVID BULLETIN

Kerala's daily spike surpasses 12,000-mark

Death toll reaches 50,254 in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Number of new Covid-19 cases continued its northward journey on Wednesday as the State Health Department diagnosed 12,742 new persons with the pandemic during the last 24 hours, said a media release by health minister Veena George. The death toll reached 50,254 by Wednesday evening even as the student community in the State is contemplating a move to petition the Government with a request to switch over to online classes till the situation stabilises.

Dr T N Suresh, general secretary Kerala Government Medical Doctors Association, told The Pioneer that situation was grave and the doctors were also thinking of taking up with the administration the demand to close down the educational institutions in the State. "The

chances of the students becoming super carriers could not be ruled out. Though we understand that the chances of them getting afflicted with the pandemic is bleak, they would end up as carriers and that would lead to a grievous situation," said Dr Suresh.

Elsewhere in the State, doctors sounded caution. "Doctors in Government Service have to tread cautiously as there are chances of the authorities resorting to vindictive actions if we fail to parrot whatever they say. The truth is that situation in Kerala is critical," said a senior government physician in Thiruvananthapuram.

Situation in Tamil Nadu too is no different. Though the number of new cases reported daily had come down to 600 throughout 2021 December, the pandemic shot to new heights in January 2022. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu had diagnosed 15,379 cases while 20 persons succumbed to Covid-19.

Opp parties need to think of alternative against PM Modi's leadership: Sushmita

Panaji: TMC MP Sushmita Dev has said the Opposition parties in the country need to think of an alternative against the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi before going to the people to seek votes.

Talking to PTI in Goa on Tuesday, Dev claimed that Trinamool Congress (TMC) president Mamata Banerjee is coming up as a "formidable force" against Modi.

Dev also said the TMC has not entered the Assembly poll fray in Goa to cut the Congress's votes, and that the Banerjee-led party has to go to other states to expand the organisation.

The Assembly polls to all 40 seats in Goa will be held on February 14. Targeting the Congress, Dev said there are issues with the Sonia Gandhi-headed party. "It is the oldest party, it has the strongest base, but why do they fail against Modi?" she asked.

"There is a big question in this country, Modi versus who?"

We have to answer that question. Unless we answer that question, we cannot go to the people," the Rajya Sabha member said.

Dev said the need of the hour at the national level is to find an alternative because the "Congress has not answered the question, Modi versus who?"

Asked whether the TMC wants to pitch Mamata Banerjee as the prime ministerial candidate (in the next Lok Sabha polls), Dev said the prime ministerial face of the opposition has to be a collective decision.

"When people expected Sonia Gandhi to be the prime minister, she sacrificed (the post) for Dr Manmohan Singh. So, Mrs Gandhi is capable of making big sacrifices, that is her plus point. She may choose to sacrifice for anybody, and I think Mamata Banerjee is coming up as a leader at the national level—a formidable force against Narendra Modi," she said.

Dev said what the future holds for the country is not known. **PTI**

"Politics is very dynamic. The idea is to save the nation, which is a commonality among the parties that are not from the RSS or BJP background," she commented.

Dev also asserted that the TMC is not in the fray for the upcoming Goa Assembly elections to cut votes of the Congress.

"If you keep that logic, then no new party will come out of its own state. If you go on telling new parties that you are there to cut the votes, that means for next 100 years, there should be no other party. Today, for the TMC to expand, we have to go to other states," she said.

In the 2017 Goa Assembly elections, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 out of the total 40 seats. However, the BJP then quickly tied-up with some regional parties and independents to form government in the coastal state.

The Congress is now left with just two Assembly seats in Goa. **PTI**

Daily Covid cases see over 12K jump in Maha

86 Omicron cases logged

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an alarming surge in the pandemic cases in Maharashtra, the daily Covid-19 cases on Wednesday jumped by 12,299 cases to touch a tally of 46,723 cases, even as the State recorded 86 Omicron cases.

The health machinery in Maharashtra found itself in a spot of bother, as the daily cases rose from 34,424 cases on Tuesday to 46,723 cases on Wednesday, taking the total number of cases recorded from 69,87,938 cases to 70,34,661 cases. As many as 32 Covid-19 deaths were reported from various parts of the state. Mumbai witnessed an

increase of 4,773 cases in the daily infections -- from 11,647 cases on Tuesday to 16,420 cases on Wednesday. With Wednesday's fresh cases, the total Covid-19 cases in Mumbai rose from 9,39,867 to 9,56,287.

The State recorded 86 cases of Omicron, taking the total number of new Covid-19 variant cases to 1367 cases. As 28,041 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 66,21,070 to 66,49,111. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 94.75 per cent to 94.52 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state increased from 2,21,477 to 2,40,122.

The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2.02 per cent to 2.01 per cent.

Of the total recorded cases, Mumbai accounts for a maximum of 1,02,282 active cases, while there are 57,058 active cases in Thane. There are 32,672 active cases in Pune, followed by Raigad (10,290), Palghar (8808), Nashik (6325), Nagpur (4724), Ahmednagar (2040), Satara (2034) and Aurangabad (1426).

Of the 7,11,42,569 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 70,34,661 have tested positive (9.89 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday. Currently, 15,29,452 people are in home quarantine while 6951 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, the following is the break-up of a total 1367

Omicron cases recorded in the state so far, Mumbai: 627, PMC-329, Pimpri-Chinchwad-75, Sangli -59, Nagpur -51, Thane-48, Pune rural -41, Kolhapur and Panvel -18 each, Satara-13 Osmanabad -11, Navi Mumbai -10 Covid, Amaravati -9, Kalyan Dombivli -7, Buldhana and Vasai-Virar -6 each, Bhiwandi-Nizampur and Akola-5 each, Nanded, Ulhasnagar, Aurangabad, Mirambhayandar and Gondia -3 each, Ahmednagar, Gadchiroli, Latur, Nandurbar, Nashik and Solapur-2 each and Jalna and Raigad—one each.

Of the total cases 734 patients have been discharged after a negative RT-PCR test.

In a related development, the authorities said the total number of passengers who arrived at Mumbai, Pune and

Nagpur airports since December 1 was 2,68,070 (40,026 from At-risk countries and rest 2,28,070 are from other countries), while passengers whose RT-PCR tests have been done are 79,740 (40,026 are from high-risk countries and 39,714 are from other countries). Similarly, RT-PCR positive and samples sent for genomic sequencing was 1040 (484 are from at-risk countries and 556 are from other countries).

Additionally, field surveillance of all international passengers who have arrived since 1st November is underway. "Through airport and field surveillance, 4,259 samples have been sent for genomic sequencing. The results of 77 are awaited so far," the daily health bulletin said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mauryan push

The powerful leader has opened new vistas by deserting the BJP and favouring the SP

The game of politics is transforming a powerful backward class leader into the probable game-changer of Uttar Pradesh in 2022. Swami Prasad Maurya's time under the sun is now after he took two simple steps; one of breaking away from the BJP and, the other, of promising to join the Samajwadi Party on January 14. There is just one question this development poses. It is not about how the BJP will attempt to recover from the obvious setback. It is whether politics in Uttar Pradesh is ready to accept cohesion of backward classes to electorally take on a party that wields religious ideology to blur caste identities. At least on paper, Maurya's action has the potential of aligning many OBCs with the Yadav-dominated Samajwadi Party. He is a leader with a powerful mass base. Mauryas, part of the Kushwahas, along with Yadavs, Lodhs and Kurmis, are among the top OBC communities in terms of numbers. His exit from the BJP also sends a message across the OBC spectrum at a time when the two big rivals, BJP and SP, are busy stitching up alliances with smaller OBC communities. The focus, however, remains on the Samajwadi Party's ability to make an inclusive alliance between Yadavs and non-Yadav OBCs work. Leader Akhilesh Yadav is eager to expand SP's caste base beyond Yadavs and Muslims. Mere intent is not enough till he is willing to give non-Yadav communities representation in the top echelons of his party's hierarchy.



Were that to happen — though there is not much time left to stitch a comprehensive social alliance — it would be for the first time in the post-Mandal era that all backward classes would stand on a common platform. For the coming elections, that would mean ensuring a full transfer of votes among the new allies — a tall order, given their differences at the grassroots. How these are overcome depends on how strong an anti-BJP plank they forge. Till Maurya came into the picture, Akhilesh was treading a familiar but traditional path of alliances. He was ensuring a big gain at the expense of the Congress and Bahujan Samaj Party. He conveyed to Muslims to back him to the hilt in order not to split their vote. He signed pacts with Rashtriya Lok Dal, a faction of Apna Dal, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party led by Om Prakash Rajbhar, Mahan Dal and Janwadi Party (Socialist). Akhilesh is giving his alliance a national tone by teaming up with Sharad Pawar's NCP and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (both will contest a seat each). However, it is only with Maurya that he can, for the first time since 2014, directly gain at BJP's expense. That is why, perhaps, Maurya and a couple of BJP MLAs who also wish to quit the party, share Akhilesh's social justice narrative and blame BJP not for religious polarisation but the neglect of "Dalits, backward classes, farmers, unemployed youth and small and medium traders".

PICTALK



A 'Bhela Ghar' made for the upcoming Bihu festival on the theme of COVID-19 vaccination, in Nagaon

PTI

Arise! Awake!

Youth, with muscles of iron and nerves of steel, are the nation's biggest asset today

The nation's youth are our strongest and biggest bulwark against the ills plaguing the society at large. The panacea for issues ranging from gender inequality, crimes against women and the elderly, petty offences, drug abuse and the nation's security and safety, boils down to 'resilient youth who are sound of body and mind'. In this context, one can't help but remember Swami Vivekananda's decades-old message to the youth: "What I want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel, inside which dwells a mind of the same material as that of which the thunderbolt is made." And an apt time it is to remember Swami's life and teachings,



as January 12 is celebrated as the National Youth Day to mark his birth anniversary. Born in 1863 as Narendranath Datta in an aristocratic family in Calcutta, he was a prolific thinker, philosopher, great orator and a passionate patriot. His teachings brought about a spiritual awakening in the 19th century, especially among the youth. A true 'Karma Yogi', he had full faith in the youth of our country. He strongly believed that youth can transform the fate of India through their hard work, dedication and spiritual power.

Swami was one of India's leading thinkers who rediscovered Indian philosophy through ancient scriptures, under the mentorship of mystic and yogi Ramakrishna Paramahansa, and brought it into mainstream Indian thought, apart from taking Vedanta to the western world. He represented with distinction India and Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, 1893; it is said the auditorium rang with thunderous applause for a full two minutes after Swami had concluded his address. It is a common misconception that he had a feeling of antipathy towards Islam and former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has himself repudiated this theory in *The Discovery of India*. In his early days, Narendranath used to play a lot of football and cricket. He scalped seven wickets in 1884 while playing for the Town Club team, populated mostly by Bengalis, against the British-dominated Calcutta Cricket Club. One of his well-known observations is: "You will be nearer to God playing football than studying the *Bhagavad Gita*." With spirituality relegated mainly to TV serials and bookshelves as an accessory, it's time for the youth to awaken again. As the great thinker himself advised: "Arise! Awake! And don't stop until you've reached your goal."

Eternal wisdom of Swami Vivekananda



JS RAJPUT

The way to counter the erosion in moral, ethical and humanistic values is to refocus learning process on character formation & value inculcation

The mere mention of Swami Vivekananda inspires and energises the young and old alike. In his sojourn of mere four decades on this planet, he projected 'true India' on the global stage and probably, more significantly, to Indians! He comprehended the past, analysed the present and delineated the right strategy for future. The power of ideas and power of imagination are kindled amongst every inquisitive young person when the basics of his philosophy are mentioned. He inspires everyone, including the teacher and the taught — when told that what a man learns is essentially what he "discovers or unveils". And this occurs when the individual takes the cover off his own soul. He uplifts the spirit of everyone when told that the basic essentials of education, learning and growing up need to be derived on one single principle: "Education is manifestation of the perfection already in man." No learner could ever contest his assertion on the source of knowledge: "All knowledge that the world has ever received comes from the mind; the infinite library of the universe is in your mind. The falling of the apple gave the suggestion to Newton, and he studied his own mind. He rearranged all the previous links of thought in his mind and discovered a new link among them, which we call the law of gravitation."

No genuine pedagogical process — offline, online or hybrid — could really achieve its objective without requisite emphasis on how every individual could unearth the treasure within. One has personally observed in schools, colleges and universities how the golden words and views of Swami Vivekananda enhance their self-confidence and infuse an instantaneous keenness to know more about him. The Swami has expectations both from the taught and the teacher: Purity and a real thirst for knowledge, as also perseverance which qualifies the taught to proceed to unearth the perfection within. Similarly, the teacher must know: "No one was ever really taught by another. Everyone has to teach himself.



The external teacher offers only the suggestion which rouses the internal teacher to work to understand things. Then things will be made clearer to us by our own power of perception and thought, we shall realise them in our own souls." As one recalls the 1996 UNESCO Report on the shape of education in 21st century, popularly known as Delores Commission Report, the philosophy of education given by Swami Vivekananda finds mention in its title: "Learning: The Treasure Within!" In these times of growing emphasis on innovations and entrepreneurship, critical thinking and analytical skills could be acquired in educational institutions only when the teacher and the taught reorient their pedagogical strategies to fit in Swami's eternal parameters. He repeatedly emphasised that mere acquisition of information is no education. Real education is "life-building, man-making, character-making, assimilation of ideas".

