**OPINION 6** 

THE LAND OF FREEDOM

AND DEMOCRACY

**SPORT 12** 

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# the pioneer

**MONEY 9** 

BANKING SERVICES HIT AS

EMPLOYEES GO ON STRIKE

# 70 times faster than Delta'

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

PNS NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$  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

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

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

"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

The deregistration of diesel

vehicles, which are 15 years old,

was to be taken up in the first

instance. The transport

department order said that "accordingly, the department

will deregister all such diesel

vehicles in Delhi on January 1,

2022, which have completed or

would be completing 10 years

The department has been deregistering vehicles that have completed their lifespan. NOC

for diesel vehicles, which are 10

years old, and petrol vehicles,

which are 15 years old, can be

issued for any place in the

This will be, however, subject to condition that NOC will

not be issued for the places

which are identified by states as

restricted area for re-registra-

on that date".

country, it said.

tion, the order said.

said. "Therefore, taken together with our recent studies showing that the Omicron variant can partially escape

immunity from vaccines and

past infection, the overall threat

rom the Omicron variant is

likely to be very significant." Jeremy Kamil, an Associate Professor of microbiology and immunology at Louisiana State University Health Shreveport, pointed out that Delta, which

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

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

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

### **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 Covidcaseload 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.

# 'Omicron multiplies in lungs India celebrates 50th anniv 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 Īndian

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 Muktijoddhas, 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

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the homage and reception ceremony

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

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

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

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

President Kovind on Thursday said India has always attached the highest priority to its friendship with Bangladesh and that New Delhi remains committed to doing all it can to help realise the full potential of its friendship with Dhaka.

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

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

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

### **Process from Jan 1**

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI/HOWRAH

 $Y^{oung\ national-level\ shooter\ Konica\ Layak\ was\ found\ hanging\ at\ her\ hostel\ in\ Bally}$ in Howrah district, police said.

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.

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

## 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 redun-

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.

### 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

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 Taksali 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

Camajwadi Party chief uncle estranged Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) chief Shivpal Yadav buried their five-year long family feud on Thursday and forged an alliance for the forthcoming

Assembly polls.

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

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



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

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

### **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



to the mortal remains of late Group Captain Varun Singh in Bengaluru on Thursday

# Sheena Bora alive, claims Indrani

### **Her letter to CBI** gives a sensational twist to murder trial

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

fter having been behind After naving occurrence 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

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



ed the Central investigating to trace her daughter. Talking to the media per-

sons 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



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

However, Peter Mukjerjea - 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

Winter Session of Parliament to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, they said. direct involvement in the The proposed Bill may also seek to make consequential

### 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 caus-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



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.

### 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 É Sreedharan, former chairman of Delhi Metro Rail, announced he would stay away from active politics in future.
"I joined the BJP and con-

tested 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 atti-tude of the BJP State leadership that led to his decision.

## **Winter Session of Haryana Assembly to begin today**

### To continue till Dec 22

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

The Winter Session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha, starting on December 17 has been extended till December

The decision to extend the session was taken during the **Business Advisory Committee** meeting held on Thursday here. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kanwar Pal, Home Minister Anil Vij, Leader of Opposition Bhupendra Singh Hooda, Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa were present in the meeting presided over by Gian Chand Speaker

Before the BAC meeting, the Speaker also held a highlevel meeting regarding the security arrangements in which Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and tions have been received by the senior police officers of Haryana and Chandigarh were present.

After the meetings, the Speaker said that the winter session of the State Assembly will begin at 2:00 pm on December 17 amidst tight security along with following the COVID- 19 protocol. It has been decided to hold

the winter session till December 22. It is for the first time that a BAC meeting was held a day before the beginning of the Assembly session, he

The State Government had earlier recommended convening the session from December

Gupta said that he wants to give maximum opportunities to all the MLAs of the state to express their views on various key issues during the winter session. In this connection, Zero Hour has been started in Haryana Vidhan Sabha on the lines of Lok Sabha, he said.

The Speaker said that 273 starred and 173 unstarred ques-

Assembly Secretariat for the winter session. The draw has been done for the first three days of the session. The draw for the

During the BAC meeting, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal said that the State Government is in favor of making the session more and more effective and certainly there should be a comprehensive discussion on the topics of interest to the state.

Question Hour to be held on

December 22 will be held on

December 17. Along with this,

the MLAs have also sent 33

calling attention motions, he

Legislative

Notably, at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination has been made mandatory for MLAs, officers and employees attending the winter session of Haryana Assembly. Those who will not be able to get even one dose of vaccination by December 17 due to any reason will have to bring the negative report of the RT-PCR test con-

## Opposition gears up to corner BJP-JJP Govt on HPSC job scam

**BJP-JJP Govt is** likely to face a tough time during the session on the issue of Haryana **Public Service Commission** recruitment scam

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Winter Session of Haryana Assembly, which will commence on December 17, Friday, is set to be a tumultuous affair, with the opposition parties Congress and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), geared up to confront the Manohar Lal Khattar Government on the issues of HPSC recruitment scam, unemployment, cases registered against farmers, among

The BJP-JJP Government is likely to face a tough time during the session on the issue of Haryana Public Service Commission recruitment scam.

Congress MLAs and INLD's lone MLA Abhay Chautala have demanded an

recruitment scam. Recently, a Congress delegation led by former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda had also met Harvana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and sought an independent probe into the HPSC recruitment scam of

Court judge.
Notably, HPSC Deputy Secretary Anil Nagar (HCS) was dismissed by the State

Government after his arrest for allegedly taking bribe to manipulate marks of candidates for their recruitment as dental surgeons.

dental surgeons under the

supervision of a sitting High

Leader of Opposition, Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that the issues of HPSC recruitment scams, shortage of DAP and urea, law and order situation, MSP issue, cases registered against farmers, rising unemployment, inflation among others will be raised by the Congress MLAs during the Assembly session.

Congress Legislative Party meeting will be held on Friday before the beginning of the sesegy, he said.

Earlier, the CLP meeting was held on December 8 in the city. The Congress demands an independent inquiry under the supervision of a sitting HC judge into the recruitment scam, Hooda said.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that the State Government is prepared to answer all the questions to be raised by the opposition during the winter session of Haryana Assembly. On the first day of the win-

ter session, obituary references will be made for those who have passed away in the intervening period between the previous session. This will be followed by question hour, zero hour and a calling attention motion moved by Congress MLAs regarding the recruitment of staff for varsities through HPSC/HSSC. Another calling motion attention regarding amendments in the recruitment procedure of teaching and non-teaching posts in the Universities in Haryana has also been accept-

## Himachal adjudged first in implementation of CCTNS

PNS ■ SHIMLA

 $H^{
m imachal}$  Pradesh has been awarded the first position among hill states in the implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has congratulated Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu and his team for their effort.

It was announced Thursday at a Conference on Good Practices in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) and Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS). The virtual event was hosted at the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), New Delhi and was attended by senior police officers of all states territories.

The Chief Minister said the state police's stellar performance in the field of CCTNS would boost the con-

fidence of HP Police in using technology in day to day

policing.

This is a national level award for hilly states and Himachal Pradesh has been declared the best performing state amongst the 10 hilly states for a second year in suc-

CCTNS is a Central government project for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-governance. There are 22 different parameters/criteria viz hardware/software deployment, network connectivity, data migration, building decide this

CCTNS was conceptualised in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attack and it aims to integrate all the data and records of crime into a core application software (CAS), spread across 29 states and 7 union territories of the

## Punjab Govt to regularise services of safai sewaks, sewerage men

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Thursday said that the State Government will soon complete the process of regularizing the services of safai sewaks and sewerage men in the State.

The Chief Minister, addressing the gathering after handing over Rs 1.83 crore cheque for development of Bhagwan Valmiki Bhawan, said that the State Government has already set the ball rolling for regularizing the services of safai sewaks and sewerage men. The entire process will be completed shortly to give reprieve to these people, said Channi, adding that he has already passed on the necessary directions regarding the same.

"The State Government is leaving no stone unturned for the well being of the poorest of poor section of society. This is part of the State Government's commitment to ensure comprehensive development of the State and prosperity of its peo-Pakhowal Road in Ludhiana. ple. Our Government is making concerted efforts to make Punjab a front runner state in the country," he added.

The Chief Minister said that in order to perpetuate the rich legacy of Bhagwan Valmiki ji in every nook and corner of the world, Punjab Government has already announced a budgetary grant of Rs five crore annually for already existing the Bhagwan Valmiki Ji's Chair in Guru Nanak Dev University.

FOUNDATION STONE OF "ATAL APARTMENTS" LAID TO FULFILL DREAM OF AFFORDABLE HOUS-ING FOR ALL

Taking a leap forward towards realizing the dream of affordable housing for all, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Thursday laid the foundation stone of ambitious "Atal Apartments" in Shaheed

"This project is being con-structed by Ludhiana Improvement Trust (LIT) under "100 percent Self Financing Scheme" and would have 12-storeyed 336 HIG and 240 MIG flats," said the Chief Minister adding that providing affordable housing to its residents is the first and foremost priority of the Congress-led Punjab Government. He said that LIT is coming up with this scheme in 8.80 acres near Shaheed Karnail Singh Nagar, Pakhowal Road, Ludhiana. "The land for the proposed flats is in the possession of Ludhiana Improvement Trust," he said, adding that interested persons can apply for this scheme till

TRAUMA CENTRE IN BABA SAHEB'S NAME TO COME UP AT LUDHIANA

December 18, 2021, and the

draw of lots will be carried out

on December 24, 2021.

Punjab Government will construct a state-of-the-art Trauma Centre in the name of Bharat Ratna Baba Sahib Dr BR Ambedkar at Ludhiana. Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, addressing a gathering after dedicating Ambedkar Bhawan to the masses, also handed over Rs 4.14 crore cheque to Ludhiana Municipal Corporation for completing the ongoing works at the prestigious Ambedkar Bhawan in the district.

