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I MISS MY  
FATHER:  
RANBIR  
10 VIVACITY

## 'Omicron multiplies in lungs 70 times faster than Delta'

Together with its ability to escape vax immunity, variant's threat high: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first findings on how the hypermutated Omicron variant infects the respiratory tract, researchers from Hong Kong University (HKU) on Thursday reported that the virus multiplies 70 times faster in the bronchi than Delta and the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, which, they said, might explain why Omicron transmits faster. The researchers said Omicron infection may be less severe, depending on the body's immune response. The variant reaches higher levels in the tissue, compared to Delta, 48 hours after infection, said the study.

The preliminary data, published online on Wednesday, gives for the first time a look at how Omicron may behave inside the respiratory tract — and the data offers a tantalising clue as to why this heavily mutated variant is spreading so fast and even outcompeting Delta.

Michael Chan Chi-wai, who led the work, said the result needed to be interpreted with caution because the severe disease is determined not only



A health worker collects swab sample of an outstation passenger for Covid-19 test at Bandra Terminus railway station in Mumbai on Thursday PTI

by how quickly the virus replicates but also by a person's immune response and, in particular, whether the immune system goes into overdrive, causing a so-called cytokine storm.

"It is also noted that by infecting many more people, a very infectious virus may cause more severe disease and death even though the virus itself may be less pathogenic," he

said. "Therefore, taken together with our recent studies showing that the Omicron variant can partially escape immunity from vaccines and past infection, the overall threat from the Omicron variant is likely to be very significant."

Jeremy Kamil, an Associate Professor of microbiology and immunology at Louisiana State University Health Shreveport, pointed out that Delta, which

turned out to be more pathogenic, showed a similar pattern of replicating more slowly in the lungs.

"These authors found Omicron replicates fantastically well — even far better than either Delta or the original virus — in bronchial tissue," Kamil said. "This could in some ways contribute to an advantage in spread/transmission between people."

"Of course, a huge component of Omicron's transmissibility in real life is going to be its potential to escape neutralising antibodies that protect against infection in the first place. It's very likely spreading well even between vaccinated people, especially those who haven't recently gotten a booster shot."

Continued on Page 2

## DELHI ADDS 85 COVID CASES

New Delhi: Delhi on Thursday recorded 85 fresh Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 0.15 per cent, according to data shared by the health department here.

With this, the city's Covid-19 caseload climbed to 14,41,935. Of this, over 14.16 lakh patients have recovered from the disease, the health department bulletin stated.

The death toll remained unchanged at 25,100, it said.

## India celebrates 50th anniversary of liberation of Bangladesh

Prez Kovind addresses Victory Day in Dhaka; Rahul, Priyanka slam Govt for no mention of Indira in PM's tribute

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/DEHRADUN

India on Thursday celebrated Vijay Diwas to mark the 50th anniversary of 1971 war and liberation of Bangladesh. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled the valour and sacrifice by the Indian Armed forces, President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the Victory Day in Dhaka and said the 1971 Liberation War has a special place in the hearts of every Indian.

Modi led the nation on Thursday in paying tributes to the Armed forces by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial.

"On the 50th Vijay Diwas, I recall the great valour and sacrifice by the Muktiyoddhas, Biranganas and bravehearts of the Indian Armed forces. Together, we fought and defeated oppressive forces. Rashtrapati's presence in Dhaka is of special significance to every Indian," PM Modi wrote on Twitter.

However, the occasion was marred by a controversy with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi criticising the Government for ignor-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the homage and reception ceremony of Swarnim Vijay Mashaals on the occasion of 'Vijay Diwas' at National War Memorial in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

ing former PM Indira Gandhi, who played a pivotal role in the 1971 war.

Four victory torches (Vijay Mashaals), which were taken across the country during the last one year, were merged into the memorial's eternal flame by the PM.

These victory torches, which were lighted by the PM exactly a year ago, were carried to various parts of India, including to villages of the awardees of Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra of the 1971 war, as a part of Golden Jubilee year celebrations

(Swarnim Vijay Varsh). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and chiefs of the three Armed forces were present at the National War Memorial during the event. Modi said on Twitter, "On this special day of Vijay Diwas, I had the honour of paying my respects at the National War Memorial and merging into the Eternal Flame, the four Vijay Mashaals which traversed across the length and breadth on Dhaka."

President Kovind on Thursday said India has always attached the highest priority to its friendship with Bangladesh

and that New Delhi remains committed to doing all it can to help realise the full potential of its friendship with Dhaka.

Addressing the Victory Day celebrations here, President Kovind said the 1971 Liberation War, struggle for freedom has a special place in the hearts of every Indian.

"India has always attached highest priority to its friendship with Bangladesh. We remain committed to doing all we can to help realise the full potential of our friendship with Bangladesh," he said.

Continued on Page 2

## Delhi to deregister 10 yrs old diesel vehicles; to give NOC for use elsewhere

Process from Jan 1 STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will deregister all diesel vehicles which will complete 10 years on January 1, 2022, and issue no objection certificate (NOC) so that they can be re-registered in other places in compliance with the National Green Tribunal's directions.

However, no NOC will be issued for diesel vehicles, which have completed 15 years or more on the date of applying for it, according to an order issued earlier this week by the Delhi Transport Department.

The NGT has issued directions relating to restrictions on registration and plying of diesel vehicles more than 10 years old and petrol vehicles more than 15 years old in Delhi-NCR.

In an order in July 2016, the tribunal said its direction for deregistration of diesel vehicles, which are more than 10 years old, will be complied with effectively and without



default.

The deregistration of diesel vehicles, which are 15 years old, was to be taken up in the first instance. The transport department order said that "accordingly, the department will deregister all such diesel vehicles in Delhi on January 1, 2022, which have completed or would be completing 10 years on that date."

The department has been deregistering vehicles that have completed their lifespan. NOC for diesel vehicles, which are 10 years old, and petrol vehicles, which are 15 years old, can be issued for any place in the country, it said. This will be, however, subject to condition that NOC will not be issued for the places which are identified by states as restricted area for re-registration, the order said.

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## Young national level shooter found hanging

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/HOWRAH

Young national-level shooter Konica Layak was found hanging at her hostel in Bally in Howrah district, police said.

According to Howrah Police sources, a suicide note was found with her where she blamed "depression" as the reason for taking the extreme step. The incident happened on Wednesday.

"She was depressed for not getting chances, she wrote in the note," said a police official, adding that the 26-year-old girl was due to get married in February. This is the fourth such case in recent times in the shooting fraternity.

The shooter, who had won a few medals at the state level, was training along with Olympian and Arjuna Awardee Joydeep Karmakar in Kolkata. Police have started investigations into the death of the shooter who was from Dhanbad in Jharkhand.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is aware of the shocking incident.

Continued on Page 2

## Naravane appointed chairman of chiefs of staff committee

Army chief to serve as head till a new CDS is appointed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Army chief General MM Naravane has been appointed Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee. He is the senior-most among the three Services Chiefs and will serve as the Chairman till a new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is announced.

The institution of Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, was functional till two years ago to ensure cohesion and synergy between the three Services. However, the role was taken over by General Rawat when he was made the first CDS of the country in January last year and the Committee was made redundant.

Naravane's appointment as the head of the Committee is a



stop-gap arrangement till the political leadership appoints the new CDS, sources said here on Thursday. General Rawat, his wife, and 12 others were killed in a helicopter crash on December 8.

The Government went by the principle of selecting the senior most amongst the three Chiefs for the newly created CDS post and appointed General Rawat as he was the senior-most then.

Continued on Page 2

## Amarinder in Delhi to finalise ties with BJP

Chandigarh: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday left for Delhi where he is likely to meet senior BJP leaders to discuss a possible seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming State Assembly polls, according to sources.

Singh is expected to meet the BJP's central leadership on Friday, the sources said.

On December 7, Singh and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who is the BJP's incharge for the Punjab Assembly polls, had met over lunch at the former's residence.

Notably, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said earlier that the BJP was in talks with Singh and former Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa to forge an alliance with their parties ahead of the State Assembly polls.

Singh had an unceremonious exit from the Congress in September when he was forced to resign as the Punjab Chief Minister amid a power tussle with state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

PTT

## Akhilesh buries 5-yr-old feud with uncle, forges alliance for UP polls

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his estranged uncle and Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) chief Shivpal Yadav buried their five-year long family feud on Thursday and forged an alliance for the forthcoming Assembly polls.

The SP chief reached Shivpal's residence in the evening and held a closed-door meeting, which lasted for about 40 minutes. Sources said apart from Shivpal and Akhilesh, the former's son, Aditya Yadav, was also present at the crucial meeting.

Following the meeting, Akhilesh tweeted and confirmed the alliance between the SP and the PSPL. "Met the PSPL chief and confirmed our alliance. The strategy of alliance with smaller parties is strengthening the SP and is taking the SP along with alliance parties towards a historic win," said Akhilesh.



Akhilesh Yadav meets Shivpal Singh Yadav at his residence in Lucknow on Thursday PTI

The decision of seat-sharing, however, has not yet been announced by either of the leaders. During the meeting, hundreds of supporters of both parties gathered outside Shivpal's residence and raised the slogan "Chacha-Bhatija zindabad".

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

**2 LeT MILITANTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN J&K**  
Srinagar: Two LeT militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday, police said.

**MAX TEMP TO DROP ON CHRISTMAS: IMD**  
New Delhi: Due to a 'Western Disturbance', the maximum temperature this Christmas will be colder with light to moderate rain or snowfall over the western Himalayan region, northwest India, and adjoining areas of central India, the IMD said.



Armed forces personnel pay tribute to the mortal remains of late Group Captain Varun Singh in Bengaluru on Thursday PTI

## Sheena Bora alive, claims Indrani

Her letter to CBI gives a sensational twist to murder trial

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After having been behind bars for more than six years on charges of murdering her daughter Sheena Bora, Indrani Mukerjea has now — in a bizarre claim made in a letter to the CBI — said that her daughter "is still alive" and "is currently in Kashmir" and asked the CBI to track her down.

In what is being seen as a tactic to further delay or derail the already much-delayed trial in the sensational case, Indrani claimed in her letter to the CBI that her fellow inmate at the Byculla Women's Jail had told her that the latter had met Sheena in Kashmir and want-



ed the Central investigating to trace her daughter.

Talking to the media persons here, Indrani's lawyer Sana Raees declined to divulge the details of the letter but said that she on behalf of her client would file an application in the Bombay High Court on December 28, after which she would share the letter her client had written to the CBI with the

media.

However, there was no reaction yet from the CBI till the evening on the claim made by Indrani, who has been lodged in Byculla Women's Jail in south Mumbai ever since she was arrested on August 25, 2015, for the alleged murder of Sheena.

However, Peter Mukerjea — who separated from Indrani



by way of divorce through mutual consent in October 2019 while both were behind bars — has been out on bail for the last 10 months. The Bombay High Court had on February 6, 2020, granted bail to Peter on the ground that prima facie there was no evidence to prove his direct involvement in the murder.

Continued on Page 2

## Bill soon to raise legal marriage age of women from 18 to 21 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has decided to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, bringing it at par with that of men. Experts, however, have raised concern over the decision, saying the move is akin to treating symptoms instead of the underlying causes.

The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday cleared a proposal to bring in uniformity in the marriageable age of men and women, sources said on Thursday.

The Government is likely to bring a bill in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, they said.

The proposed Bill may also seek to make consequential



changes to various personal laws relating to marriage of different communities to ensure a uniform marriage age, the sources said.

As of now, the legal age of women to get married is 18 while that for men is 21 years.

The decision came a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Government was deliberating on what should be the minimum age for marriage of women.

Continued on Page 2

## Setback for BJP as Metro man to stay away from active politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The BJP in Kerala suffered a major setback on Thursday after E Sreedharan, former chairman of Delhi Metro Rail, announced he would stay away from active politics in future.

"I joined the BJP and contested the Assembly election with the sole aim of serving the people as their servant. But the BJP failed to win even a single seat. Moreover, at my age I am not able to go out and work to strengthen the party. I am staying away from active role, I'll be always available to the general public for any help and guidance," he told reporters.

But sources close to him said it was the indifferent attitude of the BJP State leadership that led to his decision.

Continued on Page 2



# City logs 4 new Omicron cases



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said that 10 cases of Omicron have been detected in the capital so far and 40 people are admitted to the special facility at Lok Nayak Hospital meant for isolating and treating suspected cases of the new Covid variant.

Of the 40 people, 38 are Covid-19 positive.

"A total of 10 cases of the Omicron variant have been detected in Delhi so far. One of them has been discharged," Jain said.

The Minister said many international travellers are turning out Covid-19 positive upon arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

# EDMC's new policy will allow owners of top floors to construct on their terrace

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has introduced the policy of floor-wise sanction and regularisation of existing floors with some conditions for the benefit of the general public.

EDMC Mayor Shyam Sunder Aggarwal said as per policy, the owner of the top floor of residential building can obtain the sanction of building plan for construction at terrace within the permissible height of 15 meter. "There will be no need for 'No Objection Certificate' from the owners of the respective lower floors. The applicants have to follow some of the fixed conditions before making any changes," he added.

Standing Committee Chairman Panwar said that as per the amended policy, the applicant shall have to obtain a structural safety certificate of the existing building for taking additional load from prescribed expert agencies like IIT New Delhi and Roorkee, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, RITES, etc.

# Delhi's Ghazipur border partially reopens for traffic

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After remaining closed for more than a year due to the farmers' stir, the Delhi's Ghazipur border was partially reopened for traffic on Thursday.

According to police officials, one of the carriageways at the border has been reopened for now and those coming from Vaishali, Ghaziabad can pass through the border to enter the national Capital.

Earlier, on Wednesday, the Delhi Police had allowed traffic movement as well as opened two carriageways at Singhu border after it dismantled all the barricades that were erected to prevent the protesting farmers from moving towards the national capital.

The Singhu Border on Delhi-Chandigarh highway had been the epicentre of the farmers' movement against the three central farm laws.

Farmers started leaving the protest site on the Delhi-Haryana border on Saturday after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) suspended the agitation following the repeal of the farm laws and the Government conceding to its other demands.

# 16-year-old girl found murdered at her home

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old girl was found murdered inside her house in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar area. Police said that the victim's mother had accused her adopted son of being behind the killing.

The minor, identified as Ruksar, with her throat slit was found lying on a cot inside her house on Wednesday.

Her mother is a domestic help and around 10 years ago, the victim's mother had adopted Shan Mohammad, the accused, as her son. Since then, the three had been living together, according to the police.

"The victim's mother has accused Mohammad, 32, of killing Ruksar. She told the police that Mohammad is a liquor addict and often used to quarrel with her and Ruksar," said a senior police official.

"A case of murder under Section (302) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against him," said the senior police official.

According to Esha Pandey, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on Wednesday afternoon, a PCR call was received at Sarita Vihar police station regarding murder of a girl at Janta flats. When the police reached the spot, Ruksar was found lying dead on a folding cot in the room.

"During enquiry, the victim's mother told that on Wednesday morning, she left for work as usual leaving her minor daughter and her adopted son Mohammad at home. When she returned home, she found her flat was locked from outside. She called her son on the telephone to find out about her daughter's whereabouts but he gave a suspicious response," said the DCP.

# Patient saved by Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of doctors at a private hospital saved the life of a 28-year-old man by performing manual Cardiopulmonary resuscitation for almost an hour.

Ajit Bhatti, was brought to the Aakash Healthcare, Dwarka with complaints of indigestion since morning. His pulse rate was normal but his heart stopped working once he lay down on the bed, the hospital said in a statement.

"The patient regained consciousness after 15 minutes through performing CPR but within minutes, he collapsed again. Doctors continued to administer CPR and electric shocks to him until he was revived after 45 minutes," it said.

# Health Min inaugurates 300MA X-Ray machine in Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday inaugurated a 300 MA (milliamperes-seconds) X-Ray machine in Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel hospital. Before this, the hospital had a 70 Ma X-RAY machine which was installed in the month of May 2021. Until October the radiology department had a conventional analogue X-RAY machine. Jain said that "this is an epitome of technologically advanced machines which are available in

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Hospital, providing 24-hour emergency services. This machine will benefit the mass population of Patel Nagar and other lakhs of people of Delhi as well". He further added till October 2020 the Radiology Department had conventional X-RAY machines, in the view of upgrading radiology facility for better patient care a new 70 MA X-RAY machine was added in the month of May 2021 and now one more technologically advanced X-RAY machine of 300MA is installed in the hospital.

# DTCP G'gram creates email ID to lodge complaints related to occupation certificates

**Gurugram:** In a bid to curb Occupation Certificate (OC) violations, the department of town and country planning (DTCP) Gurugram has created an email ID to lodge complaints related to OC violations in license colonies.

DTCP officials said that the emails sent to them would be resolved within 10 to 15 days and a dedicated team of the enforcement wing would be monitoring the communication with applicants.

The department said on Thursday that emails for violations of OCs can be sent to dtpenfoc@gmail.com.

RS Bhatt, the district town planner, said that the purpose of these email IDs is to get OC violation related complaints and to curb further violations in sectors.

"The government has already increased the floor area ratio (FAR) from 145 to 264 in sectors despite the people are making illegal construction like bathroom on balcony and rooms in the stilt parking area," he said.

The official said if anyone gets information about illegal construction can lodge complaints through the email ID along with photos.

"Through emails, we received some complaints that construction work in violation of norms is being carried out in some parts of the city so we took action and 50-60 OC has been cancelled recently and around 100 OCs are under scanner," Bhatt said.

# Suit against me to stop me from exposing NCB officer son's illegal activities, Malik tells HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Adding a new dimension to the ongoing hearings in the defamation case against him, Maharashtra Minister and senior NCP leader Nawab Malik on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that the objective behind Dhyandev Wankhede suing him for defamation was to prevent him from revealing the illegalities of Wankhede and his NCB's Mumbai Zonal director-son Sameer Wankhede.

In his 95-page reply to the interim application in the defamation suit by Sameer Wankhede's father Dhyandev Wankhede, Malik said that Sr Wankhede had filed the suit against him with "oblique intent" to suppress the illegalities committed by his son. "It is filed with a malafide motive to mislead the court and obtain favourable orders and in that manner restrict my fundamental rights and prevent me from revealing the illegalities committed, particularly by Sameer," Malik said in his reply.

Malik also pointed out that the defamation suit against him was "filed with oblique intent to suppress the illegalities committed by father Dhyandev and son Sameer Wankhede which, he said, had come

to light in view of the evidence obtained and produced by him.