Education forms character, enhances the strength of mind, expands the intellect and prepares one to stand on his own feet. It has universal acceptability; the only issue is how to implement it in its true spirit. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) recognises the need to promote learn-

“THE POWER OF IDEAS AND POWER OF IMAGINATION ARE KINDLED AMONGST EVERY INQUISITIVE YOUNG PERSON WHEN THE BASICS OF HIS PHILOSOPHY ARE MENTIONED. HE INSPIRES EVERYONE

ers' holistic development: "The policy's vision is to instil among learners a deep-rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought but also in spirit, intellect and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development and living and global well-being thereby reflecting a truly global citizen."

The way out of the prevailing moral crises, besides countering the erosion in moral, ethical and humanistic values, is to refocus learning process on character formation, value inculcation and internalisation. That alone could pave the way for that much sought-after goal of global peace and harmony, reduction in violence and disproportionate investments in preparation for wars. Education systems must realise that most of the concerns facing humanity today, like climate change and depletion of biological resources, are created by humans. This could be halted only by men and women of competence, commitment and character to connect to humanity, cutting across all man-made boundaries. India has a great opportunity to lead in this direction; it has the experience, knowl-

edge, wisdom and skills to proceed ahead. Swami's own comprehension of history and historical forces was so deep that he could predict "India would be free within 50 years in unforeseen circumstances". Further, he had correctly predicted the first Proletariat Revolution would take place in Russia. Regarding India, his prediction was that it would "someday rise to great heights of prosperity and power, far more than she has done in past". This, too, would materialise.

There are prominent indications in what he said in the final session of World Parliament of Religions: "The seed is put in the ground and earth, air and water are placed around it. Does the seed become earth, air or water? No, it becomes a plant." He continued: "Similar is the case with religion. The Christian is not to become a Hindu or Buddhist, nor a Hindu or Buddhist is to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of others and yet preserve his own individuality." This must become the universal objective of all religions and humanity.

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A JOLT TO THE BJP IN UTTAR PRADESH

Sir — The resignations of Swami Prasad Maurya and Dara Singh Chauhan from the Yogi Adityanath Government ahead of the UP Assembly election come as a big jolt for the BJP. These resignations are of consequence in view of these leaders' popularity among the backward classes. Their claims of "gross neglect" and "oppression" of Dalits, the OBCs, farmers and the youth by the BJP contest its claim that it accommodates all sections of society. It is intriguing that this realisation dawned upon Maurya and Chauhan so belatedly. It is possible that they jumped ship sensing change in the mood of voters or in response to the party's refusal to accede to their demands.

Whatever the reason, the BJP's loss is Samajwadi Party's gain. By tilting the caste balance to its disadvantage, Maurya and Chauhan can upset the BJP's applecart. True, the exits may strengthen secularism and social justice in India's electorally most crucial State. But it cannot convincingly counter the charge of political opportunism and moral bankruptcy. They cannot escape their share of responsibility for five years of the BJP's misrule. As for the saffron party itself, it may find itself in a vulnerable position.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

A THOUGHT FOR OUR LIBRARIES

Sir — Thanks for publishing a very important and useful article, 'Are libraries becoming irrelevant today?' (Jan 12). Thousands of libraries dotted across the country, with their majestic facades and structures, not only look beautiful but also provide us with bountiful knowledge. Libraries are practically places of worship for those who love reading. The altruistic environment and the awe-inspiring architecture amidst thousands of books stacked neatly can easily make any book lover joyous. Books are faithful friends of the readers. They speak to the readers and keep them engrossed to the extent that the readers even forget their environs and enter into the world presented to them by the book in their hands.

Campaign curbs will save lives



With the declaration of election dates for five States, various restrictions have been imposed by the Election Commission, which is a welcome step, but many political parties are irritatingly lagging behind in digitalisation and terming it 'campaign curfew'. Elections may come and go but lives are always the priority and, for that, necessary steps must be taken such as banning crowded rallies and road shows. At a time when the Omicron-driven COVID-19 surge is officially adding

over 1.5 lakh new infections every day, the poll panel has decided to hold polls to the five Assemblies on schedule, and all the political parties acceded.

The commission has evolved a "campaign curfew" norm to ensure the safety of all, including poll staff and voters. The precedent in front of the EC is the March-April 2021 Assembly election in West Bengal, which preceded the devastating second wave. This time, the EC has devised stricter norms for campaigning. All public rallies, road shows, *padayatras*, cycle/bike shows and processions have been banned till January 15. The candidates have been given the option of online nomination so that physical contact is minimised. There are high chances that the candidates and parties will put pressure on the EC to permit physical rallies after January 15 but the panel should stick to its "campaign curfew" and perform its constitutional obligations diligently.

Yash Pal Rathnan | Jalandhar

More than being mere storage spaces for books, libraries are important community hubs that serve as centres of learning, professional development and healthcare. Libraries, which house material worth centuries of learning, information, history and truth, are important defenders in the fight against misinformation. More than books, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact and imagine together. Said renowned Argentine writer and essayist Jorge Luis Borges: "I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of a library."

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

ROGER TAYLOR CALLS IT A DAY

Sir — Test cricket needs a lot of steel-like rigidity to last for a long time in the international arena. Roger Taylor, the mainstay of Kiwi batting, has called it a day after an illustrious stint of 15 years. Incidentally, he ended his career with a

Test wicket to mark the culmination of an impressive career. He played as the mainstay of New Zealand batting but also performed the sheet anchor role to perfection. As a talisman of New Zealand cricket, Taylor ended his distinguished career in style by dismissing last batter Ebadot Hossain in style.

Moreover, he finished his career on a winning note. Taylor stitched many useful stands while playing in the middle order and played several momentous innings in the shorter formats of the game as well. He was the fulcrum around which Kiwi batting revolved. He hit a purple patch as a batter and a bag of 166 catches put him in the highest and fittest bracket of fielders. He was an asset to his side and his absence will be felt for a long time.

CKS Nikhil Krishnan | Trichy

SOUNDBITE

The Govt which can conspire against the PM, can do anything... I am but a small fry.



Shiromani Akali Dal leader — Bikram Singh Majithia

We believe it (Beijing's behaviour in the India-China border region) can be destabilising.



White House Press Secretary — Jen Psaki

Mama...it's about the mindset. This mindset makes a task big or small. Change your mindset, brother.



Singer-actor — Diljit Dosanjh

Are these facts (on Djokovic) true? I've read so many different reports in this messy embarrassing saga.



Australian spin legend — Shane Warne

In Uttar Pradesh, we are going to contest elections with Samajwadi Party and other smaller parties.



Nationalist Congress Party chief — Sharad Pawar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

SOME IMPONDERABLES ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

Where does sanitisation begin and where should it end?



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

'Seeking understanding' is a universal need. Everyone is keen to be understood in the manner in which he believes he ought to be understood. However, understanding is by definition an outcome of a communication process. One can communicate with oneself: that helps to understand oneself. One can communicate with another person: in this dyadic relationship the urge is that one should be understood as one wants to be understood. A third kind of communication can be between self and a group. This is somewhat tricky because each group member may have one's own vocabulary, one's own ability to understand and varying spans of attention. Yet another 'understanding' can be sought between one group and another. All told, 'seeking an understanding' requires here be no gaps between the person who is seeking the understanding and the person who is supposed to respond. These issues become even more complicated in



the social context that the pandemic raises. A common theme in the nearly two years of the pandemic has been to 'reduce mobility'. The pressures of restricted mobility have been so large that orientations of gregariousness on the part of many have largely got stymied. This can and has produced personality disorders. Impatience, frustration and a feeling of suffocation are some of the common manifestations. These aberrations can do more damage than an acknowledged ailment. However, when it comes to impatience, frustration, a feeling of suffocation et al, the response is often in the form of truisms. Typically, it would be, 'why are you so impatient?' The truth is, if one knew one was impatient and acknowledged it, it could be handled. More often than not, the person who is being labelled as impatient does not see himself as one. This could lead to a possible communication breakdown between the two persons involved. Similar examples can be made for the feeling of 'frustration' or 'suffocation'.

This has strained relationships and often times even domestic peace. The situation is further compounded by the virus mutations and their impact. Official pandemic restrictions are enforced with the best of intentions. One is limiting the number of persons who can do door-to-door canvassing to five. The logic is difficult to comprehend. It could well have been six or four. This is where the 'judgement' of the persons who draft the regulations becomes significant. Thus, it is that ultimately, it is the competency for a robust judgement that becomes the touch stone. Regulations which touch mass lives very often have contextual overtones. All in all, these are clearly seemingly simple issues which become more complex when one starts analysing them. Consider the fatigue of sanitising anything that enters a household, ranging from daily necessities like vegetables to more structured dispatches through couriers. The couriers can bring anything from sweets to jewellery; from diaries to documents. The documents might have legal implications and cannot be thrown away. Many have wondered if they deserve to be sanitised. Sanitising them may cause smudging and more complications. Indeed, it can be asked where does sanitisation begin and where should it end? The brittle get more and more anxious and the cavalier more and more nonchalant. In simple terms, either road has its grave risks. These are questions to which a scientific application of the mind is needed. Patience, logic and above all the ability to understand the temperament of the individual becomes necessary. The trouble is the temperament of an individual, be it anxiety or impatience, cannot be helped unless the person concerned is receptive to help. Maybe the answer lies in doing it with love, care, commitment and persistence.

(The writer is an acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

He declined prestigious overseas professorships

Vivekananda had an entrepreneur's pre-requisites — the ability to mobilise committed teams to work towards identified goals and a large-scale vision



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

1863 was six years after the 1857 uprising closer home in India. It was also the time the US Civil War had started. It was 35 years since the founding of the Brahma Samaj, 46 years since the Presidency College (as Hindoo College) in Calcutta had been founded. So, it was during a chapter of revolt, reform and renaissance that Narendranath Datta was born.

In terms of family history, his own grandfather had unusually taken sanyaas at age 25 just after his father had been born. And the young renunciate had already been known as a scholar-linguist. Narendranath's father had much success in his profession and was also proficient in several languages. With these various gifts and legacies running in his family, and the social initiatives in his milieu, Narendranath, born January 12, 1863 would go on to emerge as Swami Vivekananda.

While none of us can pick the family we are born in (it could be argued that this is decided by one's deeds in an earlier birth!), and inherit many of our capacities and cultural traits, it is the pedagogic, artistic, and intellectual stimuli we respond to that shapes our uniqueness. The poems, prayers and songs of our childhood, the social discussions in the neighbourhood, the kids we play with, the books seen at home - they are all making far deeper and lasting impressions than we might realise.

It is the medley of early influences and subsequent exposure and experience that can, to a good extent, explain the formation of an extraordinary individual. In Swami Vivekananda's case, many ingredients can be identified - religiosity, eloquence, the gift of languages, a spiritualist temperament, renunciation, a passion for reform and modernisation... that seem directly drawn from his family. Then there are the influences of the poets and historians in a person's college curriculum, the thinkers whose ideas are at the centre of student discussions, and what the newspaper editors are writing at the time. Each one of us is really a complex aggregate put together from diverse sources. Yet, for some of us, despite all this, a dominant direction emerges in which we develop and a central purpose falls into place. When this click does happen, there's meaning and fulfilment. There's great service rendered to a cause.

One can definitely think of Swami Vivekananda's success in entrepreneurial terms. After all, it was not like joining a career in government and serving in assigned roles. In the first part of his journey, he developed into a yogi through study and practice, and by assimilating wisdom from his chosen guru. He then leveraged the influencing power of his personality towards serving religious and social causes - to mobilise manpower, resources, cooperation and moral support for projects of material and spiritual



IN THE PRESENT GENERATION, THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE SOCIETAL VALUES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO RAISE PERSONAL LUXURY AND TO EXPAND AMENITIES IS CREATING MORE MISERIES THAN JOYS. THE VALUE OF TEMPERING MATERIAL PROGRESS WITH AN ERICH FROMM-LIKE EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE MORE THAN THINGS IS BEING BROUGHT HOME TO US EVERY WEEK

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



upliftment. He initiated many Vedanta centres, monastic mutts, journals, publishing teams, and ashrams. He built overseas goodwill for the country by networking with luminary scholars and enlightened souls in Europe and America. He delivered the message of the Upanishads in an impressive way to broader audiences both within the country and in many cities of the world. These are an entrepreneur's pre-requisite - the ability to mobilise committed teams of size to work towards identified goals, a large-scale vision, and the creation of a constantly learning organisation.

When quite young, Narendranath had been attending gatherings of reformist faith groups that were looking beyond castes and sects. Coupled with his interest in what the treatises of ancient India had to say on the nature of the cosmos and the human soul, and his introduction to the ideas of the political philosophers of Europe, he developed and retained an interest in research. Even today, the blogs and publications of Advaita Ashrama in Uttarakhand, or the conferences on Science and Consciousness organised in Kolkata reflect this outlook of extending the horizons of knowledge through constructive dialogue.

