**OPINION 6** 

FEAR IS THE KEY TO

RULE MINDS, OR IS IT?

**WORLD 8** 

RISHI SUNAK: BRITISH PRIME

MINISTER IN WAITING?

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#### RANCHI, SATURDAY JANUARY 15, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



## www.dailypioneer.com Maurya, Saini embrace SP

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

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT LUCKNOW

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

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

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

He alleged that under the Yogi Adityanath regime, upper caste people were enjoying their life, while backward castes and Dalits were strug-



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

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

Further attacking the BJP, Swami Prasad Maurya said, "When I was in the Cabinet, there was a proposal that the posts should be filled with general category applicants without advertisement as there were no applicants from Dalit and Backwards communities. I strongly objected and the CM noted down my objection, but still he didn't stop the propos-

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

those eight to ten per cent with you as there are many Samajwadis Ambedkarwadis in that per-

"I thought after spending 14 years in exile, the BJP would have learnt its lessons, but it seems that once again they will return to what they were before

I want to tell BJP leaders that after today, there will be a tsunami in the State which will devastate the BIP. I joined hands with Akhilesh Yadav as he is young, educated and able, I will make crores of people stand behind him and will destroy the BJP. I also challenge that whomever I leave, they stand nowhere. Behen Ii (Mayawati) is a living example, till the time I was

with her, she was the CM. I

left her, today she is nowhere," said Maurva

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

## India's BrahMos missile to arm Philippine Navy

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The two sides will shortly

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

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

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

The Philippines armed forces are implementing a revised modernisation programme. India and the Philippines signed an implementing arrangement in March last year for the Governmentto- Government deals regarding military equipment including the BrahMos missile.

The Philippines will

and Russia are integrated and

checke

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

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

India has inducted the land and sea version of the BrahMos into its security architecture. The supersonic cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, and land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed

Sea along with the navies of India, the United States, and

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

### **India records** 2.64 lakh cases in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, Mumbai, and West Bengal, three Covid-19 hotspots in the latest wave of Covid infection saw marginal

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

Overall, fresh Covid-19 cases in India rose by 7 per cent to nearly 2.64 lakh in the last 24 hours, a day after a record rise of more than 50,000 had



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

pushed the day's tally to 2.47 lakh. Deaths from the virus remained relatively low but

Among the poll-bound reported 28,723 new Covid-19

States, Uttar Pradesh is seeing big jump in the number of

fresh cases by the day. Karnataka on Friday

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

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

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

Doctors in the two States described the status of pan-demics in the two southern States as black Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala. Continued on page 2

### 3-kg IED found in bag at flower market in **Delhi**; defused by NSG

SHEKHAR SINGH NEW DELHI

Days before the Republic Day celebrations, an improvised explosive device (IED) was found in the national Capital's Ghazipur area on Friday morning, sending police and securities agencies into a tizzy. The IED weighing around three kilogram, aimed at causing maximum damage, was kept in an iron box inside a black backpack at Ghazipur's busy flower market main gate. The police suspect it was a terror attempt ahead of the January 26 Republic Day cele-

brations. An FIR have been registered at Delhi Police Special Cell under explosive act and police team will also be receiving a detail report by the NSG

on the IED samples collected According to National Security Guard (NSG), which



personnel cordon off the area after an Improvised Explosive Device was found inside a bag, at Ghazipur flower market in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri I

National Security Guard and police

disposed the bomb, the initial examination suggested that the explosive is a nitrate and RDX mix while the triggering device could be a clock or a mobile phone. Continued on page 2

#### Entry into clouds led to CDS chopper crash: CoI

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

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

mountain, cliff or a tree-top.

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

Continued on page 2

#### reported on Thursday. **5-KG IED RECOVERED NEAR PAK BORDER** Chandigarh: Just a month ahead

Dhanoa village in Ajnala subdivision close to the Attari border was made on a tip-off about the smuggling of arms and ammunition from across

### Budget Session of Parl to begin on Jan 31

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

After a month-long recess, part two of the session would begin from March 14 and conclude on April 8, the sources said. The recess allows depart-



Committees to examine budgetary allocations made to their respective Ministries. During part one of the

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

Continued on page 2 | touches. Continued on page 2 |

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

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

wicket to seal the match before

Temba Bavuma (32 not out) helped in putting the final

### Bishop Mulakkal acquitted of all charges in Kerala nun rape case The judge said that the evidences do not match with the charges made by the nun and

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

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



Kerala, had denied the charges of rape as "baseless and concocted" and said allegations were born out of her ire against the religious order for rejecting her demands for favours. Additional sessions judge

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

hence the Bishop was being acquitted of all rape charges.

S Harishankar, former superintendent of police, Kottayam, who was the inves-

tigating officer, expressed dis-may and disappointment over the verdict. "We, the investigation team and the public prosecutor, were confident of the authenticity of our findings and were expecting the court to convict the accused. But this is a shocking verdict," said Harishankar while interacting with the media after the pronouncement of the judgment. Continued on page 2

### **CAPSULE**

META FACES \$3.1 BN LAWSUIT IN UK London: Meta (formerly

Facebook) is facing a \$3 billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a \$68 payout each Competition law expert Dr. Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail

of the Assembly polls in Punjab, a special task force (STF) of Puniab Police on Friday recovered a 5-kg improvised explosive device (IED) and ₹ 1 lakh in cash near the India-Pakistan horder The seizure from the outskirts of

#### POOR NATIONS GIVEN NEAR EXPIRY SHOTS London: Third world nations

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

#### APPROPRIATION ACT 2021 GETS PRZ ASSENT New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind has given his nod to the Appropriation (No 5) Act 2021 that authorises payment and appropriation of ₹ 3.73 lakh

crore from the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2021-22 According to a gazette notification published on Friday, the President gave his assent on January 12.

# TMH completes 3 lakh Covid tests new testing facility comes up

**PNS** ■ Jamshedpur

ata Main Hospital (TMH), the first private laboratory in Jharkhand to receive the approval for conducting COVID-19 testing, has achieved a new milestone of conducting 3.2 lakh Covid-19 tests. TMH over the years has conducted 1.7 Real-time Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and 1.5 Rapid Antigen tests for COVID-19.

In order to cater to the growing needs of the patients, the hospital has also come up with an additional Covid testing facility at Safety Excellence Centre in Bistupur.

Addressing the media during a telephonic press meet, Dr Rajan Choudhry, advisor, Covid-19, Tata Main Hospital said that the hospital has achieved a milestone. The hospital has set up a benchmark in the State in terms of conducting



tests. The hospital has so far treated 7500 Covid patients.

He went on to inform that Covid cases are on the rise in the city. In the last one week, 221 patients were admitted while the numbers were 172 in the previous week. The positivity rate has also in-

creased from 46.84 per cent to 47.63 per cent this week.

" As per the data available we have found that the impact of the virus is getting intense. However, we need to be careful in the coming days too. The next few days are crucial with the festive season Covishield Booster Vaccines are now available In Kudy Mohanty Auditorium, Kadma for Tata Steel Non-employees (above 60 years

**Booster Vaccines available at Kadma** 

with comorbidities) as well. The booking for availing this service can be done by downloading TMH Vishwas app from Google PlayStore and registering yourself (if not done already). The pay-

Jamshedpur:

on a spree. We must take precautionary steps to ensure further safety. Avoid crowds, wear masks and maintain distance," said Dr Choudhry.

The hospital has also achieved milestones in terms of vaccination. The hospital has administered 292816 vaccines so far while 114864 have received both the vaccines while 742 have received

He went on to inform that the re- Dr Choudhry.

ment will be made Online in COVID testing screen, following which receipt will be generated confirming payment details (Amount- Rs 780/-). Post booking the slot, the vaccine must be brought in - 1) Mobile on which booking done, 2) Aadhaar Card/PAN Card, 3) Certificate of 2nd dose or beneficiary ID, 4) Proof of Comorbidity.

covery of COVID-19 patients at one of the largest hospitals in Jharkhand, Tata Main Hospital ( TMH) has improved significantly. Dr Rajan Choudhry said that the hospital is providing the best services to the people of Jharkhand.

"The doctors and nurses of TMH are also on the path to recovery. At present only 52 doctors and 130 nurses are not reporting earlier, the figures were much higher," said

## DAV Hazaribag student felicitated by by HMC



**PNS** ■ Hazaribag

Akshar Dayal, a student of class VII of DAV Public School, Hazaribag has brought laurels to the school by securing first position in the drawing competition organized by the Hazaribag Municipal Corporation. All the major schools including St Xavier's, Vivekananda Central School of the city parcompetition organized under the Swachh Survekshan programme. School Principal Ashok Kumar has specially congratulated the art teacher and Kunal Goswami on this stupendous success of Akshar Dayal. The principal said that Akshar Dayal is a versatile student. He got the third prize on World Hindi Day. Akshar Dayal's father is a math teacher at DAV

# Harvest festival celebrated with simplicity amid COVID scare

PNS ■ Bokaro

Tusu—harvest festival, observed with main-¬usu— harvest festival, taining the SOPs of Coronavirus; celebrated with simplicity and traditional fanfare across the coal and steel belt of Jharkhand. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the tribal residents observed this threeday festival at their homes. The three-day festival kicked off on January 12th with a bang. Meanwhile, tribal people in a few parts of the country observe this harvest festival for a week. Fearing the spread of the coronavirus infection, the "melas" or "fairs", which is the traditional part of Tusu festival organised to bring the traditional tribal culture and tribal artisans to the limelight, was cancelled.

Besides many rituals, 'melas' (fairs), which used to be organised on the banks of the rivers, is an important part of the festival that draws the maximum crowd. But, the administration put a ban on 'mela' due to the Coronavirus pandemic this year.

This festival is basically celebrated as a harvest carnival, with traditional fanfare and gaiety. "Tusu Parab derived its origin from the cultural roots of Birbhum district; celebrated during the holy occasion of Makara Snakranti and performed only by the girls," said Raja Ram Mahato, a resident of Chandaha village. Primarily celebrated by unmarried tribal girls of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa, it brings immense joy and happiness to the people, particularly for Jharkhand's tribals. This festival is noted for its colorful songs, which express the stories and the experiences of livelihood. Young girls prepare the idols of Goddess Tusu with clay and later go to a nearby river to sanctify themselves by taking a dip. After taking a bath, the females start praising the Goddess by singing various local songs. These very songs are known as Tusu in Bengal. A plate of rice is also offered to the deity on occasion, Mahato

#### Jharia MLA in grip of corona

Pankaj Kumar ■ Dhanbad

midst rising cases on a Adaily basis in the district, Jharia MLA Poornima Neeraj Singh is in the grip of corona. Singh informed this about this through a tweet and has requested people who came in her contact to get checked up for better health care. She is in home isolation for now.

In the current phase she happens to be one of the prominent persons who has turned positive.

Sindri MLA Indrajeet Mahto was ingrip of corona . He had to be airlifted to Hyderabad for better treatment as his chest congestion was on rise. Mahto still is under treatment for the last 10 months though now he is in better condition according to his family mem-

In the second phase the

It's worth mentioning here that the number of positive cases is on the rise and over 100 cases are reported on a daily basis in the district.

#### BJP leader meets Governor PNS ■ Jamshedpur

Former BJP State Spokesperson Amarpreet Singh Kale met the Governor Ramesh Bains. Kale invited him to attend a proposed programme on women's empowerment by 'Naman' on International Women's Day on March 8, which Bains gladly accepted. During this meeting, the

former spokesperson discussed some important points for qualitative improvement in higher and higher education in the state, especially in Kolhan, and drew his attention for the improvement. He requested the Chancellor of Jharkhand to take immediate initiative for duly starting the Women's University

at Jamshedpur. Similarly, the process of appointment

of lecturers and professors is also pending, while months have passed since the posts are advertised and applications are invited.

The problem of not being able to organize classes according to the routine in the Kolhan University subordinate colleges for higher education continues. There is a shortage of faculty in the women's college for vocational courses

like BEd, etc. The lack of infrastructure in the colleges of Kolhan University and the appointment of professors for qualitative improvement in education, their promotion quality education to a great

Kale also drew attention to the lack of UG and PG seats in the medical colleges of Jharkhand. He requested him that the government should take concrete steps for better higher education in Jharkhand, so that the meritorious and talented students of Jharkhand do not migrate to other states.

He also placed before the Governor the problems of basic facilities like electricity, water and health in the settlement areas. He drew His Excellency's attention to pay special attention to the increased unemployment related to Corona and the neglect of local unem-

#### ployed in industrial areas. ticipated in this inter school Kidnapping for ransom case solved in Palamu, 2 held

Palamu police have cracked a case of kidnapping for ransom. SDPO Lesliganj Alok Kumar Tuti said Panki police have rescued the kidnapped Mahboob Ansari and even recovered his bike from the Chilho Pahari under Tarhassi police station.

Mahboob was kidnapped on January 12 evening by deception when his kidnappers posing as attendants of a patient asked him to examine a patient and once Mahboob came out of his house on bike he was taken into captivity.

Tuti said police overpowered two of his kidnappers Arjun Bhuiyan Mahboob is a quack and earns extra and Sudhir Bhuiyan, recovering pounds by facilitating Kissan Credit two cell phones one each from

Arjun and Sudhir both have been remanded in judicial custody today. Ransom worth ru-

pees 200,000 was demanded. The victim's family of Mahboob Ansari even paid 25,000 through phone pe said the officer in charge of the Panki police station H Gupta. It was Airtel money down Gupta said.

Ansari who has gone into hiding in Lohardaga district.

Tuti said our efforts are on to track Kalam down in Lohardaga and bring him to law.

Kalam had this impression that Mahboob Ansari must have more and more cash just because of his being a facilitator of KCC and so he was kid-The kingpin of this kidnapping napped.