Contending none of the material published by Malik was defamatory or derogatory to the Wankhede family but it pertained to the "illegal conduct" of Wankhede, Malik said that in view of the same, no restrictions could be imposed on his freedom of speech and expression.

The minister said that the defamation case against him was "a desperate attempt to restrict his fundamental rights and obtain a gag order to restrain from revealing the illegalities conducted by Sameer Wankhede and other facts relating to raids conducted by NCB under his supervision".

Alluding Dhyandev's charge that his allegations were in retaliation of the arrest of his son-in-law by the NCB in a drug case, Malik said that he had been speaking against the central agency's "high-handedness" much before his son-in-law was arrested in January this year.

Producing the statements made by him against the NCB as far back as November 2020 to refute Dhyandev's allegation, Malik said: "I had also expressed that NCB was interested in targeting celebrities to seek publicity as against their duty to track down drug traffickers".

# Major police reshuffle in J&K

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a major overhaul in the police hierarchy in the districts, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday transferred/posted 27 police officials including 10 Senior Superintendents of Police and 17 other SPs and additional SPs "in the interest of administration" with immediate effect.

According to the transfer posting of police officers issued by the Home Department of Jammu and Kashmir government, IPS officer Javid Ahmad Koul, SSP Traffic, Srinagar City has been transferred and posted as SO to ADGP, Traffic with additional charge as DIG, Traffic, Jammu and DIG, Traffic, Kashmir.

Shridhar Patil, IPS officer, awaiting posting orders upon modification of transfer on deputation to Union Territory of Ladakh has been posted as AIG (Tech) Police Headquarters against an available vacancy.

Likewise, Vinod Kumar, IPS, SSP pooch has been transferred and posted as SSP, Udhampur. Sargun Shukla, IPS, SSP, Udhampur has been posted as SO to IGP, Technical Services. Sandeep Choudhary, IPS, SSP, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SSP, Cyber Crime Investigation Centre of Excellence (CICE).

Rakesh Balwal, IPS, awaiting orders of posting has been posted as SSP, Srinagar. Abhishek Mahajan has been posted as SP of Samba. Sheema Nabi Qasha, SP of Rajouri has been posted as SP (Tech), CID, Headquarters.

# Linking voter card to Aadhaar will help delete duplicate votes, says CEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election commission may not roll out the seeding of voter identity card with Aadhaar in the upcoming assembly polls of the five states.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Thursday said that Cabinet has approved the Bill, the law has not been enacted yet. Chandra said this in Chandigarh while speaking with media persons on the issue of suspending assembly polls. Top officials of EC are on two days visit in Punjab to assess the preparations for the upcoming assembly polls.

The CEC said that linking voter card to Aadhaar will help in deleting duplicate votes and maintaining purity of voters. "This will ensure that there is only one person who is associated with one card," he said.

He explained that there can be some voters who may be registered at two places in the electoral rolls.

Earlier, in order to ensure preparation of error free electoral roll and to prevent duplication of entries, a proposal to amend Representation of the People Act, 1951 to enable deduplication of electoral data using Aadhaar system was proposed by the Election Commission.

The cabinet on Wednesday gave green signal to the reforms which will allow seeding the Aadhaar number with electoral rolls on a voluntary basis. Besides, the Cabinet also cleared the EC's proposal to ease the enrolment schedule for first-time voters.

Under the new proposal, sources said, enrolment of first-time voters will be allowed four times a year.



CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my name from JABID to JAVEDALI for all future purposes. JAVED ALI S/O RAMJAN, R/O V PO-FAULADNAGAR, DISTT-BAGHPAT 250622 PD(9122)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Sh. Ashwani Kumar @ Ashwani Kumar is the owner of the Property No. 1075-1074 (Old No. 192), Motilal Hazratpur, area measuring 65.89 Sq. Meters i.e., 80 Sq. yards, out of Khassa No. 53, situated near Jangarh township, New Delhi-110043 vide Sale Deed dated 11.06.2018 (Doc. No. 239). Sh. Ashwani Kumar @ Ashwani Kumar has mortgaged the Original Sale Deed dated 29.05.2004 (Document No. 3882) executed by Smt. Neelam in favour of Mr. Deepak Bajaj in respect of the ground floor, area measuring 50 Sq. yards & Original Sale Deed dated 23.05.2004 (Doc. No. 1145) executed by Smt. Santosh Kumari in favour of Sh. Maro Bajaj and Sh. Darshan Lal Bajaj in respect of the 2nd floor, with right of the property and anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Cit Housing Finance Ltd. having its office at 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kailash Building, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place New Delhi-110001. Sh. Ashwani Kumar @ Ashwani Kumar is availing loan on this property from (Advocate), Law Vertices, Unit no 307, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, G1-11, Tower-1B-081, Motilal Hazratpur, Delhi-110034 or contact at (011) 206570712/9812228636

# Naravane appointed...

From Page 1  
If the same principle or tradition is followed, General Naravane may become the next CDS given his seniority. As Army chief, his tenure is till March next year. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reviewed the fall out of the accident on December 8, including the appointment of a

new CDS. However, no decision was taken, sources said here on Thursday. Given the current situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh with stand-offs with China on for the last nearly two years and the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan, the post of CDS cannot remain vacant for long, sources said. The Government is well-aware of this and may announce the new CDS in the next few days, they added.

# DTCP G'gram creates email ID to lodge complaints related to occupation certificates

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to light in view of the evidence obtained and produced by him.

Contending none of the material published by Malik was defamatory or derogatory to the Wankhede family but it pertained to the "illegal conduct" of Wankhede, Malik said that in view of the same, no restrictions could be imposed on his freedom of speech and expression.

The minister said that the defamation case against him was "a desperate attempt to restrict his fundamental rights and obtain a gag order to restrain from revealing the illegalities conducted by Sameer Wankhede and other facts relating to raids conducted by NCB under his supervision".

Alluding Dhyandev's charge that his allegations were in retaliation of the arrest of his son-in-law by the NCB in a drug case, Malik said that he had been speaking against the central agency's "high-handedness" much before his son-in-law was arrested in January this year.

Producing the statements made by him against the NCB as far back as November 2020 to refute Dhyandev's allegation, Malik said: "I had also expressed that NCB was interested in targeting celebrities to seek publicity as against their duty to track down drug traffickers".

# Major police reshuffle in J&K

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a major overhaul in the police hierarchy in the districts, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday transferred/posted 27 police officials including 10 Senior Superintendents of Police and 17 other SPs and additional SPs "in the interest of administration" with immediate effect.

According to the transfer posting of police officers issued by the Home Department of Jammu and Kashmir government, IPS officer Javid Ahmad Koul, SSP Traffic, Srinagar City has been transferred and posted as SO to ADGP, Traffic with additional charge as DIG, Traffic, Jammu and DIG, Traffic, Kashmir.

Shridhar Patil, IPS officer, awaiting posting orders upon modification of transfer on deputation to Union Territory of Ladakh has been posted as AIG (Tech) Police Headquarters against an available vacancy.

Likewise, Vinod Kumar, IPS, SSP pooch has been transferred and posted as SSP, Udhampur. Sargun Shukla, IPS, SSP, Udhampur has been posted as SO to IGP, Technical Services. Sandeep Choudhary, IPS, SSP, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SSP, Cyber Crime Investigation Centre of Excellence (CICE).

Rakesh Balwal, IPS, awaiting orders of posting has been posted as SSP, Srinagar. Abhishek Mahajan has been posted as SP of Samba. Sheema Nabi Qasha, SP of Rajouri has been posted as SP (Tech), CID, Headquarters.

# Linking voter card to Aadhaar will help delete duplicate votes, says CEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election commission may not roll out the seeding of voter identity card with Aadhaar in the upcoming assembly polls of the five states.

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Thursday said that Cabinet has approved the Bill, the law has not been enacted yet. Chandra said this in Chandigarh while speaking with media persons on the issue of suspending assembly polls. Top officials of EC are on two days visit in Punjab to assess the preparations for the upcoming assembly polls.

The CEC said that linking voter card to Aadhaar will help in deleting duplicate votes and maintaining purity of voters. "This will ensure that there is only one person who is associated with one card," he said.

He explained that there can be some voters who may be registered at two places in the electoral rolls.

Earlier, in order to ensure preparation of error free electoral roll and to prevent duplication of entries, a proposal to amend Representation of the People Act, 1951 to enable deduplication of electoral data using Aadhaar system was proposed by the Election Commission.

The cabinet on Wednesday gave green signal to the reforms which will allow seeding the Aadhaar number with electoral rolls on a voluntary basis. Besides, the Cabinet also cleared the EC's proposal to ease the enrolment schedule for first-time voters.

Under the new proposal, sources said, enrolment of first-time voters will be allowed four times a year.

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**  
केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)  
निविदा सूचना  
क्र. 298/के.कर्म/2021  
भोपाल, दिनांक 15.12.2021  
नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा टाटा ट्रक-407 या समकक्ष, बड़ा टाला पोकलेन मशीन-200 मय हेमर ब्रेकर एवं जे.सी.बी. मय हेमर ब्रेकर सहित किराये पर लेने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोर राशि	निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1	2021_UAD_173458_1	ESTIMATED FOR HIRING OF TATA TRUCK 407 OR EQUALANT, BIG TRALA, POCLAIN MACHINE 200 WITH HAMMER BRACKER AND J.C.B. WITH HAMMER BRACKER AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL	17120775/-	171208/-	12500/-	आवश्यकतानुसार

**BID SUBMISSION END DATE- 11.01.2022 TIME- 03:00 PM**  
**BID OPENING DATE- 12.01.2022 TIME- 03:00 PM**  
निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट [mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in) पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
सहायक यंत्री परिवहन शाखा नगर निगम भोपाल  
फ़ि.क्र. 923/021/022

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARPADA.**  
Tel. No.06792-254029, Fax No.06792-258464, E-Mail : [eerwss\\_bpd@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerwss_bpd@rediffmail.com), [eerwss\\_bpd@ori.nic.in](mailto:eerwss_bpd@ori.nic.in)  
Govt. of Odisha e-procurement Notice.  
Bid Identification No.29 of 2021-22, Date: 11.12.2021.

- Nature of the work:** Execution of Rural Piped Water Supply New Projects under different Blocks in Mayurbhanj district. in Percentage rate. (05packages).
- Estimated Cost:** 288.75 lakh to 395.58 Lakhs.
- Period of Completion:** ~ 11 months.
- Date and time of availability of bid document in portal:** From 11 hour of 20.12.2021 to 06.01.2022 up to 17 hours.
- Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal :** Both Technical & Financial Bid for each Package Up to 17 hours of 06.01.2022.
- Name and address of the O.I.T.:** Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada.
- Date & Time for Opening of Tender:** 07.01.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
- Corrigendum and addendum if any shall only be published in the above website <http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in>**
- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal: "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in/>"**

Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada  
OIPR-25014/11/0012/2122

**DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T/A,C,E,M)-4  
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUBL, DELHI-110054  
Short NIT. No.51 (Item no.1) (2021-22) E.E.(T/A,C,E,M)-4.

S No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Boring and installation of 3 Nos 1000 mm dia tube well at Model Town UGR/ BPS in AC-04. (Re-invite). Tender I.D. No. 2021_DJB_212791_1	38,02,827/-	15.12.2021 02:00 P.M. onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No: F/9/4/2020-PPD and DJB endorsement No DJB/2020-21/Misc-II(PT)/971 Date: 23.12.2020	500/-	Technical bid will be received 22.12.2021, 1:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 820(2021-22) \*STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene\*  
Sd/- (S.K. SINGH) EX. ENGINEER(T)





सत्यमेव जयते  
Government of Rajasthan



**Ashok Gehlot**  
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

“Extending heartiest greetings on the completion of three years of the state’s sensitive, transparent and accountable government. I wish for the happiness, prosperity, healthy life and all round development for the people of the state. Come, let us together take steps for the all-round development of Rajasthan with full devotion and commitment, and play our role with mind, promise and duty by being a partner.”

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

**Happy people, prosperous Rajasthan - These 3 years brought smile on every face**

## Achievement of Three Years Good Governance, Development and Prosperity

### ● Excellent Corona Management

Rajasthan Model State. Praised All Over the World.  
Free treatment provided to the people of nearby states also

### ● Resolution of ‘No One Should Sleep Hungry’ during Corona

Financial assistance of Rs 5,500 each family given to 32 lakh destitute families

### ● Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana

Each family is getting free treatment of Rs 5 lakh

● Election Manifesto announced as a policy document  
70% promises fulfilled

● Loan of approx Rs 15,000 Crore of 21 lakh farmers waived off till now

● No increase in electricity rates for farmers for 5 years

### ● Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana

Grant of Rs 1000 per month on electricity bills  
Electricity bills of small farmers are almost zero  
Grant of Rs 18,000 crore released so far

● 1 lakh unemployed got Government Jobs

One Lakh recruitments under process, appointment to be made soon

● Medical Colleges opening in 30 out of 33 districts in the State

### ● Indira Mahila Shakti Yojana

Fund of Rs 1000 crore for women empowerment

### Udaan Yojana

● Distribution of free sanitary napkins to all adolescent girls and women

### ● Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools

87,293 students enrolled so far  
1200 schools are being opened in every village and town with a population of more than 5000

**Launch • Foundation • Inauguration of various works and schemes on the occasion of completion of three years of the State Government**

**Saturday 18 December, 2021**

Energy, Water Resources, PWD, Public Health Engineering Department, Urban Development, Local Self-Government, Forest, Dairy, Agriculture and Cooperative Department

**Total Works - 2512 Total Amount - 13186 Crore**

**Sunday 19 December, 2021**

**Launch**

**Udaan**

Scheme of free distribution of sanitary napkins to all adolescent girls and women and inauguration and laying of foundation stones of various works

and

schemes of Home, Women and Child Development, Medical and Health, Social Justice and Empowerment, Minority, TAD, School/Higher/Technical Education, Skill and Employment, Disaster Management, Information and Technology and Planning Department

**Total Works - 1207 Total Amount - 1306 Crore**

For more information, please visit Jankalyan Portal [www.jankalyan.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jankalyan.rajasthan.gov.in)  
See this programme live on <https://youtube.com/user/GehlotAshok> and <https://www.facebook.com/AshokGehlot.Rajasthan>

**You are cordially invited**

**Department of Information & Public Relations, Rajasthan**



# Work on permanent solution for Delhi-NCR pollution: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court directed the Commission for Air Quality Management on Thursday to invite suggestions of the public and experts about a permanent solution to the problem of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana took note of a report filed by the Commission which informed it that a decision to lift the ban on certain industries has been taken.

"The committee's report states measures that have been taken. So far as construction activities have been taken it's been stated that a decision will be taken tomorrow. We will list the matter in the first week of February. Meanwhile, we direct the commission to invite suggestions of the general public and experts about a permanent solution to the pollution," the bench also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that

operation of industrial processes related to milk, dairy processing, manufacture of drugs, life-saving medicines and medical equipment has been permitted. He said some industries were permitted for eight hours, some industries said their nature of industries is such that eight hours is not sufficient. "We have asked them to have a continuous process but five days not seven days. And we have staggered industries so they don't function on the same days," Mehta said.

"Thermal power plants that are closed will remain shut but more will not be closed. Decision on construction activities will be taken tomorrow. Hospital constructions are permitted, while trucks, etc continue to be banned," he submitted.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioners in the case, said only short term measures have been proposed and the problem of air pollution, long term permanent measures are needed.

The bench asked him to submit suggestions which



would be considered by an expert group constituted by the commission. The commission has told the top court that milk and dairy processing units, medicines, drugs and life-saving equipment industries have been allowed to resume full-time operations.

Besides these, paper and pulp processing industries have been allowed to work five times a week while paddy, rice industries and textile, garment

units have been permitted to work five days a week. The commission further told the apex court that power plants have been permitted to operate keeping in view the demand for power.

The ban on construction activities, however, will continue and schools will also continue to function through online mode for the time being which will be reviewed again on December 17.

# Eye on Omicron, States told to be ready with O2, equipment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking cue from the rapid surge in new Omicron variant cases in various countries and in India where tally has touched to 73, an alarmed Center has asked the States and Union Territories to monitor their availability of oxygen supply, equipment, ventilators and concentrators among other things on a daily basis to ensure that there is absolute preparedness to tackle any rise in the number of infections.

In India, Omicron cases are gradually inching up. From 25 on December 4, the cases have risen to 73 with more States coming into its grip. In the wake of the rapid spread of the 'super-variant', Omicron, Maharashtra recorded 32 cases till Wednesday — the highest in the country — prompting the state government to extend the Covid-safety curbs in Mumbai till December 31 with new rules. Rajasthan was second on the list with 17 cases.

In a review meeting with the states and UTs on Wednesday, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan advised states to ensure the gap between equipment and systems deliv-

ered to the districts and installed at the healthcare facilities is reduced to zero. States have also been asked to conduct mock drills of all installed and commissioned PSA plants to ensure that they are fully operational so that oxygen of required quantity, pressure and purity reaches the intended patients at their bedside. These drills are to be completed by the end of December, the health ministry said.

Uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen in sufficient quantity is of critical importance to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre said.

While equipment and systems have been sanctioned and delivered, in many states these have not been sent to district health facilities and when delivered, some have not been made functional, Bhushan said.

State nodal officers were requested to streamline coordination with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (HITES) and Central Medical Services Society (CMSS) for resolution of electricity-related and site-related issues for ensuring quick operationalisation of the entire medical oxy-

gen supply infrastructure supplied to them.

So far, a total of 3,236 PSA plants have been installed in the country from various sources with a total commissioned oxygen capacity of 3,783 MT. Moreover, 1,14,000 oxygen concentrators are being provided to states under PM-CARES (1 lakh) and 14,000 from Emergency Covid Relief Package (ECRP-II), the government said.

It was also pointed out that ECRP-II funds have been sanctioned to them for installation of 958 LMO storage tanks and medical gas pipeline systems in 1,374 hospitals.

# Over 375 mn people went hungry in Asia-Pacific due to Covid: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the emergence of Covid-19, an estimated 375.8 million people in the Asia and the Pacific region faced hunger in 2020, which is nearly 54 million more people than in 2019, according to a joint report just published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

According to the 2021 Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition, in this region alone, more than 1.1 billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020 — an increase of almost 150 million people in just one year.

"This most recent report on the state of food security and nutrition in Asia and the Pacific tells a grim story. The high cost of a healthy diet and persistently high levels of poverty and income inequality continue to hold healthy

diets out of reach for 1.8 billion people in this region," wrote Jong-Jin Kim, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific at FAO, in the report.

