INDIA'S MOST TRUSTED

INCLUSIVE OF EDUCATION TIMES & DELHI TIMES | "APPLICABLE

Iranian Parliament has laid out six conditions for Tehran to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal with global powers in a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi published on Sunday

Australia will welcome int'l tourists on Monday after nearly two years of sealing its borders, relying on high Covid-19 vaccination rates to live with the pandemic as infections decline

Two votes and

dark glasses for

conjoined twins

Amritsar: Amritsar-based Sohan Singh and Mohan Singh, who are joined at the

hip, exercised their franchise

for the first time in the Punjab polls on Sunday. Officials

said the conjoined twins, tre-

ated as two separate voters,

were given dark glasses du-

ring voting to maintain the

secrecy of their ballots. The

twins said they are employed

in Punjab State Power Cor-

poration Limited but

draw only one

salary. PTI

UK is set to drop legal requirement to self-isolate for up to 10 days on testing positive for coronavirus as part of the govt's so-called 'living with Covid' plan, Downing Street indicates

PAGES 28 | CAPITAL | INVITATION PRICE ₹4.50; \*₹7.00 WITH ET OR ₹8.50 (₹7.00 IN FARIDABAD EDITION) WITH NAVBHARAT TIMES

Queen Elizabeth II has tested Covid +ve & is experiencing in symptoms, says Buckingham Palace. In a tweet, PM Modi has wished her speedy recovery

# 60% vote in 59 UP seats, rise in turnout at Yadav bastion

# 63.4% Polling In Punjab, Down From 76.8% In '17

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh/Lucknow: Punjab recorded an extensive dip in voter turnout from 76.8% in 2017 to 63.4% till 5pm on Sunday for the single-phase state assembly polls, while the third

#### ▶BJP-SAD tie-up? Netas keep options open, PAGE OPP

round of UP elections saw a marginal drop in polling at 60%, as opposed to 62.2% five years ago. Figures are likely to change marginally when the EC updates them on Monday.

Held under the shadow of Covid that restricted rallies and door-to-door canvassing as well as a yearlong farmers' stir, the Punjab election saw for the

### States must have power to recall guv: Kerala govt

mid repeated tussles with governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Kerala government has put forward a recommendation to the Centre that state assemblies should have powers to recall the governor. P10

### Wankhede booked over bar licence

criminal case has been fi-Aled against NCB's Mumbai ex-zonal director Sameer Wankhede for allegedly securing a bar licence fraudulently 25 years ago. P 10

### New accreditation rules arbitrary: EGI

ditors Guild of India urged government to withdraw the new media accreditation rules, terming them "vague and arbitrary" with "draconian clauses". P10

### **NE Delhi riots: Bail to** 4 in 3 murder cases

Delhi court has granted Abail to four persons in three murder cases related to the northeast Delhi riots after the sole witness did not identify the accused. P7

### Cop traces ₹17L gold forgotten on train

quick-thinking cop recently helped a family trace their jewellery worth Rs 17 lakh left behind on the Chennai Express after it reached Mumbai. P18

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to 228 for no loss in the 2nd

केनरा बैंक



**DHULL'S DOUBLE DELIGHT DEBUT** 

India's U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull became only the third batter in history after Gujarat's Nari Contractor (1952-53) and Maharashtra's Virag Awate (2012-13) to score a hundred in each innings on Ranji Trophy debut > Delhi's Dhull (113 not out off Services, 1964-65), Surinder 202 balls) and Dhruv Shorey Khanna (vs K'taka, 1978-79), (107 off 165 balls) took Delhi Madan Lal (vs Rlys, 1980-81),

96), Raman Lamba (vs Maha, innings against Tamil 1996-97) and Rishabh Pant Nadu before the players shook hands for a draw (vs J'khand, 2016-17) > Dhull is the 7th > In Ahd, less than Delhi batsman to a day after being post a century in Yash Dhull dropped from each innings of a India's Test squad, Pujara Ranji match,

struck an 83-ball joining MAK Pataudi (vs 91 for Saurashtra

### India Win T20 Series 3-0, Do A 'Double' On WI

India (184/5) beat West Indies (167/9) by 17 runs in the 3rd T20I and achieved a rare 'double' after earlier trouncing the visitors 3-0 in the ODIs.

Suryakumar Yadav (65 off 31 balls) put on 91 with Venkatesh Iyer (35 off 19) for 5th wkt as India scored 86 in last 5 overs **FULL COVERAGE P 15** 

Third phase of UP election saw a turnout of approx 60% in 59 constituencies across 16 districts of three regions - parts of western UP, Awadh and Bundelkhand

Imran Khan-led Pak govt is considering a

proposal to borrow gold from citizens to

increase the country's forex reserves that

over \$5bn in loans in 3 months, say reports

remain on a sliding path despite taking

According to EC, till 5 pm, Mainpuri district recorded highest jump in polling percentage by 1.9, followed by Etah 1.1, Kasganj 0.4% and Auraiya 0.05 %

Punjab witnessed 63.4% polling on Sunday till 5 pm

first time in the state's history a multi-cornered fight as new political combinations sprang up ahead of the polls. The key players include Congress, main opposition party AAP, the SAD-BSP alliance, and the coalition of BJP, ex-CM Amarinder Singh's Punjab Lok Congress and Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa's Shi-

### KCR meets Pawar, **Uddhav** in Mum to discuss non-BJP, non-Cong front

Mumbai: Embattled Telanga na CM K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday flew into Mumbai to meet his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray and NCP president Sharad Pawar for drafting a new agenda for setting up a non-BJP, non-Congress front with 'like-minded' parties. There was unanimity among the three leaders on the urgent need for a 'parivartan' (change), reports Prafulla Marpakwar.

The Telangana CM said Pawar "should take a lead in the formation of the front".

Attacking the NDA government over the "politics of revenge", Thackeray said: "We never believed in politics of revenge, it was neither Hindutva nor Indian culture... It's a worsening political environment. We have to bring our country on the right path. Who will be the PM can be discussed later. We will meet many political leaders from today onwards".

'Working on a plan', P 11

'Def consultant'

arrested for

duping bizmen

"he Delhi Police has arres-

ted a "defence consul-

tant" who duped scores of

businessmen of crores of ru-

pees on the pretext of hel-

ping them bag orders in the

defence ministry, internatio-

nal establishments and Ar-

my canteens. The accused, K

Venkata Krishna Murthi

(58), a resident of Dehradun,

is a chemical engineer who

posed as an IITian having

links with top officials of

that Murthi duped at least 31

people of roughly Rs 3.9 cro-

re. "He charged a 'consultan-

cy fee' at various stages (of

tenders) while assuring the

victims of a refund if they

didn't get the order. He would

then disappear with the mo-

ney," joint CP (EOW) Chhaya

Ajay Sharma (vs Rlys, 1995-

Sharma said. TNN P8

Initial probe revealed

DRDO, police said.

### **HIGHEST JUMP IN VOTING IN MAINPURI**

SP patron Mulayam blesses

younger brother Shivpal Yadav for the single-phase polls to decide fate of 1,304 candidates. including 93 women & two transgenders, contesting from 117 constituencies. Not a single

case of poll disruption reported romani Akali Dal (Sanyukt). Farmers' political outfit Sanyukt Samaj Morcha has also thrown in its hat for the first time. Sunday's vote will decide the fate of 1,304 candidates, including 93 women and two transgender aspirants, contes-

► Mansa repeats history, P 11

ting from 117 constituencies.

### Amid reunion, Karhal's best turnout since '74 Tarhal, the bastion of SP's

first family, on Sunday registered 62.3% turnout, the second highest in its history. The highest turnout was in 1974 when the constituency had witnessed 71.4% polling. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is contesting from this high-profile seat while BJP has fielded Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel, who is also an ex-PSO of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Meanwhile, the Yadav clan unitedly queued up to vote in their backyard Saifai on Sunday, dousing any undercurrent of tension. With an ailing Mulayam, who was wheeled into a booth at noon to cast vote, serving as the glue, the entire family had fallen in line. PAGE OPP

# PM slams SP, Cong: 'Some parties kind to terrorists, shield them for votebank'

Pankaj.Shah@timesgroup.com

Hardoi/Lucknow: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the conviction of 49 people in the Ahmedabad serial blasts case, calling it the fulfilment of his vow "to bring the perpetrators of jihadi terrorism to justice" and contrasting BJP's commitment to the country with SP's alleged image as "a patron of terrorists".

#### ▶ Dad dies day after Pune techie's acquittal, P 10

Modi said while BJP was committed to uplift the poor and focused on national security, parties like Akhilesh Yaday's SP had been "kind to terrorists". "I maintained silence for so many years since the Ahmedabad serial blasts case was being heard in court," he said. "Today, I am referring to this because these parties have been shielding terrorists just for the sake of protecting their vote bank, which is a very dangerous pattern," he said. "The blasts took place

I picked up the bloodsoaked soil and took a vow that my govt will track these terrorists even from 'paataal' (nether world) and punish them... Have you seen the poll symbol of SP? All the bombs in the initial blasts were planted on bicycles. I am so surprised, why did they use bicycles?

### Yogi's been better CM than I was: Rajnath

efence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday candidly admitted that Yogi Adityanath has been a better CM of UP than he was. PAGE OPP

when I was the CM of Gujarat. I can never forget that day when the earth was reddened by the blood of the victims..."

▶ 'Seen SP's symbol', P 11

# Girls in 2 K'taka colleges 'agree' to take practical tests today without hijab

SruthySusan.Ullas @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The pre-university (PU) II practical exams for science students in Bengaluru North are scheduled to start on Monday amid the hijab row in Karnataka, with education department officials claiming that students of the minority community have agreed not to

wear the religious headscarf

while taking the test.

"The Government PU College in Yelahanka and Bapu PU College in Yeshwantpur faced (hijab) protests. I went to both and convinced the students. I told them we have to respect the high court's interim order," Sriram GK, deputy director of PU education of Bangalore North, said.

### 'Take action for child rights violation'

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has asked police to initiate action against some journalists for allegedly violatingchildren's rights by filming them removing their burqa and hijab on school campuses, and for also chasing students in hijabs for photographs. P12

Girl students had protested outside the Yelahanka college Friday for not being allowed in classrooms in hijab. The college, which has no uniform, had allowed girls in hijab in classrooms until the row broke out.

► Most took hall tickets, P 12

a week, sharp fall in cases continues

While fresh cases declined

# **Khattar: Haryana** job quota won't hit industries

Taryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has justified the state's 75% domicile quota in private sector, saying the law has been drafted carefully so that the industry is not impacted and at the same time

**TOI INTERVIEW P 18** ▶Hry mulls amending building bylaws, P 12

locals are benefited. His remarks, in an interview to Akhilesh Singh, come days after the Supreme Court set aside the HC's stay on the reservation. "If industries don't give jobs (to locals), what use are they," Khattar says. P18

### Groom, 8 others killed as SUV falls into river

23-year-old bridegroom land his brother were among nine people killed after their SUV fell into Chambal river from a bridge in Rajasthan's Kota Sunday. Police said the driver may have lost control due to morning drowsiness. The wedding party from Sawai Madhopur was on its way to Ujjain. P10

# Delhi cop falls to death on wedding day

A nuj Singh, 28, a constable with Delhi Police, was preparing to leave for his wedding venue in Ghaziabad on Sunday when he received a call during the rituals and went up to the terrace of his house in Meerut to take it. He slipped and fell while sp-

# eaking and died before he could be taken to hospital. P10 Omigone? Covid deaths nearly halve in

Amit.Bhattacharya @timesgroup.com

ndia's Omicron-driven third wave of Covid-19 appears hurtling towards an early end. While cases continued to fall sharply for the fourth week running, deaths from the virus reduced in the week ending Sunday to a little over half the number reported in the previous seven days.

As the country recorded a second week of declining fatalities, there was a significant drop in deaths in the current week (February 14-20). India saw 1,898 deaths in the week down 44% from last week's toll of 3,366. These figures exclude deaths from earlier periods

### **FLATTENING FAST** India's Weekly Covid Numbers In 3rd Wave 7.841 Jan Jan 31-Jan 10-16 17-23 Feb 6 7-13 14-20 24-30 \*Excludes deaths from earlier periods

### **US Omicron toll 176% higher than Delta's**

The Omicron wave is breaking, but deaths have surpassed the numbers from the Delta wave in the United States and are about 176% higher. In 14 states, the average daily death toll is higher now than it was two weeks ago. P18

for the fourth straight week, down 56% from last week's taleach of the past two weeks haly of 3.94 lakh. ve seen infections dip by more that are being added to the toll. than half. India reported 1.73 ▶16,820 daily cases, P 12

lakh new cases this week

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Incidents of small fires up, dip in such cases at home | 7



SUNRISE 6.53AM (TUE)

SUNSET 6.15PM (MON)

MOONRISE 10.52PM (MON)

MOONSET 10.17AM (TUE)

1,800 people who can't go out inoculated so far under Delhi govt's initiative to provide vaccination at doorstep | 6



STO 2,545 DEAD RECOVERED 26,101 18,27,425

Birders witness dip in count on Big Bird Day | 5





Mobile phones are now prohibited in Afghanistan, everyone has to voluntarily submit their phones to Taliban government



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# **CWG-era Street Furniture Ready For Retouch**

# Installed In 2010 Near Sports Venues For Games, Govt Refurbishing Them; To Get Private Player For Upkeep

Sidhartha.Roy@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: During the 2010 Commonwealth Games, Delhi government had beautified roads leading to sports venues by streetscaping, resurfacing of roads, streetlighting, etc. In the past decade, the sleek information panels, benches, toilets, kiosks, etc have not only faced the elements, but also vandalism. Delhi government is now working to bring back their lustre and add more facilities.

Earlier, the area around Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, which was the venue for wrestling, cycling and gymnastics events during CWG, and the stretch up to Moolchand in south Delhi were taken up for maintenance of infrastructure, replacing missing facilities and installing new street furniture. The process has now started on similar facilities near and on roads leading to Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range and Siri Fort Sports Complex, where badminton and squash events were held.

Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Limited (DTTDC) has floated a tender for a concessionaire for maintenance, operation and installation of street furniture, primarily benches and dustbins, on PWD roads on Build-Operate-Transfer basis.

The bid document states that during CWG, PWD had entrusted the responsibility to DTTDC for entering into concession agreement for developing temporary or semi-permanent street furniture, like traffic or police booths, vending kiosks, public toilets, tree guards, dustbins, information panels, benches, free standing panels, autorickshaw prepaid booths, etc.

One of the clusters included Siri Fort Sports Complex and Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, Maintenance work would now be carried out on sections of August Kranti Marg, Siri Fort Road, Balbir Saxena Marg and Mehrauli Badarpur Road. The concessionaire can

RESTORING **LOST SHEEN** 

STREET FURNITURE NEAR SIRI FORT SPORTS COMPLEX AND KARNI SINGH SHOOTING RANGE

Facility	Existing	To be installed	
Dustbins	2	108	S.
Police booths	5	10	ell ell
Benches	11	31	
Panels and flag poles	2	32	
Public toilets	10	5	
Vending kiosks	1	6	
Information panels	4	4	

During the 2010 Commonwealth

Games, Delhi government had

taken up a beautification drive

of roads through streetscaping,

resurfacing, and installing new

streetlights and street furniture

CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation Ltd (DTTDC) had entered into a concession agreement for installation and maintenance of furniture on PWD roads leading to Commonwealth Games venues

rtside Indira Gandhi Arena

Balbir Saxena Marg

Mehrauli-

Badarpur Road

Project

arterial

roads

sites along

DTTDC now plans to engage a concessionaire for maintenance of street furniture for a period of 3 years

August

Siri Fort Road

Kranti Marg

Features Dustbins to have twin biodegradable and non-

biodegradable bins > Prefabricated street furniture, involving minimal on-site work

Modular design for easy assembly and shifting, if required

on steel benches to protect people from heated surfaces

Wooden cladding

Vandalism-proof design

> Full or partial advertisements allowed on all street furniture, except benches and dustbins

earn revenue through advertising on street furniture, except benches and dustbins. The concessionaire would

have to install missing street furniture and repair damaged items in the same design and colour of the existing ones. However, for benches and dustbins, specifications and design could be modified. Public toilets and vending kiosks would have to be kept open for use by the public during operational hours and maintenance would be taken up when permitted by authorities.

As part of the project, 108 new dustbins, 31 new benches, 32 flagpoles, five public toilets, six vending kiosks, 10 police booths and four information panels would be added. The street furniture would be prefabricated, ideally with a modular design, so that not only minimal work would be done onsite, but they would be easy to assemble and shift. The furniture would also be made vandal-proof and steel benches would have wooden cladding to save users from heated or cold surfaces.

# 7-star Swachhta ranking in sight, NDMC plans 100% machine cleaning in Lutyens'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To get a sevenstar ranking in the forthcoming Swachhta Survekshan, New Delhi Municipal Council has launched the initiative of "100% mechanical sweeping" of Lutyens' Zone.

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said in the first phase mechanical sweeping work would cover 14 blocks and seven radial roads of Connaught Place as it was the biggest and most prominent commercial market situated in the heart of the capital. The entire cleaning work of Connaught Place would be done with the help of mechanised sweepers, pressure jetting ma-



The project will also cover prominent markets in NDMC areas

chines, vacuum litter pickers and other equipment.

"The need of the hour is comprehensive planning of

housekeeping through mechanical means instead of a manual process on the lines

of airport housekeeping.

Tenders will be floated within 3-4 months. In the second phase, the project will be implemented for Hanuman Mandir Vatika and Baba Kharak Singh Emporia Building area," said Upadhyay.

According to the proposed Standard Operating Procedures, work at Connaught Place would be divided into seven parts covering the inner, middle and outer circles, radial roads, parking areas, corridors, courtyards, public plaza, footpaths and paved areas. Sweeping, washing, scrubbing and maintenance work would be divided into two parts. In the first duration, sweeping would be done at night after shops close

R-51

from 11pm onwards. In the second duration, sweeping would be done during daytime.

Currently, sweeping work in parking areas, corridors, courtyards and pavements are carried out by workers of the health department. Greening of the area is carried out by the horticulture department and mechanised sweeping of the main roads is done by the civil department.

The duration of the tender would be of two years. The private company would use scrubbing machines for corridors and granite footpath of the market and washing of walls, railings and corners would be done through pressure jetting machines.

# Beautify roundabouts for Azadi Mahotsav by Mar, corpns told

Siddhanta.Mishra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: All roundabouts in the city will get a facelift by the end of March, with directions issued by Union ministry of urban development to all three municipal corporations.

The issue came up in a meeting held by the lieutenant governor Anil Baijal last week over the ongoing plans and programs of celebrating 75 years of Independence in the city. The commissioners of the civic bodies—South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation and East Delhi Municipal Corporation were also present in the meet. The corporations were instructed on the identification and then beautifiMINISTRY LETTER SAYS The action plan should actively

participation cation of roundabouts under respective jurisdictions.

encourage citizens'

'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) is a central initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence. The ministry of housing and development had earlier asked all the state administrations to identify roundabouts for beautification with a fixed timeline and the theme of the celebration.

"The action plan should actively encourage citizens'

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participation," said the ministry's letter to all the states. The Centre has made the

initiative a part of the Swachh Surveskshan, where performance under this activity will also be assessed under this year's ranking. "Prepare an action plan for

beautification with a detailed timeline for completion before March 31, 2022, which should encourage the maximum citizen's participation," says an order of the south corporation to all its zonal offices. During the meeting with Ba-

ijal, it was also announced that the government would work on printing a booklet in vernacular languages, detailing all the activities for celebrating 75 years of Independence.

21.02.2022

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Chhattisgarh Police Housing Corporation Limited

Reg. Office: Old Police Headquarters, S.I.B. Building, Civil Lines, RAIPUR (C.G.),

Email ID:cgphcl.finance@gmail.com,

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Mantri Police Awas Yojna and is having term loans from banks under multiple banking arrangement. The Corporation is looking for better interest rate and terms for a term loan

of 599 Crores. In this regard, the Corporation invites banks and financial institutions to

by Sovereign Guarantee from State Govt. of Chhattisgarh.
In this regard a pre-EOI meeting is organised on 28.02.2022 at 04:00 P.M. at the

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पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002

### Tender Notice

Dean invites online e-tender for Centage Charges on percentage basis from eligible Central / State / Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) / Autonomous Bodies for taking up the Annual Repair and Maintenance (Civil & Electrical) of buildings and Operation / Maintenance of Equipment's and plants in the ESIC Medical College & Hospital, NIT-3, Faridabad, Haryana for one year on or before 14/03/2022, 02:00 PM. Details can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.esic.nic.in/tenders">http://www.esic.nic.in/tenders</a> and https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Dr. Asim Das, Dean

**Division Mangaon** e-Tender Notice No. 03 for 2021-2022 (IInd Call)

Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran

The Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Mangaon invite e-Tender for the following work under Jal Jeevan Mission

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.Lakhs)
1	Lodhiwali Water supply scheme Tal. Khalapur, Dist. Raigad	931.20

Scheme details available from 21/02/2022 on website www.mahatender gov.in for detailed information,

DGIPR/2021-2022/4497

Date: 14/02/2022

(V.K. Suryawanshi) **Executive Engineer** MJP Division Mangaon



# छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

### // सर्वसंबंधितों को सूचना //

भारत सरकार पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स दीपका ओपन कास्ट कोल माईन प्रोजेक्ट, साउथ ईस्टर्न कोल फिल्ड्स लिमिटेड, दीपका क्षेत्र, तहसील-कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) द्वारा प्रस्तावित क्षमता विस्तार के तहत कोल माईन क्षमता-40 मिलियन टन/वर्ष(पीक), लीज एरिया-1999.386 हेक्टेयर पर्यावरण स्वीकृति हेत् लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तृत किया गयाँ है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति / सुझाव/ विचार/ टींका-टिप्पणी इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, तहसील ऑफिस के पास, रामपुर, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तृत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 23/03/2022 समय : प्रातः 11.00 बजे, स्थल- प्रगति नगर मैदान, प्रगति नगर कॉलोनी, दीपका, तहसील-कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-1. लोक सनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग

का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा। 2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा

समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। 3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा। 4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी

समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों को अक्षराशः पालन कियाँ जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथासंशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालिक-सार हिंदी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सीडी (सॉफ्ट कापी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटॅल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.), कलेक्टर कार्यालय, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, कोरबा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), अनुविभागीय अधिकारी(राजस्व), कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.), मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, दीपका, जिला-कोरबा सरपंच/सर्चिव, ग्राम पंचायत-बेलटिकरी, झाबर, सिरकी, चैनपुर, रतीजा, रैंकी, मलगांव, हरदी बाजार, अमगांव, रलिया एवं कटकी डबरी एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक सेक्टर-19, नवॉ रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

> सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायप्र, अटल नगर, जिला- रायप्र





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### Office of the Executive Engineer Trans. Line Maintt. **Division 2nd Pampore** J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

e-NIT No. TLMD II/ 27 of 2021-22

**NOTICE INVITING e-Bids** dt.: 17.02.2022.

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT online e-bids are hereby invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore from experienced, reputed, competent and financially sound manufacturers/Companies/Firms/Joint Ventures/authorized dealers/contractors fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified in the Bidding Document for "UP GRADATION OF 132 KV MIRBAZAR-WANPOH D/C TRANSMISSION LINE BY WAY OF REPLACING OLD 0.2 ACSR PANTHER BY AAAC 37/3.45 FOR PROVIDING SUPPLY TO NAVAYUGA QAZIGUND EXPRESSWAY PVT. LTD. FOR PERMANENT VENTILLATION AND DEDICATED POWER ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM IN J&K UT".

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of bid document	Period of completion
UP GRADATION OF 132 KV MIRBAZAR-WANPOH D/C TRANSMISSION LINE BY WAY OF REPLACING OLD 0.2 ACSR PANTHER BY AAAC 37/3.45 FOR PROVIDING SUPPLY TO NAVAYUGA QAZIGUND EXPRESSWAY PVT. LTD. FOR PERMANENT VENTILLATION AND DEDICATED POWER ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEM	150.14 lacs	As per Govt. circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated 22.12.2020 and Circular No. FD-Codes/233/2021-02-27 dated 10.02.2022, bidders are exempted from EMD. However Bidders will have to make a declaration on Stamp Paper of Rs. 100 that in case of any default on account of wrong declaration, submission of fake documents, hiding or concealing any information etc, the bidder will be blacklisted from participating in any of the future bids and the licensee of such bidder will be revoked for a minimum period of three years.	Rs. 3000/= (Non- refundable In the form of DD)	45 days

Procedure for tendering:

DIP No.: DIPK-NB-7206/21

The bidding documents can be downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from

The e-bids can be uploaded on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 17.02.2022, 16:30 Hrs. to

04.03.2022 upto 14:00 Hrs. The complete bidding process will be on line.

The technical & commercial bids shall be opened on-line in the Office of Executive TLMD-II Pampore on 05.03.2022 at 14:00 Hrs. or any other subsequent day convenient to tender

opening authority. Any other information regarding this tender (e-tendering process) can be had from the office of

the Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore Kashmir.

TLMD-II Pampore.

**Executive Engineer** 



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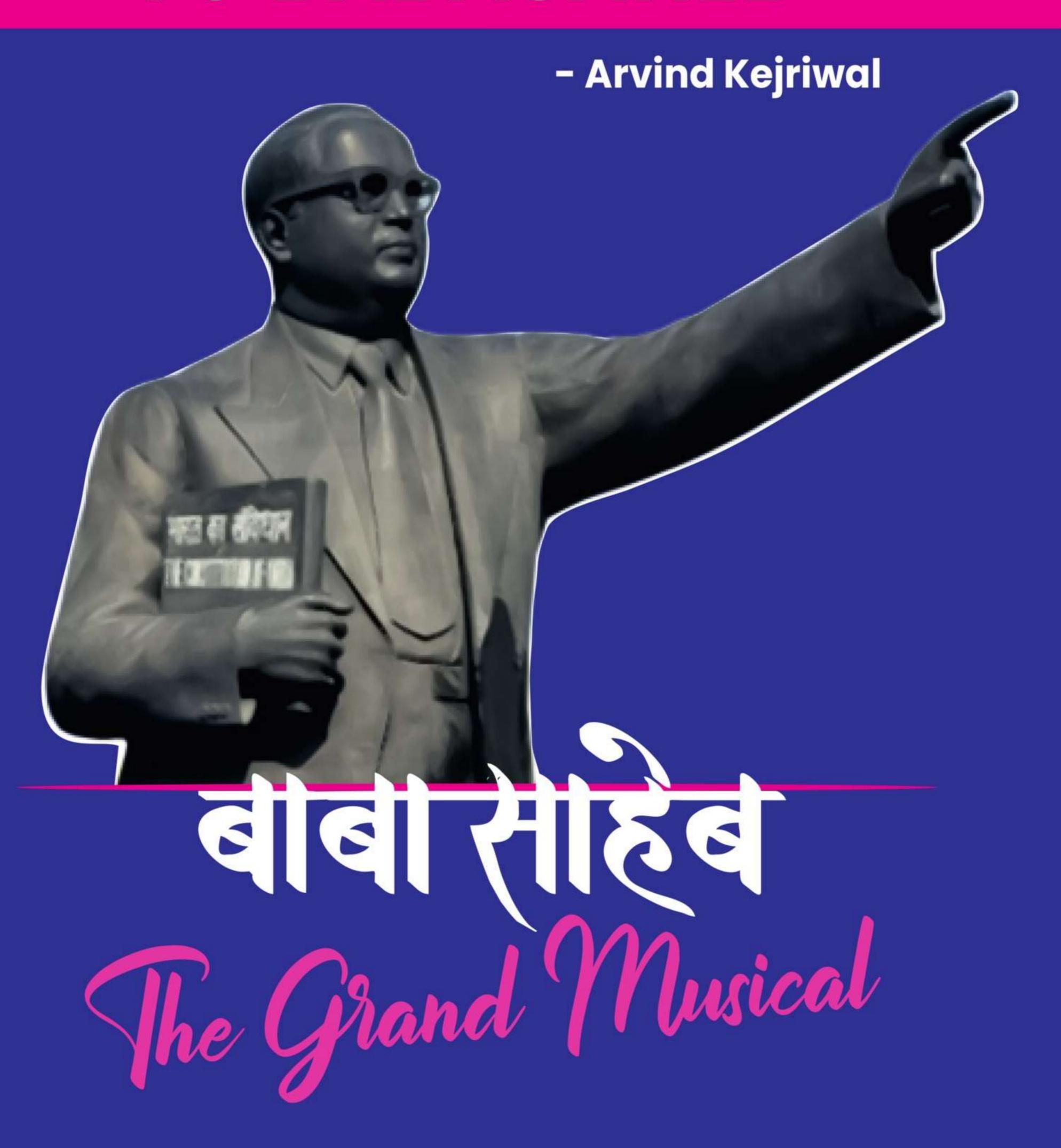
⁵Amount = ₹2,83,500 starting from 15th policy year |⁵Total = ₹1,09,05,000, Assuming the policy holder survived till end of policy term | ⁵Product features mentioned above are dependent on variant chosen

<sup>2</sup>Tax benefits as per prevailing Income tax laws shall apply. Please check with your tax consultant for eligibility.

\*Source - Report published by Kantar Millward Brown | For details refer to press release published by CARE (https://www.careratings.com/upload/CompanyFiles/PR/05042021114839\_Bajaj\_Allianz\_Life\_Insurance\_Company\_Limited.pdf) | \*\*Solvency ratio 604% as at 31 December 2021 against IRDAI mandated 150%. | Individual claim settlement ratio FY- 2020-2021.

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> The density of birds was low

this time in comparison with

Excess rain recorded in the

number of birds being sighted

Final report of Big Bird Day will

be compiled in a couple of days

and merlin and short-eared owls

Total sites covered in Delhi-NCR

Spotted dove in the Yamuna,

No. of teams | AROUND 30

Some important locations

covered | Najafgarh lake, Asola,

Yamuna Khadar, Surajpur, JNU

campus, Dhanuari, Sultanpur,

Mangar, Bhondsi and NTPC Jhajjar

RARE SIGHTINGS

at Jhanjrola

OVER 25

past six months and warmer days

were the main reasons behind low

previous years

# On Big Bird Day, Watchers Find Dip In Count, Point At Extra Rain

Huge Numbers Expected In February; Final Report To Be Ready In 2-3 Days

Priyangi.Agarwal @timesgroup.com

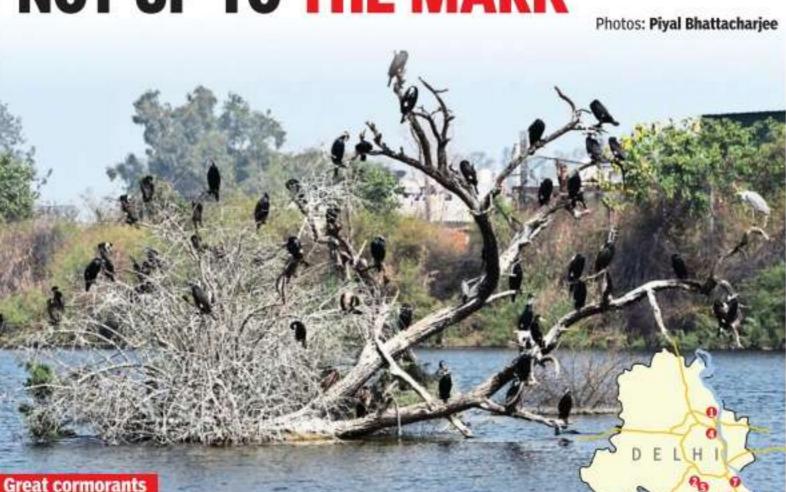
New Delhi: Bird lovers stepped out of their homes early on Sunday to take part in Big Bird Day, the annual event to determine avian species in their natural habitat. Most birders said the density of birds was low this time compared with what was usually sighted in February. The final species count would be prepared in two-three days.

