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LUCKNOW, FRIDAY DECEMBER 17, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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I MISS MY  
FATHER:  
RANBIR  
13 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

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."

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## 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 lit 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 of India."

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 11

## 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.

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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.

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## 'SP compromised with ethics of governance'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath tore into the Samajwadi Party, accusing it of compromising with all standards and ethics of governance and promoting organised crime for the benefit of one particular family.

On the penultimate day of the last session of the 17th UP Assembly, Yogi also presented the report card of his government and said that he got only three and a half years to perform as 20 months were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state government tabled the supplementary budget for the 2021-22 fiscal and the vote on account for the first four months of 2022-23 fiscal in the assembly on Thursday.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party government has delivered to the people as per the promises it had made. Whether our government worked for the poor or not is the manifested by our performance during the last five years. We want to

know as to why during the previous Samajwadi Party regimes the poor were deprived of the benefits of welfare schemes like houses to 45 lakh poor families, toilets to 2.61 crore families, free power connection to 2.94 crore families, health insurance cover of Rs 5 Lakh to 10 crore people and benefit of Kisan Samman Nidhi to 2.54 crore farmer," the chief minister said in the assembly on Thursday.

"The reason is simple. The BJP government sincerely pursued the policy of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'. During the Samajwadi Party rule, a 'buggie' was imported from England for celebrating the birthday of SP patron and taxpayers' money was spent on Saifai festival. On the contrary, in the present regime, Prime Minister Narendra Modi could be seen inspecting the development works for the welfare of common people in Varanasi well past midnight," Yogi said.

Launching a stinging attack on the Samajwadi Party, the

Continued on Page 11

## Amarinder in Delhi to finalise ties with BJP

New Delhi: Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has reached Delhi to finalise the alliance between the BJP and his newly formed Punjab Lok Congress Party.

He will remain in Delhi for the next three days and will meet senior BJP leaders.

On Friday evening, Amarinder will meet BJP national president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

However, it is not yet clear whether the picture will be clear about the seats during this visit of the Captain to Delhi.

With the formation of the Punjab Lok Congress Party, he has announced to enter the election fray along with BJP and other Takshali parties. Recently, he met BJP's Punjab election in-charge Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat at his Siswan farm house.

The Captain had apprised the BJP of his seat-sharing formula in this important meeting and the same was liked by the BJP's central leadership, according to sources.

## 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 Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSP) chief Shivalp Yadav buried their five-year long family feud on Thursday and forged an alliance for the forthcoming Assembly polls.

The SP chief reached Shivalp's residence in the evening and held a closed-door meeting, which lasted for about 40 minutes. Sources said apart from Shivalp 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 PSP. "Met the PSP 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 Shivalp 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 Shivalp's residence and raised the slogan "Chacha -Bhatija zindabad".

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## 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 Mukherjea 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 wanted 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 Mukherjea — 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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# Previous govts made recruitment process corrupt: CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unleashing a sharp attack on the previous government for making the recruitment process corrupt through bribery, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that during 2015-2016, jobs were given only after giving bribe.

Now, Uttar Pradesh has undergone a complete transformation and its perception before the country and across the globe has changed, he added. The chief minister made the statement while handing over appointment letters to 58 sub-district magistrates, 34 district basic education officers, 43 senior lecturers of District Education and Training Institute, 173 review officer, 398 sugarcane supervisor, 10 senior cane development inspectors, 208 assistant engineers, 236 stenographers selected through Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission and Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC).



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving away appointment letter

appointed officers, the chief minister said: "You are the backbone of making the state number one economy in the country. If the backbone breaks, the entire system falls. The previous governments had made this state without a backbone. We intend to bring the state to number one in the country with efficient people like you." "Good governance is not possible merely by changing a government; rather the entire system needs to be reformed. Officers should also get a chance to work in a positive and good environment," he added. The chief minister highlighted employment generation under his government, saying that his government established an honest, fair and transparent work culture because of which the state was progressing fast.

Comparing the Samajwadi Party with the characters of Mahabharata, the chief minister pointed out that earlier the recruitment process was compromised on the lines of caste and money, and as soon as any recruitment process used to

start in the state the characters of Mahabharat used to become active for 'vasooli'.

Taking a jibe at the previous governments, the chief minister said, "Earlier, the work of appointment of SDM was being done by taking Rs 42 to Rs 65 lakh. The CBI investigation is still on in some cases."

"UP's economy, which was on the 6th position in the country four and a half years ago, is India's second biggest economy today," Yogi Adityanath pointed out.

"Similarly, UP also improved its ease of doing business rank from 14th four years ago to 2nd in 2021, Stable law and order in the state now has helped us gain the confidence of industrialists and investors," he added.

He said that his government had done the work of transforming 1.30 lakh schools under Operation Kayakalp. "Today, there are schools with smart classes, toilets, libraries, cleanliness. Uniforms, school bags, sweaters, books were

provided all facilities including shoes and socks to all the girls," he said.

He further said that during the pandemic period, half of the sugar mills in Maharashtra were closed, all the sugar mills in Brazil were closed but the UP government operated all 121 sugar mills during the COVID-19 period in the state.

Help desks were set up for security and all precautions were taken for Covid testing.

Jal Shakti and Flood Control Minister Dr Mahendra Singh, Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills Minister Suresh Rana, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Basic Education Dr Satish Dwivedi, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Baldev Singh Aulakh, Minister

of State for Sugarcane Development and Sugar Mills Suresh Pasi, Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Flood Control Dinesh Khatik were also present at the event.

## Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/Esstt/KGBV-Utensile/370/2021/7945 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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पत्रांक- 1692/पी0सी0एल0/परि0 प्र0-14 दिनांक: 15/12/2021  
अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत जनपद बाराबंकी के राजकीय आई.टी.आई. फतेहपुर में प्रधानाचार्य हेतु 1 आवास, अनुदेशक हेतु 2 आवास, एवं अन्य हेतु 4 आवास के निर्माण कार्य (अवशेष कार्य) हेतु निविदा सूचना संख्या- 64/यूपी.पी.सी.एल./परि.प्रव.- 14/2021-22 दिनांक 14.12.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से प्रतिशत दरों के आधार पर ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य की बिड दिनांक 18.12.2021 से दिनांक 25.12.2021 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे अघोहस्ताक्षरों के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की तिथि आदि का समस्त विवरण [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) एवं <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

परियोजना प्रबंधक, निर्माण इकाई-14

## Modi to intensify forays into UP as polls inch closer



Lucknow (PNS): With the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections inching closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will further intensify his forays into the state and in the next 10 days he is scheduled to visit four districts to lay the foundation stones of developmental projects and address public meetings.

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesman Manish Dixit said in Lucknow on Thursday that Modi would visit the state four times between December 18 and 28. Besides, Modi is expected to visit UP on January 4 when he will inaugurate the Bundelkhand Expressway. However, the date and place is not yet finalised.

On December 18, the prime minister will lay the foundation stone of the Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur. This highly ambitious project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is a 594 km-long expressway starting from Bijauli in Meerut and terminating at Judapur in Prayagraj before meandering through Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly and Pratapgarh.

Three days later, on December 21, the prime minister will visit Prayagraj to felicitate the beneficiaries of Mahila Samagra Vikas scheme. Over 2.5 lakh women have been invited to attend the programme and at the function, Modi will also lay the foundation of a four-lane road.

Later on December 23, the prime minister will visit his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi and address a public meeting, inaugurate projects worth Rs 1,500 crore and also lay the foundation stone of a road from Lahartara to Mohansarai. On December 28, Modi will visit Kanpur to inaugurate the Kanpur Metro rail.



### NOTICE

I, Virendra Sharma have changed my name as Virendra Kumar Sharma for all future purposes Virendra Kumar Sharma s/o Late J P Sharma Harbans Mohal Kanpur

### NOTICE

I have changed my Son's name from Aryan Tiwari is Aishwary Tiwari. Aishwary Tiwari and Aryan Tiwari is same person. Prashant Kumar Tiwari R/o SS-725 Sector-G LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow.

### सूचना

मेरे पुत्र स्व0 रितेश प्रताप सिंह सेंगर आर्मी नं0 15715236 एल नायक के सर्विस रिकार्ड में मेरा नाम Chadhana Devi जन्मतिथि 15.2.1952 गलत अंकित है सही नाम Chhedana व जन्मतिथि 1.1.1960 है। श्रीमती छेदना (माता) स्व रितेश प्रताप सिंह सेंगर आर्मी नं0 15715236 एल नायक ग्राम, प्र0. गोपालपुर कानपुर नगर

## Inauguration of ALL INDIA MAYORS' CONFERENCE on New Urban India

By **Narendra Modi** Prime Minister (Via Video Conferencing)

In august presence of

<p><b>Yogi Adityanath</b> Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p><b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b> Minister, Housing and Urban Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt of India</p>
<p><b>Ashutosh Tandon</b> Urban Development, Overall Urban Development, Urban Employment &amp; Poverty Alleviation, Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p><b>Anil Rajbhar</b> Minister, Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment, Uttar Pradesh</p>
<p><b>Ravindra Jaiswal</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge), Stamp and Court Fee, Registration, Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p><b>Mahesh Gupta</b> State Minister, Urban Development, Overall Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Uttar Pradesh</p>
<p><b>Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge), Tourism, Culture and Religious Affairs, Protocol (MOS), Uttar Pradesh</p>	<p><b>Naveen Jain</b> Chairman All India Mayor's Council</p>
<p><b>Mridula Jaiswal</b> Mayor Varanasi</p>	

**Date : 17 December, 2021 | Time : 9:45 AM | Venue : Trade Facilitation Centre, Lalpur, Varanasi**

Urban Development Department, Uttar Pradesh

Information and Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

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# Aliganj robbery worked out; two held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of two robbers following a week-long hunt, a joint team of crime wing and Aliganj police on Thursday claimed to have worked out the robbery and murderous assault on an employee of Sri Tirupati Gems and Jewels. However, the masterminds and prime accused, Rahul Singh and Saurabh, are still absconding and police teams were camping in Bihar to nab them.



Those arrested were identified as Harsh Singh aka Hani Singh of Kanpur City and Ravi Rudra Sharma of Bihar. Harsh was staying in Ghazipur police station area while Ravi Rudra Sharma in Gudamba.

The incident had taken place on December 8 afternoon and the robbers had shot at the showroom employee, Shrawan Kumar, who is still battling for his life at KGMU Trauma Centre. Owner Nikhil Agarwal had lodged a case on the day of the incident. The robbers had looted gold ornaments worth over Rs 40 lakh. The police recovered five gold chains, two gold rings, two pairs of earrings, two country-made pistols and live cartridges from the possession of the accused.

The police had got the registration number of the motorcycle which the robbers used to speed off the scene on the fateful day. The police had also got their face identities with the help of CCTV footage. The police nabbed the accused from the embankment road near Harsha Hospital following a tip-off.

As per reports, Harsh had conducted a recce of the showroom a day before executing the incident. He and other co-accused Ravi Rudra Sharma are part-timers into property dealing and came in contact with Rahul and Saurabh two years back. Rahul and Saurabh are hardened criminals and they used Harsh and Ravi Rudra as their pawns to provide them logistic support and conduct recce for them as they feared to be identified in view of their criminal past.

Both Harsh and Ravi Rudra confessed to their crime and disclosed that they agreed to the plan of the loot as they had no money to pay school fees and meet any medical emergency. They said both Rahul and Saurabh took a lion's share in the booty.

The miscreants parked the bikes at a safer distance and fled on foot after committing robbery and shooting at the employee. They said they shot at the employee when he caught hold of one of them.

Sources said the miscreants dropped themselves before the police fearing an encounter. The sources further said that the STF sleuths helped the police in working out the case.

Meanwhile, the police were yet to get a clue about the assailants who peppered a contactor, Mahendra Pratap, with bullets in Krishna Nagar and those who attacked care-

taker of Karbala Talkatora Syed Faizi a few days back.

Sources said the teams were probing into personal enmity, women angle and property dispute to find out the motive for the murder of Mahendra, who was said to be a lackey of mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari. In the Talkatora incident,

the police suspected that the attack on Faizi was a fallout of political rivalry. However, the rivals were yet to be identified.

Faizi, who had escaped a similar attack in the past, claimed he had no enmity with anyone. In the attack, his private gunner and aide, Sonu Bharti, had suffered injuries in his hand.

**Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise-Mini Ratna)  
CIN NO - L74899DL1999GO101707

**IRCTC invites E-Bid/E-RFP for the following:-**

I) For selection of managed Service partner for Integrated Railways Helping & Enquiry System-139.1st Pre-bid Meeting (VC): 20.12.2021 at 1230 hrs, 2nd Pre-bid VC at 06.01.2022 at 1230 hrs. Last date of Submission: 24.01.2022.

II) For Selection of Operator for 'Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water Plant at Bilaspur Chhattisgarh. Pre-bid meeting: 28.12.2021 at 15:00 hrs. at IRCTC CO, New Delhi. Last date of Submission: 18.01.2022 up to 15:00 hrs.

III) For Operation, maintenance and provision of catering services in/through Refreshment Rooms & Jan Ahaar under A1 & A Category Stations over Indian Railways under IRCTC/North Zone. Tender availability from: 20.12.2021. Last date of submission : 10.01.2022 up to 15:00 hrs.

IV) For Setting up, operation and management of Fast Food Units at B, C & D Category Stations over Indian Railways under IRCTC/North Zone. Tender availability from: 20.12.2021. Last date of submission: 11.01.2022 up to 15:00 hrs.

V) For the selection of Chatbot Solution Provider for IRCTC Website & Mobile App. Last date of submission of bids: 23.01.2022 up to 15:00 hrs.

For details visit [irctc.com](http://irctc.com) (SN I to V), [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC) (SN I to V) and [eprocure.gov.in/cppp](http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp) (SN III & IV). Above Tender documents downloading & participation can only be done on website: [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC).

Note: Any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, will only be published on IRCTC's website [www.irctc.com](http://www.irctc.com) & [tenderwizard.com](http://tenderwizard.com).

Office Address:- Group General Manager (P&T), IRCTC Ltd. 11th floor, Statesman House, B-148, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, Tel.011-23311263-64

**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](http://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](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)

Sl	Package no.	Name of work	Approximate value of work	Time of completion (in month)	Earnest Money Deposit		Tender cost
			(Rs. in lakh)		General	Reserved category	
1	RMSA/CW/RIDF-XXVI/1	Upgradation to higher secondary & augmentation of existing infrastructure for teaching facility-Adarsha Vidyalaya, Bordoloni, 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, Palaharai, 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, Rangapathar, 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  
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2382/21

## Cops clueless in loot at customer service centre of bank in BKT

**Lucknow (PNS):** Police were clueless in connection with the loot of Rs 70,000 at SBI's Grahak Sewa Kendra (customer service centre) which was committed on Wednesday. Locals expressed disappointment with the police's style of working and said they fear for their safety due to delay in the arrest of the miscreants.

Sources privy to the investigation said the police teams were scanning CCTV footage to get a clue about the miscreants. "Once the faces of the criminals are identified, we will share details with the neighboring police stations in Lucknow and other districts. The identification of the faces will make our job easier," they said. The sources said the police were also investigating if the convenor of the Grahak Sewa Kendra had any enmity with anyone.

On Wednesday, two masked miscreants executed the crime while another stayed outside the centre. They looted the money from convenor Paras Yadav and his employees.

Meanwhile, a junior engineer of Nagar Nigam lodged a case of illegal land excavation and construction inside the Lord Hanuman temple at Ghantaghar Park in Aminabad. In his complaint, Kishori Lal said he reached the temple premises on the instruction of his senior officials who were tipped off about the illegal work. "I came to know that some people were digging the land. They had piled soil and maurang at the site and they probably wanted to make a basement. I tried to get the work stopped, but in vain," he said. The JE further said two persons, Ashok Pathak and Vinod Krishna Singhal, were locked in a legal battle over the temple premises. The police registered a case in this connection.