The report stated that the region was already facing a "quite discouraging" food security and nutrition situation in 2019. Progress had stalled in reducing the number of undernourished, and the prevalence of certain nutritional indicators, such as stunting in children under five years of age, was much too high.

But Covid worsened the situation. Besides increasing infections, the containment measures led to a major contraction of economic activity around the globe. Disruption in food supply chains added to the problems.

The report also lauded the response of governments on the social protection measures they put in place during the crisis. However, they noted

that in building back better food environments, future agri-food systems will have to provide better production, better nutrition, a better environment and better lives.

"Our focus must revolve around the needs of small-scale family farmers in the region, as well as the needs of other vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, women and youth. These are the people that produce the nutritious food that everyone needs to eliminate malnutrition," wrote Marcoluigi Corsi, Regional Director of East Asia and the Pacific region, UNICEF.

While commitments have been made to ensure recovery, and there are opportunities to begin the hard work of advancing food security and nutrition through transforming agri-food systems, implementing these will be key to meet the second Sustainable Development Goal, SDG2, to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition, the report said.

# PM leads nation in paying tribute to 1971 war martyrs on Vijay Diwas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation on Thursday in paying tributes to the armed forces on the occasion of 50th anniversary of India defeating Pakistan in the 1971 war. It led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Modi laid a wreath and paid his respects at the National War Memorial on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, which is celebrated in commemoration of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

Four victory torches (vijay mashaals), which were taken across the country during the last one year, were merged into the memorial's eternal flame by the Prime Minister.

These victory torches, which

were lighted by the Prime Minister exactly a year ago, were carried to various parts of India, including to villages of the awardees of Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra of the 1971 war, as a part of Golden Jubilee year celebrations (Swarnim Vijay Varsh).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and chiefs of the three armed forces were present at the National War Memorial during the event. Modi said on Twitter, "On this special day of Vijay Diwas, I had the honour of paying my respects at the National War Memorial and merging into the Eternal Flame, the four Vijay Mashaals which traversed across the length and breadth of the country over the course of last one year." December 16 is celebrated as Vijay Diwas.

# Indira took 32 bullets for country but ignored on 1971 war anniv: Rahul

PNS ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the BJP Government of ignoring the role of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the 1971 War as India celebrates the 50th anniversary of the victory, which he said was achieved as the country was united then.

Referring to his grandmother and the former PM, Rahul said she took '32 bullets for the country' but her name was not even mentioned at an event in New Delhi on the anniversary of the victory over Pakistan.

Parliament paid tributes to Bangladeshi freedom fighters and Indian armed forces on the 50th anniversary of Vijay Diwas, which celebrates India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh. Making a reference in the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla remembered the exemplary courage displayed by freedom fighters of Bangladesh

as well as the Indian Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

With Indira not being named in either of the house of Parliament, Congress members raised slogans hailing late prime minister Indira Gandhi for leading the nation during the 1971 war. In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said the display of dauntless courage and gallantry by Indian armed forces in 1971 is still remembered with pride and zeal across the country, which continues to inspire the people of the nation.

Congress accused the Government of indulging in petty politics by not remembering Indira Gandhi during the Vijay Diwas celebrations. "It does not make any difference because I know what she (Indira Gandhi) did for the country by giving her blood," Rahul said launching his party's campaign for the Uttarakhand Assembly polls during a rally at Parade Ground in Dehradun.

# PM: Organise cultural, sports events to 'identify talents'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held a breakfast meeting with BJP Members of Parliament from five Southern States on Thursday asked them to organise cultural, sports and other events in their constituencies to "identify talents" and to have constant outreach with the people like a common man.

He also suggested that they visit the Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor that was inaugurated on Monday and experience its "glory." Members from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala interacted with Modi who had similar interaction last week with the BJP MPs from the North-East region.

The Prime Minister is understood to have conveyed that MPs should be avoiding airport lounge and instead stand in queue, meet people and behave like a common man. He encouraged them to be proactive in their areas while assuring that he was there to win elections.

The newly inaugurated Kashi-Vishwanath corridor figured prominently in the meeting, sources said.

"The glory and the divinity of Kashi can only be experienced by visiting it," he is said to have told the MPs.

# NEET-PG COUNSELLING

# Resident doctors' body warns of withdrawing from all services from Dec 17

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Resident doctors in healthcare institutions under the platform of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) have threatened to withdraw from all services, including routine and emergency services, from December 17 over their demand of urgent hearing of NEET PG counseling 2021, which is pending before the Supreme Court.

The FORDA has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in this regard. The resident doctors' associations across the nation have been protesting since November 27 against the multiple postponement of the NEET PG counseling and the subsequent admission of the fresh batch of resident doctors in the medical colleges. The RDAs have boycotted emergency and routine services in hospitals from December 6.

However, the federation announced to suspend its agitation for one week after getting positive assurance from the Health Ministry on December 9.

The federation has said in the letter that the resident

doctors across the nation have waited patiently since the agitation was put on hold on December 9 for one week following assurance of expediting the NEET PG counseling and considering multiple factors, including patient care.

With the threat of the third wave of Covid-19 looming large, the best the authorities could have done was to expedite the counseling and a subsequent admission process, but instead there is inaction and lack of urgency in the matter, the letter read.

Urging the Health Ministry to take the measures for fast-tracking court hearings and for expediting NEETA PG counseling and admission process, the federation said that it is left with no choice but to go for withdrawal from all services, routine as well as emergency, in the healthcare institutions from December 17.

Admissions for NEET PG have been delayed due to the dispute over revising the income criteria for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota. Approximately 16 lakh candidates too are waiting for the NEET UG Counselling 2021 this year.

# Yechury seeks removal of J&K HC Chief Justice

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitarang Yechury on Thursday urged President Ram Nath Kovind to remove Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (J&K&L) High Court's Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal for allegedly speaking 'against the Indian Constitution'. While addressing a programme organised by advocates' organisation affiliated to the RSS on December 5 at Jammu, Mithal spoke "against the Constitution of India", Yechury claimed in his letter to Kovind.

"It has been widely reported in the media that Mithal addressed a seminar organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad and said the following, 'Inclusion of the terms secular and socialist in the Preamble of the Constitution had narrowed India's spiritual image'," Yechury said. "Mithal is further

reported to have said, 'Sometimes, we bring amendments due to our adamancy,' he noted.

Utterances against the country's Constitution by a High Court Chief Justice, that too from a platform which preaches a particular ideology, is an unpardonable offence which is in violation of the oath taken by him to carry out his constitutional functions, the CPI(M) leader asserted. "Mithal's conduct (is) unbecoming of the constitutional office of the chief justice that he is holding (and it) warrants his immediate removal from the said office," he said.

"As the custodian of the Constitution, as the head of the State and as the appointing authority of Mithal, I request your good self to immediately set in motion the process for his removal from office to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and independence of judiciary," Yechury said.



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III  
G.T. ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032  
E-mail: cencliee@gmail.com Ph. No. 22598645

Press N.I.T. NO.54 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender Rs.	Tender Fees (in Rs).	EMD (in Rs).	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing new water connection including water meter and replacement of non functional water meters in Ward No.48E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-67 Tender I.D No. 2021_DJB_212846_1	25,97,788/-	500/-	EMD Exempted	16.12.2021	24.12.2021
2.	Providing new water connection including water meter and replacement of non functional water meters in Ward No.49E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-67 Tender I.D No. 2021_DJB_212846_2	25,97,788/-	500/-	EMD Exempted	16.12.2021	24.12.2021
3.	Providing new water connection including water meter and replacement of non functional water meters in Ward No.50E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-67 Tender I.D No. 2021_DJB_212846_3	25,97,788/-	500/-	EMD Exempted	16.12.2021	24.12.2021

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 524(2021-22) \*STOP CORONA-WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE\* Ex. ENGINEER (NE) - III

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to increase the passengers carrying capacity by augmenting following Express Trains temporarily from the dates shown against each:-

Train No. & Name	Augmented by	Date w.e.f. (Originating Station)
12511/12512 Gorakhpur - Kochuveli - Gorakhpur Rapti Sagar Express	Sleeper - 1	Ex. Gorakhpur : Upto 30.01.2022 Ex. Kochuveli : 19.12.21 to 01.02.2022
12589/12590 Gorakhpur - Secunderabad Jn. - Gorakhpur Exp.	Sleeper - 1	Ex. Gorakhpur : Upto 26.01.2022 Ex. Secunderabad Jn. : Upto 27.01.21
12591/12592 Gorakhpur - Yesvantpur Jn. - Gorakhpur Express	Sleeper - 1	Ex. Gorakhpur : 18.12.21 to 29.01.2022 Ex. Yesvantpur Jn. : 20.12.21 to 31.01.22
12029/12030 New Delhi - Amritsar Jn. - New Delhi Swarna Shatabdi Exp.	IIInd Class AC Chair Car - 1	Ex. New Delhi : 19.12.2021 Ex. Amritsar Jn. : 19.12.2021
12231/12232 Lucknow - Chandigarh - Lucknow Express	Sleeper-1	Ex. Lucknow : 18.12.21 to 24.12.2021 Ex. Chandigarh : 19.12.21 to 25.12.2021
12408/12407 Amritsar Jn. - New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Jn. Karmabhoomi Superfast	IIInd Class - 1	Ex. Amritsar Jn. : 24.12.2021 Ex. New Jalpaiguri : 29.12.2021
14512/14511 Meerut City - Prayagraj Sangam - Meerut City Nauchandi Exp.	Sleeper-1	Ex. Meerut City : 18.12.21 to 20.12.2021 Ex. Prayagraj Sangam : 19 to 21.12.2021
12275/12276 Prayagraj Jn. - New Delhi - Prayagraj Jn. Humsafar Express	3 Tier AC - 1	Ex. Prayagraj Jn. : 17.12.21 to 31.12.21 Ex. New Delhi : 20.12.2021 to 31.12.2021
22437/22438 Prayagraj Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) - Prayagraj Jn. Humsafar Exp.	3 Tier AC - 1	Ex. Prayagraj Jn. : 20.12.21 to 29.12.21 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) : 21.12.21 to 30.12.21

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# PM exhorts farmers to adapt agriculture to new requirements, challenges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for the adaptation of agriculture according to new requirements, new challenges of the journey till the 100th year of independence and urged the farmers to shift their focus from 'chemistry laboratory experiments' and connect it with the 'natural farming' methods.

The Prime Minister said that those who will benefit the most from natural farming, constitute about 80 percent of the farmers of the country. "Those small farmers, who have less than 2 hectares of land. Most of these farmers

spend a lot on chemical fertilizers. If they turn to natural farming, their condition will be better", PM Modi said.

Addressing the summit on natural and zero-budget farming being held at Anand, in Gujarat through video conference, the PM Modi said, "In the past 7 years, with 'Beej se leke, bazaar tak' we have introduced several reforms to modernise the Indian Krishi sector with technology and reviving organic ways to protect mother nature."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar were present on the occasion,

"The time has come to shift our focus from 'Chemistry lab experiments' to natural farming methods in the agriculture sector to support our environment. We have to take our agriculture out of the lab of chemistry and connect it to the lab of nature. When I talk about nature's laboratory, it is completely science-based," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi said today the more modern the world is becoming, the more it is moving towards 'back to basics'. "It means connecting with your roots. Who understands this better than all of you farmer friends? The more we water the roots, the more the plant

grows", PM Modi said. "We need not only to re-learn the ancient knowledge of agriculture but also to sharpen it for modern times. In this direction, we have to do research afresh, mould ancient knowledge into the modern scientific frame", he said.

"There is no doubt that fertilisers led to green revolution. But this is also true that we have to keep working on alternatives. The main reason for this is we have to import fertilisers for other countries, which increases the cost of farming. Hence, there is a need to be aware (about natural farming)," PM Modi said.

Citing the prevalent

notions of burning crop residue, Modi also expressed concern over the issue of stubble burning, saying the practice would actually harm the productivity of the agricultural land. He said time has now come to "correct the mistakes" that have become part of farming. He said that this happens despite experts having established that by setting fire to the field, the earth loses its fertile capacity.

"It is a fact that fertilizers have played a crucial role in the green revolution. But it is also imperative to work on their alternatives. It is the right time to take big steps before the issues related to farming become severe," the PM said.



# VHP seeks ban on Tablighis, crackdown on Deoband, PFI

'Nizamuddin markaz building, its linked accounts should be sealed'

**New Delhi:** The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Thursday demanded ban on the Tablighi Jamaat in India and "crackdown" on Darul Uloom Deoband and Popular Front of India as they provide 'direct or indirect nourishment' to Jamaat.

In a statement, the VHP, a saffron outfit, also demanded that the Nizamuddin Markaz building in Delhi and the bank accounts associated with it should be sealed, and its 'economic sources and resources' should be found out and plugged.

"Not only Bharat (India) but the whole world is in a serious trouble today due to the transgressions of the Tablighi Jamaat and its Nizamuddin

Markaz," it alleged. "The VHP demands a complete ban on Tablighis, Tablighi Jamaat and Ijtema (religious congregation) in India be imposed," the VHP said, alleging that the Tablighi Jamaat is a manufacturing hub of "radical Islamic Jihadism" as well as a host and patron of global terrorism.

The VHP also demanded that authorities "crackdown on institutions and organisations like Darul Uloom Deoband and PFI (Popular Front of India) that give direct or indirect nourishment to Tablighis, Tablighi Jamaat and Ijtema".

"The building of Nizamuddin Markaz and the bank accounts associated with it should be sealed. Their economic sources and resources should be found out and plugged," the saffron outfit added.

Saudi Arabia has banned the Tablighi and Da'wah group, also known as Al Ahbab, call-

ing it "danger to society and one of the gates of terrorism".

However, it was unclear if the Saudi Arabian government's tweets earlier this month were directed at the Tablighi Jamaat group. Muslim organisations and clerics in India have reacted over reports of Saudi Arabia's reported ban on Tablighi Jamaat.

VHP working president Alok Kumar claimed that the Saudi Arabian government has imposed a ban 'the Jamaat' and welcomed the move.

"This radical Islamic fundamentalist organisation is already banned in many countries of the world including Russia," he said, adding that "despite this, instead of welcoming the decision of the Saudi government, some Bharatiya (Indian) Muslim organisations, with their protests against it, have exposed themselves and made their role in terror-rearing and fostering quite clear". **PTI**

# Mamata attacks BJP after UNESCO's Puja heritage tag

Says those who allege I bar Hindu festivals should be ashamed against these forces.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After Durga Puja won the UNESCO world heritage tag Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday attacked the saffron leadership for criticising her all these years for allegedly not letting Hindu festivals take place in her State.

"Some people (read the BJP leadership) now have egg on their face... Some people used to spread canards against me saying 'Mamata does not allow Durga Puja and other festivals in Bengal... now that the UNESCO has put Durga Pujas on world heritage list what these people have to say... they should blacken their faces in shame,'" the Chief Minister said adding "you can abuse Mamata ... but can abuse UNESCO ... I have only one mantra ... fight against these evil forces ... I have created three generations that will continue to fight

Addressing an election rally in support of TMC candidates in Kolkata Municipal Corporation elections Banerjee said "days are coming when these people who criticize us will be shamed by more such honours that we will win ... we have already won international awards for Kanya Shree... we will soon win awards like the social schemes like Laxmir Bhandar, Duare Sarkar and other farmer and worker-friendly programmes."

Announcing a ₹24,000 crore programme for the development of Kolkata she said the whole city would be linked with a maze of flyovers adding "tomorrow Bengal will be known for its massive development ... we will be number one not only in India but all over the world."

Vouching for the industrial projects in Bengal she said "we have created a Silicon

Valley in Salt Lake where TCS is going to employ 50,000 people ... similarly Deucha Pachami coal project will see employment of 1 lakh youth."

Saying that Bengal was the only State in India where the retired Government servants still got pension she claimed "the Centre was pressuring me to discontinue such schemes but I refused."

She also said that by 2024 all households in Kolkata would get drinking waterline and additional 200 water pumps would be installed in the city to rid water logging.

KMC elections are going to take place on December 19. Results will be declared on 21st December. Meanwhile, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday rejected the BJP's plea seeking central forces saying such decision was for the State Election Commission to take.

# Kerala reports 4 Omicron cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Despite claims by the State Administration that Covid-19 was well under control, Kerala is in the grip of fear as four persons have been diagnosed with Omicron till Thursday evening.

The health sector in the State has come to a standstill as the indefinite agitation by the Government Doctors demanding better service conditions entered the ninth day while house surgeons and post graduate doctors continued their strike for the third day.

A release by Veena George,

health minister, on Thursday said that 3,404 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 during the last 24 hours.

The death toll till Thursday, according to the minister, was 43,946. The Ernakulam District administration has issued a red alert following reports that a person who reached Kochi airport from Congo on December 7 was diagnosed with omicron. The passenger instead of undergoing self-quarantine visited many public places including malls, restaurants and cinemas, according to the route map released by the district administration.

# Maha politicians welcome SC nod for bullock cart races

Jubilant cart owners welcome SC order, burst crackers

**Mumbai/Pune:** Political leaders in Maharashtra cutting across the party lines on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to allow the resumption of bullock cart races in the state, with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar calling it a "victory of farmers" and saying that the move will benefit in protecting the livestock.

Senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis also expressed happiness over the apex court's decision and claimed that he and other leaders of his party had followed up the matter with the Union government.

After the SC nod, the bullock cart owners in Pune district celebrated by bursting crackers and said that holding the races will give a boost to the rural economy.

The bullock cart races, a popular sport in rural Maharashtra which had been banned in 2014 on the ground that it caused pain and suffering to the bullocks. On Thursday, the apex court allowed the resumption of bullock cart races in the state.

Ajit Pawar said that with the lifting of the ban, bullock cart races can now again resume in the state, but he appealed to the farmers to abide by all rules and regulations. "With this decision, the ox farmers have won a long battle," Pawar said, adding that NCP chief Sharad Pawar, other leaders and, social activists had contested the ban vigorously.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government gave strength to this court battle. This success will create new enthusiasm among the farmers in the state, he added.

While allowing the resumption of bullock cart races, the top court on Thursday observed that the validity of the amended provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the rules framed by Maharashtra, which provided for bullock cart race in the state, would operate during the pendency of the petitions as the

entire matter has been referred to a constitution bench.