"The Trauma Centre will be a real tribute to Baba Sahib Dr Ambedkar and will be set up at a cost of Rs 10 crore," he said. Giving a major respite to the street vendors (rehri/fadi), the Chief Minister announced that these hard workers will not be unnecessarily harassed by the Police or administration. These street vendors should work fearlessly as the Chief Minister is their voice from now onwards," he said.

11 KANAL ALLOTTED TO DURGA MATA MANDIR MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER SPECIALTY HOSPI-

The Chief Minister on Thursday announced to allot an alternate piece of land to Durga Mata Mandir Management for the construction of an ultra-modern super specialty hospital. The Chief Minister, who paid obeisance at the holy Durga Mata Mandir, said that the temple's management was doing real service of society by imparting quality health services to the people in temple premises only. "However, this needs to be given more boost for which a hospital site of 11 Kanal, equivalent to the existing temple complex, will be allotted by the State Government," he said while also announcing to shift the Police station in the vicinity of the temple to a new place and allot it to the temple.

## Kejriwal takes a dig at Channi, terms Govt 'nautankibaaz'



aking on Punjab Chief **▲** Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from left, right, and centre, Aam Aadmi Party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday took a dig at the Congress leader for being "the first Chief Minister in world history who meets people even in the bathroom". Delhi Chief Minister,

addressing a public meeting in the Badal's bastion ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections, said: "Current Punjab tankibaaz' and 'dramebaaz' government in the world. A few days ago, I was listening to Channi ji's interview on TV. In the interview, he said that he keeps meeting the public 24 hours a day. Channi said that people sit in my drawingroom, verandah, go to the bathroom there....people come with me (Channi) and keep meeting people there also."

"In my opinion, he is the first Chief Minister in world history who also meets people

'The interviewer further questioned him (Channi) about the conditions of NRIs in the state. Channi said that I am an NRI. Earlier, I (Channi) used to stay in pind (village), and now I live in the city. The interviewer began laughing," quipped Kejriwal. Continuing his jibe against

Channi, Kejriwal said that he may not know how to play "gulli-danda" (Punjab's local street game) like Channi, "but I know how to build good schools. I may not know how to put up tents like Chann, but

Coming down heavily on Channi, Kejriwal said that Punjab Chief Minister "is saying everywhere that he is from SC community. But Kejriwal is a member of every family in the SC community, who (Kejriwal) provides free education to every child of SC community, best treatment and free training to be an officer".

Further slamming the Congress by calling them "Indian National Circus", he

leaders of two national and six

parties...After meeting them,

we reviewed poll prepared-

ness with district electoral offi-

cers and other nodal officers,

including those from Excise,

Income Tax, RBI. We also dis-

not bond with Channi. Channi does not bond with former state Congress chief Jakhar. Jakhar does not bond well with Partap Bajwa. They are all fighting amongst each other. They punch each other in their Cabinet meeting. They cannot give any future to Punjab."
He said: "They are the

most corrupt government in Punjab. They know that they are going to lose power."

Also terming the present Congress Government as the "most corrupt and hypocritical government" in the history of Minister Channi had made a mockery of the government.

"In this election, Punjab should decide for itself whether it needs a puppet government that can play Gulli-danda' or a pro-people government to build schools and hospitals," he said while appealing to the people that they should give AAP a chance in 2022 too, as "you (referring to people) have given opportunities to Congress for 25 years and SAD-BJP for 20 years and tried their gover-

### 'Action against perpetrators of mining, post-matric scheme' in these crimes against humanity will not be

 $P^{\text{unjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on}}_{\text{Thursday asserted that the State Government}}$ trators of mining, post-matric scholarship scheme, desecration, and irrigation scam. "Congress government is duty bound to pun-

ish every person who has done any sin against the state and its people...Those involved in sand mafia, sacrilege, irrigation scam or post-matric scholarship scheme will face severest of severe action," said Channi while addressing a gathering after laying foundation stone of several projects. He said that the perpetrators of these heinous

crimes will be punished as per the law or land. The State Government is committed for ensuring that sinners get appropriate punishment, he added.

The Chief Minister said that any person, however affluent he may be, will be made accountable for these sins. "Even the political persons involved



from all the agencies. At the same time, the ECI maintained

that to check the use of drugs,

money, liquor, it has already

drawn an action plan, which

would be reviewed during its

commission's visit to Punjab

were shared by the Chief

Election Commissioner (CEC)

Sushil Chandra, who made it

clear that conducting "induce-

ment-free and ethical elec-

tions" is their prime impor-

The details of the ECI full

next visit.

spared at any cost. Punjab Government is duty bound to put these culprits of the State behind the bars," he said.

for "hypocrisy", the Chief Minister urged the peo-

ple to remain cautious from his nefarious plans to

grab power. "Kejriwal's promises are a bundle of lies vary from state to state," Citing an example, Channi said that in Punjab,

he is promising an allowance worth Rs 1000 to women every month, but in Goa, the same allowance promised by him is Rs 5000. 'As a fact of the matter, it is a dubious charac-

ter of Kejriwal and company and people must be cautious of this. Contrary to this, the State Government is making strenuous efforts for the well being of every strata of society," said Channi adding that no stone is being left unturned for the well being of common man.

### in the bathroom," he said. said: "Navjot Singh Sidhu does nance many times". ECI to keep close tab on movement of narcotics, money

Review of [201] Preparedness by Election Commission of India

Amidst all the hullabaloo about drug menace in Election Punjab, the Commission of India (ECI) has decided to keep a close tab on movement of narcotics and money for checking narcopolitics and ensuring free and fair elections in the state.

Concluding its two-day Punjab visit on Thursday, the country's election regulator has issued strict instructions to the Deputy Commissioners

agencies to step up their vigil to ensure that "inter-state and cross border movement of drugs, liquor, and cash is effectively checked".

The poll panel asked the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to check the inter-state movement of drugs. Directions were also issued to deal seizure of liquor, drugs, and cash with a heavy hand.

Besides, the Commission

has also sought a weekly report

"The Commission has zero money power or government machinery," he asserted while addressing the media after holding series of meetings with various representatives, officers during two-day visits.

During the visit, the ECI team met the representatives of national and state level political parties and took cognizance of issues and concerns raised by

The poll panel also reviewed overall poll preparedness with the District Election Officers-cum-Deputy Commissioners and CPs or SSPs of all 23 districts as also the Chief Electoral Officer,

Name of Work

3 Nos 1000 mm dia tube

BPS in AC- 04. (Re-invite

2021 DJB 212791 1

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocur



Department nodal officers. The ECI team also met with nodal officers of enforcement agencies. Besides, discussion on administrative support, budget and election relat-

ed arrangements were also

held with the Chief Secretary,

**DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR** 

LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUR, DELHI-110054

**Earnest** 

nemorandum No: F,9/

endorsement No DJB/

Dated: 23.12.2020

Date of releas

solution

Secretary Finance, Secretary Health and other senior officials of the State. CEC Chandra said that

the political parties have raised their concerns about misuse of money and distribution of liquor and drugs in the forthcoming Assembly polls.

Last date/time

of receipt of tender

through e-procurement

22.12.2021, 1:00 PM &

completion of technical bid

confirmation of EMD

The Commission met

cussed strategy to curb distribution of liquor, money, and freebies during elections," he said. "The political parties raised certain concerns. They were concerned about law and order situation in elections and distribution of drugs and liquor. They asked for deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). They also raised issue of inequitable treatment by district authorities and partisan behaviour," added Chandra. The CEC added that the

political parties have asked for 100 percent VVPAT use and 100 percent web-casting at polling booths. "Cutting across the party lines, they wanted EC

to take steps for fair conduct of elections, and we have assured the parties that our endeavour is to encourage maximum voter turnout and free and fair elections," he said.

Chandra added that the political parties have mentioned "money power" as a cause for concern along with liquor and drugs.

reviewed the concerns cited

'The Commission has

about law and order situation with the District Magistrates and Police Officers. Concerned officials have been directed to ensure speedy execution of non-bailable warrants (NBWs); and speedy disposal of pending cases of the electoral offenses from the previous elections," he said. CEC Chandra said that vulnerable constituencies have been identified, and "adequate CAPF deployment will be ensured so that no one is able to unduly influence the voters or intimidate them".

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III G.T ROAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032 Name of work Fees (in Rs). release of /time of tender throug EMD 16.12.202 24.12.2021 neter and replacement of non functional water eters in Ward No.48E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-6 Tender I.D No. 2021 DJB 212846 1 EMD 16.12.202 24.12.2021 neter and replacement of non functional water eters in Ward No.49E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-6 Tender I.D No. 2021\_DJB\_212846\_2 EMD 24.12.2021 Meter and replacement of non functional water eters in Ward No.50E in AC-67 Babarpur EE(M)-67 Tender I.D No. 2021\_DJB\_212846\_3 ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

# the pioneer

# **CM** conducts surprise inspection to paddy procurement centres

**STAFF REPORTER** 

RAINANDGAON

hhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection of paddy procurement centres at Jalbandha (Khairagarh) and village Birejhar (Durg) while returning from Rajnandgaon.

He inspected the arrangements and interacted with farmers at both the centres, an official communication said.

On his queries, farmers said the system at the procurement centre is better. They are selling their produce through the gunny sacks provided by the centre and



this year they had used vermi-

compost as fertilizer. It helped in better production and earning. The farmers pointed out that

Birejhar village farmer Ishwar Lal Dhangar said the crop field soil has improved. He had higher production of paddy as compared to last year.

Other farmers said that with the increase in the number of new procurement centres, the waiting time has been cut. The payment is transferred to the bank account directly, immediately after the procurement.

The Birejhar procurement centre covers four villages --Kharra, Hasda, Chikla and Birejhar. A total of 10,716 quintals of paddy have been procured and 3,000 quintals have been

### **CRPF ASI shoots** self in Gariaband

STAFF REPORTER

An Assistant Sub-Inspector of the CRPF committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district, police said on Thursday.

Gariaband Additional Superintendent of Police Chandresh Singh Thakur said Udayvir Singh of the 65th battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) killed himself on Wednesday at a camp in Darripara village.