### KILLED

A 25-year-old employee of a warehouse was killed in a road mishap in Banthra on Wednesday night. The victim was identified as Arjun of Mulahi Kheda in the newly created Bijnor police station of Lucknow. He was returning home when he met the mishap. He worked at a warehouse in Khatola locality in Banthra. He was rushed to Sarojininar CHC after he suffered injuries in the mishap and was declared dead by doctors there. The police said the victim was hit on Mohanlalganj-Junabganj road by a four-wheeler.

In another case, a 45-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in Mohanlalganj on Thursday. The deceased was identified as Shatrohan of Manoharpur in the area. He was found hanging from a tree with a rope tied around his neck. Police said Shatrohan was a liquor addict.

## Vijay Diwas celebrated



**Lucknow (PNS):** Surya Command celebrated Vijay Diwas at the Command War Memorial 'Smritika' on Thursday. GOC-in-C, Surya Command, Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri paid homage to the gallant bravehearts of the 1971 War by laying a wreath at the memorial. Veterans, veer naris and all ranks of Surya Command also attended the ceremony and paid their respects to the bravehearts. After the ceremony, the Army Commander interacted with the veterans and the soldiers and conveyed his gratitude to the veterans and veer naris for their invaluable contribution and exhorted all present serving soldiers to continue to uphold the glorious virtues and traditions of the Indian Armed Forces. In December 1971, in a short and swift military offensive, the Indian Armed Forces achieved a decisive and resounding victory over Pakistan. The war which commenced on December 3, 1971 saw valiant actions by the Indian soldiers and resulted in the formation of a new nation, Bangladesh. The instrument of surrender was signed between Lt Gen AAK Niazi and Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. The day is celebrated by the nation as Vijay Diwas. The event marked the culmination of the year long Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations by the Indian Armed Forces.

**PROSPERITY THROUGH COOPERATIVES**

"Cooperative movement can transform the rural economy by bringing out huge change even through micro initiatives."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**Inauguration of**

**28 grain godowns with a capacity of 1.40 lakh metric tonne by Uttar Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation**

**Bank headquarters, renovation work of hall and hostel of A.C.S.T.I.**

**Cyber security operation center and 13 new branches at Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank headquarters**

**at a cost of ₹155 crores**

**and**

**Launch of NABARD-funded computerisation in 294 PACS**

by

**Amit Shah**  
Minister, Home and Cooperation, Govt. of India

In august presence of

**Yogi Adityanath**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

**Keshav Prasad Maurya** Deputy Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh  
**Dr. Dinesh Sharma** Deputy Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh  
**B.L. Verma** Minister of State, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern Region Govt. of India

**Mukut Bihari Verma** Minister, Cooperative Uttar Pradesh  
**Dr. Sangeeta Balwant** Minister of State, Cooperative Uttar Pradesh

**Date : 17 December, 2021 | Time : 3:30 PM**  
**Venue : Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow**

**Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar**

Uttar Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation & Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank Ltd. Information and Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh



**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
No.-S/T&B/713 Date: 15.12.2021  
Corrigendum No. 30212832  
**First Corrigendum**  
On behalf of the president of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj is issued a following corrigendum related to EMD in EPS-Adv. Tender No.-30212832 due on 27.12.2021 published against EPS Tender Notice No. 21/86 dated 07.12.2021 and RO No. 1278/2021 V. **Tender No.-30212832, Particulars-EMD, From-0, To- 491920.00.** Others Terms & Conditions of Tender remain unaltered.  
1278/2021 V  
North Central Railways @CPNCR

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is given about loss of Original Sale deed dt. 05.11.1992 in respect of Plot area 485 Rawatpur, Kanpur 100 sqyds. registered in the name of Smt. Vimala Devi at Book No. 1 zild 3833 pages 184/188 at No. 1918/1919 in the office of Sub Registrar, Kanpur is lost. For which Police report has been lodged.  
Housing Loan over said property is under consideration by the LIC HFL. If any one has any objection/claim over said property, same can be represented before B.N. Bajpai Advocate (Mob. No. 09450514381) within 15 days of publication of this Notice.  
(B.N. Bajpai) Advocate

**JKCement**  
**J.K. Cement Limited**  
CIN:L1722UP1994PLC017199  
Regd. Office:Kamia Tower, Kanpur-208001  
Email: shambhu.singh@jkcement.com  
Web: www.jkcement.com

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No. 80709 for 3 Equity Shares bearing Distinctive No(s). 44397020 to 44397022 issued by the Company in the name of Mrs. Meera Sekaria are reported to be lost. Any application for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate(s) will be issued without incurring any liability by the Company for the said issue.  
Place : Kanpur  
Date : 14.12.2021  
For J.K. Cement Ltd.  
(Shambhu Singh)  
Company Secretary  
Head (Legal) & Company Secretary  
M.No. : FCS 5836

**UPPCL**  
उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्मिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य सम्पादन हेतु अनुवी, दस एवं जीएसटीडीसी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा संख्या - 79/2021-22 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 400 केवीपी पत्तकी-अतीन्द्र लाइन की पेट्रोलिंग एवं अनुसंधान सम्बन्धी समस्त कार्य। निविदा संख्या-80/2021-22 विद्युत 220 केवीपी उपसंरक्षण खण्ड पत्तकी पर एक नया डीजल चलित वाहन (कार) को संचालित करने का कार्य। निविदा संख्या-81/2021-22 विद्युत 220 केवीपी उपसंरक्षण खण्ड पत्तकी डी क्लेम एवं प्लेकेबिलिटी केन्द्र की आपूर्ति। निविदा संख्या-82/2021-22 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीपी बिस्वीर रसूलबाद वाहन की पेट्रोलिंग एवं अनुसंधान का कार्य। निविदा संख्या-83/2021-22 विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल प्रथम के अन्तर्गत एक नया डीजल चलित वाहन (कार) को संचालित करने का कार्य। निविदा संख्या - 79 से 81 तक दिनांक 11.01.2022 एवं निविदा सं 82 से 84 तक दिनांक 12.01.2022 को खोली जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परेषण मण्डल प्रथम पत्तकी कानपुर पत्रांक 1502 /विद्युतमण्डल (का) /टी-1 दिनांक 16.12.2021 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाव उपायोंका सेवा हेतु समक करें - [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org)

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 6/Track/2021 Dated 14.12.2021**  
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Engineer, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Procurement Tenders from RDSO approved vendors:  
**S.No. 1. Open Tender No. / Due on - 37215094 Due on 18.01.2022.**  
**Description of materials :** Manufacture and supply of :- I - Metal Liner for 52 kg rails to RDSO Drg. No. T-8749 & T-8750 with Alt-I of 07.10.2021. Qty.: 464800 Set, Consignee : SSE/PW/TD/NER/BSB, II - Metal Liners for 60 kg rails to RDSO Drg. No. T-8748 with Alt-I of 07.10.2021. Qty.: 80000 Nos., Consignee : SE/ITD/NER/GD, Qty.: 80000 Nos., Consignee : SSE/PW/TD/NER/BSB, Delivery period : 4 Months, Estimated tender value (Rs.): 83,24,660.00, Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,66,500.00  
**S.No. 2. Open Tender No. / Due on - 37215095 Due on 18.01.2022.**  
**Description of materials :** I - GFN Liner to 52 Kg rails RDSO Drg. No. T-8752 & T-8753. Qty.: 9960 Set, Consignee : SSE/PW/TD/NER/BSB, II - GFN Liner for 60 Kg to RDSO Drg. No. T-8751. Qty.: 20000 Nos., Consignee : SE/ITD/NER/GD, Qty.: 20000 Nos., Consignee : SSE/PW/TD/NER/BSB, III - 10 mm thick CGRSP to RDSO Drg. No. T-8747, Qty.: 50000 Nos., Consignee : SE/ITD/NER/GD, Qty.: 50000 Nos., Consignee : SSE/PW/TD/NER/BSB, Delivery period : 4 Months, Estimated tender value (Rs.): 63,29,740.00, Earnest Money (Rs.): 1,26,600.00  
**Note:-** I.O The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> up to 11.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2.0 Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3.0 In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.  
Executive Engineer/TP.N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur  
CPRO/V-311  
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

# PGV hits out at PM for 'protecting a criminal'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra made a targeted attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not sacking Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son, Ashish, is among those accused of mowing down four farmers and a journalist in Tikunia area of Lakhimpur Kheri, and said

that carefully curated spectacles of piety and wearing religious attire would not change the fact that he was protecting a criminal.

In a series of tweets on Thursday, Priyanka posted, "The government's refusal to sack Ajay Mishra Teni is the starkest indication of its moral bankruptcy. @narendramodi ji, carefully curated spectacles of piety and wearing religious



attire will not change the fact that you are protecting a criminal. Ajay Mishra Teni should be sacked and charged in accordance with the law."

Opposition parties have renewed the demand for dismissal of the Union minister of state for home after a Special Investigation Team (SIT) told the chief judicial magistrate's court in Lakhimpur Kheri that the killing of four farmers and a journalist was a "pre-planned conspiracy".

On Wednesday, top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also demanded removal of Ashish Mishra Teni from the Union cabinet.

# No COVID-19 deaths in UP due to oxygen shortage: Govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday told the Legislative Council that no death due to lack of oxygen was reported in the state during the second wave of COVID-19, a claim rejected by the opposition. The government said the death certificates made no mention of 'death due to lack of oxygen' in any of the 22,915 patients that died due to the pandemic.

Replying to a question raised by Congress MLC Deepak Singh during the Question Hour, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh said, "No death has been reported in the state due to lack of oxygen during the second wave."

Raising a supplementary question, Deepak asked whether the government had details on similar cases that were flagged by its own ministers.

"Many ministers wrote letters saying deaths are taking place due to lack of oxygen in the state. Apart from this, many MPs had also made such complaints. Many incidents of deaths due to lack of oxygen had come to light. Is there any information with the government about these deaths in the entire state? Has the government not seen the dead bodies flowing in the river Ganga and people suffering due to lack of oxygen?" he asked.

Giving clarification, Pratap said a doctor issues a death certificate in case a hospitalised patient dies. He said there was no mention of 'death due to lack of oxygen' anywhere in the 22,915 death certificates that were issued by the doctors for COVID-19 victims in the state. The minister said several deaths during the pandemic were due to various other diseases, including terminal ones, and that the government had arranged oxygen from other states when there was a shortage.

Samajwadi Party's Udayveer Singh had earlier said, "The Uttar Pradesh government took action against Paras Hospital in Agra because the video of a doctor there had gone viral... half of the patients there were given oxygen and the other half died. Oxygen supply was stopped on the instructions of the district magistrate." He sought to know when the government itself had taken action in the case, how it could make a "false statement" in the House.

In response, the minister said the district magistrate and police commissioner's investigation report mentioned about a 'mock drill' in the hospital and it was during this time that the oxygen supply had allegedly been stopped.

Udayveer objected to the minister's reply saying the "truth will not change" if the

government writes "extinct" instead of "death" in the certificate. He also argued whether the letters written by the ministers on lack of oxygen, too, were false.

Leader of the House Dr Dinesh Sharma said the health minister had answered the questions that were asked. He said the members of the opposition should acknowledge that major casualties were avoided due to the "promptness" of the Uttar Pradesh government in ensuring medicines and treatment.

It may be mentioned that the Uttar Pradesh government's claim of nobody dying due to lack of oxygen in the lines of the Central government which has also repeatedly refuted that shortage of the gas had caused deaths in the country.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Parliament on December 3 that only Punjab had flagged deaths due to the shortage of oxygen. The Centre has also sought to downplay the oxygen crisis on previous occasions that hit India during the devastating second wave of COVID-19. India's COVID-19 crisis had reached horrific proportions during the second wave, with hospitals being forced to turn away patients after running out of medical oxygen and beds.

The situation was so grave

that hospitals sent SOS messages about their diminishing oxygen stocks and the attendants of patients waited in long queues in the heat to get oxygen cylinders filled. The Allahabad High Court had on May 4 said that the death of coronavirus patients due to shortages of oxygen at hospitals was a "criminal act" and "not less than a genocide". The court had taken up a suo motu case on Uttar Pradesh's handling of the pandemic and made the observations based on news reports and social media posts about death of COVID-19 patients in Lucknow and Meerut. In April, the Supreme Court had issued a notice to the Centre and sought a "national plan" on oxygen and drug supply to coronavirus patients.

Meanwhile, the House proceedings were adjourned for 15 minutes with the SP members raising the demand for dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence which left eight people, including four farmers, dead in October. SP's Naresh Uttam asked why Mishra had not been dismissed.

This was, however, disallowed by Chairman Manvendra Singh. The SP members barged into the well of the House carrying placards leading to a brief adjournment.

# Kejriwal to launch AAP poll campaign from Lko on Jan 2

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be kick-starting its election campaign by holding a rally to be addressed by Delhi Chief Minister and party chief Arvind Kejriwal in Lucknow on January 2.

Speaking to media persons on Thursday, Rajya Sabha member and AAP's UP-in-charge Sanjay Singh said that Kejriwal would make a big announcement for 34 lakh registered unemployed during the mega. "Kejriwal has given guarantee of 300 units of free electricity, waiver of old power bills and round the clock free supply of electricity to farmers in Delhi. He will now guarantee Rs 5,000 as unemployment allowance and give 10 lakh job to youths every year if AAP forms the next government in Uttar Pradesh," the AAP leader said.

Singh further said that Kejriwal would give a strong message to the youths in Uttar Pradesh, who constitute a large chunk of voters. "The Maha Rally will be historic and we expect a huge gathering of youths on January 2 in Lucknow to listen to Kejriwal. Prior to the entry of Aam Aadmi Party in Uttar Pradesh, the political parties did not discuss issue-based politics. Since the AAP forayed into the state, the political spectrum, political parties and voters have started talking on issue-based politics. The January 2 rally will start a debate on the employment issue," Singh said.

"AAP's guarantee of allowance till the beneficiary is unemployed will entail an expense of Rs 1,700 crore per month and Rs 20,400 crore annually. To spend Rs 20,400 crore out of the Rs 550 lakh crore budget of UP is not an impossible task but there has to be a political will. The AAP will make this dream come true. We have spoken on unemployment allowance for the first time in UP's political history. We believe in completing promises that we make. We will also ensure 10 lakh jobs each year if AAP is voted to power," he said.

The AAP leader further said,

"The AAP government will be a government of the people of Uttar Pradesh. There will be no need of being cane-charged on demanding jobs from the ruling party. Take a job and take the allowance until you get the job. AAP will be launching 'Rojgar Guarantee Sabha' (employment guarantee meeting) across the state and in all 403 Assembly constituencies after Kejriwal formally makes an announcement in the Maha Rally on January 2."

Singh charged that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was getting cases registered against him in a whimsical way. "They had no facts or proof yet the government is getting cases registered against me. I want to say to the chief minister that if he wants to register cases against me then I have no objection but there should be some iota of truth in the charges levelled. I want to ask how many cases will the chief minister get registered against me. I never insulted the national flag but a case was registered against me in Loni (Ghaziabad). The government has got 18 cases registered against me till date. They intimidated my wife by sending police to my home and slapped treason charges on me," the Rajya Sabha member alleged.

On the pathetic state of school going children in the winter in the state, Singh said that the children were yet to get school dresses, sweaters, shoes and school bags as yet.

"The BJP government announced to pay Rs 1,100 to the parents but that amount is yet to reach them. If you do not provide school dresses, sweaters, shoes and school bags soon, the AAP will stage dharnas across the state," he said.

The AAP leader also criticised Union Minister for State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni's misbehaviour with journalists and manhandling of one of them when quizzed about the role of his son in mowing down four farmers and a journalist in Tikunia area of Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3, and demanded his removal from the Union ministry.

# Khanna presents second supplementary grants

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst the ruckus of the opposition members in the assembly, Finance Minister Suresh Khanna tabled the second supplementary grants for the current financial year 2021-22 and the vote on account for the first four months of next fiscal 2022-23 in the state assembly on Thursday.