As a keen reader of the Upanishads and as a practitioner of spiritual sadhana such as meditation, he was largely engaged with the notion of deliverance or Mukti. This is a freedom from the cycle of birth and death. However, a level of creature comfort and material advancement is necessary before people can consider higher accom-

plishments such as self-knowledge and even liberation. Towards that, a better sustenance and lifestyle for the masses, and widespread basic education would be essential and so the evils of colonialism and other oppression couldn't be ignored. "To care only for spiritual liberty and not for social liberty is a defect, but the opposite is a still greater defect. Liberty of both soul and body is to be striven for"

In the present generation, the willingness to sacrifice societal values and the natural environment to raise personal luxury and to expand amenities is creating more miseries than joys. The value of tempering material progress with an Erich Fromm-like emphasis on people more than things is being brought home to us every week - whether through a pandemic, global warming, or human cruelties. At the same time, the common man's exposure to Yoga and meditation has indeed gone up in recent years, both through television as well as live gatherings. Easy access to video content has made it more readily possible for practically anyone to get some idea of seers and sages of ancient times had written, without having to be born in a sect, caste or linguistic group.

Indeed, it is a situation that Swami Vivekananda would heartily approve of. Digital booklets, online portals, Youtube videos - sound guidance on spiritual matters and salvation is very much available to anyone with a slight inclination and adequate leisure.

The growing awareness in bureaucratic and political circles about the Human Development

Index (HDI), and recent global initiatives such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are robust signs of a balance between quantity and quality, and between asset building and citizen well-being. Yet we can't depend only on policies, whether of parties or corporates - while they matter very much, a deeper relationship with our fellow humans - family, neighbour, colleague, fellow member and so on - to be concerned with their welfare to an extent - that core human value has to be inculcated early and reinforced from time to time. As a former professor and Himalayan trekker from the US, Baba Ram Dass put it more recently, "We're all just walking each other home".

The subject of walking/trekking will again remind us how Swami Vivekananda accorded equal weight to the four Yogas - Raja, Bhakti, Karma and Jnana - as viable paths of spiritual progress. He wrote admirably on each of them, and his words invite us to march on ahead on the trails most suited to our own resources and temperament. We also realize that concepts such as freedom, culture, goodwill cannot be grasped well enough in economic doctrines. While we currently use terms like soul and spirit more in a posthumous than living sense, it would be a good thing to bring in some expressions from Indian languages even while writing in English to invoke that vital aspect more often.

Swami's poetry too touches people because it gets as direct as: "The mind hungers for peals of laughter sweet, the heart pants to reach realms beyond sorrow".

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I TOLD AKHILESH JI THAT I WANT A GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP BECAUSE ONLY HE CAN DEFEAT THE BJP.
—FORMER CONGRESS LEADER
IMRAN MASOOD



THE COMING OF IMRAN MASOOD TO THE SP PROVES THAT ONE MORE NAME HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE CHAIN OF RIOTERS.
—UP BJP CHIEF
SWATANTRA DEV SINGH

Kazakhstan: A quarrel among thieves

Strangely, there's no reason for Russia's presence there

Two questions about recent events in Kazakhstan. First, was last week's slaughterhouse battle between "20,000 bandits" and the regime's police in Almaty, the country's biggest city, really just a quarrel among thieves? And second, why did Russian troops get involved?

A special Chatham House report last month found that the family and associates of Nursultan Nazarbayev, Communist ruler of Soviet Kazakhstan and then president of independent Kazakhstan for 35 years, bought 34 properties in London and southern England for \$720 million in just the four years 1998-2002. Everybody in Kazakhstan knows they are ruled by



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

thieves. The Russians who were doing well stayed after independence and the rest left. Kazakhs who are doing well don't mind the thieves-in-office either - but most Kazakhs aren't doing very well.

They aren't all dirt poor - the protests this time were initially about a doubling in the price of fuel for cars - but a recent KPMG report says that 162 people own half the country's wealth. Nobody likes that sort of thing.

So, the peaceful protests that began on 2 January quickly spread to every corner of the country - and then things went crazy in Almaty. On Wednesday, 5 January, well-organised groups of people unknown to the protesters joined the crowds and began attacking official buildings.



Equally strange is the fact that on that same Wednesday the police left key buildings in Almaty unprotected. The presidential palace was burned, the airport was seized, people were killed - but were they the right people?

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev sounded convinced of it. "Abroad there are calls for talks for a peaceful resolution," he said on television "What idiocy! What kind of negotiation can you have with criminals? We are dealing with

armed and well-prepared bandits, both local and foreign, who should be destroyed. We must kill them."

Tokayev was as good as his word. The shooting was over by Friday, and police and troops certainly did kill a lot of people. On January 9 they announced 164 killed and over 8,000 arrested, including "a substantial number of foreign nationals." But there were a couple of loose ends in the script.

On the same Wednesday that the violence started, President Tokayev dismissed retired President-almost-for-life Nazarbayev from his remaining job as head of the State Council.

Nazarbayev resigned the presidency three years ago because of his age (he is 81),

but everybody assumed he was really still in charge, and still grooming his daughter Dariga for the job. (The protesters shouted "Old man, go!") Then suddenly Tokayev asks for help from Russia's President Vladimir Putin - and Nazarbayev is completely out of the government.

2,000 Russian troops fly in within a day. They don't shoot any civilians, but once they are on the ground Tokayev orders the arrest of the country's former intelligence chief, Karim Massimov, on suspicion of treason. Massimov was Nazarbayev's closest adviser. Would Tokayev have dared to arrest him before the Russians arrived?

I can't help joining up the dots, and it looks like a coup to me. Maybe a failed coup

attempt in which Nazarbayev's people were trying to take power back from an over-mighty Toakayev who wanted to be the real boss, not just a place-holder for Dariga Nazarbayeva. Or maybe a move by Tokayev himself to sideline the Old Man and his ambitious daughter. Tokayev admitted himself on Monday that the protests were really a coup attempt, but he didn't say who was behind it. My guess is that he was. That he didn't actually start the protests, but that he saw an opportunity in them.

He needed Russian support to move against the Old Man, and he needed an excuse to invite the Russians in, so he sent his thugs in to turn the protests violent and create that excuse.

Or maybe nothing of the sort happened, and this is just another mundane tale of the rich and powerful crushing the little people. I'm allowed one conspiracy theory a year, and I'm getting it in early.

Either way, I know what Russia's motive was. Most people forget that the Soviet Union was just one more European colonial empire. The only differences were that it was a land empire, and that it decolonised a generation after the others.

Putin grew up in that empire, he still mourns its demise, and he'll take any chance he gets to restore Russia's dominant influence there. There's no coherent strategy here. Putin is tough and he can be nasty, but he's really a romantic, not a would-be world conqueror.

Nepal reports 3,075 new Covid cases, highest in 5 months, says Health Min

PTI ■ KATHMANDU
Nepal has reported 3,075 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, making it the highest number single day infections in the last five months, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.
The Ministry of Health and Population said that last time the daily COVID-19 case count crossed the 3,000 mark was in August 2021.
"Nepal recorded 3,075 new cases of COVID-19 along with 278 recoveries and two deaths on Wednesday," the ministry said in a statement.
The country's Covid - 19 tally has jumped to 936,969 so far while the number of total deaths due to the contagious disease stands at 11,609, a media report said.
Taking note of the rising number of cases of coronavirus in the country, the Nepal government has also imposed a partial lockdown in the Kathmandu valley. PTI

Biden ups support for Covid tests in schools to keep them open
Washington: The Biden administration is increasing federal support for COVID-19 testing for schools in a bid to keep them open amid omicron surge. The White House announced Wednesday that a dedicated stream of 5 million rapid tests and 5 million lab-based PCR tests will be made available to schools starting this month to ease supply shortages and promote safe reopening of schools. That's on top of more than USD 10 billion devoted to school-based tests authorized in COVID-19 relief law and about USD 130 billion earmarked in that law to keep kids in school. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said students need to be in their classrooms and announcement shows administration's commitment to helping schools stay open. AP

Anti-vaccine protesters try to storm Bulgarian Parliament
Sofia: Protesters opposing COVID-19 restrictions in Bulgaria clashed Wednesday with police as they tried to storm Parliament in Capital of Sofia. A heavy police presence prevented protesters from entering building and some were detained. Several people, including police officers, were injured during clashes. Eventually, the protesters were pushed back and police cordoned off building. The violence erupted at a protest rally against mask and vaccine mandates organised by a nationalist group that is fiercely opposing Bulgarian government's anti-epidemic measures. "The aim of protest is to remove restrictive measures and especially, first of all, the unconstitutional green certificate," Kostadin Kostadinov, leader of the Vazrazhdane party, said ahead of the protest. AP

UK PM Boris Johnson apologises in Parliament for attending booze party during lockdown in 2020
London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday extended a "heart-felt apology" in the House of Commons in response to growing anger around reports of a "bring-your-own-booze" (BYOB) party in the 10 Downing Street garden during the height of the UK's first COVID-19 lockdown in May 2020. Johnson has been under intense pressure from the Opposition Labour Party as members of his own Conservative Party since an email invitation for the event on May 20, 2020 emerged in the media. Labour Leader Keir Starmer said Prime Minister Johnson should "do the decent thing and resign" over his "pathetic" excuses and "ridiculous" lies. PTI

NATO, Russia agree to have more high-level talks despite tensions

AP ■ BRUSSELS
NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday that the military organization and Russia have agreed to try to set up more meetings to ease tensions between them amid deep concern in the West about whether Moscow might order an invasion of Ukraine.
Speaking after chairing a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, Stoltenberg said both parties had "expressed the need to resume dialogue and to explore a schedule of future meetings."
He said that the 30 NATO countries want to discuss ways to prevent dangerous military incidents, reduce space and cyber threats, as well as arms control and disarmament, including setting agreed limits on missile deployments. But Stoltenberg said that any talks about Ukraine wouldn't be easy. "There are significant differences between NATO allies

and Russia on this issue," he told reporters, after what he said was "a very serious and direct exchange" with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko and Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin.
Stoltenberg underlined that Ukraine has the right to decide its future security arrangements on its own, and that NATO would continue to leave its door open to new members, rejecting a key demand by Russian President Vladimir Putin that the military organization halt its expansion.
"No one else has anything to say, and of course Russia does not have a veto," he said. The NATO-Russia Council was the first meeting of its kind in over two years. The forum was set up two decades ago but full meetings paused when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. It has met only sporadically since, the last time in July 2019. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

Wendy Sherman also underlined that any European country should have the right to join NATO if it wants to. "I reaffirmed the fundamental principles of the international system and of European security: Every country has the sovereign right to choose its own path," Sherman tweeted at the meeting, which ran for over three hours, drew to a close.
The talks come during a week of high-stakes diplomacy and a U.S.-led effort to prevent preparations for what Washington believes could be a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Moscow denies it is planning an attack. Still, its history of military action in Ukraine and Georgia worries NATO.
Russia has around 100,000 combat-ready troops backed by tanks, artillery and heavy equipment massed near Ukraine's eastern border.
Putin says Russia's demands are simple, but key parts of the proposals contained in the documents that

Moscow has made public - a draft agreement with NATO countries and the offer of a treaty between Russia and the United States - won't pass muster at the 30-country military organization. NATO would have to agree to halt all membership plans, not just with Ukraine, and scale down its presence in countries like Estonia close to Russia's borders. In exchange, Russia would pledge to limit its war games, as well as end aircraft buzzing incidents and other low-level hostilities.
Endorsing such an agreement would require NATO to reject a key part of its founding treaty. Under Article 10 of the 1949 Washington Treaty, the organization can invite in any willing European country that can contribute to security in the North Atlantic area and fulfill the obligations of membership. In Moscow earlier, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov warned that Russia expects a quick answer.

North Korea claims successful test flight of hypersonic missile

AP ■ SEOUL
North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile he claimed would remarkably increase country's nuclear "war deterrent." The report by North Korean state media on Wednesday came a day after militaries of United States, South Korea and Japan said they detected North Korea firing a suspected ballistic missile into its eastern sea.
The Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday's launch involved a hypersonic glide vehicle, which after its release from rocket booster demonstrated "glide jump flight" and "corkscrew maneuvering" before hitting a sea target 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) away. Photos released by agency showed a missile mounted with a pointed cone-shaped payload soaring into sky while leaving a trail of orange flames and Kim watching from a small cabin with top officials.
The launch was North Korea's second test of its purported hypersonic missile in a week, a type of weaponry it first tested in September, as Kim continues a defiant push to expand his nuclear weapons

capabilities in face of international sanctions, pandemic-related difficulties and deadlocked diplomacy with United States. The North has been ramping up its testing activity since last fall in what experts see as an attempt to apply more pressure on rivals Washington and Seoul to accept it as a nuclear power in hopes of winning relief from economic sanctions.
The KCNA said Kim praised accomplishments made by his military scientists and officials involved in developing hypersonic missile system, which he described as most significant part of a new five-year plan announced in early 2021 to build up North's military force. The North has described new missile as part of its "strategic" weaponry, implying that system is being developed to deliver nuclear weapons.
Hypersonic weapons, which fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times speed of sound, could pose a crucial challenge to missile defence systems because of their speed and maneuverability. Such weapons were on a wish-list of sophisticated military assets Kim unveiled early last year along with multi-warhead missiles, spy satellites.