Hindu University said that

many organizations related

to nuclear energy make

### Mythological images at Gangasagar



By Aditya Chatterjee

n the occasion of Makara-Sankranti or Paush-Sankrati, when many take a holy dip at Gangasagar (where the River Ganges meets the sea), here's a quick re-cap through ancient images in stone – of how the river de-

scended on earth. The image on the left is from Ellora, circa 8th century. This manifestation of Lord Shiva is called Gangadhara Shiva, depicting the Lord holding the mighty waters of Goddess Ganga in His tresses. Bhagiratha, on whose prayers



the Goddess descended on earth, is seen praying on the top left corner. The image on the right is from Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram, circa 7th century. There are two

According to one, Bhagiratha (with raised hands and a bent leg) is seeking Shiva's help to facilitate Ganga's descent, and the Lord granting him the boon. An artificial stream was apparently created to flow over the rocks and the royal 'Serpent' couple. The second theory involves

### theories about the carva scene depicting the third Pandava Arjuna, prior

#### पत्रांक-01 / निदे0अभि० DILRMP (निर्देश) — 26 / 2016 (खण्ड)-19 / नि0रा० दिनांक-14.01.2022 झारतण्ड सरकार राजस्व, निबंधन एवं भूमि सुधार विभाग। (भू-अर्जन भू-अभिलेख एवं परिमाप निदेशालय)

#### ः प्रेस विज्ञप्ति ः

एतद द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि झारभूमि पोर्टल बेहतर सुरक्षा,

का Server Down रहेगा तथा इससे संपादित होनेवाले सभी राजस्व कार्य बंद रहेंगे।

(अंजनीं कुमार)

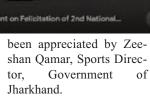
### Results of National Science Gaming Competition declared ate Professor of Banaras

•

PNS Ranchi

Results of 18 winners of the 2nd National Science Gaming Competition organized with an aim to create awareness on energy conservation, popularize the science of nuclear fusion, popularize science through games and the importance of science in sports have been released through virtual medium. In this, Kingkhush Das of West Bengal got first, Nikon Kandulia and Ranjita Bari of West Singhbhum of Jharkhand got second and third place.

The competition was organized by Gold Category awarded Aryabhatta Science Club, Ranka, affiliated by Vigyan Prasar, the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in association with ITER-India, Institute of Plasma Research, Gandhinagar. The event has also



Club is doing such work

innovation medium which other institutes cannot do despite having the re-Ravi AV Kumar, Scientific sources. The institute at-Officer H and Head, Outtached to the Department of reach Division, Plasma Re-Atomic Energy is always with us in such endeavors. search Institute, who was present as the special guest, Dr. Arvind Ranade, head of said that Aryabhatta Science the network of Vigyan

through its knowledge and be dispelled. Prasar Science Club and

Scientist F, said that we are glad that the coordinator of our science club has taken such a step so that not only can the science of atomic energy reach a common man of the country. Rather, the fear prevailing in them for nuclear energy will also

Dr. Ravi A V Kumar

Dr. Rajnish Kumar, Associ-

many plans for atomic energy awareness in the country, but as a science Communicator Alok Chaudhary spread this science through a game. Toofan Kumar Poddar, District Sports Officer of Garhwa district, who was showcasing the sports world in the honor ceremony of science gaming competition, explained the importance of science in the sports world very closely and said that with the appropriate use of science, we can win many sports for the country in many international competitions. On the occasion, Alok Kumar Chaudhary warmly thanked all the guests for their presence in the program to encourage the successful participants.

गुणवत्ता एवं तीव्रता के साथ कार्य कर सके इसके लिए झारभूमि पोर्टल को Jharkhand State Data Centre (JHSDC) के Server में Shift (स्थानांतरण) किया जा रहा है।

अतः Shifting के क्रम में दिनांक-13.01.2022 से 16.01.2022 तक झारभूमि पोर्टल

PR 261680 (Revenue, Registration & Land Reform) 21-22 (D)

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## CM reviews work on subsidy in Petrol for BPL families

PNS Ranchi

Instructs Food, Civic Supplies, Transport Dept and NIC to develop App fast

The Government of Jharkhand has decided to give a discount of Rs 25 per liter on the purchase of petrol to the ration card holder families who have bikes, scooty or other two wheelers in the State from January 26, 2022. To implement the plan of giving, a high level review of the work progress was done here on Friday. Chief Minister Hemant Soren told the officials that the poor, labourers, farmers and middle class families have been affected the most due to the increase in the price of petrol. It is the effort of the State government that the poor, labourers, farmers and middle class people in Jharkhand should be given relief from the inflation

The Chief Minister directed the mechanism soon after making officials that all the departments concerned should develop a government can give discount



meeting in Ranchi on Friday.

wife by black magic.

some villagers.

rence accused Jhario Devi of killing his

Soon after, Florence along with his son

Silbius Dungdung and other villagers

namely Ravi Soreng, Amrit Tete, Jyoti

Tete, and Hemant Tete assaulted her.

They, later on, poured kerosene on her

and set her on fire. After she started

crying for help, all the accused ran

away. She was somehow saved by

The victim's daughter-in-law said that

they were invited to attend the feast

organized after the death of Florence's

wife. And when they came here she

was abused and thrashed badly as she

On her statement police lodged an

FIR against them under section 307

(murder attempt), 323 (Punishment for

voluntarily causing hurt), 324(Volun-

tarily causing hurt by dangerous

weapons), 325 (Punishment for vol-

untarily causing grievous hurt), 504

(provocation for a crime), 506 (Pun-

ishment for criminal intimidation) and

34 (criminal conspiracy) of IPC. Be-

sides, police slapped sections 3 and 4

of the anti-witch hunt law.

was held responsible for the death.

better coordination, so that the

to the eligible people from January 26. State Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rajiv Arun Ekka, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Secretary, Food Supplies and Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Himani Department Pandey, Transport Secretary KK Soan and other officials were present in the meeting.

on the purchase of petrol

The CM directed all the offi-

ing that the Food Supply Department, Transport Department and NIC should make an App soon so that people can get an amount of Rs 25 per liter in their bank accounts as subsidy on the purchase of petrol. The Chief Minister said that a poor family should be given a subsidy of Rs.25 per liter and a maximum of Rs.250 per liter on the purchase of petrol up to a maximum of 10 liters per month. For the successful operation of this scheme, the Chief Minister has directed the officials to make a better action plan and implement it at the

The woman suffered about

tal in Ranchi. Officer incharge of Thethaitanger police station Kumar Indresh told local reporters that they had arrested all six after the heinous assault at Kudpani village.

BJP state president Prakash said that such incidents have gone up in the State. The trend of burning alive is also increasing in the entire state including Simdega, but the State Government is yet to take any action in this connection. It is clear from the state government that it is least concerned about the law and order situation.

Further, he said that the gov-

### Police to seek remand of Bangladeshi woman to investigate her PLFI links

PNS Ranchi

anchi Police have de-Cided to seek police remand of Bangladeshi woman Kaneez Fatima, a native of Khulna in Bangladesh, and Nivesh Kumar in connection with the Naxal funding and arms supply case. Ranchi police arrested her from Delhi where she was running a hotel at Basant Kunj locality. She illegally entered India about seven years back and changed her name to Anjali Patel. She worked at a massage parlour in Bangalore and then came to Delhi, where she joined another massage parlour.

Here she came in contact with Nivesh Kumar who gave her a new name Lily. Police sources said that Nivesh Kumar bought a three-star hotel and asked Fatima to run it. Sources said that the hotel was a hideout for PLFI operatives since Nivesh was working for the PLFI chief Dinesh Gope.

"She was married when she came to India and she has a daughter who lives in Bangladesh. She left her husband and came to India. She has claimed that Nivesh had married her and Nivesh treated her as his wife to avoid any suspicion.

### Munda visits mob lynching survivor



Union Minister Arjun Munda on Friday visited Jhario Devi at Devkama Hospital in Ranchi on Friday, who is the survivor of an attempt of mob

PNS Ranchi

nion minister Arjun Munda on Friday visited Jhario Devi at Devkamal Hospital, Ranchi, who is the survivor of an attempt of mob lynching. Munda inquired from Dr. Anant Sinha about her health and suffering from burn injuries. He assured her son Birendra all support to bring the accused to the book.

A native of Kudapani Dipatoli under feast on the occasion of the last rites of one Mariyana Dungdung.

Thethaitangar police station of Simdega district, the victim on January 12 was assaulted by some villagers, who accused her of practicing black magic. According to police the victim along with husband Karmu Badaik had gone to participate in the community

As she came Mariyana's husband Flo-

## BJP condemns Simedga lynching attempt

PNS Ranchi

ABJP delegation headed by State BJP president Deepak Prakash, BJP legislative party leader Babulal Marandi and Union Minister Arjun Munda on Friday visited Devkamal Hospital to enquire about the health of an elderly woman Jharo Devi who was allegedly beaten up and set on fire on charges of practicing witchcraft by a unruly mob.

The BJP leaders urged Dr. Anant Sinha, the director of Devkamal Hospital for providing better treatment to the woman. It may be noted that a Jharo Devi was allegedly beaten up by a group of six that also inflicted burn injuries on her on Wednesday in Simdega.

40 per cent burns and was

ernment, administration should identify people behind the conspiracy. The BJP chief said that party condemns such incidents and the party is ready to extend all possible support to the

#### JPPC members celebrate **Makar Sankranti**

On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, All India Professionals Congress' Ranchi Chapter President Bhuvnesh Thakur distributed



chuda, tilkut, dahi among people at Shradhanad Bal Mandir School, Kamre Chowk. President of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress committee Aditya Vikram Jaiswal was invited to spearhead the event, he greeted the local populace on the occasion and said that it was the most important day to give gratitude to mother nature. Thakur said that Makar Sankranti was a festival of utmost happiness for all. Kite flying and acts of charity are seen throughout the region. He said that there has been an age old tradition of consuming tilkul and dahi after having a bath in the morning of today. Jaiswal said, "Just as the rays of the life giving sun, we wish for all to receive the light of God's blessings. Makar Sankranti is one of the most important festivals of India. We are all dependent on this festival as most of us come from agrarian families." In his address he also added about the significance of the festival, the beginning of the lengthening of days and why the change in seasons holds such importance.

#### Makar Sankranti at SBPS

The students of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi virtually celebrated Makar Sankranti, the festival that marks the advent of the harvest season



and also indicates the change of weather as the Sun starts shifting its movement from Dakshinayan to Uttarayan. On this occasion, students performed Surya Namaskar to learn to keep their mind and soul in co ordination with a healthy body. Students also made beautiful kites and decorated them with colourful ribbons, beads, sparkles, etc. Along with this, the students participated in a virtual assembly and came to know about the importance of this day. School Head Personnel and Admin Dr. Pradip Varma blessed the students on this great Indian festival. Principal, Paramjit Kaur, motivated the students to appreciate the diversity and relevance of Indian culture.

VEHICLE

**AUCTION** 

## State may witness light rainfall in next 2-days

PNS Ranchi

Weather has changed in the entire Jharkhand in-days of rain, there will be fog in the morning. The sky will cluding the State Capital. People are feeling the winter chill after the rains. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has once again issued a rain forecast. Under which there will be light rain at many places for the next two days. At the same time, a drop of 3-4 degrees will be recorded in the minimum temperature. At the same time, after the clear-

ing of the sky, there will also be a feeling of cold. After two be clear during the day. In sucn a situation, people will feel cold in the morning and evening. At the same time, there will be a little heat due to sunlight during the day. According to the Meteorological Department, there will be a change in the weather after January 19. At the same time, an increase in temperature will

### Life and livelihood to go along during pandemic: Oraon

PNS Ranchi

The State Finance and Food Supplies Minister, Dr Rameshwar Oraon, on Friday, said that in view of the third wave of Corona infection, life and livelihood have to be carried forward and economic activities will also be continued.

Oraon said that he was to go on January 9 to see the economy and revenue collection of Odisha but could not go due to outbreak of third wave of Corona epidemic, but the State Government is still studying the revenue collection system of Orissa and after



Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon addresses a press conference in that the State Government will try to

implement here so that the revenue collection of the State Could improve. Talking to media persons at his residence the Finance Minister said that it has been 20 years since Jharkhand became a separate State, while being the Finance Minister, he realized that people did not pay much attention to revenue collection in the past.

### State's corona recovery rate below national average

#### **Active case**load crosses 32K mark

PNS Ranchi

The third wave of Covid-19 is becoming a cause of concern for the State both in terms of the number of positive cases and decline in recovery rate. With the jump in active cases in past one month, the recovery rate of patients from infection has dropped. The recovery rate of patients from infection in the State is below the national average. As per the health bulletin released by the Health Department, the recovery rate of patients is 91.15 per cent, while the national recovery rate is 96.60 per cent.

The recovery rate means out of 100 persons getting infected, 91.15 persons recover from infection, while in the country if 100 persons are infected then 96.60 persons recover from infection. It means that in the country, 5.45 more persons recover from infection than



A health worker administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a student, at a vaccination camp, at Lower Chutia in Ranchi on Friday.

in the States. The recovery rate in Jharkhand a month back in December was more than 98 per cent, but in the past one month with more infection the recovery rate has dropped.

Number wise on Thursday, 4000 fresh cases were detected across the State, while at the same time just 2731 recovered from infection on the same day. Moreover, at the same time five persons died from infection

on Thursday. Due to the number of fresh cases outnumbering recovered patients, the active cases in the State have gone up. In Jharkhand the number of active cases on Thursday was 32,250. A month back the number of active cases was below 100. Sources said that though the spread of infection is fast, people are getting cured. From 8 to 12 January, 3303 people have been cured after beating Corona. Whereas, in the second wave, the overall recovery in 5 days was 33.63 per cent, while at this time the recovery rate is above 90 per cent.

According to expert doctors, the severity was less in the third wave. If people be-

Pix by Ratan Lal come negative in a week, then the faster the graph of infection is increasing, the faster the active cases will also decrease. If the infection remains at its peak in the first week of February, then after a week the graph will go down continuously. The good thing is that test-

ing is necessary to be positive, but the requirement of testing for recovery has been removed. According to the guidelines of ICMR, now if there is no symptom of any kind on the 7th day of infection, then you are completely normal.

