



In the worst one-day crash in stock market history, **Mark Zuckerberg**-led Meta on Thursday lost over \$200 bn in value – comparable to the size of New Zealand's economy

# THE TIMES OF INDIA



INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



**NZ PM Jacinda Ardern** says the country will ease strict border controls and quarantine rules it has maintained during the pandemic, gradually reopening to travellers

**UK PM Boris Johnson** suffers a blow as his chief of policy **Munira Mirza** resigns in protest over his 'misleading remarks' about Labour leader **Keir Starmer**

**Dutch port city of Rotterdam** says it will temporarily dismantle a historic bridge, which dates back to 1878, to allow \$485m superyacht, built for Jeff Bezos, to pass

**Putin-led Russia** denounces US for deploying additional troops to Eastern Europe over Ukraine tension but it has not slowed its own large-scale buildup of military forces

## Indian diplomats to boycott Oly over China's torchbearer

**New Delhi:** India on Thursday joined the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and several other countries in declaring a diplomatic boycott of the Winter Olympics in China.

The Indian mission in Beijing will not participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, which officially kick off on Friday, the government announced on Thursday following Wednesday's revelation that a PLA regiment commander involved in the June 2020 Galwan clash was a torchbearer at the Olympics.

Twenty Indian soldiers had died in the Galwan clash in which the Chinese side also suffered considerable casualties.

While India has allowed skier Arif Khan to participate in Beijing 2022, the government also hasn't sent any high-level delegation to attend any Olympics ceremony. **TNN**

► US panel backs India, **P 17**

It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicise an event like the Olympics... the charge d'affaires... will not be attending the opening or the closing ceremony...

— **Ardian Bagchi**  
MEA spokesperson

It's shameful that #Beijing chose a torchbearer... who's part of the military command that attacked #India in 2020... The US will cont. to support... the sovereignty of India

— **Jim Risch** | US Senate Foreign Relations Committee

► Won't endorse Rahul's Pak-China remark: US

The US said it "would not endorse" Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's remarks in which he had alleged that the government had driven China and Pakistan into an embrace. "I will leave it to the Pakistanis and PRC to speak to their relationship," state department spokesperson Ned Price said. **P 17**

► 'PLA men drowned', **P 17**

**Money laundering more heinous than murder: SC**

Observing that the offence of money laundering cannot be treated lightly, the SC said that it was a more serious and heinous crime than murder as it affected the entire economy whose growth could be put on hold or derailed because of it.

The court is examining the constitutional validity of various PMLA provisions for allegedly being violative of basic principles of natural justice and criminal jurisprudence. It was hearing over 250 petitions including those by Karti Chidambaram and Anil Deshmukh. **P 14**

**COVID COVERAGE**

► Fully vaccinated patients accounted for 10% deaths due to Omicron, **FLAP OPP**  
► India's Covid toll crosses 5 lakh, fatalities low in third wave, **FLAP OPP**  
► Covid fear delays cancer diagnosis, **P 2**  
► WHO sees pause, even end of pandemic for Europe, **P 21**

**TN guv returns anti-NEET bill**

Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi on Thursday refused to give his assent to the bill passed by the assembly to do away with NEET, saying it was against the interest of students, especially those from rural areas and underprivileged families. **P 14**

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**Coldest Feb day in 19 years as rain, chill return**

Light rains and an overcast sky brought Delhi's daytime temperature down to 14.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the lowest for February in the past 19 years and the second lowest this season, reports **Kushagra Dixit**. With the maximum temperature 8.9 degrees below the day's normal, the city braved unusually chilly conditions for February.

According to IMD, the day temperature is likely to rise slightly on Friday though there may be another spell of light rain.

The AQI remained in the "very poor" category at 321. However, it is likely to improve soon due to rain. **P 6**

The leader of the Islamic State terrorist group, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, was killed in an overnight raid by US special forces in northwest Syria on Wednesday. Qurayshi, who succeeded Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2019 after the latter's death in a US offensive in the same area, detonated a bomb killing himself and members of his family. "Thanks to the bravery of our troops, this horrible terrorist leader is no more," US President Joe Biden said.

US special forces landed in helicopters and attacked a house in the town of Atmeh near the Turkish border, a rebel-held corner of Syria, clashing for two hours with gunmen.



The raid on this 3-storey home in Syria was reminiscent of the strike that killed Osama in Pakistan

**7 Pak soldiers killed in twin attacks**

Baloch separatists killed at least seven soldiers in attacks on two camps of Pakistani security forces along the Afghan-Iran border in the past 24 hours. The Pakistani army said the attacks were repulsed and 13 terrorists were killed. A week ago, an assault near Gwadar killed 10 soldiers. **P 21**

sault last month in northeast Syria. As IS chief, Qurayshi kept an extremely low profile. His influence in the outfit's operations is not known and it is difficult to gauge how his death will affect the group. **P 21**

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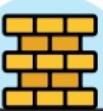
Light rain,  
overcast sky  
bring max  
temperature  
down in the  
capital | 6

14.4°  
MAXIMUM  
11°  
MINIMUM  
Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum  
temperatures will be around 17 and 9°C  
FORECAST  
SUNRISE 7.07AM (SAT)  
SUNSET 6.03PM (FRI)

MOONRISE 9.55AM (SAT)  
MOONSET 9.22PM (FRI)

**TIMES CITY**

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022



PWD working on a design synchronous  
with Jama Masjid for Phase 2 of  
Chandni Chowk redevelopment | 13

1838647

TOTAL COVID-19 CASES

NEW CASES	2,668	ACTIVE CASES	13,630
RECOVERED	17,99,085	DEAD	25,932

Over 23,000  
birds saved by  
brothers, rescue  
centre set up at  
Wazirabad | 6



February 4, 2022



New Covid 19  
restrictions by NCOC  
include ban on all  
indoor and outdoor  
gatherings, intercity  
public transport and  
education institutions  
has been imposed.



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cannot be unambiguously  
characterised as "fake" or "true"

# From Schools To Eateries, Plea To Break Free

Edu Institutions Cite Impact On Physical, Behavioural Health

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



File photo

New Delhi: A group of doctors has urged lieutenant governor Anil Baijal, who is also the chairman of Delhi Disaster Management Authority, to permit reopening of schools. DDMA is scheduled to meet on Friday to decide on lifting restrictions imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, including closure of schools.

Schools remaining closed, the doctors said, was harming the children, both in terms of academic growth and physical and behavioural growth. "As a paediatric endocrinologist and a mother of twins, I am seeing the effect of prolonged closure of schools in my clinic and at home," said Dr Manpreet Sethi, one of the doctors who wrote to the LG. "It is disturbing and may lead to serious problems in future if a decision is not taken to reopen the schools now."

Experts say Covid among children is extremely mild in most cases and, with the third wave on the wane, closure of schools will only hurt

Sethi added that the closure of schools, like other measures, was justified when the pandemic began. But, she said, two years of experience had taught us that Covid among children was mild in most cases. "Global data suggests that the risk of severe Co-

vid infection in children is less than 1% and that too mostly in kids with underlying chronic disease or immunosuppression. Children under 10 years and particularly under five years of age are least affected," Sethi said. "Prolonged school closures and lack of

outdoor time have spawned a new and unseen pandemic by way of lifestyle diseases that could have graver long-term impact for children."

The east Delhi branch of Indian Academic of Paediatrics has also written to the LG on the same matter.

The LG's office responded, "Decisions to impose, revoke or relax restrictions are taken by DDMA, which comprises LG, CM, deputy CM and other ministers, apart from experts and the chief secretary. The decision to continue with restrictions is taken by DDMA keeping all the pros and cons of such a decision in mind. All future decisions will accordingly be taken by DDMA on the advice of the experts after taking into consideration all relevant aspects, including compliance with Covid-appropriate protocols and overall well-being of the people of Delhi."

Dr Piyush Ranjan, department of surgery, AIIMS. Dr Shyam Aggarwal, senior consultant, medical oncology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said there was a 60% drop in cancer surgeries even in the present wave. "The number of people undergoing screening tests, such as mammograms, cytopathology tests and endoscopic tests, has reduced by nearly one-fourth here in the last two years," he added.

"Many patients suffering from stage-IV cancer are not willing to travel for their chemotherapy cycles. This is likely to increase mortality rate

due to cancer," said Aggarwal.

In India, almost 14 lakh new cases of cancer are diagnosed each year. Tobacco-related cancers are most common in men. In women, breast cancer is the most common, followed by cancer of the cervix.

Experts said if there were any lumps, discolouration of skin or any skin lesion, bleeding from anywhere, or loss of appetite, breathlessness or any other such symptom, like loss of weight, one should consult the doctor immediately.

"There are three main cancers—oral, cervical and breast. These can be reduced by early detection. Moreover, secondary prevention can be done by early screening. The health department is focusing on raising awareness about these cancers through ASHA, ANMs and other health workers at NCD clinics," said Virender Yadav, chief medical officer, Gurgaon.

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- 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](http://revenue.delhi.gov.in) and [ddma.delhigovt.nic.in](http://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.

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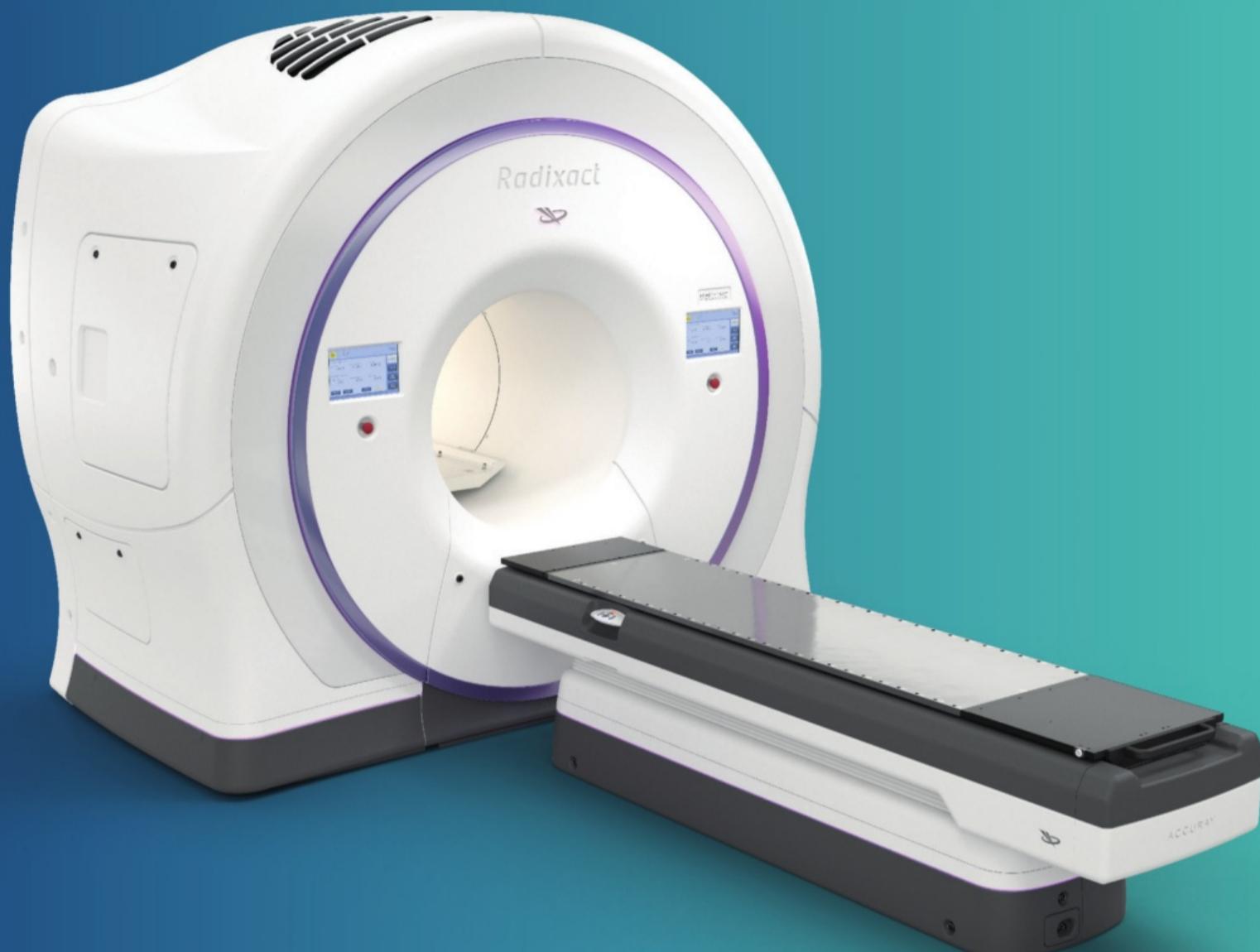
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# Delhi's Startup Policy Aims To Ignite New-Age Biz Ideas

To Provide Funding, Sustainable Infra To Young Entrepreneurs

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** After earning the distinction of being the startup capital of India, Delhi is all set to take a leap and become one of the most favoured global destinations for new-age businesses.

Delhi government would be coming out with a comprehensive policy for startups to provide financial support to young and upcoming entrepreneurs, give sustainable infrastructure to scale businesses and access to investors.

After consulting all stakeholders, including angel investors, entrepreneurs, industry bodies, experts and top bureaucrats, Delhi government has finalised the startup policy, which will soon be tabled before the cabinet.

According to the Economic Survey 2021-22, over 5,000 recognised startups were added in Delhi between April 2019 and December 2021, while 4,514 were added in Bengaluru. Interestingly, this was the time when Covid spread across the country and Delhi faced the brunt. It was around the same time that Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) held consultations with stakeholders, studied the policies of popular global destinations for startups, including Singapore, Tokyo, London and New York, and finalised the startup policy.

A senior Delhi government official said the new startup policy was prepared by DDC and likely to be notified within two months. "We have become the startup capital and the next milestone to achieve is to reach the prestigious global hub. We



## WHAT IS RECOGNISED AS A STARTUP

- Shall be registered no more than 5 years before the date of application
- Entity not formed by splitting up or restructuring of an existing business
- Registered as private limited company, partnership firm or a limited-liability partnership
- Has annual turnover not exceeding ₹5 crore for any preceding financial year

## INCORPORATED OR REGISTERED IN DELHI

Start-up Evaluation Committee, with members of government and private sector, to evaluate and approve applications for entrepreneur, startup and incubator recognition

## FOCUS AREAS UNDER NEW POLICY

- Renewable energy, clean-tech artificial intelligence and robotics
- Automation and technical innovation
- Cyber security
- Big data education
- Solid waste management
- Urban infrastructure planning and environment
- Industrial revolution 4.0 technologies
- Creative ideas pertaining to agriculture, e-commerce, healthcare, logistics, transportation, rural innovation, e-governance

hope to place the policy before the cabinet soon. After accommodating the views and suggestions of the council of ministers, it will be notified. Our target is to be among the top three global destinations for startups in the next 10 years," added the official.

Budding entrepreneurs won't have to worry about the

Though the industries department had prepared a startup policy in 2019, the new policy, sources said, was prepared from scratch and with active involvement of a multitude of stakeholders.

Delhi government would also give a push to startups dealing with green and renewable technologies.

**2,668 new cases in Delhi, daily fatality count down to 13**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The number of Covid cases dipped further on Thursday, with Delhi recording 2,668 fresh cases in the past 24 hours. The positivity rate went down to 4.3% while 13 more patients succumbed to the virus compared with 27 on Wednesday.

The cumulative case count now stands at 18,38,647, while 25,932 people have died with the fatality rate at 1.41%. The national capital registered 3,028 new infections on Wednesday and the positivity rate was 4.7%. The number of Covid-19 detection tests conducted on Wednesday stood at 61,992.

According to the daily health bulletin of the government, 3,895 patients recovered from the infection in the past 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 17,99,085. Currently, the active case load count stands at 13,630, of which 9,581 are in home isolation. The number of patients admitted to different city hospitals are also coming down.

The number of daily cases in Delhi has been on the decline after touching a record high of 28,867 on January 13. It took just 10 days for daily cases to drop below the 10,000 mark. The city recorded a positivity rate of 30.6% on January 14, the highest during the ongoing wave of the pandemic.

During the past 24 hours, 55,232 vaccination doses were administered. Out of this, 11,395 people got the first dose and 37,828 received the second one.

## GETTING BACK ON TRACK

### PROMINENT ROUTES

- Rameswaram-Madurai
- Jagannath Puri-Konark-Bhubaneswar
- Dwarkadish-Nageshwar-Somnath
- Tirupathi Balaji
- Shirdi-Shani-Shingnapur-Tribakeshwar
- Ujjain-Omkarешwar
- Bodh Gaya-Sarnath

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE

Delhi resident above 60 years of age



the residents of Delhi and we would like to fulfil their wishes to go on a pilgrimage," Tirth Yatra Vikas Samiti chairman Kamal Bansal said.

Though the government offers pilgrimage tours to people above 60 years to more than 10 destinations, officials said Rameshwaram, Dwarkadish, Jagannath Puri, Tirupathi Balaji and Ujjain were some of the most popular ones.

The scheme, which started in 2018, was suspended for a year and a half because of the pandemic. Between 2018 and 2020, 35,000 Delhiites were taken on these trips.

After the two Covid waves, the government restarted the service and sent four trains to Ayodhya and Rameshwaram last December. The trips

had to be stopped again after the Omicron variant started spreading and the number of Covid-infected people showed a spike.

Senior citizens with less than Rs 3 lakh annual income can go on one pilgrimage trip in their lifetime to a destination of their choice for free under the scheme. A person above 21 years of age can accompany the applicant as an attendant. The Delhi government provides airconditioned train journeys, stay in a good AC hotel and all meals.

The pilgrims are provided freshly cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner along with morning and evening tea and snacks, and milk at night. Each pilgrimage train can accommodate 1,000 people.

The DCP said the syndicate had also used to entice poor villagers to get their bank account details on the pretext of providing benefits of various schemes and made them transfer the received cash back to the fraudsters' bank accounts promising more cash benefits.

According to IMD, the fog formation of 285 hours was

almost half of the normal 570 fog hours. Earlier, in 44 days between December 1991 and January 1992, 255 hours of fog was recorded. This season, dense fog (visibility below 200 metres) was seen on just eight days for 33 hours against the normal of 19 days and 110 hours, the lowest since 2007-08 with 10 hours.

R K Jenamani, senior scientist at IMD, said, "A rhythmic combination of calm or light winds, a constant higher moisture supply and stable boundary layer up to 1500m from the surface were missing for dense fog or fog to stay for a longer duration.

Priyangi Agarwal @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** With Covid-19 cases and the test positivity rate dipping, the Delhi government is contemplating to resume its Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra scheme. There is a huge backlog of over 25,000 applications and the government hopes to clear it at least partially before the service is suspended again during the municipal polls, said revenue department officials.

The government has requested the railways to provide trains for some of the popular pilgrimage destinations at the earliest, said an official. "The railways has promised to explore the availability of trains and inform us at the earliest. The scheme is popular among

parameters like calm or light winds, a constant higher moisture supply and stable boundary layer up to 1,500m from the surface were missing for dense fog or fog to stay for a longer duration.

# Showers drag maximum temp to a 19-yr low for February at 14.4°C

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Following a few days of respite, Delhi shivered again as light rain and an overcast sky brought the maximum temperature down to 14.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday, the lowest for February in the last 19 years and second lowest this winter season. With daytime temperature at 8.9 degrees below the season's average, some city areas had to brave uncomfortable conditions.

"Those who pass out from top universities have the network and connections. For others, accessing mentors on how to scale up their businesses can be a challenge. We have consulted people who can help such businesses," said the official.

While identifying markets and setting up a regular sales network could be a task for startups, another official said the government would help young entrepreneurs by buying their products. "We will promote these businesses through government procurement. Without diluting the quality requirements, we will offer these startups the opportunity to sell their products to us," added the official.

Setting up incubators, working spaces and fabrication labs were other infrastructure that would be developed by the government.

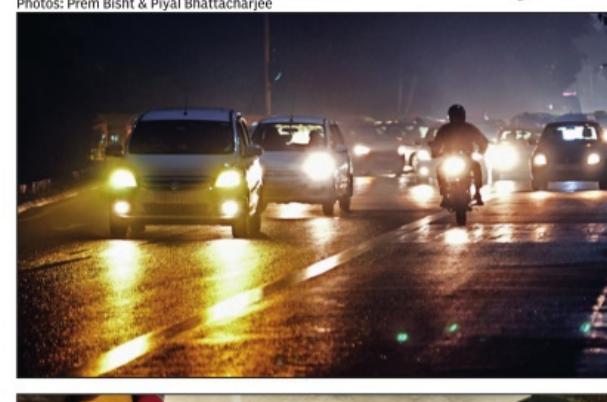
The new policy would also give an educational push to university students to upskill themselves to set up businesses. Officials said a survey done in Delhi-based technical institutes and universities revealed that only 5% of students were keen on taking a plunge in the startup bandwagon.

Delhi government would also give a push to startups dealing with green and renewable technologies.

At 13.3 degrees Celsius maximum, Narela recorded the lowest maximum temperature in the city. The Ridge area too had a "severe cold day" with a maximum temperature of 14.4 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature of 9.2 degrees.

A "severe cold day" has a maximum temperature that is 6.5 notches below the season average and the minimum temperature less than 10 degrees Celsius.

R K Jenamani, senior scientist, IMD, said, "As per



**OUT IN COLD:** With daytime temperature at 8.9 degrees below the season's average, some areas had to brave uncomfortable conditions

longer period temperature record, the maximum temperature on February 3 is the lowest after 2003." IMD recorded 14.3 degrees Celsius on February 1, 2003; 13.9 degrees Celsius on February 21, 1954, and 12.3 degrees Celsius on February 1, 1970.

The weather is likely to improve on Friday. Mahesh Palawat, vice-president, Skymet, said, "From Friday onwards, there will be some improvement in the weather conditions with the overcast sky becoming partially cloudy by late afternoon. The sun will be out and raise the day temperature. Minimum temperature may drop. Rain is likely till Friday noon."

Meanwhile, the air quality remained very poor on Thursday, with the Air Quality Index reading 321. "The AQI is likely to improve due to rain along with gusty winds and wet deposition and strong dispersion. Intermittent rain is expected tomorrow improving AQI to the lower end of 'poor' or 'moderate,'" said a statement from System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) on Thursday. "From February 5 onwards, air quality will gradually degrade as rate of accumulation of pollutants is likely to be higher than that of ventilation."

# Clearest picture in 29 yrs as fog missing this winter

## OUT OF THE BLUE

- Lowest fog hours recorded this winter (December 2021-January 2022) in Delhi, according to hourly data of IGI Palam in 29 years
- Before this, a higher

- duration of fog formed in 1991-92 when 255 hours of fog was recorded over 44 days
- Severe dense fog was not witnessed this season

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



## WHY FOG LARGELY EVADED DELHI

- Parameters like calm or light winds, a constant higher moisture supply and stable boundary layer up to 1,500m from the surface were missing for dense fog or fog to stay for a longer duration
- Western disturbance causing high rain is favourable for fog formation as it washes out all pollutants. Absence of pollution leads to absence of fog

CRITERIA	SHALLOW FOG	Visibility below 1,000 metres
Moderate fog	Visibility below 500 metres	
Dense fog	Visibility below 200 metres	

DEC 2021	JANUARY 2022
TOTAL NUMBER OF FOG DAYS	
<1000	<500
22	3
29	12
TOTAL	51
15	10

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOG HOURS	<1000
75	210
TOTAL 285	

<500	<200
7	61
2	31
TOTAL 68	33

New Delhi: Fog was largely missing this winter season (December 2021-January 2022). India Meteorological Department's data for the Palam monitoring station shows fog only for 285 hours on 51 days during this winter season, the lowest in the past 29 years. The investigation revealed that last October, several audio messages were sent and the victims were told to call on the WhatsApp number given in it if they wanted to get the prize money.

The DCP said the syndicate had also used to entice poor villagers to get their bank account details on the pretext of providing benefits of various schemes and made them transfer the received cash back to the fraudsters' bank accounts promising more cash benefits.

Met officials said the favourable combination of calm or light winds, a constant higher moisture supply and stable boundary layer up to 1500m from the surface were missing for dense fog or fog to stay for a longer duration.

Priyangi Agarwal @timesgroup.com

almost half of the normal 570 fog hours. Earlier, in 44 days between December 1991 and January 1992, 255 hours of fog was recorded. This season, dense fog (visibility below 200 metres) was seen on just eight days for 33 hours against the normal of 19 days and 110 hours, the lowest since 2007-08 with 10 hours.

R K Jenamani, senior scientist at IMD, said, "A rhythmic combination of calm or light winds, a constant higher moisture supply, stable boundary layer up to 1500m from the surface with increase in temperature normally favours fog formation. However, these ideal parameters were missing this season. Besides, fog needs pollutants or aerosols to act as condensation nuclei. Active western disturbances causing high rain washed out the pollutants.

According to IMD, the fog formation of 285 hours was

to western disturbances. Delhi again received rain due to an active western disturbance on January 23-25. Strong winds then blew from January 26 cleaning all other parameters required for fog formation."

Met officials said the lack of fog reduced the usual impact on transport. "No major fog-related accidents were reported this season. There was no major disruption of flights at Delhi airport and trains ran on time," said Jenamani.



Photos: Tarun Rawat  
Rescuers Nadeem Shehzad and Muhammad Saud

to take in most of them. Among the birds we treat are many that most charitable bird hospitals run by religious trusts refuse to admit or treat because they are the birds of prey or meat eaters."

## NETAJI HOLOGRAM MISSING?

Anindya Chattopadhyay



Trinamool MP Saugata Roy on Thursday claimed that the hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate had vanished. Roy's claims were rebutted by BJP, which said the machine that projected the hologram had been removed as it could not withstand strong winds

## Shut shop if you can't manage: HC to EDMC

New Delhi: Delhi High Court Thursday expressed displeasure over non-payment of salaries by East Delhi Municipal Corporation to its employees and said that it should "shut shop" if it cannot manage resources. The court said it can't set EDMC's house in order for them and remarked that had it been a private company, it would have been asked to wind up.

The bench of Justices Vinip Singh and Jasmeet Singh was dealing with a batch of petitions relating to non-payment of salaries and pensions to teachers, hospital staff and others.

When the bench was deferring the hearing till Fe-

bruary 28 due to the unavailability of one of the counsels, EDMC lawyer urged the court to give a short date and informed that some of its doctors were on strike over non-payment of salaries.

The EDMC lawyer stated that the corporation was trying to augment its resources and payment to doctors and sanitation workers was their priority but "they are in a jam of sorts".

"We can't set your house in order. Two months (backlog) is shocking... If it was a private (company), we would have asked you to be wound up. If you can't manage resources, shut shop," the court said. PTI

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1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and Company's website ([www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com)).

2. The above results are in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.

3. For Other Line items referred in Regulation 52(4) SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchanges website ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and Company's website ([www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com)).

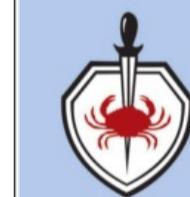
4. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For GAIL (India) Limited  
Sd/-  
(R K Jain)  
Director (Finance) & CFO  
(DIN: 08788595)

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022

(CIN: L40200DL1984G0108976)

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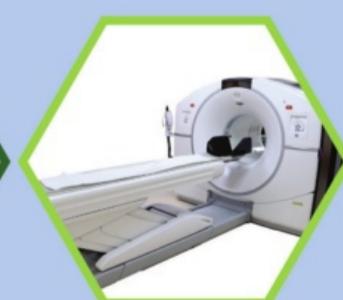
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## PhD scholar duped of ₹24L by 'astrologers'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A PhD student from Amity University was allegedly duped of Rs 24 lakh by two men who posed as astrologers and told her she will get good luck and fortune. The accused told the woman that she would have to sacrifice a human and also perform puja and rituals.

The woman was searching for astrologers online and got a number. She called and one of the accused picked up, who then asked her to start performing rituals. It was only when she was told to

sacrifice a human that she realised she had been duped. The two men have been arrested by the cops. They said that their families are also into astrology, but due to loss of business during Covid, they started duping people in order to get more money.

Police have seized seven debit cards, chequebooks and mobile phones used in the commission of the crime.

The accused have been identified as Tanish and Gaurav, and were arrested from Rajasthan and Punjab. The wo-

man had complained that due to some personal issues in her life and career, she was feeling depressed and suffering from anxiety, which led her to search for astrologers.

"She was surfing the web, where she came across a page operating in the name of Amrita Devi, and through the contact details on the page, she contacted the fraudsters, who were pretending to be tantriks capable of solving all problems. The complainant discussed her issues with the accused in the

hope of finding a solution through any ritual. The accused assured her that the rituals costing Rs 24 lakh will solve her problems," said KPS Malhotra, DCP (cyber cell).

