

**OPINION 6**  
PROPAGANDA AROUND  
CHINA'S 'INFALLIBILITY'

**WORLD 8**  
UAE BECOMES 1ST COUNTRY TO  
TRANSITION TO 4.5 DAY WORK WEEK

**AVEUNES 10**  
BREAKING HEALTHCARE  
BARRIERS

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## Farmers to take final call today on ending protest

Most kisan leaders satisfied with Govt response, but seek clarity on issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The agitating farmers' groups will meet on Wednesday to take a final call whether to end their protests after they reportedly received a positive response from the Government on meeting their demands. In a meeting held at Singhu border on Tuesday, farmer leaders expressed their satisfaction over the Centre's move to resolve the standoff, but some wanted more clarity on the issues raised by them and sought clarification from the Government.

After the meeting, farmers' leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said they will hold another meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday. He said several farmers have sought certain clarifications, including on the precondition set for withdrawal of "fake" cases against farmers. "The Government sent a proposal, it was discussed and presented before all members under the aegis of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and sent it to the



Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders address a Press conference after their meeting to decide their future course of action in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Government with our reservations", Rajewal said.

Farmer leaders added that there is a general consensus among the SKM leaders on the written assurance they have received from the Government. "The Morcha will seek further clarifications on a few points of the Government's proposal, and will reconvene at 2 pm on Wednesday for further discussion. The Morcha hopes for a positive response from the Government," said the SKM in a statement.

Last week Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to two farmer leaders (via a phone call) to discuss outstanding issues; this was after their protests forced the recall of the farm laws.

The Centre has conveyed to farmer unions that the proposed committee on the min-

imum support price (MSP) will have representations from the SKM, Government officials, and representatives of States. Besides, the Government has agreed to drop all police cases against farmers — this includes stubble burning complaints and cases filed by Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police after withdrawal of protests.

On the Government proposal to set up a committee on MSP, Rajewal said that farmers had objections to it. "We do not want other committees. We have demanded that the Government give a clarification in this regard."

On the withdrawal of cases against farmers, Rajewal said, "We are also against the condition set by the Government that farm unions should lift the protest for the withdrawal of fake cases against farmers. We

won't accept any such precondition."

Farmers groups earlier formed a five-member committee of Balbir Singh Rajewal, Shiv Kumar Kakka, Gurnam Singh Charuni, Yudhvir Singh and Ashok Dhawale to hold talks with the Centre and State Governments on their demands.

After the announcement of repealing three contentious farm laws, the SKM had written to the Prime Minister on November 21 and placed six demands.

The demands are: Legal guarantee of MSP for all produce based on C2+50% formula; withdrawal of draft Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020/2021; removal of the penal provisions on farmers in the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021; withdrawal of false cases registered against the farmers over the course of the ongoing movement; dismissal and arrest of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra Teni in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri incident; compensation and rehabilitation to the families of the who died during the farm movement; and allocation of land for a memorial to them at Singhu.

## Lal topiwalas like red alert for UP: Modi

PM inaugurates 3 mega projects in Yogi's home turf in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Without naming the Samajwadi Party chief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday unleashed a sharp attack on Akhilesh Yadav warning people against "lal topiwala". The SP chief always dons red cap during his political campaigns.

The PM was addressing a rally in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home turf Gorakhpur ahead of the Assembly elections in the State.

Modi inaugurated three mega projects, including an AIIMS and the fertiliser plant, in Gorakhpur.

Taking a jibe at Akhilesh and his party men, Modi said the people of UP are aware that "lal topiwalas are only interested in cars flashing red beacons".

Questioning the ideological commitment of BJP's political rivals, Modi said "lal topiwalas" discarded the ideologies of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jai Prakash Narayan long



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at the launch of various development projects, in Gorakhpur on Tuesday PTI

back. "They are not bothered about the problems of common people. Lal topiwalas want power so that they can indulge in scams, load their safes with cash and valuables, carry out illegal encroachments and allow the mafia to have a free run," Modi said. "Please remember that lal topiwalas are like red alert for UP — they are like the ringing of danger bells," the PM said amid loud cheers from the

crowd. Modi said before 2014, the country was known for importing urea, and the shortage of fertilisers used to make headlines, but the situation has improved now.