The size of the second supplementary budget is Rs.8479.53 crore and the vote on account is of Rs 1,68,903.23 crore. The opposition members disrupted the proceedings of the House and raised slogans. The Samajwadi Party and the Congress members came into the well of the House, demanding the dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni in the Lakhimpur Kheri case. Due to the uproar by the opposition members, the proceedings of the House were adjourned first for half an hour and later for half an hour and then for 15 minutes.

With Rs 4,000 crore, the major share in the supplementary grants has been allocated for the workers of the unorganised sector. Pension for the physically challenged persons, old age pension has also been increased while a provision of Rs 10 crore has been made for the Sports department.

Ahead of the upcoming state assembly polls, the UP government has announced some major measures in the supplementary budget. As per the budget, Rs 100 crore has been allocated to fulfill the state's power supply. For 'Har Ghar Bijli' scheme, Rs 185 crore has been earmarked and another Rs 670 crore has been allotted for farmers and senior citizens' pension fund.

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi; the state government allocated Rs 10 crore for Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga. In the budget, Rs 150 crore has been earmarked for the Information department and Rs 10 crore for UP Gaurav Samman.

Both the finance bills are likely to be passed on Friday, the last day of the winter session and also the last sitting of the 17th UP Assembly. The state goes to polls early 2022.



Khanna presents second supplementary grants

**यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का स्वतंत्र निकाय)  
ISO 9001:2015  
पत्रांक: 761/पीसीएल/महाप्रब/जोन-3/लखनऊई-टेंडर दिनांक: 16.12.2021  
**अति अल्प कालीन निविदा सूचना**  
जनपद अयोध्या में इनक्यूबेशन सेन्टर का निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय के नोटिस सं 26/GM-3/UPPCL/2021-22 दिनांक 16.12.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। यह निविदा <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 16.12.2021 से उपलब्ध रहेगी, जिसको दिनांक 16.12.2021 से 22.12.2021 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण व शर्तों का प्रारोक्षण की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
महाप्रबन्धक, जोन-3

कार्यालय : परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14  
**यूपीओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि**  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का स्वतंत्र निकाय)  
ISO 9001:2015  
पत्रांक: 1691/पीसीएल/परि प्र-14 दिनांक: 15/12/2021  
**अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
एतद्वारा इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत जनपद झांसी के राजकीय आर्यम पद्धति विद्यालय नुमा में फायर अलार्म एवं फायर हाइड्रेंट सिस्टम की स्थापना कार्य (अवशेष कार्य) हेतु निविदा सूचना संख्या- 62/यूपी.पी.सी.एल./परि.प्र-14/2021-22 दिनांक 14.12.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से प्रतिशत दरों के आधार पर ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य की बिड दिनांक 18.12.2021 से दिनांक 25.12.2021 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन अपराह्न 4:00 बजे अकोहेस्ट्रासि के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की विधि आदि का समस्त विवरण [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) एवं <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।  
परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14

**Office of Principal**  
**Government Industrial Training Institute, Civil Line, Fatehpur. Uttar Pradesh**  
Letter No. Local/Tree Auction/2021 Date: December, 2021  
**Notice for Tree Auction**  
It is informed to the citizens that 96 Eucalyptus trees standing in the premise of Government Industrial Training Institute, Civil Line Fatehpur is going to be auctioned publicly on 23rd December 2021 at 11:00 AM. The Auction will be conducted by the committee formed in the Institute's campus. Interested individuals must pay 20000 (Rs. twenty Thousand) as the deposit amount on 23rd December 2021 at 10:30 AM and submit photocopies of Commercial Tax registration details, PAN Card, any Government Issued photo identity proof and an application letter on the letter pad of the firm at the Institute's Office and receive a token for participating at the auction under the given terms and conditions. Information related to terms and conditions of the auction like the circumference of the tree can be obtained from the notice board of the institute. For any clarification, the security in charge can be contacted till 10:30 AM of 23th December 2021. The auction could be cancelled or extended due to any inevitable circumstances. Any dispute related to this will be resolved at the district court Fatehpur.  
(Dr. Naresh Kumar)  
Principal,  
GITI, Civil Line Fatehpur

**DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)/A.C.E. (M)-4  
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUNJ, DELHI-110054.  
Short NIT. No.51 (Item no.1) (2021-22) E.E./TJA.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 onward	Exempted vide office memorandum No: F/9/4/2020-PPD and DJB/endorsement No and 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)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 820(2021-22) "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Sd/- (S.K. SINGH)  
EX. ENGINEER(T)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARPADA.**  
Tel. No.06792-254029, Fax No.06792-259464, 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, Barpada.
- 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, Barpada

OIPR-25014/11/0012/2122

**DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III  
G.T. ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110052  
E-mail: [eneelw@delhi.gov.in](mailto:eneelw@delhi.gov.in) Ph: No.22396645

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 /time 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)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 824(2021-22) "STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE."

Sd/- Ex.ENGINEER (NE)-III

# Two shot in dispute over chak road

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dispute over a chak road led to a daylight shootout in which two cousins were killed in Agra on Thursday.

The violence led to tension in the area and the local police rushed along with senior officers to investigate the matter. Additional force was summoned from neighbouring police stations to avert any untoward incident.

As per reports, Atar Singh and Ganga Singh of Kheda Rathore locality in Bah police station area had been nursing an enmity for some years over the laying of a kutchra road in the village. On Thursday, some aides of Ganga Singh placed pipes near an embankment to irrigate their fields which was immediately opposed by Atar Singh's kin Mahesh Kumar Singh (45) and

his cousin Dinesh Singh (38).

In the meantime, some more accomplices of Ganga Singh converged on the spot with firearms and opened fire, hitting the cousins. The victims suffered fatal gunshot wounds and died on the spot.

Later, the police rushed to the crime scene and sent the bodies for autopsy. A case was registered but police raids to nab the assailants failed to yield results as they fled their homes.

Meanwhile in Meerut, a 27-year-old photographer was hit during a celebratory firing at a wedding and suffered critical injuries late on Tuesday night. The victim, identified as Vijay Kumar, suffered gunshot wounds at a wedding function at Anika Banquet Hall in Gangesagar Colony. The police later booked two uniden-

tified persons and were scanning CCTV footage to identify the accused.

Doctors attending on Vijay Kumar said that he was admitted to the ICU and the bullet had hit his stomach. He was operated upon and the next few days were critical for him, he added.

Vijay's colleague Abhishek Kumar said that some unidentified baratis were dancing at the ceremony and a few of them took out a revolver and started firing indiscriminately. The inebriated man started firing while other guests ran for cover. In the meantime, a stray bullet hit Vijay on the stomach after which he passed out.

A case was registered at Bhawanpur police station and efforts were underway to ascertain the identity of the accused and them.



19TH CONVOCATION OF AKTU

Guv asks students to visit, take inspiration from KV corridor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing on the fact that so much money gets wasted on projects which are not completed in time in the government sector, Governor Anandiben Patel exhorted the students of AKTU to visit and study projects such as 'Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor' constructed with superior technology in a fixed period of time. She said it would help them finish projects in time in future when the reins of government and the administration were in their hands.

The governor was speaking at the 19th convocation of AKTU held on Thursday. "Sometimes it happens that a building has to be constructed for Rs 50 crore and nearly 5 years pass by but no one is bothered. However, when five years are completed, the government has to give Rs 10 crore in addition for completion of the building. Recently, the 'Kashi Vishwanath Corridor' was constructed and dedicated to the nation and the cost of the project was several crore. This work was completed in two parts using all kinds of technology," she said.

She directed the teachers of AKTU to take their students to the 'Kashi Vishwanath Corridor' to understand how the work was carried out, what were the challenges faced and how solutions to the problems



were found. "It is also important to learn how such a big building was raised and the work completed in such a short period despite the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

"Make a project on this and take a pledge to work in the same way in future because the reins of the government and administration are going to be in your hands in future. It is important to learn how to complete the work in time and I believe what you learn today will help tremendously in future, and the governments will not have to bear extra costs," she added.

The governor said there was another project, Saryu Nahar Kashi Pariyojana, inaugurated recently. "The project had been pending for the past 40 years and was supposed to

be built at the cost of Rs 100 crore. The project was completed in four years at the cost of Rs 10,000 crore. Whose responsibility is this because the money which was wasted was that of the public," she added.

The governor said the Ram temple was being constructed at Ayodhya and there were several challenges. "Mud was taken out from a depth of 50 feet and the best of technologies was used. Experts from all IITs got together and after three months, they gave their suggestions on what needed to be done. The state government started with the idea that nothing should impact the temple for the next 1,000 years and then the work was started," she said.

The governor said asked the students to visit such projects,

study them and try to understand the problems of the workers, their families.

Former director of IIT-Kanpur Prof SG Dhande, who was the chief guest, was conferred an honorary degree of DSc at the convocation. Delivering the convocation address, he said that Governor Anandiben Patel has set the tone by saying that there should be a coordination between primary education and higher education.

He said teachers of all universities should spare some time for teaching in schools in their vicinity. He recalled that he would teach in the Central School at IIT-Kanpur for two years. "There have been Nobel Prize winners who would go to schools and enjoyed the experience," he said.

5% of Covid patients have long-term gastrointestinal disorders: Study

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Five per cent of the people who have had Covid infections have long-term gastrointestinal disorders. It was the finding of the research carried out by head of SGPPI's Microbiology department Dr Ujjala Ghoshal for which she received the 'Best Research Paper Award'.

Dr Ghoshal said this is the first-of-its-kind research across the globe after a six-month follow-up of Covid patients and was titled 'Post-Infection Functional Gastrointestinal Disease following Coronavirus Disease - A Case Control Study'. A total of 280 Covid patients, including 107 from India and the rest from Bangladesh, were studied along with 260 healthy control patients. She said the finding revealed that functional gas-

trointestinal disorders, which included irritable bowel syndrome and functional dyspepsia, were found in the patients even six months after Covid.

"Functional gastrointestinal disorders indicate that there are no structural problems but the patient is still suffering. It is well known that when you test the faecal matter of people having gastrointestinal disorders, 50 per cent of them will have the RNA of coronavirus. It is also well known that coronavirus alters the gut flora and increases intestinal permeability & inflammation," she explained.

Dr Ghoshal pointed out that since the patients were having gastrointestinal problems long after they recovered, it was suggested that post-Covid complications as far as gastrointestinal disorders were concerned might exist on a long-term basis.

"However, there was no long-term study on this. Therefore, we conducted the study in collaboration with Bangladesh. Around 280 patients were taken, including from three centres in Dhaka (Bangladesh), and we followed the international guidelines for the same. The follow-up was carried out for one month, three months and six months. Detailed history was collected during the follow-up," she said.

IBS or irritable bowel syndrome also occurs when there is anxiety and tension and there are psychological disturbances. "Also, Covid itself causes anxiety and tension and hence psychological assessment was also carried out as per a proforma designed by a committee. The study proved the hypothesis that Covid patients have long-term gastrointestinal disorders and it was found that five per cent of

the patients had functional gastrointestinal disorders while in the healthy control category, only one per cent developed such disorders at the end of six months," she elaborated.

She further said that the other studies which have been carried out across the globe have gone maximum up to one month as a follow-up.

"The study has a lot of relevance. There have been a large number of Covid cases and five per cent of these patients is a large number, which means a large number of people are getting infected which would lead to health burden and bring in a large number of cases to the hospital that will have its socio-economic impact" she said. She added that Bangladesh was also included to show that it is not specific to India and is a problem which exists all across the world.

CITY BRIEFS

EXHIBITION

The Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is participating in 14th International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2021, organised by CII at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from December 16 to 18. A spokesman said the equipment and services being displayed would provide an opportunity to domestic and international companies to be a part of the transformation and expansion of Indian Railways to showcase the latest technological advances, new products and innovations for the Indian Railways sector. He said RDSO acts as a centre for acquisition, incorporation and development of new technology and

upgradation of existing technology for Indian Railways as well as an international platform for design, testing and inspection of railway equipment and also provides consultation services. The exhibition was inaugurated by Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jarosh while Chairman and CEO, Railway Board, Suneet Sharma was also present on the occasion. Director General (Special), Vendor, RDSO, JP Pandey welcomed the minister and the chairman and CEO. Apart from the Railway Board, many dignitaries and people visited the RDSO stall. Many railway vendors saw the works displayed at the RDSO stall and got the process and information related to the vendors.

ISS EXAMS

Anshika Bajpai, a former student of City Montessori School, Kanpur Road campus, qualified the prestigious Indian Statistical Service examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, results of which were declared recently. With only 11 seats all over the country, it is a civil service requiring a high degree of proficiency in statistical methods and applications. The posts are recruited through UPSC examination. Anshika joined CMS Kanpur Road in 2008 in class 6 and completed class 12 with

91.25% marks in 2015. Thereafter, she did graduation with Maths, Statistics, and Computers, and Masters in Statistics from Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University.

DESHAJ MAHOTSAV

Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated 3-day 'Deshaj Mahotsav', an Amrit Mahotsav of folk arts, at Ram Manohar Lohia Park. The programme is organised by 'Son Chiraiya'. The governor said that folk arts should reach the younger generation and it was because of the folk songs and arts that the culture was alive. Singer Malini Awasthi said that the programme was being organised on the completion of 10 years of 'Son Chiraiya'.

Surreal moment for medal winners

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The medal winners at the 19th AKTU convocation were an excited. The young achievers who have big dreams for future spoke about their plans.

Rashi Mathur, who won the Chancellor's gold medal, said it was unbelievable and surreal. "I was from a private institute of engineering in Kanpur and did not expect to get the highest marks in all departments for my subject of B.Tech in Electronics and Communication," she said.

"I truly believe that I am not exceptionally smart but I worked very hard and never missed the classes during the four years of B.Tech. I think it is difficult for the students of my college to maintain their concentration for 5-7 hours and that is what I developed as



habit since childhood. During those five to seven hours, I would only focus on the lecture," said Rashi whose favourite pastime is reading supernatural stories.

She said she wants to get into consultancy and is currently working as a trainee

system engineer in a corporate company. Rashi said she is doing MBA and has a flair for management.

Devansh Bhatnagar, who won the bronze medal in B.Tech, Electrical and Electronic, said he is planning to appear for GRE as he wants

to go to the USA to do Masters in Computer Science after which he is planning to join a defence organisation.

"I have written two research papers which have been accepted in a well-known journal. My research is about improving the efficiency of solar panels, grid integration using artificial intelligence and improving the quality of power supplied to the grid," he said. He added that he is also interested in energy conservation projects and reduction of carbon footprints.

Vandana Pal, who won the bronze medal in B.Arch, said she is feeling proud. She said her success mantra was focus and hard work. "I was always fascinated by buildings and then learnt in class XII that it was the architects who made those buildings. As a result, I opted for this course," she said.

Mustard cultivation up 35% this year

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Cultivation of oilseeds has been on the rise across Uttar Pradesh and the area of mustard cultivation has grown by 35 per cent this year as compared to last year. As per the latest Agriculture department data, farmers have grown mustard on 9.46 lakh hectares exceeding the target of 7.80 lakh hectares set by the Yogi Adityanath government for this year across the state. Besides, in Lucknow alone, mustard has been grown on 15,000 hectares this year while it was cultivated on around 9,000 hectares last year.

"The reason for farmers switching to oilseed cultivation is believed as much to be the rise in oil prices as the campaign run by the Agriculture department to encourage mustard cultivation across the state. So, it will not be an exaggeration to say that a Yellow Revolution has begun in Uttar Pradesh," said a government spokesman on Thursday.

"In fact, the Agriculture department officials went from village to village encouraging farmers to opt for mustard cultivation in order to achieve the target of its cultivation on 7.80 lakh hectares. Farmers were also coached on the importance of taking timely care of crops as well as ways

and means to achieve better yield. As a result, more than 20 lakh farmers across the state took to mustard cultivation in the recent past," the official further said. The Agriculture department officials claimed that there will be a bumper mustard production this year in Uttar Pradesh after a gap of several years and soon the state will emerge as a major producer of the crop within the country. Last year, mustard was grown on seven lakh hectares of land in the state and the total production was 10.07 lakh metric tons. The production of mustard will be much more this year in Uttar Pradesh than last year because of its cultivation on a much larger piece of land.