He added, "She agreed for the rituals and gave payments in installments. Gradually, she was duped of Rs 24 lakh. The complainant didn't find any relief and asked for the reason. The accused told her that the God/Devas are asking for a human sacrifice, or more rituals, which would cost Rs 20 lakh more."

The accused also revealed that they are cousins.

**DEBIT CARDS USED IN THE CRIME SEIZED**

**07**

**File photo**

## TIMES TRIBUTE

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at 4.30 PM on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Zoom link for Uthala**  
Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 4.30 to 5.30 pm  
Zoom ID : 964 612 0705 Passcode : 2022

**In Grief:**  
Meera Luthra, Sudhir Malhotra, Vandana & Raghav Sharma, Simrin & Manu Arya, Vanita Malhotra, Armaan, Asmaniya, Samia, Shyraa, Shiv and Shauryaveer

**Luthra Group Family** 

**|| Tritiya Punyatithi ||**



**Neena Jain**  
10.12.1958 - 04.02.2019

Unable are the loved to go, for love is immortality.

**Fondly remembered by:**  
Friends and Family  
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K-4, Kailash Colony, New Delhi.  
Veer Hues Limited, Sharat Engineering Co.

## AAP: SDMC Plans To Charge Licence Fee For EV Stations

**BJP Rubbishes Allegation, Says No Such Proposal Moved**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday slammed the BJP-led South Delhi Municipal Corporation for a proposal of taking licence fee to set up electric vehicle charging stations.

"Today, when the licence-raj is being abolished, the south corporation and Bharatiya Janata Party are looking for avenues to mint money. People are getting irritated by this red-tapism now. The corporation is asking for a licence to set up charging stations," said municipal election in-charge Durgesh Pathak.

In order to promote clean transport, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has passed an ambitious electric vehicle policy, which aims to promote the environment-friendly mode of transport in the national capital, where air quality is an annual problem faced by the residents. AAP said that such a plan of SDMC is against the electric vehicle policy of the Delhi government, and the move will demotivate people from adopting environment-friendly vehicles.

"We strongly protest against such money-making exercises by the south

corporation. The Delhi government and the corporation are culprits in this. This will discourage residents' welfare associations and private individuals to install charging stations with their colony at their own cost. It will also lead to increased charging costs per vehicle. URJA will write to the commissioner of south corporation in protest to discourage such actions," said Amit Aggarwal, project head of United Residents Joint Ac-

**ALL CHARGED UP:** Delhi government's electric vehicle policy aims at providing environment-friendly transport in the capital

corporation. The Delhi government and the corporation are culprits in this. This will discourage residents' welfare associations and private individuals to install charging stations with their colony at their own cost. It will also lead to increased charging costs per vehicle. URJA will write to the commissioner of south corporation in protest to discourage such actions," said Amit Aggarwal, project head of United Residents Joint Ac-

tion Of Delhi (URJA), a group of residents' welfare associations in Delhi.

However, Delhi BJP said that the allegations are completely baseless and there is no such proposal.

"Leveling of these baseless allegations is proof enough to show that AAP leaders level cooked up allegations against the corporations. There is no proposal before the SDMC standing committee to level any fee or charge on EV charging stations," said Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor.

"The biggest proponent of modern tech solutions against pollution was the introduction of electric vehicles. Our country is working to adopt the use of EVs, and in that vein is investing in charging infrastructure too. There's a lack of charging stations across the country and that's why the Prime Minister himself encouraged everyone to develop charging stations in their area. The procedure to set up EV charging stations is supposed to be free of bureaucratic hurdles and licences. But the BJP and its leaders are acting as a huge boulder in the path of progress against the word of their leader," added Pathak.

## Two held at IGI with gun, forex

**New Delhi:** The customs department at IGI airport arrested two people in separate cases. A man was arrested after a pistol was seized from his possession and another was arrested for allegedly possessing foreign currency equivalent to around Rs 23 lakh.

In the first case, the customs officers intercepted a 32-year-old man who arrived

from Dubai to Delhi. "After detailed examination of his bag, one metallic pistol and two empty magazines were seized," said an official.

In the other case, one Indian passenger who came to the airport to depart to Dubai was found to be carrying foreign currency (Saudi Riyals) equivalent to Rs 23.1 lakh. TNN

## 1st Death Anniversary



**SMT. NIRMAL VEDWA**

4th February 2021

Your loving, compassionate nature and vision will always inspire us to higher achievements in life. We remember and miss you always. You remain in our hearts forever and ever.

Deeply Loved & missed by:  
Raj Vedwa - Husband  
Niraj Vedwa / Amit Vedwa - Sons  
Ruchi Vedwa - Daughter-in-law  
Manvi Vedwa / Aryan Vedwa - Grand Children

## REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



**In Loving Memory of  
MRS KRISHNA MALIK**  
5th Death Anniversary

You are forever in our hearts. Your blessings continue to guide us. Deeply Missed & Remembred by: Rajinder Malik (Son), Harish, Mahesh & Veena Batra and All Family Members, A-360, Defence Colony.

## SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Dr. Madhu Bhashni Srivastava, who left for her heavenly abode on 26.01.2022.

Tehri followed by Brahm Bhoj on Sunday, 06.02.2022 at our residence - 250, Sector-19, Noida from 10 am onwards.

In grief -  
Astok K. Srivastava (Husband)  
Daughter-in-law & Son  
Pragati & Prawal Srivastava  
Mansi & Shivali Srivastava  
Grandchildren  
Divyansh & Guarav  
Manisha & Sanav  
& all family members

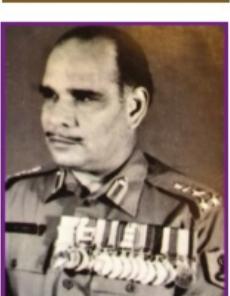
## REMEMBRANCES



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Vinod : 9958992088  
Pankaj : 8130604727**



*'That which is most needed is a loving heart.' Thus Spake Buddha*



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MAHAVIR CHAKRA 1925-2010  
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# Funds pumped into anti-CAA protests used for riots: Police

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police claimed before a city court on Thursday that funds were pumped in to the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens protests and were utilised for the violence in northeast Delhi.

**PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SAYS**

**Who has really suffered? None of the conspirators has suffered. It is the public at large that has suffered**

The submissions were made before additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat during hearing of former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid's bail plea.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad, appearing for the police, alleged proof of former AAP councillor and co-accused Tahir Hussain's involvement in money-laundering.

He said a protected witness had alleged in

his statement before a magistrate that Hussain was paying people "to kill" people of a certain community.

"Utilisation of funds for purposes of terror funding is absolutely clear. The money is being converted from black to white and all the money is going to the (anti-CAA) protest sites," he alleged.

Prasad argued that there was a physical manifestation of conspiracy through meetings and WhatsApp chats.

Citing judgments of the Supreme Court, he said that principles had been laid down which state that there does not need to be active participation of every conspirator in a conspiracy.

Prasad further said that while none of the alleged conspirators had suffered, the public at large did. "Who has really suffered? None of the conspirators has suffered. It is the public at large that has suffered," Prasad submitted.

He further alleged that the conspirators had attempted to threaten the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India.

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#### Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for July 2022 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) July 2022 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch. (6years)/DM(6 years)/MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda etc.) for July 2022 session as per following schedule:

Online Registration for application	Start Date	Closing Date
● # Registration and Basic Information [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been # <b>ACCEPTED</b> for January 2019, July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021, session and January 2022 for AIIMS, are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)]	31.01.2022 (5:00 pm)	07.03.2022 (by 5:00 pm)
● Editing of Registration and Basic information (after last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic Information will not be allowed)	11.03.2022	15.03.2022 (by 5:00 pm)
Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information	18.03.2022 (by 5:00 pm)	
<b>Date of uploading Prospectus including eligibility criteria alongwith seat position of Sponsored/Foreign National/OCI and Bhutani National candidates: 21.03.2022</b>		
● Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC) [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information- <b>Previous EUC code not valid for July 2022 session</b> ]	21.03.2022 (05:00 pm)	11.04.2022 (05:00 pm)
● Completion of Application form ( <b>only for the candidates those have generated EUC code</b> )		
● Editing of completion of Application form (Change of category and city choice will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstance)		
● Uploading of valid Certificate/Card: SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card.	21.03.2022 (05:00 pm)	08.05.2022 (05:00 pm)
a) Date(s) of valid OBC (NCL) Certificate: The OBC(-NCL) certificates should have been issued between 21.03.2021 to 08.05.2022 (date of Exam) both dates inclusive.		
b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate: The EWS certificate must be valid for Financial year 2022-2023 and Issued on or after 01.04.2022 & on or before date of Exam based on income of year 2021-2022		
Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form & Last date of submission of required documents.	22.04.2022 (11:00 am)	25.04.2022 (05:00 pm)
Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	29.04.2022 (Friday)	
Date of Examination	Examination Timings	Examination Centers
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2022	Medical and Dental Courses- 09:00 AM - 12:00 Noon	Cities all over India

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**Correction/edit of Registration:** For candidates requiring correction in Registration & Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

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**PAAR**

DAVP 17112/12/0038/2122

ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

## TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday framed charges of rioting and murder against nine people in three cases related to the northeast Delhi riots.

Additional sessions judge Virender Bhat framed charges under sections 144 (joining unlawful assembly armed with deadly weapon), 147 and

148 (rioting), 302 (murder), 201 (disappearance of evidence), 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder), 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint) read with 149 (unlawful assembly) of IPC.

The court framed charges

against Lokesh Solanki, Panjaj Sharma, Sumit Chaudhary, Ankit Chaudhary, Prince Rishabh Chaudhary, Jatin Sharma, Vivek Panchal and Himanshu Thakur. It also framed charges against three others — Sahil, Sandeep, Tinku Arora — in one of the cases.

"Upon perusal of the material annexed along with the chargesheet particularly the statements of various witnesses, it is evident that charges under section 144/147/148/302/201/364 /452 IPC read with section 149 IPC are made out against all the accused," it said in similar

orders in the three cases.

The court, however, said that there was no material on record which would prima facie indicate that the accused had indulged in the riotous incident in pursuance to any conspiracy; therefore, the charge for the offence under section 120b (criminal conspiracy) IPC was not made out against them.

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# Women safety, digital tech focus areas for top cop

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Giving an open forum to the public to put forth their queries, Delhi Police commissioner **Rakesh Asthana** held his first Twitter space session on Thursday. From speaking about how he got into the police services to his favourite actor, crime against women and the mental well-being of personnel in the force, the commissioner took all questions in his stride.

The questions ranged from objectives and targets of policing after Asthana took over as commissioner; policing during the pandemic, women's safety and response of cops in heinous crimes against women, community policing, the menace of drug abuse, use of digital technology in policing, etc.

Asked how he was motivated to join the police force, Asthana replied that he used to read a lot of English and Hindi crime novels and was

quite intrigued by them. Regarding CCTV cameras, the commissioner said the safe city project was under way and within a year at least 10,000 cameras would be installed on the streets.

Asthana said 81 cops lost their lives to Covid-19, while more than 18,000 personnel got infected by the virus, but their spirit to serve never diminished.

Talking about the unfortu-

nate incident in Shahdara district, Asthana said cops reached the spot in less than three minutes of receiving the call. All the accused were arrested and legal help was being provided to the victim. The chargesheet would be filed soon for a speedy trial.

For women's safety, pink booths were being set up. Women officers were being deployed so that victims could freely

interact with them. Currently, six women DCPs and a dozen women inspectors are posted as district heads and SHOs.

On the issue of police harassment, Asthana said, "People can lodge their complaints on 112 or contact senior officers directly or through email." He added that immediate action would be taken after scrutinising the authenticity of videos that reflect unnecessary police aggression or misbehaviour.

# Kids with rare diseases: HC for immediate steps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to communicate to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and other Centres for Excellence to start treating children suffering from rare diseases without any delay.

Justice V Kameswar Rao, who was hearing a batch of petitions by these children, noted in a recent order that it is the responsibility of the central government to ensure that

necessary funds are provided to all Centres of Excellence, including AIIMS, as and when required to treat children suffering from rare diseases. Some diseases affecting the petitioner children are Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and Mucopolysaccharidosis II or MPS II (Hunter Syndrome). The court's direction came on a plea by the patients seeking a direction to the Centre to provide them uninterrupted and free of cost treatment as the therapy is expensive.

The plea informed HC that there was no development even after a month since the court directed the AIIMS and other Centres of Excellence to begin their treatment forthwith. "It is directed that the respondent No.1 (Centre) shall issue a communication to the AIIMS as well as to the Centres for Excellence for starting the treatment of the petitioners (whichever petitioner approaches such a centre, being nearer to the place of residence) without any delay," the court said.

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# Breather On EMIs In Stuck Realty Projects

HC Restraints Banks From Taking Coercive Action

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has come to the rescue of hundreds of "beleaguered" homebuyers by restraining banks/housing finance companies (HFCs) from taking any coercive action to recover EMIs for incomplete projects.

Justice Rekha Palli recently granted an interim stay in favour of the homebuyers who invested in projects where the builders were supposed to pay EMIs till possession, but stopped doing so midway.

"The balance of convenience at this interim stage lies in favour of the homebuyers, keeping in view that they are being penalised despite not being at fault," Justice Palli noted, adding that "grave and irreparable loss will be caused to the petitioners if they are not granted any interim protection".

The court observed that the petition "brings into light the well-known sorry state of affairs, which has been recently going on in the construction industry".

## Three more arrested for road rage near Red Fort

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Three more people were arrested from Turkman Gate on Thursday for the road rage incident near the Red Fort on Monday night. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Kaif (21), his friend Mohammad Shoaib (21) and uncle Mohammad Faiz.

On Monday night, three people, including two passers-by, were shot at in the Angoori Bagh area after a scooter driven by Kaif with Shoaib as the pillion rider had hit another two-wheeler in which Shahid and his wife Varisha were travelling. As an argument ensued, both parties called their families and friends. A brawl started, and "Shabab took out a pistol from Shahzada Farid's vehicle and started firing," an officer said.

Shahbaz (30), Shabab (31) and Farid (31) were arrested on Tuesday from Turkman Gate. "Kaif lives in Turkman Gate and Shoaib in the Jama Masjid area. On Monday night, Kaif was talking to Faiz on the phone when he hit Shahid's vehicle," an officer said. Police are waiting for the report to find out if they were drunk.

Kaif and Shoaib were hiding on the terrace of a house in Turkman Gate while Faiz went to Seelampur. All three were nabbed when Faiz came to meet Kaif, police said. Kaif helps his father in the shoe business while Shoaib's father is a property dealer. Faiz works in a garment shop.

Deputy commissioner of police (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said the three victims were out of danger.

**COURT SAYS**  
The balance of convenience at this interim stage lies in favour of the homebuyers, keeping in view that they are being penalised despite not being at fault

Meanwhile, an order issued by the medical superintendent of Swami Dayanand Hospital, Dr Rajni Khedwal, stated that services of all senior and junior resident doctors

**DOCTORS SAY**  
Unless we get a concrete statement regarding salary, we will continue the protest

would be considered terminated from February 4 and fresh interviews would be conducted accordingly. The order also stated that all Diplomate of National Board (DNB) residents and contractual doctors would be marked absent.

"We all were there in the protest, none of us went for our duties. We have also asked the administration to speak on our behalf because they are too part of the hospital. Maybe the matter will be resolved tomorrow. Unless we get a concrete statement regarding salary, we will continue the protest," said Dr Atul Jain, president of the hospital's resident doctors' association.

Meanwhile, EDMC commissioner Vikas Anand said

## Seal all liquor shops near religious places, schools in 48 hrs: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Taking its protest against the Delhi government's new excise policy to the next level, BJP threatened on Thursday to seal all liquor stores located near schools and religious places if they are not closed by the administration in the next 48 hours.

Terming the policy "destructive", BJP said top party functionaries, including Union minister Smriti Irani and national vice-president Baijayant Jay Panda, will address a virtual rally on Friday, which will be attended by one crore party workers.

No immediate reaction was available from Delhi government.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta claimed that the party's agitation against the Kejriwal government's new excise policy had been quite successful and more than 300 liquor shops had already been sealed by the municipal corporations.

"But many such liquor shops are still located in residential areas, near schools and close to religious places. If these shops are not closed within 48 hours, BJP workers, along with corporation employees, will seal them," Gupta said.

He added that Delhi BJP had installed LED screens at over 500 locations for the virtu-



Residents of Mandawali protest against liquor shop in east Delhi

al rally and at least 250 people would be present at each location to listen to the speeches.

Gupta said several agitations, including chakka jams and a signature campaign, had been organised. A protest was held by residents and party workers at Mandawali in east Delhi on Thursday when a new shop was being opened.

The Delhi BJP chief alleged that the AAP government, in collusion with the liquor mafia, had reduced the number of dry days from 21 to three. "The new policy will make Delhi a city of liquor, which will affect all sections of the society. Over 70% of the city will now have liquor shops in violation of the Master Plan and municipal laws," he claimed.

Gupta further alleged that CM Arvind Kejriwal had said local RWAs and women would be consulted before opening new liquor shops, but the exercise was not carried out while 850 shops were coming up.

IANS

## Tihar pulled up for 'hostile' attitude towards accused

Usha.Das@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Pulling up Tihar jail authorities for failing to provide medical treatment to an inmate charged under MCOCA, a Delhi court on Thursday said it clearly indicated not only their "inimical and hostile" conduct towards the accused, but also "utter disregard" for the trial court's orders. The court also granted interim bail to the accused, who has been advised to undergo angiography and angioplasty.

The court noted that the petitioners "appear to have been left in the lurch and despite paying the advance amount and investing their hard-earned money to purchase their own residential homes, the construction of the residential flats/apartments have not been completed till date".

The court said "prima facie, it appears" that the loans were disbursed without any regard to the advisories of Reserve Bank of India and National Housing Bank. It said the banks and HFCs disbursed the loan when the construction was incomplete and were now asking the homebuyers to pay the amount initially required to be paid by the developers. The petitioners cannot be made to suffer the consequences of this apparent collusion between the banks/HFCs and the developers, it added.

The statements of witnesses were recorded and the body of the deceased was shifted to AIIMS hospital. Police said that initial probe doesn't suggest any foul play. However, necessary action will be taken after the postmortem of the deceased. His family in Karnal has been informed about the incident. TNN

Additional sessions judge Viren Bhat noted that records revealed that while the trial court had on October 5, 2021 directed the jail authorities to continue his treatment at AIIMS, "it was evident" he had not been taken to the hospital.

The court said it was mentioned in the report dated January 10, 2022, submitted by the medical officer in-charge, Central Jail Hospital, Tihar, before the trial court that the accused was suffering from coronary artery diseases, hypertension

and other ailments.

"It is the basic right of every prisoner to get proper treatment for his ailments from an experienced doctor. In view of the hostile and cold attitude of the jail authorities towards the applicant, it is not possible for him to get proper treatment for his heart ailments while in custody. Therefore, this court feels that the applicant deserves to be granted interim bail in order to enable him to get himself examined and treated by a good doctor of his choice," the judge said.

The court directed the accused to be released for a period of two weeks and directed him not to influence the prosecution witnesses.

Special public prosecutor Atul Srivastava, appearing for the police, had opposed the bail plea of the accused, saying that proper treatment was being given to him in jail and would be continued as per the doctors' advice in the future too. He had further submitted that the accused was under treatment of experienced doctors at AIIMS.

## 26-year-old man kills himself, cops say job loss likely reason

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man allegedly died by suicide in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji on Wednesday. Police said that he was staying on rent and was later identified as Prince Batra. He also left a note saying 'I quit' on a tissue paper with a pencil. Police suspect that he took the extreme step after losing his job. However, the exact details are yet to be established.

Police said they got a call about a man dying by suicide. When they reached the location, the caller and the owner of the rented accommodation, Girijesh Kumar (52), told them that his tenant, Batra, died by suicide at Gali No 5, Govindpuri Extension. Thereafter, a crime team was called and SI Ravi Kumar, along with the crime team and forensic team, entered the house, where a man was found hanging from the ceiling fan with the help of a white scarf. The team has taken photographs of the spot. Also, one suicide note on a tissue paper with "I Quit" written with pencil was found on the table.

The statements of witnesses were recorded and the body of the deceased was shifted to AIIMS hospital. Police said that initial probe doesn't suggest any foul play. However, necessary action will be taken after the postmortem of the deceased. His family in Karnal has been informed about the incident. TNN

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For detailed notification, please visit [www.iocl.com](http://www.iocl.com) in the section **IndianOil For You->IndianOil For Careers->Latest Job Openings**. The last date for receipt of online applications at <https://plapps.indianoil.in> is 18.02.2022.

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#### SPECIALIST GRADE - II (SENIOR SCALE)

S. No.	Speciality	Name of the Region
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2	Endocrinology	UR-1
3	Gastroenterology	OBC-1, UR-1
4	Nephrology	SC-1, UR-1
5	Neurology	---
6	Oncology	UR-1
7	Urology	UR-1
8	Paediatric Surgery	ST-1
9	Plastic Surgery/Burns	OBC-1, EWS-1
	Total	UR-1
	09*	15**

#backlog vacancy

\* Out of nine vacancies, one vacancy is reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWD).

\*\* Out of fifteen vacancies, one vacancy is reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWD).

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1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KAITHAL	NIGHT SWEEPING AND GARBAGE LIFTING IN WARD NO. 1 TO 31 AT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KAITHAL	03.02.2022 14.02.2022	2.25 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
2	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KAITHAL	CONST. AMBEDKAR HALL IN STREET NO. 4 MAURA BASTI IN WARD NO.1 AT KAITHAL + 5 OTHER WORKS	03.02.2022 14.02.2022	196 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>
3	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KAITHAL	CONST. OF BOUNDARY WALL OF PARK, GREEN BELT, MANDI TOWNSHIP IN WARD NO. 21 AT KAITHAL	02.02.2022 10.02.2022	20 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO 7301

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NIB No./Date/ Unique bid no.			
NIB No. F-4.6(347)/ RISL/Ted/2022/6527 Date: 01.02.2022 UBN No.: 21225L0B00079 RISL21225L0B00079			
Particulars		Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale /Last date
NIB No. F-4.6(347)/ RISL/Ted/2022/6527 Date: 01.02.2022 UBN No.: 21225L0B00079 RISL21225L0B00079		Rs. 300.00 Cr	02.02.2022 21.03.2022
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e-Procurement Re-Tender Notice			
Lr. No: 58/TA/Stores/WPP/AC/2022 Dt:01-02-2022			
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(Tender No: 293574) DPR No.2632/PP-CL/Agency/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt:03-02-2022			
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S. No. E-Tender No. Description of item Qty Due date, Time			
1 TM225004 GPS Based OMS as per RDSO 06 24.02.2022 at 14:30 hours.			
Note: The complete information of above E-Procurement tenders are available on website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The firms, who desire to participate against E-Tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to have a class-III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-Tenders will not be accepted.			
No: 219-S/1/TMC/04/2022-23 Dated: 03.02.2022 24/02/2022			
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
Online open Bids have been invited by the State Election Commission, from the reputed Firms/Companies/Agencies are as under.					
Sr No Name of BID & Tender ID Bid Start Date & Time Pre-Bid meeting Last Date of receiving queries Bid End date time Opening of Technical Bid					
1. E-TENDER FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING DIGITAL VIDEOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL STILL PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ACROSS DELHI FOR THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE THREE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS OF DELHI. ID:2022_STELC_215854_1 03-02-2022 12:00:00 10-02-2022 by 1:30 PM 24-02-2022 at 03:00 PM 24-02-2022 at 05:30 PM					
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The said Tender can be seen and downloaded from the Web-Portal <a href="http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a> free of cost. Interested prospective Bidders may visit the Website or may contact the Commission on Phone:-011-23990919 or E-mail:- <a href="mailto:delhielectiontender@gmail.com">delhielectiontender@gmail.com</a> . Sd/- HEAD OF OFFICE DIP/Shabdharth/0627/21-22					

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Date 04.02.2022 (Inf./Misc./70/21-22)			

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION			
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Lakshadweep Administration (the "Authority") invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from interested developers to undertake development, operation and maintenance of the following Projects through Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (the "DBFOT") on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.			

# Chandni Chowk Revamp II With Jama Masjid In Focus

Area To Be Pedestrianised, Architecture In Style Of Mosque

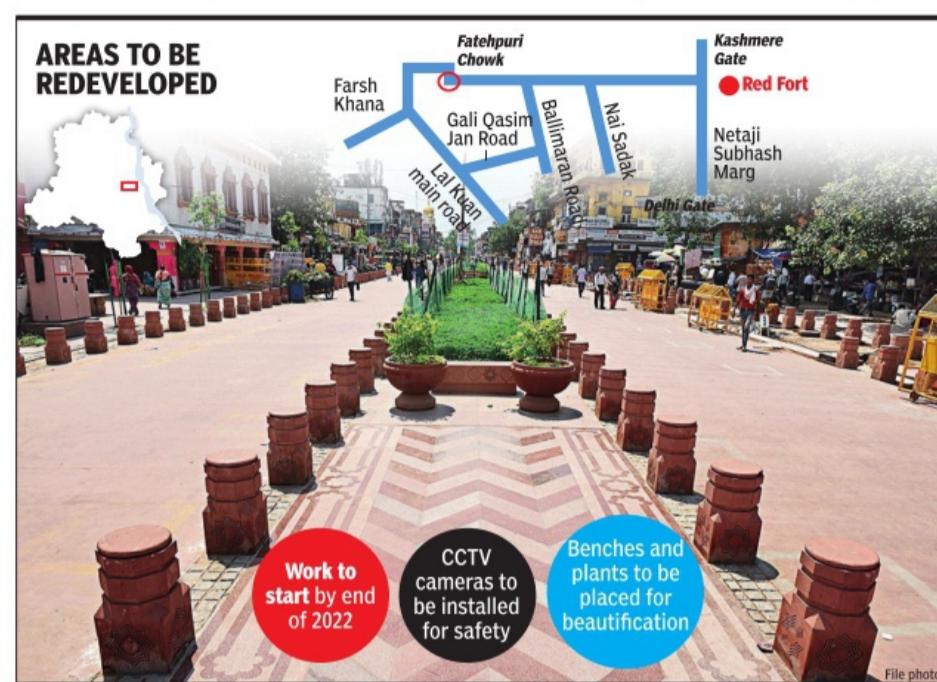
**Siddhanta Mishra**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** In the second phase of the Chandni Chowk redevelopment plan, the Public Works Department (PWD) is working on a design that will be synchronous with the iconic Jama Masjid. The department is planning to make the area around Jama Masjid pedestrian only, like it was done with the main road in the first phase of the redevelopment. The architecture will be in the style of the mosque.

"We have asked the consultant company to work on a couple of points. The plan is divided into four areas. We are working on amalgamation of Mughal architecture with red sandstone in the second phase to give the area a renewed look. The earlier corridor that was beautified looks similar to Red Fort," said a PWD official.

As part of the second phase of the project, the department is working on facade improvement, redevelopment of internal roads, beautification of the area around Jama Masjid and pedestrianisation of the stretch between Delhi Gate and Kashmere Gate. "This phase will have different challenges as the internal roads are narrow. The area around Jama Masjid may also be pedestrianised like the main road," the official said.

After redevelopment of the main road in Chandni Chowk,



PWD would be redeveloping six other roads, including Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Kashmere Gate. The company has been given nine months to complete the survey, after which it will submit the plan to deal with encroachments, bus shelters and cost of construction.

The Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation is working along with PWD to redevelop this heritage area and cultural centre in the Walled City.

There will be a dedicated non-motorised vehicle zone on Netaji Subhash Marg and signboards and bollards will be installed at various places. Starting from Netaji Subhash Marg near Red Fort, beautification work will be undertaken on the stretch from Old Delhi Railway Station to Church Mission Road. To provide parking facilities to traders and visitors, North Delhi Municipal Corporation is also constructing a mega multi-level parking at Dangal Maidan. The stretch was also made a non-motorised traffic zone between 9am and 9pm.

The revamped 1.3km stretch of Chandni Chowk was inaugurated last year by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. It was paved with red sandstone and granite, extending from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid. While benches and plants adorn the redeveloped space, signage makes navigation easy. CCTV cameras have been installed in the area to ensure safety. The stretch was also made a non-motorised traffic zone between 9am and 9pm.

"It might be a case of personal enmity," said the officer. A purported video of the incident went viral in which a person was seen running with blood flowing out of his back and then trying to hide behind a two-wheeler.

## Armed men go on the rampage at two places in east Delhi, realtor shot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Armed men went on the rampage at two places in east Delhi, which resulted in a property dealer getting shot at one place. Both the incidents occurred within an hour on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. While no arrests have been made, police suspect the same group was involved in both the incidents.