## केनरा बैंक <७

्रींसिंडिकेट Syndicate

**SALE NOTICE** Regional Office, Road No.4B, Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001. Tel No- 0651-2240135 Vehicles bearing Name, Model, Engine No . Chassis NO as mentioned in the schedule below are put on public auction as detailed below by CANARA BANK. The undersigned has being authorized officer of the bank is appointed for the above said purpose. The prospective purchasers, hereby called for the sealed Bids on "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for sale of the below mentioned Vehicle

L	To the decide blad on the letter the territory the territo							
	SI. No.	Branch Borrower Type of Vehicle		Registration No/ Engine No/ Chasis No.	Make	Reserve Price	Contact	
	01	Barghutua	AMIT KUMAR KAR	LML BUDDY	JH-02AS-7135/ E80G3000046 MD745ECTWG3000123	2016	Rs. 18,000.00	6200827329
	02	Barghutua	ASHOK RAJAK	AUTO RICKSHAW	JH-02AH-8329/ R5C2628399 MEDAPIMPLR04E6106	2015	Rs. 21,600.00	6200827329
	03	Barghutua	BASANT KUMAR RANA	LML BUDDY(KS)	JH-02AU-2484/ E80H3000575 MD745ECTMH3000574	2017	Rs. 18,000.00	6200827329
	04	Barghutua	SRI INDRAJIT SINGH	AUTO RICKSHAW	JH-02AF-5639/ R5A2606813 MEDAPIMPLR03E5854	2015	Rs. 21,600.00	6200827329
	05	Barghutua	MD NAZIBULLAH ALAM	AUTO RICKSHAW	JH-02AF-8970/ R4L2582671 MEDAPIMPLR01E5442	2015	Rs. 21,600.00	6200827329
	06	Barghutua	RAJ KUMAR SHAW	AUTO RICKSHAW	JH-02AQ-0180/ R6J2821114 MEDAPIMPLR10F8141	2016	Rs. 22,500.00	6200827329
	07	Barghutua	RAJESH KUMAR GOSAI	LML BUDDY	JH-02AS-5533/ E80H3000189 MD745ECTKH3000152	2017	Rs. 18,000.00	6200827329
	08	Ramgarh-II	ROPAN ORAON	EICHER TRACTOR	JH02-M-1191/ 515228863865 915211731114	2009	Rs. 1,03,500.00	9431821958
	09	Ramgarh Cantt	ASHISH KUMAR CHOUDHARY	MAHINDRA TANKER	JH02-AK-9111/ BEFZL14324 MA1PFALBCF6L48266	2015	Rs. 11,10,000.00	6200827534
	10	Ramgarh Cantt	GULAM ZILANI	HYUNDAI GRAND i10	JH24-B-7013/ G4LAHM66280 MALA891CLHM744361	2017	Rs. 2,34,000.00	6200827534
	11	Ramgarh Cantt	SANJAY SINGH	AUTO RICKSHAW	JH-24B-4239/ A7G1108427 MCG27P3DKG1776207	2017	Rs. 22,500.00	6200827534
	12	Ramgarh Cantt	SUMIT KUMAR OJHA	ASHOK LEYLAND TRUCK	JH02-GA-5555/ HAPZ125508 MB1KACHDXHPDY6570	2017	Rs. 11,10,000.00	6200827534

Date/Time of Auction: 15.02.2022, Tuesday 3:00 PM Place Of Auction: Canara Bank, Regional Office, Road No.4B, Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001. Tel No- 0651-2240135

Last Date For Submitting the Bids & Deposit of EMD: on or before 09.02.2022, Wednesday 5.00 PM at Canara Bank, Regional Office, Road No.4B, Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001. Tel No- 0651-2240135

For vehicle inspection: on or before 09.02.2022 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM on Prior permission

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 10% of Reserve Price (i.e Rs. 1,800/- for Sl. no.1, Rs. 2,160/- for Sl. no.2, Rs. 1,800/- for Sl. no. 3, Rs. 2,160/- for Sl. no. 4, Rs. 2,160/- for Sl. no. 5, Rs. 2,250/- for Sl. no. 6, Rs. 1,800/- for Sl. no. 7, Rs. 10,350/- for Sl. no. 8, Rs. 1,11,000/- for Sl. no. 9, Rs. 23,400/- for Sl. no. 10, Rs. 2,250/for SI. no. 11, Rs. 1,11,000/- for SI. no. 12 by way of DD favouring CANARA BANK, Payable at Ranchi) The sale is subject to the confirmation by the bank. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any tender or to cancel or postpone the sale without assigning

For further details of sale, other terms and conditions and for inspection of the vehicles please contact the undersigned

Authorized Officer Date: 11.01.2022 | Place: Ranchi

## **WHO** recommends two new Covid treatments

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

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

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

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

Only three other treatments for Covid-19 have received WHO approval, starting with corticosteroids for severely ill patients in 2020. Corticosteroids are inexpen-

sive and widely available and fight inflammation that com-

recommended two new Covid19 treatments — Baricitinib, an oral drug used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and Sotrovimáb, an alternative to casirivimabimdevimab, which is monoclonal antibody cocktail

monly accompanies severe

Arthritis drugs tocilizum-ab and sarilumab, which the WHO endorsed in July, are IL-6 inhibitors that suppress a dangerous overreaction of the immune system to the SARS-

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Own domly assigned to intervention Over 75 Jakh

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

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

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

Dr Basavaraddi said a few studies have shown the practice of Pranayama, a component of Yoga, to be effective in improving immune function and reducing infection. However, no clinical trial

on the efficacy of Pranayama in preventing Covid-19 has been conducted till date.

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

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

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

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

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

"This is the first of its kind study to assess the effect of the specially designed Pranayama protocol in preventing Covid-

19 infection," said Dr Ďhamija. Co-author Sarwal said that Pranayama modules may be promoted and adopted to improve immunity in all sections of the population. Considering the implications of

### Over 75 lakh perform Surya Namaskar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI** 

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

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

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

the study for health care professionals and the general public living in fear of COVID-19, larger studies across different geographical, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are needed to extend and verify the generalization of the present

### 1 in 10 may have Covid after quarantine period

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

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

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

Led by the researchers from University of Exeter, the study used a newly adapted test which can detect whether the virus was potentially still active. It was applied to samples from

176 people in Exeter who had tested positive on standard PCR tests.

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

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

Professor Lorna Harries, of the University of Exeter Medical School, who oversaw

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

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

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

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

As on Thursday, out of a total of 6.595 cases, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) tops the list with 2,237 active cases followed by 1,824 in Central Reserve Police Force

#### Covid jumps 4-fold in paramilitary forces RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI (CRPF), 1.048 cases in Border of paramilitary personnel con-(CRPF), 1.048 cases in Border

Security Force (BSF), 892 in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), 365 in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 181 in National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 48 cases in National Security Guard (NSG), according to official data.

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

During the last 24 hours, as many as 1,254 personnel were detected with the infection, including a maximum 423 in CISF, 362 in CRPF, 187 in SSB, 182 in BSF, 60 in ITBP, 21 in NSG and 19 in NDRF. This is nearly three times the number

tracting the disease in a single day as on January 7 with a tally of 441 cases. In a single day, the tally of

Covid cases had jacked up by

441 cases from 1,227 cases on

Thursday to 1,668 cases on January 7. Out of the total casualties of 349, the CRPF has taken the maximum toll at 133 deaths

followed by 90 in BSF, 83 in CISF, 23 in SSB and 17 in ITBP. Likewise, the NDRF lost two personnel and the NSG suffered a casualty of one personnel due to Covid-19. Earlier, the number of

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

### EC asks poll observers to be accesible, neutral

PNS NEW DELHI

With an aim to conduct free, safe and fair elections, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday asked observers, who will be deployed for assembly polls in five states, to be visible, accessible, neutral and ethical while functioning as the eyes and ears of the poll body. The poll body will meet on Saturday to decide whether to continue with its ban on physical election rallies, road shows and pad vatras as the COVID-19 cases on Thursday crossed over 2.66 cases in a day.During the briefings, observers are given comprehensive inputs about various aspects of election management by senior officials of the EC. Over 1,400 officials attended the briefing, with 140 officials attending it in person and the rest connecting virtually. In his address on Friday, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra also told expenditure observers to sharpen their skills and be innovative in countering newer methods being used to induce voters. Chandra made these remarks while addressing general, police and expenditure observers to be deployed in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Puniab and Manipur during the elections. Chandra asked the observers to work in coordination with enforcement

agencies. This is the first briefing of the commission to the senior officers, who have been deployed in the forthcoming elections. Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar cautioned that even stray instances of human errors by polling personnel abd noncompliance of Covid protocols at polling material distribution centres can create a "deviant narrative and derail the smooth conduct of elections". According to an EC statement, Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, while acknowledging COVID-19 was a challenging task, exhorted the designated observers to ensure that a levelplaying field is maintained for all political parties and candidates. Officers drawn from IAS, IPS, IRS and other accounts services across the country are deployed as general, police and expenditure observers. Kumar reminded the observers that they are always under strict and microscopic scrutiny by stakeholders and thus should be careful and discreet about their own behaviour and conduct during the election process.He said observers are representatives of the commission and must be acutely aware and cognisant of this sacred and oner-

#### Sibal writes to UP, U'khand to prevent hate speeches PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ 1973 and Sections 3 and 5 of

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

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

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

the National Security Act, 1980," Sibal said in his

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PM Modi to interact with 150 startups today and Sustainable Development, according to the Prime Minister Narendra Drime Minister Narendra Back group will make a Prime Minister has been Prime Minister has been

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

More than 150 startups have been divided into six working groups based on from Roots; Nudging the DNA, From Local to Global; Technology of Future, Building Champions in Manufacturing;

Each group will make a presentation before the Prime

Minister on the allotted theme in the interaction. The event marks the 6th anniversary of the launch of the

Startup India initiative. The aim of the interaction,

according to the PMO, "is to understand how startups can contribute to the national needs by driving innovation in the

As a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Maĥotsav', a week-long event, "Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem", is being hosted by

Prime Minister has been

stressing the potential of Startups to contribute significantly to the growth of the

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

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

### ₹2.07 cr assets of former dy drug controller attached

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The attached assets include eight immovable properties consisting of land and building in Solan, Mandi, Kullu and Panchkula in the name of Kapil

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Dhiman and others and movable properties like balance in bank accounts, fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) and insurance policies maintained in various banks/financial institutions, the ED said in statement.

The ED had initiated

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

The ED investigation

Centre all set to ask carmakers

to provide six airbags

revealed that Dhiman then Deputy Drug Controller Licensing Authority Solan, Himachal Pradesh used to take bribe for issuing and renewing license of pharmaceutical com-

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

#### 2021 5th warmest year in 121 yrs in India perature for the country was (October to December) seasons

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

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

"The annual mean air tem-

recorded at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal. The warm temperature during winter and post-monsoon season mainly contributed to this," it said.

ous duty entrusted upon

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

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

"The winter (January to February) and post-monsoon

with all India mean temperature anomalies of 0.78 degree Celsius and 0.42 degree Celsius respectively mainly contributed to this warming," it said. Also, the country last year

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

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

heavy rainfall and flood-relat-

ed incidents claimed over 750

lives last year, while thunder-

storms and lightning killed at

least 780 people in different

IMD predicts cold wave with dense fog in North India

PNS NEW DELHI

next two days, which People should brace up to face severe cold wave along with dense to very dense fog in

north India in the next few days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted dense to very dense fog over North India during next 4-5 days and a wet spell over east and adjoining central India during parts of the country.

next two days, which will decrease significantly thereafter. "A Western Disturbance (WD) would affect northwest Himalayas on 16th & 17th and another WD affect Northwest India from 18th to 20th January, 2022", it said Meanwhile, no significant change in minimum temperatures is very likely over northwest and central India during next 4-5 days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SP takes dig at BJP's 3/4th seats claim SP supremo says 'BJP meant they will win three or four seats' in UP Assembly polls On different criteria



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday took a swipe at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying by the "80 versus 20" assertion, he meant only 20 per cent of the population will back the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh elections, while the remaining 80 per cent will support his party.

But after the arrival of Swami Prasad Maurya and others in the SP, the saffron party would lose even this 20 per cent, Yadav said in his speech after giving party membership to Maurya and others

here.
"Baba mukhya mantri

(Adityanath) should engage a math teacher," the SP president said, referring to the chief minister's "80 vs 20" remarks.

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

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

### Yogi shares meal at Dalit house, says it was 'social exploitation' during SP rule in UP

Gorakhpur: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had a meal at a Dalit household here on Friday and said during the Samajwadi Party rule it was "social exploitation" and not "social justice", whereas the BJP government was working for the development of every section of society without any discrimination.

Adityanath's visit to the Dalit family in Gorakhpur came a little before Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan and Dharam Singh Saini, who resigned from the government accusing it of being anti-Dalit, gathered at the Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow to take up its membership in the run-up to the assembly polls beginning February 10

Several BJP and Apna Dal legislators have also quit their respective parties to join the SP. After having meal at Amritlal Bharti's home on the



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

occasion of Makar Sankranti, Adityanath told reporters, "Only 18,000 houses were given to people under PM Awas Yojna in full five-year term of the Akhilesh Yadav government in UP, whereas the present BJP government has given 45 lakh houses to the poor and the deprived under the

"It was 'samajik shoshan'

(social exploitation) and not 'samajik nyay' (social justice) during the SP rule in UP," he said, taking a swipe at his predecessor and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

He said 2.61 crore households got toilets and 1.36 crore families benefitted from the Ujjwala Yojana under the "double engine" government, referring to the BJP rule at the Centre and in the state. PTI

Noida: The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has chosen educated candidates hailing from the constituency and with no criminal background, while partner the Samajwadi Party picked them on their 'winnability' factor as the alliance announced the first list of nominees for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.
The alliance of Akhilesh

Yadav's and Jayant Chaudhary's parties, which was stitched last year, on Thursday announced candidates on 29 seats - 10 from the SP and 19 from the RLD - in western Uttar Pradesh which will go to polls on February 10.

These seats across districts like Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Aligarh, Agra, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Hapur, Ghaziabad were largely won by the BJP candidates in the 2017 elections but have now seen a considerable influence of the recent farmers' agitation and changing caste equations.