On Wednesday, the Maharashtra government had told the apex court that the ban on bullock cart races in the state should be lifted as the same is going on in states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Fadnis, who is the Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Assembly, said, "The Supreme Court had banned the bull races in 2014. I had personally followed it up with the Union government and later BJP MLA Mahesh Landge had made a representation before the Centre over it," he said.

Prakash Javadekar, the then Union minister, had also issued a gazette notification to pave the way for resumption of races, but the SC had put a ban on that also. The Centre in 2017 introduced a new act so that such bull races can be organised, he said.

"A report titled as 'Running ability of bull' was prepared in two months. Today's SC decision was taken only after acceptance of the recommendations made in the report. I am pleased with the SC decision," the former chief minister added.

Former Shiv Sena MP from Shirur Shivajirao Adhalrao Patil said that for the last over seven years, bullock cart races were banned in the state, but the Maharashtra government, various organisations, stakeholders and he gave a prolonged fight for the cause.

"For the last several months, the bullock cart owners were getting restless because of the ban. Without worrying about the ban, they even resorted to holding races, due to which cases were registered against them," he said.

The Sena leader said the state government "woke up" after he and bullock cart owners threatened to launch an agitation.

"The state government, officials from the animal husbandry department put forth the state's side strongly in the apex court through state counsel Mukul Rohatgi and due to this collective efforts, the court allowed the resumption of the races today," he said.

Mahesh Landage, BJP MLA from Bhosari in Pimpri

Chinchwad, who had been pressing for the lifting of the ban, called it a victory of farmers and bullock cart owners.

With the apex court giving its nod, several parts of the state, especially Pune and the western Maharashtra region, where the 400-year-old tradi-

tion was prevalent, will once again experience the thrill of the sport, those associated with the races said.

After the decision, the jubilant bullock cart owners in Pune district decorated their bullocks and burst firecrackers.

Bullock cart races were the main attractions at the village

raies in parts of the state and according to the bullock cart organisations, these events were instrumental in giving a boost to the rural economy.

Ramkrishna Talkaar, a representative of Akhil Bharatiya Bailgada Sharyat Sanghatna, said that the apex court has given the nod to hold

the races by adhering to the rules and regulations made by the state government in 2017.

"Since the Supreme Court has given the conditional permission, we appeal all the bullock cart owners to hold the races by adhering to the rules and regulations," he said. **PTI**

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S. No	Train No.	From	To	CC	Comptt	Frequency	Reserve Price per day (in Rs.)								
1	12463	DEE	JU	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	10444	77	12646	NZM	ERS	04	FI	Tuesday	35742
2	22482	DEE	JU	04	F-I	Daily	10888	78	12646	NZM	ERS	04	FII	Tuesday	35742
3	22482	DEE	JU	04	F-II	Daily	10888	79	12646	NZM	ERS	04	RI	Tuesday	35742
4	22482	DEE	JU	04	R-I	Daily	10888	80	12804	NZM	VSKP	04	FI	Wednesday & Sunday	29227
5	22463	DEE	BKN	3.9	FSLR	Friday & Sunday	11495	81	12804	NZM	VSKP	04	RI	Wednesday & Sunday	29227
6	20938	DEE	PBR	04	FI	Monday & Thursday	14665	82	22421	DEE	JU	04	FI	Daily	10888
7	20938	DEE	PBR	04	RI	Monday & Thursday	14665	83	22421	DEE	JU	04	FII	Daily	10888
8	22401	DEE	UHP	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Wednesday & Saturday	10776	84	12455	DEE	BKN	3.9	FSLR	Daily	13506
9	19338	DEE	INDB	3.9	FSLR	Monday	15334	85	22950	DEE	BDTS	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	20830
10	12986	DEE	JP	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8445	86	20914	DEE	RJT	04	FI	Friday	18130
11	12226	DLI	AMH	3.9	FSLR	Daily	13506	87	20914	DEE	RJT	04	FII	Friday	18130
12	22429	DLI	PTK	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday	9598	88	20914	DEE	RJT	04	RI	Friday	18130
13	14010	ANVT	BMKI	3.9	FSLR	Monday & Saturday	15689	89	14812	DEE	SIKR	04	FI	Wednesday & Friday	2161
14	14014	ANVT	SLN	3.9	FSLR	Monday & Saturday	10776	90	14812	DEE	SIKR	04	RI	Wednesday & Friday	2161
15	22806	ANVT	BBS	3.9	FI	Monday	26554	91	12265	DEE	JAT	3.9	FI	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
16	22806	ANVT	BBS	3.9	FII	Monday	26554	92	12265	DEE	JAT	3.9	FII	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
17	15026	ANVT	MAU	3.9	FSLR	Monday & Friday	13861	93	12265	DEE	JAT	3.9	RI	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	12312
18	15058	ANVT	GKP	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	12399	94	14035	DEE	PTK	04	FI	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
19	14152	ANVT	CNB	3.9	FSLR	Sunday	8593	95	14035	DEE	PTK	04	FII	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
20	12506	ANVT	KYQ	3.9	FSLR	Daily	26315	96	14035	DEE	PTK	04	RI	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9071
21	22540	ANVT	MAU	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday & Saturday	14204	97	12214	DEE	YPR	3.9	FSLR	Monday	39220
22	15280	ANVT	SHC	3.9	FSLR	Monday	18751	98	12457	DEE	BKN	04	FI	Daily	8555
23	12276	NDLS	PRYJ	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday	13683	99	12457	DEE	BKN	04	FII	Daily	8555
24	12626	NDLS	TVC	3.9	FSLR	Daily	36358	100	12457	DEE	BKN	04	RI	Daily	8555
25	12282	NDLS	BBS	3.9	FI	Thursday	31393	101	14521	DLI	UMB	04	FI	Daily	6048
26	12017	NDLS	DDN	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8199	102	14521	DLI	UMB	04	FII	Daily	6048
27	22210	NDLS	MMCT	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday & Saturday	28609	103	14521	DLI	UMB	04	RI	Daily	6048
28	14316	NDLS	BE	04	FI	Daily	5907	104	13414	DLI	MLDT	04	FI	Monday, Wednesday & Saturday	22642
29	14316	NDLS	BE	04	FII	Daily	5907	105	13484	DLI	MLDT	04	FII	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday	22959
30	14316	NDLS	BE	04	RI	Daily	5907	106	25035	DLI	RMR	04	FI	Daily	5614
31	12497	NDLS	ASR	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8205	107	14553	DLI	DLPC	04	FI	Daily	8040
32	22404	NDLS	PDY	3.9	FSLR	Sunday	31376	108	14553	DLI	DLPC	04	RI	Daily	8040
33	12459	NDLS	ASR	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8205	109	12481	DLI	SGNR	04	FI	Daily	8169
34	14038	NDLS	SCL	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	30885	110	12481	DLI	SGNR	04	FII	Daily	8169
35	22450	NDLS	GHY	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday & Sunday	27286	111	12481	DLI	SGNR	04	RI	Daily	8169
36	14681	NDLS	JUC	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8079	112	14018	ANVT	RXL	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	20145
37	22472	DEE	BKN	04	F-I	Daily	8555	113	13430	ANVT	MLDT	04	FI	Saturday	22325
38	22472	DEE	BKN	04	F-II	Daily	8555	114	15060	ANVT	LKU	04	FI	Tuesday & Thursday	4032
39	22472	DEE	BKN	04	R-I	Daily	8555	115	15060	ANVT	LKU	04	RI	Tuesday & Thursday	4032
40	20473	DEE	UDZ	04	F-I	Daily	11649	116	12874	ANVT	HTE	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday	20830
41	20473	DEE	UDZ	04	R-I	Daily	11649	117	12818	ANVT	HTE	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Thursday & Saturday	20534
42	14021	DEE	JP	04	FI	Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	7899	118	12780	NZM	VSG	04	FI	Daily	30693
43	14021	DEE	JP	04	RI	Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	7899	119	12780	NZM	VSG	04	RI	Daily	30693
44	14206	DLI	AYC	3.9	FSLR	Daily	10444	120	22414	NZM	MAO	3.9	FSLR	Friday & Saturday	35621
45	14206	DLI	PBH	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11084	121	22654	NZM	TVC	3.9	FSLR	Monday	37466
46	15035	DLI	KGM	04	FI	Daily	6188	122	12432	NZM	TVC	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday	46832
47	15035	DLI	KGM	04	RI	Daily	6188	123	20946	NZM	KDCY	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday, & Thursday	17003
48	15116	DLI	CPR	04	FII	Sunday	16466	124	12644	NZM	TVC	04	FI	Friday	37290
49	15116	DLI	CPR	04	RI	Sunday	16466	125	12644	NZM	TVC	04	FII	Friday	37290
50	15274	ANVT	RXL	04	FI	Daily	16091	126	12644	NZM	TVC	04	RI	Friday	37290
51	12330	ANVT	SDAH	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday	22076	127	22634	NZM	TVC	3.9	FSLR	Friday	37089
52	22460	ANVT	MDP	3.9	FSLR	Monday	19448	128	12448	NZM	MKP	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11656
53	12488	ANVT	JBN	04	FI	Daily	21997	129	22868	NZM	DURG	3.9	FSLR	Wednesday & Saturday	20145
54	12040	NDLS	KGM	3.9	FSLR	Daily	7728	130	12148	NZM	KOP	3.9	FSLR	Thursday	28805
55	12029	NDLS	ASR	3.9	FSLR	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday	10256	131	12824	NZM	DURG	3.9	FSLR	Tuesday, Friday & Sunday	20145
56	12005	NDLS	KLK	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	132	12230	NDLS	LJN	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8845
57	12011	NDLS	KLK	3.9	FSLR	Daily	8056	133	12392	NDLS	RGD	04	FII	Daily	18130
58	12445	NDLS	SVDK	3.9	FSLR	Daily	11084	134	22418	NDLS	BSB	04	FI	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	13138
59</															





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Coming of age

The Govt wants women to marry not before they turn 21 so they can take better hold of their lives

The Union Government proposes to raise the legal marriageable age of women from 18 to 21, the same as men, by amending the marriage Acts concerned. The Government will have to clarify whether the amended age will be applicable to personal laws of all religions. The proposal is based on the suggestions sent to NITI Aayog a year ago by a Central task force that examined "matters pertaining to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Rate, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues". The task force, however, was quick to point out that empowerment of women was its primary consideration. The proposal ticks all the right boxes. It is one more way to assert that child marriages and marriages of minors are illegal. It should steer families towards adapting to changing times and encouraging young adults to take independent decisions instead of rushing them into marriages the moment they get their undergraduate degrees. The younger generation does not want to be thrust into marriage just as they leave their teens and the proposal backs their thought. It clears the path for women to become economically independent and not be dependent on anyone for their livelihood. It paves the way for women to enjoy the right of choice, in terms of factors where they feel the pressure from their families the most — marriage, sex, or motherhood.



It is not that society's attitude towards women will improve once the amendments become law. It is that the country is making a conscious decision to create circumstances for women to take hold of their lives. We must remember that till 1978, women's marriageable age was only 15, which was then raised to 18. Women have moved up on the ladder of choice and parity in the four decades since then and are consciously pursuing higher studies and professional careers like never before. If the age limit ensures women are not married off before they attain mature adulthood, it is also a caution that they are not married off the moment they attain the age of consent. The point of the exercise is to respect women's right to consent. The limit also discourages the marriage of minors, a social evil still prevalent in several parts of the country. It means women should be able to convince their families that at 21 they are mature enough to exercise their choice about all things in life, including, and especially, marriage. Empowerment is not selective. It is not conditional. An empowered woman has the right to educate herself, make adult choices vis-à-vis relationships, take up employment and choose the time to have a life partner. The right gives her the choice to not choose as well. That is the critical point that society at large needs to understand. Otherwise, empowerment has no meaning. Needless to say, the biggest responsibility of respecting everything the proposal stands for lies with the State apparatus.

### PICTALK



Artistes dressed as Lord Hanuman take part in a procession to mark Hanuman Jayanti, in Bengaluru

## To \$ or not to \$

The Centre must not rush to ban it as cryptocurrency is the future, say experts

The winter session of Parliament is on and the Government is planning to bring a Bill on cryptocurrency. Locally, it is being dubbed a Bill to ban, or at least regulate, cryptocurrency. It had an impact on the crypto market and Bitcoin tumbled down 15 per cent before staging a recovery. For nearly 10 years now, cryptocurrency has been in news and its exponential growth has made instant billionaires, which led to a mad rush for Bitcoins. It has also opened an additional hawala route to transfer funds. Why is the Government so keen to ban it? Its alarm may have been triggered by the fact that crypto is being used for all the wrong purposes like procuring drugs and arms through the darknet, a hidden internet used by fugitives. The Enforcement Directorate has discovered that ₹4,000 crore were laundered out of India using cryptos last year. Though indeed a serious problem, crypto is not the only way to make such transactions. There are several other nefarious routes, and these continue unabated.



Cryptocurrency is not issued by any bank or Government but by anyone who wants to float his currency, just like airlines offering 'flying miles' or malls issuing their plastic money. Therefore, nobody — least of all a Government — has any control over it, which means regulating or banning it is nigh impossible, even though a number of Ministers have hinted that it may get banned. The Government can at best declare it to not be a legal tender, which isn't in most countries barring a few South American nations such as Ecuador and Chile. No doubt the concerns are many, but would it really be possible for the Government to control or, for that matter, ban it? If yes, would it be in the nation's interest? What happens to the 'Digital India' drive as experts feel that cryptocurrency is here to stay and, in future, it would be the mainstay for online transactions. The Government would do well to wait and watch rather than jumping the gun and deciding in haste. Except China, no country has so far banned cryptocurrency. In fact, many countries with weak currencies are promoting it. Even the US, the UK and France have not tried to control it. Crypto is the future and it won't be possible for any single nation to control it; it has to be done collectively. Banning it would in fact be a setback for 'Digital India'!

# The land of freedom and democracy



PROFULL GORADIA

At Biden's 'Summit for Democracy', Modi appropriately underlined the point that the democratic spirit is integral to India's civilisational ethos

It is safe to assume that US President Joe Biden had in mind only electoral democracy when he invited many a head of Government to his December 9 'Summit for Democracy'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a telling point when he said that the democratic spirit is integral to India's civilisational ethos. Centuries of colonial rule could not suppress the democratic spirit of Indians. He avoided extending the proposition to a faith in the phenomenon of karma which is nothing, if not democratic, on a metaphysical scale. All humans have a fair and equal opportunity to be automatically rewarded with or denied a bhagya or fate commensurate with her/his karma without a divine entity, say God, having an overriding say in the bhagya. The belief in the operation of karma is like the law in physics that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. This is a faith as near science as yet possible.

Another symptom of Indian democracy is its history down the ages. Anyone who arrived whether via the Hindu Kush or Arabian Sea as the early Jews or other traders, the Parsees, British and many others were welcome, or at least allowed to stay and settle on Indian soil. No one was expelled regardless of being cruel or kind.

The idea behind the open welcome to one and all was that the world was one family, Vasudhaiva kutumbakam. An advantage of this policy — call it Indic — or conduct was that the culture-cum-civilisation became resilient and, regardless of its disinclination to fight, survived against any number and kinds of invasions. Few cultures could withstand it and survive. It began with the advent of the Caliph and his successors, from Arabia, on to Egypt and the Mediterranean countries certainly up to Spain. On the eastern side were Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan et al but, strictly speaking, not India. If conversions of the indigenous on any scale took place, they were well after the Islamic conquest.

After the Sepoy Mutiny was



over in 1858 AD, contact with Britain was reasonably close and frequent. As a result, Indian youth, even women, learnt the British ways of education, culture and socio-politics by the early years of the 20th century. By the time we won Independence, Indian leaders were ready to adopt electoral democracy as the means to choose Governments, at the Centre and in the provinces. We also chose a parliamentary system and not the American presidential style, although it would have been more suitable for India. Every adult was straightaway entitled to vote; those with more education, property or influence could exercise the advantage in their profession but not in an election. This insistence on equality is a hallmark of true electoral democracy. With the passage of every election, the Indian nation has learnt to participate better. There have so far been general elections at the Centre while the States have also been disciplined in holding their polls. The only significant interruption was the Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi regime in 1975; it lasted until early 1977. It was unpopular because it was declared only



THE INSISTENCE ON EQUALITY IS A HALLMARK OF TRUE ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY. WITH THE PASSAGE OF EVERY ELECTION, THE INDIAN NATION HAS LEARNT TO PARTICIPATE BETTER

with the intent of saving Indira's hold on power. Except for those 21 months or so, India's record of electoral democracy has been commendable.

Even when dealing with Mohammed Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League during Partition, India's behaviour was, if anything, overdemocratic. In anticipation of the separation, the Qaid-e-Azam and his colleagues were insistent that all Muslims should be facilitated to migrate to the new Islamic country, their homeland. They were at times so vehement as to insist that all Muslims should migrate from India. In his rabid enthusiasm, one of the League bigwigs Sir Feroz Khan Noon thundered in February 1946 in Patna that if the Hindus in India came in the way of the transfer of Muslims to Pakistan, the League would re-enact the orgies of Chengiz Khan and Halaqu Khan.

Indian leaders remained calm and implied that Muslims were also their brothers and they should be allowed to decide for themselves. An Exchange of Population plan was proposed and supported by Jinnah whereby Muslims, preferably all of them, would migrate to Pakistan. And

reciprocally, all non-Muslims would move to India. Rajendra Prasad, who subsequently became the President of independent India, wrote a book entitled *India Divided* wherein he suggested that those Muslims who didn't emigrate could stay in India as aliens with visas issued by the Government of India. The same could be done by Pakistan to the non-Muslims who remained behind in that country.

Jinnah promptly agreed with Prasad. Yet, the other Congress leaders kept quiet. In the end, Pakistan, with the help of violence, loot and killing chased out most Hindus whereas Muslims were allowed to stay back in India if they wished. Some went away from East Punjab (India), UP and Bihar but compared to Pakistan, India did practically little. This is true to this day, 75 years later.

This was the practical essence of democracy. It is difficult to think of any other example of such devotion to freedom. India is indeed the land of freedom and, therefore, democracy.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RECOGNITION FOR FEMALE ATHLETES

Sir — Hyundai Motors has struck a big blow for gender parity by signing a MoU with four Indian women cricketers. So far, it was only men who were given almost god-like status in advertisements across all media. Even on the world stage, not many women get as much attention as their male counterparts do. In Indian cricket, male sportspersons have always been given preference by companies as the face of their brands. India has produced some of the finest athletes in various sports who should have been promoted but were not. Therefore, this becomes an important and perhaps a bold step by the company.