When his colleagues heard the gunshot, they rushed in and found Singh sprawled in blood. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought

Singh was from Uttar Pradesh, Thakur said, adding that a probe is on to ascertain the reason which led him to shoot

## Congress to celebrate Baghel govt's three years



STAFF REPORTER ■

The Congress on 1 Thursday announced it will celebrate three years of the Bhupesh Baghel government

Chhattisgarh. A series of events are to be held to mark Baghel government is completing three years in office on December

Crackers would be burst and sweets distributed in each district and block headquarters, a communiqué from PCC chief Mohan Markam said.

Markam said that Congress workers would take a pledge to extend the public oriented programmes launched by the Baghel government.

The PCC chief has told all MPs, MLAs, office bearers, frontal organizations, Youth Congress, NSUI, Seva Dal, Panchayat bodies and Women's Wing to participate in the

# C'garh urges Jute Comm Two new Lokpals to arrange gunny bags



**STAFF REPORTER** 

System Group

No.

88627

**RAIPUR** 

 $T_{\text{Chhattisgarh's}}^{\text{he Managing}}$ Director of Marketing Federation, Kiran Kaushal, on Thursday met Indian Jute Commissioner Moloy Chandan Chakraborty in Kolkata and

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, KOTA

DISTT. - BILASPUR (C.G.) e-Procurement Tender Notice eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

(FIRST-CALL)

SYSTEM TENDER NO. 88627/ NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 05/SAC/2021-22 Dated: 13.12.2021 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 30-01-2022 (17:30 hours IST).

Name of Work

CONSTRUCTION OF SHADE, ROAD,

DEVELOPMENT OF PARKING AND

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORK FOR INSPECTION BUNGELOW OF ARPA

BHAINSAJHAR BARRAGE PROJECT.

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directely from the Goyt, of

Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)

Note:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled

on the integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized

contractor/supplier registration in order to download the tender documents

from dated 20.12.2021 at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.

and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

urged him to arrange gunny bags for paddy procurement in the state.

Kaushal apprised the Commissioner that paddy procurement in Chhattisgarh had commenced on December 1 and a total of 5.25 lakh bundles of gunny bags would be required.

Chhattisgarh has set a target of

Probable

contract

Rs. 92.55

Lakhs

procuring 105 lakh tonnes of paddy this Kharif season, she told the official.

The office of Jute Commissioner has approved for 2.14 lakh bundles of gunny bags, she said.

paid Rs 853 crores to the Jute Commissioner office, she told Chakraborty.

The Chhattisgarh government has

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

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

under IRCTC/North Zone. availability from: 20.12.2021, Last date of submission: 10.01.2022

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.

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

will Only be published on IRCTC's website www.irctc.com & tenderwizard website

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

### Submission: 24.01.2022. I) For Selection of Operator for 'Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water Plant

# III) For Operation, maintenance and provision of catering services in/through Refreshment Rooms & Jan Ahaar under A1 & A Category

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

Note: Any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement

### G- 65871/5 Ryp/Dtd 15.12.21

PUBLIC NOTICE This is for the information to general public that 1 Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya At present partner Partners M/s Sterling Venture, Near Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur Vertice, Near Croth: House, Cvis Lines, Raipur C.G. against loan from HDFC Bank Ltd. in account SONA BEVERAGES PVT LTD is offering properly-Diverted land Part of Khasra No 1409/4, 1448/1, Total area 0.053 Hect situated at Kushalpur, Raipur Khash, P.H.No 62, R.I.C. Raipur 1, Tehsil & Dist Raiour C.G which was purchased from Seller Shri Paramit Singh Sio Shri Joginder Singh Rio 26/7, Jahihar Colony, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist Raipur C. G. by way of registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar office Raipur, Vide book No. A-1, Granth No 21485, Page No 29 to 38, Serial No. 12751 on 24/02/1998. That 1 Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya Partners M/s Starling Venture is expected to handover the original sale deed and previous chain title deeds of the property which is being offered as security, but the original of the previous chain title ceen misplaced/missing from the er though it has not been used by the tr in any transfer to the control of th properly owner though it has not been used by the properly holder in any other way/form the same is registered as per detail below. Registered Said deed. Said eded registered in the office of sub registrar office Raipur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth no. 9701, Page no 17 to 23, Serial No. 11504 on 18/03/1985 Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar office Raigur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth no 14339, Page no 91 to 96, Serial No. 11068 on 29/12/1990. I hereby invite objection from any person, Banks, Municipal offices, Tax department, Govt Development society etc. the above declaration of the above said ious/chain original sale deeds within 07 days from the publication of this notice in my below ention office address with supporting document (if any). Any objection by way of public notice shall not be accepted or binding. It may be noted that any objection thereafter to the above declaration in respect of the above referred property will not be bona fide and shall not be binding on the HDFC Bank Ltd and disbursement of loan amount by HDFC Bank Ltd against the said property will remi

### Office No 214, EDGE, Mowa,

### PUBLIC NOTICE

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

KOTA (C.G.) For, Chief Engineer Hasdeo Basin W.R. Deptt.

Bilaspur (C.G.)

This is for the information to general public that 1 Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya At present partner Partners M's Sterling Venture, Near Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur C.G. against loan from HDFC Bank Ltd. in account Diverted land Part of Khasra No 1446/1, Total area 0.089 Hect situated at Kushalpur, Raipur Khash, P.H.No 62, R.J.C. Raipur 1, Tehsil & Dist Raipur C.G. which was purchased from Seller Shri Narendra Badrali, Tehsil Nawagarh, Dist Durg C.G. by way of registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar office Raipur. Vide book No. A-Granth No 35861, Page No 52 to 61, Serial No. Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya Partners M/s Sterling Venture is expected to handover the original sale deed and previous chain title deeds of the property which is being offered as security, but the original of the previous chain title deeds has been misplaced/missing from the roperty owner though it has not been used by the property holder in any other way/form the same is red as per detail below- Registered Sale registrar office Raipur. Vide book No. A-1, in the year 2001. I hereby invite objection from any person, Banks, Municipal offices, Tax department, Govt Development society etc. upon the above sale deeds within 07 days from the publication of this notice in my below mention office address with supporting document (if any). Any objection by way of public notice shall not be accepted or binding. It may be noted that any objection thereafter to the above declaration in respect of the above referred operty will not be bona fide and shall not be inding on the HDFC Bank Ltd and disbursement of loan amount by HDFC Bank Ltd against the said

PRAFULL AGRAWAL Office No 214, EDGE, Mowa Dated: 16/12/2021

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information to general public that 1 Shri Gurpnet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya At present partner Partners Mis Sterling Venture. Near Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur C.G. against loan from HDFC Bank Ltd. In account SONA BEVERAGES PVT LTD is offering property-liveried land Part of Khasar No 14093, 14092, 1442/1, Total area 0.659 Hect situated at Kushalpur, Raipur Khash, PHANo 62, R.L.C. Raipur 1, Tehal Dist Raipur C.G. which was purchased from Seller 1 Raipur Khash, PH.No 62, R.I.C. Raipur 1, Tehali & Dist Raipur C.G which was purchased from Seller 1 Shri Gurubash Singh 2 Shri Paramit Singh both Slo Late Joginder Singh both Rlo 28/7, Jal Vhar Colony, Raipur, Tehali & Dist Raipur C.G. by yay or registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registere of Sale deed or gistered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registers office Raipur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth No 21465, Page No 39 to 48, Senial No. 12752 on 24/02/1998. That 1 Shri Gupreet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya Partners Mis Sterling Venture is expected to handover the original sale deed and previous chain title deeds of the property which is being offered as security, but he original of the previous chain title deeds has been misplaced/missing from the property owner though it has not been used by the property holder in any other way/form the same is registered as per detail in his not ocean beauty his projectly notice in as per detail below. Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub-register office Rejpur, Vide book No. A-1, Granth no 9455, Page No 67 to 73, Serial no 6458, dated 01/09/1984. Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub-register office Raipur, Vide book No. A-1, Granth no 9455. Pages No. 28 to 83, Sarial no 6860, dated 10/09/1984. Page No 25 to 83, Serial no 6460, dased 01/09/1984. Registered Sale deed. Sale deed dregistered in the office of sub register office Raigur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth no 8455. Page No 74 to 77, Serial no 6450, dated 01/09/1984. I hereby invite objection from any person, Banks, Municipal offices, Tax department, Govt Dervelopment society etc. upon the above declaration of the above safe previous/chain original sale deeds within 07 days from the publication of this sortice in my below mention office address with supporting document (if any). Any objection by way of public notice shall not be accepted or binding, that was the safe property will not be bornt fide and shall not be binding on the HDFC Bank Ltd and disbursement of loan smount by HDFC Bank Ltd against the said property will menal ruraffects. Page No 28 to 83, Serial no 6460, dated 01/09/1984

Office No 214, EDGE, Mowa, Dated: 16/12/2021

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information to general public that 1 Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhatiya 2 Shri S Satpal Singh Bhatiya At present partner Partners Mis Sterling Venture, Near Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur C.G. against loan from HDFC Bank Ltd. in account SONA BEVERAGES PVT LTD is offering property. Diverted land Part of Khasara No 14441, 1445/2, 1446/2, Total area 0.272 Hect situated at Kushalpur, Raipur Khash, P.H.No 62, R.I.C. Raipur 1, Tehall & Dist Raipur C. gwhich was purchased from Seller Smrt Hardarshan Kaur Dlo Lafe Shri Josoeder Sinch Rio Jul Vilhar Colony. Late Shri Jogender Singh Rio Jal Vihar Colony, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist Raipur C.G. by way of registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the Late Shri Jogender Singh Rio Jai Vihar Colony, Raipur, Tisheli & Dist Raipur C.G. by way of registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub register office Raipur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth No. 21485, Pape No. 19 to 28, Senial No. 12750 on 240021998. That 1 Shri Gurpreet Singh Bhatiye 2 Shri Shatelian Shatelian Shatelian Sale deed and previous chain tills deeds of the property which is being offered as security, but the original of the previous chain tills deeds of the property which is being offered as security, but the original of the previous chain tills deeds has been misplacedimissing from the property where though it has not been used by the property holder in any other waylform the same is registered as per detail below-Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar office Raipur. Vide book No. A-1, Granth no 9489, Page No 30 to 34, Serial no 6992, dated 01/10/1964. Registered Sale deed. Sale deed registered in the office of sub registered in the office of s previous/chain original sale deeds within 07 days from the publication of this notice in my below mention office address with supporting doc mention dince address with supporting occurrent (e.g., any). Any objection by way of public notice shall not be accepted or binding. It may be noted that any objection thereafter to the above declaration in respect of the above referred property will not be bona fide and shall not be binding on the HDPC Bank. Ltd. and disbursement of loan amount by PRAFULL AGRAWAL

Office No 214, EDGE, Mow

Dated: 16/12/2021

# for MNREGA

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Two new Lokpals were **1** appointed Thursday in Chhattisgarh to hear complaints related to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee** Act (MNREGA).