'The criteria for ticket distribution have been a candidate's background. Of the candidates announced by the RLD today, no one has a criminal background. They are all educated and qualified candidates having a good connect with the people of their region. None of our candidate is an outsider. All belong to the assembly seat where they are contesting the

Sandip Chaudhary told PTI. He added that party lead-ers have held campaigns and panchayats in recent months which has led the RLD to also take decisions on the basis of 'public feedback''.

election," RLD spokesperson

Chaudhary also highlighted that the recent agitation of farmers against the four contentious central farm laws, which have now been repealed, have dented the BJP's prospects in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the western region.

"The farmers are unhappy. The Muslim community is also unhappy with the BJP. The people have realised the BJP's false promises and false dreams it had shown to them last time," he claimed.

As the tickets were announced, Samajwadi Party spokesperson Abbas Haider said the alliance of his party

and the RLD has a "definite influence" in western part of Uttar Pradesh.

On distribution of tickets, Haider told PTI, "Winnability of a candidate is the first criteria for ticket distribution in the alliance. The party workers are also being kept in mind

during the process. The atmosphere in the region is against the BJP and that is evident as people across sectors have come out in support of the SP-RLD alliance," he

claimed. Of the 29 seats on which the alliance announced candidates Thursday, the Samajwadi Party's Nahid Hasan had won the 2017 polls from Kairana and Rafeeq Ansari from Meerut and the party has repeated both the candidates

Sahender Singh Ramala was the only RLD candidate who won the party a seat in the last elections. He had won from the Chhaprauli seat in Baghpat district, once considered a party stronghold. The 2022 candidate from the seat is yet to be announced.

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

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

(Abhishek) has said."

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

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

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

make statements commensurate to the party policy.

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

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

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

PNS M KOLKATA

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

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

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

ruling Trinamool Congress.
"Even the Union Railway

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

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

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

### Bengal BJP dissolves all departments, cells

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

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

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

The announcement was made days after Union

leader from the politically powerful Matua community, quit the party's WhatsApp groups amid disappointment over the newly-formed state office bearers' committee. Last month, five MLAs

Minister Shantanu Thakur, a

had left the WhatsApp groups in protest after being dropped from the committee. A senior state BJP leader

said dissolving the departments and cells is a usual process in the party after a new president takes over. "Whenever a new president

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

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

#### Over 3L take holy dip at Gangasagar on Makar Sankranti

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

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

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

They also offered prayers at the Kapil Muni temple here.

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

The district administraproceedings to a great extent and most of the pilgrims followed the instructions, an offi-

"We didn't allow anyone without RT-PCR test and double vaccination certification this time. The screening was done at all embarkation points, including Kolkata's Babughat and South 24 Parganas' Namkhana and Lot 8. As of now, an estimated 3.5 lakh pilgrims took the

holy dip," he said. According to Hindu Calendar, the holy dip on Makar Sankranti is scheduled from 6.02 am on Friday and will continue till 6 am on Saturday.

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

#### **COVID BULLETIN**

### 'No shortage of vaccines in Maha' Union Health Ministry scotches media reports on scarcity of jabs

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

Alluding to media reports stating that the State Government was unable to increase the pace of vaccination

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

'As per their weekly consumption data available on Co-WIN, the average con-sumption by Maharashtra for Covaxin to cover the eligible beneficiaries for 15-17 years and for precaution dose is almost 2.94 lakh doses per day. Therefore, the State has

adequate vaccine doses for about 10 days to cover the eligible beneficiaries with Covaxin," the Health Ministry

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

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

doses with Maharashtra," the

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Noting that the PM was also apprised about measures initiated to ramp up the medical infrastructure, he said, "I

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief sought the central assistance to raise the oxygenated beds and The Prime Minister gave

instructions on making all preparations based on the experience of the first and second wave of Covid, as the pandemic is expected to peak in February, the CM said. During the third wave over

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

Union government has suggested ramping up testing, purchase of ambulances and improving medical infrastructure under the Rs 32,000 crore package it has provided. PTI | declared a partial shut down

### Kerala, TN see surge in Covid-19 cases in 24 hours

**CHENNAI** ■ KOCHI

A black Pongal for Tamil Nadu and a black Friday for Kerala. That's how doctors in the two States described the status of pandemic in the two southern States. While the number of people diagnosed with Covid-19 shot up to 23,459 in Tamil Nadu during the last 24 hours (out of 1.5 lakh samples tested), Kerala registered 16,338 cases on Friday. The death toll in Kerala reached 50, 568 while Tamil Nadu's Department of Health Directorate said the number of victims succumbed to the pandemic till date reached 36,956. Tamil Nadu Government,

shocked over the spurt in the

number of Covid-19 cases have

tightened the rules and

and Colleges have been asked to stick to online classes till further notice taking into account the warning issued by the Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association. The Kerala Government in

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



fact that Uddhav -- who has been recouping from the cervical spine surgery that he underwent at HN Reliance Hospital here on November 12 - did not attend the Covid-19 review meeting through video conferencing called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, owing to health rea-

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Talking to media persons at Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, State BJP president Chandrakant Patil said: "The State Health Minister has

said that the chief minister did not attend the Covid-19 review meeting called by the Prime Minister as he cannot sit at one place for two to two and a half hours. That being the case, Uddhav Thackeray should

hand over the chief minister's

responsibility to someone else

in the party till recovers fully

Uddhav should delegate powers if he is not well: BJP

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

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

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

be taken more seriously," the state chief said.

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

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

such recognition". Patil had made a similar demand that Uddhav should step aside from his chief minister's post till he recovers fully from his

cervical spine surgery that he underwent at HN Reliance Hospital two months ago.

The reiteration of his demand by Patil comes a week after the a BJP social media functionary Jiten Gajaria had sparked a controversy by putting out an "objectionable" tweet

describing Maharashtra chief

minister Uddhav Thackeray's

wife Rashmi Thackeray as

"Marathi Rabri Devi" .

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

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

### Stepping up

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

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

> need to be sweeping because some provisions related to classes of offences, legal procedures, the quantum of punishment and principles of criminal jurisprudence have not seen changes in decades.

The IPC, drafted in 1860, has seen only 77 amendments to date, 37 of them coming after Independence. The CrPC has amended 18 times between 1974 and 2014. Social progress and technology upgradation mean these laws need to be modernised to keep pace with the times. New types of punishments, with restorative and reformative justice in mind, need to be introduced into the Indian

system. Principled sentencing is the need of the hour on the procedural side to ensure that different sentences for crimes of similar nature do not have major variations. The Government has to explain how it wants to give the reforms a 'people-centric' push. For, in democratic parlance, it means having suitable procedures in place to quickly identify the reasons for victimisation and reforming laws to uphold the rights of victims of crime. The extant laws of Macaulay's time are tuned to serve the interests of the Crown. They need to be oriented towards people — once the victims of colonial rule who, after Independence, became the victims of colonial laws. They need to enjoy the benefits of victim protection schemes and victim participation in criminal trials, compensation and restitution schemes for victims. Victim advocacy and human rights are the thrust points. But that will not amount to much without the fundamental tightening of the mental resolve to tackle crime: One, political non-interference in the roles of crime investigation agencies; two, a change in the attitude of the police towards complainants; and, three, no external pressures on the police.



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

## **Rough & tumble**

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

Iith just about a month to go for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, scheduled to be held in seven phases between February 10 and March 7, there are significantly noticeable rumblings in the electoral playfield. Three Ministers in Yogi Adityanath's Cabinet (Labour & Employment Minister Swami Prasad Maurya, Environment Minister Dara Singh Chauhan, Ayush Minister Dharam Singh Saini, besides legislators Roshanlal Verma, Brijesh Prajapati, Bhagwati Saran Sagar, Mukesh Verma, Vinay Shakya, Bala Prasad Awasthi and Avtar Singh Bhadana) have resigned in three days, and there is high probability that they may join the Samajwadi Party in the com-



ing days. In fact, Saini warned the party that "every day till January 20, a Minister and two-three MLAs will resign from the BJP". So far, a total of 14 lawmakers, including the three Ministers, have signaled their exit from the BJP since the poll schedule was announced on January 8. All the major political parties in the fray in the politically significant State the SP, Congress, BSP and the AIMIM — are contesting separately and the BJP was hopeful that it would easily breast the tape yet again against a splintered Opposition.

Though Assembly elections are going to be held in five States, seen as a template for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, all eyes are on UP. Only a few months back, everything was going well for the UP Chief Minister. Backed by PM Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath seemed unstoppable and ready to return to power, but sudden large-scale desertions have hit his Government and image hard. The recent resignations have dented the BJP's efforts at consolidating the Hindu vote, which helped it win in 2014, 2017 and 2019. The formula was built around the BJP's strategy of social engineering, a concept perpetuated by former general secretary and ideologue K Govindacharya, but it appears to be wearing off now. Needless to say, the recent developments are quite comforting to the Opposition camp, and the satraps would likely enter the humdinger of the electoral battlefield with renewed zest and vigour.

Meanwhile, the saffron party would need a lot more than its social engineering for-

mula and development slogans to keep its ship stable and on course. This is where

the experience of poll-hardened veterans, including the Modi-Shah masterminds, could

come in handy. Alas, time is not exactly a friend of the BJP this time.

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



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

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

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

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

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

One would have expected that the fanatics who attacked the Capitol and unleashed utter mayhem there would belong to the very fringes of American society. Surprisingly, that was deliberately by Nonnot the case, as a study by the University of Chicago's 'Project found much traction not just

on Security and Threats' found. Of those who have been arrested thus far, "over half were business owners, CEOs and from white-collar occupations. Over a quarter had college degrees and only a third had criminal records, while 13 per cent belonged to extreme right-wing militia groups". It concluded that the mob was overwhelmingly White Non-Latinos, in ages between 35-50 years and the vast majority had come from pockets of Trump supporters in districts and States that were either majority Democrat or had swung towards the Democrats.

The most interesting aspect of the study was the revelation that the single most important motivation for those who participated in the insurrection was their belief in the "Great Replacement Theory". A conspiracy theory first propounded in France by author Renaud Camus in which white nationalists claimed that the French white population was being demographically and culturally replaced European peoples. It has



THE FEAR OF

THE UNKNOWN **OBLITERATES ALL REASONING AND BRINGS OUT A PURELY EMOTIONAL** RESPONSE. WHAT MOST PEOPLE **OVERLOOK IS** THAT WHILE IT IS RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO START A FIRE, THE CONFLAGRATION UNSCATHED

in France but also in other European nations and in the United States and New Zealand. In America, it has come to be seen as the Non-Latino White population being replaced by Blacks, Hispanics and People of Colour. In essence, a growing fear of losing their privi-leged and entitled position in society that the colour of their skin provided.

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

that have recently gone further in propagating even more radical views than this.

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

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

#### LETTERS ITO IT

#### **PASSENGER SAFETY JUST FOR MANUALS?**

Sir —Since the derailment of Seemanchal Express in February 2019 in Bihar where six people lost their lives, and the curtailment of the railways due to COVID-19, the Railways was trying hard to renew its claims of safety and development. Just at that moment, at least seven people were killed and over 40 injured after 12 coaches of the Bikaner-Guwahati Express derailed in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. The people are unable to digest the claim that due to the pandemic, there were fewer passengers on board the train. It seems to be a wrong statement by the officials concerned. There were 550 passengers in the affected coaches and 1,100 passengers in

the train; so, it's not less. Moreover, it's 2022 and still these trains are using IFC coaches instead of LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches. Instead of inaugurating stations after stations, there's a pressing need to develop the rail compartments first. The silver lining amid the tragedy was to see about 50 ambulances reaching the spot in no time at such a remote place, also thanks in no small measure to locals for a quick helping hand and all parties for overcoming petty politics and joining hands to help the passengers. It shows that our medical system and coordination improved. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and praying for early recovery of

**Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee** | Faridabad

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

#### Allay fears of the workforce



ith the surge in COVID cases, the migrant workforce from other States is in the grip of fear as they had bitter experiences of the previous lockdown. They should not be left in lurch and it is expected of the authorities concerned to step forward and allay their fears as some of them have already started trickling homeward. Some reports indicate that labourers from Delhi and the NCR as well as the port hubs of Mumbai and Kolkata are getting infected

slightest chance.

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

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

#### **AMBIDEXTROUS BOWLERS**

Sir - While cricket has seen a lot of innovations over the years like coloured clothing, emergence of T20 format, introduction of pink ball, etc, ambidextrous bowling is something that hasn't made its way yet into the game. But being an ambidextrous bowler, and more so a fast bowler, is highly challenging and far more demanding in terms of physical fitness because the bowler needs to rewire his body very often durand returning to their native towns in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. On January 1, PM Narendra Modi said India would not allow the pandemic to adversely impact the economic development, suggesting that India would not enforce another lock-

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

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

ing the game. Across cricketing nations, only five cricketers have so far tested out ambidextrous bowling - Akshay Karnewar (India), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Yasir Jan (Pakistan), Shaila Sharmin (Bangladesh) and Jemma

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

international cricket. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

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





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

**Pak Defence Minister** —Pervez Khattak

Jab iski shakal dekhi thi na, mujhe nahi laga tha ye bachcha kar paega (to

comedienne Bharti Singh's husband Haarsh)

— Mithun Chakraborty



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

South Africa head coach -Mark Boucher

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



-Narottam Mishra

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister

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### **FIRST COLUMN SEARCHING FOR ANTIDOTE TO COMMUNAL HATE**

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



JAGDISH KAUR

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



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

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

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

## Mahatma Gandhi an ecological economist?



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

ndia was earlier known for its flourishing trade in spices and textiles, along with precious metal and stone.

AfterIndependence, India inherited an economy that was one of the poorest in the world with no industrial base and mostlydevastated land deprived of forest and fertility. The Britishleft a poor base for the already developed handicraftsuniver-sally acclaimed for their quality and craftsmanship.