Modi said his Government stopped misuse of urea, and issued soil health cards to farmers so that they know which type of fertiliser is needed. The PM said his Government also took steps to hike urea production by reviv-

ing closed fertiliser plants.

He said the amount of sugarcane dues paid by the Yogi Government in four and a half years is more than the total sum paid by the previous Governments in the State in 10 years.

The other project he inaugurated is a Regional Medical Research Centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The three big-ticket projects are worth over ₹9,600 crore.

### CAPSULE

**DJ, WRESTLER HELD FOR ARMS TRAFFICKING**  
New Delhi: A disc jockey and a wrestler were among three men who were arrested on charges of supplying illegal arms to criminals, and 27 semi-automatic pistols were seized from their possession. Yogesh Patel, alias Nilesh (22), Pankaj Kumar Bhargava (20) and Jitendra, alias Jittu, were arrested in two operations by the Special Cell unit, they said.

**SERVICES AT DELHI'S 3 CENTRE-RUN HOSPS HIT**  
New Delhi: Patient care at Delhi's Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge hospitals were hit as resident doctors boycotted all routine and emergency services for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as part of a nationwide protest over the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling.

**UP: 3 KIDS BURNT TO DEATH DURING SLEEP**  
Mirzapur: Two sisters and a brother, aged three to seven-years, were burnt to death at Pachokhara Khurd village in Madihan area of the district here, police said. The children were sleeping on a pile of straw in the barn on Monday evening when it caught fire, police said.



A child sitting in a bucket being evacuated by a man and a policeman from a flooded area of Verma Nagar due to the overflowing Ariyar river following heavy rain, in Trichy district on Tuesday PTI

## SP, RLD stitch alliance for UP Assembly polls

In joint rally with Jayant, Akhilesh attacks BJP

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Choudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) formally announced their alliance for Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections 2022 at a joint rally in Meerut district on Tuesday.

Akhilesh and Jayant arrived for the rally, dubbed "Parivartan Sandesh" in the Dabathua area of Meerut district, in the same helicopter.

Addressing the gathering, Akhilesh said if the alliance comes to power after next year elections, the first work will be to build a memorial for "martyrs" of the farmers' protest. He attacked the ruling BJP saying the "2022 election will see the eclipse of the BJP from western UP, as the ruling party has practiced the



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav with RLD leader Jayant Choudhary during a SP-RLD rally in Meerut on Tuesday PTI

politics of lying with the people and politics of polarisation."

Akhilesh remembered Chaudhary Charan Singh, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Lohia, and farmers leader Mahendra Singh Tikait and highlighted their contribution to making an egalitarian society.

"Now, the BJP will be wiped out from the State. This time there would be the sunset of the BJP forever in West Uttar Pradesh," he said.

"Kisano ka inquilab hoga, 2022 me badlav hoga (there will be a revolution by farmers and change in 2022)," Akhilesh said.

## Air quality panel orders closure of NCR plants not using clean fuels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Tuesday issued directions for immediate closure of industries located in industrial areas where PNG infrastructure and supply are available but have still not switched over to PNG.

"These violating industries/ industrial units will not be permitted to schedule their operations till December 12, 2021, and the position will be reviewed for further decisions," CAQM said.

While the air quality in Delhi is not improving despite the several measures taken by both Centre and Delhi Government, the CAQM has enforced strict actions against the industries.

"The commission believes that there is an urgent need to



take further preventive measures, as a matter of extreme emergency and abundant caution," it added.

Earlier, CAQM directed Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (UP) to audit inspect the industries which are already connected to PNG supply and

ensure that those industries are not using any other polluting fuels like coal and maintain strict vigil to prevent the use of unapproved fuels in the NCR, through the enforcement agencies concerned and take stringent action, in the case of the defaulting units.

## SC rejects NIA plea against bail to Sudha in Elgar case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed National Investigation Agency's (NIA) appeal challenging the Bombay High Court order granting default bail to lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

"We see no reason to interfere with the High Court order," said a bench of Justices UU Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi, refusing to consider the submissions raised by the NIA which had moved the apex court against the December 1 order.

Bharadwaj was arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case in August 2018 under the provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The activist lawyer was accused of hatching conspiracy to overthrow the Union Government, was enti-



led to bail and its denial would be in breach of her fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, the High Court had said.