Nikhil Devasar, member, Delhibird, said, "We expected a huge number of birds in February, but the density was low this time. The excess rainfall recorded in the past six months caused them to disperse. There used to be a few wetlands earlier, but the intermittent rain recharged many waterbodies. Besides, the weather has become warm and birds might have started leaving."

Another birder, Col Pankaj Sharma, who led a team to Mandothi near Bahadurgarh, said the number of birds was lower than usual this time. "The number of birds sighted on Sunday was nearly half of the density of birds that I saw at the same site on February 6. Due to the change in weather, it seems that migratory birds have started leaving early. They usually start their return journey by mid-March," he added.

Though the birders said major migratory birds found in the region were spotted on Sunday, the rare sightings included Spotted dove in Yamuna, Merlin and Short-eared owls at Jhanraula. "Merlin is usually sighted once every 4-5 years, while Short-eared owls are not commonly seen," said Devasar.

Pankaj Gupta, a birder who sighted the Spotted dove said, "It is mostly found in the lower hills of eastern and **NOT UP TO THE MARK** 



BIRD COUNT OVER THE YE
------------------------

Biodiversity park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Special sightings
1. Yamuna Biodiversity Park	102	103	98	83	101	102	Marsh harrier, grey bushchat
2. Aravalli Biodiversity Park	51	63	46	54	46	73	Eastern orphean warbler, black eagle
3. Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park	64	45	53	43	49	43	Small minivet
4. Northern Ridge (Kamla Nehru Ridge)	54	49	59	59	60	58	Indian spotted eagle
5. Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park	26	27	22	33	38	20	Common pochard
6. Tughlaqabad Biodiversity Park	69	55	49	53	51	55	Black-headed ibis
7. Kalindi Biodiversity Park	i.e.	*		40	80	69	Barheaded goose and greylag goose

central India. The bird has shattered the winter records of sighting in Delhi."

Around 30 teams visited over 25 sites in Delhi-NCR to record different bird species. Holding binoculars and cameras, the teams followed the set trail for the survey. After spotting a bird, they recorded their sightings on the eBird app. Volunteers were elated to spot different migratory

and residential birds.

At Yamuna Biodiversity Park, the participants were also educated about different species of trees, shrubs and grasses and their role in biodiversity. All seven biodiversity parks spread over an area of about 2,500 acres were a part of the event. Of these, four parks saw an increase in bird species this year compared with last year.

Faiyaz Khudsar, scientist in-charge, Biodiversity Parks Programme, said, "Yamuna and Kalindi biodiversity parks are in the river floodplain and are now known for their functional wetland ecosystems and migratory birds. During winter, we receive about 30 species of migratory birds form Europe, Siberia and Central Asia and China

at Yamuna Biodiversity Park

in which Ferruginous pochard is noteworthy among wintering ducks."

Aravalli Biodiversity Park is known for its beautiful restored scrub jungle, thorn forest and Kullu and Dhawa forest communities as typical representatives of Aravalli vegetation, which is home to many migratory and resident terrestrial bird species, added Khudsar.

### 2 held with 115 kg charas

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Police conducted a joint operation and arrested two men with 115 kg of charas. Cops arrested the accused from Jangalgram Nahar

on Meerut Expressway, ANI

nature lovers and officers of

"Around 90 species of birds were spotted by the gro-

Max a bit down, but temp

to be near 30°C in a week

According to the Met department the minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be around 26 and 10 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Monday. However, strong

winds at the speed of 20-30 kmph are likely to return on Tuesday and Wednesday. "Two feeble western dis-

**AOI IN MODERATE** 

**CATEGORY IN** 

CITY DUE TO

STRONG WINDS

turbances are likely to impact this week. Due to this, cloudy sky is expected on February 22 and 25, but there is less chances of rain this month. However, we are monitoring the situation," said Jenamani. According to IMD, the city

has in February so far received 18.6mm rainfall and has already surpassed the normal mark. The normal rainfall for the entire month of February for Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, is 18mm. In contrast, the city

2.6mm rainfall in February 2021.

Meanwhile, strong winds helped Delhi's air quality to remain in

the 'moderate' ca-

tegory with an ove-

rall Air Quality In-

dex (AQI) of 173. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SA-FAR), the forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences, said, "Relatively high wind speed kept AQI within 'moderate' category. AQI is likely to degrade slightly on Monday due to low wind speed and weak dispersion. On February 22, AQI is expected to improve to 'lower end of moderate' due to relatively high temperature and wind speed causing strong ventilation. From February 23, low wind speed is

# DDA holds nature walk to mark 75th vr of Independence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Strong surface

winds at the speed of 30-40

kmph blew during the day on

Sunday, leading to a slight

drop in maximum tempera-

ture to 24.6 degrees Celsius.

However, the Met department

has predicted that the

maximum temperature is lik-

ely to touch 29 degrees Celsi-

us on February 26. The mini-

mum temperature rose to 11.7

degrees Celsius, one degree

entist, India Meteorological

Department, said, "Due to

strong winds at the speed of

30-40 kmph, which were re-

corded from 11.30am to 5pm,

the day temperature saw a

drop. A few days ago, the

maximum temperature had

reached 27 degrees Celsius.

The city is currently experi-

encing pleasant weather

due to strong winds, near nor-

mal temperature and mode-

RK Jenamani, senior sci-

above normal.

New Delhi: A Nature walk was organised on Sunday at Yamuna biodiversity park by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as part of 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

The nature walk on Sunday, the second event of DDA's two-week programme with the theme of 'Rejuvenation of River Yamuna floodplains', was led by ornithologists from Delhi Bird Foundation (DBF), a team of birenthusiasts. authority's vice-chairman

Manish Kumar Gupta took part in the walk along with other senior officials. "Over 100 participants, including bird enthusiasts,

DDA took part in this walk who were divided in groups led by DBF members," a DDA spokesperson said.

SPOKESPERSON SAYS

Over 100 participants, including bird enthusiasts, nature lovers and DDA officers took part in the walk

ups that included resident species and migratory birds from various other countries flocking in and around the site," he said.

"Over the years, DDA in coordination with Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems(CEMDE)—has worked hard to make Yamuna biodiversity park a home to biodiversity in the city," he said.

The next in the series of events is a 'Jagrukta Abhiyaan' scheduled on February 26. which is an awareness programme aimed making people conscious of climate change and its impacts on everyday lives and activities, he said.

# Three held for robbing man of ₹10 lakh

likely to degrade air quality

to 'poor' category."

New Delhi: Three people were arrested for robbing a man at gunpoint in outer-north Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy. The accused have been identified as Pawan (26), Amardeep (37) and Shiva (26).

On February 15, an auto driver, Surender, who was carrying Rs 10 lakh, was waylaid by three people on a bike and robbed of the said amount at gunpoint. "The driver was carrying the cash for one Bhaskar Chand. who runs an electroplating plant at Harsh Vihar. Bhaskar had asked his relative, Surender, to collect the cash from Rohini Sector 15," the officer said.

Police said that after the robbery, they went to a mall and purchased clothes and shoes. They were then planning to go to Manali, but changed their plans at the last moment. TNN

Do not miss **Education Times**, a 4-page pullout with today's issue

# DPCC to intensify online check to cut pollutant inflow into Yamuna

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee is considering enhancing its online continuous water quality monitoring systems to identify minor drains and industrial outlets, causing pollution in the river. DPCC currently has 18 stations but it has submitted an action plan to Central Pollution Control Board, seeking Rs 21 crore for setting up 44 additional stations at major drains, outlets of industries, Najafgarh drain, and supplementary drains in Delhi.

The capital has around 100 drains, and of these, 18 major drains fall directly in the Yamuna. A senior DPCC official said: "We want to increase our online continuous water quality monitoring systems so that we can identify the stretches, which discharge maximum pollution to the Yamuna. The assessment of water quality of drains and industrial outputs will help us in ascertaining the supplementary drains or industries, which are most polluted. Once we determine the industrial clusters or drains causing pollution, we can take action accordingly." The official added that the



DPCC has submitted an action plan to CPCB for ₹21 crore to set up 44 additional stations at major drains and outlets of industries

agencies concerned can take steps to improve the water quality and DPCC will act against the industries discharging untreated effluents.

TOI had earlier reported that DPCC is planning to map all the drains to regularly check the water quality and to identify the locations where considerable pollutants are entering the Yamuna.

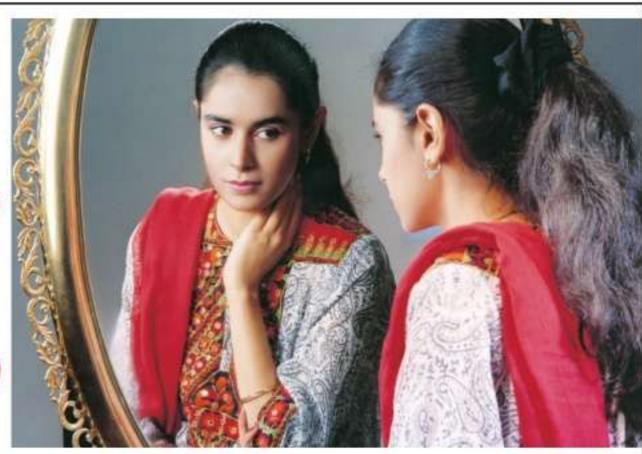
The setting up of new online continuous water quality monitoring systems will take the total number to 62. "We have

submitted our proposal to CPCB. As per the order dated January 22, 2019, the National Green Tribunal has granted approval for utilisation of a 25% environmental compensation fund for specified activities. We have requested to CPCB that the project cost of Rs 21 crore may be reimbursed from the environmental damage compensation fund available with the central agency." said another official.

A new report prepared by DPCC on water quality status of drains after samples were collected in December last year, 20 out of 27 drains, which go into river Yamuna, are not meeting the prescribed parameters in respect to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD). DPCC report said some drains are also flouting prescribed standards of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).

In its report, which was submitted to the union ministry of Jal Shakti, DPCC said it has taken action against 1,509 water-polluting industries or units between January to November 2021. Of these units, 1,430 industries were located in conforming areas, while remaining in the non-conforming areas.

# Is this how your teenage daughter passes time?



Mirror... the expression of teenager's first love, hours and hours in front of the mirror, trying out new hairstyles, latest designer wear and admiring new contours. What she needs is self-confidence. Any teenager is naturally over conscious of her physical development. But her mother knows about the natural process and also knows the right time when her daughter would need a bra. But will any bra suit her?

### For natural breast growth, a teenager needs a particular bra.

You must have observed that inspite of wearing a bra a teenager appears to be uncomfortable and feels a little awkward and shy. The reason: she wears a wrong bra, does not feel self-confident and relaxed. Even a bit of carelessness at this age will hamper the natural growth and will affect the figure and feminine beauty of your daughter.

### Why is the correct cup size required for teenagers?

For natural figure growth and comfort, it is necessary that your daughter should wear the proper cup size bra. There are 5 cup sizes in each bra size, A-small, B- medium, C-large, D-extra large & DD-double XL, so your daughter should get perfect fit bra.

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Website: www.teenagerbra.co.in



# Mid-March date to open Chandni Chowk parking

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A parking facility for 1,000 cars will be opened to the public in Chandni Chowk next month.

"Despite several hindrances due to lockdown, pollution ban, etc. we are committed to operationalise a portion of the Gandhi Maidan parking lot by mid-March. Initially, about 1,000 cars can be parked at the facility. Electrical, interior and finishing work are going on at full speed," said North Delhi Municipal Corporation standing committee chairman Jogi Ram Jain.

The multi-level parking facility is spread over 4.5 acres and has total capacity for 2,338 cars. It has six levels, including three underground floors. One floor will be reserved for commercial activities.

The entire parking lot will become operational by September end, said the standing committee chairman. "There is a desperate requirement for parking in the area which is why we are emphasising upon opening a portion of it by mid-March. The facility will benefit traders in nearby markets such as Chawri Bazar, Kinari Bazar, Khari Baoli, Nai Sadak and Dariba Kalan who can conve-



The multilevel parking lot will have space to accommodate 1,000 cars

here," Jain said. "The complex will be equipped with modern facilities such as CCTV, lifts for passengers, and a firefighting system. It will have a heritage look of Old Delhi," he added.

The parking project, though conceived in 2013, has been long delayed. This led to the north corporation being pulled up by a city court in 2018. "Earlier, the corporation had given September 2021 as the deadline, but there has been a delay because of the construction work being halted due to Covid," said a

senior official. The civic body claims to be simultaneously working on

Qutab Road and Shiva Market. "Over 70% work at Qutab Road (parking space for 174 vehicles) and 90% work near Shiva Market (parking capacity for 500 cars) have been completed. These will become operational in next three months," said the official.

The Qutab Road parking facility is spread over 1,335 sqm area. It will have seven floors, including two basements and five upper floors. Of these, two floors will be developed as a commercial complex.

"We have also received bids for multilevel parking at Bank Street for 500 vehicles and work will start here soniently park their vehicles two other parking projects at on," said the official.

# Ask govt to get Lokayukta in a mth: Plea in HC

New Delhi: A public interest litigation has been filed before Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the AAP government to appoint within one month a Lokayukta as promised by it in its election manifesto of 2020.

The petitioner, Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, a lawyer, stated that the political party came into existence after the historic anti-corruption movement, but the post of Lokayukta has been lying vacant since December 2020.

The petitioner has alleged that Delhi government is not taking steps to weed out the menace of bribery, black money, benami property, tax evasion, profiteering and other economic as well as white-collar offences and therefore, being the protector of fundamental rights, the court has to intervene in the matter of the appointment of a Lokayukta.

"When Justice Reva Khetrapal retired as Delhi Lokayukta, the government did nothing to fill the post till date and hundreds of complaints relating to corruption are pending in the office," the petition stated. "AAP promised a stringent and effective Jan Lokpal Bill in 2015 and 2020 election manifesto but rather than enacting the law, it is not even appointing the Lokayukta under outdated ineffective 1995 Act," it added. PTI

# 2-yr expiry: 8k cervical cancer vax wasted Jab At Home Makes

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Around 8,000 vials of the human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) given for prevention of cervical cancer were wasted at Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI) owing to no takers in the past two years.

HPV vaccination was first started in Delhi in November 2016 at the Shahdara branch of DSCI, which is the only government institution providing the vaccine for free to adolescent girls aged 11 to 15 years.

"We are procuring a fresh supply of the vaccine as the contract with the company based on the old rate has expired. We hope to restart vaccination soon. The company has picked up stock for replacement, but Covid-19 has hampered the process," said DSCI medical director Dr Kishore Singh.

An official said due to the lockdowns and the focus being on inoculation against Covid-19, there were hardly any takers for the cervical cancer prevention vaccine. "Around 8,000 vaccines have expired. They had an expiry

### A SHOT AT PROTECTION

#### WHAT ARE HUMAN **PAPILLOMAVIRUS** VACCINES

- > HPV vaccines protect against infection with human papillomaviruses (HPV)
- > HPV is a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which more than 40 are spread through direct sexual contact
- types cause genital warts > About a dozen HPV types

> Among these, two HPV

can cause certain types of cancer (cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, penile, vulvar, and vaginal)

date of two years. As there was a low turnout in the past two years, they could not be used," added the official.

"Also, we have very little stock left. We have asked the state health department for procurement of the vaccine since we have to import it from other countries. We are not operating in the same manner as in the pre-pande-

PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL



for the vaccine, we will provi-

de it to them from our limited

stock," the official said. Another official said they were procuring two types of the vaccine from abroad — Cervarix from the UK and Gardesil from the US. "Despite these vaccines being expensive, we are providing them for free to adolescent

Remembering

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NUMBER OF DOSES

- The HPV vaccine is given as a series of shots
- Different dosing schedules. depending on the age when the vaccination series is started
- Children who start the vaccine series before 15 years of age need only two doses to be fully protected
- > People who start the series at 15 or older and those who have certain conditions that weaken the immune system need three doses to be fully protected

girls," added the official from the hospital.

When the programme was launched, it had few takers. "A lot of motivation was required to get the girls to take the vaccine in the initial days. However, with time more girls started coming. Demand surged after 2018 as hesitancy among girls went down. Now, they are more

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aware as they have resear-**Fight Easy For Many** ched why the vaccine is needed," the official said.

Initially, the programme was held in collaboration with schools. Later, with growing awareness, girls started coming on their own.

"We met the principals of both government and private schools and asked them to educate girls on HPV and cervical cancer. We also had to identify the target audience, which was possible only through schools. As of now, we are focusing on east Delhi. We had planned to expand the programme, but couldn't due to lack of manpower and infrastructure," said the official incharge of the programme.

Before the pandemic, the facility was vaccinating 250-300 girls every month. "Since August 2020, we have vaccinated 4,000 girls. Now, around 500 girls who were supposed to take their second and third doses are coming, along with the first timers," said another official. "Even one dose is enough to boost immunity to resist cervical cancer," added the official.

# 570 Covid cases in 24 hrs, +ve rate now at 1.04%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the last 24 hours, the national capital recorded 570 new Covid-19 cases, taking the cumulative tally to 18,56,071.

According to the state health department bulletin, the positivity rate has fallen to 1.04 per cent.

This marks a decline of 65 infections as compared with the previous day. Delhiregistered 635 new cases on Saturday and the positivity rate was 1.13%.

The virus claimed lives of four more patients in the last 24 hours. The death toll due to the disease in Delhi now stands at 26,101 and the fatality rate is 1.41%.

In last 24 hours, 730 Covid patients recovered from the infection, taking the total recoveries in the capital to 18,27,425.

The city has 2,545 active Covid-19 cases of which 1,742 are currently in home isolation. The total number of containment zones in the city has also gone down. As of now, there are 8583 sealed

localities in the city. During the last 24 hours. 80.310 Covid-19 vaccination doses were administered in the national capital, as per the bulletin. Out of this, 10,018 people were given the first dose of the vaccine while 65,755 got the second dose.

A total of 3,09,91,704 vaccination doses have been administered till date, out of which 1,72,41,297 were first doses, while 1.33,64,877 were second doses in Delhi.

ne doses administered in the country crossed 175.33 crore on Saturday.

Owing to the dip in cases, since last week, the educational institutes have opened up. The schools reopened for nursery classes to class VIII from last Monday. Earlier, schools reopened for classes IX to XII on February 7.

Last week, after a long gap, Delhi University too opened up and offline classes resumed, to the relief of many students who were missing out on their college life and education.

# 1,800 Who Can't Go Out Vaccinated So Far AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Eligibility

Severely disabled | Bedridden | Immobile beneficiaries | Restricted mobility or disability | Special needs that limit accessibility to nearby Covid-19 vaccination centres



Somrita.Ghosh @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Delhi government's initiative to provide vaccination at doorstep for those who are severely disabled, bedridden or immobile has been a boon for many beneficiaries who can't go out to get the jab. Approximately 1,800 beneficiaries have been inoculated since the launch of the drive on September 24.

However, a health department official said, "This number may be an underestimation as more such beneficiaries have been covered based on direct requests received at the state and district levels, and on Covid helplines."

Reena Ramachandran, a resident of H block in Saket said that though she had to initially struggle to get the first dose for her 102-year-old mother, Padma Ranganathan, at home, she didn't have to bother once the government announced the drive.

"We had to raise the issue through the disability commission for the first dose. But as soon as the matter was recogni-

sed, we got a call from the district magistrate and my mother was vaccinated at home. She also got her second and booster doses at home," she said. "Around 50% of the residents in our society are senior citizens who cannot go to vaccination camps. They all have received jabs at home."

#### DM (SOUTH) SAYS

The pace of vaccination at home during the Omicron wave was restricted to an extent, but we still continued to cater to the requests

Last year, the central government initiated a programme, Near to Home Covid Vaccination Centres, for elderly and differently abled citizens, following which the state authorities, too, rolled out the process of identifying and getting these people vaccinated.

The health department has issued a state helpline number,

along with 11 district helpline numbers, where families can call for the vaccine. "If a call is made to the state helpline number, the details are forwarded to the districts. Asha workers are also visiting the houses and noting down the details of the eligible beneficiaries. So far, we have vaccinated around 220 people at home," said Cheshta Yaday, district magistrate of

DISTRICT HELPLINE

Central | 011-23270151

South | 8287898412

New Delhi | 1800 111 323

South East | 8595748455

25073502 / 05 / 07 / 08

West | 011-25100093 / 94

/96 / 97 | 7982661695

North | 011-23645701

North West | 011-25951182

Shahdara | 011-22120020

East | 011-22029103

North East | 011-22120014

South West | 011-

NUMBERS

8130854050

North West Delhi. Sonalika Jiwani, DM (South), said NGOs and residents welfare associations were also helping in identifying the eligible people for home vaccination and those left out.

"We have a helpline, people call us on that. Then, we have a list of people who were given the first dose, so we know when they are supposed to be given the second and booster doses. Now many people are aware about the drive for both aged people and disabled ones," Jiwani pointed out.

"The pace of vaccination at home during the Omicron wave was restricted to an extent, as there was a manpower crisis, but we continued to cater to the requests," she added.

# Don't seek govt IDs from disabled: NGOs to Centre

Somrita.Ghosh @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: To ensure that physically challenged individuals are not left unvaccinated, NGOs and several bodies of persons with disabilities (PwD) have sent suggestions to the Union health ministry as asked by Supreme Court. The NGOs opine that such people should be vaccinated without the requirement of any government IDs.

"A large number of PwDs, particularly in rural areas, do not have a valid government IDs. This requirement should not be mandatory for vaccination. People falling under this category should not be limited In addition to this, the to the definition provided uncumulative Covid-19 vacci- der Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. 2016. It should have a broader ambit," said Lalit Kumar from NGO Evara Foundation, who had fi-

> led a PIL last month. Taking note of the PIL, Supreme Court had asked the government to invite suggestions from all stakeholders and experts. During the hearing, advocate Pankaj Sinha, appearing for the NGO, submitted that the affidavit indicated that 23,678 disabled people had been vaccinated. This figure was indicative of the low rate of vaccination.

(DwD) said no one should be

Doctors with Disabilities



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

asked to prove disability as many individuals having specified ailments, such as athetoid cerebral palsy, leprosy, amputees, intellectual or visual disabilities, faced difficulty during biometrics, SO they did not have Aadhaar cards.

"Many vaccination centres insist on Aadhaar despite Supreme Court not making it mandatory. Any other identity card can be used. Wherever possible. PwDs should be strongly encouraged to use UDID as data on those getting vaccinated is not available," DwD suggested.

DwD added that consent for homeless people with psychosocial disabilities could be navigated by nominated representatives. In Delhi, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences Ashray Adhi-

pose. "States should identify PwDs with high support needs and they should be provided at-home vaccination. Near-to-home CVCs should be constituted in leprosy colonies, mental health institutions and old age homes," it suggested.

Evara Foundation NGO said pre-vaccination doubts and post-vaccination issues of PwDs needed to be addressed by trained medical professionals. "A dedicated centralised 24x7 helpline should be set up. The queries should be only answered by trained healthcare or rehabilitation professionals. The nodal officer in each district should be a domain knowledge expert. He/she should be responsible for all grievance redressals and facilitate vaccination of PwDs. Their details should be made available via all Covid-19 helpline numbers," it added.

Dr Satendra Singh, DwD organisational head, said, "No one is safe from Covid-19 until everyone is safe, which includes the missing 15% PwDs. Researchers, doctors and nurses with disabilities hold the key as they are never involved by the Centre at the NEGVAC, ICMR or Central Advisory Board on Disability level. The health ministry needs to work with the disability sector to achieve inclusive

# kar Abhiyan serves this purvaccine equity framework." Why cheating case not filed, SEBI asked

### Usha.Das@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sought explanation from the deputy general manager of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), as to why a matter related to cheating of 1868 investors was not reported to the police as the allegations of cheating and forgery were apparently made out of the material available with the authorities.

Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana noted in the order that perusal of the complaint revealed that the accused have allegedly siphoned off investors' money and were shying away from complying with the directions of SEBI for getting an independent audit conducted.

The court further noted that it was revealed that the accused have claimed to have paid a sum of about Rs authorities," the judge said.

3.08 crores to about 1868 investors and only Rs 10.0 lakhs was pending for payment to about 60 investors.

"However, despite numerous directions from SEBI, accused persons avoided to undergo independent audit to test the veracity of their claim. It is further revealed that as per the auditor of the accused persons itself, it is revealed that payments were made to non-existing entities and the accused have fudged up the record to cover up the misdeeds," it stated in an order on February 19.

"Before proceeding ahead, I deem it appropriate to call for a report from the worthy deputy general manager, SEBI that as to why matter was not reported to the police as apparently allegations of cheating and forgery are made out from the material available with SEBI

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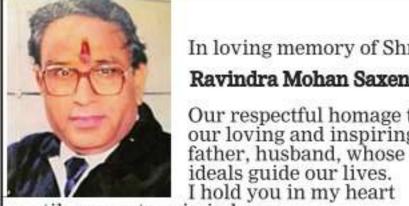
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# Small fires up, count down at home in 2 yrs

# Industrial Fires Increased; Carelessness, Electrical Fault, Arson Main Causes, Says DFS

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An analysis of fire incidents in the past two years has revealed that small fires rose by 10% in 2021, while residential fires decreased by 3.5%. Data of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) showed that in 2020 about 14,785 fire incidents were reported, while firefighters attended to 15,687 calls last year.

According to firefighters, there are mainly three reasons behind the fires - carelessness, electrical fault, and in rare cases arson — apart from the process failures.

In 2020, there were 9,512 small fire incidents and 10,592 in 2021. "There has been an increase in open burning incidents, which adverselv affects the environment. This reflects behavioural changes among people. Earlier, people would douse small fires, but now they prefer to call the fire brigade," said an assistant divisional officer from DFS, adding that sometimes burning beedis

<b>CAUSE FOR ALAR</b>	M	Fire incide	ents	
ONUSE I ON ALAN	.v.		2020	2021
Fire calls 2020	14,785	Deaths	39	59
Animal 2,923	15,687	Injured	441	434
rescue 3,428			idents (road ths, drowning	
5,201			2020	2021
Other calls 3,165 4,948		Deaths	266	493
photo		Injured	763	1,013
A factory in Mayapuri		Delhi Fire was an incr In several small and c Residentia In most ca being used Heavy ma wires causi	cases, DFS fou ould have been al fire incidents	claimed there of open burning and the fire was doused by people dropped in 2021 d buildings were all factories ed the load on

or cigarette stubs thrown on waste resulted in fire.

Last year, 3,506 residential fire incidents were reported and 3,633 in 2020. "The reduction in residential fires indicates a decrease in activities resulting in their occurrence and decrease in electrical loads, which often leads to overheating," an officer said.

About 367 such incidents were reported last year compared with 357 in 2020. "During the lockdown, factories were closed. The machines, which There was an increase in

24-yr-old woman got mom Witness didn't identify, 4 get

killed for property, caught bail in 3 riots murder cases

industrial fire incidents.

were shut for a long period, were restarted without any servicing due to which chances of short circuit increased," said a firefighter.

Fire incidents in business areas, like offices, decreased slightly as 189 cases were reported last year compared with 206 in 2020.

There was also a decrease in fires in shops and other mercantile properties. About 604 such cases were reported last year and 674 in 2020. There were 167 storage fire incidents reported last year compared with 165 in 2020. Similarly, 34 fire incidents were reported last year in places with a gathering of more than 50 people, like restaurants and railway stations, compared with 28 in 2020.

In educational institutes, about 42 such cases were reported in 2020 and 43 in 2021. About 40 cases were reported from hospitals, nursing homes, jail, etc last year, while 38 were reported in 2020.

DFS said improper wiring

played an important role in fire incidents. Atul Garg, DFS director, said, "People should ensure that electrical wiring of houses and offices are properly maintained. The use of multiple machines or electronic equipment increases the load on hi's Uttam Nagar on Sunday. wires, which can result in fires. In most cases, we found overloading resulted in fires, so regu-

be any improper wiring." The presence of combustible materials in factories, restaurants and pubs played an important role in the spread of fires. About 145 cases were reported from JJ clusters in 2021 and 130 in 2020.

lar maintenance of wires is ve-

ry important. There should not

"JJ clusters have highly combustible materials, which increases the risk of fires. In several cases, slum residents were found storing huge quantities of rags, plastic, bottles, etc. An electrical spark or somebody leaving a burning object near such materials can easily lead to fires," the officer said.

### ROPEWAY FOR SALE

Bi-cable Ropeway of length 3.4 km supplied by Usha Breco Limited is installed at a cement plant located in central India for conveying limestone. The ropeway is well maintained & in good running condition.

24-yr-old charred to death, brother hurt

According to an

as a catalyst,

spread fast

it," an officer said.

officer, foam is a

highly combustible

causing the fire to

was triggered by a short circu-

re working with their father at the time of the incident. "Sahil

was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Talim was refer-

red to Safdarjung Hospital for

(negligent conduct with re-

spect to pulling down or repai-

ring buildings) and 304 A (cau-

sing death by negligence) was

registered and further investi-

am is a highly combustible ma-

terial and it acted as a catalyst,

causing the fire to spread fast.

According to an officer, fo-

gation in the case was on.

A case under sections 288

treatment," the officer said.

Talim (29) and Sahil (24) we-

material and it acted

in west Delhi fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man

died while his brother was cri-

tically injured in a fire inci-

dent reported from west Del-

a call at 10.15am about a fire inci-

dent at Om Vihar in Uttam Na-

gar. Two fire tenders rushed to

the spot. "There was a blast in a

chemical drum — used for stick-

ing foam. Two boys suffered 90% burn injuries in the incident.

They were taken to a hospital,'

me team reached the spot. On

inspection, burnt clothes and

foam were found dumped near

the door of a room on the first

floor of the house. Upon inqui-

ry, cops found that Allauddin,

the victim's father, had put an

immersion rod in water to heat

it. "Allauddin repairs sofa and

bed. The foam found was used

for repairing sofas. The fire

d)

According to police, a cri-

said a fire department officer.

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# New Delhi: A 24-year-old woman was arrested

for getting her mother killed with the help of a man in south Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar on Friday. Investigators claimed that she tried to pass off the incident as a robbery gone wrong. The other accused was also arrested.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

On Friday, the PCR received a call regarding the incident after which a team rushed to the spot in Madangir. "We saw a woman lying on a bed in a pool of blood. Her throat was slit with a sharp weapon. The deceased was a BJP worker and involved in small-time finance work. In 2003, her husband was murdered. In 2007, she contested the municipal polls, but lost," said an officer.

DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said, "During investigation, her daughter, who was at the spot, claimed that at 9.30pm two masked men forcefully entered the house and killed her mother during a robbery."

As the woman kept changing her statement, the cops got suspicious. The scene of the crime was inspected and no sign of struggle was found in the room. All articles were found intact. There was a deep incised wound on the deceased's neck and a lot of blood was scattered on the bedsheet. But no drop of blood was found at the spot.

When the team under inspectors Satyabir Singh and Santosh Kumar Rawat questioned the daughter repeatedly, she finally admitted that she and her boyfriend's friend killed her mother and tried to pass it off as

#### **POLICE SAY**

The accused was married to a man and they also have a four-year-old son. However, she left her husband and started to live with her boyfriend. The victim threatened to disown her from the property

robbery gone awry.

"The accused woman was married to a man from Greater Noida. They also have a four-year-old son. However, she left her husband and started to live with her boyfriend, who stays in Dakshinpuri," said the officer.

The victim was not happy and wanted her daughter to break off the relationship and start living with her husband again. "She threatened to disown her from the property. The woman was also frustrated as her mother had stopped helping her financially," the officer said.