This was announced by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department for independent and fair investigation into the complaints.

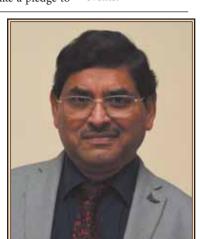
With this, now there are 16 Lokpals, with jurisdiction covering 27 districts in the state. A member has also been appointed in the Lokpal Appellate Authority at the state level.

Vivek Shukla has been named Lokpal for Rajnandgaon district and Chhatra Kumar Sahu for Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma districts, an official statement said. The

new Lokpals have taken charge.

Rajarshi Trivedi will be the third member of three-member Lokpal Appellate Authority.

The Panchayat and Development Rural Department said that Lokpals and members of the Authority have been appointed for two years. Their term may be extended for two years and one year respectively.



Rooplal Meena, Regional General Manager, Union Bank, Bhopal, will be on a two-day tour of Raipurl from December 18. Besides reviewing the work of Managers of select banks, he will also meet customers of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

E-Auction

Date: 18.01.2022

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 🕸

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 18.01.2022 from 12.30 Noon

Name and address	Description of Properties & Name	Demand Notice Dt.	Reserve Price	Branch Name	
of the Borrower & Guarantors	of Property Owner	Possession Dt.	EMD Amt.	Account No. &	
	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF	Out Standing Amt.	Bid Increment Amt.	IFSC Code	
M/s Anurag Electronics, Proprietor- Mr. Anurag Singh, MIG 116, Aamadi Nagar, Hudco Bhilai, Chhattisgarh for loan granted	C.G. Area 0.010 hect = 1600 SqFt.  Boundaries: North: PLOT NO. 07, South: PLOT NO. 08 Fast: ROAD WIDE 15 West: OTHER'S	29.05.2021	9.60,000/-	Mr. Manish Dewangan-	
		09.08.2021	5,557,577,	(Mo. 9618735788) Bhilai, Risali Branch A/c No. 7974295000001 IFSC CODE:	
		₹ 15,69,678.35	96,000/-		
M/s Anurag Electronics, Proprietor Mr. Anurag Singh.	LAND	as on 29.05.2021 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	10,000/-	CNRB0007974	
<ol> <li>Mr. Doman Sahu, 69</li> <li>Ward No 53, Potiya Kala,</li> </ol>	Em i di cara in più name di mi Doman dana dio	07.08.2021	13,00,000/-	Mr. Sandeep Kumar	
Durg.	Tarun Sahu, situated at Kh no 303/214, P h no 1, Bhilai 3, Near talkies Road, Bhilai Dist- Durg, Area	21.10.2021	Notice to the second	Deshmukh (Mo. 9425503197) Bhilaí, Smriti Nagar Branch A/c No. 7974295000001 IFSC CODE: CNRB0007974	
<ol> <li>Mr. Tarun Sahu, 69 Ward No 53, Potiva Kala, Durg.</li> </ol>	2175 Sq feet. Boundaries: North: Shadilal and	₹ 30,30,179.98	1,30,000/-		
no so, r ouyartaa, sung.	Dwarika Dewangan House, South: Road, East: Ramadhar Dewangan House, West: Land of fattu.	as on 14.12.2021 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	10,000/-		
Mr. Santosh Kumar Chauhan, Plot no LIG 92.	92, Vaishali Nagar, Bhilai, Mouja-Kohka, Tah &	07.08.2021	30,60,000/-	Mr. Sandeep Kumar	
Vaishali Nagar, Bhailai,		21.10.2021	00,00,000	Deshmukh (Mo. 9425503197) Bhilai, Smriti Nagar Branch A/c No. 7974295000001	
Mouja-Kohka, Tah & Dist- Durg.		₹ 19,62,431.81	3,06,000/-		
	LIG 91, North-LIG 93	as on 14.12.2021  • future interest & costs, expenses etc.	10,000/-	IFSC CODE: CNRB0007974	
1) Mr. Santosh Jha, Flat No 11. 2nd Floor Block G2.	EMT of Land and Building in the name of Mr	07.08.2021	16,75,000/-	Mr. Sandeep Kumar	
Chouhan town phase II, Bhilai, Durg. 2) Mrs. Manimala Jha, Flat	Block G2, Chouhan town, phase II, Bhilai, Durg,	21.10.2021	101101000	Deshmukh (Mo. 9425503197)	
		₹ 15,15,416.22	1,67,500/-	Bhilai, Smriti Nagar Branch A/c No. 7974295000001	
No 11 2nd Floor, Block G2, Chouhan town, phase II, Bhilai, Durg.	East-Open Space Block G3, West-flat no G2 12.	as on 14,12.2021 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	10,000/-	IFSC CODE: CNRB0007974	
<ol> <li>Mrs. Tulsi Sahu, ward No 53. Potiva Kala Bhathapara.</li> </ol>	Smt. Tulasi Sahu W/O Omprakash Sahu, situated at Plot no B 91, Kh No 289/12, P h no 31, Village- Fari Bemetara, Dist- Bemetara, Area	07.08.2021	21,60,000/-	Mr. Sandeep Kumar	
Durg-491001 2) Mr. Om Prakash Sahu, Ward No 53, Potiya Kala		25.10.2021		Deshmukh (Mo. 9425503197)	
		₹ 34,13,641.51	2,16,000/-	Bhilai, Smriti Nagar Branch A/c No. 7974295000001	
Bhathapara, Durg-491001	2325.00 SQ FT. Boundaries: North: Plot no B 90, South: Plot no B 92, East: Road, West: Plot no B 81.	as on 14,12,2021 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	10,000/-	IFSC CODE: CNRB0007974	

conditions; a. The property will be sold in "as is where is and as is what is" basis including encumbrances, if any. There is no encumbrance to the knowledge of the bank, b. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseauction.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. c. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer Date on 15.01.2022 at 10.30am. d. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. e. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer of above mentioned branches respectively OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of of above mentioned branches respectively on or before 17.01.2022, 4:30 pm. f. Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contac the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Contact: -9480691777/8553643144, E-mail ID: -eauction@ccsl.co.in. Immediately on the same date of payment of the EMD amount the bidders shall approach the said service provider for obtaining digital signature (If not holding a . After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 17.01.2022, 3.00 PM, to above mentioned branches respectively by hand or by email. (1) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount f paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. (2) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the \_me of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (3) Bidders Name. Contact No. Address, E Mail Id. (4) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. h. The intending bidders should register their names at portal www.bankeauc\_ons.com (mention the website address of service provider) and get their User ID and password free of cost Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Contact: 9480691777/8553643144, E-mail ID: -eauction@ccsl.co.in i. EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them within 2 days of finalization of sale. The EMD shall not carry any interest. J. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs. 10,000. The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. k. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. I. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. m. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. n. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the e-auction, the can approach concerned Circle office or above mentioned branches respectively who as a facilitating centre shall m For further details contact Branch Manager of respective branches OR Authorised Officer. E-mail id: cb17848@canarabank.com OR the ervice provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Help Line E-mail ID ::- eauction@ccsl.co.in. p. For further details you may contact Cana Bank above mentioned Branch or M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., E-mail ID: -eauction@ccsl.co.in ■ SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION ■

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of adver responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Proneer Group's will not be hald responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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

he 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

"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

es 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 sub-

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 fulltime 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

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

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

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-

installed at the healthcare facilities is reduced to zeroStates 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

tems have been sanctioned and delivered, in many states these have not been sent to district health facilities and when delivered, some have not been

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 electricityrelated and site- related issues for ensuring quick operationalisation of the entire medical oxy-

made functional, Bhushan said.

plied 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 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

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 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 smallscale 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

# 1971 war martyrs on Vijay Diwas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra Modi}}_{\text{led the nation on Thursday in}}$ 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

### PM leads nation in paying tribute to Indira took 32 bullets for country but ignored on 1971 war anniv: Rahul

 $F^{ormer\,Congress\,president\,Rahul\,Gandhi}_{on\ Thursday\ accused\ the\ BJP}$ 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 Îndian armed forces in 1971 is still remembered with pride and zeal across the country, which continues to inspire the people

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

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

## Yechury seeks removal of J&K **HC** Chief Justice

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PI(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

PNS NEW DELHI

according to new requirements,

new challenges of the journey

till the 100th year of indepen-

shift their focus from 'chem-

istry laboratory experiments'

and connect it with the 'natur-

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

al farming' methods.

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 assert-"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,"

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PM exhorts farmers to adapt agriculture

to new requirements, challenges

## **NEET-PG COUNSELLING**

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

 $R^{\text{esident doctors in health-}}_{\text{care institutions under the}}$ withdraw from all services, including routine and emergency services, from December 17 over their demand of urgent hearing of NEET PG counseling 2021, which is pending before the Supreme Court.