At present, Uttar Pradesh ranks second after Madhya Pradesh in the production of oilseeds in the country, accounting for 16 per cent of the total production. Madhya Pradesh, which is the top producer of oilseeds, accounts for the highest 24 per cent while Maharashtra comes third with 14 per cent. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan contribute 10 per cent, seven per cent and six per cent respectively of the total oilseed production in India. Similarly, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand collectively account for 23 per cent

of the total oilseeds production in the country.

Oilseeds are grown both as Rabi and Kharif crops and about 64 per cent of oilseeds are produced as Rabi, 30 per cent as Kharif and six per cent as Zaid crops. As per data of the Directorate of Mustard Research, Uttar Pradesh topped in mustard production 25 years ago, but later the area of cultivation of mustard shrank due to increase in wheat farming with introduction of its new varieties. In 1981-82, mustard was grown on 22.76 lakh hectares in UP, constituting 50 per cent of the area under mustard cultivation in India but the area started shrinking and production started declining in later years. There were other reasons also for the decline in mustard production. One of them was that the minimum support price (MSP) of mustard was not increased in the same manner as of wheat.

However, the present Union government paid attention to this issue with the aim to increase farmer's income and increased the MSP of mustard too. The government has kept the MSP for mustard at Rs 5,050. In view of this, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a campaign to promote oilseed cultivation across Uttar Pradesh to benefit farmers.

Anglo-Indians demand restoration of quota in Parl

Lucknow (PNS): In the 145th year of the formation, All-India Anglo-Indian Association wants the restoration of the two reserved seats in the Parliament for Anglo-Indians and one each in all the states of the country which were done away with in January 2020. The All-India Anglo Indian Association held a press conference on Thursday. President of Lucknow branch of the Association, Adrian Michael said the two seats of Parliament and one seat in each state were done away with without going into the merits of the case. "The government had said that they were doing away with it because the Anglo-Indians had ceased to exist since there were just 296 Anglo-Indians across the country. They went by the census figure which was not correct since there was no column for Anglo-Indians in the census under the regions. We are running into lakhs in the country and in Lucknow alone, there are 50,000 Anglo-Indians," he said. He added that they have contributed in a major way and the Constitution of India is unique because it mentions the Anglo-Indian community.

Radiodiagnosis dept of KGMU celebrates Foundation Day

Lucknow (PNS): The department of Radiodiagnosis, KGMU, celebrated its 35th Foundation Day on Thursday with alumni joining in from all over India and across the globe.

Head of the department Prof Neera Kohli said they have made great strides in the

last one year in human resources and infrastructure building upon painstaking efforts of the last five years despite Covid. The MD seats increased from four to nine and the faculty strength increased from eight to 12 this year. The department acquired a state-of-the-art 128-slice CT

scan in addition to the existing 64-slice CT scan. "The department provided exemplary services during Covid with round-the-clock X-ray and interventional procedures. 'Padma Shri SS Sarkar Oration' was delivered by Dr Himanshu Diwakar, an alumnus of the department and present clin-

ical director of I-Med, Canberra (Australia). He spoke on how multiparametric MRI has revolutionised the early detection of carcinoma prostate and decreased anxieties and invasive procedures in many elderly males suffering from urinary symptoms.

कार्यालय : परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14  
**यूपीओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०**  
 (द्वितीय प्रवेश संस्कार का समकालीन) CIN: U150UP19766GG004285  
 3/78, विहार चक, मोदी नगर, लखनऊ-226 010 | Website: www.upprojects.org  
 Email: uppc@pm14@gmail.com, pm14@upprojects.org  
 ISO 9001 : 2015 GSTIN: 09AAUC3393F128

पत्रांक: 1688/वीसीओएल/परि प्रो-14 दिनांक: 15/12/2021

**अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

एतद्वारा इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत राजकीय तकनीक उत्खनन कालेज एवं विकिसलाय लखनऊ से सम्बद्ध 100 शैयामयुक्त राजकीय युनानी थिफिसलाय में उपकरणों/ फर्नीचर एवं साज-सज्जा की स्थापना के (अवशेष कार्य) कार्य हेतु निविदा सूचना संख्या-60/यूपी.पी.सी.एल./परि.प्रव.-14/2021-22 दिनांक 14.12.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से आइटम दरों के आधार पर ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य की बिड दिनांक 18.12.2021 से दिनांक 25.12.2021 अपरान्त 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन अपरान्त 4:00 बजे अहोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रश्न, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की तिथि आदि का समस्त विवरण [www.upprojects.org](https://tender.up.nic.in) एवं <https://tender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14

कार्यालय : परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14  
**यूपीओ प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि०**  
 (द्वितीय प्रवेश संस्कार का समकालीन) CIN: U150UP19766GG004285  
 3/78, विहार चक, मोदी नगर, लखनऊ-226 010 | Website: www.upprojects.org  
 Email: uppc@pm14@gmail.com, pm14@upprojects.org  
 ISO 9001 : 2015 GSTIN: 09AAUC3393F128

पत्रांक: 1688/वीसीओएल/परि प्रो-14 दिनांक: 15/12/2021

**अति अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

एतद्वारा इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत जनपद झांसी के राजकीय आश्रम पद्धति विद्यालय कोछामावर में फायर अलार्म एवं फायर हाइड्रेंट सिस्टम की स्थापना कार्य (अवशेष कार्य) हेतु निविदा सूचना संख्या-61/यूपी.पी.सी.एल./परि.प्रव.-14/2021-22 दिनांक 14.12.2021 द्वारा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से प्रतिशत दरों के आधार पर ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य की बिड दिनांक 18.12.2021 से दिनांक 25.12.2021 अपरान्त 3:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन अपरान्त 4:00 बजे अहोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रश्न, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की तिथि आदि का समस्त विवरण [www.upprojects.org](https://tender.up.nic.in) एवं <https://tender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

परियोजना प्रबन्धक, निर्माण इकाई-14

**United India Insurance Co. Ltd.**  
 Regional Office, Ari Chambers-1, (2nd & 3rd Floor),  
 Kapoorthala, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024. Ph: 0522-4241167

**NOTICE**

This is for the information of general public that the following 5 Micro Offices, Attara, Kabrai, Roza, Nyoria Husa & Kosi located in the state of U.P. are being closed with effect from 31.01.2022. The general public is requested to approach the nearest office of the United India Insurance Company Ltd.

Sr.	NAME	Alternative arrangement being made for policy servicing office
1.	ATTARA	DO Jhansi, Floor No. 1, Nandan Pura Chauraha, Shipuri Road, Jhansi, (U.P.) 284003. (Ph) 0510-2380197, 2380179 (E-mail) 082200@uiic.co.in
2.	KABRAI	DO Jhansi, Floor No. 1, Nandan Pura Chauraha, Shipuri Road, Jhansi, (U.P.) 284003. (Ph) 0510-2380197, 2380179 (E-mail) 082200@uiic.co.in
3.	ROZA	DO Shahjahanpur, Singh Hospital Building, Floor No.-0, Sadar Bazar, Shahjahanpur, U.P. (242001). (Ph) 05842-222161, 2230119 (E-mail) 082600@uiic.co.in
4.	NYORIA HUSSA	DO Shahjahanpur, Singh Hospital Building, Floor No.-0, Sadar Bazar, Shahjahanpur, U.P. (242001). (Ph) 05842-222161, 2230119 (E-mail) 082600@uiic.co.in
5.	KOSI	DO Mathura, 10, Floor No.-0, Civil Lines, Near Petrol pump, Mathura, U.P. (281001) (Ph) 0565-2500727, 2501735 (E-mail) 082900@uiic.co.in

Date : 17.12.2021 Deputy General Manager  
 IRDAI Regn. No. 545 CIN: U93090TN1938G0100108 www.uiic.co.in

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
 No.- Dy.CEE/C/NCR/Kanpur Dt- 13.01.2021  
 20-21/Tender No.-115

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to all users of railway way lines and premises situated Under Noted Section of North Central Railway that 132 kV TR line shifting work is in progress in connection with construction of ROB at LC No-72 (Sirsaul West) at Loc 997/14-16. This TR Line will be shifted in between Tower No 119 to 122 Near Sirsaul, Narval Village, Tehsil & Distt. Kanpur Nagar UP. During Shifting of This TR Line loss of all trees and crops will be compensate to the Owner of the land as per rules. In this work all the train's are being operated through this TR Line.

The Construction of this TR Line Proposed by Ministry Of Railway Government of India. 1308/21 (SP)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
 Union Bank of India

Kanpur Regional Office : 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005  
 Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | Date of e-Auction : 20-01-2022**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.

**Branch Name : Sadar Bazar, Jhansi • Address : 341-G, Sadar Bazar, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Jatin Agarwal • Mob. : 769066205**

**Name of Borrower : Shri Subhash Chand S/o Shri Deep Chand & Smt. Rama Devi W/o Shri Subhash Chand and Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, All R/o : 58, Idgah, Pulia No. 9, Near Power House, Tehsil & Distt. Jhansi**  
**O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 9,30,387.70 + Intt. + Other Expenses**  
**Property : Residential House No., 58, Idgah, Pulia No. 9, Distt. Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Deep Chand S/o Shri Lala Ram, Area : 61.68 Sq. Mtr., Bounded : North- Rasta 5 Ft., South : House of Ram Swaroop Kansoria, East- Kachha Rasta 10 Mtr., West : Rasta 5 Ft.**  
**Date & Time of E-Auction : 20-01-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**  
**Reserve Price : Rs. 18.50 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.85 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>**

**Name of Borrower : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal, R/o : 381, Ekta Public School, Bhatta Gaon, Near Nala (Govt. Toilet) Jhansi.**  
**Guarantor : Shri Rajkumar S/o Shri Ghan Shyam, R/o : 307, Outside Sayanar Gate, Jhansi**  
**O/S Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 4,41,050.37 + Intt. + Other Expenses**  
**Property : Land & Building situated at Ward No. 4, Mauza Talpura Abadi, Bhatta Gaon, Jhansi. Owner of Property : Shri Jitendra Parihar S/o Shri Babu Lal Area : 754 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North- Plot Soller, South : Rasta, East- Plot Smt. Rani, West : Rasta.**  
**Date & Time of E-Auction : 20-01-2022 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**  
**Reserve Price : Rs. 10.15 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 1.02 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx>**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/libapi/index.jsp>

Date : 17-12-2021 Place : Jhansi Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India



# Strike paralyses banking services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The employees of public sector banks (PSBs) including the State Bank of India (SBI) went on a two-day strike here on Thursday, paralysing the working in the banks badly. Due to strike, the transactions and clearance of cheques worth several hundreds of crore have been affected. The bank employees went on a strike on the call of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella unit of nine bank employee associations, in protest against the faulty policies of the government. They were protesting against their two main points including Banking Amendment Bill 2021 and move of government to privatise the public sector banks.

However, the private sector banks HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and others continued their working as usual. In support of the strike, the bank employees staged demonstrations at several places including the zonal/regional offices of State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank and many others. In these protests, the UFBU



Bank employees staging a protest in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

and other bank association leaders strongly criticised the government for weakening the public sector banks.

At the zonal office of SBI, deputy general secretary of SBISA Dinesh Kumar Singh and zonal president of SBIOA

Prakash Ranjan strongly criticised the government for its policies and expressed their serious anguish over the failures of several meetings between the government and bank management to resolve the issues. The function was also

addressed by Manoj Kumar, Raghuvir Tiwari, Mani Shankar Choubey, Amrendra, Pankaj Kumar, PK Rai (all from SBISA), Akhilesh Kumar Tiwari and Ramesh Kumar, among others who raised the voices against the government's attitude.

# Minister presents tractor keys to farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi distributed the keys of tractors to many farmers at a programme organised under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (ATMA) at Giriya Devi Sankul, Chowkaghat here on Thursday. The programme, which was addressed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on natural farming through a virtual medium, was telecast live and watched by hundreds of famers. The PM spoke about the benefits of natural farming and said that small farmers would benefit the most from it. Just a few days ago during his two days visit to Varanasi, Modi had also spoken about the importance of natural farming while addressing a function at Swarved Mahamandir.

According to the PM, we not only need to re-learn our ancient knowledge related to agriculture, but also need to sharpen it according to mod-



UP Agriculture Minister SP Shahi handing over key of tractor to a farmer in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

ern times. In this direction, we have to re-research and mold the ancient knowledge into the modern scientific frame. He said that chemicals and fertilizers have played an important role in the Green Revolution, but there is a need to keep working on its alternatives simultaneously.

On the occasion, Shahi distributed tractor keys to many under the In-Situ Scheme including Ramji Singh (Gram Sabha Ramna), Akhilesh Narayan Singh

(Pilkhani), Girish Kumar Singh (Siddhivinayak) and Ranjana Pal (Krishnadutpur). Addressing the farmers, Shahi said that natural farming is an ancient method. Referring to the PM's call for 'back to basics, back to nature', he appealed to the farmers to adopt natural farming in order to improve the quality of crops and fertility of the land for better health of the people.

'At the same time, there is a huge market for it in the world. We have called upon the

farmers of the whole country to adopt old tradition of natural farming in which the cost of cultivation is low and quality of food is good,' he said, adding that on the guidance of the PM and the initiative of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in the state, a seminar on cow-based farming was conducted in Kanpur last year where the youths were trained under the Namami Gange and later on, they started giving training to the farmers. 'This work has already been started in the clusters of all the eight development blocks of Varanasi district.'

On the occasion, state BJP co-in-charge Sunil Ojha, Meena Choubey, district panchayat chairperson Poonam Maurya, Devendra Singh, Shailendra Singh, Padma Shri Chandrashekhar Singh, Ghanshyam Patel, Rita Jaiswal, Yogesh Singh, Ayush Chandra, Anil Seth, Dharmendra Singh, Navratan Rathi, Santosh Solapurkar and many others were also present.

# 'Prasad' distribution of KV Dham begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahesh Chand Srivastava inaugurated the door-to-door distribution work of 'Mahaprasad' of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham at Booth No- 302 of Neelcottage Colony near Maldahiya crossing. Later, he along with the party workers distributed prasad and booklets highlighting the history of Kashi Vishwanath temple among the residents of Neelcottage and its surrounding colonies including Seva Basti. Srivastava said that on December 13 last, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Dham (corridor) after taking a holy dip in river Ganga and offering prayers to Lord Vishwanath.

According to him, in the booklet, the history of Vishwanath Dham is mentioned that how the foreign invaders attacked and



Regional BJP chief MC Srivastava distributing prasad of KV Dham in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

destroyed the temple, again and again and how it was rebuilt in 1780 by Maharani Devi Ahilya Bai of Indore. 'Since then, no one has paid attention to the temple during the last 241 years but its fortune has changed when Varanasi got an MP like Narendra Modi who became the PM and then the corridor premises have

been extended from 2,000 square metres to 50,000 square metres and now the development of this corridor has attracted the attention of the entire world,' he said.

Srivastava said that about 15,000 party workers are engaged in distribution of this prasad to reach the mandal, sector (Shakti Kendra) and

booth levels. On the occasion, regional media in-charge Navratan Rathi, city general secretary Naveen Kapoor, co-convenor of the programme Uday Pratap Singh, Siddhanth Sharma, Sushil Gupta, Shailendra Srivastava, Jitendra Lalwani and many others were also present.

Meanwhile, the prasad and booklet were distributed by the city president Vidya Sagar Rai in Assi areas after starting the programme by presenting the same to the chief priest of Jagannath temple. He said that the main objective of the prasad distribution programme is to help every family get the same of Baba Kashi Vishwanath Dham. He was also accompanied by senior party leaders including Ashok Pandey, Sudhir Mishra, Ashok Patel, Madan Mishra, Geeta Shastri, Aarti Pathak, Shailendra Mishra, Sameer Anurag, Ravi Jaiswal and Anurag Sharma.