US hits North Korean officials with sanctions after missile test

AP ■ WASHINGTON
The Biden administration on Wednesday slapped sanctions on five North Korean officials in its first response to Pyongyang's latest ballistic missile test. The Treasury Department announced it was imposing penalties on the officials over their roles in obtaining equipment and technology for the North's missile programs.
In addition, the State Department ordered sanctions against another North Korean, a Russian man and a Russian company for their broader support of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction activities.
The moves came just hours after North Korea said its leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a successful flight test of a hypersonic missile on Tuesday that he claimed would greatly increase the country's nuclear "war deterrent."
One of the five North Koreans targeted by Treasury is based in Russia, while the other four are based in China.
All are accused of providing money, goods or services to North Korea's Second Academy of Natural Sciences, which Treasury says is heavily involved in the country's military defense programs.
"The DPRK's latest missile launches are further evidence that it continues to advance prohibited programs despite the international community's calls for diplomacy and denuclearization," said Treasury's chief of terrorism and financial intelligence, Brian Nelson.
He referred to the North by the acronym of its official name: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The sanctions freeze any assets that the targets have in U.S. jurisdictions, bar Americans from doing business with them and subject foreign companies and individuals to potential penalties for transactions with them.

Pakistan's new security policy seeks 'peace' with India: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan is willing to make peace with immediate neighbours, including India, under its first-ever National Security Policy which leaves doors open for trade with New Delhi even without the settlement of the Kashmir issue provided there is headway in bilateral talks, according to a media report.
The National Security Policy, separately endorsed by the National Security Committee and the Cabinet last month, is scheduled to be formally unveiled by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday.
Peace with immediate neighbours and economic diplomacy will be the central theme of Pakistan's foreign policy in the new National Security Policy, the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Tuesday.
The five-year-policy document covering a period between 2022-26, is being propped up by the Pakistan government as the country's first-ever strategy paper of its kind that spells out the national security vision and guidelines for the attainment of those goals.
The original 100-page policy, which would be kept under wraps, leaves the door open for trade and business ties with India without the final settlement of the longstanding Kashmir dispute provided there is progress in the talks between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, an official was quoted as saying by the paper.
"We are not seeking hostility with India for the next 100 years. The new policy seeks peace with immediate neighbours," the official said on condition of anonymity.
If there is a dialogue and progress, there would be a possibility of normalising trade and commercial ties with India as it had happened in the past, the official added. Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a terror attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by terror groups based in

the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on an Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.
The relationship dipped further after India's war planes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. The relations deteriorated after India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.
India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.
As the new national security policy seeks a shift in Pakistan's approach from geo-strategic to geo-economics, there is a renewed optimism of a possible thaw with India, the report said. "Economic security will be the central theme of the new national security policy," the official disclosed.
"But geo-economics does not necessarily mean we overlook our geo-strategic and geopolitical interests," the official said, adding the long-standing Kashmir dispute with India has been identified as a 'vital national policy' issue for Pakistan.
The official, however, clarified that there were no prospects of rapprochement with India under the current government in New Delhi. The official said this would be the first-ever codified national security policy that would cover both internal security as well as foreign policy.
"Only a part of the national security policy will be made public," the official clarified, saying in the rest of the world such policies often remained classified. The official said though Pakistan did have defence, foreign and internal policies, the new policy would act as an "umbrella document" providing direction for the future.

Israel moves to resolve crisis after Bedouins protest

AP ■ JERUSALEM
Israel's fragile governing coalition moved to resolve a crisis on Wednesday after Arab Bedouin staged protests against tree-planting by nationalists on disputed land in the Negev desert. Some protesters on Tuesday evening hurled stones at vehicles on a highway near Beersheba, blocked the railway line and torched a vehicle. Police said two officers were wounded in the violence and local media reported at least 18 people arrested.
The government announced a compromise in which it would complete the day's planting and launch negotiations on Thursday. Authorities withdrew heavy machinery from the area as the tensions appeared to ease.
The Bedouin view the forestry project as part of a larger attempt by authorities to confiscate grazing lands and force them into planned communities, a perceived assault on their traditional lifestyle. Israel says they need to move into planned towns so it can provide public services.
The latest flare-up of the dispute, which goes back decades, risks dividing Israel's fragile coalition government,



Israeli security forces stand guard as Bedouins protest against tree-planting by the Jewish National Fund on disputed land near the beduin village of al-Atrash in the Negev desert, southern Israel, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022. The conflict in southern Israel, which is home to Bedouin villages unrecognized by the state, has divided the Israeli government with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called for halting the tree-planting while the Islamist Ra'am party has threatened to withhold its votes in parliament in protest (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

the first to include an Arab party whose main base of support is in the Negev. Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had called for halting the planting and reassessing the situation while the Islamist Ra'am party had threatened to withhold its votes in parliament in protest. Both are members of the fragile eight-party coalition that runs the government.
Ra'am, the Islamist party, secured four seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's parliament, in last year's elections, with strong support among Bedouin citizens of Israel. Party leader Mansour Abbas wrote

on Twitter that "a tree is not more important than a person."
More hawkish members of the diverse governing coalition had pledged to press on, undeterred.
Regavim, a nationalist group that is opposed to normalizing the status of Bedouin villages, accused the government of capitulating to "political pressure, strongarm tactics and violence." Prime Minister Naftali Bennett heads an unwieldy coalition of eight parties that joined forces in June to form a government and end Israel's protracted political deadlock.

Corrigendum
No: RMSA/TL21-22/1561/2021/53 Dated: 12-01-2022
With reference to the RFP No: RMSA/TL21-22/1561/2021/06 dated 30-12-2021 of Samagra Shiksha (RMSA & SSA), Assam for the supply of equipment and gadget of Tinkering Lab and training to students and teachers to implement Tinkering Lab, it is to inform that partial modifications have been done as mentioned in the table below, and other terms, conditions & specifications of the RFP will remain the same.

Clause	Originally given in the RFP Document	Amendment clauses to be read as
3. Eligibility Criteria	6. The bidder should have an office in the state of Assam.	6. The bidder should have an office in the state of Assam or give an undertaking for establishment of an office before Letter of Award is given.

Moreover, relaxation for MSME/NSIC will be considered as per Govt. role.

Sd/- Executive Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2845/21

Car bomb hits outside Mogadishu airport in Somalia; 8 killed
MOGADISHU, Somalia: A car bomb exploded Wednesday outside international airport in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, killing at least eight people and wounding nine others, a local doctor said. The al-Shabab extremist group claimed responsibility for attack, saying it was targeting "white officials" passing by. Dr. Abdulkadir Adam with Medina hospital told The Associated Press about death toll. Witnesses at scene said a passing UN convoy appeared to be target in blast near a checkpoint leading to heavily fortified airport, but UN mission said there were no UN personnel or contractors in convoy. (AP)

Lawsuit against Prince Andrew a go despite Epstein deal
AP ■ NEW YORK
A judge has — for now — refused to dismiss a lawsuit against Britain's Prince Andrew by an American woman who says he sexually abused her when she was 17.
Stressing Wednesday that he wasn't ruling on the truth of the allegations, U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan rejected an argument by Andrew's lawyers that Virginia Giuffre's lawsuit should be thrown out at an early stage because of an old legal settlement she had reached with Jeffrey Epstein, the financier she claims set up sexual encounters with the prince.
Kaplan said the \$500,000 settlement between Epstein and Giuffre didn't involve the prince and didn't bar a suit against him now.
Giuffre sued the prince in August, saying she was coerced into sexual encounters with Andrew in 2001 by Epstein and his longtime companion, Ghislaine Maxwell.
Andrew's lawyers had said the lawsuit lacked specificity and was disqualified by the deal she reached in 2009 with lawyers for Epstein.
They also attacked the credibility and motives of Giuffre, saying in October that the lawsuit was aimed at achieving "another payday at his expense and at the expense of those closest to him."
The prince's lawyers have said that Andrew never sexually abused or assaulted Giuffre and that he "unequivocally denies Giuffre's false allegations against him." The prince himself has strenuously denied Giuffre's allegations.

Cameroon lawmaker shot dead in North West region
AP ■ YAOUNDE (CAMEROON)
A prominent Cameroon lawyer and opposition member of the senate was shot dead in the city of Bamenda in the country's restive North West region, a member of his political party said. Henry Kemende was shot by suspected separatist fighters in the English-speaking city on Tuesday, said Jean Michel Nintcheu, from Kemende's Social Democratic Front political party.
"The fighters shot him in the chest at close range," he said, adding that Kemende was then rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. Lawmakers and politicians condemned the killing, also blaming separatists who are fighting to create an independent English-speaking state in the majority French-speaking nation.
Violence erupted in 2017 in Cameroon's English-speaking North West and South West regions when teachers and lawyers protested alleged discrimination at the hands of the French-speaking majority. The military reacted with a crackdown and separatist groups took up weapons, claiming that they were protecting civilians. Kemende, who was elected a senator for the Social Democratic Front in 2018, has always blamed government for not doing enough to solve crisis. "We shall miss courageous, patriotic and hardworking Cameroonian who spent his last four years advocating for crisis in English speaking western regions to be solved," said a statement from Denis Nkemelemo, spokesperson of SDF party.

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

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Softwill Infotech Private Limited/ Tarun Vashisht/ Rohin Bhatia A/c No:- 083005001256	Entire Ground Floor Without Roof Rights Of Property No. 109, Block - D, Situated At Colony Known As, LIC Colony Jeevan Niketan Paschim Vihar, Delhi, 110087/ 07-Jan-2022	29-Sep-2021 Rs. 80,49,671/-	Delhi
2.	M/s Sunil Kumar Tripathy/ Rama S Tripathy A/c No:- 244805000856	S-4 Second Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi- 110016/ 07-Jan-2022	05-Oct-2021 Rs.1,94,08,212/-	Delhi
3.	M/s Goyal Trading Co/ Deepak Goyal/ Seema Goyal A/c No:- 113805000571/ 113855000030	70, First Floor, Gadodia Market, Khari Baoli Delhi- 110006/ 07-Jan-2022	13-Sep-2021 Rs. 61,61,096.98/-	Delhi

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

Date : January 13, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAGISTRATE/MARRIAGE OFFICER GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR
No. 3258/ST-CM (Marriage Registration)/2022
Date:- 10 January, 2022




NOTICE

A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Dhruv Arora S/o Mr. Mukesh Arora R/o C-2618, Sushant Lok Phase-1, Sector-43, Gurugram-122001, Haryana and Ms. Medhavi Arora D/o Mr. Rakesh Arora R/o A-730, Sector-19, Noida Gautam Budha Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 05-02-2022 in the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Deputy Collector/
City Magistrate/
Marriage Officer Noida
Gautam Budh Nagar

British Council worker freed from Iranian prison, back in UK
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: An Iranian employee of the British Council detained for more than three years in Iran and sentenced to a decade in prison over widely criticized espionage charges has been freed and returned to the United Kingdom, the organization said Wednesday.
The release of the woman, Aras Amiri, came as world powers, including the U.K., try to revive the tattered 2015 Iran nuclear deal in Vienna. Iranian and Gulf Arab diplomats also travel this week for meetings in China, a key signatory of the nuclear accord.
Amiri won her appeal to Iran's Supreme Court, the British Council announced.

'Edge data centres' in rural areas to bridge digital divide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI The Centre has decided to create several 'edge data centres' in rural and semi-urban areas to bridge the digital divide in the country and also accelerate the pace of digital transformation by roping in the Indian Railway's digital technology arm RailTel. The Edge Data Centres are small data centres located at the edge of the network, where they are closer to end users and devices. Having such kind of facility at the edge would enable faster performance and lower latency as organizations will not have to move the data to far-flung data centres to process it.

"Latency has always been a problem for data centre managers, but in recent times it has become a critical concern in view of wide range of next-generation applications like big data, the Internet of Things, Cloud and streaming services, and other technology trends," a statement from RailTel said.

RailTel is a central government PSU of Ministry of Railways providing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services and is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a pan-India optical fiber cable (OFC) network of 60,000+RKM (and growing) along railway track. The OFC network covers important towns and cities of the country and several rural areas.

"Edge data centres will enable RailTel to deploy IT infrastructure for 'caching' of popular contents to improve experience of RailWire broadband customers as cached contents will then be served locally instead of travelling long stretch of network. Similarly IT infrastructure for 'peering' with content players can also be deployed in these Edge Data Centres which would improve cost economics for delivery of contents," the statement said.

Retail inflation rises to six-month high of 5.59 pc in Dec on costlier kitchen staples

New Delhi: Rising prices of essential kitchen items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 5.59 per cent in December, close to the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.91 per cent in November 2021 and 4.59 per cent in December 2021.

The RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI-based retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to keep the inflation at 4 per cent with margin of 2 per cent on either side (that is, in the range of 2-6 per cent).

Retail inflation has been rising since October 2021. In July too the rate of price rise was 5.59 per cent but it slowed in the subsequent two months, before starting to move up from October. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday, food inflation was at 4.05 per cent in

IIP growth remains subdued for 3rd month in a row at 1.4 pc in Nov on waning low-base effect

New Delhi: India's industrial production growth remained subdued for the third straight month and expanded by 1.4 per cent in November, mainly due to the waning low base effect, while the mining sector showed good performance. The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 0.9 per cent in November, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

The mining sector output rose five per cent in November, while power generation increased 2.1 per cent. The factory output recorded double-digit growth in the four months from May to August this fiscal. Then it slipped to 3.3 per cent in September this fiscal and recorded a growth of four per cent, mainly due to waning low base effect.

In November 2021, the IIP stood at 128.5 points compared to 126.7 points in the same month in 2020. The index stood at 128.8 points in November 2019, as per the NSO data. Thus, the data showed fading of the low base effect. The IIP growth witnessed double-digit growth from May onwards this year on the back of the lower base effect.