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

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

The federation has said in the letter that the resident

waited patiently since the agitation was put on hold on December 9 for one week folplatform of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association but the NEET PG counseling and lering multiple f

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**▼**ndia and France will discuss Lat 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 terror-

ism, the French Embassy said. It said she will call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also meet National Security Advisor(NSA)SA Ajit Doval particularly for discussions on

two had met in November during Doval's visit to Paris

Parly visited India in September last year primarily to attend a eremony 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 willing-

ness 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 strate-

gic 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,

regional security issues. The and army exercises this year, the embassy said.

There have been growing global concerns over China's increasing military muscleflexing 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.

'Úpon 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.

spend a lot on chemical fertilizers. If they turn to natural  $P_{\text{Modi on Thursday called}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ farming, their condition will be better", PM Modi said. for the adaptation of agriculture

Addressing the summit on natural and zero-budget farming being held at Anand, in Gujarat through video conferdence and urged the farmers to ence, the PM Modi said, "In the past 7 years, with 'Beej se leke, ĥazaar tak' we have introduced several reforms to modernise the Indian Krishi sector with The Prime Minister said 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 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 fer-

tilisers 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

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 fértilizers

notions of burning crop residue,

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

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

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

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

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

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

"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

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

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

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

VHP working president Alok Kumar claimed that the Saudi Arabian government has imposed a ban "the Jamaat" and welcomed the move. This radical Islamic fun-

damentalist 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".

## Mamata attacks BJP after UNESCO's Puja heritage tag

Says those who allege I bar Hindu fests should be ashamed

opment of Kolkata she said the whole city would be linked

with a maze of flyovers

adding"tomorrow Bengal will

be known for its massive devel-

opment ... we willbe number

Vouching for the industri-

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

Aday 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 let-ting 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 UNESCOhas 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 ...

one not only in India but all over the world." I have only one mantra ... fight against these evil forces ... I al projects in Bengal she said have created three generations 'we have created a Silicon that will continue to fight Valley in Salt Lake where TCS is going to employ 50,000 peoagainst theseforces."

ple ... similarly Deucha Pachami coal project will see employment of 1 lakh youth." Addressing an election rally in support of TMC can-didates in Kolkata Municipal Saying that Bengal was the only State in India where the Corporation elections Banerjee said "days are coming whenthese people who criticize us retiredGovernment servants still got pension she claimed will be shamed by more such "the Centre was pressuring me honours that we will win ... we have already won internationto discontinue such schemes al awards for Kanya Shree... we but I refused."

She also said that by 2024 all households in Kolkata will soon win awards like the social schemes like Laxmir would get drinking waterline Bhandar, Duare Sarkar and and additional 200 water pumps would be installed in other farmer and workerfriendly programmes."
Announcing a ₹24,000 the city to rid water logging. crore programme for the devel-

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

## Kerala reports 4 Omicron cases

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 diag-nosed 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

The death toll till Thursday, according to the minister, was

The Ernakulam District administration has issued a red alert following reports that

The passenger instead of undergoing self-quarantine visited many public places including malls, restaurants and cinemas, according to the route

with omicron.

a person who reached Kochi

airport from Congo on

December 7 was diagnosed

map released by the district administration 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

known for their panoramic beaches reserve and

### **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'

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 lan-

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 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 wapasi (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.

RPSC 'Rishtedaar'

Commission under

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

**Public Service** 

Cong rule: BJP

## Raj Govt announces Govt jobs for 1971 war martyrs' kin

Minister Ashok Gehlot on announced Government jobs to kin of 1971 Indo-Pak War martyrs from the state.

He made the announcement while addressing a programme on Vijay Diwas at Amar Jawan Jyoti. As per the existing rules, any one dependent of those martyred between August 15, 1947 and December 31, 1970 is given a government job.

The new rule will extend the cut off to December 31, 1971, paving the way for appointments of the dependents of soldiers martyred in

Donkey

population

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Gehlot said the new rule

will be extended to include the son and daughter of the martyr's daughter (Navasa-Navasi), even if adopted, as dependents. The son and daughter of the martyr's brother and sister too will be reckoned as dependents, he said.

Gehlot said he is proud of being the Chief Minister of a state where every house has the spirit of martyrdom to protect he borders of the country.

On the occasion, he met and honoured the dependents of the officers and soldiers who were martyred in the



The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh at the Heritage street amid dense fog on a winter day in Amritsar on Thursday

## Maha politicians welcome SC's decision to allow resumption of bullock cart races the state, but he appealed to the

PNS ■ NEWDELHI

international equine charity Boorke, has got a detailed Investigative Study conducted on the Donkey Hide Trade going on illegally in India. From 2012 Livestock Census until the latest Livestock Census of 2019, the donkey population has decreased by 61.23 per cent.

The Study, titled as "The Hidden Hide" has been conducted by Sharat K Verma. The trigger for this Study was a drastic decrease in the donkey population across the

### decreased by Jubilant cart 61.23%: Study owners burst crackers **▲** chapter of the UK-based

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

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

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

The bullock cart races, a

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

Ajit Pawar said that with the lifting of the ban, bullock cart races can now again resume in

Of the 320 deaths, 36 were

43,946

release said.

farmers to abide by all rules and regulations. "With this decision, leaders and, social activists had contested the ban vigor-

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

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

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

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

Kerala clocks 3,404 new

tation before the Centre over

it," he said. Prakash Javadekar, the then Union minister, had also issued allowed the resumption of the the ox farmers have won a long battle," Pawar said, adding that a gazette notification to pave races today," he said. races, but the SC had put a ban on that also. The Centre in 2017 introduced a new act so that such bull races can be organised, he said.

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

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

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

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

"The state government, officials from the animal husbandry department put forth the state's side strongly in the apex court through state counsel Mukul Rohatgi and due to this collective efforts, the court

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

With the apex court giving its nod, several parts of the state, especially Pune and the western Maharashtra region, where the 400-year-old tradition was prevalent, will once again experience the thrill of the sport, those associated with the races said.

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

Bullock cart races were the main attractions at the village fairs in parts of the state and according to the bullock cart organisations, these events were instrumental in giving a boost the rural economy.

Ramkrishna Takalkar, a representative of Akhil Bharatiya Bailgada Sharyat Sanghatna, said that the apex court has given the nod to hold the races by adhering to the rules and regulations made by the state government in 2017. "Since the Supreme Court

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

### 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

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

wo local terrorists belong-Two local terrorists belong ing to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) offshoot- The Resistance Front (TRF) were eliminated by the joint team of security encounter in Kulgam on Thursday. Around 180 terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces since January

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

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 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.

Meanwhile sharing details of the Kulgam encounter a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police said, "the operation was launched on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists in village Redwani area of Kulgam". During the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given repeated opportunities to surrender; however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retali-

ated leading to an encounter". In the ensuing encounter, 02 terrorists of proscribed ter-ror outfit LeT (TRF) were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. They have been identified as Amir Bashir Dar resident of Kujjar Frisal and Adil Yousuf Shan resident of Sursano Hatipora, Kulgam, the

police spokesman said. As per police records, both the killed terrorists were catewith proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF). They were also part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

The security forces recovered 02 Pistols, 02 magazines, 07 pistol rounds & 01 grenade from the encounter site.

### Woman health worker tests +ve for Omicron in Gujarat

Mehsana: A 41-year-old woman health worker was found infected with the Omicron variant of coronavirus at a village in Vijapur tehsil of Gujarat's Mehsana district on Thursday, officials said.

This is the fifth case of Omicron infection in Guiarat so far. The woman serves as an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). She does not have any history of foreign travel, but she recently came in contact with her relatives who had arrived from Zimbabwe, one of the 'at risk' countries," Chief District Health Officer Dr Vishnubhai Patel said.

She is currently undergoing treatment in an isolation ward created in a government hospital at Vadnagar town of Mehsana and her condition is stable, he said.

"The woman recently lost her husband to cancer. To attend the condolence meet, her husband's elder brother and his wife came from Zimbabwe last month. Both of them tested negative for COVID-19 in all the three tests conducted on them," Patel added.But the authorities decided to carry out contact tracing as a precautionary measure and the woman was found positive for coronavirus on December 10, following which her samples were sent to the Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) for genome sequencing, the official

### turning the Rajasthan Public Service Commission into 'Rishtedaar' Public Service 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 promis-

es 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

### **Politics of** religion easy, but bad for country: Gehlot

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said those who indulge in divisive politics should think about the future of the country.

He said Pakistan became

that majority population was Muslim. "Doing politics in the name of religion is easy, provoking people in the name of caste is

"I would like to tell those

He urged people to look independence and

a nation on the basis of religion but was divided into two coun-He said Bangladesh was created in 1971 despite the fact

easy, spreading hate is easy but difficult to take back when it is

who do politics in the name of religion, please look at the future of the country ... what will happen after 25 years or 50 years," he said addressing a programme at 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' after paying tributes to martyrs on Vijay Diwas.

into reasons and understand why India remained intact after

### **Covid cases, 320 deaths** Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Thursday reported 3,404 new infections and 320 deaths, which took the caseload to 51,95,997 and the death toll to

With 4,145 more people recorded over the last few days and 284 were designated as recovering from the virus since COVID-19 deaths after receiv-Wednesday, the total recoveries ing appeals based on the new reached 51,29,044 and the active guidelines of the Centre and cases dropped to 34,171, it the directions of the Supreme said. As many as 56,580 samples Court, a state government were tested in the last 24 hours. Among the 14 districts,

Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest with 633 fresh cases, followed by Kozhikode (523) and Ernakulam (501). Of the new cases, 27 were

health workers, 8 from outside the State and 3,170 infected through contact with the source of it not being clear in 199. There are currently 1,47,204 people under surveillance in various districts, of whom 1,43,110 are in home or institutional quarantine and 4,094 in hospitals the release said.