# IM-BHU celebrates Institute Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (IM-BHU) celebrated its 6th Institute Day here on Thursday. The distinguished guest Prof Vinay Kumar Nangia, former fellow emeritus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, talked about the present employment scenarios for youth and the stark contrast which exists in the industry in the type of job roles offered. Highlighting about the competitive environment at BHU which lead the students to the path of success, he raised some concerns regarding the upcoming tech enabled world and gave the example of Elon Musk's Tesla mobile phone

which will run on solar energy and be directly connected to satellites.

He also raised some valuable points of changing paradigms of developing networks, and friendships. Prof Nangia also gave the audience a glimpse down his memory lane from his days as a management graduate and highlighted the evolution of knowledge acquisition and dissemination which have passed through different stages from being human centric, mechanical and finally culminating into emotion centric.

The other distinguished guest BS Nagesh, founder of Trust for Retailers and Retail Associates of India & chairman of Shoppers Stop stressed on paradigm shift in the field of

consumer behaviour and increasing challenges faced by the marketers specially in the current pandemic situation. He emphasised on the need for building capacity, not only as an individual but also for the team and the need to be inclusive in careers and at the same time be productive for the community. He gave insights on how his ignorance became the strength for his entrepreneurial journey and helped him run a successful business.

The event started with a tribute to Pt Madan Mohan Malviya and presentation of Kulgeet. While welcoming the guests, IM-BHU Director Prof SK Dubey congratulated the entire fraternity and appreciated the tireless efforts of all the faculty and staff members for

carrying out its academic and professional activities uninterrupted even during the current pandemic situation.

On the occasion, the best research paper award, 2021 for faculty was awarded to Dr Abhijit Biswas, the best research paper award for 2021 for scholar category to Mrigendra Nath Mishra and the best employee award 2021 to Bhola Nath Yadav.

A fascinating cultural event was also organised by the students of MBA and MBA-IB. The vote of thanks was proposed by the Dean Prof HP Mathur. He highlighted the pros of the online mode of education and how the institute has maintained its standards through these tumultuous times.

# Magh Mela: Efforts being made to deal with soil erosion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

This year, persistent soil erosion on the banks of Ganga and marshland are posing a major challenge for the Magh Mela authorities. While mela authorities admitted that the water current of river Ganga is fast this year, corrective measures have been initiated to deal with the soil erosion problem. Teams of labourers have also been engaged to make the marshland suitable for living.

District Magistrate (Magh Mela) Shesh Mani Pandey said, "Although the water current of river Ganga is fast, we are making sincere and appropriate arrangements to deal with the situation." He further added, "We would also make arrangements to settle down all the religious, spiritual and social organisations arriving for the Magh Mela in alternative places and there would be 'Divya' and 'Bhavaya' Magh Mela in 2022."

The DM, however, maintained that the entire mela campus has been divided into five sectors and the work of land allotments among various departments, and organisations would be taken from December 22. The DM also assured that the mela area would be spread in 640-hectare land as it was in the previous year and all sorts of facilities would be offered to visitors, seers, saints and organisations.

The DM, meanwhile, made it clear that the Covid-19 protocol would be strictly followed and advised visitors to carry fully immunized certificates along with them. He also said that monitoring of Mela work has been done on a daily



Administrative officers and sadhus offering aarti to Maa Ganga for success and peaceful passage of Magh Mela in Prayagraj

Pioneer

basis and our priority was to complete all the projects on or before the scheduled time.

As per information, land allotment work for different organisations would be taken up as follows - Dandi Swami Nagar, Dandi Bada (December 22 and 23), Khak Chowk (December 24 and 25), and Acharya Swami Nagar (January 26 and 27). Moreover, land at Sangam Upper marg, Saraswati marg and Mahavir Ji marg would be allotted on December 31. Similarly, the land would be allotted on Annapurna marg on January 1 and Tulsi marg and GT road on January 2. Moreover, land at Triveni and Kali marg would be allotted on January 3 and 4 respectively. Land allotment at sectors 1,

2, parade, Shastri Gata and Kabir Nagar would be done on January 5 while land at Samudrakoop marg and interlocking marg (sector 3) and Ramanuj marg and Arial would also be allotted on the same day.

This year, there would be no entry of new organisations and only old organisations - holding camps on mela campus for years - would be allotted land at the suitable land and sectors. Officials, however, claimed that hectic preparations are underway to construct the pontoon bridges and levelling work was almost done.

With barely a month left for the beginning of the 47-day grand religious and spiritual fair, all the departments have come up with their blueprints

to organise the mela. Magh Mela beginning from January 14 would culminate on March 1, 2022.

The mela administration has also put their focus towards Kalpawasi area where thousands of Kalpawasis from different parts of the country would be spending a month-long time on the banks of Ganga and covering a spiritual journey to seek salvation.

A senior mela official pointed out that apart from soil erosion, agencies working on land levelling work had faced marshy land posing another difficulty to deal with. He added that even machines like tractors and JCBs were stuck in marshy land and agencies had to make extra efforts to deal with the crisis.

# 3,229-km route of NCR covered with OFC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a major public friendly measure, 291 stations over North Central Railway Zone have been equipped with free high-speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity so far making around 3,229 km of North Central Railway covered with OFC (Optical Fibre Cable). Work of making this facility available at almost 95% of the targeted stations in North Central Railway has been completed.

Division wise coverage in NCR is: Prayagraj Division: 124 Stations, Jhansi Division: 105 Stations, Agra Division: 62 Stations. The no. of users of these station Wi-Fi facilities is gradually increasing.

This project has been taken up in a mission mode for turning Railway Stations into hubs of digital inclusion.

The responsibility to implement this remarkable Digital India initiative has been entrusted to Railway Mini Ratna PSU RAILTEL Working tirelessly and continuously, RAILTEL is providing state of the art public Wi-Fi under the brand name of Railwire. RailTel has so far commissioned this

facility at more than 6000 stations across India.

NCR from time to time keeps launching awareness campaigns for promoting this facility. Through videos and messages on social media, regular announcements, hoardings and banners at stations, North Central Railway has been promoting the usage of Wi-Fi facility by the rail users and passengers.

Railway stations are places where a cross-section of the society converges. The quickening pace of modernisation and manifold increase in smartphone usage has triggered a 'Digital India' revolution. Envisaged in 2015 Rail Budget, the project of providing free Wi-Fi internet facility at stations aims to bring free Wi-Fi access to railway stations across India. This includes small stations located in remote villages as well.

Public visiting stations can use this facility for streaming HD videos, download of movies, songs, games, and do their offices work online.

Students, especially UPSC, RRB, RRC & SSC aspirants from remote locations with

limited access to the internet, use the station Wi-Fi facilities for their preparations. Passengers are also using this facility for leveraging entertainment on their personal devices. Feedback from passengers at major stations across North Central Railway at Prayagraj, Kanpur, Agra, Cantt, Mathura, Jhansi, Gwalior etc indicate excellent connectivity, seamless data access and great facility for the passengers.

The Railwire Wi-Fi facility is very user friendly. To switch on the connection, passengers need to scan Wi-Fi options and choose Railwire. Once the browser takes the user to the Railwire portal, it will ask for a mobile number to which a One Time Password (OTP) will be sent. Once connected, the Wi-Fi connection will last for 30 minutes. This helps the rail passengers to stay connected and updated with railway information.

The Wi-Fi is free for the first 30 min of usage every day at 1 mbps speed. For using the Wi-Fi facility further at higher speed, the user needs to choose a plan with higher speed by paying a nominal fee.

The plans vary from Rs. 10/day (for 5 GB @ 34 MBPS) to Rs. 75/30 day (for 60 GB @ 34 MBPS) excluding GST. A number of payment options like net banking, wallet, credit card can be used to purchase plans online.

These initiatives of Indian Railway and RailTel have paved the way for the common Indian Railway Traveller to reap the benefits of Digital Technology, truly ensuring that Digital India is happening where it really matters - On Stations of Indian Railways where the public can have free access to Technology through RailWire's Wi -fi. Indian Railways has been on the forefront of implementing Digital Initiatives, realizing the dream of Digital India and Information Technology-oriented passenger applications/amenities like National Train Enquiry System and the Passenger Reservation System have been revolutionizing the passenger travel experience. Now, Indian Railways is forging ahead with providing access to internet facilities to the passengers through its Wi-Fi network connectivity/facility at railway stations.

# Six govt schools to undergo facelift

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The state government has decided to undertake an initiative called 'Project Alankar', under which buildings of as many as 62 government-run secondary schools of the state will be given a quick makeover.

Under the exercise, 62 buildings of government high schools and intermediate colleges located in different districts would be reconstructed, repaired and renovated under 'Project Alankar' at a cost of Rs 135-crore.

The Directorate of Education, UP, has already received the proposal of 62 dilapidated school buildings. Now, a proposal in this regard would be sent to the designated committee constituted under the chairmanship of the state director of secondary education to be examined, informed an official of the department. After getting the approval from the panel, the work will start, he added.

Additional Chief Secretary (Secondary Education) Aradhana Shukla had sought a proposal on October 1 for the renovation and repair of dilapidated buildings of government-run schools. DIOS (Prayagraj) RN

Vishwakarma, while confirming the development, said, "A list of six schools of Prayagraj district that needed urgent reconstruction and major repair work has been sent to the directorate."

For this mission, four-member committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of the respective district magistrates in all the districts with the chief development officer as member, DIOS as member secretary and executive engineer of the Public Works Department as a technical member.

A maximum of six schools of Prayagraj, five schools each from Kanpur Nagar, Meerut and Firozabad districts and three each from Chitrakoot, Banda and Shahjahanpur too have been included in the list.

In Prayagraj, Rs 2.65 crore for Government Girls Inter College, Katra established in 1998, has been proposed while Rs 3.91 crore for Government Girls' Intermediate College (GGIC) Phulpur established in 1962 along with Rs 3.72 crore and Rs 2.82 crore for Government Intermediate College (GIC)-Suruvadalapur and Beri established in 1980, respectively has been proposed. Likewise, for GGICs at Saidabad and Dhanupur, estab-

lished in 1992, Rs 61.50 lakh and Rs 38.21 lakh respectively have been proposed for various works.

In these schools, drinking water facility, boundary wall and gate construction, cycle stand, solar plant, rainwater harvesting, wall, roof, floor, window and door repairs, etc., would be undertaken.

COVID VAX: WOMEN STILL LAGGING BEHIND MEN: Even as active participation of rural based women has helped the authorities of district health department script success stories as far as vaccination is concerned, women are still lagging behind their male counterparts. Figures of the health department revealed that out of the 49,22,977 doses given in the district so far, 25,51,284 males, 23,69,568 females and 2,125 transgenders have been covered under the vaccination drive.

Officials, however, admitted that women continue to take lead in vaccination for the past three-and-a-half months as they are lined up to get jabbed in both rural and urban areas but there is a 1.81 lakh difference between the male and female recipients.

Officials admitted that women recipients continued to outnumber men in receiving

the Covid-19 vaccine in Sangam city since September.

Out of the 3,75,178 doses given between December 1 and 15, as many as 1,94,198 females, 1,80,817 males and 163 transgenders were administered the shots. Records claim that out of 9,52,528 jabs administered to eligible recipients in November, as many as 5,00,968 females received the jabs, while the strength of male recipients who took the vaccine was 4,51,214. Similarly, out of the total 8,41,889 doses given in October, as many as 4,40,094 doses were given to women, while 4,01,428 doses were received by men. Moreover, in September, out of a total of 9,39,300 given doses given to eligible recipients, as many as 4,78,740 females and 4,60,002 males got vaccinated.

Additional chief medical officer and district immunization officer (DIO) told newsmen that women recipients are currently taking an active part in the vaccination drive and more eligible women recipients are turning at vaccination centres to get jabs.

The ACMO, however, claimed that we are making sincere efforts to cover all the eligible recipients under the vaccine drive and teams are working overtime for the noble cause.



# PM Modi asks farmers to adopt natural farming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a virtual session on 'Cow based natural farming programme' organised at the extension directorate of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology on Thursday, called upon farmers to adopt natural farming which not only brought down the input costs but also increased their profits by giving quality farm produce.

He said while on one hand it increased the farm profits, on the other, it led to drastic improvement of soil. He said in the current times there was an acute fall in nutritious elements and bio carbons in soil.

The prime minister said if the farmers turned to natural farming, it would not only revive the soil nutrients but also the bio carbons. He said this pattern of farming was highly beneficial for the farmers and farming both. He appealed to the farmers to resort to chemical-free farming that was cattle based. He said this method of farming benefited crops, trees and cattle and unified them as well.

He said natural farming promoted biodiversity and unified farming and brought in revised agricultural plan. He said the land thus improved the ability to absorb carbon from environment and thus it was in every way highly beneficial for the farmers.

Modi said with natural farming, the present pattern of agriculture could be re-established and it also had the capacity for creating employ-



Cow based natural farming programme being organised at the Extension Directorate of the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology on Thursday.

ment, environment protection, reduced use of water, soil health and stability to the cattle.

Addressing the gathering, coordinator of the directorate, Dr Arvind Kumar, said, "Cow based natural farming was a concept promoted by Anand Agricultural University of Gujarat. He said the objective to hold this session was to make the farmers aware of natural and organic farming. He said farmers very well understood the importance of cows in the field of agriculture and this programme taught them how to resort to cow based farming. He said the

importance for organic and chemical free food consumption was growing rapidly and the consumers were ready to pay more money to get quality food. He said farmers need to hold this entrepreneurial opportunity to fasten economic empowerment.

Dr Kumar said cow based natural farming was a cultivating method for the natural development of yields without using substance composts and it was a unique chemical-free method that involved agro-ecology. He said under this farmers could use cow dung, urine, human excreta, plants,

natural fertilisers, and earthworms.

He said this method protected soil from degradation and decreased the farmer's investment. He said the impact of chemicals on long-term fertility and the environment was devastating.

He said cow dung added soil value as it was full of nutrient value and available locally.

He said bacteria in cow dung decomposed the organic matter in soil and made soil for the plants. He said it also decreased the disease attack risk on the crop.

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## Police unearth gambling den

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The crime branch of city police unearthed a gambling den and arrested nine gamblers late Wednesday night.

Police recovered Rs 56,845 from the possession of the gamblers who were handed over to Sisamau police for further action.

On a tip-off, the crime branch team raided a place in Gandhi Nagar late Wednesday night and busted the gambling den. The nine gamblers arrested from the spot were identified as Prabhat of Pardevanpurwa (Chakeri), Vinod, Sanju Gautam and Satish Kumar of Raipurwa police station area, Hira Singh, Anurag Tewari of Sisamau, Manjit Saxena of Panki and Gyanendra of Nazirabad.

The police team comprised Sub-Inspectors Vijay Darshan Sharma, Punit Tomar, Head Constable Durgesh Mani Tripathi and Constables Arvind Singh, Ajay Kumar Gupta, Narendra Kumar and Shahbaz Khan.

**BJP MEMBERSHIP:** Bharatiya Janata Party's NGO Cell of Kanpur South unit organised a membership campaign in Naubasta on Thursday, District Convener of the cell, Jyoti Shukla, said 742 persons took the membership of the BJP in the camp.

Prominent activists present at the camp were convenor of Bundelkhand area Manisha Bajpai, co-convenor Rashmi Srivastava, Dr Parvez Akhtar, Dharmendra Shukla, Satyendra Srivastava, Harmit Singh Gulati, Shashi Prabha Singh, Deepika, Gautam Sabbarwal, Ajit Saxena and Jai Shanker Tewari.

## DPS organises Blitz 2021-22

**KANPUR (PNS):** Founder of Delhi Public School at Sarvodaya Nagar, Alok Misra, while addressing the annual sports day, Blitz 2021-22, on Thursday said champions were not made in gyms but from something they had deep inside them that was a desire, a dream, and a vision. He said games and sports had become an integral element of present day education and they taught the children the qualities of discipline, sportsmanship, team spirit and leadership and also enhanced the physical and mental development of children. The school campus was decorated aesthetically with thematic decor which comprised colourful banners showcasing sports related attractive pictures and a vibrant victory stand, colourful cutouts of trophies, rugby balls and cute cartoon figures in sports wear that adorned the length and breadth of the school.