This move will benefit not only the four players who have been signed up but also serve as an example for other brands to follow suit. It will also give an added impetus to the many budding sportswomen who are trying to make a mark in the national and international sports arena. There are many dedicated and elite women athletes in the country who need and deserve such recognition. Other brands, too, should go ahead with women brand ambassadors and promote gender equality. With more women reaching the top in various fields, it certainly seems as if happy days are on the way to the women of the nation.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

### THE BAND OF BROTHERS, FOR EVER

Sir — The soldiers of our country have protected their land and its people forever. Their supreme sacrifice has always been the flame of example that can never be extinguished. They have never failed in winning the hearts of the people by their duty as well as gesture. Recently, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans attended the marriage ceremony of martyred Constable Shailendra Pratap Singh's sister in Uttar Pradesh. The jawans, Constable Singh's colleagues, performed all the brotherly rituals and gestures in the wedding of his sister. Constable Shailendra Pratap Singh was martyred in a terrorist attack in Pulwama last year. This gesture by the

## Sack the untenable Minister



After the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) finding that the Lakhimpur Kheri carnage was 'pre-planned', the position of Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni has become untenable. Propriety requires that he steps aside till a court finds his son, against whom the SIT found prima facie evidence, not guilty of running over four farmers and a journalist and killing them. Circumstantial evidence suggests that his son may have been abetted in the alleged commission of the crime by

him. The fact that the killing of farmers occurred following the MoS' threat that it would take him 'two minutes to discipline the protesting farmers' if he so wished, may not be sufficient to implicate him in the crime, still it is not without its own underlying import or significance.

One thing is clear, were the killers not drunk in power, the farmers would not have lost their lives. The inclusion of sections under the Arms Act in the charge-sheet spells trouble for Ajay Mishra since it was from his burnt vehicle that empty cartridges were recovered. By venting his anger on journalists, he can assert his VVIP status, but he cannot exonerate himself from the charges. The Supreme Court deserves credit for taking suo motu cognisance of the tragic incident and ordering a credible SIT without allowing the Modi Government or the Yogi Government to pervert the course of justice.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

by his contribution to the blockbuster Tamil film *Konjum Salangai*.

The song *Singara Velane Deva*, in which playback singer S Janaki sang in tandem with Arunachalam's nadaswaram, mirroring every phrase of the song, became a runaway hit. Though Janaki sang innumerable songs and won plenty of awards, *Singara Velane Deva* remains a watermark in her outstanding career. This song is an eternal favourite, tugging at the heartstrings of the young and old and transcending time and age boundaries. In an era when song-tracks are recorded separately and then synthesised, this immortal song was a pioneer for such an innovation more than five decades ago. It was veteran director MV Raman who directed this epic film in technicolour which reportedly cost around ₹40 lakh, something unheard of in those days.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The Government's refusal to sack Ajay Mishra Teni is the starkest indication of its moral bankruptcy.



Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi

At the moment, I have no plans to attend the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.



Japanese Prime Minister —Fumio Kishida

We gained experience by doing 60-70 films but the new actors already have that kind of experience.



Actor —Akshay Kumar

There was no offence, no hesitation and not once was I told that you should not leave T20 captaincy.



India batsman —Virat Kohli

When the AAP forms Government in Punjab, the country's biggest sports university will be set up in Jalandhar.



Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal





## FIRST COLUMN

### INDIA'S CONNECT: A CENTRAL ASIA POLICY

Despite a solid economic partnership with China, central Asia is well aware of its deceitful nature



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Leaders from five central Asian countries comprising of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan could be the chief guests on the next Republic Day. This comes close on the heels of the Russian president's tour to India that re-emphasized Indo-Russian strategic friendship. All this happens in the backdrop of India finding new strategic allies such as the US, and Russia's growing intimacy with China and Pakistan. It brings the focus on the big global powers trying to recalibrate their strategic, geo-political and military alliances in a post-COVID, multipolar and a more transactional world order. India, therefore, has made the right move by focusing on a specific regional cluster of nations, i.e., Central Asia, within its larger foreign strategy. If the heads of state of the five Central Asian republics attend as chief guests on January 26, 2022, it would be the second occasion after 2018 when regionally important ASEAN leaders had been the chief guests. It would



be a good optical moment for India to showcase its increased influence over the central Asian republics, specifically to China and Pakistan. The five countries share land borders with Afghanistan and some also with China, Russia and Iran. The Afghanistan situation is increasingly threatening to spill over and start impacting the rest of the landlocked neighbors and beyond. The immediate threats are a barrage of illegal Afghan immigrants spilling into these five countries and onwards to Russia and perhaps China and Iran, too. There are additional threats of drug and human trafficking, terror activities and smuggling and the whole of Eurasia starts feeling the tremors. India has a unique position in the relationship because of its historical, cultural and infrastructural linkages with these countries in the past; even though it is now isolated due to its evolving relationship with China and Pakistan. Pakistan, and by proxy China, would not spare a chance to use the Taliban-trained militia to create problems for India. China and Pakistan have significant political, economic and strategic interests in Afghanistan that serves as a key gateway into Eurasia for them. China, dictated by its expansionist foreign policy almost teetering towards colonization, steadily strengthened its economic relations with Central Asia over the years. The annual trade between them is approximately \$100bn compared to India's less than \$2bn with the same group of countries. That leaves a yawning gap for India to fill by nurturing a strong relationship with them at the earliest.

India was one of the first countries to officially recognize these Central Asian republics in the 1990s. Prior to that, India's engagement with them was through the erstwhile Soviet Union. In the past three decades, India has hardly developed meaningful partnerships with these geo-politically important countries neighboring Afghanistan. In wake of the current Afghan crisis and a gradual recalibration of the global order, lethargy of the past has to be dropped. Central Asia despite having a robust economic partnership with China is well aware of the deceitful nature of the Dragon. They are also more influenced by Russia and Iran for their security, and strategic interests. Russia, even though it has an empathetic view of China's narrative on the evolving global order, knows that India is a tried and trusted friend in the region who can be a balancing component. Therefore, Russia would also encourage these central Asian countries to expand their security, economic partnerships with India and have complementarity of policies on regional concerns such as terrorism, drug trafficking and Afghanistan. India has done well by rekindling its Central Asia connect policy (first conceived in 2012). The roads from Tashkent to Thiruvananthapuram and Samarkand to Surat need to be built. (The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

# Poor hygiene brings the economy down



KRITHIKA MURALI SWATI MAHAJAN

The challenges in accessing adequate water supply, sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices lead to a rise in diseases, causing increased economic burden

Access to hygiene and sanitation facilities is a fundamental human right and one of the key determinants of health. According to the 2017 Household Survey for the Assessment of Toilet Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission, 39.9 percent of India's rural population defecates in open and about 26 percent people do not use soap or detergent to wash their hands afterwards (National Sample Survey 2019). The challenges in accessing adequate water supply and sanitation facilities coupled with poor hygiene practices lead to a rise in diseases which can result in higher economic burden, exceeding investments in hygiene and sanitation systems.

The sixth Sustainable Development Goal is to 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' by 2030. Since Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs have a direct impact on health and socio-economic indicators, they have played a central role in improving India's overall health over the past decades. Hygiene, water and sanitation programs are a proven cost-effective investment for public health.

Ever since Independence, WASH Programs have been synonymous with the country's public health agenda. Too many lives have been lost to preventable diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, cholera, smallpox and other infectious diseases — all caused by poor hygiene, sanitation and inadequate water supply. As a result, the Government of India put emphasis on improving health indicators with a focused approach towards water supply and sanitation across the country.

In the 10th five-year plan adopted in 2002, the role of sanitation and hygiene were intrinsically linked to the objectives of reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR); Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR); ensuring completion of five years of schooling for all children by 2007 and providing potable drinking water in all villages. The Swachh Bharat Mission and the Jal Jeevan Mission are two recent government initiatives aimed at improving the supply of clean water and moving the country toward sustainable sanitation standards. While the Swachh Bharat Mission was aimed at achieving universal sanitation coverage, the Jal Jeevan Mission sought to ensure piped water supply for all households in the country; providing a significant boost to the rural water and sanitation industry. According to Lancet's 'The Global Burden of Disease' study, through these efforts India managed to add quality years of life expectancy to its people, indicating a substantial increase in the overall health of the country.

However, given the wide inequalities in the social and economic demographics of the population, India continues to experience mixed progress in terms of hygiene and sanitation-related outcomes.

The economic consequences caused by inadequate access to sanitation has reper-



TO OVERCOME THE ISSUES RELATED TO HYGIENE AND SANITATION AND PREVENT ITS NEGATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS, THE COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS MUST MAKE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

(Dr Swati Mahajan is chief of party, USAID-NISHTHA project and leads the comprehensive primary healthcare portfolio for Jhpiego. Krithika Murali is leading the communication, documentation and knowledge management portfolio for USAID-NISHTHA project, implemented by Jhpiego. The views expressed are personal.)



ussions at multiple levels. Along with loss of GDP, communities suffer due to decreased productivity and increased expenditure on healthcare. A World Bank study on the economic impacts of poor sanitation in India estimated that the country lost the equivalent of 6.4 percent of GDP due to inadequate sanitation. Over 70 percent of it (₹1.75 lakh crore) was accounted for by premature mortality and health-related costs.

While social impacts are difficult to quantify, some risks are often exacerbated, affecting the most vulnerable groups including women, children and people with disabilities. For example, poor pregnancy outcomes, maternal mortality, violence and psychological stress are some of the serious consequences of lack of access to clean water and sanitation among women and girls. Inadequate access to WASH can also lead to vulnerability, rape and attacks, and the fear of such assaults can prohibit women and children from using toilets and sanitary facilities outside their homes at night. Similarly, problems of dignity, safety and privacy to maintain good hygiene get compounded for disabled persons as they experience increasing feelings of disgust, fear of violence, injury and shame due to lack of proper hygiene services.

To overcome the issues related to hygiene and sanitation and prevent its negative socio-economic impacts, communities, governments, private sector and development partners must make collaborative efforts towards innovative solutions. Governments and supporting agencies need to foster innovation, especially from the commercial sector, to make hand hygiene a universal practice in all contexts. To tackle issues of shortage of water,

inaccessibility and unavailability of hand washing facilities and soaps, new solutions are urgently required. Multi-stakeholder collaborations in such situations assume an important role in providing market knowledge and recommendations on enhancing hand hygiene and strengthening WASH facilities.

A collaboration between the World Bank, UNICEF, Johns Hopkins University, USAID and Unilever to form a Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing in 2001 is a case in point. More notably, Unilever has been involved in tackling epidemics such as cholera and has been able to reach over 1.2 billion individuals with programs and awareness campaigns through their Hygiene and Behaviour Change Coalition partnerships. Through close collaborations with Government/ public enterprises, HBCC has been able to advocate for hand and surface hygiene among the vulnerable slum populations even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interventions to promote hand hygiene should also be founded on a thorough understanding of what people care about, and should incorporate appropriate social norms to help build sustainable habits. The emphasis needs to move towards a transformative approach focusing on needs of the community, going beyond the benefits of WASH in sanitation research and programming and eliminating the less safe forms of sanitation. Projects like NISHTHA, USAID's flagship health system strengthening project being implemented by Jhpiego in partnership with Unilever, support various state governments in leveraging the Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) platform under Ayushman Bharat. One of the key

aspects of this project is the health and wellness session, where local communities are educated on the importance of healthy hygiene. Considering the local context, this project leverages on existing limited resources and funds to establish handwashing corners and appropriate social norms to strengthen handwashing behaviours.

Transformative approaches to hygiene and sanitation require stronger governance, management and increased accountability. There is a need to build capacities of health workers and sanitation workers, create mass awareness among the larger public and collaborate with the private sector and other partners for investing in the area of WASH. This would not only ensure access to sanitary facilities to households but would also empower people to take sustained action at local levels.

Overall, investments in toilet usage, hygiene promotion, increased access to potable water, and effective waste management are estimated to save India \$32.6 billion (₹1.48 trillion) or \$29 (₹1321) per capita, according to a Water and Sanitation Program report. Improved sanitation yields several economic benefits, including direct benefits such as avoiding illnesses (the sum of money saved on healthcare expenses), indirect economic benefits such as fewer sick days and a longer lifespan because these benefits permit people to work more. As estimated by WHO, every dollar invested in hygiene and sanitation provides a return on investment for the society of \$5.50 due to lower health costs, increased productivity and fewer premature deaths. Therefore, it is imperative to carefully shape policies and regulations that prioritize and adequately fund hygiene and sanitation.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WANT TO SEE THE BJP LOSE ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN THE 2024 ELECTIONS. IT WILL BE *KHELA HOBEY* AGAIN.  
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER  
MAMATA BANERJEE



MAMATA BANERJEE HAD SAID SIMILAR THINGS IN 2014 AND IN 2019, AND ALL OF US HAVE SEEN THE RESULT.  
—BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT  
SUKANTA MAJUMDAR

# Unifier's unflinching legacy: A tribute to Sardar Patel

Adhering to the ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking initiatives to realise his goals

December 15, marks the death anniversary of the nation's great unifier, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The right tribute will be to adopt his ideas, actions and nationalistic spirit. The people of India will forever remain indebted to him for his leadership during the freedom struggle and his vision, wisdom, and statesmanship in the post-Independence era.

Starting his public life from being a municipal councillor in Ahmedabad to becoming India's Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Patel had a very granular understanding of the various stakeholders of governance, administration, their relevance, roles and responsibilities. His steadfast approach to handling the nation's complexities made



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

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him a responsible and reasoned voice of the masses.

With unflinching zeal and rare boldness, he handled the task of unification of the princely states. Patel's diplomatic maneuvers secured "accession" of these states and provided shape to the nation by bringing them in line with the constitutional framework. The unsuccessful unification of Kashmir turned out to be a grave mistake of Jawahar Lal Nehru under Shaikh Abdullah's pressure. On December 23, 1947, Nehru took J&K away from Patel's charge and placed it under Gopalaswami Ayyangar. It hurt Patel deeply and in his reply to Nehru's letter, he expressed his will to resign. All three stalwarts of the constituent assembly, Bhimrao



Ambedkar, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Sardar Patel, outrightly opposed J&K's special status from the beginning. Intra-party power struggles and sheer hollowness of democratic values of Congress surfaced while choosing the Prime Minister of Independent India. Twelve out of 15 Congress Committees chose Sardar Patel for presidency, but still Pandit Nehru was selected. Socialistic leader Jayaprakash Narayan once remarked: "If Sardar Patel, and not Pandit

Nehru, had been the first PM of India, maybe, Partition of the country could have been averted."

Sardar Patel's famous letter of November 7, 1950, highlights his vigorous criticism of Nehru's foreign policy of in the context of mishandling of Tibet, China and Kashmir. This criticism finds consonance with Ambedkar's vision of foreign affairs. These Nehruvian interventions resulted in Sino-India and Indo-Pak wars over the course of our history. The 41-year delay in posthumously awarding Bharat Ratna to the Iron Man still highlights Congress's ill-will towards him. Sardar Patel was denied his fair share in history due to a lack of the rationality of Nehruvian and leftist historians. Thus, it is

imperative to bring a rational account of his monumental legacy to the new generations.

After his task of unifying India, the Iron Man of India was instrumental in making the Steel frame of India, i.e., creating a massive administrative grid through the All-India Services. He also decided to culturally connect the shared heritage and ethos of Indians by reconstructing the demolished Somnath temple that would depict the story of India's resurgence and victory of construction over destruction. Adhering to the ideals of Sardar Patel, the government under PM Narendra Modi is taking initiatives to realise his goals. The steel frame of India is further strengthened to prepare future-ready civil servants through Mission Karam

Yogi. This capacity-building program aims to overcome the modern challenges of a technologically connected world, facilitate ease of life to citizens, provide best governance and emerge as the world's best civil service.

The repeal of Article 370 was a well-articulated move to correct a historic blunder. The government is fulfilling the dream of Sardar Patel through the overall development of the Somnath temple complex.

On his 143rd birth anniversary, the 'Statue of Unity', the tallest statue in the world, was dedicated to the nation that radiates the wisdom of Sardar Patel and enlightens the path of the present as well as future generations. From 2014 onwards, his birth anniversary is

observed as National Unity Day. The Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat initiative further strengthens the sustained and structured cultural connection between different regions.

It is worth realising that our forefathers did everything for the ambience we have inherited. They had worked hard to institutionalise the framework that empowers individuals to attain their full potential and collectively scale new heights for the nation. As part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the death anniversary of Sardar Patel is the apt moment to recall the supreme sacrifices of countless named and unnamed individuals and pay our fitting tribute by pledging to achieving the futuristic goals for building a New India.



# US faces a double coronavirus surge as omicron advances

Washington: The new omicron coronavirus mutant speeding around the world may bring another wave of chaos, threatening to further stretch hospital workers already struggling with a surge of delta cases and upend holiday plans for the second year in a row.

The White House on Wednesday insisted there is no need for a lockdown because vaccines are widely available and appear to offer protection against the worst consequences of the virus.

But even if omicron proves milder on the whole than delta, it may disarm some of the life-saving tools available and put immune-compromised and elderly people at particular risk as it begins a rapid assault on the United States.

"Our delta surge is

ongoing and, in fact, accelerating. And on top of that, we're going to add an omicron surge," said Dr Jacob Lemieux, who monitors variants for a research collaboration led by Harvard Medical School.

"That's alarming, because our hospitals are already filling up. Staff are fatigued," leaving limited capacity for a potential crush of COVID-19 cases "from an omicron wave superimposed on a delta surge."

Most likely, he and other experts said at a press briefing Tuesday, an omicron surge is already under way in the United States, with the latest mutant coronavirus outpacing the nation's ability to track it.

Based on specimens collected last week, the Centres

for Disease Control and Prevention said omicron accounted for about 3% of genetically-sequenced coronaviruses nationally. Percentages vary by region, with the highest - 13% - in the New York/New Jersey area.

But Harvard experts said these are likely underestimates because omicron is moving so fast that surveillance attempts can't keep up.

Globally, more than 75 countries have reported confirmed cases of omicron. In the United States, 36 states have detected the variant.

Meanwhile, delta is surging in many places, with hot spots in New England and the upper Midwest. The five states with the highest two-week rolling average of cases per 100,000 people are New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Michigan, Minnesota and Vermont.

Universities are abruptly closing classrooms during finals week with infections multiplying at a fast rate. The NBA is postponing games and the NFL had its worst two-day outbreak since the start of the pandemic, with dozens of players infected.