### Petition filed to stop namaz at Idgah near temple in Mathura **Mathura:** A petition has been court of civil judge, senior diviorder restraining the Muslim

filed at a local court here seeking prohibition on namaz at the Shahi Idgah, located close to the temple in Krishna Janmasthan here. In recent months, some organisations have moved the courts here seeking the 'removal' of the Idgah claiming it is built in the "actual birthplace" of Lord

"The court has been requested to pass an injunction

community from offering namaz in Shahi Masjid Idgah and on adjacent road, Mahendra Pratap Singh, the petitioner said in his application. He said Moghul emperor

Aurangzeb had built the mosque by dismantling the temple in 1669 and that the walls of the Idgah still had signs of Om, Swastik and Shesh Nag. In the petition filed at the

sion, Singh alleged that the management of the mosque was now attempting to either deface or removed them. Earlier, the Mathura district

administration had imposed prohibitory orders under CrPC section 144 following an announcement by the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha that it will install a statue of the deity at the mosque.

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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

■he 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.



## To Bor not to B

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

he 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 purpos-



es 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'!

# The land of freedom and democracy



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

t 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.

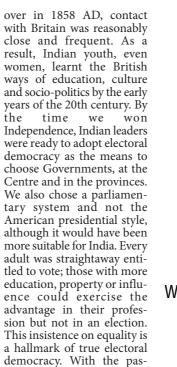
Another symptom of Indian democracy is its history down the ages. Anyone who arrived whether via the Hindu Kush or Arabian Sea as the early Jews or other traders, the Parsees, British and many others were welcome, or at least allowed to stay and settle on Indian soil. No one was expelled regardless of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

1977. It was unpopular because it was declared only



sage 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



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

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 Firoz 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 proosea ana supportea 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

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 wellknown columnist, an autho and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

### LETITERS 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**



fter 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

the world. Manoj Kumar Jena | Cuttack

brother and sister even after they've left

**AN EVERGREEN MAESTRO'S CENTENARY** 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

Tamil film Konjum Salangai.

by his contribution to the blockbuster

The song Singara Velane Deva, in hich 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

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The Government's refusal to sack Aiav Mishra Teni is the starkest indication of its



**Congress leader** —Privanka 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



There was no

–Akshay Kumar



When the AAP

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

> India batsman —Virat Kohli

forms Government in Puniab, the country's biggest sports university

will be set up in Jalandhar.

**Delhi Chief Minister** —Arvind Kejriwal

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## **FIRST COLUMN INDIA'S CONNECT: A CENTRAL ASIA POLICY**

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

eaders 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





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

ccess 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

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 sani-

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 vachh 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 rurai 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

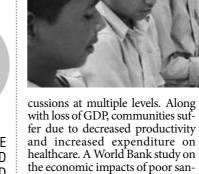
However, given the wide inequalities in the social and economic demographics of the population, India continues to experience mixed progress in terms of hygiene and sanitation-related outcomes.

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** 

(Dr Swati Mahajan is chief of party, USAID-NISHTHA project and leads the comprehensive primary healthcare portfo lio 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.)



itation in India estimated that the

country lost the equivalent of 6.4

(₹1.75 lakh crore) was accounted for

by premature mortality and health-

related costs. While social impacts are diffi-cult to quantify, some risks are often exacerbated, affecting the most vulnerable groups including women, children and people with disabili-ties. 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.

percent of GDP due to inadequate sanitation. Over 70 percent of it 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 part-nerships. Through close collabora-tions with Government/ public enterprises, HBCC has been able to advocate for hand and surface hygiene among the vulnerable slum populations even during the ÔVID-19 pandemic.

Interventions to promote hand hygiene should also be founded on a thorough understanding of what people care about, and should towards a transformative approach focusing on needs of the commu-nity, going beyond the benefits of WASH in sanitation research and programming and eliminating the ess 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 beneincorporate appropriate social fits, including direct benefits such norms to help build sustainable as avoiding illnesses (the sum of habits. The emphasis needs to move 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.



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

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

ecember 15, marks the

of India will forever remain indebted to him for his leadership during the freedom struggle and his vision, wisdom, and statesmanship in the post-Independence era.

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



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

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 strug-gles 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 imperative to bring a rational of India, maybe, Partition of the country could have been averted.

ter 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

account of his monumental

legacy to the new generations. After his task of unifying Sardar Patel's famous let- 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 prerationality of Nehruvian and pare future-ready civil serleftist historians. Thus, it is vants through Mission Karam his birth anniversary is

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,

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

observed as National Unity

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.

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

# US faces a double coronavirus surge as omicron advances

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

ating. 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

Based on specimens collected last week, the Centres

Prevention said omicron accounted for about 3% o 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 twoweek 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 twoday outbreak since the start of the pandemic, with dozens of players infected. Outside the US, the

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

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

France to restrict travel from Britain to fight omicron

restrict travel to and from Britain because of fast-spreading cases of the omicron coro-navirus 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

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

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.

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

Wednesday that early data suggests omicron is more transmissible than delta, with a doubling time of about two

In Britain, where omicron cases are doubling every two to three days, the variant is expected to soon

### 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."

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 replace delta as the dominant example, she said, by Tuesday

### **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

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

London.

reported, indicating it may cause less severe disease than delta but be better at evading

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

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

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

"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 avail-

able 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

### 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.

Janasanyog/CF/2385/21





OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, **NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR** 

(CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice Main Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in are are invited for the Fallowing works

	Tenders are invited for the Following wor					
S NO	System Tender No. / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees			
1	87414	CONCERNATION OF PHANDURITO	in lacs)			
1	8/414 First Call	CONSTRUCTION OF BHANPURI TO KOKDI MELA GROUND APPROACH	631.61			
	23.11.2021	ROAD(LENGTH 2.27 KM.) I/C. CULVERTS				
	20.11.2021	AT DISTT. DURG.				
2	87415	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING AT	330.35			
	First Call	BLOCK - LUNDRA DISTT. SURGUJA (C.G.) (Work				
	23.11.2021	code -W18112)				
3	87435	onstruction of Govt. Girls College Building I/C. Water	455.56			
	First Call	C Supply & Sanitary Fittings, And Electrification				
	23.11.2021	Work At Balod Distt- Balod.				
4	87446	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING	330.35			
	First Call	AT KANSABEL DISTT. JASHPUR (C.G.)				
	24.11.2021	(Work code - W18110)				
5	87436	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. I.T.I. BUILDING	330.34			
	First Call	AT UDAIPUR DISTT. SURGUJA (C.G.)				
	24.11.2021	(Work code - W18113)				
6	87554	onstruction of Village Kikirpal Mata Mandir	290.35			
	Second Call	C To Nayapar Road Lenght 2.850 Km.				
	25.11.2021	I/C Bridges Culverts, Distt-Sukma. CGRIDCL				
7	87551	onstruction of Teligundra Matiya Road	656.81			
	First Call	C Length 2.20 K.M. At Distt. Durg.				
_	25.11.2021					
8	87578	Construction of Chaturdik Roads at Patan	1821.28			
	First Call	in Patan Vidhansabha Length 6.60 K.M.				
$\dashv$	25.11.2021	AT DISTT. DURG.				
9	87549	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. COLLEGE	463.43			
	First Call	BUILDING I/C.WATER SUPPLY, SANITERY				
	26.11.2021	FITTINGS.WATER HARWESTING & ELECTRIFICATION WORK AT				
		CHIRKO, DISTT. MAHASAMUND (C.G.)				
		(DN. MAHASAMUND)				
10	87593	CONSTRUCTION OF Demar Approach Road	735.26			
.	First Call	from Main Road (SH-22) Near Petrol Pump.	700.20			
	26.11.2021	Length 2.30 km In Distt DURG (C.G.)				
11	87730	Construction of Punjipathara to Tamnar-Milupara	5849.77			
	First Call	Road Length 27.50 Km (C.C. Road)				
	27.11.2021	(Actual Length 26.00 Km). CGRIDCL				
12	87760	Construction Of High Level Bridge I/C	460.92			
	Second Call	Approaches Across Achholi Nalla				
	27.11.2021	In Km. 28/2 Of Motipur(Rajnandgaon)-				
		Dongargarh Road. CGRIDCL				
13	87791	CONSTRACTION OF STRENGTHENIG &				
	Second Call	RECONSTRUCTION OF CHARAIDAND-BAGICHA				
	29.11.2021	ROAD 10.00 Km AND CONSTRACTION OF				
		TAMBAKACHHAR TO JABLA BASTI 3.40 Km				
		BLOCK- BAGICHA DISTT, JASHPUR,				
		(C.G.) (Work code - W17543, W17613).CGRIDCL	2737.34			
14	87927	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE	1103.58			
	Second Call	I/C APPROACHES ACROSS MEDHAKI RIVER				
	01.12.2021	IN KM 1/4 ON KOYALIBEDA-DUTA ROAD, CGRIDCL				
15	87928	CONSTRUCTION OF HARANGARH BAZAR TO	435.05			
	Second Call	MARKAMPARA ROAD FROM KM 1/2 TO				

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

4/10 = 4.00 KM, INCLUDING CULVERTS

DISTT. KANKER (CGRIDCL)

01.12.2021

R.O. NO.- 65881/3

R.O. Date: 15/12/2021

Chief Enginee (Central Tender Cell Office Of Engineer In Chie P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Naga

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

NIT No: - e-PHE/GWDS/63 of 12/2021, Dated: - 15-12-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir etenders are invited in 02 Cover System for Construction of tube wells at below mentioned site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

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

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

### **Critical Dates / Information.**

- 1. Publishing Date: 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 2. Period of Downloading of Bids :- 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 24-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 3. Period of Submission of bids :- 16-12-2021 (02:00 P.M) to 24-12-2021 (02:00 P.M)
- 4. Date of opening of Tender. :- 27-12-2021 at (02:00 P.M)
- 5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir- 190011.
- 6. Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
- 7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days

eing conducted for sale of scrap material.

Proposed E-Auction Dates

6, 12, 20 & 28 January 2022

8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in 9. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration"

format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document.

Jurisdiction of lots

Dy.CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur 0551-2283558

mplaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen has book deal

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

announced Company 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 outhappens 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.

### accident in Australia Sydney: Five children died

and four others were in critical island state of Tasmania.