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

seven lakh villages" thereforethe economic and social revival of these villages is a pre-condition for reconstruction of India. He wanted to make the villages selfsufficient and build a rural economy which is not solely based on agriculture and allied activities but also has strong rural industries thereby generating employment for the villagers.
Gandhi once said, "If the village per-

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

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

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

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

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

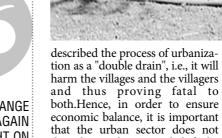


CLIMATE CHANGE HAS ONCE AGAIN SHED LIGHT ON **GANDHI'S** PHILOSOPHY OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MADE THE WORLD REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTISING A LIFESTYLE THAT HAS MINIMAL **ENVIRONMENTAL** IMPACT. THESE **PRINCIPLES REMAIN THE** DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ALL THE **UN'S CLIMATE**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

SUSTAINABLE

DEVELOPMENT

**GOALS** 



greatly undermine the ecological fabric on which millions depend. Therefore, to increase the productivity, we should avoid indiscriminate use and non-selective adoption of imported technology. He foresaw that the development of  $small\text{-}scale\ technology\ could\ boost$ efficiency in rural production without displacing rural labour andadvocated an appropriate technological mix with controlled production

to maximise the social benefits of science and technology and to

maintain a proper balance between

man and environment.

drainthe rural sectorand shift the

focus from centralization to decen-

tralization. He argued, that a tech-

nologically sophisticated economy

will have two major consequences:

it would disempower the econom-

ic autonomy of the masses and

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

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

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

among people.

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

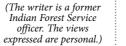
**MOLOY GHATAK** 

between rich and poor, and proved inadequate to address the issues of inadequate to address the inadequate the inadequate to address the inadequate the inadequ nourished children, etc.

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

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

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



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





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

## Poisonous tobacco products must be made unaffordable

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

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

There have been no major tobacco tax increases after the GST council placed tobacco products in the 28 per cent bracket in 2017. The option of tax increase on tobacco products gives the government a golden opportunity to raise badly required finances. Remember, lower taxes increase the affordability of



KIRIT BHAI SOLANKI

(The writer is a medical

practitioner and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.

The views expressed

tobacco consumers, especially teenagers and children. The Union Government has the option of hiking the excise duty and NCCD in the annual budget while the GST Council can increase the cess. This will ensure India has optimal tobacco taxation as mandated by WHO.

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

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



kills more than 13 lakh Indians annually. At a global level, eight million deaths are reported people every year. Overseven million deaths are due to direct use of tobacco while the rest are caused by passive smokers exposed to the poisonous smoke. As per the data of GYTS (Global Youth Tobacco Survey) in 2019, nearly one-fifth of the stu-

dents aged 13-15 have used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life. Clearly, consumption of tobacco isnot just about one's health at the individual level, but a societal problem we face nationally

Tobacco taxes and, therefore, the prices have to be increased regularly, so as to significantly reduce the affordability over a period of time. This was the practice in the pre-GST era with additional options of the states adding VAT. Tobacco taxes and prices have not been increased enough over time to reduce the affordability of these products resulting in more numbers of consumers getting addicted. A long, four-year gap of no tax increase has tobacco companies share prices eases (CVDs) - nearly 4,49,844

soaring on the one hand, and on the other, we see rampant consumption leading to more deaths and spread of dreaded diseases. The tobacco industry may have its reason to look the other way, but the government has no such option.

The annual economic cost from all tobacco products is estimated to be Rs 177.341 crores in 2017-18 amounting to more than one per cent of India's GDP. This will continue to grow in the post-Covid era and the next GATS report will surely point out the alarming rise of casualties. In a country like India, an estimated 1.3 million deaths are accounted for by tobacco abuse. As per WHO data, the most common way tobacco kills isthrough cardiovascular dis-

deaths such deaths occurred in India as of 2018. The high prevalence of non-communicable diseases due to tobacco use is posing a huge challenge to the country's response to Covid-19 management, amplifying India's health burden in such difficult times

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

I am sure that the listening posts in the Ministry will convey the right message to the

Minister and also work out the modalities of tax rationalization which mandates that a sin product sale needs to be limited and citizens be protected. We are especially talking about children and teens who are major contributors to our econ-A resilient healthcare sys-

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

### **Rich nations dump near expiry Covid jabs** on poor countries

IANS LONDON

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

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

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

The programme faced challenges in accessing doses early last year, but situation significantly improved towards end of 2021 with wealthier countries releasing doses they were hold-

ing. According to provisional tracking by UNICEF, about 910 million doses were delivered through UN-backed initiative as of December 30. Nearly half of doses delivered in Décember came from three US-backed vaccine manufacturers: Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer.

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

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

#### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.) Durg, Dated: 07.01.2022

e-Procurement Tender Notice

1st Call

	ne tenders in form "A" percentage rate on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated	
NIT Name of work		P.A.C.
No.		(Rs. In lacs.)
DED/ODEDO	CD/MOW/Denseit/ Denseystian in Essential works	105.00

No.  SS3/90590 SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential word of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Durg Division Durg		P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
		195.00
354/90591	54/90591 SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Bemetara Division Bemetara	
355/90592	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Balod Division Balod	195.00
356/90593	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Sub Division No 1 & 2 Rajnandgaon	175.28
357/90594	857/90594 SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Sub Division A.Chowki	
358/90595	SPECIAL REPAIR OF CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD AT GUNDERDEHI ARJUNDA ODARSAKRI AMTI ROAD IN KM 6/4 TO, 6/8(60) = 460 M (ODARSAKARI VILLAGE) KM 8/10 TO 9/4(70) =470M (CHICHA VILLAGE) & 11/6 TO 11/10(80) = 480 M ( BHILAI - VILLAGE), BLOCK- GUNDERDEHI	87.35
359/90597	SR/MOW/Deposit/ Rennovation in Essential works of Non Residential Quarters under P.W.D. Khairagarh Division Khairagarh	195.00

1. NIT No 353 are under Public Works Department Durg Division, NIT No 354 are under Public Works Department Bemetara Division, NIT No 355,358 are under Public Works Department Balod Division, NIT No. 356,357 are under Public Works Department Rajnandgaon Division, NIT

No 359 are under Public Works Department Khairagarh Division. General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web rtal or departmental website http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in.

3. NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the

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### PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

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Paryatan Vihar Co-operative Group Housing Society also known as Paryatan Vihar, Plot no.B-8 Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-96 having a registered partnership firr NGP000002179, is registered with SEE acquired by Relinquishment Deed dated 13.12.2021 (registration No. 10142) executed by Vijay Singh Bisht, Subhash Singh Bisht, Savitri Bisht & Kiran Negi legal heirs of Late NGP000002179, is registered with SEBI sa an investment Advisor under the SEBI (Investment Advisor) Regulation, 2013 from 06-05-2016. After doing a detail business evaluation, the firm has decided to surrender its Investment Advisor License on 20-08-2020. There are no outstanding or pending investment advisory mandates as on 31-03-2020. In view of the same, if any one has any grievance, they can inform the grievance with us at mohit@profitgate.in or SEBI scores.gov.in Baldev Singh Bisht
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Category of intermediary: Investment

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13 January 2022

#### APPENDIX IV A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation a Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been take by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is" as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 17.02.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery o Rs. 22,10,384/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four only) Pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNDA00341973 by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and nterest till 11.01.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.01.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from AKASH TIWARI and RAKHI TIWARI.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour o INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 32180585427 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balanc of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES) P.NO. B-152, UGF (REAR SIDE/EASTERN PORTION), BLOCK-B, VISHWAS

PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, PIN-110059, NEW DELHI. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com and

www.auctionfocus.in **Authorized Office** Date: 11.01.2022

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Place: NEW DELHI

### **UK PM faces fresh 'partygate'** allegations at Downing Street

 $B_{\text{Johnson on Friday faced}}^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Boris}}$ mounting leadership pressure amid further allegations of parties

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

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

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

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

It is understood that a call from the Prime Minister's office was made to the Palace on Friday. Restrictions at the time banned indoor mixing between different households and Queen Elizabeth II sat alone during the church ceremony for her late husband in keeping with social distancing rules. "This event should not

that it did. I am deeply sorry, and take full responsibility, said James Slack, the UK Prime Minister's former Director of Communications, at the centre of the farewell that led to the party last April.

Slack, now deputy editor-in-chief at 'The Sun' newspaper, apologised"unreservedly for the anger and hurt caused". While Prime Minister Johnson was not at either of the two gatherings in April 2021 as he was spending the weekend at his Buckinghamshirecountry estate Chequers, the latest rev-

elations add to the saga around

rules being broken at the heart

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

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

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

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY** E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under

sir	igle packet system for the under noted work:				
1	work modification work	erection, testing & commissioning of 25 Kv ac OHt crequired in connection with augmentation of homin sZB from 200 to 225 Locomotives.			
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs.2036062.22			
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.40800/-			
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	23.01.2022 (00.00 Hrs.) to 07.02.2022 (15.00 Hr			
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	07.02.2022 (15.00 hrs.)			
6	Fund Allocation	21426203			
7	Website particulars wher complete details of tende documents can be seen	r www.ireps.gov.in			
E-	Tender No.: 16-TRD-NDLS-	2021-22 Dated : 14.01.2022 95/2023			
	Sorving	Customore With A Smile			

#### ) NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ er Notice Number: PUB/AF/Zone-III/2022/01

E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Comme Manager, North Central Railway, Agra invites e-tender on prescribed forms under single packet system for the period of 05 years from the interested parties for the following works. Details of tenders to be awarded:

e-tender No.	Description of work	Area and type of media for commercial Publicity	of contract for	of Contract fo
PUB/ AF/ Zone-III/ 2022/01	Commercial Publicity Advertisement Contract at Agra Fort. Railway Station Zone-III (PF No. 01 side Circulating Area Boundary wall)	ANNEXURE-	1,97,760/-	10,50,106/-

Earnest Money (in ₹): 21,100/-, Cost of Tender Form (Including GST) 2360/-, Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 10.02.2022. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway websi "www.ireps.gov.in". Tender can only be submitted through web portal

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



DP/698/SHD/22

way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address

Rawat (Director), Sandeep Rawat (Director), Sushil Kaushik (Director), Bhawna Kaushik (Director), Sandeep Rawat, Sanjay Rawat, Sushil Kaushik, Puja rawat, Sanjay Rawat, A/s No. 777705790029

Progen Sas Technologies India Private Limited, sanjay Rawat (Director), Puja

A/c No:- 777705790029

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of female Age: Approx. 62 years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Identification: A small cut mark on face, wearing pink colour saree, cream colour blouse and cream colour jersey, was found

dead on 05.01.2022 at T-16/19, Safeda Jhuggi Parking, Near Shamshan Ghat Picket, Geeta Colony, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 21-A dated 05.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

> SHO - P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-22506665, 9813813768

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by

them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by

Asset to be Enforced

BQ- 58 Shalimar Bagh, Sarawati Vihar, Delhi- 110088

### Rishi Sunak: British PM in waiting? PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

If the Tory party murmurings and bookie betting odds are anythingto go by, then the 41-year-old may well be in line to make historyas Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister. "No, definitely not. Seeing what the Prime Minister has to deal with, this is a job hard enough for me to do," Sunak said back in

EASTERN RAILWAY

-Tender No.: W2 623 16 Br17A-SDAF

21-22, dated 14.01.2022. e-Tender is

invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Eastern

Railway, Kolkata from reputed & eligible

contractors for the under mentioned work

Name of the work: Construction/rebuil-

ng of Bridge No. 17A (Jalangi Bridge (Span 1x18.3m composite girder + 1x45.7m

open web girder +2x76.2m open web girde

+1x30.3m open web girder) on Up line in

between Krishnanagar & Bahadurpur

station of Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of

Sealdah Division. Approximate Cost of

the work: Rs. 55,82,23,782.13. Earnes

Money Deposit: Rs. 29.41.100/-. Date &

Time of closing of tender: 09.02.2022

at 15.00 hrs. The details of tender docu

www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested

to submit their offer online on the abov

ebsite. No manual offer will be accepted

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway

Eastern Railway Headquarter

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that SI. Amit Gupta (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagory/Borrowers) is intending to purchase the Entire Third Floor (With Roof Rights) "Said Floor" (Property Bearing No. 264 area measuring 185 Sq. yds., Block- B, Sitauted in the Layout Plan of the Govt School leachers Co- Operative House Building Soxiety Ltd. Known as Saraswati Whar, Pitampura Delhi- 110034 (hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mrs. Daya Gupta and Mr. Wijay Gupta, who are the owners of above the said moperty by way of Sale Deed dated 19.02.2016 Doc No. 2170 and Gift Deed dated 05.02.2021 Doc No. 1750 and Now, Sh. Amit Cupfalas agreed to create mortgage in respect of the

Amit Cuptahas agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and /or objection in respect

of or against or relating to or touching upon said property o part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien

part of the property by way of sale, exchange, fease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, lestamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or such person shall be considered to have been waived and or the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or Wichiett is case anyone has any objections the same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudiir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertias. Unit no 907, 9° Floor, GD-11. Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-11 0034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M)

Date of Notice Sent/

Outstanding as on Date of Notice

11/12/2021 Rs. 22,09,705.75/- 31/08/

MISC-181/2021-22

nents are available at website https:/

October 2020, when asked if he had prime ministerial ambitions. But a lot has happened since, with Sunak leading the charge for the country's economic fightback against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

ly come to a leadership scrum. In fact, there is already

talk within the party ranks of him having overplayed his hand by not speaking out more firmly in support of 57-year-old Johnson, fol-

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

#### **CHINA EXPANDING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Chinese companies with reported links to government continue to draw global scrutiny for their data collection practices, the HRW report said. March 2021 marked fifth

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

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

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

The dam was a BRI project funded mainly by a Chinesestate owned bank and built by a Chinese-state owned electricity generation company. China Labour Watch, an NGÓ, reported, in April, that overseas Chinese workers working on BRI infrastructure projects in Algeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, and other countries were victims of human trafficking and forced labour, including being deceived into working illegally, held against their will, and

forced to work while infected with Covid-19 in early and mid-2020. China is by far largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally, making a major contribution to climate crisis that is taking a mounting toll

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

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

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

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

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

The UK Parliament passed a non-binding motion supporting a diplomatic boycott of Games. Members of European Parliament halted EU's proposed Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China, citing human rights concerns, and freezing consideration of deal for as long as they are subject to Beijing's counter sanctions. In September, they also adopted a recommendation for a new, more assertive, and better coordinated EU strategy on China, placing human rights at

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

IANS LONDON

Meta (formerly Facebook) is facing a \$3.1 billion class-action lawsuit in the UK over allegedly abusing its market dominance and if the lawsuit succeeds nearly 44 million British Facebook users could receive a \$68 payout each. Competition law expert

brought the class-action lawsuit against Facebook's parent firm Meta at the UK's Competition Appeal Tribunal, Daily Mail reported on Thursday. The lawsuit claims that

Dr Liza Lovdahl Gormsen has

Facebook should pay its 44 million UK users compensation for the exploitation of their data between 2015 and 2019. "It is claimed this allowed

the firm to generate billions in revenues from their data, while users received no monetary returns, which the claim labels an 'unfair deal', said the report. The lawsuit alleged that

Facebook made billions by "imposing unfair terms and conditions that demanded consumers surrender valuable personal data to access the net-"In the 17 years since it was

created, Facebook became the sole social network in the UK where you could be sure to connect with friends and family in one place," Gormsen said in a statement. 'Yet, there was a dark side

to Facebook; it abused its market dominance to impose unfair terms and conditions on ordinary Britons giving it the power to exploit their personal data. I'm launching this case to

secure billions of pounds of damages for the 44 million Britons who had their data exploited by Facebook," she elaborated. Dr Gormsen is a Senior Research Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) and the director of the Competition Law Forum.