At 11.09 pm, the PCR got a call about shots being fired in Ganesh Nagar Extension. In this incident, 39-year-old Mukesh Yadav and his two children were returned home from a party in Noida when they saw 10-15 people rushing towards their vehicle. "My children rushed inside the house and my wife locked the main gate. Later, she took the children to the first floor and locked herself," said Yadav.

The armed youths fired at least nine rounds, barged into his house and vandalised the first floor. "I was hiding in my car when they started breaking its windows. Suddenly, one of them saw me and told his associates that I was not the one. They left after vandalising a few other vehicles," said Yadav. He runs a grocery store on the ground floor of his house. He claimed this was the first time such an incident had occurred there.

"The incident could be one of mistaken identity. No one was injured," said a police officer. A video surfaced later wherein a group of people could be seen vandalising vehicles, firing several rounds and barging inside Yadav's house.

After an hour of the incident, the PCR got another call in which a group of people shot dead a property dealer in Laxmi Nagar. The deceased, Mayur, was involved in three criminal cases, including Arms Act, police said.

On Tuesday night, Mayur had gone to party at his friend's house in Laxmi Nagar. Later, he received a phone call and was asked by the caller to come out of the house. "As soon as he stepped out, the group of assailants started firing at him. He tried to escape, but he was chased and shot thrice in the back. His friends took him to a hospital where he died," the officer said. More than six rounds were fired.

"It might be a case of personal enmity," said the officer. A purported video of the incident went viral in which a person was seen running with blood flowing out of his back and then trying to hide behind a two-wheeler.

## With digital files and signatures, NDMC cuts down on use of paper

**Vibha Sharma** @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Over a year after launching an initiative to digitise all its files, records and even regular correspondences, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) claimed to have been successful in reducing use of paper by up to 90%.

"The initiative is a part of the e-office concept. Around 1,500 officials/staff are being provided digital signatures. More staff members will be given the facility as per requirement," said an NDMC official.

The e-office concept has been adopted as per the Centre's direction to curb use of paper and promote electronic communication.

"So far, 42,500 new electronic files have been opened in the e-office, in which a total of about 8.9 lakh new digital green sheets were created. Apart from this, over 2 lakh new correspondence sheets with other departments/offices have been opened in the e-office for the convenience of staff/officials. By doing this, 27 lakh correspondence pages have been saved so far," said the official.

The council claimed to have provided 2,700 computers at its offices for the implementation of the green concept. "The number of other electronic equipment has also been increased to reduce the use of paper. Almost all departments now have facilities for 100% e-files," stated NDMC.

Until now, more than 12,000 personal files have been scanned. "Apart from personal and new files, we are digitising old data and files too. We have so far scanned 52,000 files that had 1.5 crore pages and the process is still on," said the official.

In phase-2, service books of all 10,000 regular employees of NDMC will be digitised.

## Cell on wheels to boost E Delhi connectivity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** To improve mobile connectivity in its areas, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has finalised a policy for cell on wheels (COW).

The civic body has identified 150 new points for installing these mobile towers in accordance with the norms of the department of telecommunications. The maximum area covered by each structure will be 50 square metres and the rental will be Rs 339 per sq feet per month in addition to applicable taxes.

EDMC mayor Shyam Sundar Agarwal said COW was a temporary arrangement that could be set up in a public space such as market, park, roadside and parking area with poor cellular network coverage.

"The initiative will generate Rs 13.5 crore revenue for EDMC. The north and south corporations have already implemented similar policies," said the mayor.

The policy allows any telecom company and service provider having a valid licence from the telecom ministry to apply for establishment of COW after permission from EDMC and other agencies concerned.



UPWARDLY MOBILE

EDMC commissioner Vikas Anand said that complaints of poor signal and call drops while making phone calls had become common. "It has also been observed that installing cellular towers on the roof doesn't solve the problem. The cell on wheels can be particularly installed in an area where complaints of poor

signal are being received. The cell companies can cover a maximum of 50 sqm area and no excess space on any pretext will be allowed," said the commissioner.

The monthly rental charge for land allotment will be increased at the rate of 8% per annum. "The minimum monthly rental will be Rs 50,000 per month and the maximum will be calculated as per the actual area required by the telecom company and the service provider," stated the policy released by the corporation.

The corporation will only provide space for placement and operation of a COW for a maximum period of three years and minimum period of three months, said officials.

"If the telecom company/service provider wants to shift to a new location before the completion of the contract period, then it will need to apply for a fresh deal with EDMC and the corporation will be free to make any decision. If the service provider intends to continue even after the expiry of the contract period, they will need to apply three months before the deadline. Before installing the facility, the provider will need to seek all permissions from other agencies, if required," stated the policy.

## N corpn looks to make online payments easier

**New Delhi:** North Delhi Municipal Corporation has tied up PayTM to make payments by citizens for property tax, licensing fees, death/birth certificate and other municipal services easier.

The commissioner Sanjay Goel stated that soon people would be able to pay for these services using the gateway platform, boosting digital payments. "The move will go a long way to promote transparency and ease of business. While for users, it will enable hassle-free digital transactions and enhanced digital penetration," said Goel.

At first, property taxes and dues will be open for payment by the gateway and the facility will soon be available for payment on other municipal applications such as e-mutation, health trade, general trade, veterinary trade and factory l. TNN

## Centre is committed to protecting liberty, dignity and rights of every woman: Affidavit

►Continued from P1

**T**he Centre's affidavit in the Delhi high court maintains that the central government is committed to protecting "the liberty, dignity and rights of every woman who is the fundamental foundation and pillar of a civilised society".

However, "considering the social impact involved, intimate family relations being the subject matter, and this court not having the privilege of having been fully familiarised with ground realities prevailing in different parts of society of this large, populous and diverse country, taking a decision merely based upon the arguments of a few lawyers may not serve the ends of justice," it said.

The government in its latest affidavit has also pointed out that state governments and other stakeholders are not before the court and only a few affected parties and the central government are parties to the PILs

are not before the court and only a few affected parties and the central government are parties to the PILs.

It said the first petition was filed in 2015 and the provisions whose validity is being challenged have been in existence since inception, and it was only because one of the petitioners suddenly mentioned the matter for final hearing during the pandemic that the hearing has begun.

This had left the Centre with no time to deliberate upon the issues and implications involved with all the stakeholders as the exercise takes a reasonable time, it said. The HC, which is conducting daily hearings, is slated to take up the matter again on Friday.

It added that the absence of any such consultative process by the executive or legislature may result in some "injustice to one section or the other". The court had earlier this week said the central government needs to make up its mind on what stand it will take before the court on the issue.

►Continued from P1

executive or legislature may result in some "injustice to one section or the other". The court had earlier this week said the central government needs to make up its mind on what stand it will take before the court on the issue.

►Continued from P1



IN PANAJI, KEJRIWAL URGES BJP, CONG WORKERS TO VOTE AAP 'FOR SAKE OF YOUR KIDS & GOA'

K'TAKA ACB CHARGES SASIKALA, 5 OTHERS IN CENTRAL JAIL PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT CASE



**GATE** to be held as scheduled as SC junks plea to defer exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to postpone the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering Exam (GATE) scheduled to be held on February 5 and turned down the plea of a batch of students which sought its deferral citing the Covid pandemic. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath said postponing GATE just 48 hours before the scheduled examination will result in chaos and uncertainty.

As the petitioners pleaded that they are pressing for postponement just for a month, the court said it was difficult to foresee what would be the situation of the pandemic after a month and the exam authorities should be allowed to conduct the test as all preparation has been done.

"The plea for postponement of GATE examination barely 48 hours before the scheduled date February 5, 2022, is replete with a potential for chaos and uncertainty, in the lives of students who have registered for the examination. There is no overarching reason why this court in exercise of jurisdiction under Article 32 of the constitution should supplant the duties and functions of the regulatory authorities, who have taken a decision to hold the examination," the bench said.

**Maha ex-chief secy blames ex-DGP for no action on intel**

Vijay V. Singh@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Former chief secretary of Maharashtra Sitaram Kunte in his statement to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said that CM Uddhav Thackeray wanted to take action in 2020 against those influencing police transfers/postings based on the report of then state intelligence department (SID) chief Rashmi Shukla, but the then director general of police (DGP) had not submitted the required proposal with evidence.

Subodh Jaiswal was DGP of Maharashtra during that period; he is now the director of CBI. Shukla had intercepted certain phone numbers in July 2020 where it was learnt that some agents were operating to secure desirable transfers/postings for police officers, including IPS officers, in exchange of money. She prepared a report on it and through the DGP, submitted it to then additional chief secretary (ACS), home, Sitaram Kunte, to bring it to the notice of the CM for further required action.

Kunte told the ED, "With the approval of the CM, a letter was sent to the then DG Subodh Jaiswal wherein it was informed that the government has taken serious note of the material provided in the report and further directed the then DGP to submit with concrete evidence and proposals for taking action against delinquent police officers. However, no proposals were received from the then DGP against any particular police officer."

Police sources had stated that the state government had failed to act on Shukla's report.

## SC's Pegasus probe stalls as few come forward to depose

**Phones Given For Tests By Just 2 People**

Pradeep.Thakur@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court-appointed panel constituted last October to probe the alleged use of the Pegasus spyware against more than 300 opposition leaders, journalists and activists is struggling to complete its investigation with very few coming forward to depose before it or submit their devices for technical scrutiny.

So far only two persons—Delhi-based journalist J Gopikrishnan and Jharkhand-based activist Rupesh Kumar

—have submitted their phones for investigation by the panel, but only one of them has recorded his statement. Eight others who recorded evidence through videoconference didn't submit their phones while nearly two doz-



CELLULAR COMPLICATION

en have just made inquiries. The panel, which also includes tech experts, has so far set out two appeals through the media for help with the investigation. With the first notice, issued on January 2, failing to get response, the panel renewed its appeal on Thursday, asking complainants to submit their phones.

The SC's order to set up the panel came on a plea which said that a forensic investigation conducted on behalf of Amnesty International at the Citizen Lab of Toronto to University's Munk School had found that Pegasus was used to hack into at least 14 phones belonging to activists, journalists, opposition leaders and others. NSO, the Israeli manufacturer of Pegasus, has maintained that the spyware is sold only to government agencies. The government has denied the charge of illicit espionage on citizens, even as it has refused to confirm or deny the acquisition of Pegasus.

It was in July 2021 that a consortium of 17 global news organisations released information about 50,000 leaked targets under surveillance using the Pegasus spyware.

**Decision of RS secretariat unethical: CPM**

**New Delhi:** CPM MP Elaram Kareem on Thursday termed the Rajya Sabha secretariat's decision to disallow amendments to the President's address relating to Pegasus and, in some cases, Covid management, "completely undemocratic and unethical," reports Swati Mathur.

Kareem wrote to chairman M Venkiah Naidu saying he should give a ruling on the matter explaining the grounds on which the secretariat should consider or disallow a set of amendments proposed by an MP.

Apart from Kareem, CPM MPs John Brittas and V Sivasadasan, and Congress MP Shakti Singh Gohil had moved Pegasus-related amendments to the motion of thanks to the President's address in Rajya Sabha.

**Farmer loses ₹14L of lottery win, gets it back**

Soumitra.Bose@timesgroup.com

and C T Ravikumar observed when it was pointed out that the procedure prescribed in the Act is against the Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act.

The court said that money laundering is not only used for drug trading but also for terrorist activities and such crimes affects integrity and sovereignty of the country. The petitioners submitted that the coercive powers provided under the Act, including the power of arrest under Section 19 without a warrant on a mere subjective satisfaction of the officer concerned, is in fact to facilitate obtaining of a confession statement, failing which he may be prosecuted.

The petitioners have also challenged the validity of Section 45(l) of the Act for putting limitations for granting bail.



said such crime affects the integrity and sovereignty of the country and that was the purpose for bringing the Act.

"The offence of money laundering damages the economy and the financial system of the country. It can put the economy on hold or can derail it. It is more serious than murder. That is why a special Act was framed," a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari

While hearing a batch of petitions, including those filed by Congress leader Karti Chidambaram and former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, the court

## Laundering more heinous crime than murder: SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Observing that the offence of money laundering cannot be treated lightly, the Supreme Court on Thursday said that it was a more serious and heinous crime than murder as it affected the entire economy whose growth could be put on hold or derailed because of it.

The court is examining the constitutional validity of various provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for allegedly violating basic principles of natural justice and criminal jurisprudence.

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The petitioners have also challenged the validity of Section 45(l) of the Act for putting limitations for granting bail.

## 1st entrance test for central univ admissions in June-July

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The first Central University Common Entrance Test (CUCET) for admissions to 42 central universities will be held in 13 languages between June and July. The exam — being held for the first time — will be based on the existing senior secondary syllabus of various boards.

The exam will be based on the existing senior secondary syllabus of various boards

nating with all the 42 central universities," said a senior ministry official.

The test for undergraduate admissions for the 2022-23 academic session will be computer-based and have two sections — common aptitude test and domain specific

test. CUCET was supposed to be held last year but was postponed due to the pandemic. The 42 universities which will offer admissions based on CUCET from this year include Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University, Visva Bharati, Central University of Tamil Nadu, University of Hyderabad, Central University of Kerala and North Eastern Hill University, among others.

According to sources, the ministry has directed the expert committee which is finalising the syllabus to ensure the test's difficulty level does not exceed what is taught in senior secondary-level courses. Apart from Hindi and English, the test will be offered in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

"The dates and details are likely to be announced by the end of next week. The expert committee of the University Grants Commission is finalising the details and the ministry is also coordi-

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## State can't be party to harassment of woman: SC in Bains rape case

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday accused the Punjab government of being complicit in harassment of a woman who had lodged a sexual assault complaint against MLA Simarjeet Singh Bains, by registering multiple cases against her allegedly after she levelled rape charges against the Lok Sabha Party legislator.

Calling upon advocate general D S Patwaria to respond, a bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli said, "Mr AG, what is happening in your state? How many cases will Punjab Police file against the woman. The two-time MLA wants to get anticipatory bail against arrest to contest elections and wants to send the woman in jail. The state cannot be party to such kind of harassment of a woman."

Appearing for Bains, advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the MLA was not behind the registration of FIRs. "She was running a racket to send people to Canada and had duped many

She was forced to return the money to some via cheques...The FIRs were filed by people whom she had duped..." A Ludhiana court had issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Bains thrice after police failed to arrest him and other accused booked in the sexual assault case lodged by the complainant.

The trial court had taken cognisance of the charge sheet filed by police against Bains and six others in the rape case. After the bench disapproved of the action of Punjab Police in registering multiple FIRs against the woman complainant, Patwari said the police are guardians of the society against crime and should have acted responsibly. He said he would look into the matter and give details on the next date of hearing.

CJI Ramana-led bench ordered stay on all proceedings in the four FIRs lodged against the woman for two weeks and protected Bains from arrest in case for a week. SC asked the Punjab government to give details about the cases and postponed Bains's petition for hearing after one week. TNN

## India reiterates Ukraine stand, 'unaware' of US LNG request

**New Delhi:** With war clouds still looming over Ukraine, India on Thursday reiterated its call for constructive diplomatic engagement and dialogue to bring the crisis to an end.

The ministry of external affairs recalled its UNSC statement that called for keeping in mind the security interests of all countries involved.

The statement came during a discussion that followed a procedural vote on whether or not the issue merited a meeting at the Council. India, along with Kenya and Gabon, had abstained from the vote in a tough balancing act. Russia had later thanked India for the position it had taken. "There was a meeting on the issue at the UN Security Council on January 31. We issued a statement at the meeting...I want to remind you that we have called for constructive political efforts to address the concerns of all sides and resolve the situation peacefully," said an MEA spokesperson.

Asked whether the US was looking at procuring LNG from India for supplies to Europe if Russia invaded Ukraine, the official said he was not aware of any such request. TNN

## Plan for edu continuity amid Covid disruptions

### Centre's Fin Aid To Kids & Teachers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



cial support of Rs 6.40 lakh non-recurring and Rs 2.40 lakh recurring cost including for tablets for ICT facility in each Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Rs 1,000 per Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs) as mobility support for visit by CRCs to provide support during the pandemic as part of the learning recovery plan.

Meanwhile, the ministry at the health ministry's media briefing stated that the school reopening guidelines or SoPs were reviewed in the light of the various orders issued by the MHA from time to time and extensive Covid-19 vaccination coverage, including teaching and non-teaching staff working in schools and other educational institutions.

The MoE also stated that there are 16 states and UTs where schools are partially reopened and nine the schools are yet to reopen. While six states and UTs have 100% vaccinated teachers and five have 100% vaccinated non-teaching staff, 25 states and UTs have over 96% of teaching and 93% of non-teaching vaccinated staff.

## NIA & IB to help probe Guj killing over 'communal' post

**Ahmedabad:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and central Intelligence Bureau have been roped in to dig deeper into the "terror angle" in the Kishan Bharwad murder case in Gujarat that has already led to the arrest of two clerics, one of them from Delhi, officials of the state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said on Thursday.

He dismissed as a rumour speculation about a Pakistan-based outfit having a hand in Kishan's murder. The two arrested clerics allegedly instigated assailants Shabbir Chopda and Imtiyaz Pathan to kill the youth. TNN

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN YOGA AND NATUROPATHY**  
61-65, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, OPP. D BLOCK, JANAKPURI  
Ph. No. 011-28520429, 30, 31, 32 Email: [ccryn.gov@gmail.com](mailto:ccryn.gov@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ccrn.gov.in](http://www.ccrn.gov.in)

### Walk-in-Interview

Walk-in-Interview is going to be held to engage one Consultant (IT) at Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), Janakpuri, New Delhi, which is purely on temporary & contractual basis initially for a period of six months, which may be extended for further period on performance basis. Time & Date of walk-in-interview is **11.02.2022 at 11:00 am**, Venue : - CCRYN, 61-65, Institutional Area, OPP D-Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058. The prescribed proforma of the application and details regarding the eligibility criteria can be downloaded from CCRYN website: [www.ccrn.gov.in](http://www.ccrn.gov.in)

Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the Council's website.

davp 17205/12/0009/2122

Director, CCRYN

**Government of India, National Financial Reporting Authority**  
7th Floor, Hindustan Times House, 18-20, K.G. Marg, New Delhi - 110001

NFRA invites applications from persons with required qualifications and experience for engagement as **Consultants on Contract basis** as per details given in the Circular dated 29.12.2021 on the website [https://nfra.gov.in](http://nfra.gov.in). Interested and eligible persons may apply in the format specified within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Newspaper. The last date for receipt of applications in NFRA will be specified on the website of NFRA.

davp 07122/11/0011/2122

### Advanced Computing for Human Advancement

Centre for Development of Advanced computing(C-DAC), a premier Scientific Society of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India is engaged in various R&D activities of national importance. Invites online applications from fresh/experienced & qualified professionals as below:

**Consultant: IT Operations / Application Support / System Analyst Computational Linguist/Content Writer / Legal**

**How to Apply:** Interested applicants may visit "careers" page at [www.cdac.in](http://www.cdac.in) for detailed notification and apply online on or before February 18, 2022.

**Note:** Addendum/further communications in this regards, if any will be notified on the C-DAC's website only

**C-DAC Innovation Park 34, B/1, Panchavati, Pashan, Pune, 411008 ADVT.NO.Pune/Cons/01/2022**

One Vision, One Goal..Advanced Computing for Human Advancement.

davp 06132/11/0018/2122



## INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE

[An Autonomous Body under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and a deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956]

Jadavpur, Kolkata – 700032

### Call for Applications for the Appointment of Registrar, IACS

Applications are invited using the format and information available in the IACS website at the address <http://iacs.res.in/registrar.html> for filling up the post of Registrar, IACS.

**Acting Registrar**

**No.A-42018/28/2021-ESTT**  
Government of India

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

Room No. 517, 5th Floor, B-2 Wing, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003

### ADDENDUM

In view of the present circumstances owing to COVID-19 outbreak, the last date for submission of application(s) for recruitment to the post of Senior Consultant/Consultant purely on contract basis in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been extended upto 14.02.2022.

2. However, all other terms and conditions including eligibility criteria, age limit, qualification etc. remain unchanged and may be seen in the Employment News dated 8th to 14th January, 2022 and Department's website [www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in).

3. The application may be sent to the under mentioned officer by 14th February, 2022 with all required documents-

**Shri Sunil Kumar Mahto,**  
Under Secretary (Admn.),  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities,  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,  
5th Floor, B-2 wing, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

4. The online applications (in single pdf document) can be sent through mail at - [vacancyconsultant20@gmail.com](mailto:vacancyconsultant20@gmail.com).

Dated 27.01.2022

davp 38117/11/0051/2122



## DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

2nd Floor, B-Block, Vikas Bhawan-II, M.G.Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054.

Email: [deptoffarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:deptoffarchaeology@gmail.com), Phone: 23814026, 23815936

Applications are invited on **purely contract basis** for the following posts for a period of one year and can be extended further on consolidated amount per month in Department of Archaeology :-

S. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Contractual Remuneration	Max. age limit	Essential Qualification
1	Archaeological Officer	02	Rs. 44900 + applicable DA	30 years	Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology from Institute of Archaeology, Govt. of India Desirable: 1. Certificate in Microsoft Office from recognized Institute. 2. Certificate in Sanskrit/ Pali/ Prakrit/ Persian/ Arabic from recognized Institute.
2	Assistant Archaeologist	02	Rs. 35400 + applicable DA	30 years	Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology from Institute of Archaeology, Govt. of India Desirable: 1. Certificate in Microsoft Office from recognized Institute. 2. Certificate in Sanskrit/ Pali/ Prakrit/ Persian/ Arabic from recognized Institute.
3	Conservation Assistant	01	Rs. 35400 + applicable DA	30 years	Master in Conservation, Preservation and Heritage Management or Masters in Architectural Conservation from a recognized University / Institution or its equivalent Desirable: 1. Certificate in Microsoft Office from recognized Institute.
4	Foreman (Works)	02	Rs. 25500 + applicable DA	27 years	1. Matriculation or its Equivalent from a recognized Board 2. Industrial Training Institute Certificate in Draughtsman (Civil)

The services can be terminated at any time if the performance is not found satisfactory. No Travelling Allowance will be paid for attending the above interview.

**Application in the prescribed format duly filled in all respects along with attested copies of educational/technical qualifications should be sent on Email: [deptoffarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:deptoffarchaeology@gmail.com). within 30 days from the date of the publication of this advertisement.**

Application format can be downloaded from our website <http://artandculture.delhi.gov.in>.

DIP/Shabdharth/0622/21-22 Secretary (ACL)

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-CUM-COMMISSIONER (DEV) DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, 5/9 UNDER HILL ROAD, DELHI-54

Tel No 23918817, 23955227, Fax No.23957289 E-mail: [cdev@nic.in](mailto:cdev@nic.in)

Applications are invited within 45 days from the advertisement of this notice in Employment News for the following posts to be filled on deputation (including short term contract) basis in Agriculture Unit of this Department from the officers of the Central/ State Govt./ Union Territories/ Autonomous Organizations/ Universities/ Recognized Research Institute/ Public Sector Undertaking or Semi-Government/ Statutory Organization:-

- 01 (One) post of Joint Director (Agriculture), Group 'A' Gazetted, in PB-3 Rs. 15600-39100 + Grade Pay of Rs. 6600 revised to Pay Matrix Level -11 (Rs. 67700-208700).
- 01 (One) post of Project Officer (Multiple Cropping), Group 'A' Gazetted, in PB-3 Rs. 15600-39100 + Grade Pay of Rs. 6600 revised to Pay Matrix Level -11 (Rs. 67700-208700).
- 01 (One) post of Project Officer (IADP), Group 'A' Gazetted, in PB-3 Rs. 15600-39100 + Grade Pay of Rs. 6600 revised to Pay Matrix Level -11 (Rs. 67700-208700).

Complete details regarding eligibility conditions, qualifications, duties and other details including format of application form in the prescribed proforma for the said posts are available on the website of the Development Department.

([http://development.delhigovt.nic.in/wps/wcm/connect/lib\\_development/Development/Home/Vacancy](http://development.delhigovt.nic.in/wps/wcm/connect/lib_development/Development/Home/Vacancy))

DIP/Shabdharth/0622/21-22

Dy. Dir. (H.Q.)/Link Officer.

Dated 27.01.2022

davp 38117/11/0051/2122

## Is Govt's New Star Rating System Based On Time Taken To Give Green Nods A Good Idea Or Will It Reward Speed Over Due Diligence?

# It will discourage delays and corruption in the name of environment protection

**A**ny idea is as good as its implementation. But if the idea behind the star rating system for environment clearance is to make people responsible for what they do, and make them accountable for decision-making in a time-bound manner, it is, of course, a good idea. The answer to any question actually depends on how you read the question. The principal question here is about the reward on timelines. The debate is about whether sticking to timelines by the competent authority regarding environmental clearance should be encouraged or not. The debate is certainly not about any compromise with the due diligence associated with the process of granting clearance.

Some have argued in their own way that the current notification of the ministry of environment, forests, and climate change (MoEF&CC) dilutes the essence of impact assessment. If this

**The rating criteria does not seek to change any process or timeline as provided in the EIA notification of 2006. It is abundantly clear that in case of deficiency in the proposal, state-level authorities may very well raise objections, ask for clarifications or reject**

was the case, there is no debate at all because we must never let our guard down in protecting the environment. At least I would never be a party to it. A knowledgeable friend of environment has pointed out that the current environmental impact assessment (EIA) has become a convoluted exercise, designed for futility. Perhaps yes, but the new ratings system in question is not to blame.

To put things in a perspective, let us ask ourselves a few questions. Is this office memorandum (OM) issued by the ministry about sticking to timelines or about cutting due diligence? Does it anywhere prohibit State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA) or State-Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEAC) from raising objections or from declining to decide in favour? Is this the first instance where timelines have been defined? Is this debate about the fact that these timelines are too short to do an appropriate assessment?



**C K Mishra**

**FOR**

to increase is well known. Therefore, clearances must ensure low levels of emission and very high levels of mitigation. Given the knowledge and science today, the debate of development vs environment as an either/or proposition is irrelevant. India has some aggressive and impressive Global Climate commitments. On the achievement side, it has a good picture to present on reducing carbon emissions, increasing forest cover etc.

It is with this backdrop that we go back to answering the questions. First and foremost, this is about proposals under category B, which are largely smaller projects like building/construction, small mining activity, other small industries. Even so, the OM is in no way a tool to cut down on, or dilute any regulatory safeguards. It is abundantly clear that in case of deficiency in the proposal, SEIAA/SEAC may very well raise objections and ask for clarifications as long as they are not fully satisfied with the proposal. Where does it take away their power to say NO to a proposal? This without having to worry, because these periods of clarification may not be counted for purposes of deciding the number of days taken. Since this is not a deemed approval, it does not take away the assessment and possible rejection of the proposal. So, they have complete freedom but if they still choose to ignore due diligence, the blame is theirs and not the ministry's. In our over-enthusiasm, we are really barking up the wrong tree and unwittingly promoting inefficiencies. Rating of SEIAA's efficiency, does not, and should definitely not mean rating their ability to abrogate responsibilities. Having said this, I do feel that the OM leaves a little ambiguity and opens a window for debate. I would rather use the expression 'Disposal' in place of 'Grant of EC'.

Timelines are nothing new in the history of grant of environmental clearances. The rating criteria does not seek to change any process or timeline as provided in the EIA notification, 2006. If one still feels that there are problems with this, then it goes back to 2006. If at all that needs a change, let us start debating reforms in clearances rather than the one on timelines. In any

case if the timelines were not a problem in 2006 they should be much less today. Post-2006, several steps like online processes, standard ToR, PARIVESH etc. have ensured that unnecessary time is not wasted on paperwork and more time is spent in assessing the impact on the environment. A word of advice to critics — put the blame where it lies.

Let us stand strong to oppose everything that can harm the environment, let us also lend our weight to increasing and rewarding efficiency in Indian systems of decision making, and not hide behind a smoke screen to encourage uncalled-for delays and consequent corruption in the name of environmental protection.

*Mishra is a retired LAS officer and former environment secretary*



### THE STAR RATINGS DEPEND ON...

► Average number of days taken for granting environment clearance (EC). States that do so in less than 80 days of receiving it can earn two points. Granting it after 105 days or less will earn states one point, and granting it between 105 and 120 days will earn states half a point

► Average number of days taken for accepting the proposals for terms of reference/ToR and EC, with authorities accepting proposals in five days or less earning one point

► Number of site visits. States that conduct fewer site visits — 10% or less — will be rewarded with one point, while states conducting site visits in more than 20% will receive zero points

case if the timelines were not a problem in 2006 they should be much less today. Post-2006, several steps like online processes, standard ToR, PARIVESH etc. have ensured that unnecessary time is not wasted on paperwork and more time is spent in assessing the impact on the environment. A word of advice to critics — put the blame where it lies.