Outside the US, the president of the European Union said omicron will become the dominant variant in a month and declared that "once again, this Christmas will be overshadowed by the pandemic".

Scientists around the world are racing to understand omicron, which has a large number of worrisome mutations in important regions

## France to restrict travel from Britain to fight omicron

Paris: France will sharply restrict travel to and from Britain because of fast-spreading cases of the omicron coronavirus variant, putting limits on reasons for travelling and requiring 48-hour isolation upon arrival, the government said Thursday.

The move suddenly disrupted travel plans for families and others on both sides of the English Channel. Travellers questioned whether the measures were politically driven, and UK officials suggested they were pointless.

With omicron now seeded around the world, "red list" travel bans "wouldn't be effective or proportionate," said Boris Johnson's spokesman, Max Blain. He said Johnson hadn't spoken to French President Emmanuel Macron about the move, and that Britain doesn't plan to take a reciprocal measure. The new French measures will take

## EU leaders to discuss rise of infections, spread of omicron

Brussels: European Union leaders are trying Thursday to coordinate action to tackle the surge of coronavirus infections across the continent and the emergence of the new omicron variant while keeping borders open. With the festive season looming, the bloc's leaders want to avoid a confusing mixture of rules and to ensure all 27 member states are on the same page and that COVID-19 certificates continue to guarantee unrestricted travel.

But alarming rises in infections have prompted many European governments to implement public health measures and new restrictions in recent weeks. The European Council, which brings together EU leaders to set the bloc's political agenda, said before the talks in Brussels that "any restrictions should not undermine the functioning of the single market or hamper travel between EU member states and to Europe."

## Moderna vax 'highly effective' against Covid variants: Study

Los Angeles: Two doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are highly effective against SARS-CoV-2 variants, but protection against Delta infection decreases over time, according to a study conducted in the US.

At the time of the study, the omicron variant had not yet been detected in the Southern California region, the researchers said.

The research, published in The British Medical Journal on Wednesday, showed the vaccine was effective against COVID-19 hospitalisation associated with the Delta variant. However, vaccine effectiveness against the variant moderately declined with increasing time after vaccination. This study confirmed effectiveness against all variants during the study period, although we did find a drop in effectiveness over time against Delta infection, from 94 per cent effectiveness in the first 2 months after vaccination to 80 per cent effectiveness after 6 months," said Katia Bruxvoort.

vaccines.

But, MacInnis warned: "There's much more that we don't know about this variant than we do, including the severity."

At the same time, Lemieux said, there seem to be fewer tools to fight it. Some monoclonal antibody treatments don't work as well against omicron in lab tests, Lemieux said. Vaccines appear to offer less protection, although CDC officials said booster shots strengthen that protection.

Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Wednesday there is no need, for now, for an omicron-specific booster shot. The two-dose mRNA vaccines, the Pfizer and Moderna shots, still appear to offer considerable protection against hospitalization from omicron, Fauci said.

"If we didn't have these tools, I would be telling you to be really, really worried," Fauci said.

Jeff Zients, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said the US has the tools to fight the virus, including omicron, and "there is no need to lock down".

With vaccines available now for 95% of Americans, "we know how to keep our kids in schools and our businesses open. And we're not going to shut down".

Health officials called on Americans to get vaccinated, get their booster shots, wear masks indoors and get tested before travelling and before holiday gatherings.

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
**No.SSA/Esstt/KGBV-Utensile/3702021/7945 Date: 15.12.2021**  
**Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from manufacturer of Steel Utensil/supplier of Steel Utensil for supply of Utensil.**  
**To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.**  
**The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable bid processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.**

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

Janasanyog/CF/2385/21

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S NO	System Tender No. / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	87414 First Call 23.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF BHANPURI TO KOKDI MEELA GROUND APPROACH ROAD(LENGTH 2.27 KM.) I/C. CULVERTS AT DISTT. DURG.	631.61
2	87415 First Call 23.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING AT BLOCK - LUNDRADISTT. SURGUJA (C.G.) (Work code -W18112)	330.35
3	87435 First Call 23.11.2021	Construction of Govt. Girls College Building I/C. Water C Supply & Sanitary Fittings, And Electrification Work At Balod Distt.- Balod.	455.56
4	87446 First Call 24.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING AT KANSABEL DISTT. JASHPUR (C.G.) (Work code - W18110)	330.35
5	87436 First Call 24.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING AT UDAIPUR DISTT. SURGUJA (C.G.) (Work code - W18113)	330.34
6	87554 Second Call 25.11.2021	Construction of Village Kikrapal Mata Mandir C To Nayapur Road Length 2.850 Km. I/C Bridges Culverts, Distt-Sukma. CGRIDCL	290.35
7	87551 First Call 25.11.2021	Construction of Telgundra Matiya Road C Length 2.20 K.M. At Distt. Durg.	656.81
8	87578 First Call 25.11.2021	Construction of Chaturdik Roads at Patan in Patan Vidhansabha Length 6.60 K.M. AT DISTT. DURG.	1821.28
9	87549 First Call 26.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. COLLEGE BUILDING I/C. WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY FITTINGS WATER HARVESTING & ELECTRIFICATION WORK AT CHIRKO, DISTT. MAHASAMUND (C.G.) (DN. MAHASAMUND)	463.43
10	87593 First Call 26.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF Demar Approach Road from Main Road (SH-22) Near Petrol Pump. Length 2.30 Km In Distt. - DURG (C.G.)	735.26
11	87730 First Call 27.11.2021	Construction of Punjipathara to Tamnar-Milupara Road Length 27.50 Km (C.C. Road) (Actual Length 26.00 Km). CGRIDCL	5849.77
12	87780 Second Call 27.11.2021	Construction Of High Level Bridge I/C Approaches Across Achholi Nalla (N. Km. 28/2 Of Molipur(Rajnandgaon)- Dongargarh Road. CGRIDCL	460.92
13	87791 Second Call 29.11.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF STRENGTHENING & RECONSTRUCTION OF CHARAIDAND-BAGICHA ROAD 10.00 Km AND CONSTRUCTION OF TAMBAKACHHAR TO JABLA BASTI 3.40 Km BLOCK- BAGICHA DISTT, JASHPUR, (C.G.) (Work code - W17543, W17613).CGRIDCL	2737.34
14	87927 Second Call 01.12.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE I/C APPROACHES ACROSS MEDHAKI RIVER IN KM 1/4 ON KOYALBEDA-DUTA ROAD. CGRIDCL	1103.58
15	87928 Second Call 01.12.2021	CONSTRUCTION OF HARANGARH BAZAR TO MARKAMPARA ROAD FROM KM 1/2 TO 4/10 = 4.00 Km, INCLUDING CULVERTS DISTT. KANKER (CGRIDCL)	435.05

Last Date of Tender Downloading For Tenders Date are Scheduled as Date 24-12-2021. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Sd/-  
 Chief Engineer (Central Tender Cell)  
 Office Of Engineer In Chief  
 P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar

R.O. NO. - 65881/3  
 R.O. Date: 15/12/2021

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division, Sgr.**

**Gist of e-Tender.**  
**NIT No: - e-PHE/GWDS/63 of 12/2021, Dated: - 15-12-2021**  
 For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in 02 Cover System for Construction of tube wells at below mentioned site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

**S.No 1. Name of work :-** Construction of Dug Well (200 mm dia Odex Type Production Well for Irrigation Purpose) at Hyen B Kabab Marg Block Trhgam of District Kupwara.

**Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs :-** Rs. 19.29 Lacs, **Cost of Tender Document :-** Rs. 1000/- **Time of completion :-** 45 Days, **Technical Sanction :-** PHE/GWD/85 of 12/2021, **Class of Contract :-** Registered for Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Wells, **Prog :-** PRI Grants (Capex Budget 2021-22), **AAA No:** 394 DDCK of 2021, dated: 13-12-2021

**Critical Dates / Information.**

- 1. Publishing Date :-** 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 2. Period of Downloading of Bids :-** 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 24-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 3. Period of Submission of bids :-** 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 24-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 4. Date of opening of Tender. :-** 27-12-2021 at (02:00 P.M)
- 5. Tender Receiving Authority:** Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir- 190011.
- 6. Document Cost :-** Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to **Account Head 0215** in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
- 7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days**
- 8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on [www.Jktenders.gov.in](http://www.Jktenders.gov.in)**
- 9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
 Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Sgr.

No. DIPP-15046/21  
 Dated: 16-12-2021

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY** Auction Notice No.: 13/2021-22  
**E-Auction Program for the Month of January-2022**  
 All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

Proposed E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
6, 12, 20 & 28 January 2022	Dy.CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
5, 11, 19 & 25 January 2022	Dy.CMM/GSD/Jzzatnagar	0581-2518138
7, 13, 21 & 27 January 2022	Sr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
4, 11, 18 & 25 January 2022	Sr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-2224819
6, 12, 20 & 28 January 2022	Sr. DMM/Jzzatnagar	0581-2518104

**Type of Material:** Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc.

• In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction will be continued on the subsequent days also. • Details of Auction catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) • This auction programme is also available on N.E. Railway website [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in) CPRO/S-86  
**Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur**

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955  
**Never travel on roof and foot boards.**

**TECHNOFAB ENGINEERING**  
 Regd. Office: 913, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, CIN: L74210DL1971PLCO0512  
 Tel: +91-11-2641-1931 / 2641-5961  
 Email: [cs@technofabengineering.com](mailto:cs@technofabengineering.com)  
 Website: [www.technofabengineering.com](http://www.technofabengineering.com)

**NOTICE**  
 This is to inform that a Board meeting is scheduled to be held on 22 December 2021 at the corporate office of the Company to consider and approve the financial results for the quarter and six month ended 30 September 2021. Please take note that the trading window will remain closed for the concerned persons upto 24 December 2021.

For Technofab Engineering Limited  
 Date: 16/12/2021 Arun Singh  
 Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

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

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Onyx Industries/ Yatin Magu/ Anu Magu/ Ashok Magu/ A/C No. 629351001201	1. Plot No- 3A GF, Block- J/10, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi 110027/ 2. 56/1, Block A, Rewari Line, Industrial Area, Phase II, Opposite- SBI Branch, Mayapuri, New Delhi- 110064/ December 13, 2021	July 31, 2021 Rs. 4,11,22,469/-	Mayapuri

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: December 17, 2021**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

## China's #MeToo victims face abuse, payback for going public

Taipei: Human resources and upper management wouldn't deal with her accusation of sexual assault, a former employee of Alibaba said. So she went into the busy cafeteria at the Chinese e-commerce giant's headquarters and screamed out her plight.

Now she's facing online harassment, accusations of lying from the wives of the two men she accused and a defamation lawsuit from a Alibaba vice president who was forced to resign. And, she revealed recently, the company fired her.

Women in China often face such troubles if they choose to speak publicly about sexual assault. In multiple high-profile cases, particularly during China's brief #MeToo movement in 2018, victims were sued by the men who allegedly harassed them. Some have been targeted with online harassment and censored from speaking about their cases.

In the most high-profile case, former Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai disappeared from public view after accusing former high-level official Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Her accusation was quickly scrubbed from the internet and discussion of it remains heavily censored.

In such a climate, women's rights activists fear that fewer victims will be willing to speak up. "This is helping the wrongdoer, and makes the workplace environment even worse, and it's an attack on the next woman who wants to stand out," said #MeToo activist Zhou Xiaoxuan.

The former Alibaba employee told the Dahe Daily, a provincial Chinese newspaper, that she would not encourage other women to come forward, given her own experience of being attacked online and called a liar.

But she said in written responses to questions from The Associated Press that she would continue her fight.

## Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen has book deal

New York: The former Facebook manager who startled the world this fall by leaking tens of thousands of internal documents and accusing her former employer of caring more about money than about public safety has a book deal.

Little, Brown and Company announced Thursday that it had acquired a planned memoir, "offering a critical examination of Facebook," by Frances Haugen. The book does not yet have a title or release date. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"During my time at Facebook I realised a devastating truth: almost nobody outside of Facebook knows what happens inside of Facebook. They operate in the dark," Haugen said in a statement.

"They win by keeping their systems closed without oversight or transparency, by shrouding their operations in secrecy and PR spin. I came forward because I believe that every human being deserves the dignity of the truth — and the truth is that Facebook buys its astronomical profits by sacrificing our safety. But it does not have to be this way — these problems are solvable."

## 5 children die in bouncy castle accident in Australia

Sydney: Five children died and four others were in critical condition on Thursday after falling from a bouncy castle that was lifted 10 metres (33 feet) into the air by a gust of wind at a school on Australia's island state of Tasmania.

The school was holding a celebration to mark the end of the school year.

The children who died included two boys and two girls in year 6, which would make them 10 or 11 years old, said Tasmania police Commissioner Darren Hine. Police later Thursday confirmed a fifth child died in the hospital.

Five other children were being treated, including four in critical condition. Hine said an investigation is underway.

Images published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation showed police officers consoling each other as paramedics provided first aid to victims.

Parents arrived at the school gate to collect their children as helicopters ferried the injured to hospitals.

Tasmania state Premier Peter Gutwein called the incident "simply inconceivable... I know this is a strong and caring community that will stand together and support one another."

## Israel to donate 1 million Covid vaccines to African countries

Jerusalem: The Israeli government on Wednesday said it was donating 1 million coronavirus vaccines to the UN-backed COVAX programme.

The Foreign Ministry said the AstraZeneca vaccines would be transferred in the coming weeks, a decision that was part of Israel's strengthening ties with the African countries.

"I am delighted that Israel can contribute and be a partner in eradicating the pandemic around the world," said Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

The announcement said the vaccines would reach close to a quarter of African countries, though it did not provide a list. Israel has close ties with a number of African nations, including Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

Israel also established relations with Sudan last year as part of a series of US-brokered accords. COVAX is a global initiative that aims to provide coronavirus vaccines to poorer nations. Wealthier countries have acquired the most of the world's vaccine supplies, causing vast inequality in access to jabs. Israel was one of the first countries to vaccinate its population.

Early this year, it came under criticism for not sharing enough of its supplies with the Palestinians. Since then, Israel has vaccinated tens of thousands of Palestinians who work in Israel and its settlements, and the Palestinians have procured vaccines from COVAX and other sources.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice No. :- NR/FUELLCELL/DEMUP/1/2021 Dt 15.12.2021**  
 Open Tender is invited for "Hydrogen Fuel cell based DPRS with regenerative braking system 1200 KW DEMU"  
**Approximate Value : Rs. 84.20 Crore (Eighty Four Crore Twenty Lacs only)**  
**Earnest Money deposit : Rs. 43,60,000/- (Forty Three lac Sixty Thousand only)**  
**Option A (valid up to 31.12.2021) or Option B as per Clause No. 3.0 of Special Tender Conditions and Instructions to Tenderer (s)**

**Submission of Tender : 17.01.2022 to 31.01.2022**  
**Date & Time of Closing : 31.01.2022 at 15:00 Hrs**  
**Date & Time of Opening : 31.01.2022 at 15:30 Hrs**  
**Completion Period : 30 Months**  
 Please visit website <https://www.ireps.gov.in/> Tender Notice (NR/FUELLCELL/DEMUP/1/2021 Dt 15.12.2021) for Tender Document and other details along with necessary corrigendum/amendments, if any which shall be available on IREPS website.

Contact Person :-  
**Chief Mechanical Engineer/IT**  
**Mechanical Branch, Northern Railway Head Quarter,**  
**1st Floor, Annex-1, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001**  
**Contact no : 9717639460/9717637480**  
**Email: [cmelntnry@gmail.com](mailto:cmelntnry@gmail.com)**  
**No. NR/FuelCell/DEMUP/1/2021 Dated 15.12.2021**

2947/2021  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



Banking services hit as employees go on strike

New Delhi: Banking operations were impacted across the country on Thursday as lakhs of public sector bank (PSB) employees began their two-day strike to protest against bank privatisation.



Employees of various public sector banks shout slogans against the move to privatise their banks during a protest near parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

Shutters of many branches of PSBs like State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank and Bank of India were down on Thursday with a message informing customers about the strike.

According to AIBEA General Secretary C H Venkatchalam, about 20.4 lakh cheques worth ₹18,600 crore could not be transacted on Thursday. Public sector lenders, including SBI, had earlier informed customers that services in their branches might be affected due to the strike.

Services such as deposits and withdrawals at branches, cheque clearance and loan approvals were affected. However, ATMs at many places were working fine.

Sensex snaps 4-session slide amid firm global cues; IT stocks shine

Mumbai: Equity indices eked out modest gains on Thursday after a four-session losing streak, in tandem with an upmove in global markets despite a hawkish tilt by the US Federal Reserve.

A rebounding rupee also bolstered sentiment, though unabated selling by foreign institutional investors capped the upside, traders said. After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 113.11 points or 0.20 per cent higher at 57,901.14.

Bajaj Finance led the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 2.61 per cent, followed by Infosys, Titan, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, M&M and Nestle India.

In contrast, Maruti, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and SBI were among the laggards, slipping up to 1.51 per cent.

"Domestic bourses closed flat with a mild positive bias despite an upbeat economic outlook by the US Fed. Domestic weakness was due to FII selling and moderation in retail activity," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"The Fed chair announced their decision to double the pace of asset tapering by early 2022 rather than a mid-2022 paving way for three interest rate hikes, backed by a rapidly strengthening economy and employment gains amid inflation concerns," he added.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said markets managed to end marginally higher amid volatility, taking a breather after the recent fall.

"As all the major events are over now, we

feel the performance of the global markets would be critical in days to come. At the same time, we expect the buzz to continue in the primary market. Among the sectors, only the IT pack looks decisive to us while others are witnessing mixed trends," he said.

Sectorally, BSE IT, energy, tech, consumer durables and oil and gas indices climbed as much as 1.25 per cent, while power, utilities, realty and bankex nursed losses.

Rupee posts first rise in 7 days, ends 23 paise higher at 76.09 a dollar

Mumbai: The rupee on Thursday clocked its first gain in seven sessions, rebounding 23 paise to close at 76.09 against the US dollar as participants took note of weakening of the greenback after US Fed turned hawkish.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 76.31 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 76.06 during the day's trade. On Wednesday, the rupee plunged by 44 paise to close at a 20-month low of 76.32 against the American currency.

"Rupee traded positive on US Fed statement of tapering, but economic data relevance did not support the dollar index, helping the rupee to take support near 76.25. Going ahead rupee can be seen range of 75.75-76.25," Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities said.