The woman then hatched a plan to kill her fairly submitted that he mother and roped in her boyfriend's friend, who was allegedly infatuated with her. On Friday, she gave tea mixed with sleeping pills to her mother and maternal uncle San- of the testimony of witness jay. When both of them lost consciousness, she called the man, who slit the woman's throat with a surgical blade and threw the weapon out of the window. Later, she gave her mother's jewellery and cash to the man and asked him to flee.

#### Usha.Das@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi has granted bail to four people in three murder cases related to the northeast Delhi riots after the sole eyewitness did not identify the accused during his deposition.

Additional sessions judge Virender Bhat granted relief to Ashok Kumar, Jitender Kumar, Ajay and Shubham on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 10,000 with one surety of like amount each. The accused had sought bail after witness Shashi Kant did not identify them.

The court noted that keeping in mind the nature of the deposition of the witness, the special public prosecutor, appearing for police, had no objection to the bail applications.

"Considering the nature Shashi Kant, which was recorded in this case and taking into account no objection given by the SPP, the bail application is hereby allowed," it said in similar orders passed

on the three cases related to rioting in Dayalpur. It directed the accused not to leave the territory of NCT of Delhi during the trial and to appear before the court on each and every date of hearing.

The cases relate to the alleged murder of Ashfaaq, Zakir and Mehtab. who were caught and severely be-

aten up by a mob

during the commu-

nal violence on Fe-WITH ONE SURETY bruary 25, 2020, OF LIKE AMOUNT which ultimately **EACH WAS ALSO** led to their death. PAID BY ACCUSED A perusal of the postmortem report of deceased Zakir revealed that he had received as many as 22 injuries, out of which seven injuries were so grave in na-

ture that they itself were sufficient to cause death of any person in ordinary course of nature. A review of the postmor-

tem of Ashfaaq revealed that he had received 31 injuries,

es were caused by a sharp-edged weapon and the rest were due to application of the blunt force. The postmortem of Mehtab showed that he had received 11 injuries, out of which three injuries were opined to be

out of which one injury was

sufficient to cause death un-

der ordinary circumstances.

All the injuries were fresh be-

fore death. Some of the injuri-

that they itself were sufficient to cause death of any person in ordinary course of nature.

caused by a sharp-

edged sword and we-

re so grave in nature

At the stage of hearing of their earlier bail arguments, the court had noted that the eyewitness, who was a resident of the locality, had duly identified the accused allegedly indulging in rioting while one of them was carrying a sword.

# Next-gen DMRC app to offer virtual mall, tourism hub

Sidhartha.Roy@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Metro is going to launch a 'DMRC FuNB' mobile application, which would allow Metro users to shop from 'homegrown' stores through a virtual mall. The app would also offer other features. like information through live commentary on nearby areas that Metro train passes through, exclusive offers on services, booking cabs, etc.

A Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official said that the organisation is crea-

### OFFICIAL SAYS

There will be live commentary when a Metro train passes by attractions, local events, and customised curated experiences

ting a next-generation digital technology platform (DDP) and the mobile application is part of this platform. It is expected to provide enhanced safety and convenience offerings to users and lead to business opportunities for DMRC.

"The users of the digital technology platform and mobile application would also get exclusive value offers," he said. "A FuNB mobile application user visiting a partner website through the Virtual Delhi Mall and purchasing products would be provided with benefits such as cash back, apart from loyalty or rewards programme," he said.

Apart from the virtual mall, the DMRC FuNB application would also have a feature named Tourism Hub, which would give the user access to a "powered tour ism experience", the official said.

"There will be live commentary when a Delhi Metro train passes by attractions, local events, and customised curated experiences. For this, travel and tourism partners in Delhi NCR will be on-boarded by DMRC," he said.

The official said that DMRC is looking for aggregators to on-board and manage different partners so that the digital platform provides a seamless customer experience. "We are planning a first-ofits-kind, next-generation digital platform," he said.

"Through a single touchpoint on the digital platform, users would be able to make online purchases of goods and services," he said. The official said that from buying electronics, apparel, and grocery to ordering food and booking a cab, to buying tickets for events and curated walks to vouchers and coupons, the platform is expected to meet all such online requirements in one place. "Personalised offers would be made to users based on parameters like demographics and online activity," he said.

# Gang member who attacked PCR vans, absconded caught

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested a member of a Mewat-based syndicate who was involved in a dozen cases of robbery, rape and attacks on police.

The accused has been identified as Rakesh alias Bhondu, a resident of Nuh in Haryana. According to DCP Jasmeet Singh, Rakesh was wanted for attacking four PCR vans and police staff while being chased by cops last year. In April 2012, Rakesh along with four associates had kidnapped a 15-year-old girl from her house in Nuh. They took her in their car and allegedly gang raped her, police said. The cell had received information about the movement of the suspect near Lado Sarai and laid a trap. "In June 2021, Rakesh and his associates were fleeing in a truck with stolen cows from Delhi. As cops chased them, they started pelting stones, glass bottles at the PCR vans," the DCP added. TNN

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The person showed in the photo named Nippin Clement Aged 32, S/o Clement Erikkiluvila Purayidam, Poovar Desom, Poovar Village, Neyyattinkara Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram Dist was missing from his house 25.12.2021 onwards. He has about 155 cm height, White complexion and fat physique, At the time of missing he was wearing dark and light Blue coloured Jersy (Name 'Nippin' Is printed at back

side) and dark Blue coloured shots. A case is registered at Poovar Police Station as Cr. 1980/2021 U/ Sec: 57 of KP Act Any information receives regarding the person may kindly intimate in either of the phone numbers given below.

Inspector of Police, Poovar: 9497987026 Sub Inspector of Police, Poovar: 9497906030 Police Station, Poovar: 0471 2211100. (353/F2/2022/I&PRD)

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Sd/- Sri.T.V.N.A.R. Kumar, Dt.18/02/2022, DIPR No.691PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt.18.02.2022 Chief Engineer, Hydrology, Vijayawada

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# In a first in India, AIIMS uses rare op to treat fetal lung mass

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Abnormal lung tissue growth, a birth defect, is seen in nearly one in 1,000 newborns. In most cases, doctors say, the condition referred to as bronchopulmonary sequestration (BPS), does not cause a baby significant problem during development.

However, there are always exceptions. AIIMS, Delhi recently got a referral where a 27-week fetus suffering from BPS had a large lung mass that was causing a massive collection of fluid in the chest leading to compression of the

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TIMES interace SPECIAL

कब्ज, गैस? पेट करे साफ

टेबलेट RELIEF FROM CONSTIPATION व हबेल चूर्ण

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heart and lungs.

Dr Vatsala Dadhwal, professor, maternal fetal medicine division, department of gynaecology and obstetrics, said usually in some cases, shunts are inserted to drain the fluid from the lungs so that compression on the heart can be removed to prevent heart failure. But this is a temporary measure, she said.

The other option is to burn the blood vessel supplying the tumour or abnormal lung tissue under ultrasound guidance inside the womb. "This is a technically demanding procedure requiring a high level of expertise. This procedure can

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be done by laser energy, which has been reported previously. The other technique which can be performed is the Radio-Frequency Ablation (RFA) that uses radiofrequency energy for ablating the vessel. We chose the latter to operate on the fetus as the vessel supplying blood to the tumour was quite big," Dr Dadhwal said.

"Till date, the use of RFA for such a condition has been reported previously only in three cases of which only one baby has survived. Ours is the second successful case in the world," the AIIMS professor said. "Ours is the first case of the same from India," she added.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

Notice Under Order V Rule 20 Code of Civil Procedure

Petition against the order dated 09-01-20

Passed by Ms. Kamini Lau,

In MACT No. 685/2018

National Insurance Co Ltd & Ors.

R-2: Snt. Balleet Kaur Sethi (Deosased Owner through LR)

Shri Amardeep Singh, S/o Sh. Avtar Singh

R/o House No. WZ-1449. Rani Bagh. Shakur Basti, New Delh

R-3 : Sh. Kulandvil (Deceased Driver through LR's)

(A) Smt. Puneeta Marry, W/o Late Shri Kulandvi

(Minor through his mother Smt. Puneeta Marry)

Minor through his mother Smt. Puneeta Marry

All residents of House NO. B-1078. Transit Camp.

Whereas the above noted petitioner hanted a petition Under Article 227

ssuance of notice to you. And whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court

that you cannot be served in the ordinary

you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either in person or through an advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the Court of Registrar on 02-03-2022 at 11:00 a.m.

the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said

determined ex-parte in your absence.

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AIIMS performed the surgery on December 23. The baby was delivered on February 5. "The day following the procedure,

me of birth, the tumour had completely disappeared. "The baby was discharged in a healthy condition," she added.

A 27-week fetus suffering from bronchopulmonary sequestration had a large lung mass that was causing a massive collection of fluid in the chest. The doctors chose to burn the blood vessel that was supplying the tumour or abnormal lung tissue under ultrasound guidance inside the womb

the fluid started decreasing. It disappeared completely by day seven and the lungs also expanded," Dr Dadhwal explained. She further said that by the ti-

The AIIMS doctors said parents should be aware that many conditions of the fetus are amenable to treatment inside the womb. There are others

wherein some temporary interventions can be done inside the womb and definitive management provided after birth so that the baby can survive in the womb till delivery. This knowledge should be used both by patients and the general physicians to refer patients to fetal medicine centres like AIIMS, New Delhi in time for possible treatment, they said.

The division of fetal medicine, AIIMS has been in existence since the 1980s and has been the first centre in the country to provide fetal interventions, both diagnostic and therapeutic.

AIIMS, New Delhi has been

od transfusions in the country performed more having than 1,500 procedures so far. "We are probably performing the maximum number of such procedures in the world presently. In the last 10 years, we have started and perfected the procedures for managing complicated twin pregnancies that need treatment inside the womb using laser and radiofrequency ablation. We have also got experience of inserting shunts for draining fluids from bladder or the lungs and managing various fetal heart rate abnormalities inside the womb." Dr Dadhwal said.

the first centre to start fetal blo

tral government and had retired as a special commissioner of Delhi Police. He was administered the oath of office by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Chairman Justice (Retd) Shabihul Hasnain earlier this week, said a

Former cop

**DERC's new** 

ombudsman

power regulator

tricity consumers.

New Delhi: The capital's

has appointed Delhi Police's

former special commissioner

Pardeep Kumar Bhardwaj as

its ombudsman to examine

grievances of the city's elec-

the AGMUT cadre, Bhardwai

had earlier held several

prestigious posts in the cen-

A 1987-batch IPS officer of

DERC

DERC statement. The institution of the Electricity Ombudsman was established by the Commission under the provisions of Sections 42(5) and 42(6) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the DERC (Forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers and ombudsman) Regu-

lations, 2018. Four consumer grievances redressal forum (CGRF). one each for consumers of discoms BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd(BRPL), BSES Yamuna Power Ltd (BYPL), Tata Power Delhi Distribution (TPDDL) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) have

been functioning since 2004. Any aggrieved electricity consumer may approach the appropriate forum seeking redressal of his grievance related to metering, billing, grant of a new connection, disconnection, reconnection, change of name of the registered consumer.

But these forums cannot

# 'Defence consultant' in net for duping bizmen of crores

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A conman posing as a "defence consultant", who duped businessmen of crores of rupees on the pretext of helping them bag supply tenders in the defence ministry, international establishments and Indian Army canteens, has been arrested by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing.

The accused, K Venkata Krishna Murthi (58), is a resident of Dehradun. He promised business houses to get them registered with various defence establishments under the Make in India Scheme so that they became eligible for defence orders.

Joint commissioner (EOW) Chhaya Sharma said Murthi was a chemical engineer from a reputed university in Hyderabad. "He represented himself to the victims as an II-Tian with links to senior DRDO officers," she added.

Murthi duped 31 victims of Rs 3.9 crore. Cops suspect there may be more



victims and have appealed to people to

come forward with their complaints. EOW started tracking the conman after receiving a complaint from a victim. Later, 20 others filed complaints alleging that Murthi and his associates, through his company "Magnitech Engineers", cheated them.

"Murthi assured to help the businessmen in getting purchase orders, Initial investigation shows that tenders and bids in ministry of defence, CSD canteens, international agencies, etc. He took money in advance as

Akanksha.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: There was silence on the

streets but the message was loud and

clear as more than 200 men, women

and elderly from Chintels Paradiso

and adjoining condominiums took out

a protest march on Sunday. As they

walked side by side, holding banners

and placards for nearly 1.5-km cros-

sing Chintels Serenity, Brisk Lumbi-

ni, and Raheja Chowk before congre-

gating at ATS Chowk, their demand

was simple — the immediate arrest of

the promoters and directors of Chin-

tels India Ltd and the government offi-

cials who gave occupation certificates

bruary 10 cave-in at Paradiso that left

two residents of the condominium

dead and another seriously injured

but there is neither any clarity from

the administration on what action

they will be taking nor is there a clear

roadmap for rehabilitation of the af-

"It has been 10 days since the Fe-

(OC) for the Paradiso apartments.

turn the consultancy fees if his entity failed to arrange any orders within six months and gave post-dated cheques as security," said Sharma. A team led by DCP K Ramesh le-

consultancy fees. He promised to re-

arnt that Murthi used to execute consultancy and fees protection agreements with the victims to win their trust. They then seized the original consultancy and fees protection agreements. The details of bank accounts of the victims were obtained and payments made by them authenticated. The bank accounts of the accused were then frozen.

The accused had hired several sales executives to entice more companies through social media platforms. A notice was issued to Murthi, but instead of joining the investigation he left Delhi. He had also opened offices in other states, including one in Mumbai. He frequently changed his whereabouts to avoid being arrested. He was tracked down to Dehradun using technical surveillance.

be moved in matters related to the unauthorised use or theft of electricity and meter tampering among others. PTI Living in fear, guilty roam free,

# **Noida panel** to check rules for structural safety audit

Greater Noida: The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has formed a committee to undertake a detailed study of the current provisions of the structural safety certificate and introduce modifications where required. The Authority will take the help of IIT-Delhi or a similar institute for the study and submit a report in 15 days, officials said.

The move follows the February 10 vertical collapse of living rooms of five flats from the sixth to the second floors—in one of the towers at Chintels Paradiso, a condominium in Gurgaon's Sector 109. The incident had led to the death of two residents. It also sparked outrage among residents of several other condominiums across the National Capital Region who have demanded structural audits of

their complexes. On Sunday, GNIDA officials said a committee comprising officials from has been set up on Saturday to prepare a standard draft on structural tions to the existing format, with the help of experts from

safety, including modifica-IIT-Delhi or a similar body. TNN **GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

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Executive Engineer, Metropolitan

Electrical division, I & W Dte., Govt. of

ICA-T3105(2)/2022

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

till further notice. In a letter to the sub-registrars of Gurgaon, Yadav said that prima facie, it appeared that the developer was at fault in connection with the February 10 cave-in at Paradiso,

where two residents were killed. Two FIRs have been lodged against the developer and probe is on. "In light of this incident at Chintel Paradiso, all sub-registrars have

been directed to refrain from registering any document related to any property in projects developed by Chintels India Ltd, Chintels Exports Pvt Ltd. Ashok Solomon and Intels



Paradiso residents say at protest

the promoters and directors of Chintels

fected families. While a structural audit of Paradiso has been ordered, no details on the scope of work have been shared with us. Similarly, an FIR has been registered against the Chintels MD and others but no arrest has been made so far. The administration is only giving verbal assurances," Varun Dhamija, a resident of the condo, said. Had the administration had acted on the residents' complaint last year, he added, such

According to residents, to date, no one from the Chintels' management has reached out to them. "Our fellow residents of D tower have been displaced from their homes, and the residents of other towers have been living in a state of fear and anguish in an unsafe environment. The rubbles from the collapse are yet to be removed and are a constant reminder of the horrifying incident of February 10," Sanjay Suhag, a resident of F block of the condo, said.

an incident could have been averted.

Two separate FIRs have been registered in the incident till now.

Meanwhile, a group of residents also met chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and were assured that strict action would be taken against all responsible. On February 14, the CM had directed the state government's town and country planning department (DTCP) to identify all residential buildings where RWAs report structural damage and initiate safety audits.

# 'No sale registration for Chintels projects'

Gurgaon: Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav has ordered that registration of sale deeds of all projects of the developer of Chintels Paradiso be stopped

DAYS SINCE

India Pvt Ltd," the letter read.

Apart from Paradiso, the other projects of the developer include Chintels Serenity, Chintels Corporate Park, Sobha City, Interna-

tional City and ATS Kocoon. All these projects are off the Dwarka Expressway.

Will bear structural audit cost, ready to reimburse:

The developer of Chintels CAVE-IN AT Paradiso will bear the cost PARADISO of structural audit of residential towers in the society, a spokesperson for the company said on Sunday.

On February 14, the town and country planning department had written to the director of IIT-Delhi for conducting an audit of the buildings at Paradiso, where a vertical collapse of five living rooms led to the

deaths of two residents on February

10. Apart from ascertaining the reason behind the cave-in, the district administration had also sought the IIT's advice on whether the towers were safe to live in or not and if the defects were repairable. There was, however, uncertainty over who would bear the cost of the audit.

In a statement on Sunday, the developer said that in case of any defect, the owner of the flat would be given an alternative accommodation till the repair work was over. The developer will also reimburse the affected flat owners who are willing to stay in the society. District town planner (enforcement) RS Batth said the developer would be asked to deposit the amount with the district administration.

"The company will not be allowed to pay directly to the auditor. It will have to be done through a government agency," he added.

# TIMES inter

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#### Name of the Municipality MRO Control Room No. 03582-227105 Cooch Behar (Sadar) 03582-244252 Tufanganj Mathabhanga 03583-255287 Mekhligan 03584-255297 Haldibari SI. No. Office DMEO Control Room No. District Control Room 03582-222614 Memo No.: 04/ICA/ADD/COB/ELEC Dated, Cooch behar, 20.02.2022

Contact Numbers Regarding WB Municipal General Election 2022,

**Cooch Behar District** 

# कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक

( शाखा-सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी ) वन विभाग, सतपुड़ा भवन, मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल ई-मेल : apccfit@mp.gov.in दुरभाष : 0755-2674302 फैक्स : 0755-2555480 वेबसाईट : https://mpforest.gov.in

#### विज्ञप्ति निविदा आमंत्रण संबंधी सचना

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (शाखा - सुचना प्रोद्योगिकी) वन विभाग CAMPA Project के अंतर्गत Development and Use of Application for Forest Management and Protection (DAFMP) परियोजनी हेतु प्रदेश के क्षेत्रीय, राष्ट्रीयं उद्यान, सेंचुरी वन अमले को Smartphone प्रदाय करने हेतु GeM पोर्ट्ल पर

Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/1963853 जारी की गई है। जिसकी प्रीबिड दिनांक 24-02-2022 को कार्यालय के कॉन्फ्रेंस रूम मे रखी गई है। GeM पोर्टल पर bid दिनांक 17/02/2022 से प्रारंभ हो चुकी है , जिसकी अंतिम तिथी 10/03/2022 है। इच्छ्क प्रदायकर्ता फर्म GeM पोर्टल पर दर्शित नियम एवं शर्तों के अनुरूप इस Bid मे सम्मिलित हो

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# **Green View to be given** to NBCC by March 1

Gurgaon: Deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav has appointed district town planner (enforcement) RS Batth as the nodal officer and duty magistrate to supervise the entire process of NBCC Green View's handover to the developer for carrying out repair work at the society.

Yadav's order said, "As the nodal officer, Batth will supervise handover of the pro-

ject to the developer by March 1." Yadav also said if need arises, the nodal officer can seek police as-

sistance to execute the order, and in case any person acts against the directive, the department will initiate proceedings under Section 188 of IPC, sections 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and other legal provisions. Batth told TOI that officials will

try to get the flats vacated amicably without using any force or causing any inconvenience to the residents. "We held a meeting with families in Green View and explained to them about the situation. A team will again visit the society on Monday," he said. TNN

# **Adventures in Gadgetland**

was magic. Cold water was great too, but

ice cubes, the unlikely junction of win-

ter and geometry, were mesmerising.

The first few days were spent crunching

ice loudly, for where else did one access

an unlimited supply of this delightful

but occasional form of water? The fridg-

e's main function — that of preserving

food-was of little interest. In fact, even

today, in many parts of India, the prefer-

ence for fresh food is so strong that the

fridge is little more than a cupboard that

gadgets were monuments. Imposing, sa-

cred, to be approached with the greatest

reverence and not a little fear. They were

installations that exuded mystery and

But the 70s and 80s were times when

makes ice and keeps water cold.

**CITY CITY BANG BANG** 

SANTOSH DESAI

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022



In the 70s, when we first bought a tape recorder, those little boxes with a few buttons, one of them red, their role was largely to record the sound of our own voices. The idea that

music could be played back on it never really occurred to us, at least not in the beginning. The wonder of listening to our own voices, trapped in a little box for eternity, was by itself enough. The earliest recordings were of our performances — a poem, a joke, some funny shayaris, a song punctuated with large gulps of air between the words and some very laboured and self-conscious conversation. Hearingourselves revealed something hitherto hidden to us — the pitch, the timbre, the sound of the laugh, the squeals of delight - all felt like an out-of-body experience. We could listen to, and inflict on others, what in retrospect were thoroughly unentertaining snippets of silliness over and over again.

It was the experience of capturing a sense of our living selves, as against photographs that immortalised us by freezing our existence, that was exhilarating. To a generation that associated recorded voices only with the famous or the truly talented, the idea of hearing one's own voice coming out of a gadget felt a little miraculous. It is strange how that specific need of self-recognition seems to have disappeared or more likely dissolved into video recordings of the self.

The first impression that a new gadget made in those constrained times often had nothing to do with its eventual function. In the case of the tape recorder, it had also to do with the fact that in its earliest days, there were no pre-corded cassettes that were easily available, so the act of recording music was a painful song-by-song effort, which involved connecting a tinny tape-recorder to an even tinnier transistor. However, in the case of the refrigerator, it was because the wonder lay elsewhere.

When the first refrigerator came, ice

The gadget was part of the act of establishing one's world. Bit by bit, we crystallised our existence by filling out our homes. The function these gadgets served was important, but even more important was their value

as objects to be owned

needed to be dealt with only by Important People, namely the men of the house. We never had a record player and had access to it only when we went to an uncle's house. No religious rite has been carried out with greater ceremony; the Japanese tea ritual is a quick act compared with the fastidious and highly elaborate regimen for playing music on the gramophone, as it was then called. It involved first removing the ornate cover from the stereo system, carefully selecting a disc from a neatly stacked pile of options, wiping the cover of the album, slowly, really slowly extracting the record from the sleeve, caressing it clean with the merest whisper of a cloth, placing it with adoring care in its slot, lifting the needle as gingerly as if were a vial of toxic plutonium, waiting purposefully just for the heck of it before finally uniting the needle with its destined groove, and letting the music flow.

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**Suspect in city murder** 

New Delhi: A 26-year-old suspect was

detained from Jaipur on Sunday in connection with the murder case of a wo-

man in north Delhi, police said. The ac-

cused, who was planning to flee to a sa-

fer place, will reach Delhi at night for in-

terrogation. The victim was found dead

in her room on Friday. According to her

family, her phone was switched off in

the evening. Around 9.30 pm, a cop ans-

wered the phone and asked them to re-

ach the police station, they said. TNN

case caught in Jaipur

could lead to big changes in the way we lived. When the radio became the transistor, many other things changed. The gadget became less of a monument and more a personal accessory. The transistor attached itself into the entrails of our lives, as it went where we went, in our bedrooms, bathrooms and even in the basket of our bicycles. As a consequence, film songs entered the crevices of our lives, acting as a moving map of our moods, the articulator of the unsaid, the extrapolator of the mundane into the sublime. Songs became personal documents, secret friends that saw a part of us that no one else ever did. The act of humming a song to oneself had always rendered a public good private, but the transistor made this personal ownership official. The device of the farmaish created some sort of common currency of the popular without surrendering entirely to it.

The gadget was part of the act of establishing one's world. Bit by bit, we crystallised our existence by filling out our homes. Ghar basana, the gradual setting up of the home, was nothing but the act of populating it with facilities and meaning. Prosperity rippled around us, forming a protective moat. The function these gadgets served was important, but even more important was their value as objects to be owned. They expanded our sense of self, stretching the boundaries of our empires bit by bit. They represented what we were capable of by their presence more than by their use.

The gadget, if anything, is even more central to our lives today. While we may own our share of blenders, hairdryers, air fryers, home theatres and the like, there is really only one gadget at the heart of everything we do. The mobile phone today is a master-key of all devices. It packs so much functionality in its petite form that we have exhausted any concept of wonder usually associated with the gadget. We take the magic of the phone for granted as we await the next upgrade. The gadget still changes our lives in small and important ways, but perhaps it does not excite the emotions it once did.

santosh365@gmail.com

# Investor expo to be held for Business **Blasters: Govt**

New Delhi: Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday held a review meeting with officials for the second round of the Business Blasters programme. The Delhi government said that in the second round of the programme, an investors' expo will be organised where the top 100 teams will be evaluated by industrialists and experts, who will invest in the teams.

The government said that

"The panel will review these ideas, assess them on set parameters and select them for the third phase of business blasters. The top 100 teams selected by the expert panel will be presented at an investors' expo organised by the Delhi government where the ideas will be assessed by successful entrepreneurs and experts from universities," officials said.

They further said that the top 10 teams that are selected at the expo will get direct admission to BBA courses in universities that come under Delhi government.

"The 1,000 teams selected for the second round are receiving regular guidance and mentorship from experts and pare youth who can become job providers and not job seekers and who can contribute to the economic development

#### TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH Survey No. 36/P, Gopanpally Village, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad - 500 107 Tel: +91(0) 40 2020 3020, Email: purchasegroup@tifrh.res.it PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE - PT 010/2021-22 Date: 21-02-2022 Tender No. **Tender Description** Due Date Supply, Installation, and TIFR/PD/CA21-Commissioning of Big Data 15-03-2022 185/21-22/ Servers for TIFR Hyderabad 211316 For further details about this tender, Please visit our website https://www.tifrh.res.in/index.php/commercial-tenders

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PATALKOT U

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

1,000 teams, that were selected from the first round will present their ideas at 28 Delhi government schools in a panel comprising of industrialists, education department officials and members from different universities of Delhi.

industrialists. Through this programme, the Delhi government's vision is to preof the country," the government said in a statement.

### DU, JNU vice-chancellors meet, discuss implementation of NEP his meeting with Santishree TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The vice-chancellors of Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University have held discussions on the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

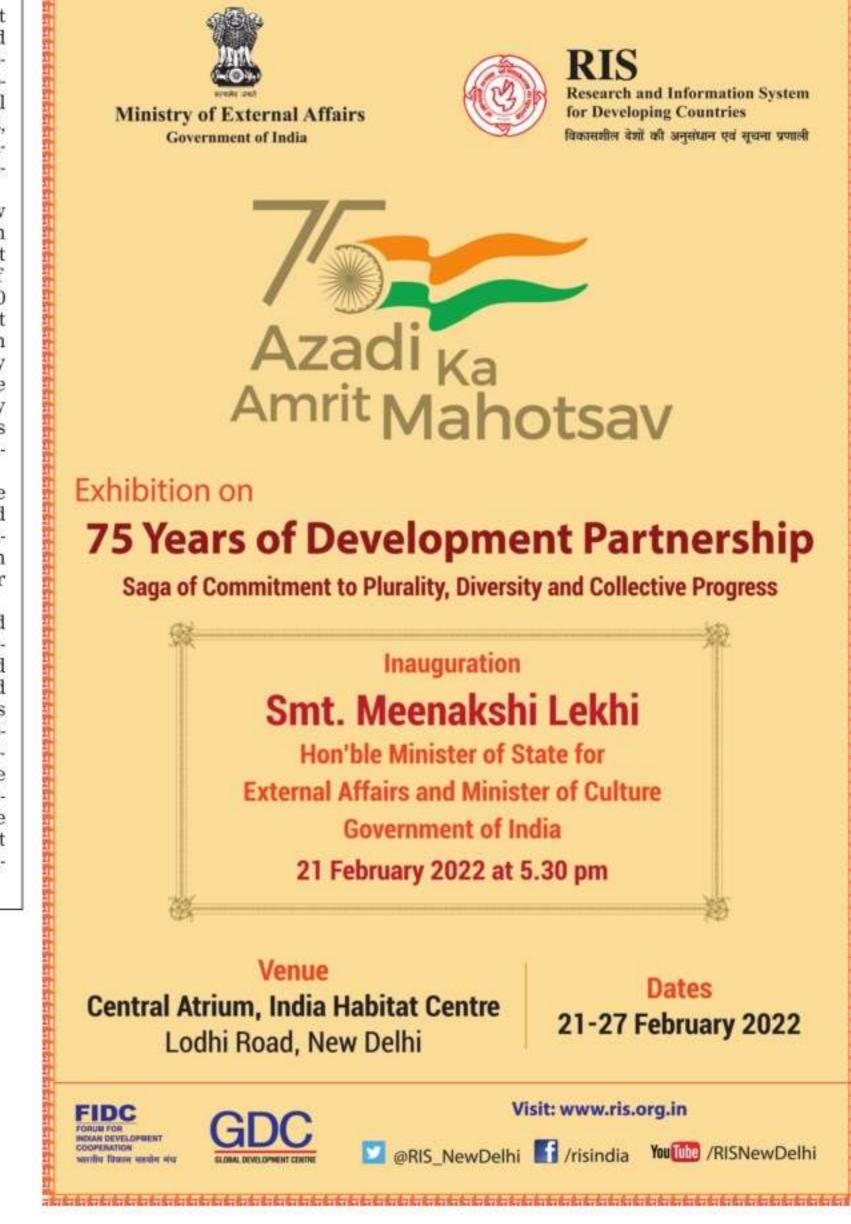
In a tweet Sunday, JNU said that among other things, "the heads of the two leading universities discussed strategies to accelerate the implementation process of NEP."

Speaking to TOI, DU VC Yogesh Singh said that while Dhulipudi Pandit, the vicechancellor of JNU, was a courtesy call, there were discus-

sions on the policy. "We did discuss the NEP implementation but frameworks for DU and JNU will be quite different. JNU primarily has post-graduate courses and not many bachelor's courses-.For DU, on the other hand, the framework is only for undergraduate courses. For PG courses, we will be discussing and debating the framework only

after a year or two when the requirement arises," Singh said.

DU will be implementing the NEP 2020 from the upcoming academic session where a four-year undergraduate programme will be offered to students. According to the framework to be adopted by DU, students with a three-year undergraduate course can pursue a two-year PG degree while those with a four-year UG course will be able to complete their master's programme in a year.



# DU to give 1.7 lakh degrees digitally at 98th convocation

STUDENTS TO BE

AWARDED WITH

THIS YEAR, SAID

**PHD DEGREES** 

**OFFICIALS** 

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi University (DU) is set to hold its 98th convocation on Saturday, where it will give digital degrees to nearly 1.73 lakh students.

Senior officials said that the graduates would also receive the printed degrees within a month of the convocation.

"On the day of the convocation, we will release the digital degrees and all students who completed their respective courses in 2021 will be receiving emails for the

same. We have sent all the data for printing the hard copies already," said DS Rawat, DU's

dean of examinations. "We should receive the same by the second week of March, after which individual verification of the degrees will occur. Once this is done, the degrees will be sent to the respective colleges and students can collect the same," he said.

The varsity's move to issue he explained.

printed degrees to graduates is aimed at reducing woes faced by students as it takes at least a couple of years to get the deg-

rees after graduation. According to data shared by varsity officials, over 77,500 undergraduate and post-graduate students will be receiving their degrees this year.