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**A**nyone buying an electrical appliance today is given a choice based on its star rating — a five star means less energy use while one with a lesser number of stars means higher energy consumption. This is based on standards set by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. Last month, the environment ministry introduced a 'star rating system' for institutions tasked with the duty to protect the environment. One would have expected, like the

Bureau of Energy Efficiency, that the environment ministry would have introduced a rating based on how effectively these institutions protect the environment. Unfortunately, this is not so. The star rating of the environment ministry is aimed at ranking institutions — specifically, the SEIAA — in terms of how they

undertake a site visit to see first-hand the local environmental and social conditions in more than 20% of the proposals that come to them, the SEIAA/SEAC gets zero marks. If, however, they decide to accept the words of the project developers as gospel truth while sitting in the comfort of conference rooms — they get ranked as number 1. Similarly, if SEAC asks for clarification from project developers more than once, they are placed at the bottom in terms of ranking. Finally, the highest marks are given to those who grant approvals even before the statutory time limit.

One can imagine the implication if this is followed for other departments — say, if pilots and train drivers are rewarded for reaching before time even if it means breaking the speed limits and risking lives; police officers are penalised for visiting the scene of the crime; forest officers are given low ranking if they visit the forest too often; teachers are penalised for asking students too many questions and vice versa.

The star rating is deeply problematic for multiple reasons: First, placing primacy on 'ease of doing business' is a clear instance of abdication of statutory duty

of the environment ministry. The ministry's mandate as stated on its website goes like this: conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife; prevention and control of pollution, afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas, protection of the environment and ensuring the welfare of animals. Clearly 'ease of doing business' is not the mandate of the environment ministry. This objective clearly seems to have been imposed on it. In law, this is called 'acting under dictation' i.e. when an authority, though empowered to act on its own, acts on the dictat of another authority. Second, the concept of 'Ease of Doing Business' has been borrowed from the World Bank which itself discontinued this ranking in September 2021 due to serious ethical issues and irregularities. Third, different ministries of the central government have discarded the 'ease of business' yardstick to judge performance and have moved to a more progressive 'ease of living' concept. Thus, the

**'Ease of doing business' is not the mandate of the environment ministry. In fact, this concept has been borrowed from the World Bank which itself discontinued this ranking in September 2021 due to serious ethical issues and irregularities**

ministry of rural development has 'ease of living' criteria. Ironically, the ministry's mandate is to protect the right to life of citizens places primacy on business above both environment and human welfare. The correct approach would have been to rate SEIAAs in terms of forest and ecosystems saved, pollution averted and improvement on quality of life.

The star rating system is an acknowledgement that we are today in a race to destroy our rivers, forest, wetlands and all the livelihood and culture that are linked to it. The faster an SEIAA allows for the destruction of India's ecosystem, the higher rating it gets. Interestingly, the rating system does not state as to what reward the highest ranking SEIAA will get. This is perhaps an acceptance of the fact that in this race to destroy the environment, there will be no winners, only losers.

*Dutta is an environmental lawyer and founder of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE)*

## UCC was 1st referred to 21st law panel in '16

**► Continued from P1**

**I**nterestingly, the minister's response immediately set off speculation as to whether a new chairman of the law panel is going to be appointed soon.

One of the core issues with BJP since its inception, UCC has become an increasingly polarising theme, with many of its staunch supporters jettisoning it out of their fear that BJP could use it for targeting Muslims. Muslim community and political parties who rely on its support have opposed the demand or have been tactically vague about it.

BJP, which got a big fillip when the Rajiv Gandhi government succumbed to the pressure from Muslim clerics and amended the law to blunt the Supreme Court verdict al-

lowing for a paltry alimony to a poor old woman, Shah Bano, has taken steps like banning triple talaq and moving to raise the age of marriage across communities, but has been under pressure from supporters to go for the UCC.

The matter of the uniform civil code was first referred to the 21st Law commission in June 2016.

The commission had short of making its final recommendation on UCC, had come out with a "consultation paper" where it had suggested changes in various family laws bringing in gender justice and equality. After having reviewed more than 75,000 responses, the 21st Law Commission was of the view that a uniform civil code is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage".

### Bypoll plot led to UP mantri aide's killing; 5 held

**Agra:** Five people, including two shooters, were arrested for allegedly killing BJP worker and village pradhan Ramveer Singh — an aide of UP cabinet minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary — in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura on Thursday, reports *Anuja Jaiswal*.

The shooters were allegedly hired by Singh's opponent. The motive behind the killing was to force a bypoll and subsequently get a "grant of Rs 21 crore" after winning the polls, the police said.

Anmol Pehlwan, who had contested Painga village panchayat elections against Singh, along with his accomplices Rohtash, 23, and Daan Singh, 35, and a shooter, Monu Jaat, were arrested in Mathura.

During interrogation, Jaat told the police about his accomplice Shivam Thakur, who was then arrested.

## Daily cases below 1.5L, 1st since Jan 7

**► Continued from P1**

**H**owever, compared with the peaks of over 4,000 during the second wave and 1,176 in the first, the seven-day average of deaths in the third wave remains far lower so far.

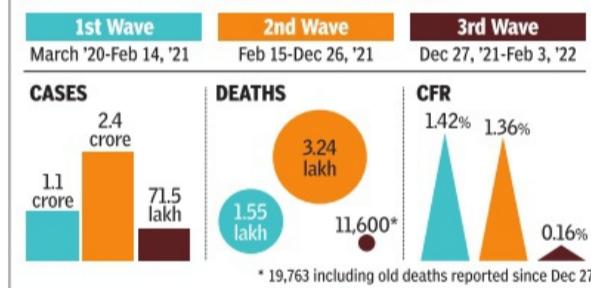
While daily fatalities are yet to peak in the current surge, the Covid-19 death rate during the third wave so far is 0.16% as compared to 1.36% in the second wave and 1.42% in the first.

However, the actual Covid toll in the country since the beginning of the pandemic is estimated to be much higher than the deaths recorded so far.

Several international studies based on various methods, including mathematical modelling, sero surveys, death registration data from several states and CMIE's household surveys

### DIP IN DEATH RATE IN 3RD WAVE

Covid Numbers In The Three Waves In India



suggest India suffered the highest Covid deaths. Meanwhile, India recorded 1,49,190 new cases on Thursday, down from 1,72,931 on the previous day, as infections continued to decline across most states.

This was the first time since January 7 that daily cases had dropped below the 1.5-lakh mark. Cases in Kerala dipped from 52,199 on Wednesday to 42,677.

Mizoram, the other state where cases were continuing to rise, also logged a slight decrease on Thursday to 2,145, from 2,573 on the previous day.

Deaths remained above 600 for the third day with 621 fatalities recorded on Thursday. This figure doesn't include deaths from earlier periods recorded on the day but takes into account fatalities in the past few days in Kerala.

## Spike in Kerala, Mizoram cases worries Centre

**New Delhi:** The peak of Covid cases recorded during its present surge powered the Omicron variant has been slightly lower than that observed during the second wave, which saw a large number of hospitalisations and deaths due to the Delta variant, the government said even as most states are witnessing a consistent decline in cases and positivity rates, reports *Sushmi Dey*.

During the present surge, a maximum of 3.4 lakh daily cases was recorded on January 21, as compared to a peak of 4.1 lakh cases on May 7 when Delta was the dominant variant, official data shows. While daily cases are now declining in most states, the Centre expressed concern over Kerala and Mizoram. "...Kerala still has a weekly positivity rate of over 47%, whereas in Mizoram it stands at 34%.

## No college entry for girls in hijab, NHRC steps in

**► Continued from P1**

**T**here are religious organisations who think otherwise, I have asked police to keep a watch on them," Jnanendra added.

"We will not spare elements which come in the way of the country's unity." Education minister BC Nagesh specified that 'naqab, burqa, hijab, saffron or green shawls' are prohibited in classrooms and wearing the stipulated uniform is compulsory. Udupi deputy commissioner M Kurma Rao said college principals have been asked to follow government directives on uniform.

The National Human Rights Commission has written to the district administration, seeking a report on girls in hijab being stopped at the college gate on Thursday. The six students of Government PU College for Girls at the epicentre of the hijab controversy, meanwhile, continued to protest, demanding permission to wear headscarves in the classroom.

The state has set up a committee to decide on the matter. One of the two petitions that will be heard by the high court on February 8 have been filed by five of the students.

Another student has separately filed a similar plea, seeking restoration of her "fundamental right" to

wear attire consonant with her faith. Both petitions accuse the college authorities and others of "shaming" students in hijab by invoking their religious identity.

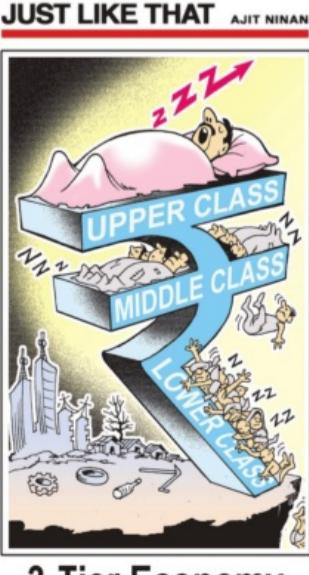
The petitioners argue that hijab is part of religious and social culture, and wearing it does not come in the way of college discipline. "From the last week of December 2021, after the exam, the class teacher doesn't allow petitioner-students to attend the class and... candidly inform (sic) them either to remove their headscarf or get permission from the principal through their parents.

Even when their parents came to college to speak to the principal, they compelled them to wait for whole day without meeting. The conduct of the authorities appears to frustrate the petitioners and their parents and compel them to concede before them," says one of the petitioners.

### Man in citizenship fight kills himself in Assam

**A** man (60) who was fighting a case at a foreigners tribunal despite his name appearing in National Register for Citizens has allegedly died by suicide in Assam's Morigaon. Manik Das's family said he ended his life because of the "frustration and mental torture" he faced while attending proceedings. But police said family issues could have been the reason behind the suicide. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

**JUST LIKE THAT** AJIT NINAN



3-Tier Economy

**Govt. of Bihar**

**BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY**  
(State Rural Livelihoods Mission) 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Annex-II, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna  
Phone: +91-612-2504980/Fax: +91-612-2504960  
Email: [info@brlp.in](mailto:info@brlp.in), website: [www.brsp.in](http://brlp.in)

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), popularly known as JEEVIKA, a registered society under the aegis of Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar. The aim of JEEVIKA is to improve rural livelihood options and it works towards social and economic empowerment of the rural poor and women by promoting self-managed community institutions and further strengthening their livelihoods. The detail in this regard is available on website [www.brsp.in](http://brlp.in).

JEEVIKA is promoting livelihoods of SHG members besides other interventions through livestock interventions like Goats, Poultry, Dairy and Fisheries. The public ponds revived and created under Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali mission are to be transferred to the community-based institutions of BRLPS for the purpose of maintenance and livelihood generation activities. BRLPS has decided to promote community-based fisheries intervention with an aim to reap multi-faceted benefits. For this, JEEVIKA requires expert individual consultants, having experience in Fisheries to scale up the Fisheries intervention across the districts of Bihar. **The Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) – JEEVIKA intends to hire 10 (Ten) Consultants for Fisheries Intervention.** Each consultant will be assigned to support any 3-5 adjoining districts in Bihar for providing her/his services.

The interested candidates can submit their Resume along with Cover Letter via e-mail to [niranjan@brlp.in](mailto:niranjan@brlp.in) as well as [pranavmali.niam15@gmail.com](mailto:pranavmali.niam15@gmail.com) and cc to [pm.ls@brlp.in](mailto:pm.ls@brlp.in) and [spm.ls@brlp.in](mailto:spm.ls@brlp.in). Hiring of the consultants will be done on the basis of qualification, experience in relevant field and through personal interview.

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# Won't endorse Rahul's remarks: US

'Will Leave It To China & Pak To Speak Of Ties'

TNN & AGENCIES

**Washington/New Delhi:** The US state department said Wednesday it "would not endorse" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks in which he had alleged that the Narendra Modi government had driven China and Pakistan into an embrace.

"I will leave it to the Pakistanis and the PRC (the People's Republic of China) to speak to their relationship. I certainly would not – would not endorse those remarks," state department spokesperson Ned Price said on Wednesday in response to a question on Gandhi's comments in Lok Sabha.

The MEA, meanwhile, said foreign minister S Jaishankar's tweets on Gandhi's al-



**GREAT ALLIES?** Pakistani PM Imran Khan during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping (not in picture) in Beijing in this 2018 photo

legations were self-explanatory. "The external affairs minister's tweets are self-explanatory. He had issued a series of tweets after the discussion in Parliament. I do not have anything to add to them," said spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

In response to Gandhi's comments, Jaishankar had said the former needed some "history lessons", recalling that Pakistan's bonhomie with China was old, going back to 1963 when Pakistan illegally handed over Shak-

sgam valley to China, construction of Karakoram highway by China through PoK and the nuclear collaboration they had through the 70s.

Responding to another question in his press briefing, Price said that the countries are not required to choose between the US and China.

"We've made the point all along that it is not a requirement for any country around the world to choose between the US and China. It is our intention to provide choices to

## Pak envoy allegations 'preposterous': India

**T**he government on Thursday described as preposterous allegations by Islamabad that Indian authorities were involved in efforts to block the appointment of Pakistan's new ambassador to the US. Republican Congressman Scott Perry had last week urged President Joe Biden to reject the appointment of Pakistan's ambassador-designate Masood Khan while calling him a bona fide terrorist sympathiser working to undermine America's interests in the region. Perry alleged Khan had encouraged young men to emulate jihadis and praised foreign terrorist organisations. "It is preposterous to blame a third country for the delay in appointment of one country to another," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. TNN

countries when it comes to what the relationship with the US looks like.

"And we think partnership with the United States conveys a series of advantages that countries typically would not find when it comes to the sorts of partnerships that – 'partnerships' may be the wrong term; the sorts of relationships that the PRC has sought to – has sought to have around the world," he said.

Price described Pakistan, which has All-Weather Strategic

Cooperative Partnership with China, as a "strategic partner" of the US and said, "We have an important relationship with the government in Islamabad, and it's a relationship that we value across a number of fronts." Pakistan-US ties are on uneven keel as despite efforts, President Joe Biden has not made a direct contact to Prime Minister Khan, irking the Pakistan government. Khan was also not invited for a key summit on environment.

# India witnessing 'trailers' of future conflicts: Army chief

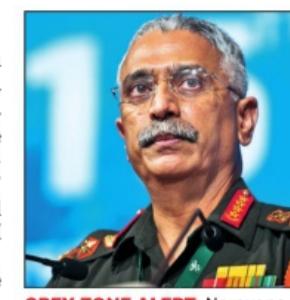
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** India is witnessing "trailers" of future conflicts and its adversaries like China and Pakistan will continue efforts to achieve their strategic aims by use of "grey zone" tactics instead of a full-fledged war, Army chief General M M Naravane said on Thursday.

"We have observed some nations are challenging globally accepted norms and the rules-based order. This challenge has manifested in various forms of creeping aggression and opportunist actions to alter the status quo, keeping the threshold below all-out war," said Gen Naravane, addressing a seminar here.

"Our adversaries shall continue with their efforts to achieve their strategic aims, short of conflict, by use of grey zone activities in the political, military and economic domains, and do so in a cohesive manner," he added.

The Army chief said the developments in 2020 – the People's Liberation Army made multiple intrusions into eastern Ladakh in May that year – were testimony to the diversity of security threats being faced



**GREY-ZONE ALERT:** Naravane

in all domains by India.

Noting that the ceasefire on the Line of Control with Pakistan continues to hold because India had negotiated from a position of strength, Gen Naravane said the developments on the northern borders with China have underscored the requirement of "ready and capable forces", with an optimal component of "boots on ground" backed by modern technology, to preserve the country's sovereignty and integrity.

Admiral Kumar said future wars were bound to be technology-intensive. "Therefore, there is a requirement to innovate and evolve mechanisms that foster development and incorporation of niche technologies at a rapid pace. Anyone who lags behind in this aspect, may face difficulties," he said.

"If you look around, you

# PLA torchbearer row: US Senate panel backs India, calls China move shameful

►Continued from P 1

**T**he charge d'affaires, the top Indian diplomat in Beijing who was expected to represent the country, will also now skip the opening and closing ceremonies.

"It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicise an event like the Olympics. I wish to inform that the charge d'affaires of the embassy of India in Beijing will not be attending the opening or the closing ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

In a show of solidarity with India, the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee also condemned China's decision describing it as shameful.

"It's shameful that #Beijing chose a torchbearer for the #Olympics2022 who's part of the military command that attacked #India in 2020 and is implementing #genocide against the #Uyghurs. The US will cont. to support #Uyghur freedoms & the sovereignty of India," tweeted Jim Risch, ranking member of the Committee.

India has also lodged a protest with China over the treatment meted out to an Arunachal Pradesh youth by the PLA after he was apparently abducted. The official confirmed India had taken up the issue with the Chinese authorities.

Miram Taron, 17, was allegedly abducted by the Chinese army on January 18 from Lungta Jor area near



the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh when he was on a "hunting trip" with his friend Johnny Yaying. Taron has said that he was tortured by the Chinese forces and was even given electric shocks.

The Chinese army handed over Miram to the Indian Army on January 27 at the Wacha-Damai interaction point at Kibithu in Anjuna district. Miram's father Opan Taron said his son was tied and blindfolded while in the custody of the PLA and that he was kicked around and given mild electric shock.

Skier Arif Khan is the on-

ly athlete representing India at the Winter Olympics. He is accompanied by Chef De Mission Harjinder Singh and support staff.

Global Times had reported on Wednesday that a PLA regiment commander, Qi Fabao, who sustained a head injury while fighting "bravely" during the Galwan clash with India, was a torchbearer at the Olympics.

China till now has not disclosed the actual number of its casualties in Galwan, though it did later admit to losing a battalion commanding officer and four others.

## 'PLA soldiers drowned trying to cross river'

►Continued from P 1

**T**he then Northern Command chief, Lt Gen Y K Joshi, for instance, had said that Indian observation posts "picked up a large number of PLA casualties" that were being taken back in stretchers. "More than 60, actually. But whether they were fatal or non-fatal, we can't say with authority," he said.

As per the Australian website, the Klaon, which based its report on a detailed study done by a group of unnamed social media researchers whose sources included Chinese bloggers and others, at least 38 PLA soldiers drowned while attempting to cross the Galwan river in the early stages of the clash amid sub-zero temperatures in darkness.

Quoting a report, "Galwan Decoded", by the group of social media researchers, the website said, "Comrades in arms kept slipping and being rushed downstream... After the incident, the bodies were first taken to Shiquanhe Martyr Cemetery, followed by local ceremonies at the local towns of the killed soldiers."

The website said the PLA had not adhered to its promise to dismantle the infrastructure it had created in the buffer zone area. Instead, it dismantled a temporary bridge constructed by the Indian Army.

## Rahul slams BJP on 'two Indias' at 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' event

Rashmi.Drolia@timesgroup.com

**Raipur:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday continued his blistering attack on the BJP government at the Centre, accusing it of creating two Indias – one for the rich and another for the poor.

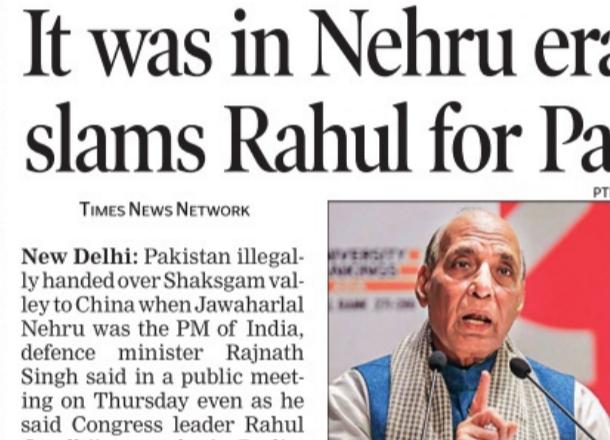
"India's poor are not afraid of anyone as the poor, the labourers and farmers have contributed immensely to the nation's growth for more than 70 years," he said.

Rahul was on a day's visit to Chhattisgarh capital where he laid the foundation stone for 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' and launched a financial assistance scheme for landless labourers, said to be a first in the country.

"There are two Indias in the making and I mentioned this in the Lok Sabha. One India is for a few hundred rich people while another India is for crores of citizens, including the poor. This partition within the country is one of the biggest threats to our nation," he said.

Criticising the Centre, Rahul said, "They think that the poor of this country are fearful but they must know that the poor fear no one. They mock and insult farmers, labourers and workers by questioning the nation's growth in 70 years while people of these sections were the main contributors to the country's growth."

Rahul laid the foundation stone of 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti', to be built on the premises of Chhattisgarh Armed Force's 4th Battalion, dedicated to security personnel martyred in the line of duty.



**IN ATTACK MODE:** Rajnath

## Pak & China allies since '60s: Natwar

**F**ormer foreign minister Natwar Singh on Thursday disagreed with Rahul Gandhi's statement that the BJP

government's policies have brought "China and Pakistan together" while saying it was his great grandfather (Jawaharlal Nehru) who took the Kashmir issue to United Nations. "I am surprised that nobody from the government side got up to remind Rahul that what he has said is not completely accurate because China and Pakistan have been close allies since the 60s," said Singh. ANI

one, *ek bharat, shreshth bharat*. But to appreciate India's culture and tradition, we need to shed the Indira is India and India is Indira or Congress is country and the country is Congress line of thinking."

## Channi indicates Rahul may name CM face on Feb 6

**E**ven as Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi indicated on Thursday that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was expected to announce the party's chief ministerial face during his virtual rally in Ludhiana on Sunday (February 6), Navjot Kaur, wife of Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, said it did not matter who becomes CM as Sidhu "is a hero and will always be", reports *Vibhor Mohan*.

Channi told reporters in Chamkaur Sahib on Thursday that it was "expected that the CM face of the party will be disclosed on February 6. We have already said whoever is made CM, we all will work with him".

## BATTLEGROUND PUNJAB

### SC to take up Sidhu case after election

**T**he Supreme Court on Thursday acceded to Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu's request and adjourned its hearing on petitions seeking review of a lenient Rs 1,000 fine on him, for an assault case in which the injured man died, to five days after the Punjab assembly elections but not before calling out the bluff of his counsel about "case being listed unexpectedly", reports *Chananjay Mahapatra*.

The reason behind senior advocate P Chidambaram's request for adjournment of hearing beyond the Punjab polls on February 20 was not lost on a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjay K Kaul, which said, "These are the crucial four weeks for the respondent (Sidhu; in view of ensuing elections)."

# It was in Nehru era: Rajnath slams Rahul for Parl remark

**T**HEZEEB KE NAAM: The approaching cavalcade of SP-RLD front's Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Chaudhary brought Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's convoy to an abrupt halt as she campaigned in Bulandshahr on Thursday. When Priyanka saw the duo, she waved and gave a thumbs-up. Akhilesh reciprocated with a 'namaste'. Later, Akhilesh wrote on Twitter: 'Ek dua-salaam tehzeeb ke naam (Pleasantries exchanged in the name of culture)'. Priyanka replied: 'Aham bhi aapko Ram Ram (Salutations from me too)'

**Ishita.Mishra** @timesgroup.com

**Meerut:** Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday met the family of the 16-year-old OBC girl who was allegedly gang-raped and murdered by her upper-caste friend and his aides. The girl's family has also alleged that they were forced by police to cremate her hurriedly at night.

Priyanka went to the family's Bulandshahr house and said, "We will get you justice." RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav also brought up the issue at a press meet on Thursday and questioned BJP's claims of "a good law-and-order situation in the state".

They said a representative of their alliance has met the family and all possible help is being extended. "They (BJP) say women can move freely with jewellery at night. The family told me that police are not filing an FIR under relevant sections. They haven't even received a copy of it. They also told me that a minister is calling the police to save the accused," she said.

Referring to the police's statement that the girl was friends with the accused, Priyanka likened the incident to what had happened in Hathras and Unnao. "The police and administration stand with the accused in UP," she said. She was referring to the 2020 case of the alleged rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras.

# Akhilesh does not listen to even his dad: Shah to Jayant

►Continued from P 1



Shah in Anupshahar on Thursday

## SKM asking people not to vote for BJP

**W**ith assembly elections in three northern states round the corner, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) – the joint platform of farmers that led a robust farmers' movement for 13 months at the Delhi borders – on Thursday hit the campaign trail by launching its "Mission UP and Uttarakhand" with an appeal to voters "not to vote for anti-farmer BJP" in these two states. TNN

last year Members of the Gurjar community alleged the word Gurjar had been removed from the plaque before the unveiling.

PTI reported Shah as cautioning RLD president Jayant Chaudhary over his party's tie-up with Samajwadi Party, saying how would Akhilesh listen to him when he doesn't even pay heed to his father and uncle.

# To save democracy, support SP-RLD, Akhilesh tells BSP

Ishita.Mishra@timesgroup.com



**POLL PARAPHERNALIA:** BSP merchandise on sale during an election rally addressed by party chief Mayawati in Ghaziabad on Thursday

## RLD candidate in Bijnor booked for sedition

**Bijnor:** The RLD-SP alliance candidate in Bijnor, Neeraj Chaudhary, and 25 of his supporters have been booked under sedition charges after a purported video in which some people were allegedly raising "Pakistan zindabad" slogans went viral on social media, reports *Harveer Dabas*. Chaudhary, who is from RLD, said the FIR was politically motivated. "Why would anyone raise pro-Pakistan slogans? No one did that. The video is doctored."

According to police, the incident took place on Wednesday when Chaudhary was on a door-to-door campaign. Bijnor SP Dharavir Singh said, "In a video, some people can be seen raising objectionable slogans. Police registered a case against alliance candidate Chaudhary and 25 unidentified supporters under sedition charges. The video will be sent to the laboratory to verify its authenticity."

## 2 youths held within hours of Owaisi attack

►Continued from P 1

**T**he UP police swung into action and IG (Meerut range) Praveen Kumar reached the spot. Five teams were constituted to investigate the matter and within hours, two youths were arrested. "On the basis of CCTV footage, we identified one of the attackers named Sachin Kumar. The second, Shubham Singh, was also arrested soon after. Both are in their early 20s," said ADG (law and order) Prashant Kumar. According to police sources, the attackers booked for attempt to murder and possessing illegal arms. "The two culprits' names will be added now," revealed the source.

Owaisi has appealed to the EC for an independent probe. "The real culprits must be brought to light. I also appeal to the Centre and UP government to look into the matter," he said.

# Rape-murder case: Priyanka meets kin, RLD poser for BJP

**T**HEZEEB KE NAAM: The approaching cavalcade of SP-RLD front's Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Chaudhary brought Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's convoy to an abrupt halt as she campaigned in Bulandshahr on Thursday. When Priyanka saw the duo, she waved and gave a thumbs-up. Akhilesh reciprocated with a 'namaste'. Later, Akhilesh wrote on Twitter: 'Ek dua-salaam tehzeeb ke naam (Pleasantries exchanged in the name of culture)'. Priyanka replied: 'Aham bhi aapko Ram Ram (Salutations from me too)'

**Ishita.Mishra** @timesgroup.com



## A thought for today

What I want to do is create more taxpayers, not more taxes

GEOFF DAVIS

## A Less Taxing State

Simpler rules will reduce tax litigation. Index income tax threshold to inflation for fairness

India has an unenviable reputation of being a litigation-prone tax jurisdiction. Therefore, it's heartening to hear GoI officials say that the overarching aim of direct tax policy reform is to move towards a simpler regime, without exemptions and low rates. A transition to this regime will drastically reduce litigation and also be a fairer one. Litigation has kept mounting. For example, in 2014-15, about Rs 2.1 lakh crore had been under dispute for a duration between one and two years. By 2020-21, it had increased more than threefold to Rs 6.6 lakh crore. An underlying cause for litigation, abundance of loopholes, also limits the tax collection. To illustrate, the effective tax rate for corporate taxpayers in 2019-20 was 22.5%. This rate was lower than the statutory tax rate of 25.2% for companies that opted for a new tax regime where there are no deductions. Clearly, the current tax regime neither prevents litigation nor does it yield even the rate GoI expects in a simpler regime.

Sovereign governments face limitations in setting tax rates on companies because capital is mobile. Hence, there is a collective effort led by richer countries to get major economies to agree to a minimum tax rate. However, all countries have more space when it comes to working out details of the tax regime. It's in this context, that a shift to a simpler tax regime will reduce the incidence of litigation and, thereby, attract more investment.