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

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

Australian Broadcasting Corporation showed police

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

### **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 UNbacked 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 coun-

"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 poortries have acquired the most of the world's vaccine supplies, causing vast inequality in access to jabs. Israel was one of the first countries to vaccinate its population.

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

2947/2021

### er nations. Wealthier coun-**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No.:- NR/FUELLCELL/DEMU/P1/2021 Dt 15.12.2021 Open Tender is invited for "Hydrogen Fuel cell based DPRS with regenerative braking system 1200 KW DEMU

: Rs. 84.20 Crore (Eighty Four Crore Twenty Lacs only) Approximate Value Earnest Money deposit: Rs. 43,60,000/- (Fourty Three lac Sixty Thousand only)

Option A (valid up to 31.12.2021) or Option B as per Clause No. 3.0 of Special Tender Conditions and Instructions to Tenderer (s)

Submission of Tender : 17.01.2022 to 31.01.2022

Date & Time of Closing : 31.01.2022 at 15:00 Hrs Date & Time of Opening: 31.01.2022 at 15:30 Hrs Completion Period : 30 Months

Please visit website https://www.ireps.gov.in/ Tender Notice (NR/FUELLCELL/DEMU/P1/2021 Dt 15.12.2021) for Tender Document and other details along with necessary corrigendum/amendments, if any which shall be available on IREPS website Contact Person :-

Chief Mechanical Engineer/IT

1st Floor, Annexe-I, Baroda House, New Delhi-1100001

Contact no: 9717639460/9717637480 Email: cmeitnrly@gmail.com

Mechanical Branch, Northern Railway Head Quarter,

### No. NR/FuelCell/DEMU/P1/2021 Dated 15.12.2021

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 

after 6 months," said Katia Bruxvoort. afternoon, omicron was already the most common variant in In many ways, omicron remains a mystery. Hints are emerging from South Africa, where it was first

> 5 children die in bouncy castle

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 The school was holding a

child died in the hospital.

investigation is underway.

officers consoling each other as paramedics provided first aid to Parents arrived at the

together and support one another.'

Dv.CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar 0581-2518138 5, 11, 19 & 25 January 2022 7, 13, 21 & 27 January 2022 Sr. DMM/Lucknow 0522-2233113 4, 11, 18 & 25 January 2022 Sr. DMM/Varanasi Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar 0581-2518104 6, 12, 20 & 28 January 2022

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Auction Notice No.: 13/2021-22

E-Auction Program for the Month of January-2022 All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auction

Type of Material: Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc. In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction will be ontinued on the subsequent days also. • Details of Auction catalogue, Procedurand Conditions of Sale are available at www.ireps.gov.in • This auction mme is also available on N.E. Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

■ TECHNOFAB ENGINEERING Regd. Office: 913, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, CIN : L74210DL1971PLC005712 Tel : +91-11-2641-1931 / 2641-5961

Email: cs@technofabengineering.com NOTICE This is to inform that a Board meeting is scheduled to be held on **22 December** 2021 at the corporate office of the

Company to consider and approve the

financial results for the quarter and six month ended 30 September 2021.

Please take note that the trading window

will remain closed for the concerned

persons upto 24 December 2021. For Technofab Engineering Limited Arun Singh Company Secretary Date: 16/12/2021

## Place: New Delh

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

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

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

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

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

## **Banking services hit as** employees go on strike

tions 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. strike call has been given by United Forum of Bank Union (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank unions including All Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) 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

According to AIBEA General Secretary C H Venkatachalam, 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 try.

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

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 coun-

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

Mumbai: Equity indices eked out modest gains on Thursday after a four-session losing streak, in tandem with an upmove in global markets

despite a hawkish tilt by the US Federal Reserve. A rebounding rupee also bolstered sentiment, though unabated selling by foreign institutional investors capped the upside, traders said.

After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 113.11 points or 0.20 per cent higher at 57,901.14. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 27 points or 0.16 per cent to

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

In contrast, Maruti, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and SBI were

among the laggards, slipping up to 1.51 per cent. "Domestic bourses closed flat with a mild positive bias despite an upbeat economic outlook by the US Fed. Domestic weakness was due to FII selling and moderation in retail activity," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

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

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

"As all the major events are over now, we

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **DATA PROTECTION BILL**

### Panel suggests greater accountability for social media, inclusion of personal and non-personal data

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Thereafter, Committee heard the views and suggestions of 31 experts, representatives of statuary, regulatory, government bodies, data experts, cyber security experts as well as organizations representing Industry and professional bodies.

The committee has also taken view points from Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Reserve Bank of India

The committee members also went to study tours to Mumbai ,and Bengaluru

data centres of SBI and UIDAI; Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC) and Central Processing Centre of Income Tax Department.

The committee also received dissent notes from Manish Tewari, Ms. Mahua Moitra, Gaurav Gogoi, Ritesh Pandey, Vivek K. Tankha, Jairam Ramesh, Derek O' Brien and Dr. Amar Patnaik on the

In a dissent note, Vivek K Tankha said blanket protection to the government agency is neither constitutional nor in the interest or people's democ-

India already has many data assets of national importance including Aadhar, Passport Seva, Open Data Stack (data.gov.in), MCA21, GSTN, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), WŔIS (Jalshakti), DISHA (rural development) and Bhuvan (ISRO).

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

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

### **COMMODITY TRADING**

### Sebi comes out with cut-off time framework for risk parameter file generation PTI ■ NEW DELHI

apital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday came out with a framework pertain ing to cut-off time for generation of last risk parameter file used for collecting margins from commodities traders. Also, the regulator modi-

fied 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

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

## BSES wins prestigious

**Greentech Awards** 

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

l Mrs Jyoti Basanti Minj intend to purchase Flat No. 803 Block GH4 DDA LIG flat Rohin! Sector-28, New Delhi from Mr Raja Jepher Beck. I wish to create mortgage on the said property for a loan from SBI, RACPC Rohini Pear the said property for adain from 5b.; Au-Cr-ckomin Fabet Best Height 1 NSP Pritampura Delhi 34 (Br code 15653) Original possession letter dt 26/7/12, Original possession slip, Original NOC for water and electricity issued from DDA relating to the property have been lost. FIR has been lodged with police vide LR no 1061553/2021 dt 16/12/21. In case any party has any claim beweret the said property the care property has a property has a property the said proper claim towards the said property the same should b lodged with the intending party and also with the abo stated branch of SBI within 15 days from the publica Irs Jyoti Basanti Minj R/O H-3/532nd floor Sector 16

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Gurbakshish Singh Batra is the owner of Property bearing MCD no.1511, Plot no.54,55 and 56 measuring 266 no. 1511, Frot no.54,55 and 55 measuring 265 sq, vds siluated at Kotta Mubarakpur Known as Chunk Chambelee-wala Wazir Nagar New Delhi vide 2 Relinquishment Deeds dated 8/3/21 and 8/3/21 (Doc No. 1195 & 1196) executed by Harpal Singh Batra through Ajay Kuamr Malik, Rani Malik, Rakhi Luthra (legal heirs of Late Ram Singh).

Rani Malik, Rakhi Luthra (legal heirs of Late Ram Singh)
All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, len, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, falling which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) handoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

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

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

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

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

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

"There is ample opportunity for landlords across the spectrum from manufacturing to charging infrastructure," it said. Significant land around 1300 acres will be required pan-India to set up 110 GWh battery manufacturing capacity by 2030.

The consultant estimated that India will need about 26,800 public charging spots by 2025, requiring space of about 13.5 million square feet.

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

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

Date 16.12.2021

## Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (GMVN A Got. of Uttarakhand) CIN US1101UR1976SGC004299 Phone: 0135-2746817, 2749308 E-Mail: mis-gmvn@gmail.com

GMVN invites Tenders from Nationalized Banks / M.N.C./ Government / Semi Government / N.G.O / Other reputed organisations/ Private Person for providing office building of GMVN on Lease/ Rent situated at C-50, Sector-62, Noida performing permissible institutional activities for the period of five years.

Tender details are available at www.uktenders.gov.in and/or

E-TENDER NOTICE

w.gmvnonline.com. Last date of submission of Bid is 31.12.2021, upto 1400 Hrs. Further updates will be available only on these websites therefore interested parties are advised to visit these websites regularly. Managing Director

C.G.Police Housing Corporation, Raipur H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG)

Phone No. 0771- 4020028 **TENDER NOTICE (1st CALL)** 

Online Tenders are invited according to Key dates for (Group-A) Supply, Constructio and erection of Prefabricated Barracks (13 Nos) for Paramilitary Force of sandwich pu ental works at Padergaon, Antagarh Block, District - Kank & (Group-B) Construction of Road, digging & construction of bund temporary kitcher morcha, toilet block, entrance gate, site leveling and temporary koth at Padergaor Antagarh Block, Distt. – Kanker. Tender System No. – 88 from 16.12.2021 (17:30) to 28.12.2021 (17:30pm) in CGPHC Portal https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in along with other details.

**Managing Director** 

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Revised Timings of 12618 H.Nizamuddin-Ernakulam

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

Rest of information will hold good.

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

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



RailMadad

Helpline No.



Visit RailMadad website: railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

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

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

global policy and co-ordinated action for regulating cryp-"I think cryptocurrencies

C.G. Police Housing Corporation, Raipur H.Q. - Old PHQ, Civil Line, Raipur (CG) Phone No. 0771- 4020028

MANUAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE (1st CALL)

Manual Tenders are invited for providing and fixing of Fencing with punched tape necrtina Coils (PTCC) conforming to defence specification No.IND/ENGG./PRO/1245

B or CQAE/5660/1602a & its connected drawing of 1050mm dia in close condition pyramid shape i.e. 3 tiers two row at bottom and one at top the five rows of RPT i transportation and cost of all materials and labour etc. complete. at Padergaon, Block

transportation and cost of all materials and labour etc. Complete, at Padergaon, Block – Antagarh, Distt. – Kanker by Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation, OLD PHQ, Civil Lines Raipur up to 15:00 hours 29.12.2021. Tender will be opened at 16:00 hours. Tender form will be issued up to 16:30 hours on 28.12.2021. Further details may be obtained from the office of Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation during working hours.