#### Capitol Hill attack: House panel raps Meta, YouTube, Twitter

**IANS** ■ WASHINGTON

Disappointed after months of engagement, a US House panel has slammed YouTube parent company Alphabet, Meta (formerly Facebook), online discussion forum Reddit and Twitter for failing to provide additional information on how those platforms were used to organise violent events at the US Capitol on January 6 last year.

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced that the Select Committee has issued subpoenas to four social media companies as part of its investigation into the January 6 attack on the US Capitol and its causes.

After inadequate responses to prior requests for infor-mation, the Select Committee is demanding records from Alphabet, Meta, Reddit, and Twitter relating to the spread of misinformation, efforts to overturn the 2020 election, domestic violent extremism, and foreign influence in the 2020 election.

"Two key questions for the Select Committee are how the spread of misinformation and violent extremism contributed to the violent attack on our democracy, and what steps "if any" social media companies took to prevent their platforms from being breeding grounds for radicalising people to vio-lence," said Chairman Thompson.

It's disappointing that after months of engagement, "we still do not have documents and information necessary to answer those basic questions". Alphabet's YouTube was a platform for significant communications by its users that were relevant to planning and execution of January 6 attack on US Capitol, including livestreams of attack as it was taking place, according to panel.

### N Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles: Seoul

IANS ■ SEOUL

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

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

It detected one of the

missiles at 2.41 p.m and the other at 2.52 p.m. The missiles flew at top speed of around Mach 6, six times the speed of sound, according to

The intelligence authorities of South Korea and the US are conducting a detailed analysis for more information, the JCS said.

The North's latest firing marks its third show of force this year. The North fired what it claimed to be hypersonic missiles on January 5 and Tuesday. South Korea's military is

monitoring related North Korean movements and maintaining a firm readiness posture, the JCS said. Earlier in the day,

Pyongyang issued the warning after Washington slapped the sanctions on six North Koreans involved in the regime's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the US Indo-

Pacific Command said that it is aware of the missile launches, but assessed they do "not pose an immediate threat to American personnel or territory or to our allies".

#### The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Date : January 15, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

## **WPI** inflation eases to 13.56% in Dec

### RBI may hold rates steady in Feb

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data released earlier this week showed, retail inflation

area coverage by 4.26 lakh hectare as farmers shifted to

oilseeds, mustard and rapeseed

crops keeping in view of high-

decline in wheat sowing is a

matter of concern as the gov-

ernment has expected good

wheat crops keeping in mind of

normal to above normal rain-

19.82 lakh hectare area against

24.33 lakh hectare of last year,

which is decreased by 4.50

lakh hectare. The area coverage

under Pulses reported to be at 160.20 lakh hectare against

160.13 lakh hectare last year, an

increase by 0.07 lakh hectare.

under Coarse Cereals is 47.82

lakh hectare against 48.91 lakh

hectare last year which is

marginally decreased in area

coverage by 1.09 lakh ha in the

Area coverage reported under Oilseeds 100.27 lakh

hectare area against 82.34 lakh

hectare area of last year, thus

significantly increase in area

coverage by 17.93 lakh ha. In

Oilseeds mainly significant

increased area coverage has

been recorded under Rapeseed

compared to corresponding period of last year 72.93 lakh

hectare, thus area coverage

Area coverage reported

Rice reported to be sown at

According to officials,

er minimum support price.

based on Consumer Price Index (Combined) rose to 5.59 per cent in December, from 4.91 per cent a month ago as food prices inched up.

Chief Economist Aditi Nayar, said the food inflation has spiked from the marginal 0.1 per cent in October 2021, to an unpleasant 23-month high of 9.6 per cent in December 2021, reflecting the unfavourable base particularly for vegetables.

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

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

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

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

Announcing the schedule,

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

the WEF said 'Davos Agenda

2022' will be the first global

platform for key world leaders

to share their visions for 2022

and it is being convened on the theme of 'The State of the

#### Bank credit grows 9.16%, deposits up 10.28%

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

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

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

### Rupee slumps 25 paise to 74.15 per US dollar

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

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

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent down at 94.78.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.01 per cent to USD 85.32 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 12.27 points or 0.02 per cent lower at 61,223.03, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 2.05 points or 0.01 per cent to

in the capital market on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹ 1,390.85 crore,

as per exchange data.

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

position unwinding in rupee. Rupee can be seen in the range of 74.00 to 74.50, he added. "The Indian Rupee depreciated on Friday as foreign banks continued to cover their dollar short positions," said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance

On a weekly basis, the rupee appreciated 19 paise against the dollar. rupee appreciated for the fourth straight week against the US currency, tracking gains in most regional currencies amid a persistent drop in the dollar

"The Rupee was also helped by corporate dollar sales, trade-related selling, fund flows and rumours of intervention from the Reserve Bank of India," Iyer said.

### No impact of Covid on rabi crop sowing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Agriculture on Friday showed a total area sown under Rabi crops is 664.59 lakh hectare so far as against 656.44 lakh hectare area last year, an increase in total Rabi area coverage by 8.15 lakh hectare, which is clear a indication that there was no impact of the third wave of Covid-19. Though rainfall has affected some Rabi crops in Madhya Pradesh (48871 hectare), Rajasthan (69375 hectare), Úttar Pradesh (111700 hectare), Haryana (97676 hectare), Maharashtra (5276 hectare) and Tripura (13542 hectare).

"There has been no impact of the pandemic on farm operations and total acreages are expected to exceed last year's levels if current sowing trends holds," said officials. In 2020-21, when India faced a rare recession due to the pandemic, agriculture was the only sector to post positive growth of about 3.1%

This helped keep farm incomes steady. Higher fertiliser subsidies, raised by ?14,000 crore during the summer-sown season, kept farm The data showed wheat

sown at 336.48 lakh hectare against 340.74 lakh hectare area of last year, a decrease in

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

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

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

Gold imports expanded by 5.43 per cent to USD 4.72 billion. During April-December 2021-22, exports rose 49.66 per cent to USD 301.38 billion. Imports during the period surged 68.91 per cent to USD 443.82 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 142.44 billion, the data showed. The trade deficit in December 2020 was USD 15.72 billion. 'Merchandise exports in December 2021 were USD 37.81 billion, as compared to USD 27.22 billion in December 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 38.91 per cent. As compared to De exports in December 2021 exhibited a positive growth of 39.47 per cent," the commerce increased by 17.52 lakh hectare. | ministry said in a statement.

### Benchmarks snap 5-session rally as bulls take a breather

scheduled for early summer.

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

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

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

The market breadth was negative, with 18 declines and

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Savita Devi who is purchasing the Plot of

land admeasuring 75 Sq. Yds., carved out of Khasra No.1106min, situated in the

revenue estate of Village Baraula, Paragna

Budh Nagar (U.P.) from Mr. Sanjeev Sharma owner vide of General Power of

Attorney dated 14.02.2003 executed by Mr

Navneet Sharma, and same to be financed &

mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance

type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said

property, may inform in writing, at the address

mentioned below, about his objections, withir

presumed that the said property is free from

Office No.G-03, at Ground Floor, on Plot No.D-61, Sector-2, Noida, UP-201301

LOST AND FOUND

I Surinder Kawatra, S/o Late Shri Ram Lal

Kawatra R/c 1 North Avenue Road West

Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi, have lost/nor

traceable my Original Power Of Attorney in

name of Sh Anil Kumar Sud, S/o Shri Har

Dass Sud Executed by Sh Tej Bahadur Lal.

S/o Late Sh Ishar Dass Manger No.3 Pil

Chinakuri Colliery, P.O. Sunderchak, P.S

Kutli, Distt: Burdwan, Dated:13.05.1964

attested by the Sub Registrar Asansol on

13.05.1964. If Found Please Call at Above

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the Residential Plot No. 188, Block-D, Sector-51, NOIDA has been allotted/

transfered in the name of Mrs. Zulekha W/o Mr.

Islam R/o 67/19, Pokharpurva, Jajmau Siwans,

Tenray, Kanpur Nagar, U.P. and Mrs. Zulekha W/o

Mr. Islam had executed a will on 17.05.2006 at Noida in favour of Mohammad Mustafa S/o

Mohammad Islam R/o G01, Ground Floor, Tower-E, Amrapali Sapphire, Sector-45, Noida,

District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., and Mrs. Zulekha W/o Mr. Islam has expired on 14.04.2021,

so with the help of the notice it is informed the

transfer of the above said plot goes in favour of

Mohd. Mustafa S/o Mr. Islam. If anyone has/have any objection he/she/they may submit his/her/their

objection in the residential plot department of

Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs

within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

number. 8459414760

Lucem Legal LLP

Contact # 0120-4130438

all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

12 advances. Indian market opened on a weak note following nervous-ness in global markets, however, it managed to erase most of its losses to close flat, supported by positive trends in IT, realty and healthcare sectors.

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

On a weekly basis, the Sensex surged 1,478.38 points, or 2.47 per cent, while the Nifty gained 443.05 points or 2.48 per cent. S Hariharan, Head-Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services, said, "Strong

क्र 287 / व.ले.लि / जि.ज.स्व.मि. / का.अ. / 2021 / महासमुन्द

guidance from many members of US FOMC about hiking interest rates in CY22, alongside continuing high inflation prints globally, make for an adverse flow environment for equities in general."

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

Sector-wise, BSE telecom, FMCG, healthcare, auto and bankex shed as much as 1.20 per cent, while capital goods, realty, industrials and IT posted gains. In the broader markets, the BSE smallcap and midcap indices spurted up to

दिनांक 14/1/2

अनुमानित

लागत

(रू. लाख में 🖰

49.21

48.66

43.22

47.94

46.53

48.89

68.49

53.22

76.68

55.70

81.84

79.30

69.40

93.50

64.67

93.83

61.34

85.93

217.17

कार्यपालन अभियंत

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासम्न

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)

E-mail id :- eemah-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone :- 07723-223731

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण स्चना

क़ीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अन्तर्गत समक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित

कार्य का नाम :– महासमुन्द जिले के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन अन्तर्गत

नेर्माण कार्य हेत् ऑनलाईन (online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

सिंगल विलेज / रेट्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजनाओं के समस्त कार्य ।

538/14-01-2022 90624 ग्राम डूमरडीह विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

540 / 14-01-2022 | 90600 | ग्राम कोटनपाली विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

542 / 14—01—2022 | 90602 | ग्राम कोटरीपानी विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

543 / 14—01—2022 | 90604 | ग्राम लामीसरार विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

545 / 14–01–2022 | 90606 | ग्राम सोनामृण्डी विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

546 / 14-01-2022 | 90607 | ग्राम करमापटपर विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

547 / 14—01—2022 | 90608 | ग्राम लोहराकोट विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

548 / 14—01—2022 | 90609 | ग्राम डोंगाझर विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

549 / 14—01—2022 | 90610 | ग्राम कोदोपाली विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

550/14-01-2022 | 90611 | ग्राम भरूवामुडा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

551/14-01-2022 | 90612 | ग्राम सुईनारा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

553 / 14—01—2022 | 90614 | ग्राम खेडीगांव विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

554 / 14—01—2022 | 90615 | ग्राम बडेटेमरी विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

555 / 14–01–2022 | 90616 | ग्राम लिमदरहा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

556/14—01—2022 | 90619 | ग्राम रामपुर विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

557 / 14—01—2022 | 90620 | ग्राम बरतुंगा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

558/14-01-2022 | 90621 | ग्राम देवलगढ़ विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

560 / 14—01—2022 | 90623 | ग्राम लोहारडीह विकासखण्ड महासमन्द

https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा

निविदा डाउनलोंड करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.02.2022 सायं 5.30 बजे तक तथा

वेज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई—प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल

559/14-01-2022 | 90622 | ग्राम बम्हनी विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

552/14-01-2022 | 90613 | ग्राम धनोरा विकासखण्ड पिथौरा

544/14-01-2022 | 90605 | ग्राम रोडा विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

539 / 14-01-2022 | 90599 | ग्राम बटोर विकासखण्ड बागबाहरा

#### Gold gains ₹93; silver up ₹59 on global trends

New Delhi: Gold price in the national Capital on Friday gained ₹ 93 to ₹47,005 per 10 grams, in line with a jump in prices of international precious metal along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹46,912 per 10 grams. Silver also jumped ₹ 59 to ₹61,005 per kg from ₹ 60,946 per kg in the previous trade. The Indian rupee declined by 26 paise to close at 74.16 against the US dollar on Friday. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,826 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.19 per ounce.