That leaves the question, what about individuals? There's a lopsided exemption regime that keeps rates high. In addition, 75% of the returns filed are for income below Rs 5 lakh. There are two separate reforms needed here. The threshold for tax, Rs 2.5 lakh, needs to be indexed to inflation. The current floor has been in place since July 2014. Inflation has effectively lowered the tax threshold over succeeding years. It's a regressive development. Linking it with inflation makes it fairer and removes an unwarranted discretionary power. This step needs to be supplemented by a timeline to move everyone to a regime without exemptions save for retirement savings, and making the process of filing returns truly simple. All these aspects have been addressed in GoI's tax reform reports. They should now be made public to build the case for reforms.

## Hilly Poll Terrain

Uttarakhand is a battle between two parties that have both created problems for themselves

Most opinion polls are indicating a tight race in Uttarakhand. BJP and Congress are also similar here in that they both have hit self-goals. In 2002, 2007 and 2012, the vote share difference between the two parties was just 1.45, 2.4 and 0.45 percentage points respectively. That difference shot up to double digits in 2017, in BJP's favour. Five years later, BJP has a tough time explaining to voters why it changed chief ministers twice last year, while Congress grapples with its familiar demons of factionalism.

In a state that prides itself as "devbhoomi", all parties are wearing their religion on their sleeves, reducing the traction for Hindutva. With many households having members in armed forces, the pitch for these voters is no less vocal though BJP may have the advantage here. Interestingly, pandemic-related economic hits, including in sectors like tourism that Uttarakhand depends on, are not necessarily made-for-opposition issues. In Kerala and Bengal, incumbents prevailed, projecting welfare schemes and food rations that helped people tide over tough times. In Uttarakhand too, BJP is betting on welfare delivery. Its other bet is that floating voters will stick with it. The other state-specific factor is that the popular and understandable wish for development – a 2019 official report indicates continuing outmigration from hill districts to the plains for jobs and education – has to contend with the state's fragile ecology, that allows only gradual infra upgrades.

Congress, as is its wont, has suffered major desertions. It has an easily recognisable figure to project in former CM Harish Rawat, but most of his one-time protégés have turned against the veteran. BJP has also seen exits but CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has steadied the ship, including by scrapping the controversial Chardham Devasthanam Board. The question is whether he got enough time to undo the damage created by his two predecessors.

## Nakli Indians

A lot of us who claim we're bona fide citizens of the Republic might be sneaky outsiders in disguise

Jug Suraiya

On the same day that former Vice-President Hamid Ansari drew flak from critics for saying that in India the concept of 'civic nationalism' was giving way to a 'cultural nationalism' based on religion, a leading BJP politician addressing the Jat community reportedly said that his party and Jats had made common cause by fighting against the Mughals.

When asked how the Lotus party, which is less than 50 years old, could have fought the Mughals who came to what is now India over 600 years ago, the neta replied that while the Jats had fought the Mughals in the past, his party was fighting them now.

This revelation was an eye-opener for me, and possibly for others like me. In my sketchy knowledge of history, Babur, who founded the Mughal dynasty, which lasted for three centuries, was victorious in the battle of Panipat in 1526, which he fought against the Sultan of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi, an odd name for a Hindu.

My wonderment wasn't caused by the name of Babur's adversary but by the disclosure that the Mughals, whose rule ended in 1857 when the Brits exiled Bahadur Shah Zafar to what was then Rangoon, where he died in 1862, were still hanging about the country disguised as our fellow citizens but ready at hand to be fought against by those who could sniff out their alien presence, thanks to the uncanny acuity of their olfactory sense.

Then another thought struck me. If the fraudulent presence of Mughals in our midst could be detected, what other aliens posing as Indians might be unearthened? For instance, my forebears came from Kutch, most of which is now in Pakistan. Does my ancestry make me a crypto Pakistani, who ought to go back to where he belongs?

Similarly, Bunny's parents came from Lahore. By this token is she too a natural Paki?

Come to think of it, most of us who live in this country could be outed as outsiders, descended from Aryan or other exotic roots, and as such not real Indians but nakli ones.

All of which might leave only our anointed netas as being above alleged alienness, turning the Republic into a nation comprising all chiefs, and no Indians.

[blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/juggelbandhi](http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/juggelbandhi)

## 4 Choices, No Free Lunch

Budget attempted a balancing act in a complex domestic & global macro environment

Sajid Z Chinoy



Arguably, this was a more challenging budget to present than last year. How so? Even though the pandemic's economic hit was larger this time last year, the intellectual consensus was clear: fiscal policy should remain very supportive and accommodative central banks should mitigate the resultant fall in interest rates.

No such consensus exists this year: On the one hand, India still remains below the pre-pandemic path and with private investment sluggish, the economy still needs fiscal support to drive growth and employment. On the other hand, the global backdrop has become much more precarious. The Fed is set to deliver a series of rate hikes in 2022 (already spilling over into Indian bond yields) and crude prices are close to \$90. In addition, public debt/GDP has climbed towards 90% and the current account deficit has widened past 2% of GDP. All these would argue for more fiscal caution.

What these pressures do is put into stark relief the multiple tradeoffs the Budget had to contend with.

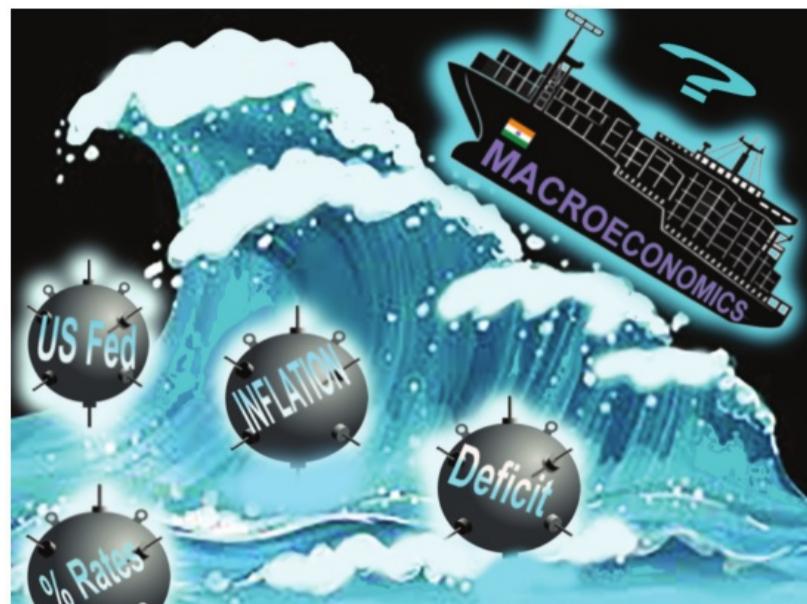
- First, how to support growth even while consolidating the deficit?
- Second, where to deploy available fiscal space and how to think about the income support versus capital expenditure tradeoff?
- Third, whether to create fiscal buffers against global and domestic shocks *ex ante* (before the shock) or *ex post* (after the shock).

• Fourth, how to apportion fiscal and monetary policy to prop up near-term growth but simultaneously preserve medium-term stability?

There are no easy answers and therefore the Budget must be analysed through the prism of these tradeoffs.

First, the growth versus stability trade-off comes down to how quickly, and in what form, the pandemic-induced stimulus should be withdrawn. While the Budget pegs this year's deficit at 6.9% of GDP, the underlying assumptions appear very conservative (direct taxes grew at 59% in the first 9 months but are budgeted to contract 11% in the current quarter which appears improbable). Instead this year's deficit is likely to print lower at about 6.6% of GDP.

This has three implications. First, it would imply half the central fiscal



impulse injected in the pandemic year will be withdrawn this year. Adjusting for asset sales and arrears, the fiscal impulse had expanded 3.1% last year, of which 1.6% will be withdrawn this year.

Second, much of this is through automatic stabilisers in the form of higher-than-expected direct tax collections. This mode of withdrawal is desirable both because tax multipliers are typically lower than spending multipliers and, with corporates and income-tax payers driving the bulk of the positive tax surprise, more equitable.

Third, the effective fiscal consolidation in FY23 will be more modest at 0.2% of GDP. On the back of significant stimulus withdrawal this year, a more modest consolidation next year appears to be the appropriate strategy.

The second tradeoff entails, where should available fiscal space be used? We have long argued that other components of demand (private consumption and investment) will take time to recover, and public investment will have to shoulder the near-term mantle.

Why is this important? Because whether households perceive shocks to be temporary or permanent has crucial implications for behaviour. In the third year of the pandemic, balance sheet stress in some sectors will begin to take on a more permanent feel. Consequently, only a perceived increase in permanent income

(*ie a job*) is likely to induce households to spend. Temporary support will likely be saved, not spent. Bolstering employment is therefore absolutely key to livelihoods and future consumption prospects.

This is where government infrastructure spending is so crucial. Quite apart from its larger medium-term multipliers and impact on competitiveness, infrastructure spending can boost aggregate demand and create much-needed construction jobs. Successive budgets, to their credit, have reinforced this strategy.

Some quibbles may exist about this year's capex math but even adjusting for that, central capex has increased by about 1% of GDP over three years. Does state capacity need to be ramped up to meet increased targets? Absolutely. Is slower PSU capex offsetting some of the central

impulse? It is. But the implication is to double down on addressing these bottlenecks, rather than abandon the capex approach.

In light of heightened global and domestic uncertainties, the third tradeoff the Budget confronted was whether to preserve fiscal space to combat shocks *ex ante* or *ex post*. The Budget has chosen the former. This can be seen through very conservative tax accounting for next year. Tax buoyancy is pegged at just 0.4 next year *vis-à-vis* an expected outturn of 1.8 this year. The implication: tax collections are likely to meaningfully exceed budgeted targets, with a buoyancy of 1 delivering an extra 0.5% of GDP to the Centre.

On the one hand, this gives policy-makers flexibility and fiscal buffers to deal with shocks. If oil surges, excise duties can be cut, if fertiliser prices remain high, its subsidy allocation can be increased, if MNREGA demand remains elevated it can be accommodated, and if another wave hits, free grains can be renewed. More broadly, if growth slows this fiscal space can be deployed towards more spending, but if the current account continues to widen it can be used to consolidate faster.

But preserving fiscal space, *ex ante*, is not costless. It has meant revenue expenditures to GDP have had to be budgeted much lower, and market borrowing has surprised to the upside, pushing up bond yields and tightening monetary conditions.

This segues into the fourth tradeoff involving the appropriate division of labour between fiscal and monetary policy. While fiscal policy has correctly stayed relatively accommodative, this will increase the challenges confronting monetary policy.

Sticky inflation and inflation expectations should argue for the latter to slowly start normalising. But this is harder against the backdrop of a large government borrowing programme. The balancing act for RBI will be to avoid fiscal dominance this year without stoking a disruptive normalisation.

To understand the Budget is to appreciate the myriad objectives and constraints it had to contend with. Against a complex backdrop, the Budget has attempted a delicate balancing act and the continued capex and jobs thrust is unambiguously positive. Admittedly, this increases the challenges and tradeoffs confronting monetary policy. But there is never a free lunch. And this is no ordinary crisis.

The writer is Chief India Economist at JP Morgan. Views are personal

## It Shouldn't Matter Whether She Is Wife Or Not

Marital rape exception needs to go. So do the other policies that discriminate by marital status

Tara Krishnaswamy and Prannoy Dhawan



Society was never a claimant of equality in India, being riven along many faultlines. Gender is an enduring fault line, persisting across religion, region, caste and class. It is no wonder that in India, marriage is socially cast as a woman's cross to bear. He needs fine education to be successful, she needs it to land a suitable boy. He needs a career to become rich, she needs it as a distraction until marriage. He needs professional growth to prioritise family; she needs to forsake career and personal growth to prioritise family.

## Where is the equal citizenship?

The law, however, claims the moral high ground; it is equally applicable to all and all are equal in its eyes. But in direct contravention to its own principles, marital rape by him is not a crime due to his marriage to her, and her indignity and bodily integrity are legally dead so long as she is married to him! To be clear, a specific exception is made by law, for the heinous crime of rape so long as she is his wedded wife.

The root of this inequality lies in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which accords legal recognition to male ownership of women. It is a matter of shame that this quintessentially unfair and patriarchal law has co-existed with the transformative premise of equal citizenship in our Constitution.

The Delhi high court hearing on the marital rape exception is an important juncture where constitutional courts are belatedly reviewing the denial of criminal law remedies to married women. Justice Shakti Bhagat of the HC proffered this very proposition in the recent hearings: "A girlfriend or live-in partner says no, it is an offence. The relationship cannot put it on a different pedestal. A woman remains a woman."



DELHI HIGH COURT: "A woman remains a woman"

Marital rape is not the only burden that marriage imposes on women by law. Many laws and policies blithely classify citizens on the basis of their marital status and reinforce social stereotypes against singles, divorced and separated women, live-in and queer couples.

## Why do service benefits depend on marriage?

In matters of public employment, for instance in the Railways, eligibility criteria for accessing service benefits like family pension, medical insurance etc make distinctions based on marital status. The Indian Railways Medical Manual and the Railway Servant's Pass Rules, 1986 hold that "family members and dependent relatives" eligible to "free-of-charge medical attendance and treatment" include "unemployed" or "invalid" son and "unmarried" or "widowed" daughter. A married woman is rendered persona non grata for Railway benefits, but a man's marriage is sanctioned by Railways! Even the latest revised draft rules maintain this dichotomy.

These rules have caused great difficulty for female dependants as seen in multiple cases in courts. Take, for instance, the case of Sobhana V, the daughter of a Railway employee from Kerala. The authorities denied her the

pension, citing rules that family pension was to be stopped to divorced/widowed daughters if they were leading a married life at the time of the death of their father/mother. In fact, her husband had abandoned her six years into their marriage but it took her many years of waiting to secure divorce against a missing husband. Yet, she was denied access to her father's family pension.

These policies overtly discriminate against women as equal persons for service benefits and welfare, based on their marital status. Why does the daughter's marriage have to be a legally relevant fact for the state to determine the identification of dependent beneficiaries? This legitimises patriarchy and the social death that many women undergo only because their families think they are not a part of them anymore.

## How patrilocal labels diminish women

Indian women have endured employment discrimination on the grounds of marital status and stereotypical notions of maternity for the last 70 years. Even though Nargis Mirza of Air India had challenged the constitutionality of discriminatory and gendered age limits for female flight attendants nearly 40 years ago, even today Supreme Court orders appointing new female Justices distinguish them as married and unmarried through their titles! Senior counsel Indira Jaising has expressed her opposition to being addressed as anyone's wife.

Marriage becomes an entry criteria for rights such as "succession, parenthood, economic dependency, and protection from intimate partner violence". Had state regulation of these aspects not been mediated through the institution of marriage, the debate on marital rape and queer rights would not be as polarised as it is. It can be hoped that the Delhi HC's final judgment on the marital rape exception also legitimises these everyday, both casual and grave denials of rights and dignities, on the specious grounds of marital status.

Krishnaswamy is co-founder of Political Shakti and Dhawan is a student at National Law School of India University

## Sacredspace

Meditate On the Light

In practical meditation, if one knobs on the centre between the eyebrows a few times and fixes attention on the centre called ajna with the eyes closed, by and by blue light appears. Meditating on that light, one attains tranquillity and enjoys the bliss of total calmness that sets in like a gentle breeze.

Sri M



## Uncover The Inner Strength To Overcome Problems

Sant Rajinder Singh

As we look at our lives, we find that we are constantly experiencing ups and downs. Some days, we are happy, while others bring us sorrow and pain. This feeling has only grown over the past two years as we've adapted our lives to the pandemic. Since we do not seem to have much control over the ups and downs of life, we need to learn to live a life of peace and relaxation. We can stay at an even keel through the storms of life by finding a calm centre. We can reach this still point through meditation and prayer.

First, we need to learn to withdraw our attention from the outer world and focus on the inner spiritual worlds. This process of withdrawing our attention is called meditation, and we can learn it under the guidance of a spiritual Master. Meditation is the

process of experiencing God's love for ourselves by taking our attention away from the world outside and focussing it within.

Doing so, allows us to defocus from the turmoil of our surroundings and connect with the source of all love, all joy, which is God. Meditation is the highest form of prayer and unlocks the gates to the reservoir of untapped love that we carry with us. If we spend some time daily within the silence of our soul, we will be connected with a place of bliss.

Then the outer circumstances of our life will not affect us. The real reason to meditate is, in fact, spiritual. It is to reap the spiritual benefits of the practice. Meditation helps



us become aware of our spiritual nature, which is our true essence. Once we become aware of our spiritual nature, we also gain knowledge

Cancer drugs make up by far the largest share of the global pharmaceuticals market. The Statista Health Market Outlook estimates their market share of overall drug sales in 2022 at almost 18%. For comparison: The second-largest segment, vaccines, recorded an increase in sales of more than 142% in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic, but is still only expected to reach a market share of 7.3% this year



According to Statista analysts, the segment of cancer therapy will only grow more in the future — driven by aging societies all around the globe. By 2025, the market share of cancer drugs in the pharma sector is projected to near 22%



Source: Statista

## Let Reliance, Amazon bid for Future Retail: Banks to SC

Seek ₹17K Cr Base Price, Say Neither Have Say On FRL Assets

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Pushing ownership over the litigation-mired assets of Future Retail (FRL) owned by the beleaguered Kishore Biyani-led group, a consortium of 27 banks on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the best way out of the present mess is to ask both Reliance Retail and Amazon to make open competitive bids for the assets, with a base price of Rs 17,000 crore.

The consortium, which also included 10 private and three foreign banks, through senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, told a bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli that the current outstanding against FRL is around Rs 17,000 crore and that the loans were advanced between 2015 and 2020, much before Amazon initiated arbitration pro-

### Future To Hold Talks With Banks

Let Amazon and Reliance participate in open competitive bidding and whosoever pays the highest price could take over Future Retail assets and at the same time banks too would get back their outstanding dues

— CONSORTIUM OF 27 BANKS

➤ Reliance Retail has offered **Rs 25,000 crore** to acquire FRL  
➤ It has also promised not to retrench a single of 25,000-odd employees



engaged in Future Retail's chain of stores  
➤ Amazon has offered **Rs 7,000 crore**  
➤ Future would hold talks with banks in next two weeks to find a way out

ceedings to shut out Reliance from acquiring Future's retail chain of stores.  
"Since loans and repayments were governed by separate agreements between banks and FRL, both Amazon and Reliance can have no say on the manner in which the banks, which are repositories of public money, want to monetise FRL assets. The cont-

**Cognizant recovers, but trails peers**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** IT major Cognizant saw a quarter of firsts while reporting its October-December 2021 results on Thursday. The company beat street estimates on profitability, reporting net income of \$576 million for the quarter, up almost 80% from the same period last year.

Quarterly revenue came in at \$4.8 billion, up 14.5% in constant currency (CC) terms — the highest quarterly revenue ever. But the company's revenue growth lagged its peers TCS and Infosys that reported 15.4% and 21.5% constant currency growth respectively. Cognizant's full year 2021 revenue came in at \$18.5 billion, up 10%. That's half of what Infosys expects for this fiscal year ending March (9.5-20%). Cognizant expects 2022 revenue to be around \$20-\$20.5 billion - a 8.5%-11.5% growth in CC terms.

## RBI against using forex limits to trade in dollars

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned against the use of its liberalised remittance scheme (LRS), which allows individuals to send up to \$250,000 abroad annually, to trade in forex platforms. RBI's caution comes at a time when remittances under the scheme are picking up. They reached almost \$2 billion a month in August and September 2021.

The central bank has said that there are unauthorised electronic trading platforms (ETPs) that have engaged agents to lure people to undertake forex trading with promises of 'exorbitant returns'. Further, there have been reports of frauds committed by such unauthorised ETPs / portals and many residents losing money through

such trading / schemes," the central bank said. It added that these schemes are being pushed through social media platforms, search engines, gaming apps and over-the-top platforms.

The RBI has said that while permitted forex transactions can be executed electronically, they should be only on authorised electronic trading platforms

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## Godrej inks ₹700cr deal with DB Realty

**New Delhi:** Mumbai-based real estate firm Godrej Properties (GPL) will invest Rs 400 crore to acquire around 10% stake in DB Realty and another Rs 300 crore to set up a joint platform for undertaking slum redevelopment projects. The total size of the joint platform of Godrej Properties and DB Realty will be Rs 600 crore, with each party contributing Rs 300 crore.

So Godrej Properties, one of the leading developers in the country, will invest a total of Rs 700 crore.

GPL chairman Pirojsha Godrej said the company's board has approved investments in DB Realty. "We will be investing about Rs 400 crore in DB Realty for around 10 per cent stake through issue of warrants," Pirojsha said. TNN

## Taj parent IHCL sees profit for 1st time since Covid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** In a first during Covid, Tata Group's Taj Hotels have recorded a profit in the October-December 2021 quarter. Taj parent Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) saw a profit of Rs 76 crore versus a loss of 119 crore in same period last fiscal, thanks to a strong recovery in revenue per available room (RevPAR) and hotel occupancy just before Omicron struck. Revenue was up 85% at Rs 1,134 crore in Q3 of FY 2021-22.

## ITC net profit rises 13% in Q3

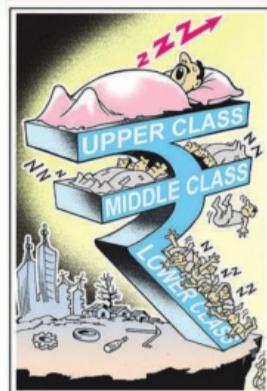
**Kolkata:** FMCG-to-hotel-to-tobacco conglomerate ITC has registered a 12.6% rise in its standalone net profit to Rs 4,156 crore for the December quarter, as its gross revenue from sales rose 31.2% over the year-ago period. The company had posted a Rs 3,688 crore net profit for the third quarter of the last fiscal. Gross revenue from sales for the period October-December last year stood at Rs 16,634 crore against Rs 12,673 crore for the year-ago period. TNN

# Sensex tanks 770 pts on fears of rate hike

## Profit-Booking Plays Role Too After 3-Day Rally

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



### 3-Tier Economy

a bit jittery. After a net outflow of nearly Rs 37,000 crore from stocks in January, the first two sessions of the current month had witnessed muted outflow, aggregating just about Rs 260 crore. On

Thursday, however, net outflow from the stock market was nearly Rs 1,600 crore, BSE data showed.

The day's 1.3% slide was led by strong selling in Infosys, HDFC and Reliance Industries, while buying in ITC and Maruti helped cushion

### UK central bank hikes rate to 0.5%

**London:** The Bank of England raised interest rate to 0.5% on Thursday and nearly half its policymakers wanted a bigger increase to contain rampant price pressures, which the central bank warned would push inflation above 7%. In a surprise split decision, four of the nine Monetary Policy Committee members wanted to raise rate to 0.75% in what would have been the biggest increase in 25 years. REUTERS

the fall marginally.

In the government bond market, investors continued to remain jittery since the Centre in the Budget announced a borrowing plan worth Rs 15 lakh crore. As a result, the benchmark 10-year gilt yield hardened marginally to close at 6.89% with bond dealers expecting it to cross the 7% mark soon. The sell-off in bonds has also put the weekly bond auction scheduled for Friday under the spotlight, market players said.

# Emami rejigs board, gen-next takes charge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

at their board meeting held on Thursday, its founders expressed their desire to step down from their current executive positions while continuing to be on the board. The decision comes in the wake of board restructuring that was part of

### Decision part of the succession planning of the group's FMCG business

the succession planning of the FMCG business of the group.

The Emami board also acceded to Sushil K Goenka's desire to step down from his current position as the MD of Emami as part of the trans-

ition process and has re-appointed him as a whole-time director of the company effective from April 1. Both Harsh and Mohan were already looking into the matters of Emami for the last couple of years.

The other group companies of Emami such as Emami Agrotech, Emami Paper Mills and its healthcare business are being looked after by Aditya Agarwal, Manish Goenka and other members of Agarwal-Goenka family. The founder duo—R S Agarwal & R S Goenka—said, "Emami has been the fruit of our love and passion of creating an indigenous organisation with a difference."

# Budget lays road map for growth, building blocks for long-term goals

**T**he finance minister deserves compliments for presenting a Budget that looks into the future while keeping a close eye on the ground. Presented amid challenging economic environment, the Budget has laid out a road map for supporting growth and putting in place building blocks for India's long-term development. We see a clear intent, the right proposals and matching allocations in many areas that would contribute to making India a modern, developed, and an inclusive nation.

As we go through the content more deeply, I would like to reflect on some key pillars of India's development.

First, the huge thrust on digital transformation. One of the priorities of our public policy is to leverage technology in different spheres of economy. We saw this when the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) was introduced, when DBT (direct benefit transfer) was leveraged to provide support and when digital payments were encouraged. Technology can help improve governance and quality of life, and the Budget has given a thrust for scaling up digital footprints across the country. Rollout of 5G mobile services, introduction of digital rupee, setting up of digital banks, a National Digital Health Ecosystem, digital management of land records are some noteworthy announcements. As we build the digital economy of the future, it is important that we come out with a progressive personal data protec-

tion legislation that will promote innovations, treat data as a national asset while safeguarding the privacy of our citizens. We also need a robust cyber security doctrine and related laws so that our networks and service delivery platforms remain secure. Finally, the need for imparting digital skills and enabling access to smartphones for all Indians can really improve learning and productivity of this



### By Invitation

Sanjiv Mehta

PRESIDENT, FICCI & CHAIRMAN, HUL

Second is the boost given to infrastructure development. It is hard to miss the 35% growth in capex. What is more remarkable is that it comes on a high base and underlines the qualitative improvement in the Centre's expenditure profile. Under the Gati Shakti plan, some of the largest infrastructure projects are being implemented in the country. The huge network of roads, railways, airports, ports, and logistics hubs being conceived will help us bring down logistics costs, making our industry much more competitive. To meet the funding requirements, while we have seen

massive outlay becoming the performance matrices. Third, the continuous focus on the manufacturing sector. With an avowed objective of promoting 'Atmanirbharata', the government continues to take measures to strengthen the domestic manufacturing base. The Budget also delivered on this objective. Additional allocation under PLI scheme for solar industry, higher proportion of capital spend on defence acquisition reserved for domestic industry, extension of ECLGS are some measures that stand out. The focus on EV sector through a battery-swapping policy

will also promote green mobility and related manufacturing. The impact of such measures can be scaled up if we continue the focus on bringing down the cost of doing business and, importantly, facilitate, incentivise and create ecosystems for a step jump in R&D and innovations, especially in sunrise sectors such as pharmaceuticals, digital technologies, bio technologies, and green technologies.

Fourth is transformation of the social sectors. Given the need and the impact of the pandemic on healthcare and education sectors, these require a transformational approach. The health sector needs to grow in qualitative and quantitative terms beyond the enhanced capacity seen during this pandemic. Our schools, most of which have been closed for a greater period of the last two years, need to be prepared for opening in a safe manner. The higher education sector needs universities that excel in basic and applied research, but also those which offer skills-based degrees. While the Budget did offer support to these sectors, the requirements are much larger, and our ambitions should be far greater. Health and education should be the bedrock of new India. I am sure, as the country achieves a sustained high rate of growth, the outlay on these sectors would see a step jump.

The Budget has lifted our spirits and infused another dose of hope and optimism.

## Torrent Power net up 15% at ₹369cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Torrent Power on Thursday posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 369 crore in the December quarter, marking a 15% rise over Rs 321 crore in a year ago period, largely on the back of higher revenues.

Its board approved an interim dividend of Rs 9 per equity share of Rs 10 for current fiscal. The dividend will be remitted on or after February 28. The company's total income stood at Rs 3,833 crore in the quarter under review. TNN

## Services sector growth slows to a 6-mth low in Jan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Activity in the country's crucial services sector rose at its slowest pace in six months in January as the impact of the curbs imposed to prevent the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus and surging costs weighed on demand, a survey showed on Thursday.

Posting a reading of 51.5 in January, India Services Business Activity Index indicated a further increase in output but slowed from 55.5 in December, but still remained above the 50-point mark which separates expansion from contraction.

The survey showed that business sentiment remained positive, but slipped to a six-month low. Companies became increasingly worried that growth would be hampered by the intensification of the pandemic, it said. TNN

## GAIL net doubles to ₹3,780cr in Q3

New Delhi: State-run gas utility GAIL on Thursday posted its highest-ever quarterly profit in the October-December period on higher margins due to rising gas prices.