Managing Director

**Date Extension Notice-1** 

M)/DDN/2021-22 invited by Executive Engineer (Civil- Maintenance)

Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun is hereby extended as

Last date for submission of bids on website: Upto 17:00 hrs of 23rd Dec 2021

Last date of submission of hard copies of bids: Upto 17:00 hrs of 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement porta

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd , Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulol

NIT No. 20/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:-Construction of

Parapets on left side of chilla Power Channel from kaudia bridge-I to

NIT No. 21/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage: Providing & Fixing

Concertina Coil Fencing for the premises of officer transit camp and office of the general manager (SHP) at MB-II Colony, Rishikesh.

NIT No. 22/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Construction of

Basic Amenity & Miscellaneous Civil Works at Virbhadra Barrage

2. Estimated Value of Tender:- Rs. 24.55 Lakh, Rs. 13.71 Lakh & Rs

Date of availability of bid document on website:- 15 December, 2021 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST).

. Last Date for Submission of Tender: -04 January, 2022 upto 17:00 Hrs. (IST) For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.H.E.D CIRCLE TONK

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS THROUGH e-procurement system

NIT No. 26/2021-22 Online tenders through e-procurement system are hereby invited, on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from enlisted contractors with the department in appropriat

class under the Government of Rajasthan and enlisted contractors with CPWD

Postal, Telecom, Railways, MES, other state Govt./ Central Govt, undertaking

idder who wish to participate in online bidding will have to procure digital certifica

as per IT Act-2000 to sign their electronic bids. Offers which are not digitally signed will not be accepted. Bidder shall submit their offer in Electronic format on abo

Submission of Rupees 50 stamp paper original physically on dated 05.01.2022 up

निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. पर देखें व डाउनलोड किये जा सक । घरोहर राशि एवं टेण्डर राशि ई चालान के माध्यम से जमा किये जावे।

Nit No 26/2021-22

PHE2122A4768

10.12.221 to 04.01.2022 UP TO 18:00 Hrs

05.01.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.

Superintending Engine

PHED Cirice Toni

organization equivalent to "AA" Class of Rajasthan provided they meet out prescrib eligibility criteria for the following works. The details may be seen on .the DIPR we

site and tenders can be downloaded from website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com".

Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from inter-

UJVN LIMITED (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135- 2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763507

NOTICE INVITING TENDER दिनांकः 15.12.2021

Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance

Executive Engineer (Civil)

Date 10/12/2021

Date of opening of bids on website: at 12.30 hrs of 24th Dec 2021

http://uktenders.gov.in"

contractors for following works:-

1. Tender Notice Reference:

20.42 Lakh respectively.

No.4750-4757

mentioned website.

Work detail of NIT

Available/Submission of

Opening of PQ tender

DIPR/C/12744/2021

UBN NO

पत्र सं. 984,

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

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

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

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

economist, no individual country could solve this (cryptocurrencies) problem on its own given the complex cross-border

between October 26 and 29 PTI this year where they visited the

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

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1.	Geeta Tomar/ Vivek Kumar (19700044301 & QZGUR00005014744)	Plot No.116- A, Third Floor (Back Side) With Roof Terrace Rights, Khasra No. 220 & 221, Village Nawada, Bhagwati Garden Extn. Block- A, Uttam Nagar New Delhi/ December 13, 2021	July 08, 2021 Rs. 13,89,344/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sanjay/ Santosh Kumari (13000002323 & QZGUR00005034992)	Back Side Built Up Third Floor, With Roof Rights, out of Property Bearing No.11, Khasra No. 78/5 & 67/25/1, Village Hastsai, Mahesh Vihar Colony, Om Vihar-lia, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, Delhi/December 13, 2021	July 08, 2021 Rs. 23,21,025/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Subhash Chand/ Nisha Khandelwal (13100001794 & QZNOD00005035547)	Pro No. 40/19, UGF (Front Side), Gali No. 5, Raj Nagar Part- 1, Palam Colony, Delhi, New Delhi- 110045/ December 13, 2021	July 08, 2021 Rs. 22,48,389/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date : December 17, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Date: 15.12.2021

### **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

No. RMSA/CW/RIDF-XXVI/1475/2021/22

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

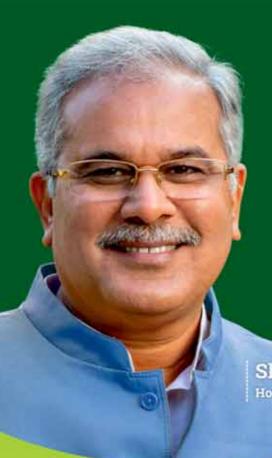
Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 20-12-2021 (0900 hours) to 10-01-2022 (1400

The bidders must be enrolled in <a href="www.assamtenders.gov.in">www.assamtenders.gov.in</a>

SI	Package no.	Name of work	Approximat e value of work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit		Tender
			(Rs. in lakh)	(in month)	General	Reserved category	cost
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, Palahartari, 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						Director

Samagra Shiksha, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2382/21



# CHHATTISGARH MODEL

**Integrating Nyay, Service & Empowerment** 

Shri Bhupesh Baghel Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

### Farmers

- Debt free farmers, input subsidies improving productivity and farm income, strengthening overall economy
- Financial assistance to rural landless laborers

### Cattle Farmers

- Institutional purchase of cowdung adding a whole new avenues of income
- Uplifting rural economy by enabling value addition to cowdung

### Women

- Prioritizing women nutrition and health
- Empowering women, providing them equal opportunities

### Tribals

- Landmark decisions of returning occupied land
- Decision to review pending litigations against tribals in the quest for delivering justice

### Forest Dwellers

- □ Expediting Forest Rights Titles delivery
- □ Declaring MSP for Minor Forest Produce, first in the country
- □ Procurement of 52 types of MFPs from 7 being earlier

### > Youth

- Better employment avenues for youth
- Inclusion of a new category in Public Works Contractors, enabling and inspiring youth towards entrepreneurship

### > Health Care

- Delivering quality health services to citizens' doorsteps in urban & rural areas
- Making quality generic medicines available at heavily discounted prices

### Education

- Providing level playing field in education through world class educational infrastructure
- ☐ State of the Art Government English **Medium Schools**
- □ New Centres of Excellence for higher education

### > Industries

- □ New industrial policy for limitless & inclusive investment possibilities
- Paradigm shift for incentivising industrial growth in tribal areas

### > Environment

- Chhattisgarh declared the cleanest state, three times in a row
- □ Scientific disposal of 1600 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day
- Promoting plantation & increasing forest coverage areas

### Sports

- Nurturing prodigies in sports
- □ Access to sports infrastructure & provision of high end training capabilities

### > Electricity

- Electricity bill reduced by half for millions of consumers
- Electric power transforming agriculture, industries & life in remote forests

### > Urban Development

- Projects to provide assured tap water supply to each house hold
- Doorsteps delivery of all citizen services through Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana
- Providing land ownership rights to slum dwellers





Pro **People** 

# 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 commentintrospection led them towards healthier relationships than before. The differ-

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 semiurban 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.

## **7**indagi ropes in Fawad Khan Actors FAWAD KHAN and SANAM SAEED roped in as Zindagi's yet-to-be-titled show. By TEAM VIVA

Land Sanam Saeed for their forthcoming original which will stream on ZEE5. The yyet-toically 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. Harbouring 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 announce-

ment of the new series, Shailja Kejriwal, from 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

ed that the process of reflection and ence in the trend of intentional dating between individuals residing in urban areas and those belonging to rural or semi-urban areas was comparatively Blend of mystique and fantasy

> 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 pio-neer, 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 film-makers 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

and fantasy, making it a fascinat-"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

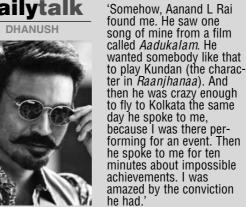
Saeed expressed, "I'm

## TRENDB



ing 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



### 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.



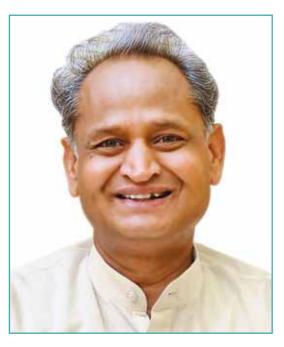
### RANBIR KAPOOR MISSES HIS FATHER

Actor RANBIR KAPOOR is all set to return to the big screen with his superhero saga Brahmastra, helmed by Ayan Mukerji. 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 the results of this film, during the politics of this film, during the politics of this film.

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

### 'Being a village boy, I never thought of becom-









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

Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

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

# Achievement of Three Years Good Governance, Development and Prosperity

### • Excellent Corona Management

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

 Resolution of 'No One Should Sleep Hungry' during Corona

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

- Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana Each family is getting free treatment of Rs 5 lakh
  - Election Manifesto announced as a policy document 70% promises fulfilled
  - Loan of approx Rs 15,000 Crore of 21 lakh farmers waived off till now
  - No increase in electricity rates for farmers for 5 years
  - Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana
     Grant of Rs 1000 per month on electricity bills
     Electricity bills of small farmers are almost zero
     Grant of Rs 18,000 crore released so far
- 1 lakh unemployed got Government Jobs
  One Lakh recruitments under process, appointment to be made soon
  - Medical Colleges opening in 30 out of 33 districts in the State
    - Indira Mahila Shakti Yojana
      Fund of Rs 1000 crore for women empowerment

### **Udaan Yojana**

- Distribution of free sanitary napkins to all adolescent girls and women
- Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools
   87,293 students enrolled so far
   1200 schools are being opened in every village
   and town with a population of more than 5000

Launch • Foundation • Inauguration of

various works and schemes on the occasion of completion of three years of the State Government

### Saturday 18 December, 2021

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

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

Sunday 19 December, 2021 Launch

## Udaan

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

and

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

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

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

You are cordially invited