DATA PROTECTION BILL Panel suggests greater accountability for social media, inclusion of personal and non-personal data

A Joint Committee on Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, tabled its report in both the Houses on Thursday recommending among others that all social media platforms which do not act as intermediaries be treated as publishers and held accountable for the content they host.

The panel finalized its report in 78 sittings encompassing 184 hours and 20 minutes after being granted six extensions to submit its report. The committee received 234 memorandums and each was analyzed and incorporated after getting the response of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) on each suggestion.

Thereafter, the Committee heard the views and suggestions of 31 experts, representatives of statutory, regulatory, government bodies, data experts, cyber security experts as well as organizations representing industry and professional bodies. The committee has also taken view points from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The committee members also went to study tours to Mumbai and Bengaluru between October 26 and 29 this year where they visited the data centres of SBI and UIDAI; Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Central Processing Centre of Income Tax Department. The committee also received dissent notes from Manish Tewari, Ms. Mahua Moitra, Gaurav Gogoi, Ritesh Pandey, Vivek K. Tankha, Jairam Ramesh, Derek O'Brien and Dr. Amar Patnaik on the bill.

In a dissent note, Vivek K Tankha said blanket protection to the government agency is neither constitutional nor in the interest of people's democracy. India already has many data assets of national importance including Aadhar, Passport Seva, Open Data Stack (data.gov.in), MCA21, GSTN, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), WRIS (Jalshakti), DISHA (rural development) and Bhuvan (ISRO).

With the world's second largest population, the fifth largest economy with GDP of \$3.0 trillion, over 700 million internet users and over 400 million smart phone users, India is generating mammoth amounts of data on a daily basis. India generates about 150 exabytes of data annually and is amongst the fastest growing data generating nations in the world.

The Bill, seeking to provide for the protection of personal data of individuals and establish a Data Protection Authority for the same, was brought in Parliament in 2019 and was referred to the Joint Committee for further scrutiny on the demand of opposition members.

COMMODITY TRADING

Sebi comes out with cut-off time framework for risk parameter file generation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday came out with a framework pertaining to cut-off time for generation of last risk parameter file used for collecting margins from commodities traders.

Also, the regulator modified the framework prescribed for enabling verification of upfront collection of margins from clients in commodity derivatives segment.

The new framework will be effective from January 15, 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The regulator, in November 2019, had mandated that the cut-off time for the purpose of determining minimum threshold of margins to be collected by members from their clients will be 5 pm for commodity derivative contracts that are traded beyond banking hours.

This was done due to the limitations with availability of banking channels beyond 5 pm.

As both banking facilities -- RTGS and NEFT -- are functional round-the-clock on all days now, Sebi said its circular issued in November 2019 "stands withdrawn".

BSES wins prestigious Greentech Awards

New Delhi: There is a lot of outstanding work taking place at BSES. This is being increasingly recognized and appreciated by the industry, stakeholders and the peers. In the latest instance, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have been adjudged as winners of the coveted 'Greentech 8th CSR India Award' for outstanding achievements in the category 'Corona Warriors'. Apart from this, BRPL has also been bestowed with the 'Greentech Corporate Governance Award 2021'.

Electric vehicle mkt to see investment of ₹94,000 cr in next 5 years: Report

New Delhi: Electric vehicle market is likely to attract investments of ₹94,000 crore over the next five years and is expected to generate business opportunities in the real estate sector, according to a joint report by Colliers India and Indospace.

The report 'Electric Mobility in Full Gear' mentioned that the electric vehicle (EV) industry in India is currently at a nascent stage but it is likely to grow, backed by government initiatives and a move towards recognising climate change.

India is taking a step towards sustainability and has vowed to cut its carbon emissions. At the recently concluded CoP26 summit, India pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. In India, the transport sector is currently the third-largest emitter of CO2. This is leading to increased thrust on EVs in India," it said.

Property consultant Colliers estimated that over the next five years, the EV space in India is likely to see investments of ₹94,000 crore (USD 12.6 billion) across the value chain.

"There is ample opportunity for landlords across the spectrum from manufacturing to charging infrastructure," it said. Significant land around 1300 acres will be required pan-India to set up 110 GWh battery manufacturing capacity by 2030. The consultant estimated that India will need about 26,800 public charging spots by 2025, requiring space of about 13.5 million square feet.

"Landlords can outsource dedicated charging stations to charging service providers at busy locations. They can also enter into a revenue share model with charging service providers. There is also ample scope for developers to develop retail and recreation spaces in proximity to charging stations," the report said.

Currently, 15 Indian states have either approved or notified EV policies, with six more states in the draft stage. States like Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya are focusing on demand incentives, whereas southern states and Uttar Pradesh are focusing on manufacturer-based incentives.

Cryptocurrencies a challenge for emerging markets, regulation needed: IMF chief economist

New Delhi: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Economist Gita Gopinath has made a strong case for regulating cryptocurrencies, saying it will always be a challenge to ban them as they operate from offshore exchanges.

Gopinath also suggested a global policy and co-ordinated action for regulating cryptocurrencies.

"I think cryptocurrencies are a particular challenge for emerging markets. It seems to be more attractive to adopt cryptocurrencies and assets in

emerging economies than in advanced economies," she said while addressing an event organised by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Wednesday.

India is contemplating bringing a bill in Parliament to deal with the challenges posed by the unregulated cryptocurrencies. Currently, there are no particular regulations or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country. "Regulation is absolutely important for the sector (cryptocurrencies and assets)... Countries around the world are

trying different things, there is obviously challenges to banning (cryptocurrencies and assets)," Gopinath, who is slated to be the first deputy managing director of the IMF early next year, said.

According to the IMF chief economist, no individual country could solve this (cryptocurrencies) problem on its own given the complex cross-border transactions.

C.G. Police Housing Corporation, Raipur. H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG). Phone No. 0771-4020028. Tender No. 3074/CGPHC/Bldg/2021. Dated 15/12/2021. MANUAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE (1st Call). Manual tenders are invited for providing and fixing of Fencing with punched tape Concertina Coils (PTCC) conforming to defence specification No.IND/ENGG./PRO/1245 B or COAE/5660/1602a & its connected drawing of 1050mm dia in close condition in pyramid shape i.e. 3 tiers two row at bottom and one at top the five rows of RPT i/c transportation and cost of all materials and labour etc. complete. at Padernaga, Block - Antagarh, Distt. - Kanker by Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation, Old PHQ, Civil Lines Raipur up to 15:00 hours 29.12.2021. Tender will be opened at 15:00 hours. Tender form will be issued up to 16:30 hours on 28.12.2021. Further details may be obtained from the office of Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation during working hours. Managing Director

UJVN LIMITED (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise). H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006. Telephone: 0135-2763508, 2763808. Fax: 0135-2763507. Website: www.ujvn.com. No. 991. Date: 16.12.2021. Date Extension Notice-1. Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of e-NIT No.11/EE(C-M)/DDN/2021-22 invited by Executive Engineer (Civil- Maintenance) Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun is hereby extended as below: Last date for submission of bids on website :Upto 17:00 hrs of 23rd Dec 2021 Last date of submission of hard copies of bids :Upto 17:00 hrs of 23rd Dec 2021 Date of opening of bids on website : at 12.30 hrs of 24th Dec 2021 For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in" Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance) "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

UJVN LIMITED (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise) H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866. Website: www.uttarakhandajvnyut.com. प्र सं. 984, NOTICE INVITING TENDER दिनांक: 15.12.2021 For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following works:- 1. Tender Notice Reference: NIT No. 20/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:-Construction of Parapets on left side of chilla Power Channel from kaudia bridge-I to kaudia bridge-II. NIT No. 21/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage: Providing & Fixing Concertina Coil Fencing for the premises of officer transit camp and office of the general manager (SHP) at MB-II Colony, Rishikesh. NIT No. 22/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Construction of Basic Amenity & Miscellaneous Civil Works at Virbhadra Barrage, Rishikesh. 2. Estimated Value of Tender:- Rs. 24.55 Lakh, Rs. 13.71 Lakh & Rs. 20.42 Lakh respectively. 3. Date of availability of bid document on website:- 15 December, 2021 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST). 4. Last Date for Submission of Tender:- 04 January, 2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. (IST). For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com". Executive Engineer (Civil) "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H.E.D CIRCLE TONK No.4750-4757 Date:10/12/2021 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS THROUGH e-procurement system NIT No. 26/2021-22 Online tenders through e-procurement system are hereby invited, on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from enlisted contractors with the department in appropriate class under the Government of Rajasthan and enlisted contractors with CPWD/Postal, Telecom, Railways, MES, other state Govt./ Central Govt, undertaking / organization equivalent to "AA" Class of Rajasthan provided they meet out prescribed eligibility criteria for the following works. The details may be seen on the DIPR web site and tenders can be downloaded from website http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in. Bidder who wish to participate in online bidding will have to procure digital certificate as per IT Act-2000 to sign their electronic bids. Offers which are not digitally signed will not be accepted. Bidder shall submit their offer in Electronic form on above mentioned website. Work detail of NIT NIT No 26/2021-22 NIB No PHE2122A4768 UEN NO PHE2122WSOB10541 Available/Submission of tender document at website 10.12.2021 to 04.01.2022 UP TO 18:00 Hrs Opening of PQ tender 05.01.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs Submission of Rupees 50 stamp paper original physically on dated 05.01.2022 up to 1:00 Hrs निविदा पत्रन वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in पर देखें व बाजारलौक किये जा सकने है। परचोर राशि एवं टेन्डर राशि ई चालान से नाम्यन से जमा किये जाय। Sd/ Superintending Engineer PHED Circle Tonk DIPRC/12744/2021

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/W Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited. Sr. No. Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) Name of Branch 1. Geeta Tomar/ Vivek Kumar (19700044301 & QZGUR00005014744) Plot No.116- A, Third Floor (Back Side) With Roof Terrace Rights, Khasra No. 220 & 221, Village Nawada, Bhagwati Garden Extn. Block-A, Uttam Nagar New Delhi/ December 13, 2021 July 08, 2021 Rs. 13,89,344/- Delhi/ NCR 2. Sanjay/ Santosh Kumari (13000002323 & QZGUR00005034992) Back Side Built Up Third Floor, With Roof Rights, out of Property Bearing No.11, Khasra No. 78/5 & 67/25/1, Village Hastasi, Mahesh Vihar Colony, Om Vihar- Iia, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi/ December 13, 2021 July 08, 2021 Rs. 23,21,025/- Delhi/ NCR 3. Shubhash Chand/ Nisha Khandelwal (13100001794 & QZNOD00005035547) Pro No. 40/19, UGF (Front Side), Gali No. 5, Raj Nagar Part- 1, Palam Colony, Delhi, New Delhi- 110045/ December 13, 2021 July 08, 2021 Rs. 22,48,389/- 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 : December 17, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No. RMSA/CW/RIDF-XXVI/1475/2021/22 Date : 15.12.2021 The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam invites bids for the following building works from registered Class-I contractor under PWD (Building), Assam having experience of similar nature of work in Assam. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 20-12-2021 (0900 hours) to 10-01-2022 (1400 hours). The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl	Package no.	Name of work	Approximat e value of work (Rs. in lakh)	Time of completion (in month)	Earnest Money Deposit		Tender cost
					General	Reserved category	
1	RMSA/CW/ RIDF- XXVI/1	Upgradation to higher secondary & augmentation of existing infrastructure for teaching facility-Adarsha Vidyalaya, Bordoloi, Mandia in Barpeta district under RIDF-XXVI	264.16	12	528500	264250	5000
2	RMSA/CW/ RIDF- XXVI/2	Upgradation to higher secondary school - Adarsha Vidyalaya, Palaharati, Chamaria, Kamrup district under RIDF-XXVI	200.61	12	401300	200650	5000
3	RMSA/CW/ RIDF- XXVI/3	Upgradation to higher secondary school - Adarsha Vidyalaya, Moirabari Pt, Morigaon district under RIDF-XXVI	200.61	12	401300	200650	5000
4	RMSA/CW/ RIDF- XXVI/4	Upgradation to higher secondary school - Adarsha Vidyalaya, Rangaparsha, Paschim Abhoypur Block, Sivsagar district under RIDF-XXVI	200.61	12	401300	200650	5000
5	RMSA/CW/ RIDF- XXVI/5	Augmentation of infrastructure in Sajani Kanta HS School (ACR, lab & auditorium) in Barpeta District under RIDF-XXVI	124.82	12	249700	124850	5000

Sd/-Mission Director Samagra Shiksha, Assam Kahilpara, Guwahati-19 Janasanyog/CF/2382/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs Jyoti Basanti Minj intend to purchase Flat No. 803 Block GH4 DDA LIG flat Rohini Sector-28, New Delhi from Mr Raja Jephther Beck. I wish to create mortgage on the said property for a loan from SBI, RACB/Robini Pearl Best Height, I NSP Pitampura Delhi 34 (B code 15653). Original possession letter dt 26/7/12, Original possession slip, Original NOC for water and electricity issued from DDA relating to the property have been lost. FIR has been lodged with police vide LR no 1061553/2021 dt 16/12/21. In case any party has any claim towards the said property the same should be lodged with the intending party and also with the above stated branch of SBI within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Mrs Jyoti Basanti Minj R/O H-3/532 2nd floor Sector 16, Rohini, New Delhi 110089

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to revise timings of Train No. 12618 H.Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Mangla Lakshadweep Express (Daily) at the following stations as per details given below:-

Revised Timings of 12618 H.Nizamuddin-Ernakulam Mangla Lakshadweep Express (Daily) w.e.f. 20.12.2021

STATION	Existing Timing		Revised Timing	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Kalyan Jn.	06:12	06:15	05:30	05:33
Panvel	07:00	07:05	06:30	06:35

Rest of information will hold good.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time -Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download Railmadad App Follow us on: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.northernrailways.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE





**Bollywood**  
 'Oh My Ghost is scary in some parts and funny in others. I think that's a clever combination.'  
 —Sunny Leone

# PARADIGM SHIFT



## NEW PARTY ANTHEM

The video of A R RAHMAN and DALER MEHNDI's song, *Saala Garda Uda Diya*, from *Atrangi Re*, goes viral. By TEAM VIVA

*Saala Garda Uda Diya* is the new slang that is trending. The internet went gaga over the music video which crossed two million views in the first few hours of its video release. The love for Daler Mehndi's voice with AR Rahman's music and Irshad Kamil's lyrics can be seen in the comment section of the song on YouTube. One person commented, "A R Rahman plus Daler Mehndi gave us *Rang de Basanti* way back in 2006 and the same magic is seen in 2021".

Mehndi shares his experience of working with Rahman and for the first time with Kamil. He expressed, "I remember getting a call from Rahman *saab* and I was extremely happy to be his only choice for this song. My excitement doubled when I heard that Kamil is the lyricist".

He added, "Whenever Rahman *saab* and I come together, there's some magic. Receiving such a warm response from the audience in the first few hours proves that our magic works".

Even after 25 years in the music industry, Mehndi never disappoints his audience. There is something new and exclusive in every song and every work he does. He is the powerhouse of the Bollywood music industry and his songs are a full power-pack deal. There is no doubt that *Garda* is the new party anthem of the year.

Quack Quack shares a yearly round-up report of everything in online dating in 2021.

By RAVI MITTAL

If the year 2020 seemed grim for this planet, 2021 took it upon itself to be the chilling reminder that it wasn't so much about the year but the general times we have come to live in. Every domain and every sector has gone through seismic changes, both for the better and the worse. However, very few realms have observed an entire paradigm shift across 2021 as significantly as that of online dating.

Chronicling and charting out the key observations in the year 2021's dating trends becomes of paramount importance to assess where online dating stood and where it is headed. This is where a survey conducted by an Indian dating app, QuackQuack, assumes importance.

The pandemic has indeed thrown a few curveballs towards individuals wanting to date. Males and females alike are rapidly coming to terms with a new universe of online dating every single day and embracing more self-paced and healthier ways of dating, an evolving process that shall be the norm soon.

The key takeaways from the survey can be best summarised as below:



### VACCINATION IS A MUST

With the world changing ever so slightly every millisecond, we are coming to terms with the notion that a new normal is not just beckoning but is very much here. The survey corroborates this very trend whereby a distinct eight out of every 10 people, who were part of the sample size of the survey, voiced their opinion in favour of compulsory vaccination as a precursor to a date.

A fairly significant 65 per cent and 75 per cent of people belonging to the age groups of 18-20 and 21-30 respectively agreed upon the same. The importance of a double jab was uniformly highlighted across both the top cities as well as the tier two cities of the country as 75 per cent and 70 per cent of the sample size belonging to each felt that the first step towards a safe date would have to be complete vaccination of the other. It was also observed that 80 per cent of the women and 70 per cent of the men who were part of the survey sample felt the necessity of inoculation prior to dates.

### DATING WITH A PURPOSE

The survey outlined the notion that, owing to the protocols surrounding Covid in place, people have had very little reason to venture outdoors, thereby leading them to reflect on the nature of the dates they have found on the dating app as against plunging for matches with a sense of desperation. 47 per cent of the

women and 35 per cent of the men, who were part of the survey, vouched for this behavioural change and also commented that the process of reflection and introspection led them towards healthier relationships than before. The difference in the trend of intentional dating between individuals residing in urban areas and those belonging to rural or semi-urban areas was comparatively

similar. While nearly 37 per cent of urban teenagers found that their dating process had taken a purposeful turn, 39 per cent of those from rural or semi-urban areas felt likewise.

### HAILING FROM THE SAME LOCATION IS PIVOTAL

The survey found that a staggering 58 per cent and 56 per cent of individuals ranging between the age groups of 18 to 20 and 21 and 30 respectively preferred pairing up with those belonging to a different location as it would help expand their radius of search for a prospective partner. This trend seemed to be more prominent within women as 58 per cent of them were comfortable dating partners from other locations as against a relatively lower 50 per cent among men. Further investigation into a demographic analysis of the sampled data revealed that 46 per cent of those residing in major metro cities preferred dating beyond the confines of their home location whereas a comparatively higher 57 per cent chose the same in the case of smaller cities as well as towns. The numbers indicate that a significant number of individuals do

not find location to be a major barrier when it comes to dating and are flexible with having partners from a place other than their own.

### VIDEO CALLING VERSUS MEETING IN PERSON

The survey revealed that a major percentage of 56 per cent in the age group of 18 to 20 preferred having their first date on a virtual medium and were risk-averse owing to the ongoing Covid situation across the country. However, in contrast, 43 per cent people in the age bracket of 30 and above, belonging to a more old school approach, chose to meet in person whilst following all the necessary safety precautions.