Consolidated net profit more than doubled to Rs 3,780 crore during the period from Rs 1,883 crore a year ago. Revenue from operations jumped 67% to Rs 26,175 crore during the quarter under review against Rs 15,675 crore in the year-ago period. TNN

## Government of Madhya Pradesh Office of the Engineer-in-Chief

Water Resources Department, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tuls Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)

Email Id: cprocencwrd.bpl@nic.in Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

N.I.T. No. 873/2021-22/E-In-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 28.01.2022

Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/ download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 16.02.2022, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No. Tender No. Work District Amount (Lakhs)

1.	2022_WRD_181600	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Ultidhar Nalla, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Shahdol	810.25
2.	2022_WRD_181602	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Ghapharasia (Navegaon) Tank (With Canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Chhindwara	451.48
3.	2022_WRD_181604	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Dhudha Tank (With Canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Chhindwara	322.42
4.	2022_WRD_181605	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Gadarwara Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Chhindwara	335.20
5.	2022_WRD_181606	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Dunda (Bandam) storage tank (without canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Seoni	644.86
6.	2022_WRD_181612	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of head work and canal of Prabudhana and Deopurkotri Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Betul	1026.98
7.	2022_WRD_181614	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of head work of Sawanyakot Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Betul	291.39
8.	2022_WRD_181615	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Composite weir and canal system on Narmada river under Narmada Diversion scheme, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Anuppur	3548.22
9.	2022_WRD_181616	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Aamlkheda tank, 2no. Barrages viz. Banothikala and Ralayati Barrage, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Ujjain	1807.97
10.	2022_WRD_181617	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Padawali Pressurised Pipe Irrigation system, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Gwalior	2380.60
11.	2022_WRD_181618	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Pariksha Pressurised Pipe Irrigation system, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Gwalior	2752.29
12.	2022_WRD_181619	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Dulhari Tank Scheme, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Umaria	746.60
13.	2022_WRD_181621	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Baniyanalai Earthen Dam, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Shahdol	481.86
14.	2022_WRD_181622	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Barodiya Chandrapur Tank (without canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	236.97
15.	2022_WRD_181623	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Biji Sagoni Tank (without canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	387.11
16.	2022_WRD_	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Pathar Tank (without canal), as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	297.58

प्राप्त राज्य दरों का अनुदान दिया जाना चाहिए। नाम तालिका विवरित है।

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प्राप्त राज्य दरों का



SPIKE LEE TO DIRECT DOCU ON FOOTBALL PLAYER COLIN KAEPERNICK, WHO TOOK A KNEE DURING US ANTHEM TO PROTEST RACIAL INJUSTICE

VICTORIA BECKHAM REPORTEDLY LEFT 'UNHAPPY' BY HUSBAND DAVID'S REMARKS THAT SHE HAS EATEN SAME MEAL EVERY DAY FOR LAST 25 YRS

## New IS chief died as Baghdadi did, by blowing himself up: US

Blast Killed al-Qurayshi & His Family, Says Biden

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

In a raid reminiscent of the strikes that killed Osama bin Laden and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, US special forces conducted a counter-terrorism mission in northwestern Syria killing Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, who had succeeded al-Baghdadi as the leader of the IS terror group. There were no American casualties in the raid, the White House said, but 13 people including women and children are reported to have died in the raid. "Last night at my direction, US military forces in northwest Syria successfully undertook a counterterrorism operation to protect the American people and our allies, and make the world a safer place. Thanks to the skill and bravery of our armed forces, we have taken off the battlefield Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi—the leader of ISIS. All Americans have returned safely from the operation," President Biden said on Thursday morning.

Qurayshi took over as head of IS on October 31, 2019, just days after leader Baghdadi was killed in US Delta Force raid. Biden said al-Qurayshi died as Baghdadi did, by exploding a bomb that killed himself and members of his family, including women and children, as US forces approached. A Syrian civil defence group in the area said there were six children and four women among the 13 bodies recovered so far.

"Thanks to the bravery of our troops this horrible terrorist leader is no more," Biden said. He said Qurayshi had been responsible for the prison strike, as well as genocide against



The house, surrounded by olive trees in fields outside Atmeh, was left with its top floor shattered and blood spattered inside. Several residents, said they saw body parts scattered near the site. The top floor of the low house was nearly destroyed, sending white bricks tumbling to the ground below. Blood could be seen on the walls and floor. A wrecked bedroom had a child's wooden crib and a stuffed rabbit doll. On one damaged wall, a blue plastic baby swing was still hanging. Religious books, including a biography of Prophet Muhammad, were in the house

the Yazidi people in Iraq in 2014. "This operation is testament to America's reach and capability to take out terrorist threats no matter where they try to hide anywhere in the world," he said.

US special forces landed in helicopters and attacked a house in a rebel-held corner of Syria, clashing for two hours with gunmen, witnesses said. Residents described continuous gunfire and explosions that jolted the town of Atmeh near the Turkish border. In the first stages of the operation, US commandos approached the building and used megaphones urging women and children to leave the area. Soon the family on the first floor exited the building. The force of the explosion blew bodies out of the house. The IS lieutenant who lived on the second floor barricaded himself inside along with his wife and engaged in combat with the commandos. After a firefight, in which both were killed, officials said four children left the building. The special operations forces spent about two hours on the ground, longer than usual for such an operation — indicative, US officials said, of caution to minimize civilian casualties.

A photograph released by the White House showed Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and members of the president's national security team watching the counter-terrorism operation in what appeared to be the White House Situation Room — the picture reminiscent of President Obama and his team watching the raid on the Abbottabad compound in Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden. Pictures from the ground in Syria also showed a destroyed two-story structure similar to the Abbottabad compound. (With inputs from AP)

## Who was Abu al-Qurayshi?

The head of IS group, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, died as he lived most of his life: off the grid in the jihadist underworld.

Little is known about the IS commander, whose real name is Amrit Muhammad Said Abd-Rahman al-Mawla. But his death in a raid by US commandos in Syria on Thursday was a significant blow to the terrorist outfit and a victory for the US.

While he was nowhere near as prominent as his predecessor, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, "Qurayshi still commands a lot of respect within in jihadi circles and is known to be highly intelligent and able to think strategically," said Colin Clarke, a counterterrorism analyst at the Soufan Group, a security consulting firm. He said al-Qurayshi kept a low profile, which helped him elude a US-led manhunt but also may have hampered his ability to expand IS' global brand.

After he became the head of IS, US put a bounty of up to \$10 million on his head. The US government said he "helped drive the slaughter and trafficking of the Yazidi religious minority." He was captured by US forces in Iraq in 2008. The date of his release is not known. While in US custody, he appeared cooperative and even provided information about other IS operatives, according to interrogation reports. Earlier, al-Qurayshi had served briefly in the Iraqi military before the fall of Saddam Hussein and completed a Master's degree in Islamic Studies. (With inputs from AP)



Colin Clarke, a counterterrorism analyst at the Soufan Group, a security consulting firm. He said al-Qurayshi kept a low profile, which helped him elude a US-led manhunt but also may have hampered his ability to expand IS' global brand.

## US alleges Russia planning false flag op against Ukraine using 'graphic' video

Russia slams US troop deployment, but continues military buildup near Ukraine



US troops walk out to a C-17 aircraft as they deploy to Europe on Thursday

Washington: The US has acquired intelligence about a Russian plan to fabricate a pretext for an invasion of Ukraine using a faked video that would build on recent disinformation campaigns, according to senior administration officials and others briefed on the material.

The plan — which the US hopes to spoil by making public — involved staging and filming a fabricated attack by the Ukrainian military either on Russian territory or against Russian-speaking people in eastern Ukraine.

Russia, the officials said, intended to use the video to accuse Ukraine of "genocide" against Russian-speaking people.

It would then use the report to justify an attack or have separatist leaders in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine invite a Russian intervention.

Officials would not release any direct evidence of the Russian plan or how they learned of it, saying to do so would compromise their sources. But both a recent Russian disinformation campaign focused on false accusations of genocide and the recent political actions being taken in the Russian parliament to recognise breakaway governments in Ukraine lent credence to the intelligence.

The planned video was elaborated, officials said, with graphic images of the staged, corpse-strewn aftermath of an explosion, film of destroyed locations, faked Ukrainian military equipment, Turkish-made drones and actors playing Russian-speaking mourners.

US officials would not say who in Russia precisely was planning the operation, but a senior administration official said that "Russian intelligence is intimately involved in this effort."

(With inputs from AP)

## US gives military copters to Croatia, Russia arms Serbs

The US on Thursday delivered two Black Hawk military helicopters to Croatia, which is engaged in a mini arms race with neighbouring Russian ally Serbia amid simmering tensions in the post-war Balkan region. The US embassy in Croatia's capital, Zagreb, said the donated UH-60M multi-purpose helicopters will contribute to Croatia's growing defense capabilities and military preparedness in support of Nato. (With inputs from AP)

## UK escorts Russian bombers for second day running

Britain intercepted and escorted two Russian bomber jets that were approaching Britain's area of interest on Thursday, the royal air force (RAF) said — the second such incident in as many days. "Quick Reaction Alert Typhoon fighters were scrambled on Thursday against aircraft approaching the UK area of interest," an RAF spokesperson said. "Subsequently we intercepted and escorted two Russian Tu-95 Bear aircraft." (With inputs from AP)

## Baloch separatists kill 7 Pak armymen in twin attacks

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Panjur, where at least 10 soldiers were killed. This was the heaviest toll for the military in Balochistan in several years. The military had confirmed the death of 10 soldiers two days after the attack.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan army's media wing, said the terrorist attacks in Panjgur and Naushki were repulsed and claimed that the security forces had killed 13 terrorists in the counter-offensive. "After successfully repulsing terrorist attacks at Panjgur and Naushki Tuesday night, security forces launched clearance operation to search out terrorists hiding within the area," the statement said, adding that seven soldiers, including an army officer, lost their lives in the operation. "As per initial investigation, intelligence agencies have intercepted communications between terrorists and their handlers in Afghanistan and India," the

ISPR statement said.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist militant group, claimed on Thursday afternoon that it had eliminated 100 personnel of Pakistani military including an officer" in the attack in Naushki. The ISPR, however, refuted the claim and called it a "lie". The BLA said nine of its members were killed "after several hours of continuous battle", and clashes were still occurring in Panjgur. BLA spokesman Jeayand Baloch said the raids were administered by attackers who were prepared to "self-sacrifice". Baloch separatists, just like the Afghan Taliban in the past, exaggerate their battlefield successes. In Naushki, shops were shut on Thursday and the streets deserted. Ethnic Baloch separatists have been fighting the Pakistani military for years for a separate state, blaming the government for exploiting Balochistan's natural resources.

## iPhone flaw exploited by 2nd Israeli spy firm: Report

Washington: A flaw in Apple's software exploited by Israeli surveillance firm NSO Group to break into iPhones in 2021 was simultaneously abused by a competing company, according to five people familiar with the matter. QuaDream, the sources said, is a smaller and lower profile Israeli firm that also develops smartphone hacking tools intended for government clients.

The two rival businesses gained the same ability last year to remotely break into iPhones, despite the fact that they

specific software vulnerabilities, giving a hacker unauthorized access to data. The analysts believed NSO and QuaDream's exploits were similar because they leveraged many of the same vulnerabilities hidden deep inside Apple's instant messaging platform and used a comparable approach to plant malicious software on targeted devices, according to three of the sources. Reuters made repeated attempts to reach QuaDream for comment. An Apple spokesman declined to comment on QuaDream.

ForcedEntry is viewed as "one of the most technically sophisticated exploits" ever captured by security researchers. So similar were the two versions of ForcedEntry that when Apple fixed the underlying flaws in September 2021 it rendered both NSO and QuaDream's spy software ineffective, according to sources. In a written statement, an NSO spokeswoman said the company "did not cooperate" with QuaDream. (With inputs from AP)

## WHO sees pause, even end of pandemic for Europe



Germany's independent vaccination advisory panel said on Thursday it is recommending a second vaccine booster shot for people aged 70 and above, among others, particularly at risk from Covid-19.

Sweden joined the move towards scrapping most coronavirus restrictions, setting February 9 as the date with the pandemic entering a "whole new phase". Stockholm will end 11.00pm closing for bars and restaurants, and limits on crowd numbers. Vaccine passes for indoor events will go and face masks will no longer be recommended on crowded public transport. "The pandemic is not over, but we are entering a whole new phase," Swedish PM Magdalena Andersson announced.

After Britain and Ireland, Copenhagen on Tuesday lifted most domestic Covid-19 restrictions, followed later in the day by Norway. France on Wednesday loosened several restrictions imposed to curb the latest Covid-19 surge.

New Zealand is to start easing some of the toughest pandemic border restrictions yet seen, but will not fully reopen until October. "It's time to move again," PM Jacinda Ardern said Thursday unveiling a five-step plan to reconnect to the rest of the world. Hotel quarantine requirements for New Zealanders stranded overseas will be lifted this month.

But Lord Rami Ranger, a peer in the House of Lords and chairman of the British Sikh Association, said as home secretary Patel was "right" to say during a speech to a US think tank that "Sikh separatist extremism has caused considerable tensions in recent years". A video of Patel's speech has recently surfaced online, with some Sikhs criticising her for putting Sikh extremism alongside the IS group and Hamas as threats.

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## China Promises 'Safe And Splendid' Games Amid Controversies

**Beijing:** The lead-up to the Beijing Olympics, which open on Friday with a ceremony at the "Bird's Nest" stadium, have been overshadowed by human rights concerns, the Covid pandemic and even fears about Chinese government snooping of athletes.

"The world is turning its eyes to China and China is ready. We will do our best to deliver to the world a streamlined, safe and splendid Games," said Chinese president Xi Jinping.

China hopes the Olympics will be a soft-power triumph but there are other controversies, among them the environmental impact of a Games taking place in one of the driest regions of the country and relying almost entirely on man-made snow. The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia are among countries staging a diplomatic boycott over human rights, with the fate of China's Muslim Uyghur minority of particular concern.

Athletes of the boycotting nations will still compete. China and the IOC hope that the rancour that has clouded the build-up will be relegated to the sidelines once the action gets under way. The sport started on Wednesday with curling and there was a smattering of masked fans at the so-called "Ice Cube", the striking venue known as the "Water Cube" when Beijing hosted the 2008 Summer Games, which was seen then as China's coming-out party on the world stage. Women's hockey and freestyle skiing is also under way.

These Games are taking place in a vast "closed loop" bubble to thwart the coronavirus, with the nearly 3,000 athletes and tens of thousands of support staff, volunteers and media cut off from Beijing's general population.

China, where the virus emerged in late 2019, has pursued a no-nonsense zero-Covid policy nationwide and adopted the same approach to the Games, with everyone cocooned inside the bubble having daily tests.



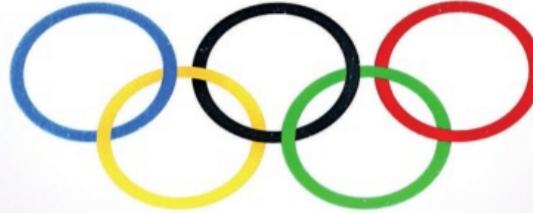
**FACE OF THE GAMES** Eileen Gu has captivated China and looks set to be the face of the Games. The 18-year-old grade-A student, born and raised in California, switched from the United States to represent China and is hot favourite in freestyle skiing.

There were 55 positive Covid results among Games-related personnel on Wednesday, the highest daily total so far, bringing the number since January 23 to 287. Eleven people have been hospitalised with the virus but Brian McCloskey, chairman of the medical expert panel for Beijing 2022, said none were seriously ill.

It is easy to forget that some sport is happening. Eileen Gu has captivated China and looks set to be the face of the Games. There will also be intense interest in Chloe Kim, the American snowboarder who melted hearts when she won gold aged 17 at the Pyeongchang Olympics in 2018. Norway are tipped to top the medals table. The Games end on February 20. AFP



## BEIJING 2022



### BACH TO MEET PENG IN 'CLOSED LOOP', OPEN TO INQUIRY IF SHE WISHES

**Beijing:** International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach will meet Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai inside the "closed loop" of the Beijing Olympics, he said on Thursday. The well-being of Peng, a former world number one doubles player who has taken part in three Olympic Games, became a matter of concern in November when she alleged on social media that a former Chinese vice premier, Zhang Gaoli, had sexually assaulted her. "She will enter the closed loop in order to have this meeting because she wanted this," Bach told a news conference.

The IOC has held several video calls with Peng but wanted a face-to-face meeting during the Feb. 4-20 Games. "We know from her explanations ... that she is living in Beijing, that she can move freely, spending time with family and friends," Bach said. "Now we will be able to do the next step in a personal meeting to convince us in person of her well-being and state of mind. If she wants to have an inquiry we would also support her in this. But it's her life, it's her allegations." REUTERS

### JAPANESE SNOWBOARDER YOSHIKA OUT AFTER INJURING SPINE; OTHERS WARY OF ARTIFICIAL SNOW

**Zhangjiakou:** Japanese snowboarder Rina Yoshioka is out of the Beijing Olympics after injuring her spine in a heavy fall in practice on Thursday, the Japanese Olympic Committee said. Yoshioka was taken away in an ambulance after crash-landing coming off a jump on the snowboard slopestyle course at the Genting Snow Park. The IOC later said the 22-year-old had suffered a spinal injury but was not paralysed. She will not compete in the slopestyle or Big Air events at the Games as planned, and will return to Japan once she has received the necessary medical care.

The Games are taking place in one of the driest regions of China and rely almost entirely on man-made snow. American snowboarder Jamie Anderson, a reigning two-time Olympic champ, said she had been scared of the artificially made surface, calling it "bulletproof ice." "I think the majority of it is artificial snow so it's not quite ideal," Anderson said, adding "you definitely don't want to fall". AFP

### 2022 GAMES WILL CHANGE WINTER SPORTS, STRESSES IOC CHIEF

**Milan:** The Beijing Olympics will "change the scale of winter sports forever", IOC president Bach said. China has little tradition of winter sports but has consistently said that staging the Olympics will help inspire 300 million people in the world's most populous nation. "Today we can say: China is a winter sport country," he told an International Olympic Committee meeting. "Everything is in place."

### SKATEBOARDING, SURFING, SPORTS CLIMBING ADDED TO 2028 LA SUMMER GAMES

**Milan:** Skateboarding, surfing and sports climbing have officially been added to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The decision by the IOC was expected after its executive board agreed to an initial list of 28 sports in December. Los Angeles organizers have welcomed the "three iconic West Coast sports" that made their debuts at last year's Tokyo Olympics. Boxing, modern pentathlon and weightlifting have not yet been included.



### OLD FRIEND PANDA

The organizers of the Winter Olympics in Beijing turned to an old friend when picking a mascot: the panda. This time around, organizers selected **BING DWEW DWEW**, designed by Cao Xue, from more than 5,800 designs that had been submitted, according to the official site of the Olympics. Wrapped in a protective layer of ice mimicking an astronaut's suit, Bing has been making its way around the bubble that is the Olympic Village. Bing means "ice" in Mandarin. And Dwew Dwew translates as "robust and lively," and represents children. In 2008, when Beijing hosted the Summer Games, the organizers chose a panda as one of the five official Fuwa, or good-luck dolls, that served as mascots.



### INDIA'S ONLY REPRESENTATIVE

**Arif Khan** is the latest sporting talent from the Valley who has done the country proud by becoming the first Indian athlete to directly qualify for two different events of a Winter Olympics. The 31-year-old from Baramulla district will represent India in the men's giant slalom and slalom events at the Beijing Winter Games, scheduled from February 4-20. He earned the Olympics quota spot in giant slalom at an International Ski Federation (FIS) event in Kolasin, Montenegro on December 29 after securing the qualification in slalom in Dubai a month ago.

**NO OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY ON DD SPORTS** Doordarshan will not air the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics opening and closing ceremony. India announced that its chargé d'affaires in the Indian embassy in Beijing will not attend both ceremonies over China honouring a military commander involved in the Galwan Valley clashes as its torchbearer for the mega sporting event. Team India manager, Mohammad Abbas Wani, tested negative for Covid-19 after testing positive on landing.



## DeChambeau offered \$113m by Saudi-backed league: Report

**Munich:** Bryson DeChambeau has been offered more than \$113 million to become the face of the Super Golf League, according to a report by the *Daily Mail*.

The proposed Super Golf League (SGL) is a Saudi Arabian-backed venture that has been courting most of the sport's marquee players over the past year.

Nearly half of the top-50 players in the world rankings are at this week's Saudi International, and the *Daily Mail* reported that it has led to meetings with several prominent players. Dustin Johnson and England's Lee Westwood are among those in the field who have said they are not allowed to disclose whether they have received offers from the breakaway league.

England's Ian Poulter is among multiple established players who have received offers of up to \$25 million from the Saudis. However, the SGL is seeking a young superstar to join the upstart effort and the 28-year-old DeChambeau has reportedly been the focus.

Any player who joins the SGL faces a potential lifetime ban from the PGA Tour and the DP World Tour (the latter formerly known as the European Tour). Reports last May surfaced that negotiators were making lucrative offers to several marquee players in the range of \$30m to \$50m. REUTERS

### KAPUR T-7 AT SAUDI INTERNATIONAL

**Kaev:** India's Shiv Kapur landed four birdies on the back nine, including three in the last four, to lie tied seventh with a five-under card 65 at the star-studded US\$5 million Saudi International Golf Championship. Kapur was lying T-7th alongside former world no 1 Dustin Johnson and the latest Asian Tour Order of Merit winner, Kim Joohyung. Kapur was three behind Italian Matteo Manassero in the first round. PTI

**Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
26, Civil Lines, Electricity Distribution Circle, Roorkee  
CIN: U40109UR2001SGC025867 Website: [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

#### Date Extension Notice (Contact Number 01332-357325)

The last date & time of submission of tender documents of Tender No. SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/59, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/60, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/61, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/62, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/63, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/64, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/65, SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/66 & SE/EDC-RKE/2021-22/67 is hereby extended upto 18.02.2022 upto 11:00 hrs. and Date of opening of bid is hereby extended upto 18.02.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

Superintending Engineer  
प्रयोगशाला के पास, रोरकी  
Date: 02.02.2022 Electricity Distribution Circle, Roorkee

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**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
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(CIN-U40410KA2002SGC030438)

#### BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (through e-procurement portal)

**BESCOM** invites tender for the following Enquiry No: BESCOM/BC-53/DGM(SG&EV)/2021-22/ENQ-15 dated: 02.02.2022 For Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service provider for Smart Energy Metering of 2,21,745 no. which includes Distribution Transformers and Feeders in BESCOM jurisdiction on OPEX Model." Issue of Bid Documents From 14.02.2022 @ 17:00 hrs onwards. Last Date for Bid Submission upto 23.03.2022 @ 17:00 hrs. Opening of Bid Documents on 25.03.2022 @ 17:00 hrs. Last Date for submission of Queries through e-mail 28.02.2022 till 17:00 hrs.

Pre-bid meeting on 25.02.2022 @ 11:00 am at Board room, Corporate office, BESCOM. The Tenders can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the tendering website [https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 080-25501216, 25501227.

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#### e-Tender Notice No. 95 for 2021-2022 (2<sup>nd</sup> Call)

MJP invites 156 Villages RRPWSS - Rejuvenation &

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Please visit website [https://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgp/app](http://mahatenders.gov.in/nicgp/app) for detailed information. Tender will be available on website from date 04/02/2022 at 16:00 hrs. (N.S. Raktade)

Executive Engineer (I/c)



ROGER FEDERER SAYS HE WILL HAVE BETTER IDEA ABOUT INJURY RETURN IN APRIL-MAY

ASHLEY GILES STEPS DOWN AS ENGLAND MANAGING DIRECTOR AFTER ASHES DEBACLE



## DHULL OWNS THE MOMENT



Yash's cricketing mind is very sharp and he takes things very seriously. He also makes quick changes. There are many players in the team who do not take pressure and play (from) game to game."

—Vijay Dhull, YASH DHULL'S FATHER

COMING OF AGE IN STYLE: Yash Dhull celebrates after scoring a century against Australia in the U-19 World Cup semifinal in Antigua

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

Quite a few eyebrows were raised when India's under-19 captain Yash Dhull opted to bat first against Australia at Coolidge in the U-19 World Cup semifinal on Wednesday. The surface at the venue had earned a reputation of being capricious in the two preceding matches. The bigger challenge, though, awaited Dhull when he strode out to the pitch with the scoreboard reading 37/2 in the 13th over.

What followed was 33 overs of a precisely-paced ODI innings which yielded a run-a-ball 110 for Dhull. The knock set the foundation for a mammoth victory and a place in Saturday's final against England.

Dhull's cricket journey started with a curve ball thrown at him at the age of 11. He went to Bal Bhawan school, where he has been honed for the last eight years, for admission since the academy there could give him enough opportunities. He was turned away by the principal.

"Yash pleaded for an opportunity to prove his potential. Then we decided to

give him one match and told him that was his only opportunity. He was playing against 14-year-old boys and scored an unbeaten 125," his childhood coach Rajesh Nagar fondly remembers.

According to Nagar, his most endearing quality came through after that innings. "The principal gave him Rs 500 as a reward and asked him what he wanted to do with that money. Yash said he will give his teammates a treat since success in cricket depends on the teammates," Nagar told **TOI**.

Dhull's family was completely invested in his cricket career. Yet they never interfered in the way he was coached. "His grandfather is an ex-Army man and that discipline is in him. He speaks less and knows what needs to be done," the coach claims.

As he cruised through the U-16 level, the next challenge came when the first Covid lockdown happened in 2020. Gyanendra Pandey, the junior national selector, had told him he would be in India's U-19 scheme of things that year. But everything came to a standstill.

"We set up nets on our terrace and started working on certain shots using tennis balls. His coaches would



India's U-19 Captain, Who Scored A Crucial Century In The World Cup Semifinal,

Learned To Grab Opportunities & Embrace Challenges At An Early Age

**65** The plan from me and Rasheed was to bat till the end and it worked. The idea was to bat steadily, not to try too many shots, and to bat past the 40th over. Me and Shaik Rasheed, we bat well together, we combine well and it showed. Rasheed is mentally very strong. We were in the bubble together and he is always mentally prepared.

—Yash Dhull, INDIA U-19 CAPTAIN



language other than Telugu. "Mera beta bahut chhote se achha khelta. Hyderabad mein thoda khela. Financially, hum difficult se manage karta. Abhi main SBI loans ke liye kaam karta (my son was good at cricket from a very young age. He played in Hyderabad. We barely managed to make ends meet. Now I work for SBI loans department)," Balisha said in broken Hindi over phone. But the jubilance in his speech couldn't be missed.

"Andhra academy in Mangaluru was a huge help and relief for us. Coach Krishna Rao sir was very helpful," was all Balisha could say.

Balisha had gone to Hyderabad in search

## How Andhra cricket adopted humble Rasheed

of livelihood. Rasheed was yet to turn 10 but was doing well in inter-district tournaments. This is where he was selected for the Andhra Cricket Association's academy when he was nine. He was given hostel accommodation, clothing, food and education. The academy paid for the school as well.

"The association adopted him. The academies adopted 30-35 cricketers like Rasheed. The academy spent Rs 15000 per student every month. His hunger for runs and his commitment towards the game stood out. He would blindly follow what he was told," Prasad said.

"He was doing so well at the state level that you could make out the difference.

"His life lessons have taught him to understand what the situation demands. We picked him on cricketing potential. He was an okay student," Rao said.

The academy also arranged for a trip to the UK for Rasheed when he was 14. The academy tied up with Dr Sameer Pathak and arranged for exposure trips under a programme called 'Cricket Beyond Boundaries' for two-three kids every year.

"Rasheed went for exposure. He travelled all by himself, went to school in the UK for two months and learnt cricket. It was a life exposure for him. He overcame language barriers. That made a difference in him. The situation makes you a leader and Rasheed became one through his journey. He reads the game very well," Rao added.

Rasheed is seen as one of the biggest stars to come out from Andhra cricket. He is on a mission to fulfill his father's dreams. But he is also an example of what can be achieved if authorities invest heavily in the system.

### GALLERY

#### Barca official resigns after Nadal quip

**Madrid:** A Barcelona official has resigned after calling Rafael Nadal, a known supporter of Real Madrid, an "enemy of the state". The club's president Joan Laporta confirmed the resignation of Alfons Godall, who is a vice-president of the Barca Foundation.

**Skipped IPL to work on my game: Jamieson** NZ pacer Kyle Jamieson has decided to skip the IPL this season, saying he wants to improve his game in all formats for the Black Caps. He was the second-most-expensive buy at IPL last year with RCB shelling out Rs 15 crore for him. AGENCE

#### ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET: ICC U-19 WC:** Classification, 6.30 pm (Star Sports 1); PSL, 8 pm (Sony Six); **FOOTBALL:** Women's Asian Cup: Playoff, Chinese Taipei vs Thailand, 1.30 pm (Europe Sport); ISL: Kerala Blasters FC vs North-East United FC, 7.30 pm (Star Sports); **TENNIS:** ATP Maha Open, 12.45 pm (Star Sports Select 1)

## Elias strikes the first blow; over to sibling Mikael now

Kumaraswamy.K  
@timesgroup.com

**PUNE:** Thursday could turn out to be a memorable day on the tennis court for the Ymer brothers from Sweden. Elias Ymer, 25, registered the biggest win of his career on the ATP Tour, upsetting World No. 15 Aslan Karatsev 6-2, 7-6 (3) to enter the quarterfinals of the Tata Open Maharashtra at the Mhalunge-Balewadi stadium.