Govt puts brakes on CEL privatisation after employees union approaches court

New Delhi: The Government has put on hold the privatisation of Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) after the employees union approached the court against the sale of the company to a little-known firm, a top official said Wednesday.

Nearly 20 lakh tonnes of free foodgrains distributed so far under fifth phase of PMGKAY: Govt

New Delhi: Nearly 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been distributed for free so far to eligible beneficiaries under the fifth phase of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). In March 2020, the Centre had launched the scheme to provide free foodgrains to over 80 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as part of its effort to reduce the hardships of people during the coronavirus pandemic.

Textiles, apparel exports rise to USD 29.8 bn during April-December

New Delhi: The country's exports of textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, rose to USD 29.8 billion during April-December this fiscal as compared to USD 21.2 billion in the same period last year, an official statement said on Wednesday.

It further said the government has set a target of USD 44 billion for exports of textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, and 67 per cent has already been achieved. "The last quarter of FY (fiscal year) always has higher activity than the earlier quarters. Industry is hopeful that targets will be duly met," it added.

Sensex rallies for 4th day, climbs over 500 pts to reclaim 61K-level on earnings optimism

Mumbai: The BSE gauge Sensex surged over 500 points to recapture the key 61,000-level on Wednesday as participants pinned hopes on robust quarterly results by companies. Extending its winning run for the fourth straight session, the 30-share Sensex settled 533.15 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 61,150.04. Intra-day, the index touched its highest point at 61,218.19. Similarly, the NSE benchmark Nifty climbed 156.60 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 18,212.35.

On Wednesday, the index touched its highest point at 61,218.19. Similarly, the NSE benchmark Nifty climbed 156.60 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 18,212.35. On the Sensex chart, M&M, Bharti Airtel, RIL, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were among major gainers -- rising as much as 4.68 per cent. In contrast, TCS, Titan, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and Nestle closed in the red, shedding up to 1.50 per cent.

Residential plot prices appreciate 7pc annually since 2015; apartments' rate up 2 pc: Report

New Delhi: Prices of residential plots across eight major cities have appreciated by an average of 7 per cent annually since 2015, while rates of apartments increased by 2 per cent, according to realty portal Housing.Com. "Residential land is still a better investment than buying apartments," Housing.Com said in a statement. Plots generated higher capital returns in India since 2015, it added.

"Prices of residential plots appreciated by 7 per cent (CAGR) annually since 2015 across eight major cities, while rates of apartments grew by 2 per cent (CAGR) annually during this period," the portal said. D e l h i - N C R , Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad are the eight cities tracked by Housing.Com. "Residential plots have been able to generate higher returns on investment. One of the reasons could be the limited supply of plots in big cities because of the paucity of large land parcels in the city," said Dhruv Agarwala, CEO, Housing.Com, Makaan.Com and PropTiger.Com.

The demand for plots and independent floors have come back strongly during the Covid-19 pandemic, he said. Agarwala mentioned that developers have been trying to meet this rise in demand by launching such projects on the outskirts of big cities. PTI

General Govt fiscal deficit estimated at 10.4 pc in FY2022: Report

Mumbai: Rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said it expects a miss in the disinvestment target to cause the Government's fiscal deficit to print at ₹16.6 lakh crore or 7.1 per cent of the GDP in FY2022, overshooting the budgeted target. With the state governments' fiscal deficit projected at a relatively modest 3.3 per cent of GDP in FY2022, the general Government fiscal deficit is estimated at around 10.4 per cent of the GDP, the agency said in a report.

In the base case for FY2023, it sees the Government's fiscal deficit moderating to ₹15.2 lakh crore or 5.8 per cent of GDP. PTI

NOTICE Ms. Rohini Suri D/o Late Lt. Col. I.N. Suri Ro 363, Sector-15A, Noida Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) have applied for "Marriageability Certificate" for her, objections, if any to the issuance may be filed on any day upto 18-01-2022 in the office of the undersigned.

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION 1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 Fax No.: 0532-2407892, www.core.indianrailways.gov.in No. RE/Tender/Civil/514 E-Tender Notice Date: 12.01.2022 Name of work: Maintenance of Gardens, Potted Plants, Hedges/Edges and execution of other Horticultural activities in Headquarters office building, GM/CORE'S Camp office, ORH at City side, RE officers club premises and Community Gardens of GPO colony of CORE at Prayagraj for two years.

C.G. Police Housing Corporation, Raipur H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG) Phone No. 0771-4020028 Tender No./96/CGPHC/Blgd/2022 Dated: 11/01/2022 TENDER NOTICE (4th CALL) Online Tenders are invited according to Key dates for Construction of Fortified Police Station Bhejji, Distt. - Sukma & PS Pamed, at Distt. - Bijapur, Tender System No.-90531 to 90532 which are available from 14.01.2022 (10:30 am) to 27.01.2022 (17:30 pm) in CGPHC Portal https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in along with other details.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Namrata B Rajput D/o. B.M. Rajput, Cont. 8888841007, Email: jkr@international@gmail.com, R/o. M.E.-48, Magh Sec Bhujal Farm Road, Nasik-422009, Maharashtra, Allottee of Flat No. 10, 1st Floor, LIG Flat, Block-19, Sector-D-6, Vaasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 has applied for the of aforesaid property. The original documents Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC For Water & Electricity issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 12/01/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact: The Assistant Director (LIG), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT: WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (FIRST CALL)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL SWEETY General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Sweety D/o Gulab R/o H.No. 120B, Gali No. 4, Sainik Enclave, Sector 2, Mohan Garden, New Delhi Age : 15 years, Height : 5', Face : Long, Complexion : Fair, wearing white colour suit-salwar and black colour shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 02.12.2021 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 0850/21 dated 02.12.2021 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi TENDER NOTICE Date: 13.01.2022 Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invite for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the General Public that our client Mr. Manish Garg @Manish Garg S/o Manohar Lal Garg and Smt. Santosh Kumari w/o Manohar Lal Garg R/o H.No-160, Vaishali, Delhi are owner of property bearing No. 160, Vaishali, Delhi by virtue of sale deed Number 17050 dated 08.11.2011 duly registered with Sub-Registrar V.A. Delhi executed by Sh. S.M. Arora and Sh. Ravinder Mohan in favour of our client. That in the chain of title documents, Agreement to Sell and General Power of Attorney both dated 06.09.1984 executed by Sh.S.M. Arora S/o Sh. Krishna Kumar with respect to the property in question, are involved, however, the same has been misplaced, and the intimation/complaint in this regard stands given to the concerned police station on dated 10.01.2022. That our client intends to mortgage the property referred above with SBI, Branch at Kundli, Haryana by way of equitable mortgage. Any individual, Bank/financial institution etc., claiming any right, title or interest in the Property No. 160, Vaishali, Delhi on the basis of said misplace Agreement to sell and General Power of Attorney both dated 06.09.1984 or any other registered or unregistered document, shall inform the same to the undersigned within 7 days from today. After the expiry of 7 days, no claim in this regard shall be entertained. Advocate Yagita (Contact No. 9911456298)

DEVELOPMENT OF STATION YARD Tender Notice No.: CON/2022/JAN/01; Dated: 03-01-2022. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/ firm(s) for the following works:- SN-1, Tender No. CE/CON/A-G/PA/2021/14/RT-1. Name of work: 1. For Bibiganj Station Yard - Earthwork in filling for making embankment for development of Bibiganj station yard from CH.65050 to 68500, etc. 2. For Tulsia Halt station - Earthwork in filling for making embankment for development of Tulsia Halt station yard (from CH. 73780 to 74770), etc. Approx. value: ₹47,91,02,276.61. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 31-01-2022 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 31-01-2022. For Details Please visit www.ireps.gov.in Chief Engineer/Con/3 Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a Smile"

उत्तरखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग हरिद्वार पिन कोड- 249404 संख्या- 163 / 06 / (viii) / डी0आर0 / सेवा-02 / 2008-09 दिनांक 11 जनवरी, 2022 विज्ञापित एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तरखण्ड शासन के शहरी विकास विभाग के अन्तर्गत सफाई निरीक्षक के 65 पदों (15 पद अनुसूचित जाति, 03 पद अनुसूचित जनजाति एवं 09 पद अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग हेतु आरक्षित एवं 38 पद अनारक्षित) पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु दिनांक 23 नवम्बर, 2012 को विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया था। विज्ञापन के क्रम में आयोजित साक्षात्कार परीक्षा के आधार पर चयन परिणाम दिनांक 30.06.2015 एवं अनुसूचित चयन परिणाम दिनांक 06 जुलाई, 2018 को घोषित किया गया था, जिसमें अनारक्षित श्रेणी का 01 पद रिट याचिका सं0-576 (एस0/एस0) ऑफ 2018 नरिज मट्ट बनाम उत्तरखण्ड राज्य व अन्य में पारित होने वाले अन्तिम निर्णय के अधीन आरक्षित रखा गया था। मा0 उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा रिट याचिका सं0-576 (एस0/एस0) ऑफ 2018 नरिज मट्ट बनाम उत्तरखण्ड राज्य व अन्य में पारित निर्णय दिनांक 01.12.2021 द्वारा उक्त रिट याचिका को खारिज किये जाने के अनुक्रम में आस्थगित रखे गये 01 पद के सापेक्ष श्रेष्ठता के आधार पर चयन परिणाम दिनांक 11.01.2022 को घोषित करते हुए अस्थगित के सूचनार्थ चयन परिणाम आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर प्रसारित कर दिया गया है। (कर्मन्द् सिंह) सचिव

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of movable assets

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 or to our marketing agent Car Dekho, Comat Emaar Digital Greens 11th floor tower- B Sector- 61 (Sohna Rd) Baharanpur Naya Gurgaon- 121202 or before January 27, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be paid to a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809 / 7304914763 or Car Dekho on 7412066541 Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s Date: January 13, 2022 Place: Delhi NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

OF TREMENDOUS GROWTH

Jumping from the 384th to the 4th position in three years, Noida bags the 'Cleanest Medium City' title in Swachh Survekshan

We all aspire to live in the cleanest possible surroundings, but seldom take the ownership for it. Noida, a part of the NCR that has been emerging as a well-planned global city for both residents and businesses, set an example for all the rapidly developing cities with its miraculous display of grit, determination and responsibility. The city recently bagged the Cleanest Medium City (population of three-10 lakh) in Swachh Survekshan 2021, an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in India.

"Noida deserves rank one in the list of cleanest cities, and I hope all the NGOs will work even harder to make it happen. Big thanks to HCLF's Clean Noida project for establishing Noida's Integrated Command Control Centre. HCLF has a huge role in helping us to sensitise villages and



making sure that this movement reaches the rural areas of Noida," said Ritu Maheshwari, chief, Noida Authority, as she thanked and congratulated all the partners working for this movement. The high

rank achieved in Swachh Survekshan Survey 2021 is a miraculous victory as in 2018, the city was at 384th position and is the fourth cleanest in the country now. This has been a result of

months of organised and structured efforts by the foundation. On-ground campaigns and door-to-door awareness surveys were conducted to drive behavioural change in citizens. Cleanliness staff was trained regularly on how to segregate waste and best practices to manage solid waste. HCLF not only trained the staff and residents through campaigns, it also distributed litter bins, collection carts and was involved in city beautification activities through wall art and graffiti.

"The Clean Noida Project works with over 90 RWAs across the city. The residents of these sectors are grateful for the initiatives and knowledge imparted by the foundation. It takes years to drive a behavioural change. Clean Noida has been working rigorously since 2018 to ensure Noida emerges as a clean city. Our aim is to look at development, hygiene and ensure

people live in peace and harmony," expressed Laxmi Narayin, president, RWA, Sector 19.

The city has also received a five-star garbage-free city rating, a higher achievement from having received a 3-star garbage-free city rating in 2020. They have adopted about 8 villages as part of their Chakachak Village initiative. The workers have worked relentlessly to ensure these areas are converted into model villages. The village homes have their own composting pits and are being trained to convert into zero waste villages.

There have been celebratory events in market places, villages and RWAs to keep the awareness going. Cleanliness is equal to Godliness — the adage comes alive as you see the Clean Noida team in action. One can only hope the whole country takes inspiration from their exemplary work.

SOLVING REAL WORLD PROBLEMS

VIT-AP concludes a three-day workshop on AAMCM

A three-day workshop on Advances in Applied Mathematics and Computational Methods (AAMCM) was conducted by the department of mathematics, VIT-AP University at VIT AP University, Amaravati from January 7-9.

During his address, Prof S Srinivas, dept of Mathematics emphasised on how computational methods are important in solving real world problems. There were 13 invited talks by speakers from reputed institutes and industry. The workshop was enriched with their valuable insights and contributions. 260 participants, across the country, and few from foreign registered for this workshop.

This workshop will be essential in addressing



provide a prominent platform for researchers interested in pursuing problems in the field of applied mathematics and help address real world problems. This workshop also draws focus and introduces modern mathematical software packages like MATLAB, MATHEMATICA and PYTHON that

the computational challenges arising in solving mathematical models.

Dr Satyanarayana Badeti thanked Dr S V Kota Reddy, vice chancellor, Dr CLV Sivakumar, registrar and Dr Santanu Mandal, the dean of School of Advanced Sciences. Scholars, faculty, staff were also present.