Over 91,800 undergraduate and 1126 post-graduate students from the School of Open Learning will get their degrees in the next two Officials months. added that 650 PhD students would also

be awarded their

degrees this year. "Earlier data was collected through colleges and it ended up being a time-consuming

process," Rawat said. "But this year, we are nearly ready with the degrees as we collected the data directly through the new examination form. Hence, the mark sheet and admit card data was ready and could be sent for printing,"

# IIT hopes to create drug molecules to treat Alzheimer's

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have designed and demonstrated a new strategy for developing potential drug molecules that can be used for treating various diseases like encephalitis and protein aggregation diseases such as Alzheimer's.

IIT SAYS

Molecules have shapes just like objects. **Designing and** synthesising molecules with diverse shapes is an art in itself

Presently, computer-aided rational drug discovery is utilised to find target molecules for a particular protein target and it takes a considerable amount of time, according to IIT.

molecules that interact with molecules present in the human body. The molecules in the body are bigger in size and are typically called macromolecules. The researchers have come up with a chemical strategy ba-molecule," the professor said.

sed on the macromolecular mimicry. Molecules have shapes just like objects. Designing and synthesising molecules with diverse shapes is an art in itself. Mimicking the macromolecular interface uniquely shaped small molecules is an approach adopted by the research group," the institute said.

Professor V Haridas of IIT Delhi's chemistry department collaborated with virologist professor Guruprasad Medigeshi of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute and biochemist professor Bishwajit Kundu of Kusuma School of Biological Sciences, IIT Delhi, for the

research work. "The tools of organic chemistry and biophysics were utilised to design molecules that target protein interface. We used this strategy to design drug molecules, which could be useful for treatment of Japa-"Drugs are mostly organic nese Encephalitis Virus (JEV), the main cause for viral encephalitis in Southeast Asian countries and protein aggregation diseases such as Alzheimer's. We have also patented the JEV inhibitor drug



tribes of Madhya Pradesh and live the tribal life as you travel on a specially

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# Wanted: A super vaccine that fights all coronavirus variants

Variants have made last year's vaccines less effective, and new coronaviruses that start new pandemics might be on the horizon. It's time for a vaccine that can fight them all

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

eath visited every neighbourhood in last summer's Delta wave, but it was a time of low vaccination. Omicron's sweep across the country in December and January was unexpected though. While the death toll remained low, it showed that lasting "immunity" from Covid is probably unachievable. Not with two vaccine doses, not even with three or four.

In Israel, health workers got infected even after taking two booster shots. A Financial Times report says: "A fourth dose of the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine was largely ineffective in stopping Omicron infections despite increasing antibodies."

In a way, vaccine makers acknowledge this reality while recommending more booster shots. But from the public's point of view, boosters are inconvenient, expensive and, perhaps, impractical. Never before have governments run adult immunisation programmes. So, a Covid strategy based on yearly vaccination is unlikely to succeed. But if we could have a vaccine that takes care of not only Covid's variants but also new coronaviruses that emerge in the future, it could be a game changer.

#### Need For Universal Vaccine

In December, American disease expert Anthony Fauci and two of his colleagues made a case for a universal vaccine in the New England Journal of Medicine, They said Covid is unlikely to go away, and existing vaccines won't be able to stop the rise of its new variants. At the same time new coronaviruses could escape from the wild to start new pandemics. Therefore, scientists need to find a uni-

versal coronavirus vaccine urgently.

A recent article in Nature also calls for making "variantalso calls for making "variant-proof" vaccines bear

"protection offered by a booster dose is transient and will wane with time". It says we need vaccines that prevent infection as much as severe disease.

### Work In Progress

The idea of a universal vaccine is not new. Scientists have been trying to make a universal flu shot for over 10 years. Clinical trials of a candidate vaccine started in 2019, but it's not approved for the market so far.

Fauci and other experts admit a universal vaccine for Covid variants and future coronaviruses won't materialise anytime soon. Unlike the current crop

Pak arrests 31

fishermen,

seizes 5 vessels

Islamabad: Pakistan's maritime authorities have arrest-

ed 31 Indian fishermen and

seized five of their vessels for

allegedly fishing in the coun-

try's territorial waters, offi-

curity Agency (PMSA) said

that it apprehended the intrud-

ing vessels on Friday during

patrolling in the Pakistan Ex-

its "ship apprehended five

Indian fishing boats along

Karachi for further legal pro-

ceedings as per Pakistani Law

and UN Convention on Law of

larly arrest fishermen from

either side for violating the

maritime boundary which is

poorly marked at some points.

and India usually end up in

jails after they are arrested for

fishing illegally in each oth-

er's territorial waters. PTI

Fishermen from Pakistan

Pakistan and India regu-

The PMSA said that one of

The boats were towed to

clusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The Pakistan Maritime Se-

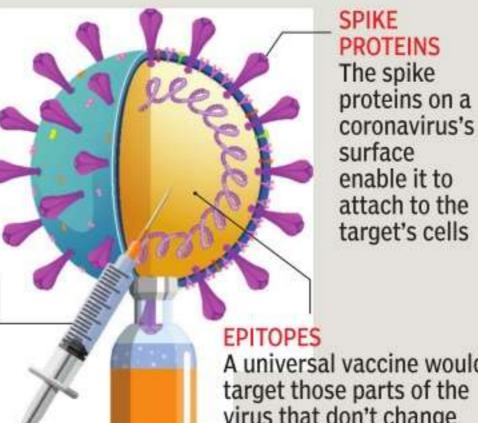
cials said on Sunday.

with 31 crew.'

the Sea, it said.

#### SHIFTING **TARGETS**

**VACCINES** Existing coronavirus vaccines train the immune system to neutralise the spike proteins. But the spike mutates, so vaccines become less effective as new variants arise



of Covid vaccines where "we knew what the target was: it was there, it was right in front of us," he says in the FT article, a universal vaccine will be targeted at genetic sequences that are not known.

But new research shows making such a vaccine is possible. So far, all coronavirus vaccines have targeted the virus's spike protein, which is prone to mutation. Between the original 'Wuhan' virus - on which all vaccines are based and Omicron there are at least 30 differences in the spike alone. Which explains the diminishing efficacy of vaccines.

So, for a universal vaccine scientists are aiming at those parts of the virus that do not change from variant to variant. If the immune system could be trained to recognise these "conserved" parts, also known as "epitopes" – a vaccine targeting a range of coronaviruses would be possible.

And a few such vaccines are already under development. The US military's Walter Reed Army Institute of Re-

search is awaiting phase-I results of its pan-coronavirus vaccine candidate. FT mentions another potential universal vaccine being developed by the firm DIOSynVax.

Massachusetts-based VBI Vaccines has taken a different approach. Instead of identifying the stable virus parts or epitopes, it has placed the spike proteins of three different coronaviruses that cause SARS, MERS and Covid on particles that resemble a virus and induce the immune system to react. Will these vaccines free us from the need for yearly boosters? It's too early to say. Some experts think lifelong immunity

PIB new accreditation norms

vague, arbitrary: Editors Guild

The Editors Guild of

India said the Press

**Information Bureau** 

should undertake 'a

consultation' with

all stakeholders to

revised guidelines

cessing and reporting from

the headquarters of Govern-

bitrary" and "manifestly

vague and subjective", the

provisions of the guidelines

and objected to journalists

being denied an opportunity

to be heard before their ac-

mation' has been included as

a ground for cancellation,"

"Most surprisingly, 'defa-

A new clause requiring

police verification added Guild of India said.

creditation is cancelled.

It also referred to as "ar-

meaningful

come up with

EGI also said the Press Inment of India," EGI said in a

statement.

the EGI said.

versal" shot. But protection for even 5 or 10 years would be a huge improvement.

#### **Looking Beyond Coronaviruses**

Other scientists have been trying to find a way to boost immunity against not just coronaviruses but all types of pathogens. The New Yorker describes it as "broad spectrum" immunity.

They have known for years that vaccines for one disease sometimes improve immunity against other diseases also. For example, in the Soviet Union people were given the oral polio vaccine every year as protection against flu. Data also shows babies given the BCG shot against TB at birth have a 75% lower risk of death in early life. And countries with higher BCG coverage appear to have lower Covid mortality rates too.

Scientists have also observed that vaccines containing a live, weakened germ - such as BCG, OPV and the MV vaccine for measles - produce stronger overall immunity than vaccines containing just a part of the germ.

The New Yorker says, "In theory, we could use a preexisting vaccine to protect against a new virus while more specific vaccines are still being developed."

This approach could reduce the initial severity of a new pandemic. While researchers develop a disease-specific vaccine, an "immunity booster" shot of some other vaccine could keep the death toll down and make lockdowns and other disruptions unnecessary.

"It wouldn't halt a virus's progression, but it might slow it, and perhaps spare the most vulnerable some of the worst effects," the New Yorker says.

Source: Media reports

without defining the con-

tours of such verification,

the Editors Guild of India

said can grant unfettered

powers to the police for

denying accreditation to

journalists who seen as criti-

cal of the government,

been prescribed.

since no standards have

vague, arbitrary, and draco-

nian clauses have been in-

cluded with an intent to re-

strict any critical and inves-

tigative reporting of govern-

ment affairs," it said adding

that guidelines were intro-

duced without any prior

consultation with journal-

ists' bodies, media organisa-

tions or any other relevant

mands a withdrawal of these

guidelines and urges the PIB

to undertake meaningful

consultation with all the

stakeholders if it is intent on

revising them," the Editors

"The Guild therefore de-

stakeholders.

"It is clear that these

### A universal vaccine would target those parts of the virus that don't change from variant to variant might not be possible even with a "uni-

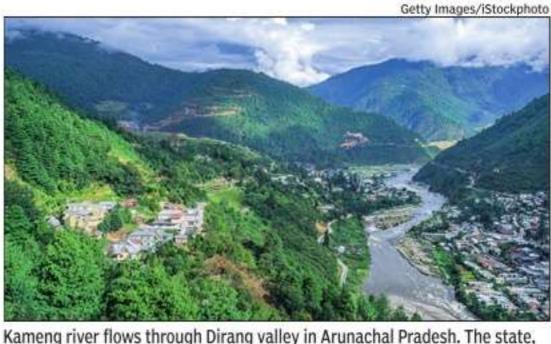
# Set up dedicated green body on lines of GST council: States

# 'Move Will Aid **India Achieve** Climate Goals'

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: With experts demanding a separate body to deal with issues linked climate change for long, states have proposed setting up a dedicated 'environmental council' like GST council to implement India's climate action at all levels.

Although the Centre has an apex committee, comprising members from 13 key ministries, to coordinate actions for achieving India's climate goal under the Paris Agreement, the idea to have a separate council came up during the World Sustainable Developsuch an independent body for more focused action.



along with Meghalaya, forms the biggest carbon sinks in India

mate action, be it mitigation, adaptation and resilience, often falls on the state governments and therefore there should be a dedicated body composed of representatives from the Centreandall the states/Union Territories (UTs). "On the lines of the GST

Council, if we have the enviis where we can set targets and policies at the national level They pointed out that the and implement at the state levimplementation aspects of cli- el," said Aaditya Thackeray,

environment minister of Maharashtra, Participating in a 'ministerial session on subnational leadership for inclusive green growth' at WSDS, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Thackeray suggested putting out an annual environment report. "We can think of an 'ease ronment and forest ministers of living' report that lists out ment Summit (WSDS) where of all states along with the environmental steps and tarstate representatives, includ- Union minister of environ- gets, and what can be done in

by TERI director general, Vib-

Father dies a day after Pune

silience," he said.

ha Dhawan, the ministers highlighted the need for newer measures and yardsticks to assess and tackle climate change related impacts. Emphasising the crucial role of sub-national governance to tackle climate change, James K Sangma, environment and forest minister of Meghalaya, said, "The need of the hour is to have a concerted effort where all the states come together, put aside their differences and work collectively."

Pointing out that Meghalaya along with Arunachal form the biggest carbon sinks crucial for India to honour the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, Sangma also put forth the need for the northeastern region to be a unique green laboratory. "Meghalaya aspires to be a leader to create a green bloc coalition to find solutions to fast depleting natural assets," he said.

Echoing Thackeray's suggestion, Palanivel Thiagaraing ministers, proposed having ment in a council, I think that terms of climate action such as jan, finance minister of Tamil mitigation, adaptation and re- Nadu, said, "While policies are framed at the national lev-At the session, moderated el, bulk of the work is to be

# **Groom, 8 others** killed as SUV falls into river in Rajasthan

Rajiv Saxena | TNN

Kota: Nine persons, including a bridegroom and his brother, were killed on the spot after their SUV fell into the Chambal river from a bridge in Rajasthan's Kota city early Sunday morning. The groom, 23-year-old Avinash Valmiki who was to wed Sunday evening, was travelling with his friends and relatives in the SUV, while other members of the wedding party were in a bus. The wedding procession was from Chauth ka Barwada in Sawai Madhopur and was on its way to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh.

The driver is believed to have taken the lower bridge not open to traffic instead of the main bridge out of confusion. The fatal fall claimed the lives of all the occupants. The other deceased include Avinash's 30-year-old brother Keshav and driver 35-year-old Islam Khan.

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 30-

year-old Delhi Police consta-

ble died after allegedly falling

off the terrace of his house in

a village here on Sunday, po-

lice said. The incident took

place when Anuj Kumar was

talking on his phone at home

in Kutbi village before leaving

for his marriage ceremony in

The body was sent for a

Meanwhile, two bodies

were found in separate places

on the railway tracks at Kha-

toli in the district, police offi-

cials said. One of the victims

was identified as Ramesh

Chand Saini. The bodies were

sent for post-mortem examin-

ation, they said. PTI

examination.

Loni, Ghaziabad, they said.

post-mortem

the police said

hoy (76) told TOI on Sunday. She said they had commu-

nicated the news of his father's death to Mansoor in Ahmedabad jail. "We hope the court's verdict will help him in the other two cases pending against him before the courts in Mumbai and Delhi," she added.

# techie's acquittal in Ahd blasts Twitter takes down Guj BJP post on verdict

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: For the Peerbhoy family living in Pune Cantonment area, the last two days have swung from happiness to sorrow. On Friday, Mohammed Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, a techie, was acquitted by a special court in Gujarat in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case, and on Saturday, his father Asghar (78) died of heart attack.

"He (Asghar) was hugely relieved after hearing about Mansoor's acquittal on Friday. He was not keeping well for the last four-five months and breathed his last on Saturday," Mansoor's mother BA Peerb-

The atmosphere was som- job after his arrest. All these

tweet from BJP Gujarat's official handle showing men in

skullcaps with a noose each around their necks was pulled down by the microblogging site on Sunday after some users reported it. The caricature, accompanied by the captions "Satyamev Jayate" and "No forgiveness for those spreading terrorism", had been posted on Saturday, a day after a special court sentenced to death 38 out of the 49 people convicted for the 2008 Ahmedabad blasts. State BJP spokesperson Yagnesh Dave said "some people" reported the tweet, prompting Twitter to blank it out from the handle @BJP4Gujarat. "The caricature was meant only to remind people that there is no tolerance for anti-national activities," he said. TNN

bre at the Peerbhoy residence, a first-floor flat in a society on Ambedkar Road, where a steady stream of visitors, mostly relatives, arrived to offer condolences or

called them on the phone. "The case has taken a heavy toll on all of us, apart from ruining my son's life," said Mansoor's mother, a retired schoolteacher. "He had a high-paying job with a software company and had no time for indulging in the alleged activities. But he lost the

years, we have been travelling from Pune to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Delhi in connection with the cases that are interlinked," she said.

She said the only bright spot in all these years was the support they got from their neighbours and relatives, who had faith in Mansoor and believed he was not involved in any criminal act.

A total of 56 people had died and 200 others were injured in a series of bomb blasts in Ahmedabad on July 26, 2008.

#### States should have the power to Cop falls off terrace ahead of recall guy, Kerala tells Centre marriage, killed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: Amid repeated tussles with governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala government has put forward a recommendation to the Centre that the state assemblies should have powers to recall the governor.

"In Article 156, an amendment be proposed to give the state government concerned a say in the matter of recall of governor," the government said in response to remarks by the Justice (retd) Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission appointed to suggest changes in the Centre-state relations.

The government has recommended that the state legislature should be empowered to

violation of the Constitution, lapses in duty of the chancellor or in taking criminal prosecution procedures.

"...as far as the governor is concerned, in addition to constitutional functions, he is entrusted with certain statutory functions such as chancellor of universities. Therefore spe-

cific grounds such as violation of Constitution or failure of discharge of his functions should be incorporated in Article 156," says the note titled "final views of the state of Kerala" approved by the cabinet.

Khan had run into serious differences of opinion with the government on many occa-

remove the governor in case of sions, with the latest being that of him accusing the government of trying to "control" the Raj Bhavan. He has raised charges against the govern-

> ment on appointment of ministers' personal staff and said such staff are not entitled to pension benefits anywhere in the country. He had locked horns with the government on appointments in universi-

> ties and the Lok Ayukta Act amendment earlier. The note says, "Article 155 need an amendment in such a way that the governor of a state shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the state concerned and the appointment shall be effected from a panel furnished by the state."

# Girl from orphanage clears NEET

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thane: Someone who is abandoned by her family at four, along with a year-old kid brother, and reared at an orphanage would elicit pity perhaps even years later. Not much would be expected of such a child, given how cruel fate was to her. But meet Shabana Shaikh, who has set an example for many others like her. Now 22 years old, the feisty girl didn't allow circumstances to dampen her spirits, and recently secured a seat in a medical college after clearing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, or NEET, thus achieving the first step towards realising her dream of becoming a doctor.

Shabana was found with her brother at a Mumbai hos-



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Editors

Guild of India on Sunday

urged the government to

withdraw the new Central

Media Accreditation Guide-

lines on grounds that the gui-

delines are "vague and arbi-

trary" and that "draconian

clauses" have been included

in it with an intent to restrict

any critical and investiga-

tive reporting of govern-

formation Bureau, which is-

sued the guidelines, should

undertake "a meaningful

consultation" with all stake-

holders to come up with re-

dia is deeply concerned

about the newly released

Central Media Accredita-

tion Guidelines issued by the

Press Information Bureau

of India, which lays down

the rules for giving accred-

itation to journalists for ac-

"The Editors Guild of In-

ment affairs.

vised guidelines.

was brought to an orphanage in Badlapur. Though the girl had initially clammed up, keeping to herself and not speaking to anyone, the staff could see that she was clever, outshining the other children her age in assigned educational tasks. But little did they think that the child would do the institution proud one day. "Shabana always showed ex-

choice. She always said she wanted to be a doctor. Little did we realise that one day she would surprise us all," said Padma Gudhe, superintendent at Bombay Teen Challenge orphanage.

Shabana, who is fond of singing, told **TOI** she was encouraged to take up medicine by the orphanage trustees, who ensured she was never deprived of adequate study material. She had attempted NEET two years ago too, but wasn't satisfied with her scores. So she re-attempted the test last year, and got a place in an Aurangabad college.

"I don't remember my biological family who left me and my brother to fend for ourselves. Instead of looking back emplary performance at stud- and pitying myself for that, I ed her and assured assistpital around 18 years ago and ies. Later on, we encouraged focussed on creating a better ance, whenever required.

her to pursue any field of her future for myself and the orphanage, which is now my family and has supported me throughout. My friends here are proud of me. They have always helped me with routine chores so that I could focus on my studies. Because of them, I could study for eight to ten hours at a stretch, daily, and prepare for the medical entrance exam," said Shabana, who wants to specialise in gynaecology and serve society.

Social activists say the girl has set an example for others to emulate as many facing a similar situation in life often tend to lose hope and waver from their ambitions.

Shabana's achievement has drawn the attention of Thane collector Rajesh Narvekar, who recently felicitat-

# FIR against Wankhede over bar licence

Prafulla.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A criminal case has been registered against Narcotics Control Bureau's former Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede following a complaint by the excise department for allegedly fraudulently securing a bar licence over two decades ago.

that Wankhede, though ineligible, had secured the permit for the bar on October 27, 1997, following which the excise department initiated a probe against him. Later, NCP minister Nawab Malik had lodged a complaint to the Central Vigilance Commission and state excise commissioner alleging hede to hold the licence as he was



Sameer Wankhede, who was on deputation with NCB, was repatriated to his parent department, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, on completion of tenure in January

vice, which he joined in 2006. Significantly, when Wank-

hede had applied for the permit TOI was the first to report on February 13, 1997, his father, Dnyandev, was an inspector in the excise department. Then Wankhede had ad-

mitted to TOI that he did possess the licence for a long time, but after he took up the government job, he had given the power of attorney in the name of his father, while on Sunday, he said: "The FIR has been that it was wrong for Wank- lodged after 25 years; then I a child.

to the nation."

After hearing Wankhede's counsel on February 1, Thane collector Rajesh Narvekar had scrapped the bar licence blatant violation of the Maharashtra Prohibition Rules.

Based on documents submitted by the excise department, Narvekar found that Wankhede had obtained the permit on October 27, 1997, through willful misrepresentation or fraud. Then Wankbelongs to the All India Serelse can I say, all is evident ageagainst the required age of tenure in January.

hede did not mention his date of birth, but merely submitted that he is an adult. On Saturday, Thane excise

In his application, Wank-

inspector Satyawan Shankar Gogawale submitted a complaint to Kopri police, following which an offence was registered against Wankhede under the Indian Penal Code sections 181 (false statement on oath before a public servant), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 420 (cheating), 465 (punishment for forgery), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document).

Wankhede, who was on deputation with NCB, was repatriated to his parent department, Directorate of Revenue hede was less than 18 years of Intelligence, on completion of

# Working on a plan, sure that anti-BJP parties will join us: KCR



Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao with his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on Sunday

#### ▶ Continued from P1

aharashtra Congress president Nana Patole welcomed Rao's efforts to organise an anti-BJP front, but said that no such front can be successful unless it takes help of Congress.

Rao's visit comes a week after West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reached out to regional satraps Rao and MK Stalin to push for a non-BJP, non-Congress federal front and set up meetings of opposition CMs. Rao said a good beginning has been made, and he will soon meet Thackeray again in Hyderabad. He said he is also trying to organise a meeting of anti-BJP like-minded parties in Baramati. Pawar's hometown. "We are working out a strong action plan, I am sure anti-BJP parties will join us as early as possible," Rao added.

Endorsing the views expressed by Rao, Thackeray said: "Our marathon discussion revolved around current political situation, particularly the politics of revenge and deteriorating Centre-state relations." Addressing a joint press conference, Thackeray and Rao said the NDA leadership was expected to speak on developmental issues and provide a new roadmap, but unfortunately the entire focus is on defaming others and trumpeting one's achievements.

"We have to change, bring in parivartan," they said. Among those who attended the meeting at Varsha, the CM's official residence in Mumbai, were Thackeray's son Tejas, industries minister Subhash Desai, urban development minister Eknath Shinde, MPs Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawant, while Rao was accompanied by MPs Ranjeet Reddy, Santosh Kumar, B P Patil and veteran actor Prakash Raj.

Rao said while Maharashtra shares a 1,000km border with Telangana, the relations between the two states are friendly and all-out efforts should be made for the development of both states.

## **U'khand BJP MLA** alleges 'internal plot'

Dehradun: Incumbent BJP MLA and party's candidate from Yamunotri assembly constituency, Kedar Singh Rawat, has complained of "internal plotting" against him by some local leaders. He has alleged that despite attempts made by some party leaders to ensure his defeat, he would win the seat, albet by a reduced margin. Notably, Rawat has held the seat since 2007. Speaking to TOI, Rawat said, "Some party workers worked against me and made efforts to ensure my defeat in Yamunotri. However, despite their attempts, we are winning the seat." TNN

▶ Continued from P1

leaving the country.

ing system, they said.

vestigation has also issued lookout circulars

and former COO Anand Subra-

manian to prevent them from

booked stock broker Sanjay

Gupta, owner and promoter of

Delhi based OPG Securities

Pvt. Ltd, in 2018 for allegedly

making gains by getting early

access to the stock market trad-

unidentified officials of Secu-

rities and Exchange Board of

India (SEBI) and National

Stock Exchange (NSE), Mum-

ple. "It was alleged that the

owner and promoter of said

private company abused the

server architecture of NSE in

conspiracy with unknown offi-

cials of NSE. It was also alleged

that unknown officials of NSE,

The agency is also probing

The probing agency had

# BJP talking terror to skirt jobs & fuel price issues: Akhilesh

'Govt Has Left 11L Posts In State Depts Vacant For No Reason'

Pervez.lgbalSiddigui @timesgroup.com

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said BJP leaders are talking about terrorism in their election speeches when the common man is looking for solutions to rising fuel prices and unemployment.

He said this was being done to divert attention from the main issues.

"Chunav ho raha hai Unnao mein, aur baat kar rahe hain atankwaad ki ... kisano ko khaad chahiye, naujavano ko naukri chahiye aur BJP ke log aatankwad ki baat kar rahe hain (Elections are taking place in Unnao and they (BJP) are talking about terrorism. Farmers want fertilizers, youth want jobs ... and BJP leaders are talking about terrorism)," he said at a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao.

He addressed public meetings in Ayodhya and Barabanki where he appealed to the people to vote for SP candiagainst a terror accused and from employment," he said.

▶ Continued from P1

otes will be counted on

March 10 together

with four other states

going to the polls. In UP, the

third round includes the 'Ya-

day belt' where 59 constituen-

three regions—parts of west

UP, Awadh and Bundelkhand-

ring a few minor infractions.

Three out of four constituen-

cies in Mainpuri district—the

stronghold of Samajwadi Par-

ty—recorded a jump in polling

percentage. Such as the Yadav

3.04% from the previous polls.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is

contesting the assembly elec-

tions for the first time from

Karhal, while BJP has fielded

Union state minister SP Singh

Baghel. In 2017, it recorded

59.28% turnout. The seat made

history with the second high-

est turnout since 1951. Mehro-

the period 2010-2012 that enabled it to login first to the ex-

change that helped to get the

data before any other broker in

leged in the FIR. Narain was

the MD and CEO of the ex-

change from April 1994 till

March 2013. Thereafter, he was

appointed as vice-chairman in

the non-executive category on

the NSE's board from April 2013

ty, the NSE allowed brokers to

place their servers in the data

centre of NSE for a charge, en-

abling them to have faster ac-

cess to the price feed distrib-

said she was steered by a yogi,

dwelling in the Himalayan

ranges, in the appointment of

Anand Subramanian as the ex-

change's group operating offi-

cer and advisor to the MD. The

SEBI charged Ramkrishna and

Ramkrishna hit the head-

uted by the stock exchange.

Under the colocation facili-

and remained so till June 2017.

CBI probing other

unidentified Sebi,

NSE officials too

against Ramkrishna, Narain the market," the CBI has al-

bai, and other unknown peo- lines after Sebi on February 11

Mumbai had provided unfair others with alleged govern-

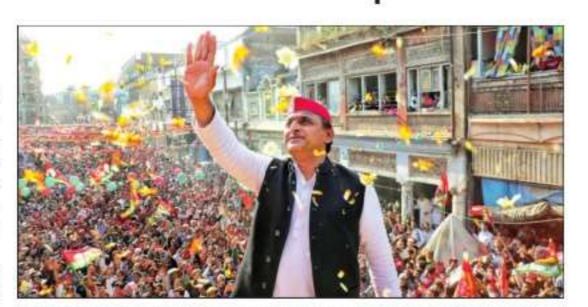
access to said company using ance lapses in the appointment

the co-location facility during of Subramanian. PTI

The Central Bureau of In- change server of Stock Ex-

Voting was peaceful, bar-

—voted on Sunday.



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav during a roadshow in Kanpur

dates in their respective areas. His statement came in apparent reference to BJP leadership accusing the SP of supporting terrorists.

BATTLEGROUND **UTTAR PRADESH** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a public meeting in Hardoi on Sunday, accused the SP government of trying to withdraw cases

MOTHER DEMOCRACY

EXERCISING HER RIGHT: A woman carrying her infant shows her inked finger after casting her vote in

Mansa repeats history, sees

highest turnout in Punjab

ni seat of Lalitpur district,

won by BJP candidate Mano-

har Lal in 2017, clocked the

highest turnout of 71% with

the district recording a maxi-

mum 69.05% voting, a 2.96%

ras 63. 14%, Kasganj 63. 04%,

Kannauj 61.93%, Firozabad

61.89%, Mainpuri 61.51%, Ha-

mirpur 60.56%, Auraiya

60.42%, Jalaun 59.93%, Kan-

pur Dehat 59.87%, Farrukha-

bad 59.13%, Etawah 58.33%,

Jhansi 57.52 % and Kanpur

bastion of Karhal recorded a Ajay Kumar Shukla said: "No highest poll percentage among

pancies was received. Polling

closed at 6pm following a one-

hour extension due to Covid

protocols. The day passed off

peacefully with minor snags

in EVMs at some places.

These machines were swiftly

replaced." In Etah, 10 people

were arrested for allegedly

casting fake votes in the Ali-

Nagar 56.14%.

It was followed by Etah at

fall in polling percentage.

cies of 16 districts across 65.70%, Mahoba 64.56%, Hath-

turnout of 62.32% by 5pm, up official complaint on discre-

Kanpur on Sunday during the third phase of voting in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls

accused the party of being kind to terrorists.

Promising to fill up vacancies in a time bound manner if the SP government is formed, Akhilesh said BJP has left 11 lakh vacancies in the state and had thus deprived 11 lakh youth of a dignified livelihood for five years for reasons best known to the BJP.

"The government went to the Supreme Court to ensure that 69,000 protesting teachers did not get a job. This is how it (BJP) has kept them away

ganj Marhara assembly con-

stituency. Punjab chief elec-

tion officer S Karuna Raju

said his office will share on

Monday the updated voting

percentage as polling was al-

of disruption of poll and in-

ducement of voters came to

the notice of the EC. However,

he said that some minor poll-

related incidents were wit-

nessed for which total 18 FIRs

were registered to avert any

region of the state continued

all the 23 districts of the state.

It polled 77.21% votes. This dis-

trict also topped the chart in

the 2017 assembly polls by poll-

ing 86.73% votes. Similarly, as

the Mohali district had record-

ed the lowest voting percent-

age of 71.48% in the 2017 as-

sembly elections, this time too

it recorded the worst voter

turnout with 68.26% till 5 pm.

Mansa district in Malwa

untoward incident.

UP chief electoral officer its earlier trend of having the

Raju said not a single case

lowed till 6pm.

### Kanpur mayor faces FIR over poll photo

The state election commission ordered lodging of an FIR against senior BJP functionary and Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur mayor Pramila Pandey for getting herself photographed while casting her vote inside a polling booth and then uploading the frame on her personal Facebook page, report Faiz Rahman Siddigui and Abhinav Malhotra. She was booked for - breaching secrecy protocol and violating poll panel guidelines inside a

booth at Hudson School premises. Kanpur Nagar's district election officer Neha Sharma said at least three complaints of poll code violations were recorded and FIRs were lodged against offenders. Besides the mayor, the district election officer has also lodged an FIR against the former president of BJYM, Nawab Singh, for breaching the secrecy protocol.

## Cong to have social media in-charges even at booth level

New Delhi: Even as it struggles to tackle conventional challenges, Congress has set in motion a process to have social media in-charges right at the polling booth-level, in a strategy to deepen its communication and propaganda machine to the lowest rung of politics to counter BJP's aggressive poll campaign, reports Subodh Ghildiyal.

Congress has decided to have social media in-charges at three basic levels — district, assembly and polling booth.

The party will make appointments and complete the training for countrywide social media in-charges by June 30. The idea of having a man to monitor the Congress voice at these bottom rungs of political ladder across states stems from the realisation that the party is weak in influencing voters with instant communication and amplifying issues that can mould opinions.

A national or state-level communication directed from the top often gets diffused as it percolates down, with party strategists advocating that workers have to be deputed to amplify the party line or campaign material down at the polling booth-level.

Congress will also have WhatsApp groups at polling booth level country-wide, in which all the active members being enrolled during the ongoing membership drive will be members. Last year, Congress interviewed lakhs of social media volunteers who expressed interest to work for the party, as part of a strategy to spread its net.

Also, Congress will soon hold a training session for all its senior leaders and officebearers in states on social media and how to optimally use it. AICC has told the state units that they should instruct leaders on the same. said sources.

the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule

# PM: UP voters won't betray me; oppn will blame BJP vax

Pankai.Shah@timesgroup.com

Hardoi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cited a video clip of an elderly woman from UP purportedly explaining why she is beholden to him as a reflection of why the electorate would never "betray" him.

"Ye logon mein aam charcha hai ki humne Modi ka namak khaya hai...hum usey dhokha nahi denge (The buzz among the people is that 'we have benefited from Modi's largesse...we won't betray him')," he said at a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi, which will go to polls in the fourth phase. The PM hastened to add that the truth was "hum sabne Ma Bharti ka namak khaya hai...Hindustan ka namak khaya hai (we all have survived on Ma Bharti and Hindustan's benevolence)".

He said the Centre's flagship Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana and free ration to the poor during the pandemic were all part of NDA's commitment to uplift of the underprivileged.

Unnao saw him cranking up the pitch further as he said the poll outcome on March 10 would see opponents blaming



PM Narendra Modi at a public meet in Hardoi on Sunday

their defeat on the "BJP vaccine" that converted votes in

the saffron party's favour. "These people will say on March 10 that BJP won because people pressed the lotus button under the influence of the BJP vaccine."

Contrary to the perception that the Modi government would try to steer clear of talking about the pandemic because of the damage wreaked by the virus last year, Modi has been playing up the vaccination campaign at meetings, asking people whether they got the shots and whether they had to pay for it. "We inoculated people without any discrimination in terms of class and caste," he said on Sunday, accusing the opposition of spreading canards against the "made-in-India" vaccine so

that the poor were deprived of their shield against Covid.

In yet another swipe at the erstwhile SP government, he said the "mafiawaadi" party gave full freedom to those who possessed "katta (local guns)" and were engaged in "satta (gamble)". Cautioning voters against attempts to divide people by spreading the "poison of casteism". Modi said there were politicians who don't even stand for one particular caste. His observation came as the UP elections move towards the central and Bundelkhand regions, where caste plays a crucial role in the poll outcome. Modi accused SP of blocking celebration of religious festivals while pursuing the "dangerous politics of minority appeasement". He said SP didn't allow him to work for the people of UP after he first became PM in 2014. "You can think what will happen if they come back to government," the PM said.

Modi's remarks coincided with polling in the Yadav-dominated pockets of Etawah, Mainpuri and Kannauj on Sunday. SP chief Akhilesh Yaday was in the fray in Mainpuri's Karhal seat.

# Seen SP's symbol? Ahd bombs were planted on bicycles: Modi

▶Continued from P1

can never forget that day when the earth was red-L dened by the blood of the victims. The tears wouldn't stop flowing. I picked up the blood-soaked soil and took a vow that my government will track these terrorists even from 'paataal' (nether world) and punish them."

Modi sought to link SP's poll symbol, the bicycle, to the terror attacks, reminding the crowd that one of the blasts on July 26, 2008, took place at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital and that the Indian Mujahideen bombers had planted explosives on bicycles.

symbol of SP? All the bombs in the initial blasts were planted on bicycles. I am so surprised, why did they use bicycles?" he said, also accusing the erstwhile SP government of withdrawing cases against terrorists responsible for 14 attacks in the state.

"In 2006, there was a blast at the Sankat Mochan temple in Varanasi and Kashi railway station. But after the SP government came to govern-



campaign in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district on Sunday

case against an accused Khurshid's claim in public 2013. Similarly, in 2007, there was a blast on the Lucknow court premises, but the SP government tried to withdraw the case against accused Tariq Kasmi. The court, however, didn't allow this to happen and he was given a life term," Modi said.

targeted the Congress leadership, claiming they would refer to Osama bin Laden as "Osama ji". He referred to ment, it decided to revoke a Congress veteran Salman was an SP functionary.

"Have you seen the poll named Shamim Ahmad in that Sonia Gandhi broke down on seeing photographs of the bodies of the IM members killed in the Batla House encounter with Delhi police.

On Saturday, Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur held up an undated picture of Ahmedabad terror convict Mohammad Saif's father The Prime Minister also Shahbad Ahmad with SP chief Akhilesh and questioned whether the latter was there to "feed him biryani".

Thakur claimed Ahmad

### राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश ( लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन )

लिंक रोड 3 पत्रकार कॉलोनी, भोपाल- 462004

विज्ञा.क्र./रा.स्वा.मि./मा संसा./2022/1100 विज्ञापन भोपाल, दिनांक 14/02/2022

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन ,म.प्र. के अंतर्गत संविदा आधार पर राज्य / संभाग स्तरीय संविदा पदो की पूर्ति हेत् आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2022 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा।

S. No.	Position Name	Essential Qualification, Experience, and Skills	No. of Vaca- ncies	Category Wise Classifi- cation	Honoraria in INR (Per Month)	Post Sanct- ioned
1	Contractual Female CLMC Manager	1:- Essential Qualification. Experience:- Female Candidates having Masters degree in Public Health / Hospital Management / Food & Nutrition or any other health related science with at least 55% marks (without rounding off) from recognized University/ institution in India and DCA/Computer foundation course.  2:- Essential Work Experience:- Minimum 2 years experience in a hospital setting / Diagnostic Laboratory / Blood Bank 3:- Desirable:- Past experience of working in comprehensive location management center/ lactation management unit.		1 (UR, Female), 1(OBC, Female)	Rs. 25000/-	J.P Hospital (DH) Bhopal and MCH, MGM Medical college Indore
2	Consultant FPLMIS (Supply Chain Manage- ment)	1:- Essential Educational Qualification:- MSW or MBA + PGDCA or higher qualification in Computer Application. 2:- Work Experience Minimum 05 years of experience in management/ implementation of public health initiatives. Minimum 03 years of experience in Family Welfare program. Minimum 03 years of experience in data management in online software application in public health system at state level.	7		Rs. 45000/-	State Level
3	Consultant FPLMIS (FPLMIS & FPIS)	1:- Essential Educational Qualification:- MSW or MBA +PGDCA or higher qualification in Computer Application. 2:- Work Experience:- Minimum 05 years of experience in management/ implementation of public health initiatives. Minimum 03 years of experience in beneficiary oriented schemes. Minimum 03 years of experience in data management in online software application in public health system at state level.	1		Rs. 45000/-	State Level

आवदन सम्स लिमिटड के वब पाटल www.sams.co.in के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है, आवदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 21.02.2022 से उपलब्ध किया जायेगा। ऑन लाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.03.2022 है। ऑफ लाईन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य / स्वीकार नहीं किया जावेगा। उपरोक्त संविदा रिक्त पदों हेतु निर्धारित शैक्षणिक योग्यता, अनुभव, अन्य विवरण एवं नियम पुस्तिका लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध रहेंगी

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन

मध्यप्रदेश

निर्धारित प्रारूप में नहीं किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन स्वयमेंव निरस्त माने जायेंगे।

अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक कोई ढिलाई नहीं। G-22838/21

दो गज दूरी मास्क है जरूरी

मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताए स्वीकृत/अथवा भर्ती प्रक्रिया को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा। मिशन संचालक

E.G.S. (P.W.) DIVISION, DHULE Email ID: egsdhule.ee@mahapwd.gov.in E-Tender Notice No. 17 For 2021-22 On Line E-Tender in B-1 Form for the following wort invited by Executive Engineer, E.G.S. (P.W.) Division Dhule Telephone No. Approximate Cost of

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

(02562-288763) from any bidder who satisfy the qualifying. This Tender Notice is available on www.mahapwd.gov.in / https:// mahatenders.gov.in Portal Sr. NAME OF WORK Contractor Period of No. Value of Work Rs. Security Document Class Completion

	Improvement to Shahada Sanga Hated Road SH-1 Km. 104/33 to 110/00 & 112/00 to 113/740 118/00 to 121/00 Tat. Shirpur Dis Dhule (Sec Joyada to Khamba & Khamkheda to Satrasen Fata)	0 & t.	₹ 1,50,000/-	₹ 1120/- (Including GST)	who sa	bidder atisfy the ng criteria	4 (Four) Months (Including monsoon)
25 - 53		TENDER	SCHEDULE				2
Sr. N	o. PWD Dept. Stage	Vender Stage	l s	tart Date &	Time	Expiry	/ Date & Time
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64	Iviairi reridei rieleasej		21/02/2022 1	U.UU AIV	21/0	LILUL	2 10.0	100	IVI
2	T I	Main Tender Document	21/02/2022 1	8.00 PN	08/0	3/202	2 17.4	15 F	M
		Downloading & Online Bid							
		Preparation (T1 & C1)							
		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION A	BOUT SCHEDU	LE					
1	Date, Time and Venue of Pre	Bid On 0	1/03/2022 Time	12.00	Hours in	the	office	of	the

Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Technical Bid On 10/03/2022 Time 11.00 Hours (If possible) in the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Dhule (Envelope No. 1)

3 Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Commercial Bid On 10/03/2022 Time 11.00 Hours (If possible) in the office of

 All eligible / interested Bidders are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in E-Tendering. Tenders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers any doubts / information / difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate

Contact us (NIC) The 24 x 7 Toll Free No.: 1800 3070 2232 Mobile No.: 8879002344- Vinayak Agre

E-mail: eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com, cppp-support@nic.in 3. Tender Document Fee and EMD to be paid via Online E-Payment Gateway mode only. EMD Exemption certificate shall not be considred. EMD comoulsory to be paid from Bidder's Bank account only, The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders,00v.in

4. The bidder shall submit the Hard Copy in "Sealed Envelope" of Technical & Financial Bids as specified in NIT after the online submission of Bid ("Bid Lock) within 72 hrs. Other instructions can be seen in the tender form. All or any one of the tender may be rejected by the competent authority. The Electronic tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on separate

Sub Portal with URL https://mahatenders.gov.in as part of the Electronic Tendering System of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal https://mahatenders.gov.in No. Tender/537/2022

DGIPR/2021-2022/4518

(Envelope No. 2)

Executive Engineer, E.G.S. (P.W.) Division, Dhule

Asks Cops To

**Initiate Action** 

**Against Erring** 

Reporters

Shreyas.HS@timesgroup.com

(KSCPCR) has asked the police

department to initiate action

against some reporters for al-

legedly violating the rights of

children during the coverage of

retary of the commission

have written a letter - which

TOI has accessed — to direc-

tor general-inspector general

of police Prayeen Sood, citing

several instances of violation

that have come to their notice.

The commission has also

opined that this (coverage) is

schoolchildren wearing hijab.

Over the last fortnight, sev-

humiliation

The president and the sec-

the hijab controversy.

The Karnataka State

Commission for Protec-

tion of Child Rights

# Despite Covid, prisoners produced goods worth ₹223cr in 2020: Report

Ambika.Pandit @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The impact of the pandemic has been felt strongly in the units steering reform and rehabilitation activities through vocational training for prisoners. Despite the pandemic, the inmates managed to produce goods worth around Rs 223 crore in 2020. This, however, is a significant decline from Rs 846 crore worth of goods produced in the previous year, as per NCRB's 'Prisons Statistics India Report'.

In 2019, Telangana had reported the highest gross value of sale proceeds of Rs 599 crore, followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 73 crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 29 crore). The value of goods produced per inmate in that year was highest in Telangana (Rs 9 lakh), followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 49,611) and Chandigarh (Rs 41,478). However, in 2020, the year of the pandemic, Tamil

► Continued from P1

The advisory followed

continued tensions

between Russia and

Nato over Ukraine. UK PM

Boris Johnson accused Rus-

sia Sunday of planning the

high levels of tensions and

uncertainties with respect

to the situation in Ukraine.

all Indian nationals whose

stay is not deemed essential

and all Indian students are

advised to leave Ukraine

temporarily," the Indian em-

bassy in Kyiv said. It said

flights, and charter flights

may be availed for travel, for

an "orderly and timely de-

vised to also get in touch

with respective student con-

tractors for updates on

charter flights, and also

"Indian students are ad-

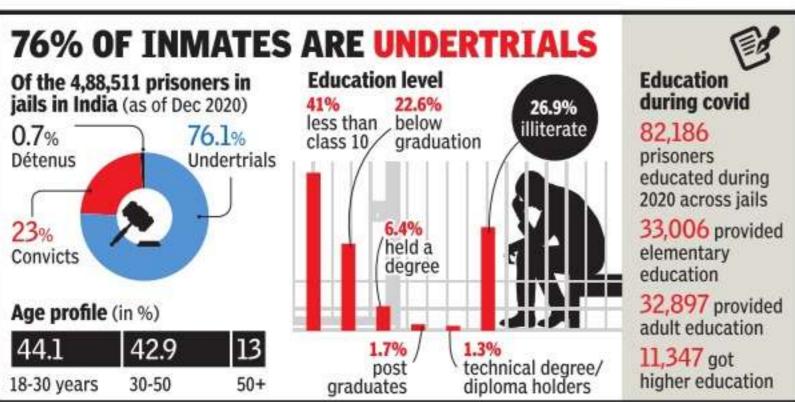
parture" from Ukraine.

commercial

available

"In view of the continued

"biggest war since 1945".



Nadu reported the highest gross value of sale proceeds of Rs 66.7 crore, followed by Telangana (Rs 45 crore) and Bihar (Rs 20.5 crore). The value of goods produced per inmate was highest in Telangana (Rs 73,619), followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 46,649) and Chandigarh (Rs 27,395).

Highlighting reform and rehab measures and best

Govt: Charter flights may

be availed for Ukraine exit

RISING TENSION

continue to follow the em-

bassy Facebook, website

and Twitter for any up-

the safety and security of

close to 20,000 Indian na-

tionals in Ukraine, India

has continued to walk the

diplomatic tightrope on the

issue, with foreign minister

S Jaishankar saying on the

sidelines of the Munich Se-

curity Conference that di-

plomacy was the answer to

the crisis. He said the situa-

tion called for a very differ-

While looking to ensure

date," the embassy said.

practices in various prisons. the report said 42,976 inmates were provided with vocational training in 2020 and the maximum number of prisoners were trained in tailoring (11.6%), followed by agriculture (10.8%), carpentry (8.1%) and weaving.

As part of the rehab exercise prisoners engaged in labour are paid a nominal

ent kind of approach and that, at the end of the day, di-

plomacy was the answer.

"One has to look at ways of

family members of diplo-

mats came in the middle of

Jaishankar's visit to Europe

for the conference in Germa-

ny and also an Indo-Pacific

event organised by France.

India has been under pres-

sure from the US and its Eu-

ropean partners to speak up

around 100,000 troops near

its border with Ukraine,

besides sending warships

into the Black Sea for naval

concerns among the Nato

verely critical of Russia

over the build-up, with the

US sending extra troops to

Europe to support its allies.

The West has been se-

countries of an invasion.

triggering

Russia has positioned

on Russian aggression.

exercises,

India's decision to recall

reconciling," he said.

wage based on their skill sets. An average of around Rs 106, Rs 88 and Rs 85 were paid per day to skilled, semiskilled and unskilled prisoners respectively. However, the rates vary in different states. The report also highlights some examples of vocational training resulting in production of products of market value.

# with girl, killed by her brothers

Shivamogga: Two men who allegedly teased and misbehaved with a girl were stabbed to death by her two brothers and their associates in Shivamogga, Karnataka, on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Saleem (22) and Abdulla (23). Two people have been taken into custody in the case. The men were found dead at around 11pm in Sulebailu, a locality close to the Shivamogga bus stand. During probes, the two suspects — the girl's brother Dadapeer and cousin Tippu — said Saleem and Abdulla had allegedly misbehav-

Shivamogga SP BM Laxmi murder, he said. TNN

# **Duo misbehave**

# in Karnataka

ed with Dadapeer's sister.

Prasad told TOI that the duo came on a bike and allegedly misbehaved with her. A furious Dadapeer called his friend and others to thrash them. This resulted in their

# eral videos showing children of campuses. Besides, some

Rupak Banerjee TNN

Howrah: Two days after an cumstances of his death.

One of the suspects had

"Anis stood up against any wrong. We are not happy with the police probe into his death. His father is not happy with the progress of the inquiry ei-

Anis Khan (28) was on the terrace on Friday when four suspects entered his home and allegedly pushed him to his death. His father has sought

Mamata Banerjee's intervention. Anis' killers should be arrested soon," said theatre artiste Koushik Sen, who visited his house and spoke to his father Salam Khan.

a CBI investigation

which Anis had been a member before joining ISF, and time to reach our home that DYFI were involved in an al-night, and that was enough tercation with cops near Amta police station after they broke through barricades. A truth," he said. Sources in local police team was prevented from entering the victim's house as protesters at Bagnan police station. A blocked their way.

residence and collected samples. They also tried to recreate the sequence of events that led to his death on Friday.

Over the past few years, Anis had taken part in several agitations, including the one against CAA. ISF functionary Nawsad Siddique said on Saturday that the victim had been getting repeated threats over the phone.

Anis was on the terrace of his home on Friday night when four suspects entered and allegedly pushed him to his death.

His father said police were yet to identify even one Protesters from SFI, of of the suspects. "I can't trust the police. They took so much for killers to flee. Only a CBI enquiry can unveil the Howrah police said two cases were registered against Anis warrant had been issued in

# **Most students** have collected hall tickets, says principal

Continued from P1

he PU II practical exams are not simultaneously conducted across Karnataka. Instead, the department has fixed the window for educational districts to complete the exam before March 25. Exams are underway in Mysuru, Mandya, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts.

Most science students have collected their hall tickets at Government PU College in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, said principal Palaksha T. "On Monday and Tuesday, we've exams for students from other colleges since our college is an exam centre. Our students will take the exam from Wednesday. They have agreed not to wear the hijab and collected the hall tickets," Palaksha said.

# 'Murder' of anti-CAA activist Hindu activist triggers clashes in Bengal

circulated in the media, with

many of which were shot by re-

porters from electronic media.

has come to our knowledge

that some reporters are film-

ing children while removing

burga and hijab on school

The commission said: "It

Indian Secular Front (ISF) member and anti-CAA activist who had been receiving phone threats was allegedly pushed to his death from the terrace of his home in Bengal's Amta, protesters clashed with police in Kolkata on Sunday even as his father demanded a CBI inquiry into the cir-

The uproar over the alleged murder of Anis Khan (28), an Aliah University alumnus and journalism student at Kalyani University, led state DGP Manoj Malaviya to direct Howrah (rural) SP Soumya Roy to immediately institute an inquiry led by an officer of DSP rank.

visited Anis's house dressed as a cop, the family said.

Hijab row: K'taka panel wary

of violation of children's rights

Shiv Sena Dogra Front supporters hold a protest in Jammu on Sunday

It has come to our knowledge that some reporters

the minority community were scribes are chasing the pupils

are filming children removing their burga and

hijab on school campuses, the Karnataka State

**Commission for Protection of Child Rights said** 

ther. We are demanding CM

VACCINE TRACKER

perts later reached Anis's

HY UNIFORM

to capture them on cameras."

avoid humiliation and trouble

caused by the media, the com-

mission chiefs said, and asked

Sood to identify sensitive ar-

eas in the state and step up se-

curity to protect the privacy

Action needs to be taken to

A team of forensic ex- one of those cases, they said.

# hacked to death in K'taka; lens on hate angle

Bengaluru: Tension prevailed in Shivamogga, Karnataka, after a 26-year-old Hindu activist was hacked to death by unidentified persons around 9.30pm on Sunday. He has been identified as Harsha, a tailor from Seegehatti in

Though police have not ruled out old enmity, they suspect that the activist's communal posts on social media could be the trigger. He is said to have received threats earlier

Shivamogga, about 270km from Bengaluru. Though police have not

ruled out old enmity, they suspect his communal posts on social media could be the trigger. He is said to have received threats earlier.

Police tightened security across the town. TNN

### Tehsildar, wife held for woman constable's murder in UP

Lucknow: A day after ascertaining the identity of the 25-year-old woman constable, whose body was recovered from a drain behind the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Thursday, police on Sunday arrested her lover, a tehsildar, his wife and an aide.

"During probe, it surfaced that the deceased, Ruchi Singh Chauhan, fell in love with tehsildar Padmesh Srivastava two years back after coming in contact with him through Facebook,"ADCP east Qasim Abidi told TOI. She later started exerting pressure on Padmesh, threatening to frame him in a case, police said. At this juncture, the accused planned to eliminate her and his wife helped him in executing the plan. TNN 

# 4 of Kerala family found dead, suicide pact suspected

Ramavarman T TNN

Thrissur: In an apparent suicide pact, a software engineer, his wife and two minor daughters were found dead at their house at Uzhuvath Kadavu near Kodungallur in Kerala on Sunday morning. They were identified as Ashif (40), wife Abeera (35) and daughters Ashara Fathima (14) and Anounissa (7). Reports said the smell of

carbon monoxide was emanating from their room which had all its windows and doors closed. The gaps in windows were reportedly plugged using tapes, neighbours said. Thrissur rural district police chief Aishwarva Dongre said a suicide note had also been recovered from the house. It said financial crisis was behind the suicide, she said.

ailing mother and sister were staying downstairs. The sister alerted neighbours and relatives after finding that their room was locked from inside and they were not coming out the pain of death.



Along with their parents, Ashara (14) and Anounissa (7) were also found dead in their house

even at 10am. They were found dead in the room when the door was forcibly opened with the help of local activists. Police sources said the sui-

cide note also warned of dangers of barging into the room because of the presence of carbon monoxide. As per preliminary information, the gas was produced in the room by mixing chemical compounds The family was staying on like calcium carbonate and the first floor while Ashif's zinc oxide and burning it in charcoal. Some of these items were reportedly purchased through an online platform.

Police suspect the gas was used to avert

#### With elections ongoing in five states, parties have promised voters free electricity, water and other services. But readers said that's not good economics in response to this week's Times FaceOff debate. NR Bhanumurthy. vice-chancellor at the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University, argued poll freebies are inefficient expenditures, while Arun Kumar, professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, said they provide necessary services to marginalised groups Are political parties' offers of free electricity and other services good for the economy? Pre-debate poll Post-debate poll

**WHAT READERS SAID** 

**'POLL FREEBIES ARE BAD ECONOMICS'** 

On Twitter:

Arun Kumar's views can be endorsed but with a rider that over a period of time the marginalised must be assisted till they can look after themselves. Otherwise it will become a never ending process - @KChandershekhar Freebies or rather subsidies for education, health and

21.4

agriculture are essential for uplifting the deprived. Other freebies are unproductive and drain the state's exchequer -@Samuthiram1952

Empowering, motivating common people to 'stand up again' is a prime ethical duty of an elected government. Carefully structured and administered freebies,

linked to health, education and basic necessities may actually speed up economic recovery by improving quality of human capital - @anupontweet

Freebies are certainly horrific politics, a brainchild of cunning politicians for selfish gains. Freebies are a termite that will make the youth laid back and unproductive - @DineshMendiratt

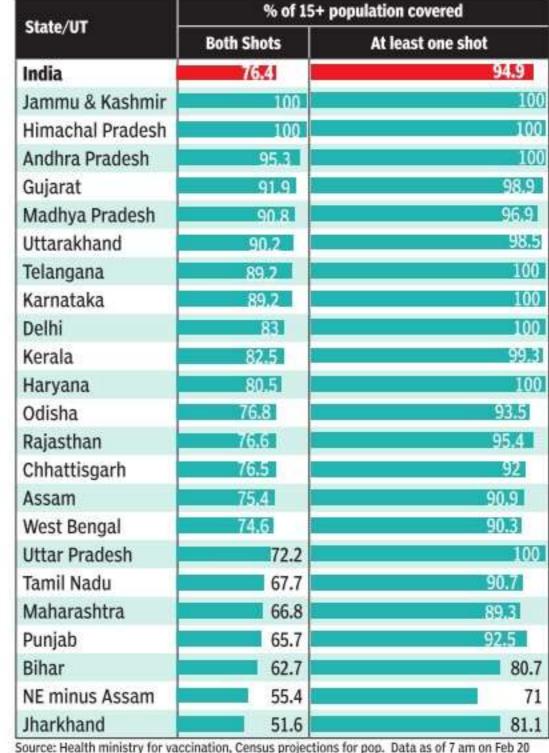
Nothing in life is free including the air we breathe. Governance takes a hit with poll freebies where candidates enter the fray to do social service but start to amass wealth with no holds barred - @VaidyanathanMS

### India records 16,820 daily cases, toll of 155 ▶ Continued from P1

ast week (February 7-13), India had witnessed a 59% √dip in cases, the sharpest weekly decrease since beginning of the pandemic. Weekly cases are now the lowest since the first week of the current wave — December 27-January 2, when nearly 1.3 lakh infections were logged in India. So far, this appears to be the shortest wave of the pandemic in the country by a long margin. In just four weeks, recorded infections have declined to just 8% of the third wave peak of 21.7 lakh, recorded in January 17-23.

Weekly deaths from the virus have reduced by 57% since the peak of 4,355 recorded in January 31-February 6.

On Sunday, 16,820 fresh cases were reported, the lowest daily tally since December 30. There were 155 deaths recorded on the day.



# Haryana mulls tweaked Online degrees to have flexibility of regular programmes laws for building safety

before or after buying flats in multi-storeyed group housing societies.

While urban local bodies, town and country planning department and Haryana Sheri Vikas Pradhikaran have been told to work on issues related to updated and better safety norms for buildings, at the same time, the government is also exploring the possibility of giving more powers to the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) for safety audits

and other related issues

has already begun and there is a possibility of bringing some changes ahead of the assembly session. "Let's see how it works out. But, the government is serious over the issue of safety measures for those living in the multistory buildings. A lot of things have come out and more will tumble out as we conclude safety audit in other buildings, said officials. Meanwhile, in a related

development at Gurugram, chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar said work will be done to develop safe, convenient group housing societies across the state so that people living in these societies can get all the necessary facilities in a time-bound manner. The problems of people in these societies will also be resolved

There will not be any requirement of 'one

to offer the same programme in open & distance learning (ODL) and online mode. In the current structure, courses taught in universities don't vary, though the medium of instruction could be either digital or conventional.

have the flexibility of conventional programmes in accordance with NEP 2020 — such as the four-year undergraduate programme with multiple entry and exit facilities. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar said the online, ODL and conventional degrees will be of equal value.

line with the NEP target. It recorded an uptick from 26.3% in 2018-19 to 27.1% in 2019-20 for the 18-23 age group.

on the five pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, the online education ecosystem will be developed on the same principles," said Kumar. The new reforms will be notified as amendments in current regulations issued during the pandemic on All online degrees will September 4, 2020, he said.

sional and technical programmes that need laboratories and those programmes prohibited by any regulatory authority, he said online degrees can be offered for all other programmes. "Also, many universities may not have a physical model programme for instance, in machine learning, data science, artificial in-

to offer that in online mode. So, even if you don't have this degree on the conventional physical campus, you can still offer these programmes online," Kumar explained.

framework is to enable all autonomous colleges to offer online education because if we stick to only universities, it becomes limited. There are a large number of high-quality autonomous colleges in India. This will enhance access for learners. And we will have these institutes participating and offering both UG and PG programmes online. These online degrees will be just

### **RESHAPING HIGHER EDUCATION**

**UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes)** 

900 autonomous colleges will also be able to offer courses & degrees on online mode from July 2022 > Admission criteria for Course curriculum, credit

in respective category twice of the preceding three NIRF rankings eligible > Colleges/ higher education institutions

Students can make having NAAC grade of minimum 3.3 will also Colleges/ higher

library resources Colleges will be free to decide on minimum attendance required for

structure & learning outcome for online programmes to be same as that conventional programmes Two mode of examinations online proctored or NTA

semester exams

CURRENTLY 59 higher education

to conduct computer based

institutions are offering 351 UG & PG programmes Discipline wise

Science

Arts/ Humanities 35%

#### work towards this direction Manvir.Saini@timesgroup.com Chandigarh: The Haryana government is mulling amendments in building bylaws for the investor-friendly with additional safety norms to ensure safety of occupants

Senior officials in the chief minister's office said at the earliest, he said.

# ▶ Continued from P1

batch passout' in conventional programmes so as

All this has been done with the underlying goal of pushing up India's gross enrolment ra- telligence and financial man- like degrees obtained from tio to 50% in the next 13 years in agement. But they would like physical university," he said.

"Like NEP, which is built

Stating that barring profes-

Currently, universities are offering 120 UG, 229 PG and two PG diploma programmes online. The choice is limited because only courses taught conventionally can be offered digitally. "The new regulatory

Regulations, 2020 (Amendment) Colleges/ higher education

institutions, apart from

education institutions

need not be running the

Admission criteria for

UG programmes is senior

secondary pass

course in conventional mode

to be offered in online mode

be eligible

universities in top 100, in top graduate degree pass Students can earn credits & deposit them in Acadedmic Bank of Credit from other than parent college

PG programmes is under

multiple exit & entry Students enrolled in online programmes will have digital access to

online classes as against mandatory 75% for in-

classroom programmes

### **Amazon's Cloud Infra Share Beats Both Google, MS In Q4**

In Q4 2021, global cloud infrastructure service revenues surpassed \$50 billion for the first time, bringing the industry total for the year to \$178 billion. Amazon and Microsoft accounted for more than half in the final three months of 2021, with the eight largest providers controlling roughly 80% of the market. Amazon's slice in the worldwide cloud infrastructure pie amounted to 33% in Q4 of 2021, still exceeding the combined market share of its two largest competitors, Microsoft and Google



Microsoft

Azure



2021 cloud infra services revenue was \$178 billion, 37% jump vs 2020



Google

Cloud

Salesforce Alibaba Cloud Cloud



(Source: Synergy Research Group)

# Statutory auditors may not get large cos' non-audit ops

# **Govt Explores Possibility Of Joint Audit For Some Entities**

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is looking to ban statutory auditors from taking up non-audit work on "public interest" companies — which means those that are listed or are above a certain threshold — and their subsidiaries.

Besides, it is exploring the possibility of joint audit for certain companies as part of the amendments to the Companies Act, for which a Bill is planned to be introduced during the Budget session of Parliament that reconvenes next month, sources told TOI.

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA), which will pilot the Bill, is currently engaged in consultations and is yet to decide the final details of the legislation, which will also need inter-ministerial discussion and a go-ahead from the Union Cabinet.

While both the issues - joint audit and ban on non-audit work by audit firms — have been discussed in the past, the government has been reluc-

Insurtech co

**Coverfox turns** 

around, eyes

3x biz in FY23

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Online insurance

distributor Coverfox, which is

now controlled by private equi-

ty investors led by Avaana Ca-

pital after the exit of its foun-

ders, has recouped revenues

and slashed its burn rate by

90%. The company has almost

halved monthly expenditure

and is pursuing a strategy of

embedding its insurtech with

partners to gain market share.

al crisis two years ago when the

founders of the company -

CEO Premanshu Singh and its

chief technology officer De-

vendra Rane - quit weeks be-

fore the country went into a

monthly revenues of Rs1crore,

but we are ending it with Rs 7.5

crore. It took 21 months to get

the revenue back to where it was and reduce the burn from

Rs 8 crore a month to Rs 70-80

lakh," said Coverfox CEO San-

**FOUNDERS QUIT** 

**2 YEARS AGO** 

jib Jha. In FY22, the company

expects to do Rs 40 crore of re-

venue and aims to triple this to

2020, Jha - co-founder of Av-

aana Capital and one of the in-

vestors—was brought in to ta-

ke charge during the crisis.

Coverfox ended FY21 with Rs

23 crore of revenues as funds

had dried up and Jha underto-

ok a move to change the busi-

ness model from being a lead-

generation platform to a tech-

nology company with the ca-

pability to simplify insurance

purchase and embed its pipe-

line to various insurers on dif-

nelling its insurance-buying

platforms through a mobile

app. It is now generating com-

mission revenues of Rs7 crore

a month, against which it is

burning Rs 80 lakh of share-

......

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN

holder funds.

The company is also chan-

ferent digital platforms.

In the last week of March

Rs 127 crore in FY23.

"We started this year with

lockdown in March 2020.

Coverfox faced an existenti-

**PUBLIC INTEREST COMPANIES** 

Unlisted Listed Banks 5,563 1,156

0 ..... **......** 

Government has been reluctant to legislate due to opposition from CAs

Insurance companies

18

Move will come as a setback for Big Four firms, including Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and also for some large Indian players Source: NFRA

tant to legislate on the issue principally due to opposition from chartered accountants, a powerful interest group.

Both issues - Joint

audit work by audit

earlier

audit and ban on non-

firms - were discussed

The move will come as a setback for not just the Big Four firms, including Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, that operate through a network of firms, but also for some of the large Indian players. Sources indicated that the plan is to restrict it to "public interest": Companies will be modelled on the lines of the regime under the Natio-

nal Financial Reporting Agency (NFRA), which supervises the functioning of 6,820 companies and their auditors and audit firms. On Friday, the agency said that all listed companies, as well as unlisted companies with paid-up capital of over Rs 500 crore, or turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore or with debt and deposits of Rs 500 crore or more are under its ambit. In addition, insurance companies, banks, power generation and distribution

ned by special laws are monitored by NFRA.

Amazon

The fresh discussions around the ban on non-audit work follows the experience with several entities that have faced a crisis in recent years, including IL&FS, and some of the troubled banks and nonbanking finance companies, where the role of auditors has come under scrutiny.

Similarly, on the issue of joint audit, MCA had almost dropped the plan after a report by a committee under former finance secretary Ashok Chawla, but has re-opened the issue, despite protests from industry chambers and other interest groups that fear that the cost will rise significantly.

If RBI's experience in dealing with tighter regulations for auditors is anything to go by, the government will face a volley of protest. Last year, the RBI had mandated a threeyear term for auditors, a mandatory cooling off and checks on non-audit activities for banks, finance companies and mortgage players.

# Delhi stadium added to asset monetisation list

companies and those gover-

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New Delhi: The government will soon appoint a transaction adviser for the asset monetisation of the capital's Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) Stadium and the Indira Gandhi Sports complex has been added to the list, after resolving the security and other related issues.

Sources said once the transaction adviser is in place for JLN Stadium, the process of rolling out bids would be stepped up and could spill into the next financial year. They said that security and other issues linked to the monetisation of the Indira Gandhi Sports complex have been resolved and the process would be rolled out as well.

The Indira Gandhi Stadium, along with two regional centres at Zirakpur and **TO GATHER PACE** The total value of assets considered for monetisation by the sports ministry is

for FY2022-2025 FY 2022 ₹1,650 cr FY 2023 ₹2,100 cr

₹3,200 cr FY 2025 ₹4,500 cr

estimated at ₹11,450 crore

Source: NMP, Niti Aayog

Bangalore had also been identified for the asset monetisation plan and the process is likely to be wrapped up in the next financial year. Sources had said that there were concerns that the potential to monetise the Indira Gandhi Stadium may be limited due to its location near the Yamuna riverbed and some historical monuments in the area as well as its proximity to the Delhi Assem-

id these concerns have been resolved. Under the national asset monetisation pipeline, the sports ministry has a target of raising Rs 1,650 crore in the fiscal year 2022. Sources said under the

bly. However, the sources sa-

proposed national monetisation pipeline (NMP), the surplus land at JLN stadium could be used for setting up a shopping mall, offices and hostels, among other facilities. The NMP announced last year had said JLN Stadium is expected to be a pioneer in creating a financially sustainable sporting model in India through an OMDA-(operation management and development agreement) based PPP concession agreement for integrated development, with shared usage of sports facilities.

The target under the NMP for the current year is estimated at Rs 88,000 crore.

# 3 Guj highway stretches may be lined up for sale

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New Delhi: The government may look to add three highway stretches from Gujarat to the asset monetisation pipeline after they were handed back to the National Highways Authority of India after end of the 15-year concession period.

The Centre's target to mop up Rs 45,000 crore from monetisation of highway projects is expected to get a boost during the next financial year as the roads are high toll earners, sources told TOI. The three projects in Gu-

jarat, with a cumulative length of 377 km, can be monetised to generate Rs 18,000-20,000 crore, the sour-

ces said. The current toll revenue of these six-laned highway projects — Vadodara-Baruch, Baruch-Surat and Surat-Dahisar - is around Rs 1,700 crore. The NHAI has been monetising projects for 20 years to get upfront payment from successful bidders.

**TOTAL 377KM** 

These were among the first few projects, which were bid out by the NHAI under the build, operate and transfer (BOT-Toll) model of public-private-partnership (PPP). The first stretch had gone to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and it had made upfront one-time payment of around Rs 475 crore and the other two projects were bagged by the IRB — one with payment and another on revenue-sharing model.

"We have amicably completed the process of getting back the projects with no claims or counterclaims. This is also a successful example of how BOT-Toll projects can be managed well, protecting interests of the government agency and private players. These are completed operational projects and the tolling has stabilised over years," said an official.

He added that this is also the first case where an entire corridor will be back to NHAI at the end of the stipulated concession (contract) period after settling all issues amicably.

# 5 cos submit ₹1.5L cr plans to set up chip, display plants

New Delhi: The government has received proposals from five companies for setting up electronic chip and display manufacturing plants with investment of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, an official statement said over the weekend. Vedanta Foxconn JV. IGSS Ventures and ISMC propose to set up electronic chip manufacturing plants with \$13.6 billion investment and have sought support of \$5.6 billion from the Centre under the Rs 76,000-crore 'Semicon In-

"The applications have been received for setting up 28-nanometer (nm) to 65nm semiconductor fabs with capacity of approximately 120,000 wafers per month," the statement said.

# 1.4L JOBS SEEN

financial support of up to 40% 65nm wafers.

Vedanta and Elest have proposed to set up display manufacturing units with projected investment of \$6.7 billion. They have sought support of \$2.7 billion from Centre under the scheme for setting up of display fabs. The government expects investments of around Rs 1.7 lakh crore and 1.4 lakh jobs to be created in four years under the incentive scheme for semiconductors approved by the Cabinet. PTI

# SC expunges SAT's harsh ex-member

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In a relief to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) and its former member P J Joseph, the Supreme Court has said that comments made by the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) against him will be expunged. In its order allowing an appeal against SAT, the SC said that the tribunal's comment that an earlier action of Joseph amounted to aiding corruption is absolutely baseless and was uncalled for.

# **Listing That May Suck \$10Bn Out Of System**

Partha Sinha TNN dia' programme.

The government is providing

# **IN NEXT 4 YRS**

for chips above 28nm to 45nm and up to 30% for setting up manufacturing units for 45nm to

# order on Irdai

The appeal relates to a SAT order that used unusually strong language against Irdai and made comments against the member in March 2018. SAT charged Joseph of "virtually aiding and abetting corruption". Its order relates to an appeal filed by UK insurance broker Atkins Special Risks against an order issued by Irdai. Atkins said it had provided reinsurance cover to a private company Jagson International between 2002 and 2012 on a year ly brokerage/commission of 27.5%. Atkins had complained that Jagdish Gupta, chairman of Jagson, has been demanding from Atkins a cut.

In its order, the SC said the counsel has submitted that the two emails relied upon by the other side are only related to certain payments being demanded by Gupta. "As such, it could not be concluded that any commission was paid to Gupta in violation of Irdai Act and Rules," the SC said.

# IT cos hire record no. of freshers

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Chennai: A combination of increased digitisation projects and rising attrition at the mid and senior level at IT companies is bringing record job opportunities for fresher engineering talent. With most IT firms looking to pay premium for specialised skills, the average pay for freshers has also gone up across campuses.

IT companies including

# ADDRESSING ATTRITION

Сотрапу	FY22 fresher hiring target	Freshers already hired in nine months
TCS	1,05,000(E)	77,000
Infosys	55,000	41,250 (E)
Wipro	17,500	15,000
HCL	22,000	15,787
Cognizant	33,000*	33,000
Accenture	16,000(India)	35,000

TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindto expand their fresher hiring ra, Accenture and Capgemini dustry estimates show.

have already added over 2.3 lakh new graduate talent in fiscal year 2022 — a record figu-sight estimated in a recent re-these firms at the 14-18% Magnetic India : re—and have conveyed plans port that, by the end of fiscal mark. "The IT industry Soin said earlier this month. It has started to an extent. IIP across several countries.

\*Cognizant's number relates to Jan-Dec 2021, rest is for April 2021 to March 2022 (E: Estimated) 2022, the fresher additions at programme in fiscal 2023, in- the top IT services firms will stand at 3.5-3.6 lakh, with pro-

Source: UnearthInsight (based on estimates and company reports)

growth outlook remains intact, despite the pandemic and this financial year, the industry is likely to achieve best ever revenue growth and will continue to add workforce according to the estimates," UnearthInsight founder & CEO Gaurav Vasu said.

Sriram Rajagopal, managing partner at talent sourcing firm Diamondpick, said engineering graduates are likely to have more than one job option to choose from if they do their part right. "We-'ve hired almost more than 8,000 people from (tier-2) centres in the last couple of quar-Research firm UnearthIn- portion of fresher talent in ters," Tech Mahindra chief people officer Harshvendra

# to avoid LIC clash No Offer For 3 Weeks Around Insurer's Mega

Cos delay IPO plans

### Reeba Zachariah &

Oracle

Cloud

Tencent

Cloud

Mumbai: A chemicals company, which had received markets regulator Sebi's approval to float an initial public offering (IPO), is going slow with its equity-raise plans, thanks to LIC's forthcoming mega listing that is expected to suck out \$10-billion from the system. Similarly, a drug maker, which plans to give a partial exit to its long-time investor through the IPO, has postponed its primary market debut.

Some of the merchant bankers TOI spoke to said that several companies that have filed documents with Sebi to go public are waiting for LIC's mammoth IPO to get over, after which they plan to launch their maiden public offerings. "Companies do not want their offers to clash with that of LIC's. We do not expect to see any other IPO being launched up to 10 days before the LIC offer opens and 15 days after it closes," said one of the leading

merchant bankers. Equirus MD Ajay Garg said, "While the size and scale of LIC's IPO is large and unprecedented, let us not forget that its timelines and potential have been communicated to the market well in advance. In all prudence, it is better for the companies launching IPOs to stay away during LIC's as liquidity for others will be weak."

According to Garg, it's just a 2-3 weeks' phenomenon, which is unlikely to stall any of the long-term capital-raising options for companies in any manner. "In all fairness, if an IPO of this scale and size goes through, it will only reinforce the confidence of investors in the capital markets and will increase India's weight significantly and help with more allocation to the market. We are also going to see an

unprecedented new set of retail investors participating in the capital market, which will be long-term positive."

A recent report by Axis Capital said 41 companies have the regulatory go-ahead to launch their IPOs. BVG India, which handles the cleaning and maintenance of, among others, the Prime Minister's residence, Parliament House and several other facilities, plans to raise around Rs 1,300 crore via an IPO. It's delaying its plan to launch the offer. "We hope to launch our IPO by the end of March. But LIC's IPO could lead to revisiting of the timelines," said BVG India chairman H R Gaikwad. "We shall

tual fund distributors in terms of average assets under management and commission received.

The LIC IPO, expected to be the nation's biggest-ever and the fourth-biggest of any insurer globally, is just one concern of companies that are looking to tap primary market. From April 1, new IPO norms will come in, something that "will change the way IPOs are subscribed", according to Arun Kejriwal of Kejriwal Research.

Sebi, among other rules, has mandated that companies that go for an IPO saying that they will acquire some entity can only use 25% of the amount raised for M&A.

Some new IPO norms to come

IPO anchors will

be locked for 30

days for half of

what they get in

IPO, and 90 days for

into play from April:

remaining half

### **HITTING PAUSE BUTTON?**

#### A few forthcoming IPOs with date of Sebi approval that's still valid:

Delhivery Jan 13 Global Health Jan 21 Dec 16 Keventer Agro **Emcure Pharma** Dec 8 Sterlite Power Dec 2 HNIs will see 1/3rd allotment VLCC Nov 25 Oct 7 One MobiKwik

Aug 26 Go Airlines reschedule the IPO launch according to advice from investment bankers and legal counsels with respect to its timing and applicability of the

into play from April 1, 2022." There is a small number of companies also willing to take the risk of launching an IPO just ahead of the life insurer's. "We are planning and hopeful of launching our IPO in March ahead of the LIC IPO," said Prudent Corporate Advisory Services founder Sanjay Shah. Gujarat-based Prudent is one of the largest independent retail wealth management services firms (excluding banks and brokers) in India and among the top mu-

new norms, which will come

for applications of ₹2-10L, and 2/3rds for over ₹10L (Source: Axis Capital, Sebi)

plus a maximum of 10% for general corporate purposes. This, said merchant bankers, will reduce the quantum of IPO size.

The government, which plans to sell 5% in LIC, has set a March deadline for the life insurer's listing. Kejriwal said, "The RBI has stipulated that no investor can borrow more than Rs 1 crore to apply in an IPO. At the same time, Sebi has laid down the splitting of the IPO HNI-NII (noninstitutional investor) category into two with one-third of the bucket size of HNI portion of IPOs for Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, and the second bucket of two-thirds in size of the total HNI-NII portion at Rs 10 lakh and above."

# It's right time to pitch for FDI: Industry secy

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nurag Jain, the secretary for promotion of in-Adustry and internal trade, is upbeat on industrial performance and FDI. In an interview, he talks to TOI about deciding on FTA after extensive consultations with industrv. Excerpts:

#### How is the progress on Gati Shakti? Are more sectors coming in? The idea is to break silos and

bring about more efficiency through a whole-of government approach. The organisation structure is in place. We have around 500 layers (on the GIS map) now under the National Master Plan at the central level. We have spoken to the state governments and identified 24 layers, including land revenue records, so that they can put their data and will help plan better. We have moved a lot, and by April we will start utilising it for the projects. The second part is economic ministries beyond basic infrastructure. The map shows the infrastructure right now and where it will be in 2024-25.

#### Will Rs 1-lakh-crore support for states speed up their integration?

Additional funds for infrastructure will be spent under the Gati Shakti concept, so you will get better quality spending, planning will be better, and implementation will be faster. The impact will be more than what it would have been under normal circumstances.

Are you seeing better capacity utilisation in sectors and are certain industries have started adding capacity?

in manufacturing will be higher than services after a long time. As a result, industry's share of the economy will rise. A lot of steps have taken place, such as PLI, and some of the trade agreements will help boost manufacturing.

complains of an adverse impact of FTA. How justified are the concerns? We are undertaking extensive

Indian industry often

consultations with industry. Finally, a call is taken by the government and safeguards

realigning themselves and major decisions for new investment destinations are happening. This is the right IIP has improved and growth in manufacturing activity will be higher than services after a long time. As a

certain countries and

companies to invest

in some markets, which

is also part of a strategy

to diversify production

some of that reflecting

in India's FDI numbers?

The way the global situation

is changing, next 18-30

months are most crucial for

FDI. Most supply chains are

chain in a post-Covid

world. Are we seeing

Additional funds for infrastructure will be spent under Gati Shakti concept, so you will get better quality spending, planning will be better, and implementation will be faster

result, industry's share of the economy will rise

We are undertaking extensive consultations with industry (On FTAs). Finally, a call is taken by the government and safeguards are put in place to check misuse

ANURAG JAIN SECRETARY FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE

clearance?

are put in place to check misuse. Every country has certain comparative advantages, you may be efficient in one and I may be good at something else. When we take a collaborative approach, it can be beneficial for both. One has to strike

### What is the expectation on FDI inflows this year and

for next financial year? We have created a facilitative mechanism and opened the sectors a lot. It depends on several factors, including liquidity, the geopolitical situation and investment climate time to pitch and fortunately the kind of work, which is being done, should help.

We have got 15 states and 20 de-

What is the experience with single-window

partments on board and 11 more departments will be on-boarded by March-end. We are in talks with remaining states, some of them don't have a single-window approval. There are some end-to-end decisions that have been taken place through the platform. Lot of improvements are being undertaken by some of

# a fine balance.





### A thought for today

No Government can be long secure without a formidable Opposition

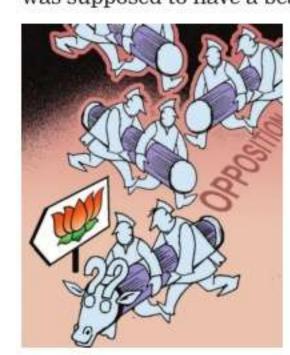
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

# 2024 Is Far Away

State poll results are important. But recently they have been poor predictors for national polls

delangana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao's meeting with Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar represents another attempt by regional parties to find answers to BJP's national dominance. Meanwhile, the ongoing five-state assembly elections are witnessing SP in UP, AAP in Punjab and NPP in Manipur offering resistance to BJP, and Congress. But if opposition parties do well in this round, a big if, what might it mean for national elections in 2024? Going by recent history, all extrapolations should be consumed with large helpings of salt, even though it is true that a major state victory does provide political impetus.

Congress's strong showing in three Hindi heartland states in 2018 was supposed to have a bearing on BJP's 2019 LS poll performance.



But it hardly mattered. There is now all round recognition that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has partly altered the dynamics of national elections. Voters in some states may also be distinguishing between a vote for Modi at the national level and BJP in states. So, it can work badly for BJP, too. Post its huge LS win in 2019, BJP faced adverse or not-too-happy outcomes in Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi and Bengal.

What is undisputed is that regional parties are struggling to spot a durable national alternative or a pan-India leader

to take on Modi. Parties like TMC and AAP are attempting to tackle this by testing waters in multiple states. Another reality check for some regional parties is their struggle in LS polls, even against Congress. In 2019, AAP trailed behind BJP and Congress in vote share in Delhi. TRS, which trounced a grand alliance of Congress-led opposition parties in 2018, had to share the honours with BJP and Congress six months later. Similarly, in Kerala, CPM, though dominant in the assembly and panchayats, was decimated by Congress-led UDF in 2019.

No less facile is the talk of UP elections as the semifinal before 2024. There are other states that matter. Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh this year, and Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in 2023, are all poised to witness intense contestation. But then again, if, say, BJP wins in Telangana and Congress in MP - it doesn't necessarily mean that 2024 will see a saffron surge in the south and GOP revitalisation in the heartland. In 2017, Congress almost wrested Gujarat from BJP. In 2019, it got thumped. So, an assembly poll win in UP is great for BJP or SP. But it is no predictor for 2024.

# Paradiso Lost

Shabby construction is taking a toll across urban India, as municipal regulators sleep on their job

s challenging as the long haul to take possession of one's home can be in India, the multi-storeyed cave-in at Gurgaon's ▲ Chintels Paradiso complex highlights what home-buyers are up against even afterwards. Even as two FIRs have been filed, including one naming the directors of the real estate company, the structural engineers and the architect, and an SIT has begun investigating the case, the district's town and country planner has declared four more towers in the building complex unfit for living. Identifying and punishing the guilty is a necessary part of the restitution process. But actually preventing the building collapses that have become a common story across urban India needs fixing a more fundamental regulatory rot.



The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act makes provision for the promoter rectifying structural defects without further charge if they are brought to its notice within five years of handing over possession. But, first, this five-year provision is woefully inadequate given that a person invests in a home for her lifetime and her children's beyond that. Second, legal expenses here would both be considerable and on top of EMI and

rent. Rather than homeowners from Shimla and Delhi to Mumbai and Bengaluru wretchedly chasing compensation and justice, municipal regulators must do their job properly in the first place.

In the Chintels case, not only the original structural audit but also its follow-up after a roof slab collapsed last July, were evidently subpar. Failures to enforce state building bylaws and to make sure that the National Building Code of India is followed, are tied to rampant corruption. But equally, municipal authorities are very poor in engineering, geological and other building forensics skills. This is also a reminder of the limits of new CMs to deliver change, as long as local governance is overwhelmingly corrupt and/or inept.

# Dress code for girls

XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe, which schools soberly monitor

**Shinie Antony** 



The devil may wear Prada, but schoolgirls in India don't. Female fashion in classrooms is set by moth-eaten school manuals and high-fiving parents and principals. It all begins at the school gate, where a snitch is stationed to look you up and down, and culminates on the assembly ground where you are called out by name. The walk of shame is to the principal's room for a) skirt

too short, b) shirt too tight, c) lack of a slip ... Modesty has always been a woman's job; no rapist should be able to stand in a court and say, 'but her collar button was undone, milord.' The XX chromosome comes with its own wardrobe. The big bully in the school playground is the uniform seller. He measures

you two sizes larger so you can wear it till the day you die and also leaves ample cloth to be let out. Schools gladly swapped skirts for salwar suits when the latter went national. Dupattas were primly pinned to the shoulder or unsightly vests added. An all-female college in Kerala where students had to wear saris suspended whoever wore anything else. A Bangalore college used to employ a dress inspector who personally pulled out tops tucked into waistbands; girls got around by wearing untucked tops just an inch

past the belt. In another college where pre-university teenagers must don salwar-kameez, parents are urgently summoned if pants reveal ankle, kurta is kurti and dupatta a stole or scarf. College is not willing to accept that it all shrank in the wash. There are stray parents who exult in the micro mini a daughter wears,

which is code for 'we are modern western type ji.' But mostly young girls must dash into the mall loo to shed their sartorial sobriety. Some pin their skirts up to keep it cool, some flick the tie askew. By the time daddy comes to pick up, they

are back in baggy jeans and T-shirts loose enough to hide a full-term pregnancy. There is no rest though for those in charge of hemlines and necklines. In this guarding of virtue 24/7, women become each other's unsolicited chaperones. They will suddenly pat your bra strap into place, though it's costlier than the blouse and deserves a little red carpet of its own. Or bend with a tut-tut to tug your sari over your heels. This is India – your mortality is directly proportionate to your morality.

# For India, The Reality Of 5%

Why recent high growth numbers will not be sustainable for either this country or the world

**Ruchir Sharma** 



A hot spurt for global growth is generating breathless headlines. India is on pace to be "the world's fastest growing large economy" and

France is posting its "strongest growth in 52 years". President Joe Biden cites the latest quarterly growth data as evidence that the US is growing "faster than China" and is "finally building an American economy for the 21st century".

Alas, 2021 looked so good only because so many economies contracted sharply the year before. This bounce back blip says nothing about the 21st century. The question is how fast economies can grow after the pandemic, once base effects fade and stimulus recedes. Trends in demographics and productivity suggest the global economy is likely to grow even more slowly in the 2020s than it did last decade.

A brief history shows why. After the Second World War, the baby boom nearly doubled global population growth to 2%, a historic high. Productivity growth tripled to around 2%, boosted by new technologies and a massive investment boom. With more workers, each producing more, global GDP growth also doubled to an unprecedented level, close to 4%. The postwar miracle was in full swing by the 1950s.

In the 1980s, cracks appeared. Population growth ebbed as fertility rates declined. Productivity growth started to slow, for a number of hotly debated reasons. But new forces emerged to keep the growth miracle era alive.

First, a debt boom. With inflation under control, central banks could slash interest rates to record lows, while financial liberalisation allowed for much more lending and borrowing. Second, a new free-market consensus opened borders to trade, money, workers and, later, data. Juiced by debt and globalisation, global GDP kept growing at nearly 4%.

The financial crisis of 2008 marked a major turn. Flows of trade and people slowed; flows of money collapsed. Only data flows carried on growing. Burnt by



the crisis, many households in the developed world cut back debt. While total debt continued to swell, driven by governments and corporations, it did so at a slower pace, providing a weaker boost to growth.

Global productivity growth fell back towards 1%, even as labour-saving digital technology continued to spread. With a predictable lag, falling birth rates started to cramp growth in the working population (aged 16-64), which has dropped from 1.5% to about 1% worldwide.

These forces explain why the global economy grew at barely over 2.5% a year in the 2010s - the slowest decadal pace in postwar history. The four "Ds" depopulation, declining productivity, deglobalisation and debt - all weighed on economic growth. The pandemic has only magnified those factors.

The virus aggravated the pressures of depopulation on growth, triggering a wave of retirement and quitting, a global migration bust, and a baby bust even in India. India's birth rate had already fallen below the global average, and the decline appears to have accelerated Global economy grew at barely over 2.5% a year in the 2010s. Four Ds - depopulation, declining productivity, deglobalisation and debt weighed on economic growth. The pandemic has only magnified those factors, triggering a wave of retirement and quitting, a global migration bust, and a baby bust even in India

significantly during the pandemic, based on early numbers.

Historical data shows that it is very rare for any country to sustain an annual growth rate of more than 6% once the growth rate of the working age population falls below 2%. India's working age population growth first fell below 2% in 2010 and the decline

continues. The working population is now growing just over 1%, and ultimately fewer workers will slow growth.

Though productivity typically surges early in a recovery, this time it continued to languish in many economies. India's productivity growth rate has been trending downward over the past few

years, according to CEIC data. Major powers from the US to China and India are turning further inward, extolling "self-sufficiency" over globalisation. Major emerging markets led by India, China and Russia are world leaders in authoring new rules on data flows, threatening to deglobalise even the internet.

As governments spent heavily to counter national lockdowns, debt levels hit new highs. But now, as interest rates head higher, borrowers of all kinds will be reluctant to take on more debt to fuel growth. India's total debt burden spiked from 160% to 175% of GDP, which is unusually high for a country in India's income class. The deepening impact of the four Ds suggests the trend towards slower growth will continue.

No country is an island, isolated from these global trends. All need to reconsider how fast they can grow in the new era. High-income countries such as the US that still aim for 3% annual growth will be lucky to top 2% in this decade. Lowerincome nations such as India need to lower their benchmark for success from 7% to 5% or better.

Complicating this picture is that inflation has returned, driven by temporary supply shortages and heavy stimulus, but likely to be sustained by shrinking labour forces and rising wages. With inflation back, policymakers will no longer feel empowered to keep growth alive with constant doses of stimulus. Investors, who have grown accustomed to central banks propping up markets at the first sign of trouble, will need to wean themselves off the comforts of constant state support.

Rather than hyping a temporary spike in growth data, it is time to recognise that a post-pandemic world shaped by the four Ds is likely to result in even slower growth and higher inflation.

The writer is an author and global investor

# After 2 Years, Case For Returning To Office This March

## Human interaction is the key fuel for every organisation, and we are running short on it

### Harsh Goenka



consisted of a series of daily rituals. Dress codes, the commute, the exchange of pleasantries at the workplace, informal banter, meetings, bonding with colleagues over tea and coffee, discussions, arguments, teaming up to finalise policy, presentations or perhaps make deals, staying on late, bidding good-nights, the list is endless.

Work-office routine as we knew it

The Covid-19 pandemic abruptly brought this typical work routine to a halt, forcing us to experiment with novel concepts of remote working. Work from home became the new norm. And with that, casual dressing, make-shift workspaces, multi-tasking in the home environment, digital meetings, calendar invites and juggling time with family have gained acceptance.

Once the pandemic is over there could be many who would be tempted with the idea that working from home could provide the perfect work-life balance. But the question is, is that the best way forward? And the answer, when we look deep into why a common physical office matters, is a resounding NO.

### 'Culture eats strategy for breakfast'

PEOPLE SAY THE

COMPLEXITY OF

MODERN LIFE IS

A BAD THING.

dilbert

An important reason for this is a fundamental facet of organisational functioning – work culture. At the root of every organisation is its culture or ethos. The oft-quoted Peter Drucker phrase "culture eats strategy for breakfast" is a testimony to the importance of this all-pervading facet of every organisation. Within its ecosystem, human interaction remains the most significant fuel. The prolonged persistence of the pandemic is beginning to erode this capital and threaten its very existence. How do we prevent this erosion?

One of the recent developments affecting organisations has been the extremely unusual and high rate of



attrition. This is more prevalent in the technology sector

and despite the efforts of companies to stem it, the attrition has been rising. While there may be many reasons for this, one of the driving forces is the lack of personal interaction and the eventual loss of a sense of belonging. Being together in a common workplace builds unity and helps remove the sense of isolation and makes us feel we are part of something much bigger, having a larger purpose.

### After the third wave, three options

In the wake of the third wave, local administrations in cities called for a partial shutdown and reduced commercial and social activity. At this juncture, it was an unavoidable necessity in order to stem the rapid flare-up in infections. Once we pass this wave, it is important that organisations educate people on the subjective benefits of in-office working because that aspect in spite of being so vital is least understood.

There are some solutions that are worth exploring. One is a hybrid model option where people work

WHY

AREN'T

YOU DONE

YET?

the other part. This will help alleviate some of the downsides of WFH. Also it will help shake off the inertia developed with remote working in the last two years.

remotely for part of the week and at the workplace for

Another option is to categorise people into those that mandatorily need to work from office and those that can have a more flexible schedule. The advantage of this model is that the core group that are critical to driving the business and are those that come face to face with customers are able to engage in the physical workplace.

A third option, which I personally do not advocate, would be to make it mandatory for all to attend all the time.

### Reconnect all levels of the organisation

Besides these, seeking inputs and involvement of people from all levels of the organisation on major decisions can help raise the feeling of empowerment. A robust communication within the organisation is also important. Leaders should find the time to engage with people in small groups or even individually where necessary, to motivate and keep people engaged so that the cultural fabric is kept intact. Reward and recognise people who further your culture. Treat people with empathy and kindness. All of these can be differentiators that ensure the organisation is well connected culturally.

A soothsayer warned Julius Caesar, "Beware the Ides of March." Mid March 2020, the planet encountered a life-threatening virus which forced us into isolation, into our limited residential spaces. It was necessary and unavoidable. Two years into the pandemic, whether we believe we are at the end of the beginning or at the beginning of the end, the efforts to reconnect must start now. At stake are the energy and enthusiasm and vibrancy and everything else at the workplace that we have cultivated which collectively we refer to as our organisational culture. We must carefully nurture it back to life.

The writer is chairman of RPG Enterprises

### **Sacred**space

Love That's Blissful Love in absolute purity gives strength

... Ultimate love is love for love's sake - pure love. We love spontaneously, simply, effortlessly and purely without any fear of mental, social or moral bondage, desire, need and expectation. This highest form of love is guided by true wisdom and bestows bliss and joy.

Meena Om

# What You're Longing For Is Also Longing For You

### **Sumit Paul**

Thile reading Persian mystic Jalaluddin Rumi, I stumbled upon a soul-gladdening thought that made me pause and go into a state of trance: 'Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They've been with each other all along.' What a heart-warming thought. Reading these lines brought to mind Hafiz Shirazi's immortal verse: 'Love is perennial. It chooses the lovers, not the other way round.'

True love is divine in nature - Ishq-e-Hageegi. Walt Whitman wrote in the first edition of Leaves of Grass, "We existed forever for each other/Waiting for that moment to be divinely aware." This is the turning point in love: To be aware of that precise moment when both understand that they have loved each other through ages and births, as a — is also longing for you. To quote Asadullah — an inalienable entity. God, or whatever — to a blissful life!

young Muhammad Iqbal put it: 'Dil dhadakta tab bhi tha/Par aaj ye ayaan hua/ Hum mein hain aap/ Aur aap mein hum/ Iss baat ka irfaan hua'-Heart throbbed then as well/But today I've realised that you're in me and I'm in you/This is the greatest realisation. 'Tishnagi gar aab zoyad az

BUT FOR USELESS

PEOPLE SUCH AS ME,

IT CREATES ENDLESS

OPPORTUNITIES.

jahaan/ Ab hum zoyad ba-aalam tishnagaan' - It's not only the thirst that longs for water/Water also craves the thirsty man. This Persian couplet by Rumi resonates with all THE SPEAKING TREE of us. We all search for the ultimate with a blinkered vision, not knowing that what we have been looking for is not separate from us. Our search for truth begins and ends at our

Remember, what you're longing for

very doorstep.

Khan Ghalib, 'Hum hain mushtaaq aur woh bezaar/ Ilahi ye maajra kya hai?'-I'm agog, and my beloved is also restless/God, what's going on? Metaphysically, all things come out

of our inner self, the recesses of the soul. We remain unaware of it and try to find that in the clamour and clutter of the outer world.

> We're just like the musk-deer that keeps running after musk, which it contains in its navel. As Krishnabihari 'Noor' put it: 'Main daudta phira jiski khatir/ Woh toh

MY SMART-

WATCH WAS

INFECTED

WITH

RANSOM-

WARE.

pahle se tha dil mein haazir' What I hankered after/ That existed already in my heart.

Adi Shankara's mystic interpretation of Advait or non-dualism deserves a mention here: That all are essentially divine. Divinity resides in all of us as

you may call it, is not separate from the jiva. Further explanation leads to the Upanishads' lofty proclamation, Aham Brahmasami-I'm Brahmn; and Tat tvamasi-Thouart That. Islamic tasawwuf, spirituality, also proclaims the same thing: An-Al-Haq, You're the Supreme, the ultimate Truth.

Human beings are unrealised souls. They're like fallen angels, as Iqbal put it: 'Raah bhatka farishta hoon main/ Jannat hai mera ashiyaana'-I'm an angel who has lost his way/ Otherwise, paradise is my abode. We're unaware of our own divinity and the innate potential. That we carry an ocean of possibilities and a plethora of opportunities is still elusive to us. Kabir rightly said, 'Tu moko dhoondhe kidhar/ Main toh hoon tere andar' - Where do you look for me?/ I'm forever within you. If only we understood this simple key

DIEGO SCHWARTZMAN TO FACE SPANISH TEENAGER CARLOS ALCARAZ IN RIO OPEN FINAL



**RANJI SCORES** 

**GROUP A: MP 274 and 251** 

(Shubham Sharma 103 not out;

Chintan Gaja 6/48) beat Gujarat 331and 88 (Kumar Kartikeya

Singh 5/34, Shubham Sharma

GROUP B: Baroda 181 and 255

overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran

Abhishek Porel 53 not out).

Points: Bengal 6, Baroda 0.

Hyderabad 347 and 269/8

declared. Chandigarh 216 and

183; 50.5 overs (Arslan Khan

68; Ravi Teja 6/41). Points:

Hyderabad 6, Chandigarh 0.

GROUP C: Karnataka: 481 & 223

for 9 in 63.2 overs (R Samarth

83; Amit Mishra 4 for 58, Karn

426 in 128.3 overs (Arindam

Ghosh 105, Mohammad Saif

84) and 69 for 4 in 33 overs.

Sharma 3 for 47) drew Railways

Karnataka: 3 points, Railways: 1

Pondicherry: 343 & 124 in 45.5

lost to J&K 426 in 114.1 overs

overs (Parvez Rasool six for 29)

(Qamran Igbal 96, Abdul Samad

103) and 45 for 2 in 12.4 overs. J&K: 6 points, Pondicherry: 0

GROUP D: Mumbai: 544/7 decl.

drew Saurashtra: 220 and 372/9

Cheteshwar Pujara 91; Shams

Goa: 181 & 394/5d drew Odisha:

in 116 overs (Snell Patel 98,

Mulani 7/114). Mumbai: 3

points, Saurashtra: 1

79, Shahbaz Ahmed 71 not out,

lost to Bengal 88 and 350/6; 91.3

2/7) Points: MP 6, Gujarat 0.

# SURYA FIREWORKS Dhull's tryst with history Only 3rd Player To Score Tons in Both Innings On Ranii Debut MAKE INDIA'S DAY

**Hosts Complete Rare Double** Sweep With 17-Run Win In **Third T201 Against Windies** 

Saibal.Bose@timesgroup.com

Kolkata: Rain stayed away throughout the day, so did the sun. But Suryakumar Yadav joined the party under the Eden Gardens floodlights here on Sunday with all guns blazing. The rather gloomy Kolkata day turned into an evening of fireworks as Suryakumar, along with Venkatesh Iyer, guided India to 184 for five in the third and final T20 International against the West Indies.

The total eventually proved adequate, with the West Indies being stopped in their tracks at 167 for 9. Nicholas Pooran continued his defiance with a 47-ball 61. Royman Powell and

Number of successive series wins registered by India across formats in India since October 2019 - their best winning streak at home.

Suryakumar Yadav's score, his career-best score in T20Is, bettering the 62 against New Zealand in Jaipur on Nov 17, 2021. His fourth fifty is his first against the West Indies.

Runs scored by India in the last five overs record, bettering the 80 against England in Durban on September 19, 2007.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar



Romario Shephard blazed only 37 balls, with the last five too in his 19-ball stay. He also T20I series was a clean sweep for India with this 17-run win.

West Indies, meanwhile, will have a lot to introspect. their previous T20I series at during the West Indies innings was injury to Deepak Chahar, who pulled a muscle before the last ball of his second over, the third of the innings. Having already dismissed the West Indies openers, Chahar's walking off the ground was a blow to India, although in the context of the

match it did not matter much. The Sunday show-stopper was a great effort by India's fifth-wicket pair of Yadav and Iyer, considering that the 100th run came in the 16th over of the innings. The partnership was worth 91 runs, coming in

briefly, but those weren't overs fetching 86. A crowd of enough. Like the ODIs, the around 20,000 watched and roared as all this unfolded.

Suryakumar scored 65 off just 31 deliveries, which had seven sixes. His only bounda-For the record, India had beat-ry, a brilliant cover drive, had en New Zealand 3-0 too, in even the West Indians applauding. He perished on the home. The major talking point innings' last ball, going for maximum again.

Venkatesh remained unbeaten on 35 and had two sixes

SCOREBOARD India: R Gaikwad c Mayers b Holder 4, I Kishan b Chase 34, S

Iyer c Holder b Walsh 25, R Sharma b Drakes 7, S Yadav c Powell b Shepherd 65, V Iyer n.o. 35; Extras (lb10, w4): 14; Total (5 wkts): 184; Fow: 1-10, 2-63, 3-66, 4-93, 5-184; Bowling: Holder 4-0-29-1, Shepherd 4-0-50-1, Chase 4-0-23-1, Walsh 4-0-30-1, Drakes 3-0-37-1, Allen 1-0-5-0

West Indies: K Mayers c Kishan b

(126 and 112) in 2012-13. Yash, in the company of Dhruv Shorey (107\*, 13x4), lit

snapped up two wickets.

It was to be a day of exper-

iments for India, who started

off with h four changes, two

forced and two by choice.

handing medium-pacer Avesh

Khan his debut. While Shreyas

Iyer and Ruturaj Gaikwad

came in for Virat Kohli and

Rishabh Pant, Shardul

Thakur and Avesh replaced

the rested Bhuvneswar Kumar

Powell c Thakur b Patel 25, K

Pollard c Bishnoi b V Iyer 5, J Holder

R Shepherd c Sharma b Patel 29,

F Allen n.o. 5, D Drakes c Sharma b

Thakur 4, H Walsh n.o. 0; Extras:

(lb3, w7) 10; Total: (9 wkts)) 167;

6-100, 7-148, 8-158, 9-166; Bowling:

Chahar 1.5-0-15-2, Khan 4-0-42-0, V

lyer 2.1-0-23-2, Thakur 4-0-33-2,

Bishnoi 4-0-29-0, Patel 4-0-22-3.

FoW: 1-6, 2-26, 3-73, 4-82, 5-87,

c S Iyer b V Iyer 2, R Chase b Patel

up the ground during their unfinished opening stand of 228 in the 60.5 overs that were bowled on Day 4. The two were on top of their games and tore the TN attack with

> Dhruv was the aggressor, Yash began to open up once stroke-making was the standout feature of Yash's maiden hundred, the youngster's calm-headedness came

Prasad.RS@timesgroup.com

Ranji Trophy debut.

match against Tamil Nadu in

Guwahati ended in a draw. The

others to have achieved this

feat are Nari Contractor (152

and 102\*) -- playing for Gujarat

during the 1952-53 season-and

Maharashtra's Virag Awate

a dream. After lead-

# Only 3rd Player To Score Tons In Both Innings On Ranji Debut

**RAGING DHULL: IN ELITE LEAGUE** ash Dhull is living ing the India U-19 team to a World Cup triumph in West Indies, the youngster has now become the third player to score centuries in both innings of his He followed up his 113 in the first innings with an identical score in the second as Delhi's

YASH DHULL

Yash Dhull, with a century in each innings (113 & 113\*) of his maiden Ranji Trophy match against TN in Guwahati, has become just the third batsman to post a century in each

 Nari Contractor (152 and 102\*) had accomplished the feat for Gujarat against Baroda in Baroda in November 1952 and Virag Awate (126 and 112) for

innings on Ranji Trophy debut.

Maharashtra against Vidarbha in Nagpur in November 2012. Dhull is now the seventh Delhi batsman to post a century in each innings of a Ranji Trophy match, joining Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (vs Services, 1964-65), Surinder Khanna (vs Karnataka, 1978-79), Madan Lal (vs Railways, 1980-81), Ajay Sharma (vs Railways, 1995-96), Raman Lamba (vs Maharashtra, 1996-97) and Rishabh Pant (vs Jharkhand, 2016-17).

to the fore in the century he scored on Sunday. Yash was prepared to wait for the loose balls and never played a false 202-ball innings.

shots all around the ground. Rajesh Nagar, Yash's long-While the experienced time coach, believes his ward couldn't have asked for a better start to his first-class cahe got his eye in. If effortless reer. "Yash had told me at the end of Day 3 that he would go out and score a hundred in the second innings. To have done what he said shows his char-

transition from white-ball format to the more demanding Ranji Trophy and is fulfillshot during the course of his ing the immense potential he has," Rajesh told TOI.

Yash announced his arrival on Day 1 of the clash with a 150-ball 113. "To score a debut hundred is always a special feeling. To be part of the Delhi team, get an opportunity and make the most of it gives me a lot of confidence," Yash had said.

# acter. Yash has made a smooth

189 & 239/7. Odisha: 3 points, Goa: 1 GROUP E: Services 176 and 204 lost to Uttarakhand 248 and 136 for 1 in 28.3 overs (Jay Bista 87 not out). Uttarakhand: 6 points, Services: 0. Rajasthan 275 and 316 beat

Andhra 224 and 209 in 53.3 overs (S Sharma 4 for 32). Rajasthan: 6 points, Andhra: 0. GROUP F: Haryana 556 and 81/1 drew Tripura 436; 159 overs (Samit Gohel 122, Rajat Dey 67). Points: Haryana 3. Tripura 1. Himachal Pradesh 354 and 402/8; 115.4 overs (Akash Vasisht 140, Praveen Thakur 103 not out) drew Punjab 526. Match drawn. Points: Punjab 3, Himachal 1. GROUP G: Maharashtra 415 beat Assam 248 and 160 (Satyajeet Bachhav 7/45). Maharashtra: 7 points, Assam: 1 UP 301 and 280/6 (Saurabh Kumar 81 not out) drew Vidarbha 548/6 (Faiz Fazal 192, Akshay Wadkar 102 not out; Saurabh Kumar 3/160). Vidarbha: 3 points, UP: 1 GROUP H: Delhi 452 and 228/0 in 60.5 overs (Yash Dhull 113 not

out; Dhruv Shorey 107 not out)

drew Tamil Nadu 494 in 107.5

overs. TN: 3 points, Delhi: 1

#### and Yuzvendra Chahal isplaying incredible resilience and nerves Chahar 6, S Hope c Kishan b Chahar 8, N Pooran Kishan b Thakur 6, R

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**DENY MUMBAI VICTORY** 

**PUJARA (91), TAILENDERS** 

of steel, skipper Jaydev Unadkat (32\*, 72b, 4x4) and Chetan Sakaria (10\*, 44b, 1x4, 1x6) put up a valiant, unbeaten tenth wicket 31run partnership in 104 balls to help Saurashtra deprive Mumbai of an outright win which would've given them six points, on a thrilling final day in their Ranji Trophy Group D opener at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Saurashtra went into tea at 313 for five on Sunday, but lost four wickets quickly in the final session as a superb, marathon effort by left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (7 for 114 in 42 overs) brought Mumbai within sniffing distance of a victory. However, Unadkat and Sakaria's dogged

partnership enabled the defending Ranji Trophy champions to hang on for a well-fought, nailbiting draw. Staving off Mumbai's bowlers by the skin of their teeth, Saurashtra finished at 372/9.

Earlier, Cheteshwar Pujara responded to his axing from India's Test side for the home Tests against Sri Lanka by letting his bat talk. A day after he was dropped, Pujara - after getting out for a duck in the first innings - smashed a quickfire 91 (83b, 16x4, 1x6). Taking out the frustration of his axing from

the Indian Test side on Saturday on Mumbai's bowlers, Pujara —denied what would've been his 51st First Class century when he offered no shot to Mulani — batted as if he was playing in a One-dayer. The 34-year-old reached his fifty off 57 balls with nine fours with a pull off a short ball for a four. Later, he also pulled leftarm spinner Tanush Kotian for a six. The Test discard was especially severe on both Mumbai's spinners, Mulani and Kotian.

# India's women's team needs to field better

Harbhajan Singh

wouldn't deny for once that I have been very disappointed with India not being able to defend challenging totals like 270 and 279 in back-to-back games against the White Ferns. Save Jhulan Goswami, who is still as good as gold, and Deepti Sharma, who has been able to hit the ideal length for an off-break bowler on these surfaces, the others need to put in more concerted effort.

For young pacers like Renuka Singh Thakur and Simran Dil Bahadur, I believe there is a lot of room for improvement. They certainly need to bowl in better areas against a world-class batting lineup. They are still inexperienced and as they play more matches at this level, they will certainly get better. But having said that, I believe that one needs to adapt to the challenges of in-

ternational cricket quickly. It's the elite level and it's not your learning ground but a platform where you need to win matches for your country regularly. If you want to learn, then domestic cricket is the place to do

amazon FEB 12 - FEB 24 prime video **NEW ZEALAND** VS INDIA (WOMEN)

that and when you come here, you have to deliver for the team. And, if you are not able to execute the plans, then you need to go back to the drawing board and work with coaches on corrective measures.

So, when you are playing the

next game, it should be visible that a course correction has happened. The quicker they show progress the better it will be for India, with the World Cup round

On New Zealand grounds, you need to cut down the angles and have more players in single saving positions. That's how you create pressure in the end overs and force them to take risks. You don't wait for them to make mistakes.

the corner. Also I believe that

fielding needs a lot of improve-

ment as there are far too many

easy singles being given and New

Zealand have converted ones into

twos without much fuss.

In the last match, bowlers conceded singles as well as boundaries, which is not doing them any good. Expecting a better show and a more potent combination for the fourth game with Jhulan, Meghana, Rajeshwari, Deepti and Poonam being my choice of attack. PMG

#### **PUJARA, RAHANE OMISSION** WAS EXPECTED: GAVASKAR

New Delhi: Former India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar is not surprised with the non-selection of senior batters Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane in the squad for two Tests against Sri Lanka, terming it 'expected'.

"This was expected because in the three Test matches they played in South Africa, had they scored a century or someone scored knocks of 80-90, then it would have been a different story. Yes, Ajinkya Rahane scored a half-century (at Johannesburg) but apart from that, not many runs were scored when runs were expected of them," Gavaskar told Sports Tak.

Gavaskar admitted that the road to return will be 'difficult'. "They can come back. Why not? If they show good form in the Ranji Trophy, scoring 200-250 in every Ranji Trophy match, then they can definitely come back. But right now, after this series, India just have a one-off Test with England and then we play Tests only towards the end of the year. So I feel time won't be on their side." IANS

### **MENDIS HELPS SI AVOID OZ SWEEP**

Melbourne: Opener Kusal Mendis struck an unbeaten 69 off 58 balls to help secure a consolation five-wicket victory for Sri Lanka, who fired with both bat and ball against Australia in the fifth and final Twenty20 international on Sunday. The hosts posted 154-6 after opting to bat in Melbourne, but the Sri Lankan batsmen finally found their feet to reach 155-5 with one ball remaining, ending the series 4-1 in Australia's favour.

Mendis batted positively, but sensibly, with captain Dasun Shanaka (35) in an 83-run partnership which powered Sri Lanka to their first win against Australia in any format since 2017, Seamer Kane Richardson



took 2-28, but Australia's second-string bowling attack never looked threatening after conceding 54-2 in the powerplay. BRIEF SCORES: Australia: 154/6 in 20 overs (Maxwell 29; Kumara 2/34, Chameera 2/30) lost to Sri Lanka: 155/5 in 19.5 overs (Mendis 69 n.o, Shanaka 35; Richardson 2/28). AGENCIES

### **GALLERY**

### **Faulkner leaves PSL** over payment row

Karachi: Australia bowler James Faulkner allegedly damaged a hotel chandelier before quitting Pakistan's Twenty20 league at the weekend claiming he hadn't been paid, claims that were refuted as "baseless" by the country's cricket board. Faulkner, a member of Australia's 2015 World Cup-winning team, had been playing for Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Faulkner abruptly left the league and took to social media to claim that he'd been lied to by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and that his treatment had been a "disgrace".

There will be pressure on Tim David when he plays for MI, says Watson: Former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has said that there will be pressure on Tim David when he turns up to play for the Mumbai Indians in the IPL. Mumbai Indians had picked up Tim David for Rs 8.25 crore. "Definitely, with the high price tag, comes a lot of expectations and pressure from your franchise. It is not until you get into the gametime when you really know how to absorb that pressure that is there," said Watson on the 'ICC Review' show.

#### 'IPL rights value to reflect league growth': Media rights for the IPL will capture value worthy of the league's rapid rise, especially after the addition of two new teams and strong digital growth, secretary of BCCI Jay Shah said. He declined to discuss any dollar figures, but said: "The valuation will mirror the rise and

### **ACTION TODAY**

FOOTBALL: ISL: Bengaluru vs Odisha 7.30pm (Star Sports 1) HOCKEY: FIH Pro League: 11.30pm (Star Sports Select 2)

growth of the league." AGENCIES

# WATCH LIVE CURTAINS DOWN **Beijing Winter Olympics Comes To A Close As Norway Top The Tally With 37 Medals**

Beijing: The city doused its Olympic flame on Sunday night, closing a Games that will be remembered for the extremes of its anti-Covid-19 measures and outrage over the doping scandal that enveloped 15-yearold Russian skating sensation Kamila Valieva.

was on hand for the snowflake-themed ceremony at the Bird's Nest stadium, where International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach

Chinese President Xi Jinping

described the Beijing Games as "truly exceptional" before declaring them closed. The Beijing

Games, contained inside a "closed loop", were the second Olympics in six months to be deprived by Covid of much of its festivity.

#### SNOWFLAKES AND LANTERNS On one side of the stadium,

which was roughly half full, red Chinese lanterns projected a glow as Olympic athletes entered en masse to "Ode to Joy", dancing and under pressure in her final skate, taking selfies.

that grew louder when San Fran- country's history of doping, which cisco-born freestyle skier Eileen Gu, who won two golds and a silver for China, was shown on-screen.

### GOLD MEDALS, COVID TESTS

generated by her dozens of endorsement deals even as her success raised questions about nationality. allowed to participate in the singles China's nine gold medals exceeded but finished fourth. AGENCIES

#### expectations, putting it in third place, while winter sports powerhouse Norway, with a population of just 5.5 million, won a record 16.

# DOPING SCANDAL

The biggest legacy of the Olympics will be the controversy surrounding Valieva, who stumbled and the outrage directed towards The Chinese team drew cheers Russian sports officials and the meant its athletes could not compete under Russia's flag. Valieva failed a doping test at her national championships in December but the result was only revealed on Feb. Gu, 18, delivered on the hype 8, a day after she helped the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) win the team event. She was nonetheless

#### **TAIWAN PREMIER WANTS** ATHLETE PUNISHED FOR **WEARING CHINA SUIT**

Taipei: Taiwan's premier wants a Taiwanese Olympic speedskater to be punished for wearing what appeared to be a suit from China's team during training. Symbols of the two sides are especially sensitive at a time when China's ruling Communist Party, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory even though the island has long operated with its own government, is trying to intimidate the democracy by flying fighter jets and bombers nearby. Huang Yu-ting, one of four Taiwanese athletes at the Winter Games, posted a video on her social media page on Jan 23 showing her training in what appeared to be a Chinese suit. It said Huang apologized and removed the video. AP women's side. AGENCIES

#### **FINLAND BEATS RUSSIANS** FOR ITS 1ST OLYMPIC **HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL**

from the closing ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics

at Beijing's iconic Bird's Nest Stadium on Sunday

Beijing: Sheets of paper rained down like super-sized confetti on the bench, which players leapt off at full speed to pile on top of goaltender Harri Sateri with such force that they knocked the net off its moorings. After finally accomplishing what so many Finland teams before were unable to do, there was plenty of strength to go around. Finland, known as Suomi in Finnish, is now synonymous with gold. The Finns knocked off the favoured Russians 2-1 Sunday to win the men's hockey tournament without NHL players at the Beijing Games, capturing an Olympic gold medal for the first time in the nation's history. Finland had never won at the Olympics on the men's or

### Skier Remi suffers frozen penis in mass start race Zhangjiakou: The men's 50km mass start race at

the Beijing Games was shortened to 30km but that did little to help Finland's Remi Lindholm, who needed a heat pack at the end of the race to thaw out a particularly sensitive body part.

Lindholm spent just under an hour and 16 minutes traversing the course in howling, freezing winds, leading to his penis becoming frozen for the second time in a cross-country skiing race following a similar incident in Ruka, Finland last year.

"You can guess which body part was a little bit frozen when I finished (the men's Olympic 50km race)... it was one of the worst competitions I've been in. It was just about battling through," he told Finnish media. With organisers worried about frostbite during Saturday's race, it was delayed by an hour and shortened by 20km. The thin suits and under-layers worn by racers, as well as plasters to cover their faces and ears, offered little protection. Lindholm explained that he used a heat pack to try to thaw out his appendage once the race was over. "When the body parts started to warm up after the finish, the pain was unbearable," he added. REUTERS

#### SHIFFRIN ENDS UNDER-PAR GAMES WITH LOVE LETTER TO THE MEDIA

Yanging: Ski star Mikaela Shiffrin could have blamed external pressure for her disappointments at the Olympics, but even after missing out on a podium in her **MEDALS TALLY (TOP 5)** 

sixth race she embraced the media focus on her to celebrate the good in failing. Shiffrin gave a message of hope and resilience: "There's so much about - what's your message to the haters. I want to talk to people who have the potential

to be kind." AFP

#### Country 13 Norway 12 10 5 Germany China USA 10 25 5 Sweden



# SUPER SUBS

Leeds: Second-half goals from substitutes Fred and Anthony Elanga earned Manchester United a 4-2 victory over Leeds United in a thriller at Elland Road in the Premier League on Sunday.

In a red-hot atmosphere, the visitors took the lead in the 34th minute, with captain Harry Maguire heading home to score his side's first league goal from a corner all season. As the rain became more torrential, United compounded the home side's woes when Bruno Fernandes squeezed another header into the net.

Seemingly dead and buried, Leeds turned the match on its head with two goals in less than a minute early in the second to lift the roof off Elland Road. Spanish forward Rodrigo's cross manstopper David de Gea before line, however, as Fred put his while Leeds stay 15th.



Dan James squared for Leeds side in front 20 minutes from substitute Raphinha to level at the far post. The visitors aged to loop over United were the ones to get over the United onto 46 points in third,

time before Elanga settled the contest. The result moved

Fred And Elanga Step **Up From The Bench To** Secure United 4-2 Win In **Red-Hot Leeds Cauldron** 

#### 'Kane' in the neck for Pep!

Pep Guardiola once labelled Tottenham Hotspur 'the Harry Kane side' and the Spaniard was left marvelling at the striker as his two goals loosened Manchester City's grip on the EPL title race.

It was only City's third league defeat of the season but their second to Tottenham. The champions now have only a six-point lead over Liverpool, who have a game in hand. Juergen Klopp's men visit the Etihad in April.

"Tottenham have a lot of quality, they give the ball to Harry Kane. They are really good up front. In the first half they have the goal, no more.

"In the second half they have one attack with Harry Kane at the start and they score. They are clinical. They have Kane and Son and (Dejan) Kulusevski." REUTERS

**CITY 'APPALLED'** 

BY FODEN ATTACK

Manchester City said they were

"shocked and appalled" by an

attack on midfielder Phil Foden

appeared to show them involved

in a scuffle at Saturday's fight

Brook at the Manchester Arena.

between Amir Khan and Kell

and his family after a video

# Premium aromatic basmati rice fortune

### Hannah beats the men, wins mixed title

Sydney: Former US LPGA champion Hannah Green made history by becoming the first woman to win a mixed-gender professional golf tournament with a four-shot victory at the TPS Murray River event in Australia. The world number 30 shot a five-under-par 66 to clinch the title. "It's weird. I don't normally have golf dreams - very, very rarely - but I actually had one last night of me after winning," Green said. Green

went into the final round in a four-way tie for the lead with Andrew Evans, Matthew Millar and Blake Collyer.

DJ sticking with PGA Tour A proposed Saudi-financed rival golf league took a big hit when Dustin Johnson said he was "fully committed" to stay with the PGA Tour.

Chile's Niemann leads by 3 Joaquin Niemann fired a 3-under par 68 to take a three-shot lead at the Genesis Invitational with a record total of 9-under 194 at Riviera CC. AGENCIES

# Barcelona roll back to fourth; Sevilla slip

Valencia: Pierre-Emerick gling at the start of the season. Car-Aubameyang scored his first two los Soler scored a consolation goal goals for Barcelona in a convincing for the locals. 4-1 win at Valencia on Sunday, lifting his side to fourth place in LaLiga.

It was the eighth and ninth goals of the season for the former Arsenal striker, who last found the net for the Gunners in October in a 3-1 win over Pedri also scored for Barcelona, who looked much improved after strug-

The win lifted Barcelona into fourth place on 42 points from 24 games, tied with Atletico who are fifth on goal difference. Real Madrid top the table with 57 points.

Sevilla stumbled again in the Aston Villa. Frenkie de Jong and Spanish title race as a 1-1 draw away at Espanyol left Real Madrid with a six-point lead at the top.



signing Aubameyang celebrates

after scoring against Valencia

for Espanyol early in the second half. Julen Lopetegui's team still have to play Real Madrid at home in April, two weeks after visiting Barcelona at Camp Nou, but they are in danger of letting Madrid drift through the second half of the season, without

a serious rival to challenge them.

Another slip means Sevilla have

now won only once in their last five

league games, allowing Madrid to

maintain a commanding advantage,

despite Carlo Ancelotti's side suffer-

Cornella but Sergi Darder equalised

Rafa Mir put Sevilla in front at

ing a dip in form themselves.

Real Madrid dug deep in a 3-0 home win against lowly Alaves, scoring all three in the last 27 minutes after the visitors gave them a few scares early on at the Bernabeu, AGENCIES

#### **NEYMAR SCORES, MISSES PENALTY AS PSG SLUMP TO NANTES DEFEAT**

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain were brought back down to earth after their Champions League win over Real Madrid as they slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Nantes in Lique 1.

Nantes raced into a stunning 3-0 lead at the break - the first time PSG had conceded three goals before half-time in over two years. Neymar gave PSG hope with his first goal since last Nov, but then saw a 59th-minute spotkick saved. The giants remain 13

# AMUL DOODH 30g PROTEIN **PEETA HAI** INDIA Amul Taaza HILKY MILE ₹47\*/1 L Amul Taaza

# Former India coach Akramov passes away

New Delhi: Former Indian football team coach Rustam Akramov, who introduced the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia to the international game in 1995 and took the Blue Tigers to their highest-ever FIFA ranking, has died in Uzbekistan. He was 73.

The Uzbek coach died on February 15, according to the official website of the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan. Akramov was in charge of the national team from 1995 to 1997.

Akramov gave a teenage Baichung Bhutia his debut in a Nehru Cup match against Thailand in March 1995. Akramov helped Bhutia shape up as a striker instead of the attacking midfielder role he played at club level. The Indian team under Akramov was full of great players like IM Vijayan, Carlton Chapman and Bruno Coutinho, besides a young Bhutia. The team rose to 94th in the Feb 1996 FIFA rankings. PTI

# **Jamshedpur** close in on semifinals

Vasco: Jamshedpur FC breezed from the start with Boris warmed Indian Super League (ISL) place on Sunday.

(40th) got on the score-sheet beown goal (46th) as Jamshedpur their lines. made it three wins to rack up 31 Hyderabad FC with a game in the net past Debjit. PTI

Valskis (62nd) scored a consolation goal against his former side. Chennaiyin are eighth in the table with 20 points from 17 matches and are all but out of a semifinal berth. Jamshedpur bossed the game

hand. For Chennaiyin, Nerijus

past Chennaiyin 4-1 in a lopsid- ing Debjit Majumder's gloves early on with an effort from match to move to the second the right-wing. The Red Miners saw a lot more of the

Ritwik Das (23rd), Boris Singh ball and that translated into a (33rd) and Daniel Chima Chukwu goal soon. Greg Stewart's corner was headed back by Peter Hartfore Deepak Devrani scored an ley as Chennaiyin failed to clear Ritwik was on hand and the

points from 16 matches. They are in-form midfielder guided the one point behind league leaders ball on the rise into the back of

#### **BAYERN RIDE ON LEWA BRACE**

Berlin: Two goals from Robert Lewandowski saw Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich come from behind to beat bottom club Greuther Fuerth 4-1 and avoid a second successive shock defeat on Sunday.

A week after they slumped to a 4-2 defeat at Bochum, Bayern survived another scare against a promoted side as Lewandowski scored his eighth brace of the season to haul his side out of trouble. The win keeps the league leaders comfortably ahead of second-placed Dortmund.

#### points clear of Marseille. Rebic avoids embarrassment for Milan; Mourinho sent off Salerno: Serie A leaders AC Milan averted a shock defeat to basement club Salernitana with Ante Rebic rescuing a 2-2 draw Amul 500mL: ₹24\* | 15g Protein with a late strike. Roma came back from two goals down to \*MRP (incl. of all taxes), transportation and cooling charges salvage a 2-2 draw at home to included. Conditions apply. For any clarification/ availability, Verona but coach Jose Mourinho please contact us on: Delhi; 011 - 28524336/ 37, Ghaziabad was sent off. AGENCIES (acke)

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FM Nirmala will be on a two-day visit to Mumbai from Monday, where she will hold with stakeholders from Maharashtra

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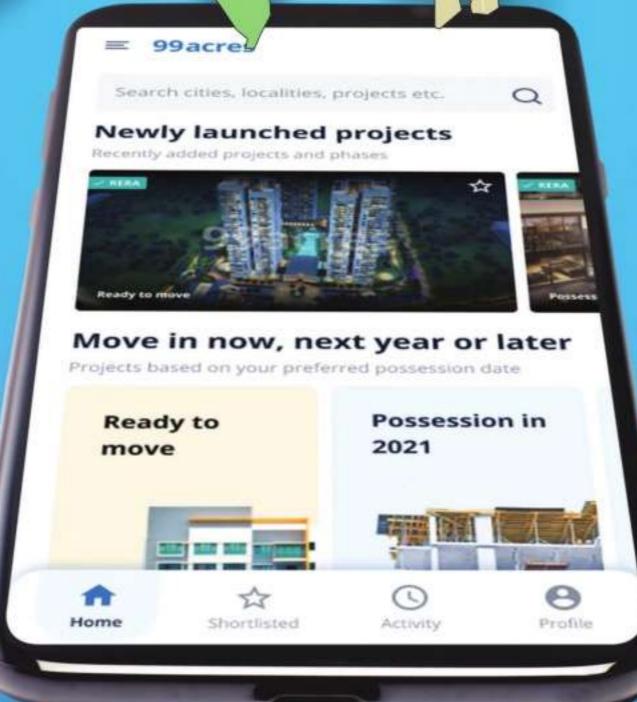
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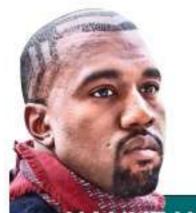
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# TIMES GLOBAL

\* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

KANYE WEST COULD BE CHARGED WITH ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTING FAN SEEKING AN AUTOGRAPH OUTSIDE AN LA NIGHTSPOT IN JAN: REPORT PATRICK SCHWARZENEGGER POSTS PHOTO OF ARNIE GIVING HAIRCUT WITH HUGE SCISSORS, CAPTIONS IT, 'SAVED 50 BUCKS TODAY'

THE WISH FOR

**HEALING HAS ALWAYS** 

BEEN HALF OF HEALTH

- LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA

# Russian tanks reported rolling towards Ukraine

In Ray Of Hope, Macron & Putin 'Agree' On Need For Diplomatic Solution; Blinken Says Biden Ready To Engage With Russia Prez To Prevent War

Chidanand Raighatta TNN

Washington: US President Joe Biden is meeting with his National Security Council on Sunday as Russian tanks are reported to be rumbling toward Ukraine in what Washington says is a foregone decision by Moscow to invade the neighbouring country. There was a glimmer of hope that precipitous action by Russia could be averted following the French President Emmanuel Macron engaging his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin with a pledge to convene "a meeting at the highest level to define a new order of peace and security in Europe." The White House has not responded to the French proposal.

Armoured tanks painted with a letter 'Z' are reported to be rolling from Shebekino in arkiv Oblast just across the border, according to Twitter posts from military analysts accompanied by videos. The marking are said to be aimed at differentiating Russian tanks assigned with specific roles and preventing friendly fire. The forward troop movement is taking place even as Macron reached out to his Russian counterpart to forestall what Nato allies say is an imminent invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also urged Putin to meet him for talks amid the escalating crisis. On its part, Moscow says the US and Nato allies have not responded to specific



Protesters in Warsaw, Poland, rally for peace in Ukraine on Sunday

#### 'West may cut Russia cos' access to dollar, pound'

The US and Britain would cut off Russian companies' access to US dollars and British pounds if the Kremlin orders an invasion of Ukraine, British PM Boris Johnson said on Sunday. The US and Britain have repeatedly cautioned that Russia is about to invade Ukraine, a step Washington and London say would trigger the biggest conflict since the end of World War II. Johnson said Western sanctions on Russia in the event of an invasion would go much further than he has previously suggested in public. "We are even, with our American friends, going to stop them trading in pounds and dollars," he said. "Th-Russia, towards Ukraine's Kh- at will hit very, very hard." Johnson, though, questioned if the threat of curbs would be enough to deter Russia's President Putin because the Kremlin chief might not be thinking logically. "We have to accept at the moment that Vladimir Putin is possibly thinking illogically about this and doesn't see the disaster ahead," Johnson said. REUTERS

> talks forward. While there was a glimmer of hope that the situation would be defused following a 105-minute phone talk between Macron and Putin, where they reportedly agreed on "the need to favour a diplomatic solution to the ongoing crisis and to do everything to achieve one," there was a hint of impatience on part of Moscow at what it sees as delay and obfuscation on part of US and Nato

proposals by Russia to take the allies. Putin "once again emphasised the need for the US and Nato to take Russia's demands to ensure its security guarantees as seriously as possible and to respond specifically and to the point," Kremlin said. A French presidential adviser said the two agreed that a meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), with representatives from Ukraine and Russia, be held on Monday. Poland, cur-

#### rently the OSCE chair, earlier said that at Ukraine's request it was convening an extraordinary session of the council, which is dedicated to preventing armed conflict, on Monday. Zelensky called on Sunday for an immediate ceasefire in the eastern part of the country. Ma-

cron blamed the separatists for

the renewed hostilities, while

Putin blamed Ukraine, the Fr-

ench presidential adviser said.

US secretary of state Antony Blinken is scheduled to meet his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday but President Biden has said the talks will be off if the invasion takes place before that. Blinken said on a Sunday TV talk show that Biden is prepared to engage with Putin "at any time, in any format, if that can help prevent a Putin has made the decision (to rritory since the end of the Cothe planes are flying, we will 1,000-km border with Belarus use every opportunity and every minute we have to see if diplomacy can still dissuade President Putin from carrying this forward," he told CNN. The US Ukraine as the reason for contihas told allies that any Russian invasion of Ukraine would potentially see it target multiple cities beyond the capital Kyiv, according to three people familiar with the matter. Cities that could also come under attack include Kharkiv in the northe-

# 30k Russian troops to stay longer in Belarus

ussia's large-scale military deployment in Belarus, which the US has long warned could be used as a pretext to build an invasion force aimed at Ukraine, will be extended beyond Sunday, when joint exercises had been scheduled to conclude, Belarus' defence minister announced. After repeated assurances from Russia and Belarus that the drills would end this weekend, the Belarusian defence minister said that the two countries' militaries would continue to "test" their capabilities because of what they claimed were heightened tensions in eastern Ukraine. The apparent extension of the exercises — which Nato has said involve 30,000 war," but didn't sound very op- Russian troops, Moscow's largtimistic. "We believe President est deployment on Belarus teinvade Ukraine). But until the ld War — put further pressure tanks are actually rolling and on Ukraine, which shares a that is largely unguarded. Belarus' defence minister, Lt Gen Viktor Khrenin, cited an escalation of violence in eastern nuing the exercises, although Ukrainian officials say Russiabacked separatists are responsible for the spike in tensions.

On Sunday, separatist leaders suspended a wide range of public activities in the eastern region, known as the Donbas. including "leisure, entertainment, cultural, exhibition, educational, public and other si-



People walk towards a monument in the rebel-held city of Donetsk

milar events," according to a statement posted on their Telegram channel. The statement released by the self-proclaimed government in the region offered no evidence that there was a danger to the public. And it was part of an ominous shift in the long-running conflict in the Donbas, where the Russia-backed rebels in recent days have called for civilians to evacuate to Russia and for residents to take up arms against a possible invasion by Ukraine. Ukraine has denied plans to invade, and Western officials have described the separatists' claims as lies intended to justify a military intervention by Moscow.

The announcement on Sunday is a reversal from earlier statements. Belarus' foreign minister had said on Wednesday that "not a single Russian serviceman will remain after these manoeuvres." Kremlin had also said that Russia keeping troops in Belarus after the exercises "is not being considered." NYT

# Omicron wave toll 176% higher than Delta's in the US

The Omicron wave is bre-aking, but deaths, which lag cases by as much as several weeks, have surpassed the numbers from the Delta wave and are still increasing in much of the US. In 14 states, the average daily death toll is higher now than it was two weeks ago. They are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.

Since November 24, when South Africa reported the Omicron variant to WHO, the US has confirmed more than 30,163,600 new infections and over 154,750 new deaths. (While US did not initially identify any Omicron cases within its borders until December 1. CDC has since confirmed the variant was in the country at least a week earlier.) By comparison, from August 1 to October 31, a similar duration covering the worst of the Delta surge in the US, the country confirmed 10,917,590 new infections and 132,616 new deaths. That makes the official case count about 176% higher during the Omicron wave than in the equivalent-length Delta period. (The true case count is higher still, because more so than during the Delta wave, many people have been using at-home tests whose results aren't included in government statistics.) The death toll during Omicron is about 17% higher so far than the

### In UK, people with **Covid won't need** to self-isolate

people with Covid-19 won't be legally required to selfisolate in England starting in the coming week, the UK government has announced, as part of a plan for "living with Covid" that is also likely to see testing for the coronavirus scaled back. PM Boris Johnson said ending all of the legal curbs brought in to curb the spread of the virus will let people in the UK "protect ourselves without restricting our freedoms." Defending the government's move, Johnson denied the end to Covid law was reckless after some of the government's scientific advisers said it was risky and could bring a surge in infections. In a BBC interview broadcast on Sunday, he said it was time to revert to "personal responsibility" rather than legal mandates. "I'm not saying that we should throw caution to the wind. But it's time for everybody to get their confi-

death toll in the Delta wave.

dence back," he said. AGENCIES

Deaths also remain lower than in last winter's surge, before vaccines were widely available: 233,102 deaths were reported from November 24, 2020, to February 18, 2021, compared with 154,757 from November 24, 2021, to February 18, 2022. NYT

# Pak eyes people's gold to increase forex reserves

Islamabad: The Imran Khan-led Pakistan government is considering a proposal to borrow gold biscuits and bars from the people to increase the country's foreign exchange reserves that remain on a sliding path despite taking over \$5 billion loans in the past three months from bilateral and multilateral creditors, according to a media report on Sunday.

The proposal has been discussed in the Economic Executive Council (EEC) — the body comprising all economic ministers and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor, Express Tribune reported, citing sources in the ministry of finance. As per the proposal, the commercial banks will issue a negotiable discounted instrument to the gold owner and pay an interest rate on the precious metal. The commercial bank will deposit the gold with the SBP that can monetise it to increase the fo-

reign exchange reserves. The central bank's reserves slid to \$17 billion as of February 11, according to an SBP statement dated December 31. In the past three months, the government took a \$3 billion loan from Saudi Arabia, raised the most expensive debt of \$1 billion in Pakistan's history by pledging motorway and received another \$1 billion from the IMF. But still the reserves could not be stabilised. PTI

# Nepal debates US aid amid protests

ast and the seaport cities of Od-

essa and Kherson in the south.

(With updates from agencies)

Kathmandu: Nepal's government presented a contentious half-billion dollar aid grant from the US for approval in parliament on Sunday, triggering a fresh round of clashes between protesters and police outside the legislature. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside parliament to try to push through barbed wire barricades and pelted riot police with stones. Police beat the protesters with bamboo batons, fired tear gas and water canons, leaving injuries on both sides. "The decision to accept development assistance is taken by Nepal in terms of our national interest and priorities," Nepal's ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement. "It is the sovereign parliament of Nepal alone that decides what development assistan-

**Nepal's Leftist parties** say the conditions in the grant agreement is not in national interest and that it was meant to counter China

of Nepal and its people," it said. Opposition to the aid grant comes mainly from two of the Communist parties that are part of the coalition government. They claim the conditions in the grant agreement will prevail over Nepal's laws and threaten the country's sovereignty. They say it's part of Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy, which has military components that could bring American soldiers to Nepal. US officials have spoken to Nepalese leaders re-

cently to assure that the grant concerns only Nepal's development. The money is meant to be used for the construction of power transmission lines and improvement of roads in the Himalayan nation. Nepal's Leftist political parties say it was not in national interest and that it was meant to counter China. On Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin in Beijing said that China is "glad to see" international assistance to Nepal but it should come without any political strings attached. Inside parliament, government minister Gyanendra Bahadur Karki presented the grant proposal. A thick line of security personnel blocked the protesting members from approaching the minister. The debate is expected to last several days. AGENCIES

### AROUND THE WORLD

### **British queen tests Covid positive, has** mild symptoms

ueen Elizabeth II tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday and is



experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms, Buckingham Palace said. The palace said the 95-

year-old British monarch will continue with light duties at Windsor Castle over the coming week. "She will continue to receive medical attention and will follow all the appropriate guidelines," the palace said. The gueen has received three doses of coronavirus



MASK FUN: Revellers attend the annual carnival in Venice

vaccine. Both her eldest son Prince Charles and daughterin-law Camilla have also recently contracted Covid-19. She recently returned to public duties following several months off after she was told to rest by her doctors after spending a night in hospital for tests in October.

### **Cops reclaim Ottawa** as trucker siege ends

The last big rigs were being to-

wed on Sunday out of Canada's capital, where the streets were quiet for the first time in three weeks after a massive police operation ended a threeweek siege over Covid curbs. A major cleanup was underway in Ottawa's downtown area, where police faced off with trucker-led demonstrators for two days, finally driving them out of their protest hub outside parliament. On Sunday, police were manning checkpoints restricting access to a 500-acre area, while a sizeable force remained on standby to defend the ground reclaimed from the truckers. Only a handful of protesters remained testing the perimeter. A total of 191 protesters have been arrested since Friday. Police said 57 vehicles have so far been towed out of the city. AFP

### TIMES NATION

# added 14.6L subscribers, a rise of 20%

New Delhi: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EP-FO) added has added 14.6 lakh net subscribers during December last year, an increase of 19.9% as compared to November 2021, said the ministry of labour and employment on Sunday. The ministry informed that the provisional payroll data of EPFO has been released on Sunday. The comparison shows an increase of around 2 lakh in net payroll additions in December 2021 as compared to 12.5 lakh net subscribers added during the corresponding month previous year.

Of the total 14.6 lakh net subscribers added, 9.1 lakh new members have been enrolled under EPF & MP Act, 1952 for the first time. Approximately 5.5 lakh net subscribers exited but rejoined EPFO by opting to continue their membership with EPFO by transferring their PF accumulations from previous to present PF account instead of opting for final withdrawal. Further, the number of members exiting EPFO has been on a declining trend since July, 2021.

Age-wise comparison of payroll data shows that the agegroup of 22-25 years has registered highest number of net enrolments with 3.8 lakh additions during December, 2021. Age-group of 18-21 also registered a healthy addition of around 2.9 lakh net enrolments. Age-groups of 18-25 years have contributed around 46.8% of total net subscriber additions in December, 2021. ANI

# In video before death, woman blames hubby for slashing neck

ce is needed in the best interest

Ishita.Mishra @timesgroup.com

Meerut: A 30-year-old woman running a clinic in UP's Bulandshahr died after her husband allegedly slashed her throat with a surgical blade. Soaked in blood, she gave a dying declaration to police blaming him for the act. The declaration went viral on social media.

The victim, Poonam Devi. got married to Neeraj Singh five years ago. After allegedly facing dowry demands from her husband. she started living separately and opened a clinic in Bulandshahr, said her mother Susheela Devi. "Neeraj attacked me with a blade,"



The victim, Poonam Devi, ran a clinic in UP's Bulandshahr

Poonam said on her deathbed. The couple has a three-year-old child.

Eyewitnesses said that Poonam was bleeding profusely when she rushed out of the cabin of her clinic on Saturday afternoon. She

ran to the room where her colleagues were sitting and asked them to call an ambulance. The injured woman then rushed outside the clinic and alerted locals to catch her fleeing husband.

The police reached the

spot before the ambulance and a constable recorded her dying declaration. Due to her alertness, locals managed to catch Neeraj before he could flee. Those present at the spot placed cotton and applied pressure on her neck to stop the bleeding. They also tied a stole around it. However, she was declared dead by the doctors when taken to the hospital. The accused has been booked and sent to jail.

# Family forgets ₹17L of jewellery on train, cop brings cheer back

Nitasha.Natu @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Annampali family was devastated when they realised that they had left behind a bag of jewellery—worth Rs17lakh—on a long-distance train recently. They spent the next few hours panic-stricken, carrying out searches at various railway stations. But thanks to a quick-thinking policeman, they got back

their valuables. The constable tracked down the train to a yard,

emergency window and managed to trace the bag the same day. The Annampalis are Andheri residents and had gone to their hometown in Telangana to attend an annual festival. They were returning home on Chennai Express. Early on Friday, they alighted at Dadar station and then took a local train to Andheri.

"On reaching home, we realised that the bag with the jewellery was missing," Anand Annampali said. After finding out that the train terminated at CSMT, relathere and lodged a complaint. "Our team decided to check the train at CSMT, but it had already left for the yard at Mazgaon. Without wasting time, one of our constables, Ishwar Jadhav, went over to the yard," said GRP senior inspector Mehboob Inamdar. The train was being washed at the time and all its doors and windows were shut.

Jadhav found the emergency window and managed to get it open from the outside. Jadhav scanned every inch of the coach and lo-

# When industry isn't providing revenue, it should give jobs'

In his first comments after SC set aside the stay HC had granted on the state's 75% domicile quota in the private sector, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal

**Khattar** has strongly justified it saying the law has been drafted carefully so that industry is not impacted and at the same time locals are benefited. He spoke to TOI's Akhilesh Singh about the contentious law and other issues. Excerpts from the interview:

There has been industrialisation in Haryana and youth from neighbouring states expect employment. Besides, some experts have dubbed the new law regressive. Your comments.

Firstly, it is the state's responsibility to provide employment opportunities for their people, more than any other agency. Secondly, there was a time when we used to invite industries and they would become a source of revenue for the state. But since GST has been rolled out, the industry is not a main source of revenue.

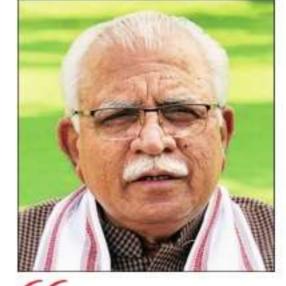
GST has made revenues consumption-based. The industrial sector still wants concessions related to land, tax benefits, cheap electricity. When industry is not providing revenue, the only benefit is employment generation. In the 75% quota, a business owner can decide the worker's qualifications or salary or skills. This is their prerogative, not ours. On these prerogatives, if a Haryana domicile is not ready to work, then you can hire from outside as well. It is quite simple. You try

er the ones who apply from Haryana, if your quota is not being fulfilled, just inform the deputy commissioner and hire from outside. We have also slashed the salary bracket from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 30,000 per month. Only that salary bracket is under the

### **TOI** INTERVIEW

regulation, not skilled workers who make more than that. The Haryana model might be implemented in other states as well like we are already seeing in Andhra Pradesh. So has there been any dialogue between other chief ministers and you, as to what exactly will be the ramifications of this law? I had spoken to SC advo-

cates. I congratulated and thanked them for reversing the stay that had been put by the HC. They told me that the expedited and easy provisions in our legislation are unmatched by any other state's legislation. No one is facing any difficulty in adjusting to our provisions. That's why the SC gave its affirmation. The matter is still



ln the 75% quota, a business owner can decide the worker's qualifications or salary or skills. This is their prerogative, not ours

Did you discuss the law with start-up entrepreneurs and business owners?

Of course. Several times. I had pointed out the same facts that I am pointing out to you. Ultimately, they agreed with the fact that industry doesn't provide revenue, only employment. If industries don't give employment, what use are they? We told them to build their offices here, give their services here, open warehouses, but take indus-

tries to far off place. Your opponents say that Haryana has the most unemployment as per CMIE figures.

I don't believe in them. It is a private agency and they can have their own interests. But the ground reality is different. : squeezed in through an tives approached the GRP cated the bag under the seat. : to employ 75% people, consid-pending with the high court... In December, their figure was Vishwas has exposed him.

34.1% and in January, the figure was 24%. So are they saying that 10% of people in Haryana got employment within a month? We still say that there is 6-8% unemployment. And we are providing employment to these 6-8% too, on a rotation basis. Every month 3-4 lakh people get added. How has your experience

been in running an alliance government?

It is not a problem. Everyone works according to their party's principles, but we haven't faced any big difficulties. My alliance experience in the past has been different. We have been the smaller partner, but this time we are the bigger partner. I understand the difficulties well. Sometimes we have to explain or reason with our partners.

Your electoral performance was the reason you had to do form an alliance. Have you recovered the public's trust enough to get the requisite seats next time?

We have run alliances in the Centre too. At the time, BJP was alone with the majority, but we still kept alliance partners. See, the more opinions and ideas we have, the better it is for the country and society. We say to the opposition too, why always blindly oppose, we can work together too. During election season, we should see limits are not crossed. Take Punjab, for instance. Kejriwal has gotten so desperate as to partner with secessionists. Kumar



# UGC to let 900 autonomous colleges offer online degrees

# Value Will Be Same As That Of Regular Ones

Manash.Gohain @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Come 2022-23 academic session, students who cannot get into their target college due to high cutoffs need not be disappointed and grudgingly go for their second choice. That's because in addition to universities, nearly 900 autonomous colleges across the country will be able to offer courses remotely from July onwards as the government opens up the online education sector in a major reform to achieve 50% gross enrolment ratio by 2035 in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

### NO NOD FROM UGC NEEDED

- Class 12 & UG pass will be eligibility criteria for
- No distinguishing between admission to UG & PG courses online & conventional degrees
- Colleges will not need to take prior approval of the UGC
- Evaluation will be done via online proctored exam or computer-based test

notified in March this year If we stick to only universities, it becomes limited. There are a large number of high-quality autonomous colleges in the country. This will enhance access for learners... -M JAGADESH KUMAR, UGC CHAIRPERSON

Currently, only universities are allowed to offer online degrees. However, the new top 100 list in respective subject category twice in the preceding three rankings of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) or having

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grade of minimum 3.26 to move will allow autonomous award online degrees without colleges securing ranks in the prior approval of the University Grants Commission (UGC), but in compliance with the regulations.

by National Testing Agency

> 75% attendance for

not be mandatory

online programmes to be

New regulations for

online programmes will

Also, unlike in conventional programmes where aspi-

rants are required to have a certain score at the Class 12 level, eligibility for admission to these online undergraduate degree programmes will be simply "senior secondary pass". Similarly, for admission to online postgraduate degree programmes, the eligibility will be "pass" in the relevant undergraduate course.

The draft for the amendment in the existing UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 is being finalised and will be available for feedback from stakeholders this week. The new framework, accessed exclusively by TOI, will let higher educational institutions, including autonomous colleges, teach courses in emerging areas that may not be possible in in-person mode.

▶Flexibility in progs, P 12

### **NSE fraud: CBI** quizzes ex-CEO **Ravi Narain**

The CBI on Saturday interrogated former NSE director Ravi Narain, who served as the CEO before Chitra Ramakrishna, in connection with its ongoing probe related to the alleged abuse of colocation facility by an NSE stockbroker, officials said on Sunday.

The investigators lobbed several sharp questions, but Narain was reportedly evasive. He may be called again for further questioning. On Friday, the agency had questioned Ramkrishna.

▶CBI probing others, P 11

# Govt asks diplomats' kin, students to leave Ukraine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the Ukraine situation still on a knife edge, the government on Sunday asked the family members of all Indian diplomats in the country to return to India. The decision suggests a rethink on the prevailing security situation by Indian authorities who had so far maintained the Indian mission will continue to function normally.

Earlier, in another advisory, the government asked all Indian students, as also other Indian nationals whose stay is not essential, to leave Ukraine. It advised them

### US: Biden 'ready to engage' with Putin

mid fears of invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron agreed on the need for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. US said President Biden was ready to engage with Putin "at any time, in any format". P18

> to make use of available commercial flights for timely and orderly departure.

► 'Use charter flights', P 12

### Pak arrests 31 Indian fishermen

∩akistan Maritime Security Agency seized five Indian boats from its Exclusive Economic Zone on Friday and arrested 31 Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the country's terri-

torial waters. The boats were towed to Karachi for further legal proceedings according to Pakistani Law and UN Con-

vention on Law of the Sea. Going by lists of prisoners exchanged by the two countries at the start of this year, 577 fishermen were among 628 Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistan's jails. P10

# Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:



- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.\*
- Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.
- \* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

# DEMAT Account Opening

Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.

### OR

Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:

NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open\_NSDL\_Demat\_Account.php

CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the RHP, when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or an exemption from such registration. No public offering or sale of securities in the United States is contemplated.

Har Pal Aapke Saath









# With united show, Yadav clan sends message to heartland

# Members Of Family Vow Allegiance To Akhilesh

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesgroup.com

Kanpur: After six years, the body language of the first family of Samajwadi Party appeared robust with the Yadav clan unitedly queuing up to vote in their backyard Saifai on Sunday, dousing any undercurrent of tension. With ailing SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, who wheeled into a booth at noon to cast his vote, serving as the glue, the entire Yaday family had fallen in line.

Family sources confirmed to TOI that MSY had a requesting him to secure the seat. word with Akhilesh's onceestranged uncle Shivpal a himself is insecure in his seat," Modi said. night before and emphasised on the need to deliver a message of unity in the entire Yaday heartland and beyond.

And it was not since 2016 that Mulayam's cousin Ram Gopal Yadav and his oncefeuding brother Shivpal appeared in a photo-op. Not just this, in a rare show of unity, the duo inspected the Abhinav Vidyalaya booth in Jaswantnagar and Shivpal touched his feet to seek blessings. The message from Saifai was unanimous — the entire Yadav clan was rocksolid behind Akhilesh to crown him chief minister. the vote, Shivpal was next in The Yadav clan's stance was line, followed by son Aditya. in sharp contrast to its fragmented position in the run- brother Chetram Yadav. Later, rious in Jaswantnagar with up to 2017 assembly elections. Akhilesh and his wife Dimple record votes," he said.



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav with wife Dimple in UP's Saifai on Sunday

### SP not safe even in its fortress: Modi

In an apparent reference to the Karhal constituency from where SP president Akhilesh Yadav was in the fray in the third phase of polling in UP elections on Sunday, PM Modi said that SP was poised to lose from the seat it considered the "safest", reports Pankaj Shah. Addressing a rally in Unnao, Modi, without naming anyone, said the opposition leader had to rope in his ailing father,

"One can gauge the mood when the CM candidate of a party

MSY's brother Abhay Ram Yadav was the early bird. He rode pillion on a bike to cast his vote at 7am and soon the other family members followed suit. "Make no mistake,

BATTLEGROUND UTTAR **PRADESH** 

my nephew Akhilesh is returning to power and will be CM," said Abhay Ram.

After party general secretary Ram Gopal's tryst with Then came Ram Gopal's elder

queued up to vote. Talking to reporters, Ram Gopal was emphatic that SP had already won the poll battle in the third phase and Yogi Adityanath will manage to bag only 20% votes. "Akhilesh will win Karhal by a mammoth margin and the BJP candidate will forfeit his deposit," he said.

#### Related reports, P11

Joining the chorus, Shivpal, who's contesting from Jaswantnagar on the SP symbol, said Akhilesh's government will be formed in the state. "I have the blessings of 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yaday) and even I will be victo-

# **Karhal sees** 2nd highest turnout ever in keen battle

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Karhal, the bastion of Samajwadi Party's first family, on Sunday registered 62.3% turnout, the second highest in its history. The highest turnout was in 1974 when the constituency had witnessed 71.4% polling.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is contesting from this highprofile seat while BJP has fielded Union minister Satya Pal Singh Baghel, who is also a former personal security officer of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Karhal has 3.7 lakh registered voters, including 1.2 lakh Yadavs and 18,000 Muslims. In 1951, Karhal was divided into two seats Karhal West-Shikohabad East and Karhal East-Bhongaon South. In 1957, the present day Karhal was carved out from these two seats.

In 1974, when Karhal recorded its highest poll percentage, Nathu Singh from Bharatiya Kranti Dal won the election by a margin of 6,926 votes. Since the inception of SP in 1992, Karhal has been dominated by SP. It lost only once in 2002 against BJP. Back then, Sobaran Singh Yaday, the current SP MLA from Karhal, was a member of BJP and won the seat with a mere 925 votes margin against SP candidate Anil Kumar Yadav.

## **BJP worker shot** at, SP MLA hurt in Mainpuri poll violence

Agra: A BJP worker was allegedly shot at and injured by Samajwadi Party workers during a clash at Avadh Nagar polling booth in UP's Mainpuri city on Sunday evening. Earlier during the day, sitting MLA from Samajwadi Party, Raj Kumar Yadav, sustained injuries after being attacked allegedly by BJP workers. Both incidents took place after allegations of bogus voting were levelled at the two polling booths.

Former district president of BJP in Mainpuri, Alok Gupta, accused Samajwadi Party workers of allegedly shooting their party worker. He claimed, "They shot at our councillor but the bullet hit our party worker, Aman Pandey, who was standing there." TNN

### Langur now part of team to guard UP EVM strongroom

Pilibhit: Days after a troop of monkeys damaged 34 CCTV cameras around a makeshift election strong room at the APMC complex in UP's Pilibhit, a langur has been deployed to protect the equipment, reports Keshav Agarwal.

Divisional forest officer of social forestry division, Sanjeev Kumar, said a team from the department had caught a langur in response to the district administration's "urgent request". "We took verbal permission from the field director of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve before trapping the langur," Kumar said. Meanwhile, a complaint was filed by a wildlife activistagainst the local authorities and forest officials for using the langur.

# Yogi has been better CM than I was, says Rajnath

Kapil.Dixit@timesgroup.com

Prayagraj: Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday candidly admitted that Yogi Adityanath has been a better chief minister of UP than he was.

Addressing an election rally at Kalhooganj in Pratapgarh district, Singh, who was UP chief minister from 2000 to 2002, said, "Chief minister Yogi Adityanth put all efforts in restoring the law and order in the state and maintaining it, and his model is being appreciated across the country."

Bringing law and order development of the state and back on track and improving Yogi has achieved this suc-



it was a priority for overall

"Now goons and mafia prefer to stay inside jails. Yogi's bulldozers have become the talk of the town and I

have even advised him to pur-

chase more bulldozers," the

cessfully, he said.

defence minister said. The properties of mafia and goons are being demolished and the Yogi-led state government is now constructing houses for the poor on that land, he added.

The defence minister also praised chief minister Yogi's active role for the construction of the international airport at Jewar and said thousands of people would get jobs because of it.

# Will BJP & SAD ally again? Netas keep options open

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: BJP has neither accepted nor denied the possibility of a post-poll alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab, preferring instead to wait it out till the election results are out on March 10. The two parties



liance after SAD walked out lator and candidate for Amritover three contentious farm laws that kept the state on the brink for over a year.

"Let the public mandate come first. I am not saying yes or no to any possibility," BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said on Sunday. He was reacting to a statement



Former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal, his son and SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, daughter-in-law and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and granddaughter Harkirat cast their votes in Bathinda on Sunday

sar East constituency.

quoted Majithia as saying that SAD will decide on forming an alliance with BJP after the poll results are out. Majithia later said he was misquoted. "Our alliance is with BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) only," he purportedly made by Bikram said. Speculation about a pos-Singh Majithia, the SAD legis-sible BJP-SAD tie-up has been

doing the rounds lately, with people citing PM Modi spar-A media organisation ing the SAD first family (former CM Parkash Singh Badal and his son and party chief CM Sukhbir Singh Badal) in his speeches during his extensive campaign in the state before Sunday's vote. He also called SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal after he tested

# EC relaxes poll curbs further, allows more star campaigners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Announcing more relaxations in its Covid-19 guidelines, the Election Commission on Sunday raised the maximum limit for star campaigners to 40 from 30 for recognised national and state parties and to 20 from 15 for the rest of them.

The poll panel has given political parties time until 5pm on February 23 to submit the names of their additional star campaigners. This means that the new star campaigners can join electioneering from the fifth phase onwards, as

phase ends on Monday.



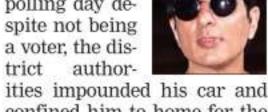
A groom after casting his ballot in Amritsar on Sunday

vid curbs comes against the and Manipur where it is yet to backdrop of receding num- begin. Also, the restrictions campaigning for the fourth bers of both active and new put in place in the wake of out-Covid-10 cases, particularly in break of third wave are being The latest relaxation in Co- UP where polling is mid-way lifted in a phased manner.

# Sood asked to stay at home after SAD plaint

positive for Covid in January.

Bathinda: Catching Bollywood actor Sonu Sood out in Moga on the polling day de-



confined him to home for the day, reports Neel Kamal. The action came after the

SAD claimed to have spotted Sood influencing voters outside some polling booths at Landeke. Not a registered voter of Moga, Sonu was supposed to leave the town after the campaign came to an end on the evening of February 18. His sister, Malvika Sood Sachar, is a Congress candidate for this seat.