A few hours later and some 7,000km away, his younger sibling Mikael will be taking on former world No. 6 Gael Monfils in Montpellier, France. A further coincidence is that Mikael, 23, had beaten Monfils in their only previous meeting, in the second round at Roland Garros last year. The colourful Frenchman was ranked 15 at that time.

"It is amazing. Today my brother is playing against Monfils. I just played a guy ranked 15. So, we were talking and I was like, 'come on brother, let's go today, you can do it,'" Elias, world-ranked 163, said after his second round win. "So, it is a family business. We

talk everyday. I wanted him to come here but he had entered France. Hopefully, we are going to play all the tournaments together." As far as the journey of an immigrant family goes, the rise of the Ymer brothers couldn't have been more remarkable.

His father Wondwosen managed to evade the civil war in his homeland Ethiopia and moved to Sweden when he was 18, thanks to his elder sister being married to a Swede. Like all Ethiopians, his three sons — Rafael being the third — to take up tennis.

For Elias, who came through the qualifying round, the win over Karatsev has another interesting twist. "In the past, it has been that when I pass the qualifying and get that big match, I have not succeeded in that, making the most (of) the opportunity (to go deeper into the tournament)," he said. "I have qualified for all the Grand Slams and I felt very good but... Now, I have given myself a good opportunity, because I really believe in my game."

## China pip Japan, to meet Korea in final

Sudeshna.Ghosh@TIMESGROUP.COM

**C**hina and Korea Republic will battle it out for top honours at AFC Women's Asian Cup after winning their respective semifinals at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune on Thursday. While China rode an extra-time equaliser and successful last penalty from captain Wang Shanshan to win 4-3 in a dramatic shoot-out after the regulation time ended 2-2, the South Koreans cruised past Philippines 2-0 in the other last-four clash.

Defending champions Japan, aiming for a hat-trick of titles, controlled proceedings from kick-off. Riko Ueki began where she had left off in the quarters and came close to scoring a couple of times. She finally got her fourth goal of the tournament from a team effort in the 26th minute when Hiyata Miyazawa's cross found an unmarked Ueki in the box whose glancing header was unstoppable.

But the decks changed in the second half with China making three substitutions. The Japanese defence was caught napping just a minute after the change of ends as China got an equaliser when a cross from second-half substitute Xiao Yuyi was poached in Chengdu Wu.

With Japan failing to finish off the game, China gained more control and made sure the match went into extra-time. After hitting the crossbar early after regulation time, it was Ueki again who beat the Chinese offside track to guide a long free-kick into the net in the 103rd minute. However, in the 119th minute, Shanshan reclaimed parity by converting with a flick of the back heel. With both teams missing their first shot in the shootout and Yu Zhu saving Japan's last penalty, it was left to Shanshan to send in their last effort and keep her team on course for a ninth continental title.

ASIAN CUP

Sudeshna.Ghosh@TIMESGROUP.COM

**I**t's been almost a decade now that Dimitar Berbatov gave up his Manchester United shirt. Time has failed to whittle away his passion for the red shirt.

Berbatov used to be the stylist, the magician, a luxury that even Alex Ferguson, the master of the helter-skelter, could ill afford. Berbatov won two league titles at Manchester United and was the top scorer in the second of those — 2010/11.

The cool and composed Bulgarian scored 56 goals in 149 appearances for the Red Devils including the mesmerising hat-trick against arch-rivals Liverpool.

Recalling those heady days at Old Trafford, Berbatov often gets nostalgic.

"Every goal you score, however ugly or



## SENEGAL STORM INTO FINAL

in Wednesday's semifinal at Yaounde's Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium. Abdou Diallo shot home from close range after a corner in the 70th minute for the first and a strike from Bamba Dieng doubled Senegal's lead six minutes later.

Blati Toure pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 in the 82nd minute but Sadio Mane added a final flourish with a breakaway goal five minutes later to restore Senegal's two-goal advantage as their quality triumphed over a gallant Burkina outfit. Senegal, who were runners-up at the last edition in 2019, will meet hosts Cameroon or Egypt in the final.

Diallo snapped up the opportunity to fire home from close range after centre-back partner Kalidou Koulibaly played the ball back into the danger zone from a corner with a bicycle kick. Dieng made it 2-0 as TV replays showed he was first to a cut back from Mane, applying the decisive touch ahead of teammate Idrissa Gana Gueye, who also claimed the goal.

It shows you the momentum we have. We knew it was not going to be at all easy to get to two straight AFCON finals, but the most important for us now is to go all the way and win it, whoever we come up against.

—Sadio Mane | SENEGAL FORWARD

AFCON SEMIS

Burkina Faso then brought on two strikers in a bold bid to get back into the contest and with eight minutes left pulled one back after Bertrand Traore and Issa Kaboré set up an attack that was finished off by the knee of Toure. AGENCE

Yaounde: Senegal struck three times in the last 20 minutes to book their place in Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final as they overcame Burkina Faso 3-1

continued their unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory over El Salvador. The United States hammered Honduras 3-0 on Wednesday for a much-needed three points in World Cup qualifying while group leaders Canada

continued their unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory over El Salvador. The United States had got off to a sluggish start in their 2-0 loss to Canada on Sunday but played with a sense of urgency from the outset to put Honduras on the back foot. Weston McKennie and Christian Pulisic scored later to secure the win for the United States. AGENCE

## US DOMINATE HONDURAS IN 3-0 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING WIN

Los Angeles: The United States hammered Honduras 3-0 on Wednesday for a much-needed three points in World Cup qualifying while group leaders Canada

continued their unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory over El Salvador. The United States had got off to a sluggish start in their 2-0 loss to Canada on Sunday but played with a sense of urgency from the outset to put Honduras on the back foot. Weston McKennie and Christian Pulisic scored later to secure the win for the United States. AGENCE

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# Oppn in Parl slams govt on price rise, unemployment

Accuses It Of Undermining Federal Setup

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PTI  
differently were you the PM during Covid times?" he asked Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. In his maiden speech, Sircar alleged that the society had become fractured and economy was going through a bad patch. "We need to understand that the printed word and flowery phrases do not mean much to those who go hungry (and) those who have no jobs," he said. He pointed out the amendment to the BSF Act and to expand its jurisdiction move to change IAS cadre rules as attacks on the federal structure.

In Lok Sabha, Pinaki Misra of BJD said the government should look into the rising prices and should not make hollow promises on employment. He also mentioned about a Union minister "badly" beating up an official in Odisha.

House proceedings were briefly disrupted when DMK members demanded recall of TN governor over his decision to send back a bill against NEET implementation in the state. However, BJP MP Kamakhy Prasad Tasa from Assam commended the Modi government for making northeast a safe and peaceful place. "What is it that you would have done

## Dubey accuses Rahul of inciting MPs, files privilege notice in LS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday submitted a privilege notice to the Lok Sabha secretariat against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of attempting to "incite" MPs and people at large through his remarks during the debate in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

Noting that while every MP has a constitutional right to express his views, he said it is also one of the foremost duties of every member to maintain decency and should not say anything that would lower the dignity of Parliament. He categorised Rahul's remarks as "contempt of the House".

Calling Rahul Gandhi a "script reader" and a "Drawing Room Politician", Dubey said it appears that he has even not read the Preamble of the Constitution, which unambiguously states that "We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic".

Dubey also requested Speaker Om Birla to expunge the related portion from Rahul's speech during the debate.

Rahul, in a veiled dig at PM Narendra Modi, had said Congress smashed the idea of a King in 1947, but now it has come back and the ruling dispensation had created two India - one for the poor and the other for the rich.

FRESH TROUBLE

and India is not described as a Nation. He has further correlated this with making a hollow, baseless and childish prophecy that the people of Tamil Nadu, etc., would never allow themselves to be ruled by the present Government/Party".

"These utterances of Rahul Gandhi is an attempt to 'hint' and 'incite' the other Members of Parliament and also the citizens of our 'Nation', by means of the live telecast, that any state could easily be separated from our 'Nation' if they do not want to be ruled by a specific

political party and no new state and/or alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states could be effected in any manner in view of the fact that our Country came to existence by means of a 'negotiation' between and amongst various States," it said.

Union law minister Kiren Rijiju in Rajya Sabha on Thursday said while recommending names for judges' appointment, the collegiums should give preference to women, backward classes, SCs and STs.

## INDIA DIGEST

### Biren, Himanta slam Rahul over his shoe remark

Manipur CM N Biren Singh has hit back at Rahul Gandhi with lessons on Manipuri culture after the Congress leader's remarks in Parliament on Wednesday that a Manipur delegation was asked to take off their shoes at Amit Shah's residence while he himself was wearing foot-wear. He tweeted, "It's an age-old tradition in Manipuri culture to remove our shoes while we enter somebody's house...Mr Rahul Gandhi may kindly take note of some Manipuri culture before speaking about Manipur". Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma also slammed Rahul. "Those who prefer to feed biscuits to dogs in the presence of leaders from Assam and then offer them the same biscuits, should be the last people to talk about political decency..." he tweeted.

### Migrants' exodus reports false: Govt

Reports of mass exodus of migrant workers in the third wave of Covid-19 are untrue and states have been asked to be wary of rumour mongering on this issue, Union labour and employment minister Bhupender Yadav told Rajya Sabha in his written response to a parliamentary question on Thursday.

### Rijiju: Collegiums must prefer women

Union law minister Kiren Rijiju in Rajya Sabha on Thursday said while recommending names for judges' appointment, the collegiums should give preference to women, backward classes, SCs and STs.

### 'Chandrayaan-3 launch in Aug'

India is set to launch the Chandrayaan-3 in August this year, over two years after a technical glitch caused the botched landing of Chandrayaan-2's lander on the Moon, space minister Jitendra Singh told Lok Sabha.



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(Set up by an Act of Parliament)



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Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 | 5.00 PM  
Venue: Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi

### Chief Guest

#### Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance

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President, ICAI

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CA. (Dr.) Debasish Mitra  
Vice-President, ICAI



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- Empowering MSMEs for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'
- ICAI, first Accounting body in the world to release 23 Forensic Accounting & Investigation Standards
- Issued revised Networking and Multidisciplinary Partnership Guidelines
- Launched Audit Quality Maturity Model – Version 1.0 (AQMM v1.0) to boost Indian firms global standing
- Strengthening the Sustainability Reporting Ecosystem through various groundbreaking initiatives
- ICAI Digital Learning Hub – Single Source of Knowledge Repository for professional & academic learning
- Launched the Skill India Hub leveraging Digital Learning Hub for capacity building of Ministries and Government bodies in accounting and allied areas
- ICAI expands its global footprints by adding 5 New Chapters and 9 Representative Offices taking its presence to 73 Global Cities spanning across 47 Countries
- University Grants Commission (UGC) grants academic equivalence to CA Qualification at par with postgraduate degrees
- Constituted the Committee for Review of Education and Training (CRET) for holistic review of entire course scheme
- Fee waiver to students who lost their parents due to COVID-19
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Dip In Cases Encouraging But Some Concerns Remain

## 10% who died of Omicron were vaxed: Study

**'Vax Drive Has Reduced Deaths In Third Wave'**

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**New Delhi:** Only 10% deaths were recorded among fully vaccinated people who were hospitalised with Omicron infection, compared with nearly 22% fatalities among the unvaccinated or partially-vaccinated. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) director general Balram Bhargava said on Thursday, citing a study based on data from the national clinical registry of Covid-19, to stress that increase in vaccination has significantly helped reduce deaths during the present surge.

Comorbidities, however, remained a cause of concern as most people who died due to Covid had at least one associated disease. About 91% of the fully vaccinated people who died of Covid and 83% of the unvaccinated or partially-vaccinated who succumbed to the virus attack had at

least one comorbidity, the data shows. Overall, 3%-4% of those infected with Omicron needed hospitalisation, Niti Aayog member health Dr VK Paul said.

### '3-4% HOSPITALISED'

- Nearly 22% fatalities among unvaccinated or partially vaccinated: ICMR
- Most who died had at least one comorbidity
- 3-4% of those infected with Omicron needed to be hospitalised
- Mean age of hospitalised patients due to Omicron stood at 44 years, compared with 55 years due to Delta

### Cases still surging in Kerala, Mizoram

**The Centre** has expressed concern as Kerala and Mizoram are reporting a rise in cases as well as high weekly positivity rates of over 47% and 34%, much higher than India's overall 13%. **P14**

least one comorbidity, the data shows. Overall, 3%-4% of those infected with Omicron needed hospitalisation, Niti Aayog member health Dr VK Paul said.

► 46% had comorbidity. **P16**

**India** world's 3rd country to record 5L Covid deaths

But Last 1 Lakh Fatalities Took Longest Time

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**India** became the third country in the world to officially record more than 5 lakh deaths from the Covid-19 pandemic, reaching the grim milestone on Thursday.

Only the US, with over 9.1 lakh Covid fatalities, and Brazil (nearly 6.3 lakh) have reported more deaths from the virus so far. At 3.3 lakh, the toll from the pandemic in Russia is the fourth highest, ahead of Mexico, which has so far logged just over 3.07 deaths.

India's death toll went past the 5-lakh mark 217 days after crossing 4 lakh on July 1, 2020. This was the longest time taken for a 1-lakh increase in fatalities, indicating a decrease in deaths in the months after the peak of the second wave.

This was also a period when vaccinations rose steadily, which helped protect lives. Daily deaths kept dipping till December end, after which

### 2L TO 3L TOOK JUST 26 DAYS

Toll	Date	Days Taken
1	Mar 12, '20	
1L	Oct 2, '20	204
2L	Apr 27, '21	207
3L	May 23, '21	26
4L	July 1, '21	39
5L	Feb 3, '22	217

### 'Surgeries safe for Omicron patients'

**Latest** evidence indicates surgeries are safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths in Covid patients infected with Omicron, the Centre said Thursday. **P14**

mortilities linked to the Omicron-driven wave have been rising. From a low of 70 on January 3, 2022, the seven-day average of daily deaths crossed 600 on Thursday (to 608).

► Cases below 1.5L. **P 16**

## Manipal student packs girlfriend in bag, caught

**A**n engineering student who tried to smuggle his girlfriend into his hostel room in Manipal faltered while trying to explain to the caretaker why he was carrying an unusually heavy trolley bag. When he said it contained goods ordered online, the caretaker demanded to see the contents. The suitcase was unzipped and revealed the girl curled up inside. **P14**

### MP schools to teach 'happiness'

**H**igh school students in Madhya Pradesh will have 'happiness' as part of their syllabus. MP is the only state in the country to have a department of happiness. Tentatively named 'universal human values', according to sources, the subject will be mandatory for students of classes 9 to 12 of the state board. **P14**

### UP lock-up death: 'CCTVs defective'

**C**CTV cameras were "malfunctioning" when Mohammad Altaf was found "hanging" from a tap in a lock-up in Kasganj. UP police said in its response filed in accordance with the directions of Allahabad HC. The affidavit was filed on Saturday "but did not come on record", the government told the court on Thursday. **TNN**

### Leukemia 'cure' after a decade

**D**octors in the US treated leukemia with an experimental gene therapy over a decade — the first time it has been studied for so long — by turning some blood cells into cancer killers. Doctors of University of Pennsylvania said the cells attack cancer immediately, then evolve in the body for years to keep the disease at bay. **P21**

### DELHI'S DHULL LEADS U-19s INTO 4TH STRAIGHT WORLD CUP FINAL

- Captain Yash Dhull's sparkling, timely 110 and vice-captain Shaikh Rasheed's 94 in the semifinal helped India under-19s beat Australia by 96 runs and make the final of the U-19 World Cup in the West Indies
- This will be the 4th consecutive U-19 World Cup final appearance for India and the 6th time in a row that India have beaten Australia in this tournament. **They haven't lost to the Aussies since 1998!**
- India are 4-time champions of the U-19 WC, the most by any team. This is their 8th appearance in a Cup final, also the most. India's 4 previous title wins came in 2000, 2008, 2012 and 2018
- India will now play England in the final on Saturday. England made their first U-19 WC final since 1998 by beating Afghanistan by 15 runs in the other semifinal

### The Dhull-Rasheed duo's 204-run third-wicket partnership in the semifinal helped India recover from

- 37/2 in the 13th over to 290/5. Keeper-batsman Dinesh Bana's unbeaten 20 off just 4 balls was the perfect cameo at the end
- Left-arm spinners Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Nishant Sindhu (2/25) then played their part in restricting the Aussies to 194 in 41.5 overs
- The India U-19 squad had to overcome a Covid-19 outbreak in the league stage of the tournament, with as many as 7 players, including Dhull and Rasheed, laid low by the virus. The colts were barely able to field a team for two games in the middle of their campaign
- Dhull is the third India U-19 captain to score a ton in the World Cup after Virat Kohli and Unmukt Chand. All three are Delhi cricketers | **P 23**

## Examining privilege motions on IT min over Pegasus: VP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### Panel struggles as few willing to depose

The SC-appointed panel

to probe the alleged use of Pegasus on opposition leaders, journalists and activists is struggling to complete its investigation with very few coming forward to depose before the committee, or submit their devices for technical scrutiny. **P 14**

### 'Goons coming out of hiding': Shah takes a jibe at SP list

Aditya.Dev@timesgroup.com

### Akhilesh in Noida after 11 years but avoids supporters

The excitement was pal-

able in Noida through

Thursday as Akhilesh Yadav was to come after 11 years.

The superstition that a CM

who comes to Noida doesn't

get another term played a

part in him avoiding the city

earlier. He finally arrived in

Dadri (Gautam Buddha Na-

gar) after 11pm, but didn't

address supporters. **TNN**

us. I want to tell them to stay in their homes and in their limits," Shah told a raucous crowd of supporters in Loni.

► Shah on Akhilesh, **P 17**

## Karnataka hijab row grows, matter in HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru/Udupi:** The hijab row raging in Udupi in southern Karnataka since last month enveloped another institution in the same district on Thursday as 28 students in headscarves were prevented from entering. The Karnataka high court is set to hear on Tuesday two petitions seeking a directive to permit Muslim students to attend class in headscarves.

Thursday's face-off occurred at Government Junior College at Kundapur where authorities cited the government order and college guidelines to keep the girls out. The students said they have been attending classes in headscarves so far, but the principal did not relent.



Students in hijab were stopped at Government Junior College at Kundapur in Udupi on Thursday

State home minister Aragajnandhra said students should not wear hijab or saffron shawls to college. "No one should come to college to practise religion; it is a place where all should learn with a feeling of oneness," he said.

► NHRC steps in, **P 16**

RANNVIJAY SINGHA QUILTS ROADIES AFTER 18 YEARS, SONU SODU TO REPLACE HIM: REPORT



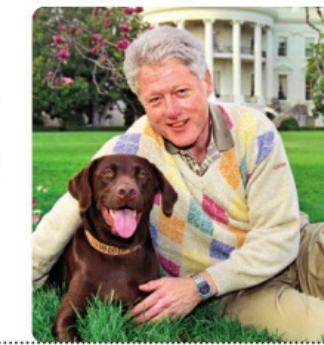
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VARIETY Meet the long line of presidential pets at the White House Page 2

@shamitashetty\_official

I want to get married, have babies & do lots of work: Shamita

SHAMITA SHETTY

(inset) With Raques Bapat at her birthday bash

Prashant Jadhav

ON MY BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 2), RAQESH PLANNED A SURPRISE FOR ME. AFTER A LONG TIME, I CELEBRATED MY BIRTHDAY WITH MY COMPANION



**A**kash Wadhwa

Shamita Shetty feels that her recent stint on *Bigg Boss 15* has helped her step out of her sister, Shilpa Shetty Kundra's shadow. The actress, who found love during the OTT version of the show, is now looking for interesting acting offers. In a candid chat, she spoke about her journey on the reality show, her feud with co-contestant Tejaswi Prakash and wedding plans. Excerpts:

Inside the *Bigg Boss 15* house recently, you expressed the desire to get married this year. So is marriage with Raques Bapat on the cards?

This is just my way of manifesting something that I want. During the pandemic, I realised that it was time to find a companion as it was getting very lonely for me. So yes, I want to get married, have babies and also do a lot of work. I want the universe to make all these things happen for me. On my birthday (Fe-

bruary 2), Raques planned a surprise for me. After a long time, I celebrated my birthday with my companion. I am happy and grateful to be out of the *Bigg Boss* house after nearly six months, and I am excited about my journey from here on.

In the finale, your eviction seemed to come as a shock to

you. Were you expecting to lift the trophy?

I will be lying if I say that I wasn't disappointed with my eviction. I really couldn't understand it, and I expected to be in the top two. But when I got out of the house and heard people cheering for me, it was overwhelming. The kind of love that I am receiving from people outside the house now, I think that is my victory. There is no point in winning the trophy and having people question it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## BUZZSTOP

### JACKIE CHAN CARRIES OLYMPIC TORCH ATOP GREAT WALL OF CHINA

The Olympic torch relay began its second day on Thursday atop the Great Wall, with Jackie Chan and Chinese Olympic medalists taking turns carrying the flame. "I woke up at 4 am. This is my fourth Olympics. I'm very happy," said Chan. The relay, which will open the Beijing Olympic Winter Games on Friday, will end with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron.



Reuters

# Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai! to get a new bhabiji, Nehha Pendse to quit the show soon

Nehha Pendse

**N**ehha Pendse is likely to exit *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai!* in a couple of months. The makers of the show are currently looking for a new actress to step into Nehha's shoes, who plays Anita bhabhi. Several actresses have auditioned for the part. A unit hand tells us, "Yes, we are in the process of bringing a new actress on board for the character of Anita bhabhi and are auditioning actresses. She should be able to lock someone in a few weeks. Nehha's one-year contract will end in April and she isn't too keen to renew it. One of the major factors of her exiting the show is the long commute. She spends hours travelling to the set and back home. It has taken a toll on her health. The makers and the actress thought that they would be able to manage it but it is now seeming difficult."

Both Nehha and producer Binaifer Kohli remained unavailable for comment. The character of Anita bhabhi was originally played by Saumya Tandon, who quit the show in August 2020. Nehha was roped in to step into Saumya's shoes to play Anita bhabhi in *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai!* in January 2021.



Nehha Maheshwari

# 'The Great Indian Murder is not just a whodunnit show. It's a social study'

Niharika Lal

**T**he Great Indian Murder, a nine-episode web series based on former diplomat Vikas Swarup's second novel *Six Suspects*, is a lot more than a whodunnit tale. Produced by Ajay Devgn and Priti Vinay Sinha, and directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia, the show unfolds with a murder investigation, and at the heart of it is the mystery - 'Who killed Vicky Rai?' Starring Richa Chadha and Pratik Gandhi as police investigators, the series sees several separate storylines develop, and is a constant guessing game, since no suspect can be crossed off the list.

Priti says, "After watching the trailer people are constantly asking me, 'Who killed Vicky Rai?' I then tell them, 'Wait for the series'. This isn't just a whodunnit, but a social study. There is a further twist in the tale."

### THE GREAT INDIAN MURDER HAS SUSPENSE, DRAMA AND THE VOLATILITY NEEDED FOR A BINGE-WORTHY SERIES: AJAY DEVGN

Calling *The Great Indian Murder* her dream project, Priti says, "Ajay and I have been talking about working together for a long time. He was really excited about the project and we thought, 'let's do it now!'" Ajay adds, "I must credit Priti for bringing the book to me for an OTT adaptation. It's our first home production together and both of us are equally invested in it. The book has suspense, human drama and the volatility needed to lend itself to a binge-worthy show. With Tigmanshu as our director and super popular



(L - R) Ajay Devgn, Pratik Gandhi, Priti Vinay Sinha and Tigmanshu Dhulia



Richa Chadha in a still from the show

faces as part of the cast, Priti and I hope to make the right noise, fingers crossed!"

In 2017, after reading the book, Priti contacted the author, Vikas. She says, "Vikas told me that he gave the rights to me because he felt I

was as passionate about the project as he was about the book. Tigmanshu suggested that the story is more suitable for a series, as we won't be able to do justice to so many characters in a film. It has been adapted with additions and changes."

### IT TOOK US SEVEN MONTHS TO FINALISE THE CAST: PRITI

It took them over seven months to finalise the cast, says Priti, adding, "In the beginning itself, Tigmanshu sir told me - Performers *achhe hote chahiye. Phir chahiye tum NSD se lao ya kahin se lao*'. It has been filmed in nine cities. We are proud of the show and the fact that we were able to do it without any creative compromises even in the pandemic."

*The Great Indian Murder*, produced by ADF & RLE Media, will be released on Disney+ Hotstar on February 4.

# Vikrant Massey and fiancée Sheetal Thakur to tie the knot this year?

Renuka Vyavahare

**V**ikrant Massey will tie the knot with his fiancée, actress Sheetal Thakur later this year. We hear the two will get married once he finishes the shoot of his upcoming film *Gaslight* with Sara Ali Khan. Vikrant, who has been a part of films like *Lootera* and *Chhapaak*, and several TV shows and web series, got engaged to Sheetal in an intimate ceremony in November 2019. The two have been in a steady relationship since 2015. The actor, in fact, spoke about his wedding in an earlier interview with us. He had said, "Agar lockdown nahi hota toh meri shaadi ho chuki hoti. That's one thing that pushed me back by a few months. I was supposed to get married to Sheetal in 2020." The actor had also said that he hoped to tie the knot in 2021. However, the second wave of the pandemic in 2021 further delayed the wedding plans.



Vikrant Massey and Sheetal Thakur

Vikrant, who had shared screen space with Sheetal in a web show, had posted pictures of his new house and housewarming *puja* on social media last year, which led many to believe that he was married. However, he was quick to caption it - 'not yet married'. Our source revealed, "As soon as he finishes his shoot, he will get married this year."

We reached out to the actor, but he didn't respond till the time of going to press.



Kirti Kulhari

# Direction is something that I feel strongly towards: Kirti

Onkar Kulkarni

**A**fter working as an actress for over 10 years, Kirti Kulhari began a new journey in her career as a producer. The actress, who has worked in films like *Pink*, *Mission Mangal*, and *Uri: The Surgical Strike* has launched her production house and will be seen acting in her co-production venture called *Nayaka* in which she plays the role of an actress. "I haven't put a number *ki saal mein* how many films I should be making as a producer. I don't want to start with a number. I want to see how things go. I am acting on the side, so I don't want to have too much on my plate that I have to deal with. I think in 2022, I am hoping, I will be able to put together two projects apart from *Nayaka*," she tells us.

Next up is directing, she says, adding, "Direction is something I feel strongly towards. However, one step at a time." While different departments of film-making do fascinate Kirti, she isn't too keen on scriptwriting... yet. "I am not a writer. That is something I have realised. I can probably help with dialogues, but the moment you say *kuch socho aur likho, I go blank!*" she says.

I HAVEN'T PUT A NUMBER *KI SAAL MEIN* HOW MANY FILMS I SHOULD BE PRODUCING. I AM ACTING ON THE SIDE, SO I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TOO MUCH ON MY PLATE

# 'Cancer patients may seek benefit from chemo ports during pandemic'

The ongoing health crisis has put a renewed focus on the well-being of patients who are suffering from life-threatening ailments and diseases and need to seek their regular course of treatment at hospitals. "Physicians concerned about their cancer patients' well-being amid frequent hospital visits for their therapy sessions, may increasingly recommend chemo ports to them to minimise hospital visits that could put their health at added risk," says Dr Abhishek Bansal.

He adds, "Committed to patient safety, PortShala, a medical education programme for healthcare professionals aims at creating awareness on chemoports that may provide advantages to patients' lifestyle and comfort, as well as the long-term health of the veins of hands and arms. The programme completes a successful one year of its educational initiatives since its inception on February 4, World Cancer Day, last year."

Emphasising the significance of chemo ports, the doctor says, "For cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy these can greatly help reduce patient risks in two ways – fewer hospital visits and lower infection probability that occurs from other IV devices or catheters. In such sensitive times, the safety of patients during treatment requires utmost care and a pragmatic approach. Additionally, with their help, patients can continue leading their normal lives without any restrictions and practise their daily routines as normal. Since the port is completely under the skin, one can even bathe or swim without any risk of infection. Medical technologies in cancer care are advancing and this is a major breakthrough."



Dr Abhishek Bansal, Consultant, Interventional Radiology, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Delhi



Ports are used for giving chemotherapy

Some chemotherapy medications can only be given through a port as some patients have veins that are difficult to access. "This makes the port a reliable option for the administration of therapy for patients with specific medical needs. Ports have a lower risk of infection over time than IVs or other devices that stick out through the skin. When an IV is used, medications are more likely to leak (extravagate) into the tissues surrounding the patients' hands or arms. Since many chemotherapy medications are caustic to tissue, a port can reduce the risk of inflammation related to these medications' leakage," he explains.