The events began with the release of balloons by headmistress Pratibha Shukla and director Rachna Mohotra, welcomed the parents to the event. She laid emphasis on the need to participate and said it was not important to win as it was the participation that made all the difference.

She said receiving respect from others was important because it helped one to feel safe and to express ourselves. She said respect meant that one accepted somebody for who they were even when they were different and did not agree with them. The students of Class V presented a beautiful skit and short poem - 'Victory is paid in sweat, courage and preparation' and the students of Class 3 A participated in the 'Jugglers at Task' race - 'Winners never quit and quitters never win'. The children of Class 3B presented a relay race - 'Washing Day'. 'Ball Masters', the exotic drill presentation by the students of Class I was the most intriguing aspect embellishing the event. It was indeed a pleasure to see the young sportsmen move the ball with great finesse. The students of Class 4 A won the hearts of one and all by their cute race - 'Dress up the Santa' - wherein they hurried with the task of dressing up Santa with colourful accessories like cap, goody bag etc.

The participants of Class 4 B took part in the 'Cross the Snag' race wherein the kids confidently faced all the hurdles, challenges and ups and downs to reach the finishing point. Drill was a kind of fitness which helped inculcate the importance of maintaining a healthy body. This was followed by the distribution of medals and certificates to the winners

# KnP Central-Farrukhabad special timing to be revised from Dec 19

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to block taken for track renewal work on Kanpur Anwarganj-Farrukhabad rail section of Izzatnagar division from December 19 to January 31, 2022, the timing of 04133 Kanpur Central-Farrukhabad special train will be revised by the railway administration as follows, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. As per the revised timings, the 04133 Kanpur Central - Farrukhabad special train from December 19 to January 31 will depart from Kanpur Central at 15.30 hrs, from Kanpur Anwarganj at 15.42 hrs, from Rawatpur at 15.47 hrs, from Kalianpur at 15.55 hrs, from Mandhana at 16.04 hrs, from Chaubepur at 16.13 hrs, from Barraipur at 16.24 hrs, from Utripura at 16.34 hrs, from Dhaursalar Halt at 16.42 hrs, from Bilhaur at 16.50 hrs, from Bakothi Khas Halt at 16.56 hrs, from Araul Makanpur at 17.52 hrs, from Gangwapur Halt at 17.19 hrs, from Manimau at 17.27 hrs, from Kannauj at 17.34 hrs from Kannauj City at 17.40 hrs, from Jalalpur Pamwara Halt at 17.46 hrs, from Jasoda at 17.55 hrs, from Khudlapur Halt at 18.01 hrs, from Gursahaiganj at 18.10 hrs, from Malikpur Halt at 18.17 hrs, from Khudaganj at 18.26 hrs, from Singhinrampur Halt at 18.32 hrs, from Kamalaganj at 18.47 hrs, from Yakutganj at 18.55 hrs, from Fatehgarh at 19.15 hrs and will reach Farrukhabad at 19.50 hrs.

**PENSION ADALAT**  
Pension Adalat-2021 was organised at Railway Officers' Club here on Wednesday in

which Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agrawal was the chief guest. By forming a committee of senior officers of the Accounts and Personnel departments under the presidency of nodal officer, Chief Personnel Officer (CPO)/Administration Nuruddin Ansari, cases which in the Pension Adalat were settled at the higher level. On the occasion Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Rita P Hemrajani, PFA Preeti Jha, retired railway personnel, their dependents and others were present.

## NIKHIL ADJUDGED MAN OF THE MATCH

Under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) at the Railway cricket grounds the Under-19 North Eastern Railway Cricket Cup match was played between Gorakhpur and SR Cricket Academy on Wednesday. In it Gorakhpur team entered the next round by defeating SR Cricket Academy by nine wickets. After winning the toss, SR Cricket Academy team came out to bat first and in 30 overs scored 105 runs for the loss of all wickets in which Sahil contributed 44 (seven boundaries) and Ujjwal 13. Amitabh, Ritesh and Nikhil Rao of Gorakhpur team took three wickets each and Anshuman got one wicket. Chasing the target Gorakhpur team won by making 106 runs for the loss of one wicket in 10.4 overs in which Nikhil Rao scored an unbeaten 66 with the help of 12 boundaries and one six and Rajdeep contributed 19 runs with the help of four boundaries. SR Cricket Academy's Prakash took one wicket. Nikhil Rao of Gorakhpur was adjudged the Man of the match for his all-round performance.

# Best exhibitors awarded

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

During the closing ceremony of the two day conference 'ICOMS-2021' NCL CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha, who was the chief guest, said that he was proud of team NCL and MCL which according to the increased energy requirements is despatching 50 per cent of Coal India's coal. He said for the sustainable development of the coal industry, we have to explore possibilities of using modern technology and other coal-related products and new methods of coal use. Sinha said from the research papers received during ICOMS and the findings obtained during the discussion the entire coal industry, including NCL, is getting a new direction. He also called upon the participants from various subsidiaries to visit the mine and observe best mining practices of NCL. Former deputy

director general of mines (Safety) Rakesh Kulshrestha, former director (Finance & Personnel), NCL, NN Thakur, CMPDI and CCLs Director (Technical) SK Gomasta, Director (Technical) of MCL OP Singh, Director (Technical/Operations) of NCL Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel) Ram Narayan Dubey, Director (Technical/Project & Planning) SS Sinha, Selected Director (Technical) of WCL JP Dwivedi, IIT BHU Professor Piyush Rai, general managers of Projects, heads of departments of NCL

headquarters, and others were present. During it 'Young Scientist Award' for outstanding research papers and innovation, 'Budding Innovators Award' to the research scholars doing excellent work in the field of innovation and the best exhibitors were awarded. Along with it organisers who made the conference a success were also honoured.



# Quality has its own importance in defence products: Asim Arun

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar's Commissioner of Police Asim Arun said that quality had its own importance in defence products.

Inaugurating an exhibition of defence products for the Indian Army, organised by the Directorate of Quality Assurance (Textile and Clothing), Asim Arun said the current time was of remaining at par with the world's quality and technology and today the country had carved a niche for itself in the field of quality defence products which were the backbone of safety and security of any nation.

He said this exhibition clearly displayed the expertise available in the country and the CQA (Textile and Clothing) was certainly catering to the needs in a highly transparent



Asim Arun, Police Commissioner, Kanpur, inaugurating the exhibition of defence products organised by DQA.

manner.

He later visited the stalls at the exhibition displaying defence products and took first hand feedback about the various products and praised the quality and also wished the best for the success of the exhibition.

It may be mentioned here that as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of Independence, all the DGQA units organised exhibitions of their products at CQA (Textile and Clothing)

Kanpur located at DGQA complex.

On this occasion, officers and employees of DGQA of Kanpur and officials and personnel of civil administration were also present.

Organiser of the exhibition, S Chakraborty, OITC, briefed the gathering about the products in the exhibition as well as the technology used to test their quality.

He said it was a big achievement that the products were part of Make in India and stood at par with the best products of the world.

Later Lt Col BS Dey gave brief details of LMG, Mac Gun, light weight bags, bullet proof jackets, tents etc. A large number of schools sent their children to view the exhibition to motivate them for the defence services in the times to come.

# Two IIT-K alumni support SMRT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur announced the signing of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with two of its distinguished alumni, Dr Dev Joneja and Hemant Jalan, to support the establishment of the School of Medical Research and Technology (SMRT) on its campus. Dr Dev Joneja and his wife Terri Musson donated US\$ 2.5 million in the form of 'Terri Musson and Dev Joneja Gift', while Hemant Jalan donated Rs 18 crore to support the infrastructure development for the school. Both the distinguished alumni will now be joining the advisory board of the SMRT as founder donors.

IIT-Kanpur Director Prof Abhay Karandikar, "We take great pride in our alumni and their work. They are our pillars of strength and glory. I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr Dev Joneja, Mr Hemant Jalan and their families for their generous and selfless contribution to the SMRT and be a part of this noble journey towards revolutionising medical education in India."

The School of Medical Research and Technology (SMRT) is a one-of-a-kind initiative by IIT-Kanpur that aims to revolutionise medical education in India by bridging the gap between medical and tech-



IIT-K alumni Dr Dev Joneja and Hemant Jalan.



nology disciplines. The first phase of the project would include setting up various Centres of Excellence (CoEs) oriented towards cutting-edge medical research and innovation along with a 500-bed super-specialty hospital.

The CoEs are expected to work in confluence with the core clinical departments of the hospital and biomedical expertise of various engineering departments of IIT-Kanpur. The school will offer post-graduate medical degrees in various domains of medical science and technology. The SMRT will create an impact on society and the economy at the local, national, and global scale. The outcome of the SMRT at IIT-Kanpur is expected to contribute to the overall betterment of healthcare infrastructure in the state of Uttar Pradesh and lead to a large number of MedTech inventions

and innovations. Dr Joneja said, "The SMRT initiative is a great combination of the established core strength of IIT in technology with a new direction in medical research, education and innovation. My wife Terri and I are confident that the institute and its leadership will deliver on the ambitious project, and are very gratified to be able to provide our support to this effort." Jalan said, "Most IITK alumni attribute their success in life to the years that they spent at IIT-Kanpur, and it very much applies to me. I have always wanted to give back to the institute in a meaningful way, and the concept of SMRT appealed immensely to me. I hope that the SMRT initiative will uplift the stature of IIT-K within the scientific community, and am very happy to be associated with this project as a founder. I hope many more alumni come for-

ward to donate generously to this project, which is a path-breaking venture by IIT-Kanpur. I am confident that the SMRT will breed cutting-edge interdisciplinary research between the field of medical sciences and the various schools of engineering, which is severely lacking in India today." Dr Joneja earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering in 1984 from IIT-Kanpur. He is currently the chief risk officer at Exodus Point Capital Management. Previously, he was the global head of risk and analytics at Millennium Management LLC and has also served as its senior managing director. He has also served as a research analyst at Barclays Capital and as a faculty at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University in New York. Over the last few years, he has contributed towards the creation of three faculty chairs and various community welfare initiatives at IIT-Kanpur. Jalan received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from IIT-Kanpur in 1977. He founded Indigo Paints in 2000, which has grown multi-fold over the years, culminating in a successful IPO of the company in early 2021. Indigo Paints Ltd. is today the fourth largest paint manufacturer in India, with an annual sale of over Rs 1,000 crore.

# NTPC Singrauli gets Greentech Award

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

NTPC Singrauli, for the outstanding

achievements of the year 2020-21 in environment conservation category has been honoured with the prestigious



standing environment-related Greentech Environment Award

in a programme organised at Mahabalipuram recently. Additional General Manager (AGM), Environment Management, Sudip Manna, in a programme organised at NTPC Singrauli handed over the prestigious award to station chief Basuraj Goswami, Chief General Manager (CGM) in his office auditorium. While expressing happiness on being rewarded for environment-related achievements CGM Basuraj Goswami said that environmental protection is the collective responsibility of all of us.

# Paddy purchase centres inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

AR (Cooperative) Vipin Kumar Singh inspected paddy purchase centres in Chunar area on Wednesday and gave necessary directions to the officials concerned. At Chaunka paddy purchase centre the officer found purchase of 6,990 quintals paddy from 110 farmers. He took centre incharge to task for shortage of sacks and directed him to

make available sack without delay. The officer expressed satisfaction with the arrangements at Bhabhaura and Odi centres. During the inspection shortage of urea was brought to his notice at some centres of cooperative for which he directed the officials to make it available positively. He assured the farmers that there was no shortage of fertilisers at all. He appealed to them to avail the facilities which had been pro-

# Pension Adalat organised

PNS ■ VARANASI

Pension Adalat for the final payment of dues of retired employees of North Eastern Railway (NER), Varanasi Division and their dependents was organised under the presidency of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey in Bhartendu meeting room located at DRM's office on Wednesday. On the occasion Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM/ Administration) Rahul Srivastava, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Samir Paul, Senior Divisional Finance Manager (SDFM) Preeti Verma, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr MS Nabiya, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage and Wagon) SP Shrivastava, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (O&F) Alok Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (General) Arun Kumar Saxena, Divisional Finance Manager (DFM) Rajesh Kumar,



Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra, Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) Balendra Paul along with all the branch officers, retired employees and their dependents other dignitaries besides union representatives were present. Welcoming everyone, DRM said in his address that after a gap of two years this year holding of Pension Adalat has started again and employees of Personnel and Accounts departments tried to get 100 per cent disposal as far as possible. In this Pension Adalat after disposing of 95 cases in favour of the complainants for pension/family pension PPO/ revised PPO and other liabilities were released and a total of ₹25,44,839 were paid to the complainants through digital means. The DRM said that ideal situation would be considered when there is no need of Pension Adalat. The retired employees and their dependents of various stations/units of the division participated in this Pension Adalat. On the occasion Office Superintendent OP Shrivastava and Chief Welfare Inspector Rahul Bhatt and inspectors and employees concerned of the Accounts and Personnel departments were present. It was conducted by SDPO Samir Paul and the vote of thanks was proposed by DPO Vivek Mishra.





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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



Artists dressed as lord Hanuman take part in a procession to mark Hanuman Jayanti, in Bengaluru

# The land of freedom and democracy



PRAFULL 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 Chengez 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

jawans has caught the eyes of the country and a video of them performing marriage rituals has surfaced on social media and is winning hearts. The jawans showed what brotherhood actually looks like. They not only protect our motherland but have also set benchmarks for us that brotherhood does not end with the end of one's life. It leaves a very deep message encouraging us to remember our brother and sister even after they've left the world.

Manoj Kumar Jena | Cuttack

#### AN EVERGREEN MAESTRO'S CENTENARY

Sir — A documentary film, *Paravaikalam*, has been made on nadaswaram maestro Karukurichi Arunachalam, whose birth centenary is being celebrated. The documentary has been titled so because the legendary artist would play the instrument effortlessly like a bird in flight. At the height of his fame, Karukurichi Arunachalam had a huge fan following which was enhanced

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 has sung 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

### 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

## 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 it 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'!

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## 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.



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

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

(The writer is Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs & represents Bikaner constituency in Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

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 presidentship, 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 to 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.



# 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.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla welcomes Vuong Dinh Hue, Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, and his delegation at Parliament. Vuong Dinh Hue is on a five-day visit to India

# French Defence Min to visit India today; boosting strategic, defence ties on agenda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and France will discuss at length maritime security including the Indo-Pacific region during the talks here on Friday between visiting Defence Minister Florence Parly and her Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh.

France on Thursday said the visit of its Defence Minister to India highlights its "centrality" in the French strategy for the Indo-Pacific and called for friendly powers to unitedly defend the rule of law and reject all forms of "hegemony" in the region. The Pioneer had reported about the visit on Wednesday.

Parly will hold extensive talks with Rajnath with a focus on maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, industrial partnership and ways to deal with the threat of terrorism, the French Embassy said.

It said she will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also meet National Security Advisor(NSA)Ajit Doval particularly for discussions on

regional security issues. The two had met in November during Doval's visit to Paris

Parly visited India in September last year primarily to attend a ceremony in Ambala that was held to induct the first batch of five Rafale jets into the Indian Air Force.

The embassy said that since then, a total of 33 Rafale jets have been delivered to India "all perfectly on schedule despite the disruptions of the pandemic".

"The minister will reiterate France's commitment to strengthening India's defence industrial base and its willingness to offer the best of its technology with a high 'Make In India' component," it said.

In a statement, the embassy said she will be on an official visit to India on Friday to strengthen Indo-French strategic and defence ties.

"This visit highlights France's engagement in the Indo-Pacific and the centrality of India in the French strategy. It comes in the wake of several major bilateral air, navy,

and army exercises this year," the embassy said.

There have been growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region. "In this respect, Minister Parly will detail the recently unveiled EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific that brings a multiplier effect to this comprehensive approach for the region," the embassy said.

"Upon taking the presidency of the Council of the European Union on January 1, 2022, France will make the Indo-Pacific and India a key priority," it said.