'Ōold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.21 per cent up at USD 1,826 per ounce on Friday," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. PTI

# Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd.JAIPUR.

नवीन ओखला औधोगिक विकास प्राधिकरण मुख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-06, नोएडा -: सार्वजनिक सुचना:-

सुचित किया जाता है कि मे॰एसोटेक रियल्टी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा संस्थागत भवन भूखंड संख्या 22, सेक्टर 135, नोएडा में कुल 7 टॉवर एवं रिटेल ब्लॉक-ए प्राधिकरण से दिनांक 29.10.2015 & दिनांक 29.11.2018 को स्वीकृत कराये गये थे, जिनमे से आवंटी संस्था द्वारा टॉवर 1, 2, 3 एवं ब्लॉक-ए का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 06.07.2016, टॉवर 7 का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 27.12.2016 तथा टॉवर 4 एवं 5 का अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र 15.03.2021 तक प्राप्त किया जा चुका है। वर्तमान में आवंटी संस्था द्वारा 1 टॉवर (टॉवर 6) के अधिभोग प्रमाण पत्र हेतु प्राधिकरण में आवेदन किया गया है। आवेदित मानचित्रो को प्राधिकारण की वेबसाइट www.noidaauthorityonline.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

आवंटी संस्था द्वारा जमा कराये गए अधिभोग मानचित्रो के सम्बन्ध में परियोजना के निवासियो / फ्लैट क्रेताओं से आपत्ति / सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि किसी व्यक्ति को प्राधिकरण में जमा कराये गए उक्त अधिभोग मानचित्रों के सम्बन्ध में कोई आपत्ति / सुझाव हो, तो विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर लिखित रूप में "महाप्रबंधक (नियोजन), मख्य प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-06, नोएडा" के कार्यालय में उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं अथवा इ-मेल के माध्यम से captpnoida@gmail.com पर प्रेसित कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित समयाविध के उपरांत प्राप्त आपत्ति / सुझावो पर विचार नहीं किया

अपर मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

#### Govt. of Bihar

ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT Office of the Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara SBD BASED DETAILED NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Through E-procurement mode Only Website: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

NIT No. RCD/Ara-11/2021-22

- 1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara 2. Date of issue of Notice inviting Tender 3. Period for download of Tender Document
- 4. Time Date & Place of Pre Bid Meeting
- 5. Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents by bidder
- 6. Last Date. Time & Place for submission

7. Date & Time & Place of opening of

Technical Bid

of original instrument of EMD and cost of

BOQ + processing fees.

: Date 12.01.2022 : From 25.01.2022 to 01.02.2022 up to 15.00 P.M.

(From Website: https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in )

: 27.01.2022 to 15.00 PM. Chief Engineer, South RCD, CDO Building, Bishweshwaria Bhawan Bailey Road, Patna

Date 02.02.2022 till time 15.00 P.M.

: Date-03.02.2022, Time-15.00P.M. or next working day of last date of uploading of tender document by the bidders as stated in above serial-5 Place of office of the

- (i) Executive Engineer, Shahabad Road Division, Ara. (i) Superintending Engineer, Bhojpur Road Circle, Ara
- (ii) Chief Engineer, South RCD, CDO Building, Bishweshwaria
- Date-04.02.2022, Time-15.30 P.M. or next working day of last date of uploading of tender document by the bidders as stated in

Bid

processing

fee (non

refundable!

(in Rs.)

5900.00

Time of

of work

in month

work

8

SBD

above serial-5. Place- on website- https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in 8. Details of works

Cost of

B.O.Q.

(in Rs.)

10000.00

Strengthening work from km 0.00 to 16.00 of Ara-Salempur Road for the year 2021-22 (RIDF

Widening &

before executing the agreement.

XXVII, NABARD) Bid Validity: 120 Days. 10. Any Contractor registered with the Central Government / any State Government or any PSU or an agency of international or national repute may participate in the tender, but registration with the Road Construction Department, Bihar will be essential after issue of L.O.A. and

Earnest

(in Lakh)

54.11

B.O.Q.

Amount

(in Lakh)

4410.74

11. Detailed NIT can be seen on web site state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar or https:// www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in or on the notice board of the office of the undersigned. For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

**Executive Engineer** Shahabad Road Division, Ara

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

नेविदा खुलने का दिनांक 09.02.2022।

R.o. No - 66885/8

R.o. Date - 14/01/2022

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 genera 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

Sr. No.	fine and the second second second second	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1.	Steni C Jacob/ Jeanne Poulose/ LBDEL00001932116	Apartment No E1601, Plot No- GH-12/2, Sec- Zeta-I, 16th Floor Avj Heights, Greater Noida Noida/ January 10, 2022	September 27,2021 Rs. 27,66,338/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Himanshu Agarwal/ Babita Agarwal/ LBNOD00001576633	Plot No 33/8-013 B- 13, Sector- 33, Noida/ January 10, 2022	October 05, 2021 Rs. 14,90,809/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	tish Kumar/ Rita Singh/ NOD00002385225 Flat No 508, 5th Floor Tower A10 Habitech Panchtatva Plot No Gh 08a Tech Zone IV Noida/ January 10, 2022		September 27, 2021 Rs. 37,13,215/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Manisha Khanna/ Ankur Khanna/ Door Devices India Pvt Ltd/ Neeraj Khanna/ LBNOD00003048485	Unit No H-301, Block H, Stellar Park Plot No 58/24 Sec- 62 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar/ January 10, 2022	September 28,2021 Rs. 62,87,501/-	Delhi/ NCR

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 15, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR

**Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited**  APPENDIX IV A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties -Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] "Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is" "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 17.02.2022 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 inutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 25,02,942/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two only) Pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLLAJ00487623 (Earlier being Loan Account No. 00044652 of DHFL). by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and terest till 11.01.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 12.01.2022 along with egal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ARPIT

KISHORE and SHIVANI KISHORE.

Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will and the Earnest Money Rs. 16,00,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh only) Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1.60,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Thousand only) .e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 32180585427 with State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0009995), having its branch at CAG Branch, Mumbai (Maharashtra), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)

PROPERTY BEARING NO. RZF -988/16 (STILT + UG+3 STOREY) LAND MEASURING AREA 250 SQ. YDS. I.E. 209.03 SQ. METERS KHASRA NO. 59/17/1 SITUATED AT REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE PALAM COLONY AS RAJ NAGAR-II PALAM COLONY NEW DELHI -110077 AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS

EAST :OTHER PROPERTY WEST :OTHER PROPERTY :ROAD 18 FEET NORTH :ROAD 20 FEET

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshome ww.auctionfocus.in

**Authorized Officer** Date: 11.01.2022

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Place: NEW DELHI

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

Bollywood It's amazing to see Atul Sabharwal's conviction

towards his writing and direction"



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

she inspired me so



#### **BHUMI PEDNEKAR**

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

#### **SHORTCIRCUITS**



**AMRITA TANGANIYA** 

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



#### **ANDREW GARFIELD**

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

#### **GEENA DAVIS**

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



## ONE STEP AT A TIME

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

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

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

she giggled.

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

ly doing this."

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

Further, while talking about *Grahan*, where Gabbi played the role



of Manu, she elaborates, "Grahan was.... the first show, the first promeeting, director Ranjan Chandel read paragraphs from the book Chaurasi/84 which touched my heart. He read out Manu and Rishi's love story which gave me goosebumps. While listening, Manu started seeming to be very beautiful and I got so excited that I would get to

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

play this character. And Ranjan, Anshuman... all of us started preparing for our characters and Ranjan sir helped all of us in getting in the skin and bringing out the minute details." *Galwakdi*, another Punjabi film

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

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

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

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

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

their devices at home. Both mediums will

He adds, "Being a massive film buff myself and having seen pretty much all aspects of filmmaking, I can say for sure that nothing can replace the immersive cinema experience and the joy & thrill that it brings along with it So yes movies

that it brings along with it. So yes, movies

get made – while some will be designed espe-

cially for home

"So, while

will run parallel

and successfully"

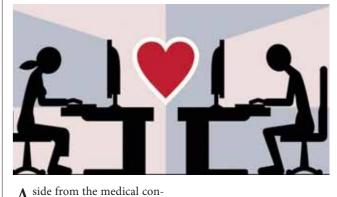
he concluded.

happily co-exist and thrive."



### Online dating, a new norm

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



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

Eagerness to get out and

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

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

The sweet spot between

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

hangout.
At least 52 per cent of men aged 21 to 30 and 45 per cent of men aged 31 and up are willing

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

A combination of online and physical dates, according to 44 per cent of women, is the great-est option for pursuing a roman-tic relationship.

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

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



### A GOOD PERSON

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

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

vival games.

"We are living in a society where people dare to tread on other people to survive," he said in a pre-taped interview by the Seoul-based Corea Image based Corea Image Communication Institute. "But I still believe that this society does-

n't have to be one where we need

to kill others and override them to

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

prize money.

The simplicity of the children's games and satire of modern capitalist society in Squid Game won enthusiastic response across the

world, becoming the most successful Netflix show in history. It was viewed for more than 1.65 billion hours in the first four weeks after its release on September 17 last

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

### Coexistence shows the way

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

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

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

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

industries are trying to do." He continues, "As far as theatres are concerned, theatres were, are and always will be an integral part of the society's ecosystem. I definitely don't see it going away anywhere. just that the consumption patterns will evolve. I foresee a clear divide on the kind of content people will want to watch on the big

screens vs what

they will like to

consume on



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

## SOUTH AFRICA WRAP UP SERIES WITH SEVEN-WICKET WIN

**PTI** ■ CAPE TOWN

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

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

putting the final touches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The way our bowling unit delivered throughout the series is

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

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

India's batters were far too dependant on bowlers to bail them out for the past few years but this series showed that this attack is human too even though they put their best foot forward, which was-



n't complemented at all by the willow wielders.

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

Petersen was beaten time and again but, in between, scored his

runs to keep the scoreboard ticking. Their strategy was to see off the first spell and capitalise when Umesh Yadav, who is known to bowl

boundary balls, was brought into the

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

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

It was Shardul Thakur who

finally had the young man played on but by then Petersen had ensured a

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

series win for his team.

is the reason India lost and the second innings effort at both Wanderers and Newlands showed that Indian bowlers could only do

as much. The heavy duty tirade against the host broadcasters Supersport with their customised diatribe did not look good in the face of a dis-

mal performance.

The skipper himself led the attack and it seemed like a forceful way of trying to put the blame squarely on technology that "may or

may not have gone wrong".

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

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

Once Bavuma started hitting those boundaries, the strokes did the

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin made some unsavoury comments about umpiring and technology in stump mic after rival skipper Dean Elgar got a massive reprieve due to a contentious DRS decision in the last hour on day 3 on Thursday.
"This is really bad. What Kohli

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

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

"That's going on to smash half

shook his head," Warne was quoted as saying by Fox Sports.

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

way that's going over, even Erasmus same manner when there was a

caught-behind appeal on the legside, neither did Dean Elgar react in that manner. During that Mayank Agarwal appeal, it looked out from the naked eye, but Elgar did not react in that manner," he

Former England captain "Then technology isn't in your Michael Vaughan was critical of the

"I think that is disgraceful from expressed similar reactions.

the Indians personally," Vaughan said on Fox Sports.

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

"The ICC have to stamp this down, they have to stamp down on the Indian side, you can't get away with talking down the stump microphone like Ravi Ashwin has done and the Indian captain has done," said Vaughan. In the 21st over, Elgar was

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

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

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

Travis Head spoiled a promising ■ start for England in the Ashes on Friday with his second century of the series as Australia recovered from 12-3 to reach 241-6 at stumps on a rain-hit first day of the fifth Head, who scored 152 in the

opening test at Brisbane, counterpunched England's early success with an aggressive 101 off 113 balls in the day-night test as Australia came back strongly after losing the Cameron Green contributed an

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

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

Test due to the coronavirus, first put ing the right decisions -- attacking to a trap



the innings back on track with a 71-run stand with Labuschagne, but not before Zak Crawley had dropped Labuschagne at second slip before the batter had scored.

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

the right balls, defending the right ones, being hard to get out.

I felt like I came into this test

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

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

PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skipper Dhull, who is a highly rated batter in Delhi cricket circles, did not do anything noticeable in the Asia Cup but his back-to-back



fifties in the warm-up games show he is in good touch. All-rounder Raj Bawa, who bowls right-arm medium pace and bats left-handed, will also play a crucial role for the team.

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

"There is a huge legacy since India has done so well in this tournament. It doesn't help that we have won four times.

There is a new team, so you have to start afresh," said Kanitkar adding that the players are also getting used to bi-bubble life in COVID times.

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

The game against South Africa is likely to be the toughest one for India. The 2014 edition winners South Africa's

chances of success on home soil were ended at the quarter-final stage two years ago. All-rounder Dewald Brevis has generated

maximum attention in the junior Proteas He played in the CSA Provincial T20 Knockout competition in October and his batting style drew comparisons with AB de Villiers, while his leg-spin caused West Indies

plenty of problems in a recent warm-up

leave for Australia on Jan. 24, series against the hosts. Left-arm spinner Asakhe Tsaka and captain George van Heerden will also hope to Jan. 30, Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 and make a name for themselves in the coming weeks as South Africa look for a second title. Canberra on Feb. 8.

### Ireland beats West Indies in rain-hit 2nd ODI

**AP** ■ KINGSTON

reland beat the West Indies  $oldsymbol{1}$  by five wickets in a raininterrupted second one-day international at Sabina Park.

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

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

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

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

The West Indies successfully defended 269 last Saturday but not so much 229, which



was boosted by 30 extras. William Porterfield and stand-in skipper Paul Stirling gave Ireland a flying start of 37 in the first five overs.