As per the doctor, "Patients and physicians can seek mutual benefit from these ports as they are multi-functional and can also be used for delivering fluids and trans-

fusions, collecting blood samples for lab testing and injecting contrast for PET and CT scans. Patient care and safety are paramount during any kind of treatment, especially in the current environment. The educational initiative PortShala aims to support continuous learning on the science of chemo ports and facilitate its deeper understanding among healthcare workers, cancer caregivers and patients. The right awareness and knowledge around ports can significantly improve the treatment regime and quality of life for cancer patients."

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the experts.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest living aquarium fish is 90 years old



**M**ethuselah likes to eat fresh figs, get belly rubs and is believed to be the oldest living aquarium fish in the world. In the Bible, Methuselah was Noah's grandfather and was said to have lived to be 969 years old. Methuselah the fish is not quite that ancient, but biologists at the California Academy of Sciences believe it is about 90 years old, with no known living peers. Methuselah is a four foot (1.2 metre), 40 pound (18.1 kilogram) Australian lungfish that was brought to the San Francisco Museum in 1938 from Australia. A primitive species with lungs and gills, Australian lungfish are believed to be the evolutionary link between fish and amphibians.

AP

## THE BIDENS

Cat: Willow  
Dog: Commander, Champ and Major

White House recently welcomed a new cat named Willow



## PRESIDENTS AND PONIES



In this 1962 photo, Jacqueline Kennedy (right) gives a guided tour of the White House grounds to Empress Farah Pahlavi of Iran (left) in Washington. Kennedy leads her daughter Caroline's pony, Macaroni

Former US President John Adams and first lady Abigail had two horses named Cleopatra and Caesar, along with dogs Juno and Satan.

Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John F Kennedy, and her friends enjoyed riding her pony Macaroni on the South Lawn, along with another one named Tex, but Macaroni was usually stabled at the Kennedy family home in Virginia.

The White House once had stables of its own used by many presidents, the last being Theodore Roosevelt. "His sons Quentin and Kermit once smuggled their pony Algonquin onto the second floor of the White House in an elevator to visit a sick sibling," said Andrew Hager, a presidential pet historian from the unofficial online Presidential Pet Museum.

# Willow Biden joins long and varied line of presidential pets

As Joe and Jill Biden welcome Willow, a green-eyed tabby from Pennsylvania, to the White House, here are some of the highlights of the past presidential pets:



## THE FIRST CATS OF THE WHITE HOUSE

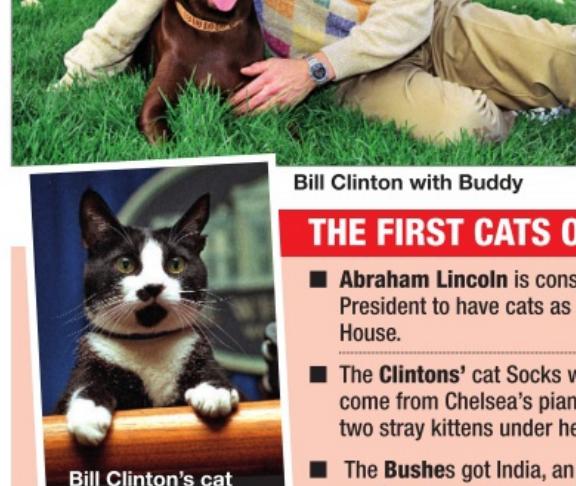
- Abraham Lincoln is considered to be the first President to have cats as family pets in the White House.
- The Clintons' cat Socks was a rescue, having come from Chelsea's piano teacher, who found two stray kittens under her home.
- The Bushes got India, an all-black, female American Shorthair, as a kitten in late 1991 or 1992. The



- White House website revealed that India's favourite room in the White House was the library.
- Caroline Kennedy briefly had a cat, Tom Kitten (aka Tom Terrific) but he made her allergy-prone dad sneeze and was sent off to live with a staffer.

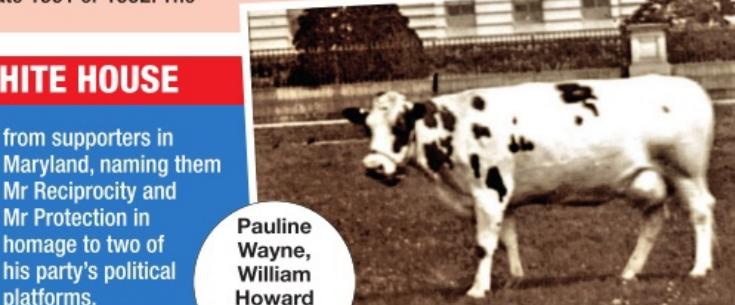


- As Dwight Eisenhower's vice-presidential running mate in 1952, Richard Nixon vowed to keep Checkers, the cocker spaniel given to his family by a Texas supporter amid allegations he misused campaign contributions.
- >> Richard Nixon with his dog Checkers



## COWS, OPOSSUMS: UNUSUAL PETS AT WHITE HOUSE

- Theodore Roosevelt, an avid animal lover, had a pack of dogs, snakes, guinea pigs and, by one account, a one-legged rooster.
- William H Taft had two



- prize cows: Mooly Wooly and Pauline. They grazed on the White House lawn and provided the home's milk and butter.
- Benjamin Harrison once received two opossums from supporters in Maryland, naming them Mr Reciprocity and Mr Protection in homage to two of his party's political platforms.

- from supporters in Maryland, naming them Mr Reciprocity and Mr Protection in homage to two of his party's political platforms.
- Among John Tyler's pets were a pair of "gentle giant" Irish wolfhounds.
- Franklin Roosevelt had several pets but his favourite was a dog named Fala, named for a family ancestor. Given to the Roosevelts by a cousin, the Scottish terrier outlived him by seven years and was buried nearby.

# Foggy glasses, sweat: Common mask problems & their solutions

Over the past couple of years, the pandemic has proven that safety and health are not a choice. So, we cannot give up our masks just yet. What we can do is wear masks with more ease and comfort. Here are some common face mask problems people face and their solutions:

## IF YOU HAVE ASTHMA OR TROUBLE BREATHING

There's no evidence that wearing a face mask can worsen asthma, according to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. But, for people who have asthma or have already contracted COVID-19, it's difficult to breathe naturally with a mask on. In such a case, avoid being in public, use sanitisers with at least 60% alcohol content or wear thin cotton masks while interacting with another individual.

## IF YOU SWEAT A LOT



People who sweat a lot can find it difficult to wear a thick mask with multiple layers. The researchers have found that density is more important than a mask's material in preventing the COVID-19 and the variants' spread. The more compact the fabric threading, the more protective the mask. This can sometimes make a mask feel hot and uncomfortable. While it is the price we pay to protect our near and dear ones, cotton masks are highly recommended for people who sweat a lot. They're efficient, thinner and decently breathable. Even the simplest, one-ply face-covering might not provide complete protection but is better than no mask.

## IF YOU KEEP LOSING YOUR MASK

It's normal to lose tiny things you're not used to carrying all the time. In a situation like this, anyone would recommend investing in disposable masks. And while it is sound advice, let's be honest, they're no friend of the environment. Get mask chains instead that can allow you to hang your masks to the neck when you're not wearing them.



## IF YOUR GLASSES GET FOGGY

The combination of masks and glasses has become risky for people. You can't drive, walk or read properly with a sheet of fog on your numbered glasses. Here are a few things you can do to de-fog your glasses.

## DE-FOG SOLUTION

You can use an anti-fog solution. It provides a long-lasting clear vision for masks that can last for up to six hours. The efficiency of a de-fog solution can vary with the humidity in the environment but it can help block moisture from reaching your glasses.

## SOAPY WATER

Doctors recommend washing your glasses with soapy water. Shake off the excess and let them air dry before putting them on. Soapy water leaves behind a thin layer that after drying helps condensation to spread evenly prevent misting.

## DOUBLE-MASKING

Wear your regular reusable mask and top it off with an N95 mask. The double-layer will stop the moisture from reaching your glasses.

— Chhavi Porwal/Mensxp

before putting them on. Soapy water leaves behind a thin layer that after drying helps condensation to spread evenly prevent misting.

## THE FIRST DOGS OF THE WHITE HOUSE

■ The Obamas' Bo, a male Portuguese water dog (below), joined the family at the White House in April 2009. Sunny, a female of the same breed, came along in August 2013.



Barack Obama once described Bo as a "true friend and loyal companion"

- As Dwight Eisenhower's vice-presidential running mate in 1952, Richard Nixon vowed to keep Checkers, the cocker spaniel given to his family by a Texas supporter amid allegations he misused campaign contributions.
- >> Richard Nixon with his dog Checkers
- Among John Tyler's pets were a pair of "gentle giant" Irish wolfhounds.
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# Diamond certification: A complete guide

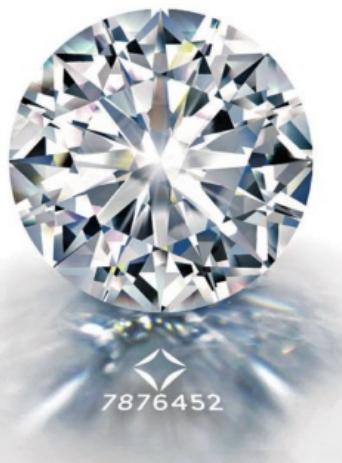
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The brand adds that each diamond that passes through their institute is assessed under rigorous standards in a process that goes beyond the 4Cs (cut, colour, clarity and carat weight) to select some of the most beautiful natural diamonds in the world. This process involves at least 17 steps to determine if a diamond is eligible to be inscribed. Under such scrutiny, less than 1% of the world's natural diamonds are eligible to become a De Beers Forevermark diamond, available through their trusted retailers. Further strengthening its pledge to put consumer trust at the heart of everything it does, the institute provides a number of additional exclusive services. To assist them in this process, the institute's experts use specially developed, proprietary instruments and technology which are exclusive to De Beers Group Technology. These include devices such as DiamondSure™, Synth Detect™, DiamondView™, and DiamondPlus™.

After grading, a detailed grading report is supplied by the institute that provides more in-depth information on the cut, clarity, colour and caratage, alongside a unique identification number inscribed on the diamond. "We use proprietary grading equipment developed by our R&D team to assess



The brand also provides an identification card with every diamond



A unique identification number is inscribed on every diamond

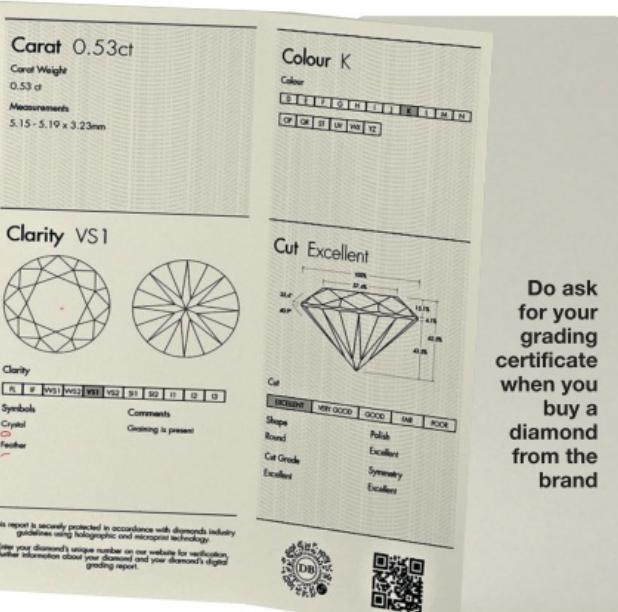
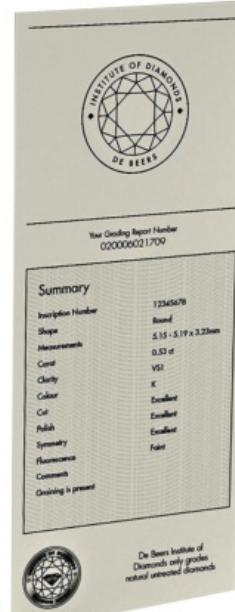
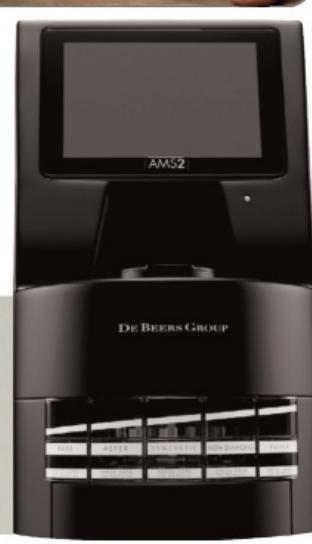


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...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

How do you look back at the age-shaming incident involving Tejasswi Prakash, who called you aunty?

When you stand for women's empowerment, you have to be careful about what you say and how you say it to another woman. When that comment was made (*uss par bhi chadh gayi aunty*), I was playing a character. I was only performing a task and have given my 100% to every task. I don't know what Tejasswi was trying to say or imply but given the situation, it was wrong. Her true colours would come out in the tasks. I always saw the worst in her every time she was pushed into a difficult situation or wasn't given what she expected. Yes, I am my nephew and niece's aunt, but in what context was I called an aunty on national television? She was unapologetic about it, and even after she had apologised, she was trying to justify it. It shows her upbringing and not mine. Anyway, I have forgiven her.

During the show, you were heard saying that you want to step out of your sister's shadow. Have you been able to achieve that?

Absolutely! As I said, my victory is something else. I have managed to do what I wanted to by going inside the house. I have received more than I expected. I have surprised myself.

Besides films, you acted in a web show before you signed *Bigg Boss*. Do you think this stint will help you get better acting offers?

I hope it does, this is something I want. But there is no point running after something if that is not in my destiny. I enjoy acting and would love to do web series. I hope somebody out there believes in me enough to come to me with something nice. In fact, if a good TV show comes my way, especially a finite series, I would love to give it a shot.



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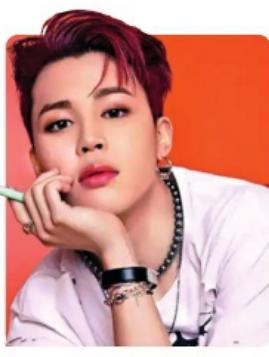
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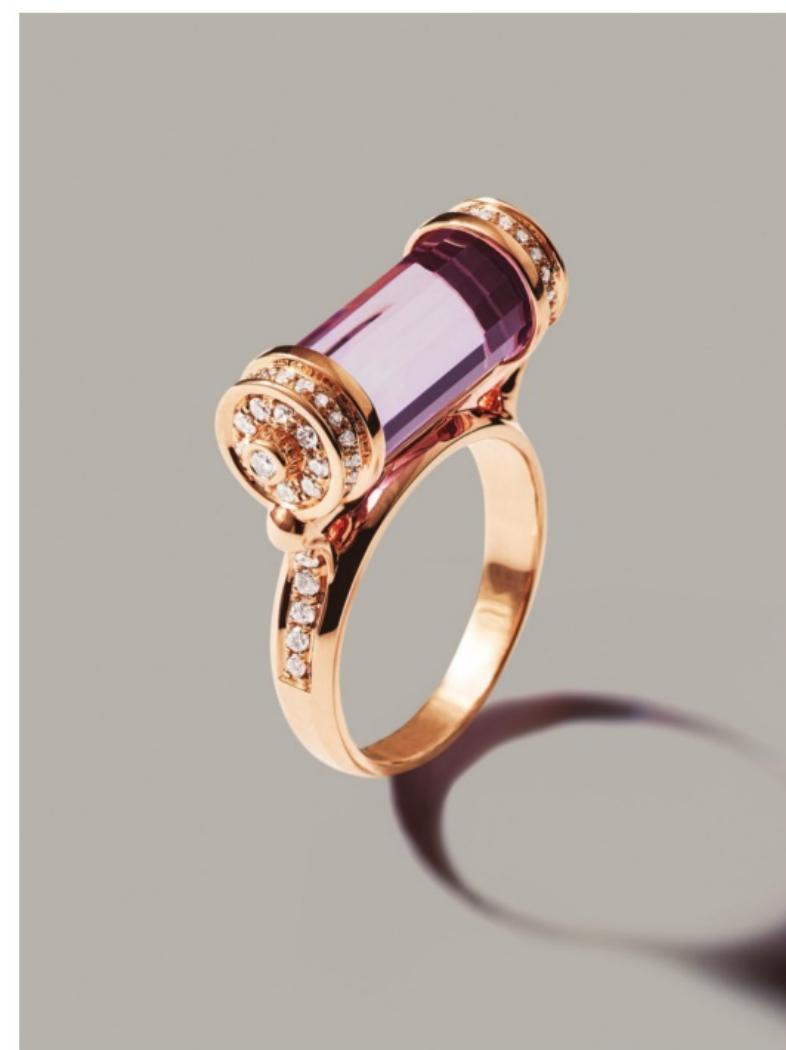
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*And so here she is. Wandering down labyrinthine canals, losing herself in exquisite ruins and achingly beautiful settings. Unscripted sojourns where she embraces pieces of wearable art uncannily seeped in the marvels around her. Unsure if she is enchanted or the enchantress, she embraces the artistry, the passion and in doing so makes it all her own.*



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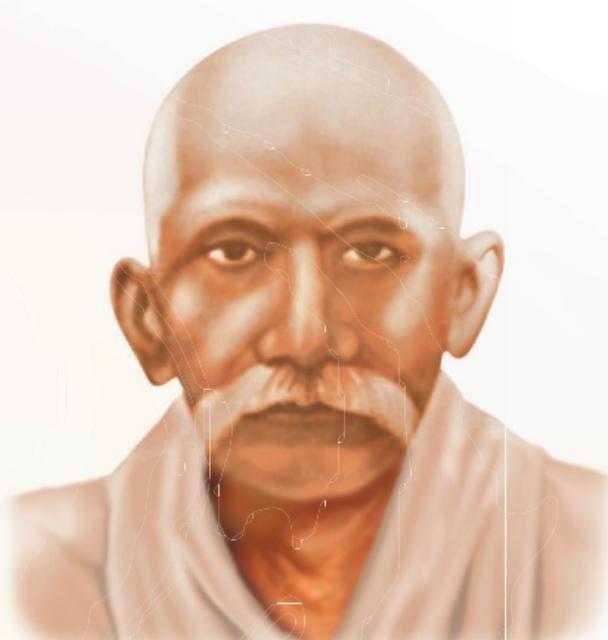
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CASE: NAGPUR  
COURT DIRECTS  
YO YO HONEY  
SINGH TO  
SUBMIT VOICE  
SAMPLE

## A legacy of UNCHANGING Values in changing times...



Shri. Ninan Mathai Muthoot  
Founder - Muthoot Group  
Born: 5<sup>th</sup> February



Shri. M. George Muthoot  
Founder Chairman - Banking  
Born: 4<sup>th</sup> February



Shri. M. G. George Muthoot  
Former Group Chairman  
The Muthoot Group of Companies (1949 - 2021)

### Celebrating Founders' Day with 100+ social and welfare initiatives of giving back to the society



Scholarships in Education



Financial Assistance for Marriages



Houses for the flood-affected



Solar Power installation at Women's Hostel



Enabling Sustainable Livelihood



Supporting Wheelchair Sports Team



Free health check-up facility



Distribution of food items to the marginalised



Health Camp for the Police Forces



Organising Blood Donation Camp



Enablement of the Severely Disabled



Sanitation facilities in schools



Set-up Covid Care Hospital for Police



Supplying Medical Equipment for Covid Care



Initiated Mobile Medical Support during Covid



Free Pick-up & Drop for Covid vaccination

### 20 Diversified Business Divisions

Financial Services | Wealth Management | Money Transfer | Foreign Exchange  
Securities | Media | Vehicle & Asset Finance | Information Technology | Healthcare  
Housing & Infrastructure | Education | Power Generation | Leisure & Hospitality  
Vehicle Loan | Plantations & Estates | Precious Metals | Housing Finance  
Overseas Operations | Personal Loans | Micro Finance

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Muthoot Family - 800 years of Business Legacy

**"HAATHI  PE BHAROSA KAROGEY  
TOH PAKKA JEETOGEY"**



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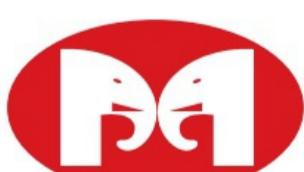
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#  Power of Trust TRA's Brand Trust Report (2016 - 2020)

\*MUTHOOT FINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES.

**Muthoot Family - 800 years of Business Legacy**

**LEISURE**

What the stars have in store for Urmila Matondkar

Turn the page



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TURN THE PAGE

## A MURDER MESS-TERY.



hotstar  
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## THE GREAT INDIAN MURDER

ALL EPISODES  
NOW STREAMING

Disney+  
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## Restaurant Review

## DAKSHIN

South Indian starters and main courses (but no breakfasts!)

**O**n the very day that restaurants were allowed to open, I hurried to Dakshin for my fill of the kind of food that Delhi's snack and breakfast places simply do not serve. *Idlis* and *dosas* are breakfast dishes in all the southern states, and hence, you will not get them in Dakshin. What you will get is

A blend of the best of the southern states



the most painstakingly put together menu, Thanjavur that is crisp outside and melting within with the flavour of plantain and minimal spices. Deep-fried to just the right point, it is served with three types of *chutney* and is a wonderful start to a meal. *Ananas mensakai* (₹800) is one of my favourite preparations from Karnataka and I was delighted to see it on their new menu. Dainty chunks of pineapple are cooked in a gravy of chilli and grated coconut with a handful of spices, including *Byadgi* chilli. The sweetness comes from the pineapple, but another layer of sweetness is from the grated coconut,

**FOOD ★★★★**  
Vazhai shunti (₹425) is a seldom seen specialty of

**WINE & DINE**

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## TIMES FOOD GUIDE

Dakshin: Sheraton New Delhi, Saket District Centre, Ph: 011-46221122;

Meal for two: ₹3,500;

Timings: 12.30 pm-3 pm, 7.30 pm-11 pm

**RATING:** ■ Food: 4 ■ Service: 4

■ Décor: 4

Do you agree? Write your own review and give it a rating at [whatshot.in](http://whatshot.in)

(5) Excellent (4) Very good (3) Good (2) Average (1) Poor

**MUST TRY:** Karu kari kozhumbu, kodi gajaala, meen moilee

while the chillies are for their hotness quotient. If there is an Indian counterpart to Chinese sweet and sour pork, it is this masterpiece, seldom seen outside Karnataka. *Muvvankaya* (₹800) is the embodiment of the saying that the tastiest aubergine preparations in India come from Andhra Pradesh. It is true, and you too will be hooked when you try this dry dish enlivened with smashed green chillies and poppy seeds. *Nathakodayoru yera kozhumbu* (₹1500) is a dish from coastal Tamil Nadu that has coconut in it.

**PLUS AND MINUS**  
It is time the restaurant goes in for a refurbishment: sage green walls would make the pale gold upholstery stand out that much more. On the plus side, the vegetarian choices are so compelling that you will not miss fowl or fish!

— MARRYAM H RESHII

# 'Physical activity boosts cognition in older adults'

iStock



The study found that 50 to 74-year-old participants performed executive function tasks more effectively when their physical activity increased

"researcher Raeanne Moore said. "We weren't telling people to increase their physical activity. They just did what they do every day." The correlation between physical activity and cognition remained when adjustments were made for various co-morbidities, such as HIV status, age, sex, education and race/ethnicity. But it held only for persons who function independently, and rely on others to perform the tasks of daily living.

Moore said their work has implications for the development of novel digital health interventions to preserve brain health in ageing.

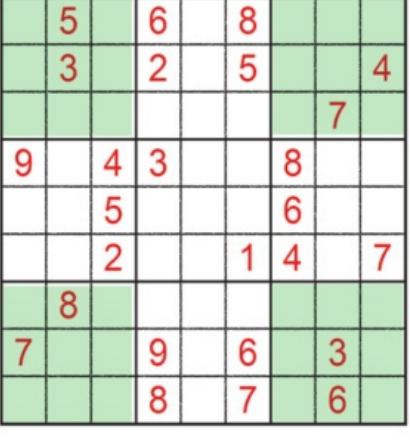
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## SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium



## HOW TO PLAY

1. A number may appear just once in each row or column. Eliminate repeat numbers by darkening cells. (see example)

2. Darkened cells must never be adjacent in a row or column.

3. Unmarked cells must create a single continuous area, undivided by darkened cells.

4. Every time you darken a cell, you can automatically circle its vertical and horizontal neighbours, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

5. Any cell "sand-

## TIMES HITORI



wiched" between neighbours of the same value can be circled. (e.g. 6 6 6)

6. A "triple" is a special case of sandwich. Circle the centre cells, and darken the ends. (e.g. 6 6 6)

Example

## Rules

■ Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).

■ Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).

■ Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.

■ You can't draw lines around zeroes.

■ Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

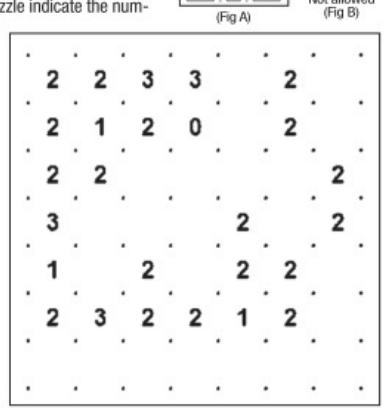
How to begin: Ex-

ample (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic. Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B)

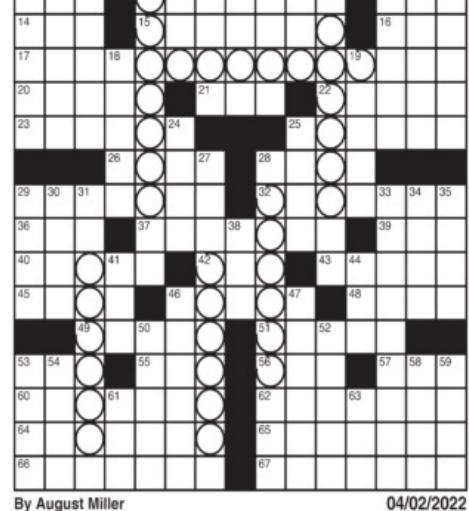
## LOOP THE LOOP



Not allowed (Fig B)



## THE DAILY CROSSWORD



By August Miller

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



03/02/2022

04/02/2022



## ANIMAL CRACKERS



PEANUTS



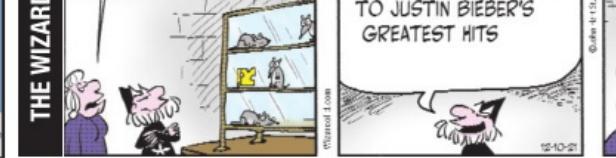
## THE WIZARD OF ID



GARFIELD



## ARCHIE



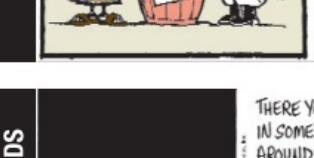
BEAU PEEP



## BETWEEN FRIENDS



STAR PRIZE - A CAR



## BELIEVE IT OR NOT



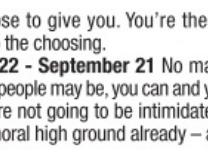
ARIE



## DENNIS THE MENACE

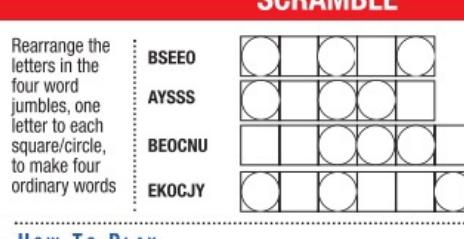


ARCHIE



## SCRAMBLE

## SCRAMBLE



Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

BSEEO, AYSS, BEOCNU, EKOCJY

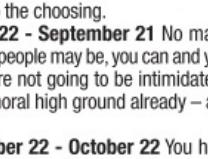
How to play

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to

- APJ Abdul Kalam (5,7)

SCRAMBLE



## MINDBENDER

A palindrome is a word or phrase that reads the same, if it's turned back-to-front. The names Bob, Eve, and Otto are all palindromes. So is the name of the pop group Abba. Try to identify palindromic words from the following clues. Good luck!

1. Music pieces for individuals
2. Grass that grows on beaches
3. A musical note
4. Doctrine
5. Restorer

OGN SUPPORT B

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



ANSWER: A, P, J, ABDUL KALAM

Music pieces for individuals - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

WHATZIT?

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 1. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 2. Grass that grows on beaches - Seaweed, 3. A musical note - Ostinato, 4. Doctrine - Restorer, 5. Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 6. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 7. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 8. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 9. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 10. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 11. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses - Treble - Neutral, 5 Restorer - Reviver.

SCRAMBLE

Answers: 12. A musical note - Minim, 4 Double-basses