The embassy said the "in-depth talks" she will have in India will cover all aspects of the wide-ranging Indo-French defence ties. It said the areas to be covered in the talks will include operational defence cooperation, particularly maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, industrial and technological partnership in line with Make in India and counter-terrorism cooperation.

# Yechury seeks removal of J&K HC Chief Justice

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram 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.



# 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 'Bee 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 a 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 Ahabab, 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 fests should be ashamed

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day 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 against these forces."

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 peo-

ple... 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. The saffron outfit immediately appealed before the Division Bench and the case was to be heard on.

## 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, the Kerala 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 on Thursday.

The tourism sector in the State suffered a serious setback as it was disclosed by office bearers of Kerala Homestay and Tourism Society saying that more than 50 per cent of bookings by travelers have been canceled fearing surge of Covid-19 and omicron cases in the State.

The months of December and January see heavy tourist inflow into the State, especially to Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts which are known for their panoramic beaches and reserve forests.

## RSS chief roots for 'ghar wapsi' of Hindus

**Chitrakoot:** Rooting for 'ghar wapsi', RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat administered an oath to a congregation of Hindus to work for the return of those who had left the religion and exhorted those seeking power to shed arrogance.

"To get power, there is a need to work among the people, not have arrogance," Bhagwat said on Wednesday while taking part in a three-day "Hindu Ekta Mahakumbh" here.

The participants also pledged to protect the "modesty and honour of Hindu sisters" and strengthen Hindu society by rising above the divisions of caste and language.

Spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Hindutva leader Sadhvi Rithambara were among the seers from across the country who attended the gathering.

"From the 'sankalpsthali' (place of resolution) of Lord Ram, the 'dharma yodhas' of Hindu culture take a pledge to work for the protection, promotion and security of the sacred Hindu religion, culture and society throughout life," the RSS chief said.

The gathering vowed to work for the return to the Hindu fold of those who had converted to other faiths.

It pledged "not to allow any Hindu brother to get alienated from Hindu religion and work for the ghar wapsi (return) of those who left Hindu religion and went somewhere else, and make them family members."

Bhagwat said, "While practising dharma and working selflessly without ego, one gets success even in the most difficult tasks." **PTI**

## 2 LeT terrorists killed in Kulgam, 180 eliminated since Jan 2021

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two local terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) offshoot - The Resistance Front (TRF)

were eliminated by the joint team of security forces in an overnight encounter in Kulgam on Thursday. Around 180 terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces since January 2021.

Meanwhile, the Union Territory administration Thursday also replaced the district police Chief in Srinagar in a major reshuffle in the police department.

A 2012 batch IPS officer from

Manipur cadre, Rakesh Balwal has been appointed as SSP Srinagar in place of Sandeep Choudhary. For last three years Balwal was serving in the National Investigation Agency in J&K and was part of the probe team which

investigated Pulwama terror attack and other cases. He recently completed his stint with the NIA and was awaiting posting.

The district police chiefs of Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban,

Udhampur have also been replaced by the UT administration in the much awaited reshuffle. A total number of 27 police officers were transferred by the Home department.

## FROM PAGE 1

### 'SP COMPROMISED WITH ETHICS OF GOVERNANCE'

Chief minister further said, "Samajwad is the biggest superstition of modern era and is present amidst us in many shades and colours like *parivarvadi samajwaad, mafiyawadi samajwad, dangawadi samajwad* and *aatankwadi samajwadi*. The people of UP have realised that Samajwadi is 'red alert' and it's right time to get rid of this menace."

Quoting spiritual guru Acharya Rajneesh, Yogi said, "Samajwad turns a rich man to poor, a poor into slave, cheats into intellectuals and for its own petty interest it makes its leaders powerful. India needs only Ram Rajya, neither socialism nor communism as only Ram Rajya is sarvkalik, sarvadeshik and eternal."

Defending the renaming of districts and accusing Samajwadi Party of insulting Dr BR Ambedkar and Bahujan Samaj Party founder Kanshiram, the chief minister said, "Samajwadi Party insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar and BSP founder Kanshiram by changing the names of institutions named after the two great ions of India. Samajwadi Party insulted Sardar Patel, the unifier of India, and eulogised mass murderer Jinnah who instigated partition. Insulting symbols of Sanatan dharma and patronising terrorists has been the hallmark of Samajwadi Party. It's a matter of pride for us that we got the opportunity to erase the symbols of Islamic slavery and change the name of Faizabad to Ayodhya and Allahabad to Prayagraj," Yogi said.

Asserting that shilanyas of the Ram temple at Ayodhya was a matter of pride for all, the chief minister said, "When Hindu identity has asserted itself then all political parties are claiming the cultural and spiritual heritage of Bhagwan Ram but they shied away from welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he laid the foundation stone of Ram temple at Ayodhya. All political parties should have warmly welcomed the prime minister on August 5, 2019 when he laid the foundation stone of Ram temple. After all the laying of the foundation stone of the temple marked erasing of the symbol of slavery and construction of a new symbol of national pride and identity," the chief minister argued.

Referring to the links of Samajwadi Party with criminals, Yogi said, "The exasperation of SP is visible when the bulldozers clear public land occupied by the mafia. But this party remains silent on the suicide by farmers, death of children due to encephalitis and injustice against the poor and disadvantaged sections of society."

Taking a jibe at SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, the chief minister said, "Our government respects elderly people and does not throw or discard them. Our government has increased the old age pension from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per month."

In January, 2017, Akhilesh had toppled his father Mulayam Singh Yadav from the top post of president of Samajwadi Party and took over the mantle.

Lauding the role of the frontline workers in fighting COVID-19 pandemic, Yogi said, "The primary health workers, ASHA bahus, Anganwadi workers, village chowkidar, shiksha mitras, sanitation workers played a stellar role in fighting the pandemic and the state government would soon announce a hike in their emoluments and other facilities."

2 months of 2022.

Echoing what the HKU lung tissue researchers said, the ECDC said even if the severity is the same as or lower than Delta, exponential Omicron growth could outweigh any of those benefits. It said the threat of further spread and its impact on public health are very high.

### NARAVANE APPOINTED ...

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.

### YOUNG NATIONAL LEVEL SHOOTER FOUND HANGING

Layak had also won a gold and silver at the Jharkhand State Rifle Championship.

Earlier this year, Konica was gifted a German-manufactured rifle by actor Sonu Sood after he was briefed about her struggles.

She was training at Karmakar's academy for a nominal fee. Her family members are learned to have reached Kolkata. Sood had gifted her the rifle so she could take part in the Nationals and other competitions.

"Sonu Sood sir, my rifle is here. There is a wave of happiness in my family and the entire village is blessing you. May you live long," an elated Layak had tweeted after receiving the gun amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the fourth case of death by suicide in recent months, in the shooting fraternity, raising serious questions.

Recently, young pistol shooter Khushpreet Kaur Sandhu, who had made her junior India debut at the last World Championship in Lima, committed suicide after registering low scores at the Nationals.

Before that, two more shooters - Hunardeep Singh Sohal and Namanveer Singh Brar - also took the extreme step.

### SHEENA BORA ALIVE, CLAIMS INDRANI

Indrani's claim came after nearly four years after Special CBI court framed charges against Indrani, her then husband and erstwhile media baron Peter and her former husband Sanjeev Khanna in the Sheena murder case, thus paving way for the start of the trial in the sensational crime.

The prosecution's case is that Indrani, along with Sanjeev and her driver Rai - who has turned an approver in the case -- had allegedly "kidnapped" Sheena between 6.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on April 24, 2012, from Bandra (west) in their car. Sheena was allegedly strangled in the car on the same evening and that on the following morning they carried the body of the deceased packed in a bag (which they had kept in the rear side of the car) to the jungles of Gogade Khurd village off the Khopoli-Pen Road, where they doused the bag with petrol and set it on fire.

Indrani is the key accused in the Sheena murder case. Indrani's former husband Sanjeev and her second husband Peter are two other accused in the case.

Peter, who was not present at the site of crime, was charged with having been involved in a conspiracy hatched by Indrani to eliminate her daughter. He has also been charged with destruction of evidence in the case.

Sheena was the daughter of Indrani from her first live-in partner Siddhartha Das. Incidentally, Sheena was in a live-in relationship with Rahul Mukerjee, the son of Peter - a relationship which the CBI has stated in its affidavit both Indrani and Peter had disapproved of.

The CBI - which took over the investigations into the Sheena murder case from the Mumbai police on September 29, 2015 - had on November 19, 2015 filed a comprehensive charge-sheet, running into 1,000-odd pages, against Indrani, her former husband Sanjeev and driver Rai.

Initially, there were four accused in the Sheena murder case - Indrani, her former husband Sanjeev, her driver Rai and Peter. Of them, Rai was granted pardon and made an approver in the case on June 20, 2016.

On February 16, 2016, the CBI filed a supplementary charge-sheet against Peter in the Sheena murder case for various offences in connection with the killing of his step-daughter.

On January 17, 2017, a Special CBI court framed charges against Indrani, Peter and Sanjeev in the Sheena murder case, thus paving way for the start of the much-awaited trial in the sensational crime.

The prosecution listed 52 witnesses in its original charge-sheet and two supplementary charge-sheets filed in the case. It submitted the statement of a witness (witness number 32) in a sealed envelope to the court.

The three accused - Indrani, Peter and Sanjeev - are being tried for offences under 120 -b (criminal conspiracy), 364 (kidnapping), 302 (murder), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 203 (giving false information in respect of an offence) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code.

In addition, Indrani and Sanjeev are being tried for offences registered against them under 307 (attempt to murder) and 120(B) (criminal conspiracy) of IPC for plotting to kill her son and Sheena's brother Mikhail Bora.

### INDIA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIV OF LIBERATION OF BANGLADESH

The President said history will always be a witness to the unique foundation of India-Bangladesh friendship which is forced in the people's war that liberated Bangladesh.

He said the world learnt a valuable lesson that the will of the majority of people cannot be subjugated by any force, however brutal. Indeed, seldom has humanity witnessed sacrifices on a scale so epic as during the 1971 war of liberation, he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Parliament also 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 names of Indira not mentioned in either of the House of Parliament, Congress members raised slogans hailing the late Prime Minister Indira 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.

Meanwhile, accusing the Government of ignoring the role of Indira in the 1971 War, Rahul Gandhi said she took "32 bullets for the country" but her name was not even mentioned at a government event in New Delhi on the anniversary of the victory over Pakistan.

"It does not make any difference because I know what she (Indira) 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. Congress rally at Parade Ground comes days after Modi held a rally at the venue.

He said the credit for the 1971 war victory, which came in just 13 days, does not go exclusively to the Army, Navy or the political leadership of the day, it goes to the "united fight put up by Indians regardless of their cast or religion".

Lakhs of families donated gold to the Government of the day to strengthen the fight against Pakistan, he said. The Congress leader said helicopters and fighter aircrafts do not strengthen a country. "A country becomes strong when its people are strong," he said.

"The way thousands of families in Uttarakhand lose their kin battling for the country's honour, my family too has made sacrifices. This is my relationship with Uttarakhand," he said. Rahul said while travelling to Dehradun, he was thinking what kind of relationship he has with Uttarakhand.

"I thought of the few years I spent here as a student of the Doon School, during which I got a lot of your love. I was also reminded of two dates - October 31 - when my grandmother became a martyr and - May 21 - when my father was assassinated. And the word that struck me was sacrifice," he added.

Rahul said he was at school when he was told that

his grandmother received 32 bullet wounds. "Such calls are received by thousands of families in Uttarakhand when their kin make the supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country," he said.

But families that have made no sacrifice for the nation cannot feel this, he said. They cannot feel what it means to lose a father or an uncle, the Congress leader said.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi said, "Our first and only woman Prime Minister Indira is being left out of the misogynist BJP Government's Vijay Diwas celebrations."

"Modi, women don't believe your platitudes. Your patronising attitude is unacceptable. It's about time you started giving women their due," said Priyanka.

### AKHILESH BURIES 5-YR-OLD FEUD WITH UNCLE, FORGES ALLIANCE FOR UP POLLS

SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav was also present at Shivpal's residence before Akhilesh reached there. The two parties had indicated that an alliance was on the cards. While Akhilesh had said he would give due honour to his uncle and his partymen, Shivpal has in the past said he is prepared to merge his party with the SP.

The relationship between uncle and nephew had gone sour in 2016, with the sacking of Shivpal from the Cabinet by Akhilesh when he was the Chief Minister. Akhilesh became the SP president in January 2017, in a coup against his father and party founder Mulayam. Later, Shivpal formed the PSP.

The SP, which came a distant second in the 2017 Assembly polls, has sealed a bouquet of alliances with regional parties and is seen as the most credible challenger to the BJP's dominance in UP. Most recently, it stitched an alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Dal.

### BILL SOON TO RAISE LEGAL MARRIAGE AGE OF WOMEN FROM 18 TO 21 YEARS

The decision is based on the recommendation of a four-member task force led by former Samata Party chief Jaya Jaitly.

Speaking about the recommendation, Jaitly said there were two main reasons that were focussed on.

"If we talk about gender equity and gender empowerment in every field, we cannot leave marriage out because this is a very odd message that a girl can be fit to be married at 18 that cuts away her opportunity to go to college, and the man has the opportunity to prepare himself for life and earning up to 21 years," she told PTI. "We should give the girl an opportunity to earn and be equal to a man and she cannot become equal at 18 years when man has 21 years to do that. Secondly, we took opinions from lots of people, but the main people who were most attentive were the stakeholders themselves."

### SETBACK FOR BJP AS METRO MAN TO STAY AWAY FROM ACTIVE POLITICS

The Metro Man stressed he was totally opposed to the K-Rail (the semi high speed rail route between Kasargod and Thiruvananthapuram) saying it was a sure recipe to ecological disaster. "It will not do any good to the people of Kerala other than making thousands homeless," Dr Sreedharan said.

But Surendran, reacting to Dr Sreedharan's decision, said it would not make any change in the BJP's fortunes in the State. "I nominated him to the national council taking into account his professional experience and competence. He was also fielded as a candidate in the Palakkad Assembly constituency but he failed," Surendran told reporters.

Dr Sreedharan was welcomed by the general public with enthusiasm when he had declared his intention to contest the Assembly election. He was even described as the future chief minister of the State.

The Metro Man and Dr Jacob Thomas, former director general of police, were the two star personalities the BJP fielded during the Assembly election. Though there were expectations about these men of integrity, both of them finished third in the bout. With Sreedharan bidding farewell to the BJP, it is widely believed that Dr Thomas too may follow suit. The Kerala unit of the BJP is a house divided with the "top leaders" hating each other and trying to outsmart the other.

## RPSC 'Rishtedaar' Public Service Commission under Cong rule: BJP

**Kota:** The BJP on Thursday held the Congress Government responsible for the State having the "highest" unemployment rate in the country and accused it of turning the Rajasthan Public Service Commission into 'Rishtedaar' Public Service Commission.

It also alleged that the state had registered an all-time high number of crime cases in the last one year and that the government had breached the promises of waving farmers' loan and providing public safety.

"The Congress government has been recruiting candidates for the job vacancies released during the BJP dispensation," BJP's state chief Satish Punia said, adding, "Despite this, the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) has become Rishtedaar (relatives) Public Service Commission with gross irregularities in recent REET and other exams."

Punia was making a veiled reference to allegations that former education minister Govind Singh Dotasra had recruited two of his relatives in the Rajasthan Administrative Services during his tenure. **PTI**



# 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 of its genetic structure that could affect how well it spreads from person to person. How quickly the number of cases doubles, known as "doubling time", can give a preview of what the disease burden could be in a few weeks.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday that early data suggests omicron is more transmissible than delta, with a doubling time of about two days. In Britain, where omicron cases are doubling every two to three days, the variant is expected to soon replace delta as the dominant strain in the country.