Harry Tector anchored the show with 54 not out off 75 balls, his second straight halfcentury and fourth in his last

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

the ball when West Indies was made to bat first. The West Indies was cau-

tious from the start and medium-pacer Craig Young took

advantage with the first three wickets, all cheap. He took out openers Shai Hope, Justin Greaves and No. 3 Nicholas Pooran to have 3-12 off four

McBrine's offspin was introduced in the 18th over with West Indies 53-3, and he claimed Roston Chase then Kieron Pollard for 1. Sharmarh Brooks, who made 93 in the first ODI, held

the innings together again until he was out lbw for 43 off 64 balls, attempting to sweep left-arm spinner George Dockrell. The West Indies didn't

look like reaching 200 at 143-7 in the 40th, but Odean Smith immediately hit two sixes over McBrine's head, hit two more against Campher, and swatted Mark Adair over the long off fence. Smith made 46 off 19 balls in a partnership of 58 with Romario Shepherd to get West Indies over 200.

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

#### Rajapksa withdraws decision to retire from international cricket

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Ten days after announcing his retirement from international cricket, batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa has made himself available to play for Sri Lanka "for years to come.' The 30-year-old had tendered his letter of resignation to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on January 3. However, after meeting the Sri Lankan Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa recently, the Southpaw has changed his mind. "Pursuant to a meeting with the Hon. Namal Rajapaksa - Minister of Youth & Sports and after consulting with the National Selectors, Bhanuka Rajapaksa has notified SLC that he wishes to withdraw his resignation which he tendered to SLC on 3rd Jan. 2022, with immediate effect," a SLC stated in a media release. "In his letter to SLC withdrawing his resignation, he further states that he wishes to represent his country.

### Isolation hitch threatens NZ-Aus white-ball series

**AP** ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand's white-ball cricket tour to Australia later this month is in doubt because of extended border restrictions which require the team to have isolation places booked for their return. The Black Caps are due to

going through managed isoto play one-day matches on The change has now been delayed until late February a Twenty20 international at because of the emergence of

New Zealand Cricket didn't book places in managed isolation for the team in February because they anticipated the implementation in mid-January of a policy which would allow New Zealand citizens and residents returning from Australia to do so without

the omicron variant which New Zealand so far has contained at the border. New Zealand Cricket on

Friday said it expects the Australian tour to go ahead but is discussing options with Cricket Australia. That might include rescheduling or delaying the team's return from Australia.

A spokesperson told media the team will not travel to Australia unless a plan is in place for its return.

## Sindhu, Sen enter semifinals of India Open

**¬**wo-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and world championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen registered contrasting wins to advance to the women's and men's singles semifinals, respectively, at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament here on Friday. Top seed Sindhu, a former world champion, got the better of compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-7 21-18 in 36 minutes, while Sen rallied his way to a hard-fought 14-21 21-9 21-14 victory over H S Prannoy in another all-Indian quarterfinal.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad set up a women's singles last-four clash with Thailand's sixth seed Supanida Katethong, who entered the semifinals after the third seeded Yeo Jia Min of Singapore pulled out of the tournament due to "high fever".

Sen, seeded third, will square off against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the

In the other women's semifinal, Aakarshi Kashyap will face second Ongbamrungphan after the Indian notched up a 21-12 21-15 win over compatriot Malvika Bansod on

Busanan trounced USA's Lauren Lam 21-12 21-8 in another last-eight

Second seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also entered the semifinals with a 21-18 21-18 win ver

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Singapore's Hee Yong Kai TerryAnd Loh Kean Hean.

Haritha Manazhiyil Harinarayan and Ashna Roy also made it to the last four in women's doubles after beat-

ing Rudrani Jaiswal and Jamaludeen Anees Kowsar 21-16 21-16 in the quarterfinals.

The last time Sindhu was up against Chaliha, at the 83rd Yonex-

Sunrise Senior National Championship in 2019, the youngster from Assam had produced a spirited performance.

On Friday, Chaliha took time to

get into the groove and put up a good fight in the second game but could n't stop Sindhu from walking away

with the match. Sindhu came out all guns blazing

5 lead at the interval and then reeled off the last 10 points to earn the brag-

Chaliha gave a better account of herself in the second game as she tied 9-9 before Sindhu managed a slender one-point advantage at the break. Sindhu zoomed to 15-11 but Chaliha

Thereafter, Sindhu switched gears and grabbed four match points. Chaliha saved two match points before Sindhu closed out the tie.

again clawed her way back to 15-15.

In men's singles, it was the first international meeting but third overall between Sen and Prannoy as the duo engaged in a battle of supremacy. On a comeback trail, Prannoy, who had reached the quarterfinals at the last world championships, dominated the proceedings initially to secure a 6-2 lead. He got his acts together in time to turn the tables at 12-10 and then zoomed from 15-14 to pocket the opening game.
"The pace was high in the first

game as both of us tried to up the pace but I made errors at 13-13 and it cost me the game," Sen said.

Sen, however, roared back into the contest in the second game as he ran up a huge 12-5 lead and didn't look back from that point, as Prannoy crumbled. In the decider, Prannoy took the early initiative, opening up a 6-1 advantage but couldn't sustain it as Sen moved to 11-9 at the interval and then pocketed nine of the next 11 points to seal the match in his favour.

### India withdraws from Asian Under-22 boxing championship

T he Boxing Federation of India has decided to pull out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women in Tashkent, Uzbekistan due to the global surge in COVID-19 cases but is willing to participate if the tournament is rescheduled to a time when the pandemic subsides

A reliable source in the federation has confirmed to PTI that a letter has been sent to the Asian Boxing Confederation as well as the tournament's organising committee confirming India's withdrawal.

The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30. The Asian event was originally slated to be held from December 7 to 17 last year but was postponed because of the pandemic.

Indian boxing has been hit by a COVID crisis of its own. The men's senior national camp in Patiala has reported 26 cases, including 20 boxers.

Boxers born in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are eligible to compete in the event that is being held for the first time in the conti-

The competition was to be held in 12 women's and 13 men's weight categories. The Indian men's squad featured

the likes of Asian youth bronzemedallist Mohammed Etash Khan (63.5kg) and reigning national champion Rohit Mor (60kg) among

The women's squad featured the likes of world youth champion Arundhati Chaudhary (71kg) and international medallist Jaismine (63kg). Chaudhary had recently made the headlines by taking the Boxing Federation of India to court for not holding trials in her weight category for the world championships in Turkey.

### HI announces core probable group for women's hockey team



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Friday announced a new-look core probable group for the senior women's team which will play in many major international tournaments this year. The group was selected following selection trials held in Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru for a group of 60 who were called-in on the basis of their performances in various nation-

al level events. "It is time for us to start afresh and plan for the future. We have grown over the past year with our experiences in Tokyo and we must continue to develop, and grow in the coming vears, ahead of Paris 2024," India women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman said in a release issued by Hockey India. While an 18-member Indian team, led by Savita, will be travelling to Muscat for the upcom-

ing women's hockey Asia Cup, the remaining players from the core group will stay on at the camp and continue to train for the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha next month. "The upcoming camp is important for us to recognise the players who are ready to showcase their skills on the biggest stages, and also to work on the areas where we need to improve upon," Schopman said. List of players: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Suman Devi Thoudam, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Mahima Chaudhary, Rashmita Minz, Nisha, Salima Tete, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Navjot Kaur, Monika, Namita Toppo.

### Mauritius' Pandoo appointed

**NEW DELHI:** The Sports Ministry has approved the appointment of Mauritian Aveenash Pandoo as the first High Performance Director (HPD) for weightlifting until the 2024 Paris Olympics. His appointment was recommended by the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Foreign Coach Selection Committee in conjunction with officials of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF). According to a statement issued by the SAI, his annual salary will be USD 54,000 (approx Rs 40.50 realistic one: Dennerby (January 23) and China (January

First target is to make

quarters, which is

ndian women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby said his side is well prepared and its first realistic target is to reach the quarterfinals of the upcoming AFC Asian Women's Cup.

campaign against Iran on January 20. I said from the beginning when we started, we said that yes, to come to the quarter-final is our first target, first aim," Dennerby said during a virtual media interaction in the run-up to the continental tournament on Friday.

"And if we come all the way to the quarterfinal, everything can happen because when we are in quarterfinal and it's a knockout stage, everybody, all teams will play under pressure. But definitely (reaching) quarterfinals is our target and we also think it's a realistic target." The Indian team has been drawn against Iran (January 20), Chinese Taipei

26) in Group A of the competition that consists of 12 teams.

Talking about the opposition, Dennerby said: "It is (like) three different teams with three different playing styles. I guess the first game against Iran will be a tough seen so far (they are) defending very well. They are organized and they will play low, defending.

They also have one really good striker that's always on the run. So, even if we dominate the game, as a defender you always ave to be on your toes.

"They are also good on set ieces, they scored a lot of goals on free-kicks and corners, so we also need to be very sharp on that (front). Don't give them any corners or easy free-kicks," he added. According to Dennerby, India's second game against Chinese Taipei will be an "equal game" but the final match against China will be a tough one.

(Himanshu Agarwal) EX. ENGINEER(M)10

## Visa revoked again, Djokovic faces deportation

**AP** MELBOURNE  $N_{\rm Djokovic}^{\rm o\ v\ a\ k}$ faces deportation again after the Australian government revoked his visa for a second time, the latest twist in the ongoing saga over whether the No 1-ranked tennis player will be allowed to compete in

the Australian Open despite being unvaccinated for COVID-19. Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said Friday he used his ministerial discretion to cancel the 34-yearold Serb's visa on public interest grounds just three days before play begins at the Australian Open, where Djokovic has won a record nine of his 20 Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic's lawyers were expected to appeal at the Federal Circuit and Family Court, which they already successfully did last week on procedural

'The premier will be

grounds after his visa was first canceled when he landed at a Melbourne airport.

A hearing was scheduled for Friday night. Deportation from Australia can lead to a three-year ban on returning to the country, although that may be waived, depending on the circumstances.

Hawke said he cancelled the visa on "health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so.

His statement added that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government "is firmly committed to protecting Australia's borders, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandem-

Morrison himself welcomed Djokovic's pending deportation. The whole episode has touched a nerve in Australia, and particularly in Victoria state, where locals went through hundreds of days of lockdowns during the worst of the pandemic and there is a vaccination rate among adults of more than 90%.

Australia is currently facing a massive surge in virus cases driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant. On Friday, the nation reported 130,000 new cases, including nearly 35,000 in Victoria state.

Although many infected people aren't getting as sick as they did in previous outbreaks, the surge is still putting severe strain on the health system, with more than 4,400 people hospitalized. It's also causing disruptions to workplaces and supply chains.

This pandemic has been incredibly difficult for every Australian but we have stuck together and saved lives and livelihoods. ... Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected," Morrison said in a statement.

"This is what the Minister is doing in taking this action today."

Everyone at the Australian Open — including players, their support teams and spectators is required to be vaccinated for the illness caused by the coronavirus. Djokovic is not inoculated and had sought a medical exemption on the grounds that he had COVID-19 in December. That exemption was approved by the

Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, apparently allowing him to obtain a visa to travel. But the Australian Border Force rejected the exemption and canceled his visa when he landed in Melbourne on January 5. Djokovic spent four nights in an immigra-

tion detention hotel before a judge on Monday overturned that decision. That ruling allowed Djokovic to move freely around Australia and he has been practicing at Melbourne Park daily to prepare to play in a tournament he has won each of the past three years.

He had a practice session originally scheduled for mid-afternoon Friday at Rod Laver Arena, the tournament's main stadium, but pushed that to the morning and was finished several hours before Hawke's decision was announced in the early evening.

An Australian Open spokeswoman said tournament organizers did not have any immediate comment on the latest development in Djokovic's situation, which has overshadowed all other story lines heading into the year's first

### Imran Khan to visit China for Beijing Winter Olympics

the invitation of the Chinese

PTI ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\mathrm{rime}}$  Minister Imran Khan will be travelling to Beijing next month to attend the opening ceremony of Winter Olympics, bolster the all-weather bilateral ties and seek more investments in various projects under the ambitious CPEC, the Foreign Office said here on Thursday. The Beijing Winter Olympics will be held from February 4 to 20, followed by the Paralympics Winter Games from March 4-13, amid a diplomatic boycott by several Western countries, including the US and the UK over con-



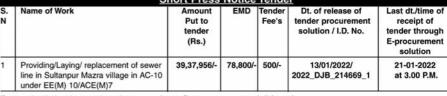
leadership," Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said during his weekly news Khan will also have an

interaction with the Chinese leadership to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to exchange views on regional and international issues, Iftikhar said. Khan's visit is considered significant because several western and European countries have announced a diplomatic boycott of the event.

Tensions have risen between China and several Western countries over a number of issues. The US has accused China of genocide in its repression of the predominantly Muslim Uyghur minority in the western region of Xinjiang - an allegation China has reject-While projects pertaining

China-Pakistan the Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be key to the talks between the two sides, Iftikhar opined that Khan's visit would help promote international cooperation required to overcome the challenges faced due to the ongoing pandemic and open up avenues of collaboration with other developing countries.

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



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S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money	Tender ID No. & Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E- Procurement Solution
1.	Replacement of old damaged / rusted internal water distribution network in Vigyan Lok in AC-59 in East-II.	48,54,933.00	500.00	97,100.00	2022_DJB_214770_1 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
2.	Trapping of discharge of Patparganj Industrial area from SPS (DSIIDC) to interceptor sewer in AC-59 under AEE (M)-59.	37,90,455.00	500.00	76,000.00	2022_DJB_214770_2 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
3.	Replacement of old damaged / rusted internal C.I. water lines in Jagriti Enclave Ph-IIIrd in AC-59 in East-II.	33,18,400.00	500.00	66,500.00	202 2_ DJB _214770_3 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
4.	Replacement of settled sewer line (300 mm) dia in the back lane from H.No. 13 to H.No. 28, Gagan Vihar to prevent contamination in AC-59 under ACE (M)-I	31,75,318.00	500.00	64,000.00	202 2_DJB 214770_4 14-Jan-2022 04:00 PM	22-Jan-2022 02:00 PM
ISS	ther details in this regard can be seen at ht UED BY P.R.O. (WATER) rt. J.S.V. 1009(2021-22)	STOP CORONA:		llow Physica		evender Kuma GINEER (M) -5