The High Court had directed that Bharadwaj, lodged in the Byculia women's prison, be produced before the Mumbai special NIA court on December 8, and conditions of her bail and date of release be decided.

Bharadwaj is the first

among 16 activists and academicians arrested in the case to have been granted default bail. Poet-activist Varavara Rao is currently on medical bail. Jesuit priest Stan Swamy died in a private hospital here on July 5 this year while waiting for medical bail. The others are in custody as undertrials.

The High Court had rejected the default bail plea filed by eight other co-accused in the case — Sudhir Dhawale, Varavara Rao, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh Raut, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira. The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad enclave, held at Shaniwarwada in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial located on the city's outskirts.

## Pay \$5 mn in 2 weeks or face liquidation, HC tells SpiceJet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court has stayed its earlier order of winding up SpiceJet and the airline will soon initiate "appropriate remedial steps including preferring an appeal" against the order before a higher bench, the company said on Tuesday.

In a filing to BSE, the budget carrier said the Madras High Court had on Monday issued an order of "winding up SpiceJet and appointment of official liquidator" in a case filed by Credit Suisse claiming non-payment of \$24.01 million dues to engine maintenance services firm SRT Technics.

"The Madras HC despite holding that SRT did not have a valid authorization from DGCA to carry out engine

maintenance during the currency of the agreement rejected the company's defence and ordered winding up of the company and directed the official liquidator to take over the assets of the company," SpiceJet noted.

However, on the same day, the Madras High Court issued another order wherein it stayed its previous order and gave SpiceJet "a period of three weeks, subject to the condition that the company deposits the amount equivalent to \$5 million within two weeks."

"The Company is examining the order and shall initiate appropriate remedial steps including preferring an appeal before the appellate jurisdiction within the time frame allowed by the HC," SpiceJet noted.





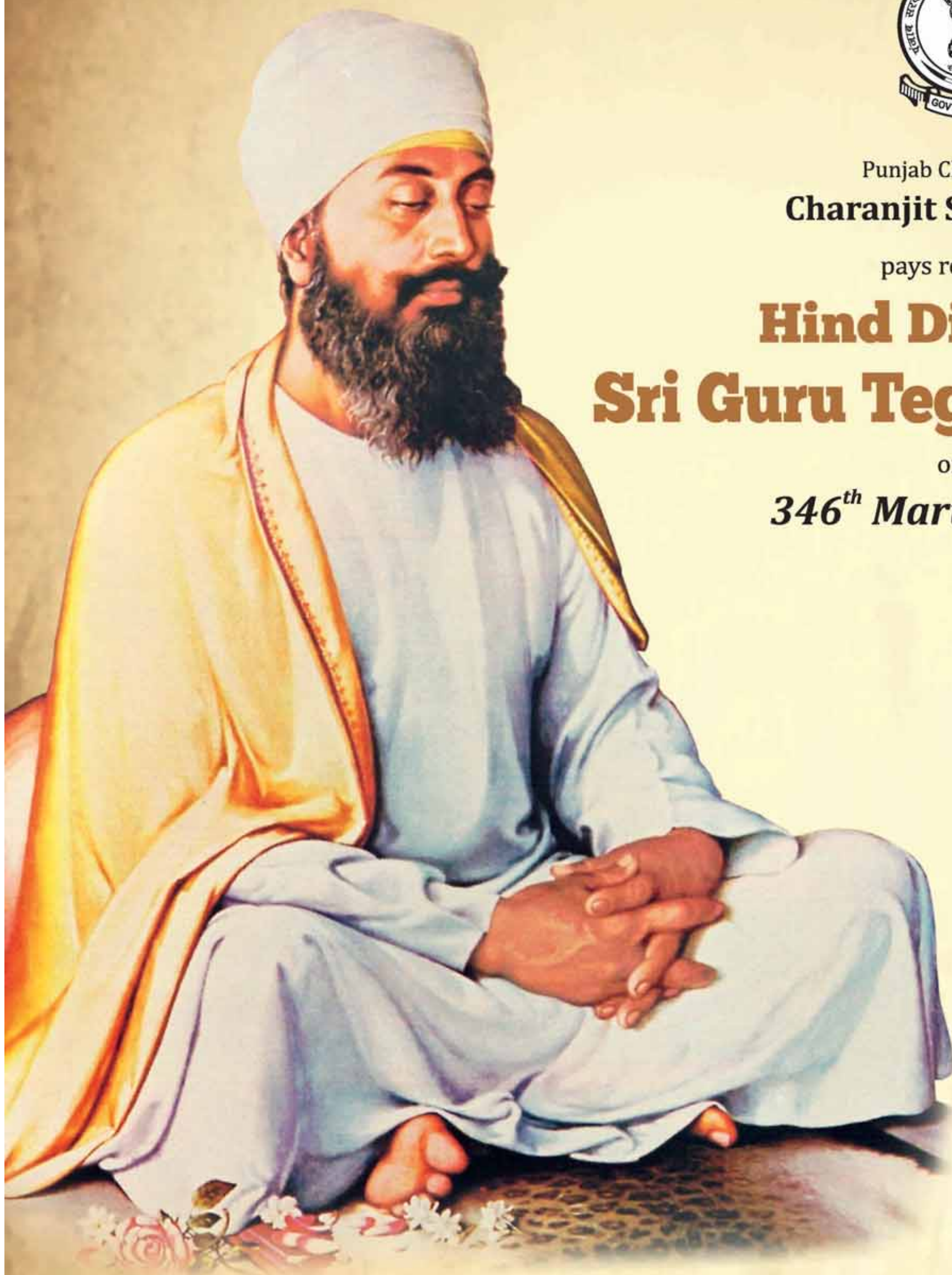
Punjab Chief Minister  
**Charanjit Singh Channi**