"The data out of the UK are quite alarming at this point," and foreshadow what's to come in the United States, said Bronwyn MacInnis, director of pathogen genomic surveillance at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. For example, she said, by Tuesday afternoon, omicron was already the most common

## 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

effect first thing Saturday, just after midnight, "in the face of the extremely rapid spread of the omicron variant in the UK", French Prime Minister Jean Castex said in a statement.

The French government is holding a special virus security meeting Friday that will address growing pressure on hospitals in France from rising infections in recent weeks. Delta remains the dominant variant in France, but omicron is spreading so fast in Britain that it's raising concerns across the Channel.

## 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."

French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said on BFM television that tourism and business travel to and from Britain will be strongly curtailed, and all those arriving from Britain will need to have a negative virus test less than 24 hours old, and to test again upon arrival and isolate "in a place they choose" for at least 48 hours.

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## 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.

AP "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. AP

## 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 coun-

tries have acquired the most of the world's vaccine supplies, causing vast inequality in access to jobs. 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 produced vaccines from COVAX and other sources. AP

## 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." AP

## 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 con-

soling 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." AP

## 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.

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.

Services are likely to be hit on Friday as well.

The strike call has been given by United Forum of Bank Union (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank unions including All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE) and National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW).

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



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. Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

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.

Private sector lenders like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were

working as usual, though inter-bank cheque clearances were impacted. The strike has been called against the government's decision to privatise state-owned lenders.

PSBs act as catalysts in the economic development of our nation in general and particularly for the underprivileged sections of the society and backward regions of the country. PTI

## 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 car-

bon emissions by 2070. In India, the transport sector is currently the third-largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>. 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. PTI

### 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". "Consequently, the risk parameter files currently used by the clearing corporations for collecting margins from the members shall also be used for generating margin obligations from the clients throughout the trading hours in the commodity derivatives segment," Sebi said.

With regard to framework for enabling verification of upfront collection of margins from clients, Sebi said for commodity derivatives segment, clearing corporations will send an additional minimum two snapshots for commodity derivative contracts which are traded till 9 pm, and additional minimum three snapshots for the commodity derivatives contracts which are traded till 11:30/11:55 pm. PTI

**राज्य सरकार द्वारा जनहित में जारी**

**कोविड-19 से मृत व्यक्तियों के परिजनों को ₹50,000/- की आर्थिक सहायता**

राहत आयुक्त कार्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://rahat.up.nic.in> पर दिये गये ऑप्शन "कोविड-19 के संक्रमण से मृत व्यक्तियों के परिजन को ₹50,000/- की अनुग्रह सहायता" पर क्लिक करके आवेदन पत्र ऑनलाईन भरा जा सकता है।

आपको ऑनलाईन आवेदन के लिये पोर्टल पर जानकारियां भरनी होंगी इसके लिये आपके मोबाइल नम्बर पर ओ. टी. पी. प्राप्त होगा, ओ. टी. पी. भरने के उपरान्त आवेदन पत्र के अन्य कॉलम भरे जा सकेंगे। ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र के साथ निम्नलिखित अभिलेखों में से कोई एक अपलोड करना होगा:

- आर.टी.पी.सी.आर.
- रैपिड एंटीजन टेस्ट
- मॉलिक्यूलर टेस्ट
- चिकित्सीय उपचार/चिकित्सीय जाँच की प्रति जिसमें कोविड-19 डायग्नोस हुआ हो

**उक्त के अतिरिक्त निम्नलिखित अभिलेख भी अपलोड करने होंगे:**

- मृतक का मृत्यु प्रमाण-पत्र
- वारिसानों का सहमति पत्र
- परिजन जिसे सहायता धनराशि प्राप्त करनी है, उसके बैंक पासबुक की छायाप्रति या क्रॉस चेक

उक्त के अतिरिक्त हॉर्डिकॉपी में आवेदन पत्र सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिलाधिकारी कार्यालय (कलेक्ट्रेट) में स्थित "कोविड-19 अहेतुक सहायता आवेदन पत्र प्राप्ति सेल" में दिया जा सकता है, जिसके साथ उपरोक्त अभिलेखों को भी संलग्न करना होगा।

यदि किसी आवेदक/वारिसान को आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने में कोई दिक्कत है या आवेदन पत्र पर लिये गये निर्णय पर कोई आपत्ति है, तो आवेदक अपने जनपद में अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि./रा.) की अध्यक्षता में गठित कमेटी के समक्ष प्रत्यावेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है या राहत आयुक्त कार्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://rahat.up.nic.in> पर शिकायत दर्ज करा सकता है अथवा सम्बन्धित जिलाधिकारी को शिकायत प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

**जनपदों द्वारा गठित शिकायत निवारण समिति / कोविड-19 मृत्यु विनिश्चयात्मक समिति निम्नवत है:**

- अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि. रा.) - अध्यक्ष
- मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी - सदस्य
- अपर मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी प्रधानाचार्य/मेडिकल कॉलेज के विभागाध्यक्ष मेडिसिन - सदस्य
- जिलाधिकारी द्वारा नामित विषय विशेषज्ञ - सदस्य

**ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र के सम्बन्ध में राज्य स्तरीय हेल्प-लाइन नम्बर 1070 या 9454441081 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।**

**राजस्व विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश**





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

# PARADIGM SHIFT

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.)



## 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.

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. Harboring 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

## TREND BLAZER

### 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."





# No statements or presser, will deal with it: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Day after India Test captain Virat Kohli triggered a storm by publicly contradicting him, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly refused to comment on the matter, saying the Board will deal with it.

Kohli, during his pre-departure press conference ahead of the tour of South Africa, said that he was never asked to stay on as T20 skipper when he made his intent clear on relinquishing the post.

This was in complete contrast to Ganguly's assertion a few days back that Kohli had been requested to not quit the position.

"No statements, no press conference. We will deal with

it, leave it to (the) BCCI," Ganguly told local mediapersons on Thursday.

There was talk of BCCI asking chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma to address the media after Kohli's explosive press conference but the Board eventually refrained from making any counter statements.

Kohli's comments on Wednesday brought to fore the underlying tension in his equation with the administrators.

"Whatever was said about the communication that happened about the decision that was made was inaccurate," Kohli had said with obvious reference to Ganguly's statement.

"When I left the T20 cap-

## DECLINES COMMENT ON KOHLI'S BOMBSHELL PC



taincy, I had first approached BCCI and intimated them of my decision and laid down my point of view in front of them (office bearers).

"I gave the reasons why I wanted to quit T20 captaincy

and my view point was received very nicely. There was no offence, no hesitation and not for once was I told that 'you should not leave T20 captaincy,' he had asserted.

Earlier, Ganguly, in an

interview to PTI, said that he had spoken to Kohli and told him that two captains in the white ball format was not something that the selectors wanted as there would be "too much of leadership."

Rohit Sharma is now the sole white-ball captain and has also been made Kohli's deputy in the Test format.

### KOHLI'S TIMING NOT RIGHT: KAPIL

World Cup-winning former India skipper Kapil Dev feels Virat Kohli's statements that exposed his differences with the BCCI on the issue of captaincy were ill-timed as they created an unsavoury controversy just ahead of a crucial tour to South Africa.

In the pre-departure press-conference in Mumbai on Wednesday, Kohli dismissed as "inaccurate" BCCI President Sourav Ganguly's statement that the Board had requested him not to step down as T20 captain.

The comment exposed the underlying tension between Kohli and the administrators after he was removed as ODI skipper as well earlier this month.

"It is not good to point fingers on anybody at this point in time.

The South Africa tour is coming and please pay attention to the tour," Kapil told 'ABP News' when asked about Kohli's remarks.

"I would say Board president is Board president but yes the Indian cricket team captain is also a big thing. But talking badly about each other in public, I don't think it is a good thing, whether it is Sourav or Kohli."

The 62-year-old, who led India to the 1983 World Cup

title, urged Kohli to take control of the situation and think about the country.

"Aap situation ko control kijiye, behtar ye hai ki aap desh ke baare mein sochiye (Please control the situation and it's better to think about the country now)," said the former skipper who played 134 Tests between 1978 and 1994 and took 434 wickets along with making 5248 runs.

"Jo galat hai woh kal pata chal hi jayega but I don't think it is right to stoke a controversy before a tour," he opined.

The Indian Test team, led by Kohli, departed for South Africa on Thursday for a three-match series beginning at Centurion on December 26. India will also play three ODIs after the Test series.

## Australia reaches 221-2 on Day 1 of 2nd Ashes Test

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Australia shrugged off the late withdrawal of new skipper Pat Cummins because of coronavirus concerns to dominate England on the opening day of the second Ashes test and reach 221-2 at stumps.

Marnus Labuschagne was dropped twice but remained unbeaten on 95 at stumps Thursday after sharing partnerships of 172 with David Warner (95) and 45 with Steve Smith.

Smith returned to the Australian captaincy for the first time since the 2018 sandpaper scandal after Cummins was ruled out. He was deemed to be a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case when he dined at a restaurant on the eve of the match.

Smith won the toss and just about everything else went Australia's way to start the day-night test.

He was unbeaten on 18 after waiting most of the day to bat, with Australia losing just two wickets despite an England attack bolstered by the return of Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Wicketkeeper Jos Buttler took a brilliant catch in the first hour to dismiss opener Marcus Harris (3) but then dropped Labuschagne twice — once down legside when he was on 21 and the other when he fumbled a regulation chance off Anderson's bowling with the second new ball when the Australian No. 3 was on 95.

"That was massive for the team there. Just getting through that period, me and Steve there. Just sets us up for tomorrow," said Labuschagne, who batted for almost six hours and faced 275 deliveries.

"My job is to make sure I capitalize on that."

Veteran pacemen Anderson and Broad were recalled after missing the series opener and had the batters in trouble early, Australia surviving three reviews in the first hour and Warner taking 20 deliveries to get off the mark. The Australians grafted through 25 overs in the first session to be 54-1 and added 84 runs in 28 overs in the middle session to reach the second interval at 129-1.

Warner and Labuschagne continued into the night session and posted their sixth century partnership, and their second in as many tests after their 156 at the Gabba last week.

But after doing all the hard work early, Warner hit a short, wide ball from Ben Stokes directly to Broad in the covers and his 167-ball innings ended on 95 — one better than his innings in Australia's nine-wicket win in the first test last week.

It was a reward for Stokes, who should have had a wicket in the 35th over when Labuschagne gloved a chance down the leg side but Buttler couldn't complete the catch. Most of the drama Thursday happened pre-match. Cricket Australia revealed only three hours before the coin toss that Cummins was ruled out because he was exposed to a person with COVID-19 in an Adelaide restaurant on Wednesday night. He was deemed a close contact by the state's health authorities and ordered to isolate for seven days. Cummins has already returned a negative test for COVID-19.

Smith became the third Australia captain in three tests. Tim Paine, who replaced Smith as test captain after the sandpaper scandal in South Africa, quit last month after reports emerged he'd been investigated four years ago for sending an inappropriate text to a work colleague. He was replaced by Cummins, with Smith as vice-captain for the series-opening win in Brisbane.

## Sindhu enters QFs

PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

Defending champion PV Sindhu stormed into the women's singles quarterfinals of the BWF World Championships with a straight-game win over Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand here on Thursday.

The world number 7 Indian defeated her Thai opponent, ranked three places below her, 21-14 21-18 in the pre-quarterfinal match that lasted 48 minutes. With the win, Sindhu, seeded sixth in the show-piece tournament, extended her head-to-head record against Chochuwong to 5-3.

Sindhu also avenged her twin loss to Chochuwong this season -- group match of BWF World Tour Finals earlier this month and All England Championships in March.

The double Olympic medallist Sindhu faces top seed and world number one Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, who beat Kirsty Gilmour of Scotland 21-10 19-21 21-11, in the quarterfinals.

Sindhu took an early 5-1 lead but Chochuwong rallied to narrow the gap to 5-4 and then to 10-9. The Indian zoomed ahead from there on as she made it 15-10 and then 19-11 to pocket the first game. The second game was a tighter affair though Sindhu began on the front foot with a 3-0 lead. Sindhu led 11-6 at the change of ends and the second half saw some long rallies with the Thai player winning a few of them.

Sindhu was leading 16-10 but Chochuwong made a comeback of sort as she reduced the gap to 18-15 and then to 19-18.

## Team India lands in South Africa for Test series

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The Indian cricket team, led by skipper Virat Kohli, landed here on Thursday for the three-match Test series against South Africa, beginning December 26 at Centurion. "Touchdown South Africa," the BCCI posted on its official Twitter handle

along with pictures of team members, including Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara, Shardul Thakur and Shreyas Iyer among others.

The Kohli-led Test side had departed from Mumbai for the tour that also includes three ODIs in January.

Given the threat posed by

the new COVID-19 variant Omicron, the tour's T20 matches have been postponed for now and the two teams will stay in a bio-bubble for the duration of the series.

Star opener and newly-appointed white ball captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out after sustaining a left hamstring

injury during a training session in Mumbai.

He was replaced by talented Gujarat opener Priyank Panchal.

The side's build-up to the series has been marred by controversies surrounding captaincy and the issue snowballed into a major controversy on Wednesday when Kohli said

that the Board's assertion of trying to stop him from giving up T20 captaincy was "inaccurate."

He stepped down as T20 captain after the disastrous World Cup campaign in the UAE and was subsequently removed as ODI captain earlier this month.

While the series-opener will be hosted by Centurion, the other two Tests will be played at Johannesburg and Cape Town respectively.

The Test team's vice captain is yet to be announced after Rohit's injury. He had replaced a woefully out of form Ajinkya Rahane.







### उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा निषाद समुदाय के कल्याणार्थ संचालित कार्यक्रम/योजनाएं

- निषाद वर्ग के आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक उत्थान हेतु 1148 प्राथमिक मत्स्य जीवी सहकारी समितियां, 23 जनपदीय सहकारी संघ तथा एक प्रादेशिक संघ कार्यरत।
- ग्राम सभा के 2.0 हे० से कम क्षेत्रफल के तालाबों को मछुआ समुदाय को आवंटन में वरीयता।
- विभागीय तालाब एवं चतुर्थ श्रेणी जलाशयों को पंजीकृत प्राथमिक मत्स्य जीवी सहकारी समितियों को दिये जाने हेतु वरीयता।
- ब्लू रिवोल्यूशन योजनान्तर्गत आवासविहीन गरीब मुख्यतः निषाद समुदाय के व्यक्तियों को 2473 आवासों के निर्माण हेतु आर्थिक सहायता।
- मत्स्य पालन एवं मत्स्य व्यवसाय में लगे व्यक्तियों को मछुआ दुर्घटना बीमा योजना का लाभ, दुर्घटनावश मृत्यु/स्थायी अपंगता पर रु. 5 लाख तथा आंशिक स्थायी अपंगता पर रु. 2.50 लाख बीमित व्यक्ति को भुगतान का प्रावधान।

- मत्स्य पालक कल्याण कोष की स्थापना प्रक्रियाधीन।
- मत्स्य पालकों/मत्स्य पालन पट्टाधारकों (मछुआ समुदाय के व्यक्तियों) को किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड से शत-प्रतिशत संतृप्त करने का लक्ष्य।
- नदियों एवं जलाशयों में मुख्यतः निषाद समुदाय के मत्स्याखेटकों को 3 माह की प्रतिबंधित अवधि के दौरान आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करने का प्रावधान।
- मछुआ समुदाय एवं मत्स्य पालकों की आर्थिक एवं सामाजिक स्थिति सुदृढ़ करने के लिए मत्स्य विकास कार्यक्रमों का क्रियान्वयन।
- नदियों एवं बहती जलधाराओं में मत्स्याखेट हेतु मत्स्य जीवी सहकारी समितियों को ही दिये जाने का प्रावधान।
- रिवर रैंजिंग कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत 12 चयनित जनपदों में गंगा नदी में 15 लाख भारतीय मेजर कार्प मत्स्य अंगुलिकाओं का संचय कराया गया है, जिससे नदियों में मत्स्याखेट पर निर्भर रहने वाले निषाद समुदाय को लाभ।

## सोच ईमानदार, काम द्भदार

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश