

**HAPPY TO BE BACK**Schools in Delhi reopened for Classes IX-XII on Monday. Offline classes will resume for Nursery to Class VIII from February 14. *Praveen Khanna*

REPORT, PAGE 3

Pune prof first woman V-C of JNU; purported Twitter handle, tweets deleted



Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit will hold charge for 5 years

ALIFIYA KHAN
PUNE, FEBRUARY 7

THE MINISTRY of Education (MoE) on Monday announced Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, a professor of political science at Savitribai Phule Pune University, as the new vice-chancellor (V-C) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). She will be the first woman to head the institution.

Pandit's appointment, *The Indian Express* has learned, was made despite her parent

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Rural trend for FMCG companies: Sale value up, but volume down

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE DECEMBER quarter earnings of FMCG companies point to an unusual trend in rural markets: marginal or better-than-average sales growth that is visible in value terms but amid falling demand that is evident in thinning volumes.

Hindustan Unilever chairman Sanjiv Mehta pointed out in the October-December earnings call for the country's largest FMCG company that despite a negative volume growth, value growth was actually positive.

HUL was not the only consumer goods company witnessing this trend. The growth charted by FMCG companies in rural segments over the past two quarters has mainly been on account of price increase, and not increased demand, as several companies have admitted.

Rural markets have been growth drivers for FMCG companies for years given the low

EXPLAINED

Fall in spending, price rise

CONSUMPTION OF FMCG items in rural areas picked up after the first Covid wave but is now recording a slump. This is indicative of consumers spending less on these goods as a result of several factors, including rising prices.

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Rural markets have been growth drivers for FMCG companies in rural segments over the past two quarters has mainly been on account of price increase, and not increased demand, as several companies have admitted.

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MOTION ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE**Rejected by people, Cong sows seeds of divide, is leader of tukde tukde gang: PM**

Silent on China, fraught Centre-state ties, PM accuses Cong of 'andhvirodh'

LIZ MATHEW & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

IN A blistering attack on the Congress Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it the "leader of the tukde tukde gang," which had inherited the divide-and-rule policy of the British and was using its irrele-

vance and rejection to play the spoiler and spread despair.

Replying to the debate in Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the President's address, Modi singled out the Congress, accusing it of harbouring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

OPP HITS BACK
PAGE 7

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



Moved on from Lucknow to luck in 2024?

'Lie': Delhi and Maharashtra slam PM as he blames them for exodus, Covid spread

VISHWAS WAGHMODE & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, FEB 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's remarks in Parliament Monday on Covid management, accusing Opposition governments of insti-

gating migrants to leave and escalating the spread of infection, set off a new confrontation between the Centre and states.

While Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal described Modi's statement as "an outright lie", at least three ministers from

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Curbs on press: Journalists can lose PIB status over national security, 'morality'

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

LAYING DOWN stringent conditions to let a journalist function, the new accreditation policy, announced by the Press Information Bureau and prepared by the Ministry of

Information and Broadcasting, has a provision stating that a journalist can lose government accreditation if he or she "acts in a manner which is prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality or in relation to con-

tempt of court, defamation or incitement of an offence".

Such a criteria was not mentioned in the last policy issued in 2013. The previous policy, under general terms of accreditation, stated that it "shall be withdrawn as soon as the conditions on which it was given cease to

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In J&K, why plan to merge Poonch, Rajouri with Anantnag for LS seat has triggered row

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, FEB 7

THE PROPOSAL of the Delimitation Commission's second draft to merge Jammu

Division's Poonch district and almost two-thirds of Rajouri district with Kashmir's Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency to form a new Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency has stirred up a hornet's nest in the Valley. Poonch and Rajouri districts

are to the south of Pir Panjal, form part of the Jammu division, and have a large Gujar and Bakarwali population. They are nomads, categorised as Scheduled Tribe; though Muslim, they are not of Kashmiri

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Unkept Cong promises fuel Malwa anger as it warms up to 'the new'

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
TALWANDI SABO, FEBRUARY 7

"WE HAVE seen two parties for 70 years, but what did we get? Now we will vote in a new one," declares Kulwant Kaur, the elderly grandmother from Kot Shamir village near Bathinda. Five years ago, this clamour for change was limited to the youth, this time it's taken over

elders as well. While the Punjab voter is famously fickle, often springing a last-minute surprise, there's no mistaking the anger on the streets of Malwa.

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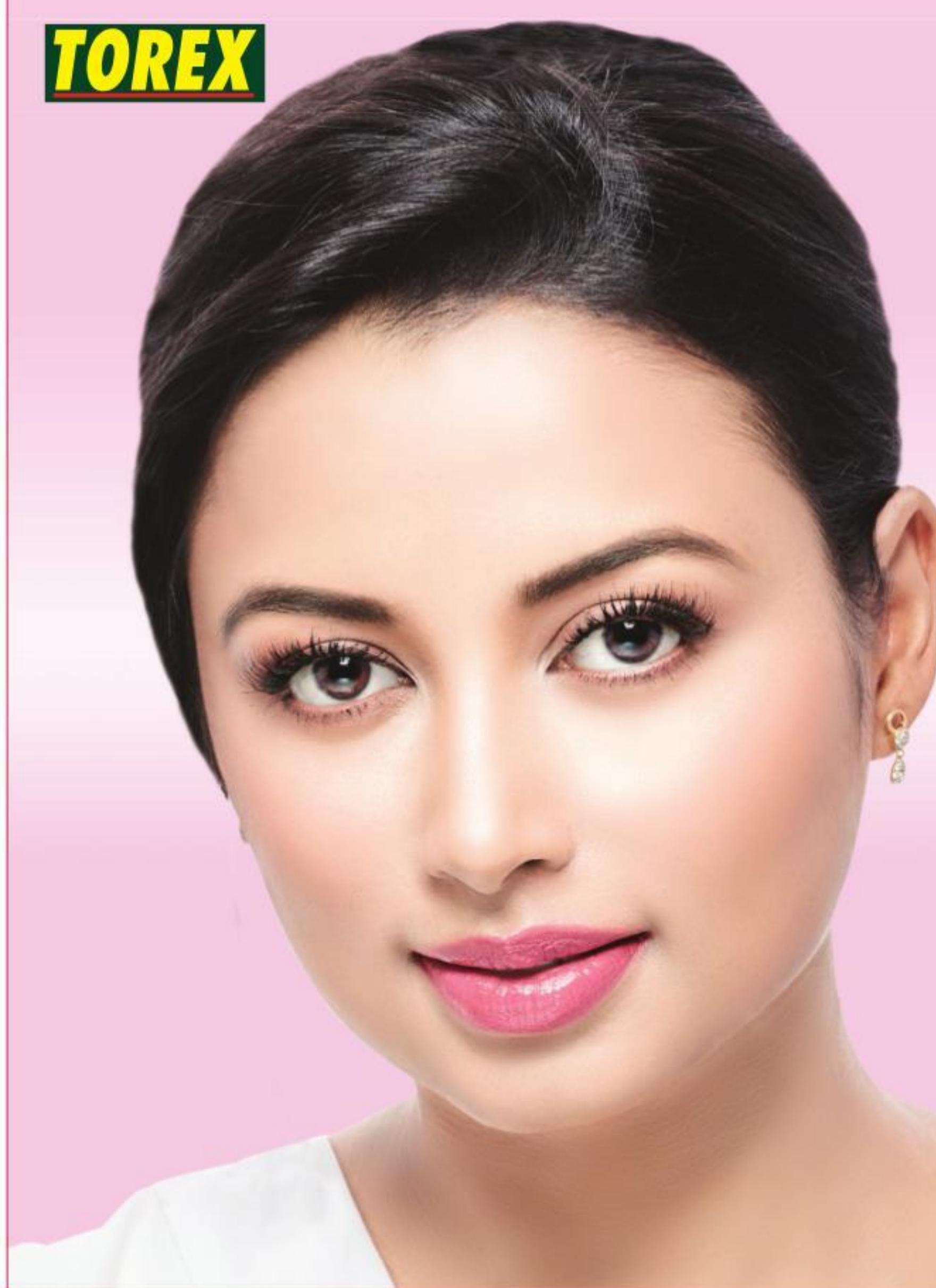
The slogans on the wall mirror the mood: from a persuasive "Ek maau Bhagwant Maan aur Kejriwal nu" to a more assertive "Hun nahin khaawange dhokha, Bhagwant Maan aur

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decided on the streets of Malwa.

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TOREX



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TORQUE

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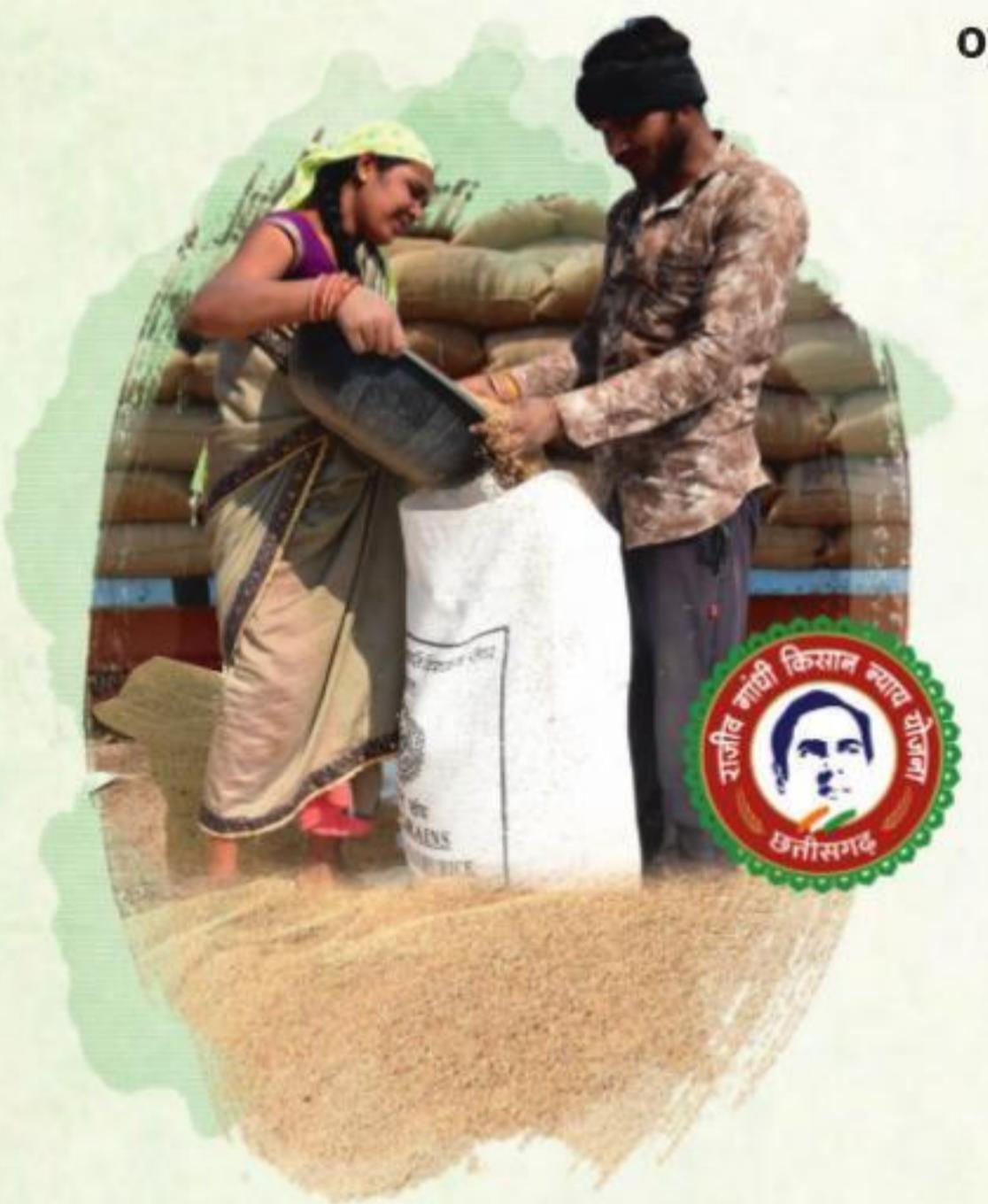
NYAY REMITTING JOY



Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana

Widened Scope of NYAY

Annual financial assistance of
₹6,000 per beneficiary



Godhan Nyay Yojana

Powering Rural Economy

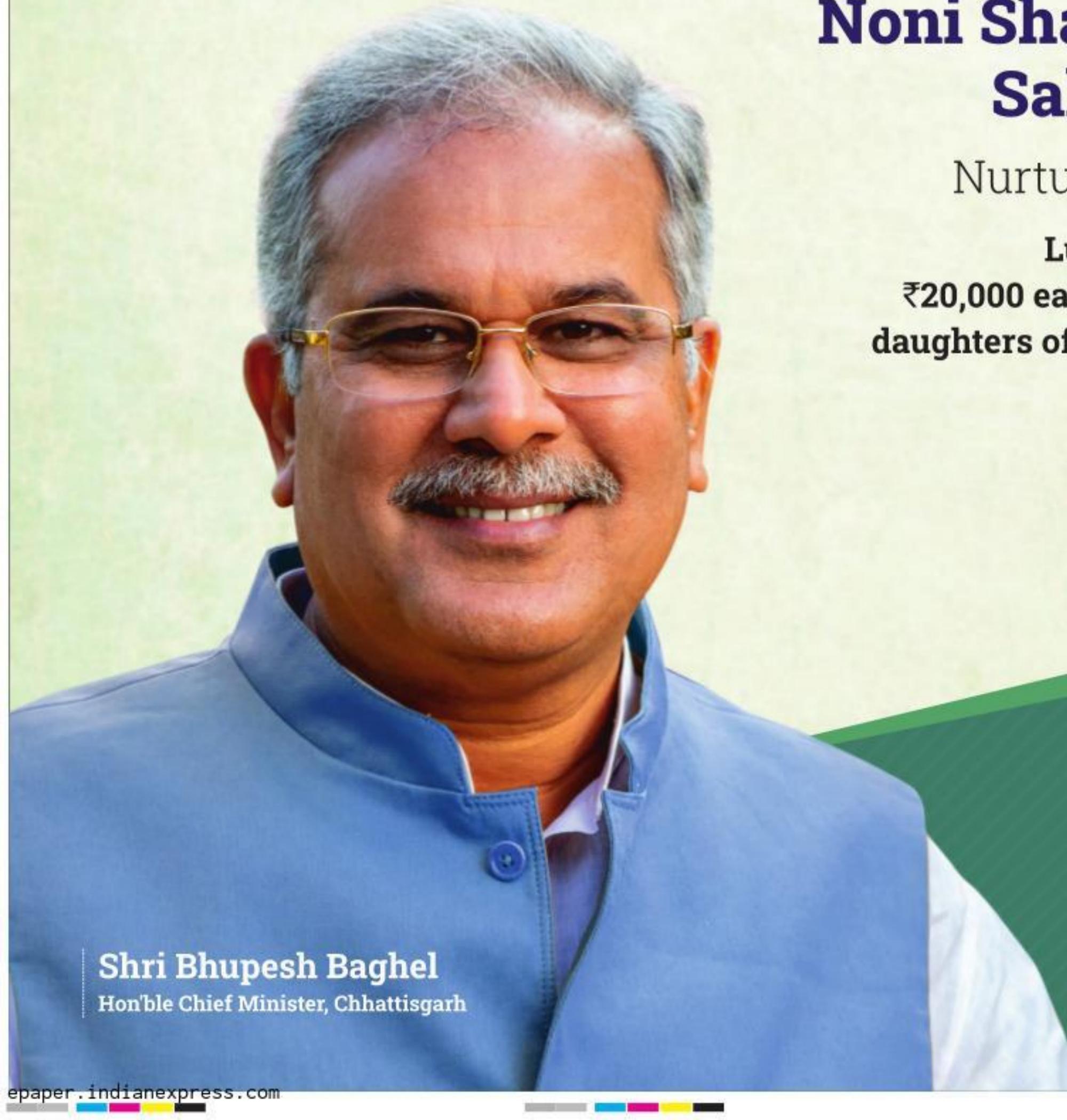
Institutional purchase of cow dung
worth ₹122.17 cr, creating employment
opportunities & promoting organic farming



Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana

Farming becoming Profitable

Input assistance of ₹10,176 cr into the accounts
of more than 21 lakh farmers till now



Noni Shashaktikaran Sahayta Yojana

Nurturing the Daughters

Lump sum financial aid of
₹20,000 each for the welfare of two
daughters of the registered labourers



Chhattisgarh Model Nyay & Empowerment

Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OLD SCHOOL

TWO SENIOR politicians displayed old school courtesies on Monday in Rajya Sabha. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu wanted to invite former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda to his granddaughter's wedding, scheduled next week. As soon as the House adjourned in the morning after obituary remarks to Lata Mangeshkar, Naidu sent a word to Gowda. But soon after Naidu felt that he should himself go to meet Gowda, who was still in the chamber of the House, given his age and health. Naidu asked Rajya Sabha officials if the Chairman can enter the chamber when the House is not in session, to which he was told that there is no such precedent. Naidu went inside the chamber to meet Gowda, who was by then walking towards the Chairman's office. Although Naidu insisted that they meet in the chamber only, Gowda said they should meet in the Chairman's chamber. Both then went to Naidu's chamber, where he extended the wedding invite to Gowda.

THE INTERRUPTIONS

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's 100-minute-long speech on Monday was interrupted by two opposition leaders - Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and TMC's Sougata Roy. But Modi did not react to the interruptions sharply, except when he told Chowdhury that it should not cross limits. According to him, when he saw the Congress leader's (Rahul Gandhi) speech being disturbed by his party MPs, he had sent a note to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi to see to it that it does not happen. With the 74-year-old Roy, Modi was jovial. When some BJP MPs tried to shout down the TMC MP, he said: "You should give a chance to Dada... Because at this age, he is trying to take the joys of childhood."

WARM WELCOME

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who arrived in Lucknow on Monday to address a joint press conference and a virtual rally with Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday, did not expect the Samajwadi Party chief to take time out of his hectic campaign schedule and land up at the airport to welcome her. As Akhilesh warmly greeted her with a shawl, Mamata affectionately remarked that a formal reception was not required. "Jeetne ke baad dete na," she quipped. "Now that you are here, we will win [the election]," Akhilesh responded with a smile. The TMC supremo also plans to visit Varanasi soon.

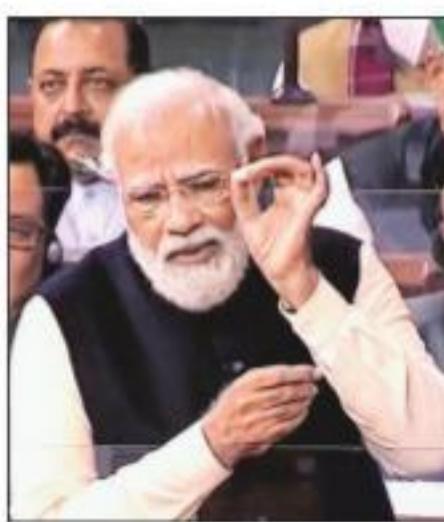
PM hits back at Rahul's 'AA' variant jibe, reminds Congress of 'Tata-Birla ki Sarkar'

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

HITTING OUT at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his "AA" variant remark in reference to Adani and Ambani, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said some people find pleasure in "scaring" the youth, wealth creators and entrepreneurs of the country. He said the Congress is now using the "same language" as those who termed the then Nehru and Indira governments as "Tata-Birla ki Sarkar".

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha, Modi said, "There are people in Congress, who say about our entrepreneurs... you will be surprised to know... They say that these entrepreneurs are variant of coronavirus."

"Are the entrepreneurs of our country variant of coronavirus? What are we talking? About whom are we talking?" he said, in reference to Rahul's remarks.



PM Narendra Modi in Parliament on Monday. PTI

economy.

Without naming Rahul, Modi on Monday said, "Some people find pleasure in scaring and misleading youth of the country, wealth creators of the country and entrepreneurs of the country."

He said the youths do not listen to them due to which the country is marching forward. Those who do not learn from history, get lost in the history, he said. "The Congress is still stuck in files, we are working to change lives," Modi said.

During his 100-minute speech, Modi reminded how the Congress allies earlier used to call the then Nehru and Indira governments during 1960 to 1980 as "Tata-Birla ki Sarkar".

"You adopted their habits. You are also speaking the same language. I am seeing, you have gone too low. I feel that the punching bag has changed today but your habit remains the same," the Prime Minister said.

He also hit out at Rahul for his remarks about 'Make in India'.

Those making fun of 'Make in India' have become a joke themselves, he said.

Speaking about the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, the Prime Minister said, "Being self-reliant in the defence sector is among the biggest national service." He said the number of start-ups have risen in the past seven years. There were just 500 start-ups before 2014, he said, adding that in the past seven years 60,000 start-ups emerged and India is now headed towards a century of unicorns.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the PM Gati Shakti initiative and said that his government's emphasis is on "proper connectivity".

PM Modi said the world has taken note of India's economic strides and that too in the middle of a global pandemic. Our total exports are at historical record level and agricultural exports have reached at the top, he said. This is due to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, he said.

The Prime Minister underlined that the only "effective way" of dealing with poverty is taking care of the concerns of the small farmers and monetization of farmers owning land below 2 hectares. "Those people who are unaware of ground realities... who are in habit of living in palatial houses, they could never understand the plight of small farmers of the country.. I want to ask them why do they have so much hatred towards small farmers," Modi said.

Discussing price rise under the previous governments, Modi said that in the past inflation was explained away by giving the excuse of global problems, whereas India, today, is tackling inflation despite difficult global scenario without any excuses.

The PM also took a dig at Rahul's claim regarding bringing out 27 crore people out of the poverty during the previous Congress-led UPA government. He said that in 2013 they made 17 crore poor people rich by changing the definition of poverty.

MHA examining Media One licence issue, Shah tells MPs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

HOME Minister Amit Shah on Monday told a group of Congress MPs, after Lok Sabha was adjourned, that the issue of a ban on news channel Media One's licence has been forwarded to MHA officials, who are examining it.

The development comes a week after a delegation of Lok Sabha MPs from Kerala had raised the issue with I&B Minister Anurag Thakur, who had asked them to approach Shah.

Raising the issue in Parliament, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "I am given to understand that the I&B Ministry has revoked the licence of a very popular media channel - Media One. It is a matter of serious concern that the licence has been revoked without citing any valid reason."

Shah was in the House when Chowdhury spoke, and Congress members sought a reply from him. Soon after the House was adjourned, Chowdhury and Congress MPs, including Kodikunnil Suresh, walked up to Shah and broached the issue.

Suresh said, "After the House was adjourned, I went to Shah along with Chowdhury and some other MPs from Kerala. Chowdhury told him about the issue. The Home Minister told us that he has received a letter from the MPs. He said he has forwarded it to the ministry and they are examining it."

Shah, according to Suresh, said the MHA will inform him, and after he "will reply to you (MPs)."

Meanwhile, Kerala HC High on Monday extended for one more day its interim order putting on hold the implementation of the Centre's ban on Malayalam news channel MediaOne's telecast. Justice N Nagaresh also reserved judgment on pleas moved by Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd, which operates MediaOne, its employees and a journalists' union challenging the Centre's decision. The court said it will pronounce the verdict on Tuesday, PTI reports from Kochi.

PARLIAMENT ADDRESS

Opp slams PM's 'political speech', says skirted many issues

MANOJ G C
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

HOURS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi singled out the Congress and attacked it while replying to the debate on the President's Address in Lok Sabha, opposition parties Monday said his speech was meant for a "maiden", and argued it was unbecoming of a Prime Minister to have rendered such a "shallow" "political" speech on the President's Address.

While Congress accused Modi of having indulged in "cheap politics", leaders of many parties, including Trinamool Congress, DMK and BSP, said it was unfortunate that the Prime Minister did not answer to issues they had

flagged, and questions they had asked - instead, they said, he focused all his attention on Congress.

"It was an election speech. The dignity associated with a PM's address... he moved away from that and indulged in cheap politics," Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told The Indian Express.

The Congress is more than a century old party and he is saying that this party is with the tukde-tukde gang. It showed his shallowness and parochial attitude. It was unbecoming..."

Arguing that the Opposition had raised several issues during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, he said, "We wanted him to reply on all those issues... that what is the government's thinking on is-

sues related to national security... Pegasus snooping row... rising unemployment, price rise, Covid-19, agriculture. These issues had come up during the debate. He should have spoken on that."

"Instead, he delivered a speech given at election rallies. He perhaps forgot that he was speaking in Lok Sabha.... He was replying to a debate on the President's Address," the Congress leader said.

TMC member Sougata Ray said "The Prime Minister's speech was not at all befitting a reply of a PM on a debate on the President's Address."

Ray told The Indian Express: "He did not mention any of the points the Opposition had raised - unemployment, poverty, inflation, etc. He did not reply to any

of those. It was a speech meant for the maidan... for a public meeting."

The Congress, he said, was "nowhere in President's speech", so why should he (PM) have gone on and on about the Congress? He could have made a passing reference. It was not a very dignified speech, according to me. He refrained from even announcing any new programme. Whatever has been announced earlier (was repeated)..."

Senior DMK leader T R Baalu agreed: "There were a lot of paragraphs in the President's speech on his government. At least he should have repeated that. He simply went on fighting with the Congress. What is the use? He quoted (Subramania) Bharathiyar's poem... those po-

ems recited during the freedom struggle are still remembered fondly. No problem. Let him recite those poems. But at the same time, his government had rejected Tamil Nadu's Republic Day tableau, which had the statues of many freedom fighters..."

Calling it a "political speech", BSP's Kunwar Danish Ali said: "We all had raised many issues. I had, in fact, said two or three times that I hope the PM will reply to this, particularly about the Dharam Sansad issue and the hijab controversy. The Prime Minister tweets on small issues. (But) here the country's secular fabric is at stake, and the PM is not taking any notice of it."

He said the government is not taking Parliamentary proceedings seriously.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Delhi Government stands with all the families who lost their loved ones to COVID-19

Ex-gratia assistance under Delhi Disaster Response Fund

- As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India It has been announced by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority that an ex-gratia assistance of Rs 50,000/- will be given to the families of the deceased under Delhi Disaster Response Fund. Visit edistrict.delhigovt.nic.in to avail the application form.
- The application form can also be availed and submitted in the concerned district or area of the deceased person. To download the application form and directives, please visit revenue.delhi.gov.in and ddma.delhigovt.nic.in
- Those who have already availed 50,000/- under Delhi Government's 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayta Yojana' need not apply again. The additional ex-gratia assistance will be released on the basis of already available data of such applicants.

Issued in public interest by Delhi Disaster Management Authority

Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Government of NCT of Delhi