Celebrities have joined 'No Mask No Metro' campaign of Metro Railway to make commuters aware about the importance of following Covid protocols. Film director Sandip Roy, Thespians Debshankar Haldar, Subhasis Mukherjee, actor Paran Bandyopadhyay, actress Ritabhari Chakraborty, singers Raghav Chattopadhyay and Saikat Mitra, ex-Indian cricketer and Bengal coach Arun Lal, ex-Indian cricketer Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Bengal Ranji captain Abhimanyu Eshwaran, secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal Snehasish Ganguly, ex-Indian footballers Mihir Bose, Prasanta Banerjee, Krishnendu Roy and Syed Rahim Nabi, and secretary of Indian

No Mask, No Metro

Celebrities join hands with Kolkata Metro Railway, in its new campaign, to make commuters aware of the importance of following Covid protocols

Football Association Joydeep Mukherjee are participating in this campaign. In their video messages, they have requested metro users to always wear mask properly and also maintain all Covid protocols. These messages are being played on platform televisions of metrostations as well as on social media.

Operating & Commercial Department and Metro Rail Police conducted 'No Mask No Metro' campaign on January 12 at Dum Dum, Belgachia, Shyambazar, Sovabazar-Sutanuti, Girish Park, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Central, Chandni Chowk, Esplanade, Park Street, Maidan, Rabindra Sadan, Netaji Bhavan, Jatin Das Park,

Kalighat, Rabindra Sarobar, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar, Masterda Surya Sen, Kavi Nazrul, Kavi Subhash stations and as well as inside the running metros.

Metro RPF has been conducting 'No Mask No Metro' campaign at all 33 stations of North-South and East-West Metro as well as inside running trains in order to



sensitise metro commuters about this deadly virus. In these campaigns, on-duty RPF staff have been requesting all to always wear the mask properly, maintain social distancing and follow all other Covid protocols in the Metro premises with the help of loud hailers.

On-duty station staff are also requesting commuters to maintain social distancing inside the trains, in front of booking counters and at the platforms. Regular announcements are also being made through Public Address System of all stations requesting commuters to cooperate with the metro authority and co-passengers to maintain all Covid protocols.

Bring up education systems around the world in a conversation and it'll be hard not to mention India. With over 250 million school-going children, our nation has one of the largest education systems across the globe. The pandemic harshly reminded us how a country like ours needs a hybrid situation for students where they can learn offline and online.

Having faced limited acceptance before, Ed Tech start-ups found their moment in the sun post-COVID-19. In the last five years, this industry has gained an investment of around \$4 billion and is projected to expand to \$30 billion in the next 10 years.

Educational institutes were pushed to adopt remote teaching methods, meanwhile, Ed Tech start-ups did not only have the necessary tools but also the expertise that helped alleviate the risk that our traditional education institutes faced. Digital learning has opened up the doors for anyone who has a smartphone with an internet connection to learn, re-skill, and up-skill anytime, anywhere.

The future of EdTech

This year will bring faster technology adoption in the Indian education sector, says ASHISH DIXIT



The most powerful thing to come out of Ed Tech start-ups is the choice that learners get to customise their study material to their requirements, and the chance for teachers and insti-

tutes to become entrepreneurs.

Several Ed Tech trends are affecting the way education is transforming. For one, virtual classrooms are something we can expect more of and get used to.

Educational institutions all over India are catching up on the technological comfort of operating digitally. After the first lockdown, a lot of them learned and are learning to take their administrative and operational functions online. Whether it's an annual calendar, attendance, tests, assignments, or fee transactions, it all became easier to manage and keep track of on digital platforms.

Games and simulations are being picked up as educational tools to make learning an immersive and fun

experience. Blockchain technology makes sure that the applications that are used for record-keeping, transactions, et al are transparent and secure.

A lot of work is going into making Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Extended Reality (XR) cost-effective and reliable to make online learning rather an immersive experience. When the time comes for it to become more of a common practise in India, it will definitely revolutionise the educational structure everywhere.

As the world moves beyond the regular curriculum and aspires more for skill development than just a degree, we can expect quicker tech adoption in the educational landscape of 2022. Investment in CRM (customer relationship management) and LMS (learning management system) is on the rise. Where CRM is beneficial for managing the enrollment processes, LMS helps in the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, and delivery of courses.

The AR market is predicted to

exceed \$5.3 billion by 2023 in the education sector. So, we can expect this technology to be used a lot more and develop further in 2022. AR has a better chance of being adopted in 2022 than VR because the latter requires a separate headgear, and the former is more compatible with smartphones.

Another popular method being used to make digital learning engaging is 'gamification' which refers to the use of elements and principles of a game in a non-game context. What this does is make learning hard things fun for learners. It helps them increase their level of engagement. Elements like point scoring, peer competition, teamwork, progress indicators, player control, could be seen being integrated a lot more in the coming year.

We can all agree that last two years were milestone years for Ed Tech, but 2022 will be the year when things take a definitive shape for digital learning as more educational institutions get on the same page.

(The author is the founding chairman of MyTutorHub.)

Bridging the gap

POWERGRID and Africa50, in a joint development agreement, set to pioneer the continent's first transmission PPP project in Kenya

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform to continue to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis.

The project entails the development, financing, construction, and operation of the 400kV Lessos - Loosuk and 220kV Kisumu - Musaga transmission lines under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework. Once completed, the project will be the first Independent Power Transmission (IPT) in Kenya and will set a reference point in Africa as the first financing of transmission lines on a PPP basis. This project will also improve both the supply and reliability of power transmission in Western Kenya and further create a demonstration effect to help increase private sector investments into the expansion of Africa's power transmission networks, which is critical to bridging the continent's electricity access gap.

The signing of this agreement underscores POWERGRID and Africa50's commitment to continue to dedicate resources to accelerate development activities on the project until financial close.

Signing on behalf of POWERGRID, the chairman and MD K Sreekant, said, "POWERGRID is pleased to partner with Africa50 in undertaking development of first PPP mode transmission project in Kenya. Transmission plays an important role in bringing efficiency in the entire electricity supply chain. POWERGRID hopes that the present transmission project in Kenya shall serve as a model for undertaking more such projects in future."

Commenting on the signing, the CEO of Africa50, Alain Ebovissé shared, "We are very pleased to partner with the Government of Kenya and POWERGRID to implement this important and pioneering project in one of our shareholder countries. In the past few years, a lot of emphasis has been placed on attracting private investments in energy production infrastructure in Africa. It is time to also focus on catalysing private investment into the development of power transmission networks across Africa as these are a critical link to improving electricity access, especially in underserved communities."

Innovative ideas

Metro Railways show significant increase in Non-Fare Revenue

Indian Railways is taking various initiatives to Increase Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) in order to boost up earnings apart from the traditional source of income in the wake of Covid pandemic.

Metro Railway, as part of Indian Railways, is playing a pivotal role in this initiative and various innovative steps have been taken up by Metro Railway Authority to increase the revenue of Metro Railway which is in general totally dependent on passenger earnings.

As part of this initiative, Metro Railway has been focussing on the earnings through advertisements inside and outside Metro rakes, hoardings in open space and earnings from new sources like installing health check up kiosks at different stations etc.

Metro Railway has also innovated new ideas like 11 station co-branding, Card Balance Checking Terminal (CBCT) branding, Automatic Smart Card Recharge Machine (ASCRM) branding, AFC-PC gates branding, installation of food kiosks, ATMs of different banks, smart card branding, and so on. This has helped to increase the Non-Fare Revenue to a large extent.

Metro Railway has earned ₹2.72 crores in the month of December, 2021 and has ranked third amongst all Zonal Railways.

JOINING HANDS

RITES Limited signs MoU with SMEC Group to cooperate and explore infrastructure projects

RITES Limited, a transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SMEC Group to cooperate and explore infrastructure projects.

The MoU will enable RITES and SMEC to collaborate and cooperate to explore, identify, pursue, and jointly execute mutually beneficial business opportunities in the infrastructure sector. It will

allow both companies to leverage each other's expertise and technologies to optimise operations and expand on a global level.

The collaboration will facilitate knowledge sharing and the development of business proposals, including exploring consultancy opportunities arising at various government/semi government/autonomous bodies or authorities/private entities/multilateral-funding agencies.



Success with smart solutions

Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurates a webinar on 'Power Plant Flexibilisation — A Key to Grid Stability' at BHEL's electronics division

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Power & Heavy Industries, inaugurated a webinar on 'Power Plant Flexibilisation — A Key to Grid Stability' and 'Industry 4.0 — Success with Smart Solutions', held at BHEL's electronics division, Bengaluru. Inaugurated via video conferencing, the webinar was graced by senior officials of BHEL's customer organisations, industry associations and technology partners. More than 800 participants logged-in to the webinar while several others watched the proceedings through webcast mode.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurjar stated that BHEL is working towards the progress of the nation by providing superior engineering systems in power and industrial sectors, including products and services. He said that power plant flexibilisation and implementation of Industry 4.0 are important for enhancing power generation with accent on reducing carbon emissions and said that he was glad to know that BHEL has already started offering solutions in the areas of power plant flexibilisation and Industry 4.0 to customers.

Earlier, Dr Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, while addressing the participants, said that BHEL has made noteworthy efforts towards meeting the infrastructural needs of the nation and referred to the numerous developments taken up in this direction. He also said that BHEL's electronics division, Bengaluru played a key role in offering control systems and IT-based solutions for power plants and traction.

Addresses were also delivered by KVS Baba, CMD, POSOCO; Sami Riekkola, president of Valmet Automation, Finland and B C Mallick chief engineer, CEA, besides other eminent speakers from NTPC, Valmet Automation, Steag, IESA, IIT-Chennai and BHEL.

Presenting key insights

The ninth R K Vir Memorial lecture was held in New Delhi virtually, organised by IREE along with IET-DLN, IEEE Delhi Section, TEMS IEEE Delhi chapter, WIE AG Delhi, IEI Delhi state.

This year V K Yadav, former chairman of the Railway Board was the chief guest, N Venkatesan, former member-electrical, Railway Board and Rajesh Tiwari, former member-traction were the

V K Yadav was the chief guest at the 9th R K Vir Memorial lecture held virtually

guests of honour. S K Kashyup, the general manager presented the key note lecture.

Kashyup presented key insights on 'Newer Trends in Electric



Locomotive Technology on IR'. And, in his lecture, elaborated on various trends of electric locomotives. He highlighted the key role of locomotive units of Indian Railways and also focussed on the future plans and vision of IR, technological advancements, indigenous manufacturing, et al.

Pramod Kumar, principal chief electrical engineer and secretary of IREE, gave the vote of thanks.

Extension of a human hand

Marketing a high quality hand tool is quite a task, says the CMD of TTL

In its 50 years of existence, TAPARIA TOOLS LIMITED (TTL), a Mumbai based hand tools manufacturing company has deployed every known right method to market its products across the country. This was necessary, as it initially had formidable competition, mainly from tool manufacturers in the unorganised sector and other Indian companies. TTL today commands

almost 70-75 per cent market share in the organised sector. "Marketing a high quality hand tool is quite a task," says CMD of TTL. Taparia believes that hand tool is an extension of a human hand.

Whereas human hand performs many remarkable activities but there comes a limitation, for instance, where some nut or a screw has to be tightened, the human hand alone will not be able to do it and there comes the

role of a hand tool. Besides the sale in India, TTL tools have been exported to a number of countries since inception to UK, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, U.S.A., Canada, Mexico,

Brazil, Panama, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Kenya, Dubai, Hong Kong, Thailand, Egypt, Australia, and so on.

Seeing the recent trend of quality conscious consumers opting for sophisticated but reasonably priced 'do-it-yourself' tools. The company has launched a variety of home tool kits for housewives and kids and utility sets for vehicles.

Siddharth apologises for 'rude joke' on Saina; shuttler says happy in my space

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Actor Siddharth has apologised for his unsavoury remark on ace shuttler Saina Nehwal, who said she was happy to accept his acknowledgement of being rude while criticising her expression of concern for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security recently.

Siddharth kicked up a storm by posting "subtle cock champion of the world" for Saina while commenting on her tweet expressing concern on the Prime Minister's security breach in Punjab a few days ago.

Following strong criticism on social media for his comment, Siddharth said that "nothing disrespectful was intended" but on Tuesday night, he offered an apology acknowledging that his "tone and words" couldn't be justified.

In an open letter published on Twitter, the "Rang De Basanti" actor wrote, "Dear Saina, I want to apologise to you for my rude joke that I wrote as a response to a tweet of yours, a few days ago."

"I may disagree with you on

many things but even my disappointment or anger when I read your tweet, cannot justify my tone and words.

I know I have more grace in me than that.

"As for the joke... If a joke needs to be explained, then it wasn't a very good joke to begin with. Sorry about a joke that didn't land," he added.

Saina, who is a member of the ruling BJP, said she is glad that Siddharth admitted to his comments not being in good taste.

"He only said it and he is now apologising. I was surprised to see myself trending on Twitter that day. I haven't spoken to him but I am happy that he apologised," she said on the sidelines of the ongoing India Open in Delhi.

"See, it is about women, he shouldn't target a woman like that but it's okay. I am not bothered about it, I am happy in my space and god bless him," she added.

The 42-year-old actor claimed to be a "staunch feminist" and asserted he would never say anything to a woman with a "malicious intent".



Siddharth hoped that the badminton star, who is a former world number one and a trailblazer in Indian sports, would accept his apology.