In conclusion, this survey should be seen, more than anything, as a stepping stone towards more such insightful study aiming to explore the contemporary trends in the dating arena along with the ebb and flow of user habits and behaviors that is bound to accompany the vast expanse i.e. online dating.

(The author is the founder and CEO of QuackQuack.)

Zindagi ropes in Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed for their forthcoming original which will stream on ZEE5. The yet-to-be-titled series is helmed by critically acclaimed director Asim Abbasi who also directed Zindagi's first original *Churails*.

The show blends together magical realism and supernatural fantasy within a family reunion setting, and deals with themes of love, loss and reconciliation. In this series, Khan plays a single parent — charming but ridden with guilt for what he has lost. With his son, he tries to be every bit the father his own father was and wasn't. Saeed plays the central female character in the series. Harboursing otherworldly secrets, she takes it upon herself to heal, and make whole, everyone who surrounds her.

The series has gone on floors and a large part of it has been shot in the picturesque Hunza valley.

Speaking on the announcement of the new series, Shailja Kejriwal, from Zee Entertainment Enterprises said, "We've had a very rewarding association with Fawad, Sanam and Asim individually with their past projects and are thrilled to bring them together on this one. This time we've experimented with the genre as well as the storyline. While audiences have often seen shows on family dynamics this one is infused with realms of mystique

## Blend of mystique and fantasy

Actors FAWAD KHAN and SANAM SAEED roped in as Zindagi's yet-to-be-titled show. By TEAM VIVA



and fantasy, making it a fascinating watch."

"I think Zindagi is taking bold and brave decisions when it comes to storytelling. It's nat-

urally evolving into a platform that encourages diversity of opinion and inclusiveness for all filmmakers and material ranging from everyday mainstream

to avant-garde and noir. I feel there's a place for everyone in this artistic landscape," shared Khan.

Saeed expressed, "I'm

thrilled to be collaborating with one of my favourite directors Asim Abbasi again, this time for Zindagi. This new project embarks on a fantastical journey with some stunning performances by a very meticulously picked cast. I can't wait for everyone to see the magic that's been created in this beautiful limbo land."

"Zindagi has become a pioneer, not only for India-Pakistan OTT collaborations, but also for encouraging artists to push boundaries of narrative storytelling. I experienced that with *Churails*, and I am experiencing that again with this project. Under Shailja's support and guidance, Zindagi has truly become a home for many filmmakers like me, where we can see our craziest, wildest ideas come to fruition. I am feeling blessed, and very hopeful that this new project will have a very strong emotional resonance not only with the South Asian viewers, but a global audience," said Abbasi.

One of the greatest and most loved contemporary actors, Khan and Saeed have been known for their superlative work in the popular television series *Zindagi Gulzar Hai*.



Bollywood actors Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and director Ayan Mukherji during their forthcoming film *Brahmastra's* promotion at Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi



—Photos by Pankaj Kumar

## TRENDBLAZER



### RANBIR KAPOOR MISSES HIS FATHER

Actor **RANBIR KAPOOR** is all set to return to the big screen with his superhero saga *Brahmastra*, helmed by Ayan Mukherji. He revealed that Rishi Kapoor used to bombard him with a lot of questions about the film.

"I miss my father terribly today. I remember during the making of this film, during these last how many ever years, he kept fighting with Ayan and me and kept questioning us, 'What are you doing?' 'Who takes so long to make a film?' 'Who spends so much money? Ranbir, you're not making one penny on this film. India mein koi VFX film nahi dekhta.'" the *Barfi* star confessed.

### fairtalk

PANKAJ TRIPATHI



"Being a village boy, I never thought of becoming an actor when I was young, so meeting my favourite cricketer was out of question. Now, when 83's offer came to me and as part of the workshop I met Sunil sir and Kapil sir, it was emotional. It was a pinch-me moment for me. The young boy from the village has come this far — I am emotional about it."

### dailytalk

DHANUSH



"Somehow, Anand L Rai found me. He saw one song of mine from a film called *Aadukalam*. He wanted somebody like that to play Kundan (the character in *Raanjhanaa*). And then he was crazy enough to fly to Kolkata the same day he spoke to me, because I was there performing for an event. Then he spoke to me for ten minutes about impossible achievements. I was amazed by the conviction he had."

### BEN AFFLECK ON HIS PAST

Hollywood star **BEN AFFLECK** says that if he and his former wife Jennifer Garner had not divorced in 2018, he would feel trapped.

Affleck shared, "We probably would've ended up at each other's throats. I'd probably still be drinking. It's part of why I started... because I was trapped. I was like 'I can't leave 'cause of my kids, but I'm not happy, what do I do?' I would drink a bottle of scotch and fall asleep on the couch, which turned out not to be the solution."





# 38 YEARS OF ORIENT EXPRESS

SAMEER BAWA experiences an indulgent evening with fine wines and gourmet food accentuated by excellent service at Taj Palace

It's a bus, no it's a train, oh, it's the Orient Express! The train that defined luxury and comfort, before air travel came into vogue (1919 - 1977), has a namesake at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi. The fine dining European restaurant which is celebrating its 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary offers luxury, comfort and great food on the lines of what the passengers experienced on the transcontinental journey from Paris to Constantinople (Istanbul) back in the day. The interiors of the restaurant are replete with deep armchairs, intricate panelling, oriental rugs and fine cutlery which mirrors the dining car of the original Orient Express.

I went in for an elaborate five course dinner last evening and thoroughly enjoyed the overall experience. "It's a rediscovery of Europe's culinary joys", says Ananya Mukherjee (Director PR & Marketing). The novel menu blends new and innovative preparations with the classics and, in a very special way, recreates the route of the journey.

We started with a selection of breads with *Chicken liver pâté* and butter on the side. Perfect accompaniment to your chilled tulip of sparkling wine. Starting off, I had the *Camembert cheese soufflé* with paprika sauce. The French classic preparation has been mastered by the Chef and was light, fluffy and perfectly balanced. Just a sprinkle of freshly crushed black pepper and every bite was divine. For the soup, I requested for the *Essence of roast fennel and celery root*, broiled pepitas seeds. Light and fragrant, the soup was exactly what I needed to rev up my appetite and perfect soul food for the nippy December evening. You could get a hint of aromas of the fennel when the broth was poured over pepitas seeds. Definitely, one for people who are counting the calories.

For the mains, I requested for the *New Zealand lamb chops* encrusted with herbs, almonds and drizzled with rosemary jus. And that, ladies and gentleman, was the show-stopper! Between medium and well done, the juicy lamb was an explosion of flavours in every bite. Perfumed with rosemary jus and garnished with almond crumble, the texture and taste were on point. One preparation that touches all your senses. You get the umami from the meat, the hint of salt and sweetness from the jus and the very slight bitterness from the almonds which made it a really well rounded dish. Absolutely loved it.

Culminated my meal with a *Baileys crème brûlée* which was nice but I thought the caramelised sugar on top could have had a bit more crunch and maybe burnt for a bit longer. They also had the very popular *Warm chocolate pudding with liquid chocolate centre* on the menu, which, off late, has been a regular feature on almost every restaurant menu. I have tried it before and its brilliant. I possibly would also stick my neck out and say that the Chefs at Taj have mastered it to the T.

All in all it was lovely indulgent evening around fine wines and gourmet food accentuated by excellent service. The



staff at the Orient Express is very well trained and have a keen eye for detail. They are happy to help you with selection of wines and at the same time equally at ease to recommend dishes from the menu that match your palate. I strongly suggest that you make a plan to experience the Orient Express if you have not tried it as yet. In my humble opinion, they have a knack of transforming a regular meal into an occasion.

(The author is a food critic and food connoisseur.)

## EDIBLE INGREDIENTS FOR A HEALTHY SKIN

RUCHIKA M SODHI shares easy home-made solutions to fight harsh winters and pollution



Winter months in and around the NCR are harsh on the skin, especially on account of the pollution. It is imperative that we take good care of our skin, especially our face as pigmentation, dark circles, crow's feet and black heads can become aggravated. But if you believe that you need to splurge on salon visits or on expensive creams and moisturisers, junk the thought. You can take care of your skin without the use of chemicals that will bring out the natural glow and radiance.

The very first step, if you are a smoker, is stop smoking. Though we always attribute smoking to lungs and heart diseases, it also hastens ageing of skin and creates pigmentation. Follow this up with staying hydrated and ensuring a good night's sleep. During the winter months, we tend to drink less water but it is very essential to remain hydrated. Water is a key constituent of healthy skin. The combination of a good night's sleep and hydration help to rejuvenate the skin.

To stay warm and comfortable, we tend to layer ourselves. While layers keep us nice and warm, these impede the breathing of our skin, resulting in dryness and itchiness. Simple home-made moisturisers can do wonders for our skin. A couple of simple and easy to make moisturisers are –

Mix aloe vera gel, rose water and a pinch or two of turmeric. Make a batch and store it in a cool place. Use it every day to nourish your skin

In aloe vera gel add a pinch of turmeric, a little almond oil, a dash of rose water and the contents of six Vitamin E capsules. Give the mixture a good shake and your nutrient-laden moisturiser.

While the body remains covered, it is the face that is exposed. We go to great lengths to add shimmer to our face and end up using a variety of creams, serums and lotions to bring out the radiance. But do you know that you can make your own effective home-made remedies to have a glowing face? I have for long propagated that you should use those ingredients on your skin that you can eat. You do not have to be a spendthrift to have a glowing skin or face. All you need is resilience and time. For starters, make a face pack using ground flax seeds, rose water and aloe vera gel. Apply this pack at least twice a week for 15 minutes at night and

scrub off with cold water. This pack will exfoliate dead skin and pollutants.

Pigmentation results in changing of your skin colour. Pollution and exposure to strong sun is one of the reasons of hyperpigmentation that make the skin darken. The solution to remove pigmentation and marks on the face is rather simple. Boil six cloves in less than half cup of water and reduce it to one-fifth. Sieve the water and add aloe vera gel and a little rose water. Mix well and apply on your face before going to bed. You will see a distinct difference on your facial skin the following morning. If you have crow's feet and dark circles, gently massage coconut oil on the affected areas after the clove water treatment.

Skin impurities sometimes become difficult to tackle. Not only pollution and the winters but also our dietary habits have residual impact on skin impurities. Thankfully, there is a do-it-yourself remedy to weed out skin impurities. Coarsely grind oats and mix with green tea leaves. Keep in jar. Before making a pack, add milk and rose water and apply the pack on your face and neck. This should be done once a week.

Fruits and vegetable have a defining role to play to keep skin healthy. Whenever you have the opportunity, rub papaya on your skin. This will give the skin a lovely glow. Instead of a branded face scrub, you can make a scrub using couple of bananas and adding a tea spoon of coffee. Use it on your face to remove dirt particles. You can also rub a slice of beetroot on your face to even out the skin. And finally, you have to keep your face hydrated. For this a good toner is the order of the day. Make a juice of cucumber and mint leaves. Keep it in a spray bottle and spray the mixture on your face once in a while. This will keep the skin hydrated and is an excellent toner.

Nature has provided us with effective solutions to take care of our health and nutrition. It has solutions for our skincare, too. Have a healthy diet, hydrate and sleep well. These are the first three necessities of a supple skin. And to take care and maintain the supple skin during the winter months and pollution, these solutions will come handy.

(The author is a nutritionist.)

## R E C I P E S



### GINGERBREAD MEN BISCUITS

Recipe for 500 biscuits

WHAT YOU NEED

- Flour: 2,100 gm
- Baking powder: 60 gm
- Brown sugar: 1,020 gm
- Garam masala: 9 gm
- Ginger powder: 5 gm
- Egg: 300 gm
- Honey: 600 gm
- Butter: 600 gm

METHOD

- Take a bowl and mix well butter and brown sugar.
- Add eggs and honey little by little.
- Add flour, baking powder, garam masala and ginger powder and mix all the ingredients for one minute.
- Put it for rest at a temperature of 4° for 10 hours.
- Pre heat the oven at a temperature of 160°.
- Cut the biscuits into a shape.
- Bake the biscuits for 15 minutes.
- Leave the biscuits to cool down for 30 minutes.
- Finish by decorating with royal icing.

Courtesy: By L'Opéra culinary head, Amit Kumar



### CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Light brown sugar: 200 gm
- Water: 240 ml/gm
- Butter (diced): 55 gm
- Ground cinnamon: 1 tsp
- Ground cloves: ¼ - ½ tsp
- Ground ginger: 1 tsp
- Fine salt: ½ tsp (2 gm)
- Dark or golden seedless raisins, currants, and/or dried cranberries: 300 gm
- Eggs (lightly beaten): 2 large (100 gm)
- All-purpose flour: 1½ cups (195 gm)
- Baking soda: 1 tsp (4 gm)
- Pure vanilla extract (optional): 1 tsp (4 gm)
- Candied orange or

Lemon peel (chopped): 1 cup (150 gm)

METHOD

- Take a large saucepan, over medium heat, bring to a boil and add sugar, water, butter, spices, and dried fruit. Boil gently for five minutes, then remove from heat, and let it cool until it is lukewarm (This will take about 45 to 60 minutes).
- Meanwhile, preheat your oven to 180° C. Butter, or spray an 8½ x 4½ x 3 inch (21.5 x 11.5 x 10 cm) loaf pan with a nonstick vegetable spray. Line the bottom of the pan with parchment paper and lightly butter the paper (Note: if using a dark colored pan, reduce the oven temperature to 60° C).
- Once the mixture has cooled, stir in the lightly

beaten eggs, flour, baking soda, vanilla extract (if using), and candied peel. Pour into your prepared pan, smoothing the top with the back of a spoon or offset spatula.

- Bake for about 55 - 65 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Remove from oven and let cool on a wire rack for about 15 minutes before removing from pan. If possible, cover and store for a few days before serving. This fruit cake can be frozen.
- The above cake is then covered with Marzipan and decorated for Christmas.

Courtesy: Mahesh Kini, executive chef of JW Marriott, Bengaluru

## RICE ABOVE THE REST AT CAFÉ DELHI HEIGHTS

Café Delhi Heights is known for their innovative food festivals time to time, but this time they have designed the best in the form of Rice above the Rest. In India, rice is not only the staple on the plate but also a cultural mainstay.

In Indian culture, rice holds great spiritual and ritual significance. It is a symbol of wealth and prosperity. The annual calendar of festivals has many celebrations based on the harvest cycle of rice.

The versatility of rice makes it the most loved grain all over the world. Right from the khichdi, to simple pulao to fragrant pots of



rice and spice meats called biryani, rice is a feast beyond compare. Hence, Café Delhi

Heights thought of curating a special menu to celebrate this very super food. They have added dishes from different states in the menu. From the belt of Andhra / Karnataka, one can enjoy varieties like Curd Rice, Hyderabadi Biryani, Bisi Bele Bath, and so on. One also gets to enjoy the specials from Maharashtra like Masale Bhaat, Payesh from Assam, Gian Pilaf from Goa, Tehri from Lucknow, Yakhni Pulao from Kashmir, Jadoh from Meghalaya are added in this special menu, too. Not only the specials from India, but favourites from International cuisines like Risotto,

Paella, Jasmine rice with stir-fry greens, Chipotle burritos bowl are added as well. Different varieties of rice like Sela basmati, Bangaru Theegalu, Rajbhog Arua rice, Dehradoni Basmati, Illupai Poo Samba, Musk budji, Goan short grain red rice, Ambe Mohar, Joha, et al, have been procured to make sure that each dish is prepared at its utmost accuracy with the perfect amalgamation of right flavours, spices and Chef's magic.

When: Till December 20  
 Where: All Café Delhi Heights  
 Contact number for reservations: 9911154033, 8800691812

## CAFE MONIQUE PAVING THE WAY FOR A SWEET



Dangling fairy lights, Fir and Pine trees standing tall, angel-hangings streaming down the branches and white bright lights shining upon the dawn with carols playing in the back — Christmas is here and we know just how to make it merrier for you! Cafe Monique is all geared up to offer a Christmas Brunch topped with a diverse palette of flavours. With world renowned French chef, Maxime, exhibiting his expertise in delicacies, desserts and baked bites, the patisserie aims to please its patrons and match up to their expectations with

the sides of warmth and joy. From Croissants, Focaccia Panini to Le Fondant au Chocolat, Le Saint Honoré and other delicacies, Monique has been building its rapport with patrons as a go-to patisserie for all their food cravings.

On the special celebration of Christmas Day, the brand shall introduce 'Make A Wish' for children. The kids can write and hang their preferred choice of dessert at the Christmas tree and Monique will pick two lucky winners who will get a

special treat.

Make your way to the bespoke French patisserie & cafe and enjoy the celebratory vibe with delicious munchies and desserts in town. Enjoy Monique's special orange and dark chocolate Christmas cookies, their Sablés de Noël, Madeleines de Noël, Les bûches de Noël or Yule log and so on.

When: Till December, 12 pm - 12 am  
 Where: Cafe Delhi Heights, Delhi-NCR

## EMBRACE THE WARMTH OF CHRISTMAS AT THE IMPERIAI

Add sparkle to your Christmas festivities and gear up to be mesmerised at The Imperial this year.

Christmas Eve — A lavish meal features Roast turkey, Brussel sprouts, Pork belly in a bread stuffing, gilet gravy, cranberry sauce on the Western grill station and a selection of international dishes like Shepherd's pie, Cajun chicken, celeriac, Tandoori favorites along with Italian specials, salads and cold cuts.

The extensive spread of classic global favourites also include Ginger crème brulee, Bannoffie pie, Amaretto cheese cake and more.



When: December 24, 7pm-11pm  
 Where: 1911 Restaurant  
 Cost: Christmas Eve Buffet at ₹4,000+ taxes per person without alcohol and ₹2,000+ taxes per

child  
 Call at 011-41116451/52 for reservations  
 Christmas Day — Nothing spells cheer like a hearty

Christmas Brunch. Drench yourself in the melody of Christmas carols and gorge on the classic feast including Roasted lamb, Traditional smoked turkey along with other global favourites like Beer chicken, Lemon couscous, Grilled artichokes, Array of Smoked fish, cold sea food bar, antipasti, mezze and carving stations and more. Desserts like Traditional plum cake, Yule log, Mandarin Panacotta, Chocolate Cream de pot, Plum pudding with brandy sauce make sure you enjoy to the fullest.

When: December 25  
 Where: 1911 Lawns  
 Cost: Christmas Brunch at ₹4,500+ taxes per person without alcohol and ₹2,300+ taxes per child  
 Call at 011-41116451/52 for