"...My word play and humour had none of the malicious intent that so many people from all quarters have attributed to it. I am a staunch feminist ally and I assure you there was no gender implied in my tweet and certainly no intent to attack you as a woman.

"I hope we can put this behind us and that you will accept my letter.

You will always be my Champion. Honestly, Siddharth," he added.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) had asked Twitter India to "immediately" block Siddharth's account, calling the comment misogynistic, and one that outraged the modesty of a woman.

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma had also written to the Maharashtra DGP to investigate the matter and register an FIR against Siddharth.



Saina, Prannoy, Sen enter second round of India Open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former champion Saina Nehwal, world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen and comeback man HS Prannoy registered contrasting wins to progress to the second round of the India Open here on Wednesday. Commonwealth Games silver medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made winning starts to their men's doubles campaign. Former world no. 1, Saina, who missed a lot of tour-

naments last year due to multiple injuries, moved to the second round after her opponent Czech Republic's Tereza Svabikova suffered a back injury and retired mid-way while lagging 20-22 0-1 in the opening round match. "Playing after so long gives you the match confidence... How to pull out those points, because in practice you don't have the privilege to play points with the same intensity as you do in tournaments. The quality of some of the points I got today... I hope it somehow helps me tomorrow," Saina

said after her match. Saina, who is seeded fourth, will meet compatriot Malvika Bansod, who defeated fellow Indian Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-18 21-9 in another match. The left-handed Nagpur shuttler had recently won the All India Senior ranking meet in Hyderabad. "I am really excited to play against Saina as it will be my first encounter with her, so really hoping to play well," said Malvika, who had been part of India's campaign at the Sudirman Cup and Thomas and Uber Cup Finals last year.

Klopp sure Salah will stay, have longevity of Messi, Ronaldo

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp expects Mohamed Salah to sign a new contract with the club and have the same longevity in his career as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Salah, who has 18 months left on his current deal, has been in talks with Liverpool about an extension but hasn't yet received what he deems an acceptable offer. He said in a recent interview with GQ magazine that he is not asking for "crazy stuff" and wants to be appreciated for all he has done for the club. Klopp said he was "very positive" about keeping hold of the Premier League's top scorer and that there's nothing unexpected about the length of the current negotiations.

"I know that Mo wants to stay. We want Mo to stay. That's where we are," Klopp said Wednesday. "These



things take time. I cannot change it, sorry. I think it's all in a good place."

Prajnesh exits Australian Open Qualifiers after second round defeat



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost rhythm and energy before staging a mini comeback but eventually bowed out of the Australian Open Qualifiers with a second-round defeat against Germany's Maximilian Marterer, here on Wednesday.

Up against a rival, who served big and packed a lot of power in his strokes but placed seven places below him at 228,

Prajnesh lost 2-6 6-7(8) in one hour and 26 minutes.

With Prajnesh losing the battle of the left-handers, Yuki Bhambri is now the only Indian surviving in the Qualifiers. Ramkumar Ramanathan and Ankita Raina have already exited the competition. Down 2-6 2-4, Prajnesh managed to stretch it to a tie-breaker but squandered many a set point to lose the match.

Prajnesh handed the German two break chances in the fourth game of the match when he made a volley error

after setting up the point and followed that up with wide forehand.

The Indian saved the first chance with a big serve while Marterer's backhand slice landed just outside the baseline on the second.

An engrossing rally, that put Prajnesh's backhand to test against the German's forehand, ensued in the sixth game.

A smart backhand slice by Marterer, after no less than a 20-shot exchange ended the rally as Prajnesh hit the pick-up, looking for a cross court forehand winner.

Prajnesh's strokes began to lose power and precision after losing that energy-sapping rally and the German began to dictate terms.

Marterer hit a forehand winner to earn two break chances and converted the second for a 4-2 lead when Prajnesh made a forehand error. The German came out serving big in the next game to consolidate his lead but Prajnesh seemed to have lost energy as unforced errors flew from his racket as he surrendered the opening set.

NETARHAT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL NETARHAT P.O.- NETARHAT, DISTRICT- LATEHAR (An Autonomous Institution under School Education & Literacy Deptt., Govt. of Jharkhand)

Very Short Tender Notice
Enquiry No- 24 Dated- 08.01.2022
Sealed Re-tenders are invited from Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat from Manufacturers, Companies, Authorized Distributors, Dealers and reputed firms having relevant experience under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid for Supply, Installation and Furnishing of newly renovated Ashram with Furniture with necessary fittings at Netarhat Residential School campus situated at Netarhat, District- Latehar.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Supply, Installation and Furnishing of newly renovated Ashrams with Furniture at Netarhat Residential School at Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand
1.	Name of the Tender	Supply, Installation and Furnishing of newly renovated Ashrams with Furniture at Netarhat Residential School at Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand
2.	Scope of Work	Supply, Installation and Furnishing of newly renovated Ashrams with Furniture at Netarhat Residential School at Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand
3.	Name and Address of the Office Inviting Tender	Principal, Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat, P.O.- Netarhat, District- Latehar
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	08.01.2022 at 1 P.M.
5.	Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids	25.01.2022 at 2.30 P.M
6.	Date of Opening of the Tender	25.01.2022 at 3.30 P.M (Technical Bid) 27.01.2022 at 3-30 P.M (Financial bid of only those firms who are found eligible in technical bids)
7.	Contact Persons with Details	1. Dr. S.K. Singh (Principal) Contact No- 06569 277644 Email id- principal.netarhat@gmail.com

Complete details could be seen on our school's website www.netarhatvidyalaya.com
Sd/-
(Dr. S. K. Singh) Principal
Netarhat Residential School Netarhat
PR 261585(Human Resource Development)21-22'D

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-664-17-Tele-2021-22, Dhanbad, dt-10.01.2022
E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.
SI.No.: 1. Name of the work: Provision of CCTV Camera for Monitoring and Security of Hazaribagh Road Station of Dhanbad Division. SI.No.: 2. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 20,90,743.33
SI.No.: 3. Earnest Money: ₹ 41,800.00
SI.No.: 4. Date & time for closing of tender: 31.01.2022 (15:00 hrs) SI.No.: 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Note :- Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.
For Sr. D.S.T.E. East Central Railway, Dhanbad
PR/01486/DHNS/T17/21-22/40

Drinking water & Sanitation Circle, Dhanbad
Section 05(I) and 19(I)
List of Public information Officer/First Appellate of the Department/ Organisation and its field officer and disposal of RTI application and first appeals - Dated. 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021

Sl. No	Name official Designation of P/O with Phone No	No of Application filed before PPO	No of Disposal of RTI Application		Application Fee	Cost of Amount	Total Amount	Name, official Designation of first appellate with phone no	No of Appeals filed before first appellate authority	No of Disposal of First Appeal		Remarks
			Information Provided	Rejected						Allowed	Rejected	
1	Er. Janardan Prasad Singh Public Information officer, D.W.& S. Circle, Dhanbad, 0326-2312498	9	8	Nil	30	Nil	30	Er. Md. Reyaz Alam, first appellate-cum-Superintending engineer, D.W.& S. Circle, Dhanbad, 0326-2312498	4	4	Nil	सूचना अधिकार अभियान के तहत एक अर्द्ध आवेदन पर आवेदक से राशि की मांग की गयी है राशि प्राप्त होने के उपरान्त उक्तका जवाब दे दिया जाएगा।

PR 261606 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)D
Public Information officer D.W.& S. Circle, Dhanbad

उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी का कार्यालय, बोकारो (जिला योजना शाखा)
AMBF की नियुक्ति संबंधी सूचना
Anemia Mukta Bokaro कार्यक्रम अंतर्गत संविदा पर Anemia Mukta Bokaro Fellow (AMBF) की नियुक्ति की जानी है। इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से विहित प्रपत्र में आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 25.01.2022 के अपठ 04:00 बजे तक जिला योजना शाखा, समाहरणालय, बोकारो में प्राप्त किया जायेगा। इच्छुक उम्मीदवार स्वयं, डाक अथवा कूरियर के माध्यम से आवेदन पत्र जमा कर सकते हैं। AMBF की नियुक्ति हेतु वांछित योग्यता, अनुभव एवं अन्य विवरणी बोकारो जिला के वेबसाइट <http://bokaro.nic.in/> पर देखा जा सकता है।
उपायुक्त, बोकारो
PR 261595(District)21-22'D

Directorate of Geology Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand
2nd Floor, Engineer's Hostel-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Email: dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in
Tender Notice No - 20/2021-22
Notice Inviting Tender
"Invitation of Bid for grant of Mining Lease"
In exercise of the power conferred by Section 10B of the Mines and Minerals (Development And Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (As Amended from time to time) notified thereunder, Government of Jharkhand has identified a Bauxite block for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease in Lohardaga and Gumla District, Jharkhand, through electronic auction and hereby invites bids in digital format only, from eligible bidders.
Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document for the Mineral Block and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from website of MSTC (<http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlc/index.jsp>) for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notification, updates and other details of the e-auction process are available on the website of MSTC and the website of Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand <http://www.jharkhand.gov.in/mines-geology>.
The details of the mineral block are summarized below

Block	Concession Area in Ha.	Resource (Million Tonnes)	Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website	Date of Opening of Tender
Chiropat Bauxite Block	63.0	4.412454	10.02.2022	28.02.2022	02.03.2022

Those interested and eligible for bidding can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the tender fee of INR 4,95,600 (Indian Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred only) which is inclusive of GST@18% (non-refundable), from the website of e-auction platform provider. After purchase of the Tender Document, eligible bidders can register themselves on the above mentioned website. On successful registration, eligible bidder will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.
Sd/-
Director Geology
Department of Mines & Geology Govt. of Jharkhand
PR 261600 Mines and Geology(21-22).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय एन0आर0ई0पी0-1, राँची
ई0 टेन्डर अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (पर्यटन-अन्तर्गत)
Tender Ref. No. : NREP-1/RANCHI-12-2021-22

क्र0 सं/सुप सं/	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राकल्पित राशि / प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति की राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	यंत्र संयंत्र का स्थापित
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	ओरमांडी	राँची जिला अन्तर्गत ओरमांडी प्रखण्ड अमर राहोदों के शहादत स्थल का संरक्षण एवं जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	2,44,15,000.00	4,89,000.00	10,000.00	12 : माह (एक वर्ष)	

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 17.01.2022
2. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय 17.01.2022 से 22.01.2022 अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक।
3. जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 24.01.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 25.01.2022 अपराह्न 02.00 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता-कार्यपालक अभियंता, एन0आर0ई0पी0-1, राँची।
6. निविदा शुल्क किसी स्थानीय राष्ट्रीय कृत बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, एन0आर0ई0पी0-1, राँची के पदनाम से निर्गत होगा एवं राँची के किसी शाखा में भुगतये होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या - 94727-45569 & Emailid-prataptsagar510@gmail.com जायेगा।
8. निविदादाता को यू-केन, रजिस्ट्रेशन की फोटोकॉपी अपलोड करना अनिवार्य है।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jhaarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता एन0आर0ई0पी0-1 राँची
PR 261564(NREP)21-22'D

Office of the Executive Engineer Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, CHATRA
Corrigendum
The following changes have been done due to some unavoidable circumstances in Tender Notice No. DWSD/JIRWAKHURD/RPWS/CH/28/2021-22 (1st Call) Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of RCC Intake Well-Cum-Pump House, RCC Gangway 50 M long and 3.00 Mtr Wide, 5.50 MLD Capacity Conventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir-04 Nos, Approach Road, NH Crossing, Staff Quarter, Compound Wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five Years Operation & Maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Jirwakhurd & Adjoining Village Rural Pipe Water Supply Scheme "On Turnkey Basis" Under D.W.&S. Division, CHATRA for the Year 2021-22 under (State Plan) published vide P.R. No. - 261399 (DWSD) 2021-22

Sl. No.	Particular	Previously Published	Amended as follow
1.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 47,15,34,000/- (Forty Seven Crore Fifteen Lac Thirty Four Thousand Only)	Rs. 47,15,35,000/- (Forty Seven Crore Fifteen Lac Thirty Five Thousand Only)
2.	Last Date & Time of Receiving EMD/Cost of BOQ (Hard Copy)	28.01.2022 up to 3:00 P.M In the Office of (i) Executive Engineer, D.W & S. Division, Chatra (ii) Regional Chief Eng. DW&SD, Ranchi Zone, Ranchi AND (iii) Eng. -in-Chief, DWSD, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi.	28.01.2022 up to 3:00 P.M In the Office of (i) Executive Engineer, D.W & S. Division, Chatra (ii) Suprintending Engineer, D.W&S. Circle, Hazaribagh AND (iii) Regional Chief Eng. DW&SD, Ranchi Zone, Ranchi.

• Other Terms & condition will be same as mentioned in NIT & B.O.Q
Executive Engineer
PR.NO.261586 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22):D
D.W.&S. Division, CHATRA

BUMRAH TAKES FIVE AS INDIA CLAIM SLIGHT EDGE

Jayant, Saini added to India ODI squad for South Africa tour

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

Jasprit Bumrah shut his critics with one of his best five-wicket hauls in the traditional format as the Indian fast bowling unit gave the team slight edge over South Africa on an exhilarating second day of the third and final Test here on Wednesday.

Bumrah (23.3-8-42-5) was at the heart of India's swift and brutal counter-attack as he got his seventh five-wicket haul with fine complementary acts from Mohammed Shami (16-4-39-2) and Umesh Yadav (16-3-64-2) that helped them bundle out the Proteas for 210.

The lead of 13 that India managed was less about the quantum and more about the psychological advantage that they gained and despite losing Mayank Agarwal (7) and KL Rahul (10) cheaply, the visitors scored runs at a fair clip to reach 57 for 2 at stumps.

Skipper Virat Kohli (14 batting) and Cheteshwar Pujara (9 batting), with a cumulative experience of 194 Tests, have the responsibility of taking the team to a winning total.

And while statistics at times are of little or no relevance but Kohli wouldn't be too unhappy to know that



India have never lost a Test match in which his premier strike bowler has taken a five-wicket haul.

It was a day when Kohli's captaincy acumen was worth praising as he made relevant bowling changes at the right time, juggled with subtle field placings and also took his 100th catch in Test cricket.

But someone who would be really smiling at the end of the day is Bumrah, who had a forgettable game at the Wanderers and copped a fair amount of flak for bowling too short and not depending on his strengths.

There were analytics showing how his strike-rate (wickets per deliveries) had doubled since a back injury

but on Wednesday, he showed that he is skipper Kohli's real X-factor, the man who makes the difference between a good and a world-class side.

The delivery that got Aiden Markram pitched just a shade outside off-stump and it seemed to be going straight but suddenly jagged back embarrassing the South African

opener, who had shouldered arms. Whenever Markram sees the replay, he would know that Bumrah made him feel inadequate when it came to knowing where his off-stump was.

On the day, Bumrah slightly altered the length making it slightly fuller on the off-stump and the off-stump channel line. The length and bounce was such that batters seemed confused about whether it would bounce above stumps or come at the stumps. One such delivery got South Africa's best performer Keegan Petersen (72 off 166 balls) as it kicked off awkwardly from length but enough for the batter to have a job at it and Cheteshwar Pujara accepted the offering at second slip. But credit should also go to Shami, who in the post lunch session, got two wickets in three balls to unsettle the Proteas after Petersen and Rassie van der Dussen (21) had added 67 for the fourth wicket. If Umesh set up the session with a conventional outswinger that saw Van Der Dussen edging one to Kohli at second slip, Shami removed the dogged Temba Bavuma (28) and Kyle Verreynne (0) with two ideal

Test match deliveries in the 56th over.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian off-spinner Washington Sundar was on Wednesday ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa after testing positive for COVID-19 and Jayant Yadav was named as his replacement for the assignment starting January 19.

Pacer Navdeep Saini was also added to the ODI squad as a backup for pacer Mohammed Siraj, who is recovering from a hamstring injury.

"Team India off-spinner Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the forthcoming ODI series against South Africa after testing positive for COVID-19 during the camp in Bengaluru," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Sundar was supposed to travel to Cape Town with the ODI members on Wednesday and join the rest of the squad ahead of the ODI series starting January 19th," it added.

The five-member selection panel, headed by former India pacer Chetan Sharma, has named Jayant as Washington's



replacement.

Siraj is still recovering from his hamstring injury that he sustained in the second Test against South Africa in Johannesburg.

The ODI series against South Africa begins in Paarl on January 19. The second ODI is scheduled at the same venue on January 21, following which the team will travel to Cape Town for the series-finale.

India's Test triumph Down Under last year is one of greatest: Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Recalling India's incredible Test triumph in Australia last year despite being ravaged by injuries, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said the performance ranks among the team's "greatest wins" of all time and can be considered a "golden chapter" in the country's cricket history.

India, led by Ajinkya Rahane, defeated Australia 2-1 in a closely-fought four Test rubber winning in Melbourne and then breaching fortress Gabba in Brisbane last year after Australia had outplayed the visitors in the Day-Night Test at Adelaide.

Heroics of Hanuma Vihari and Ravichandran Ashwin had helped secure a draw for the visitors in the Sydney Test.

"India's win in Australia early last year will go down as one of the greatest wins in Indian cricket history," Gavaskar said.

"To pick themselves up after the dismissal with their lowest ever test score of 36 and then to beat a rampant home team is a tribute to the determination shown by the players and the leadership roles played by the captain, coach Ravi Shastri and his support group



"I was privileged to be there and see a golden chapter being written in the history of Indian cricket," added the 72-year-old former right-handed opener.

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of India's win, 'Sony Sports Network' has produced a special documentary titled "DOWN UNDERDOGS - INDIA'S GREATEST COMEBACK" that will premiere on January 14 and Gavaskar gave his comments to the channel.

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke, who led Australia to the 2015 ODI World Cup win, said India deserved all the credit for fighting it out after the morale-shattering opening loss. "India picked an attack that worked," said Clarke. "Different bowlers - not everyone bowls the same, different tactics, different skills, different weapons, so the credit goes to India for their execution but also Australia might have taken for granted.

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Opener Hanooor Singh's unbeaten 100 negated Cooper Connolly's 117 as India mauled Australia by nine wickets in a warm-up game ahead of the Under-19 World Cup here.

Australia posted 268 runs before being all out in 49.2 overs, with 18-year-old captain Connolly making 117 studded with 18 boundaries.

Hanooor led India's charge with his century that had 16 fours.

He was well supported by Shaik Rasheed, who scored 72.

Both players retired hurt but captain Yash Dull (50 not out) took the side past the finish line with 15 balls to spare on Tuesday at the Providence stadium here.

The tournament proper will begin on Friday and India will open their campaign against South Africa on Saturday.

In other matches, Bangladesh, England and Pakistan also recorded impressive victories.

Bangladesh posted a decent total of 277 after a tricky start when opener Iftakher Hossain

Hanoor's ton scripts India's nine-wicket thrashing of Australia



edged to slip in the third over departing for just 1.

But Aich Mollah got his side back on track, making 82 from 82 deliveries with three sixes along the way.

Wicketkeeper Mohammed Fahim also chipped in with a timely 33, before captain Rakibul Hasan went after the

Zimbabwe attack, hitting 36 before being run-out.

Tailender Ripon Mondol then managed a quickfire 39 from 26 balls to take the 2020 champions up to their final total. Zimbabwe's reply didn't start on solid ground when opener Panasha Taruvinga went for a duck.

The next man in Steven Saul launched a counter-attack, scoring 39 from 45 deliveries, but once he outside edged to Fahim his team were facing an uphill task. They were eventually bowled out for 110 runs.

England produced a middle-order rally to beat UAE in an exciting finish by two wickets.

Batting first, the UAE posted a credible 191-9 in their innings, even with losing openers Kai Smith for a duck and Shival Bawa for just eight runs.

However, Dhruv Parashar and captain Alishan Sharafu hit a combined 62 to keep Emiratis in the contest. Josh Boyden was the pick of England's bowlers with figures of 5-42. But Sharafu's team refused to go quietly, with tailenders Adihya Shetty and Jash Giyanani scoring 21 and 15 respectively. Set 192 to win, England's response got off to a bad start when George Thomas was bowled by Sharafu with the first ball of the innings.

It's certainly on the table: Starc on returning to IPL

PTI ■ HOBART

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc is contemplating making a comeback to the IPL after a lengthy hiatus despite a hectic schedule that includes touring the subcontinent and the T20 World Cup title defence at home later this year.

Starc, who last played in the IPL in 2015, said he hasn't made the decision yet but entering his name for the league's mega auction, the nominations for which close on Friday, is "certainly on the table." Starc clinched a contract worth Rs 9.4 crore with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018 but had to be released because of an injury.

The mega-auction ahead of the upcoming season is scheduled to be held on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru.

"I've got two days to get my



paperwork in, so that might be something to do today before training," Starc was quoted as saying by

cricket.Com.Au.

"I've not put my name down just yet, but I've got a couple more days to decide on that. It's certainly on the table regardless of what the schedule has got coming up," he added.

Despite being one of the most valuable T20 bowlers, the left-arm pacer has featured in just two seasons of the IPL due to injury and workload management.

In the 27 matches that he played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2014 and 2015, Starc snared 34 wickets at an economy rate of 7.16 and an impressive strike rate of 17.

However, workload will once again become a key factor as the 31-year-old takes a call.

As a multi format player, Starc will have to juggle a packed schedule.

After the fifth Ashes Test, Australia have a three-match ODI series and one-off T20I at home

against New Zealand.

A five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka is scheduled for next month followed by a full series comprising three Tests as many ODIs and a T20I in Pakistan, starting March.

"I haven't been for six years or so," Starc said "Obviously with a heavy weighting towards T20s over the last period of time and the World Cup coming up later this year, that's one to take into consideration as well," he added. While the IPL, which has expanded to 10 teams this year, is expected to start in April and go on till June. Australia is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka for a Test and limited-overs series in June and July.

"There's a bit going on with scheduling and what-not to get our heads around, certainly for us multi-format players. "The schedules are quite jam-packed when you throw in all the tours

PTI ■ DUBAI

Out-of-action India opener Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli continue to remain static at the fifth and ninth positions respectively in the latest ICC Test rankings, issued on Wednesday. While Rohit has 781 rating points, Kohli is just inside the top-10 with 740 points.

The batting list is being headed by Marnus Labuschangne of Australia with 924 points, while England skipper Joe Root (881) and Steve Smith (871) are in the second and third spots respectively. New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (862) is at the fourth position. Mayank Agarwal has dropped a rung and is the next best-placed Indian in the 13th spot. Among Indian bowlers, veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has managed to hold on to his second spot with 861 rating points.

No other Indian features in the top-10 rankings of the Test

No change in Test rankings of Rohit, Kohli



bowlers list.

The Test bowlers rankings is being headed by Australia skipper Pat Cummins, followed by Ashwin and Kyle Jamieson of New Zealand, who has moved up six places. Ashwin also held on to his second spot in the Test all-rounders rankings, which is being led by West Indies Jason Holder.

Among others, after twin hundreds in the fourth Ashes Test at the SCG, Usman Khawaja has rocketed back into the Test batting ranking fray, re-entering at 26th place. The left-hander made 137 and 101 not out across the two innings at the ground he made his Test debut 11 years ago, though the Australians were unable to take the last wicket for victory in the fourth Ashes Test in Sydney.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India skipper Mithali Raj has stressed on the need to be "more consistent" in the areas they worked on over the last 12 months besides talking about the scope of improvement in her own batting ahead of the Women's World Cup in March-April.

To cap off the "best possible" preparation for the ODI World Cup amid COVID times, India will play a five-match series against hosts New Zealand, starting February 11.

The World Cup will begin in the same country from March 4.

India introduced plenty of fresh faces in England and Australia.

The likes of Sneha Rana, who made successful comeback into the team, Meghna Singh, Yastika Bhatia and Richa Ghosh were tried in those two series.

Top-order batter Yastika, wicketkeeper batter Richa and pacer Meghna made their ODI debuts Down under and all of them made an impact.

Though India lost the three-match series 1-2, they were able to push the mighty Australians to the limit. Speaking to PTI from Vijaywada where she is training,

Need to be more consistent with work we did in last 12 months: Mithali



Mithali looked back at the positives from the two tours and what her side needs to do in New Zealand. "We will definitely be looking to fix our combinations for the World Cup (in ODIs against New Zealand) and try out a few compositions and also get

a little more consistent in the things that worked for us in the last year," said the captain after being named Jacob's Creek brand ambassador. India needed more firepower in the middle and lower order, which has been provided by Ghosh and Pooja

while swing bowlers Meghna and uncapped Renuka Singh have been a welcome addition to the pace department.

"The lower middle order contributed in Australia and we would want it to be a little more consistent. And it definitely

showed that they have the potential to contribute and all-rounders like Pooja and Sneha Rana have done well in England and in Australia.

"Richa definitely showed that she has the strength and the calibre to sort of go big in the in those last few overs that we actually wanted someone like that.

"She gives us edge in batting while Taniya (Bhatia) has better glove work - it's good to have good competition for spots and we have a 5 match to series to try out the combinations.

"The seamers off course (have done well) but a little more work is needed in the spin department but that is an experienced lot that we have," added the leading run getter in 50-over cricket.

India were able to score in excess of 250 consistently in Australia with the help of the lower-order and Mithali feels the contribution down the order becomes even more crucial against top teams. "That's what I meant in terms of being more consistent in those areas because that is what will be crucial in the World Cup when you're playing good sides. Yes, the top order definitely has to perform.

PCB chief Raja proposes 4-nation T20 series

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja says he will propose to the ICC, an annual four-nation T20 International series involving his country, arch-rivals India, Australia and England, the revenue from which will be shared by all members of the world governing body.

Raja said as per his proposal, the tournament will be hosted on a rotational basis by the four participating countries.

"Hello fans. Will propose to the ICC a Four Nations T20i Super Series involving Pak Ind Aus Eng to be played every year, to be hosted on rotation basis by these four.

"A separate revenue model with profits to be shared on percentage basis with all ICC members, think we have a winner," Raja tweeted.

The PCB chief's proposal can be seen as an attempt to revive India-Pakistan cricket rivalry on a regular basis. However, there is no space for such a tournament in the next Future Tours Program cycle, which has already been finalised, and India have stopped playing



tri-nation and quadrangular series for close to a decade now

The two neighbouring countries have not played against each other outside ICC tournaments or the Asia Cup since 2013. The last bilateral series between India and Pakistan was held in 2012-13 when India hosted their neighbours for a T20 rubber.

Most recently, the two teams played each other last year in the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, where Pakistan beat India for the first time in an ICC event.