pays respects to

# **Hind Di Chadar** **Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**

on his

**346<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom Day**



**Chief Minister will lay the foundation stones of following projects:-**

**Modernization and up-gradation of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Museum**

**Nature Park and One MW Solar Plant at Virasat-e-Khalsa**

**2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Bhai Jeewan Singh Ji (Bhai Jaita Ji) Memorial**

On this sacred occasion, Chief Minister will address a religious congregation at **Virasat-e-Khalsa Auditorium, Sri Anandpur Sahib** to pay glowing tributes to the Ninth Sikh Guru

**on December 8, 2021 (Wednesday)**  
**at 10:30 AM**



**Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab**



USP Army signs MoUs with Private Universities Shimla: The Army Training Command (ARTRAC), one of the seven commands of the Indian Army, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with private universities in Himachal Pradesh to provide higher education and skill programmes for serving army personnel at its headquarters here.



Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission (HP-PERC), Chief of Staff, ARTRAC, Lt Gen J S Sandhu signed the MoUs on behalf of the Army. Chairman of HP-PERC, Maj Gen Atul Kaushik (ret'd) was present at the ceremony.

Those who signed the MoUs on behalf of the universities included Mr Vishal Anand (Shoolini University), Prof Varinder S Ranjwa (Chitkara University), Prof Rajendra Kumar Sharma (Jaypee University), Dr Davinder Singh (Eternal University), Prof Kartar Singh Verma (Career Point University) and Mr Suresh Gupta (Maharaja Agrasen University). Gen Sandhu thanked the Vice Chancellors and managements of private universities for the offer and said its outcome would be dependent on the implementation of the proposals. He asked them to get down to brass tacks to make the scheme a success.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for the information of General Public that Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/O Sh. Jai Bhagwan R/O Ward No. 1, Narmand, Dist. Hissar seek permission to transfer of Flat No. 3536/MIG/GF in Housing Board Colony, Sector 4, Part II, Hissar to Sh. Gulshan Khurana S/O Sh. Sohan Lal Khurana R/O H.No. 1747, Sector 14 P, Hissar The house was allotted/ transferred to him on Memo No. HBH/EM/HSR/2017/174 dated 02-07-2021. If any person has any objection regarding transfer of this flat he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received from any person within stipulated period, the permission for transfer of flat will be granted in favour of Sh. Gulshan Khurana S/O Sh. Sohan Lal Khurana on the basis of documents submitted as per policy of the Board. No claim/objection shall be entertained after that in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for the information of General public that Sh. Satender Kumar Yadav S/O Sh. Sham Sher Singh R/O Bangarwa Ahir, Bhowas Ahir, Dist. Rewari has applied for transfer of higher H.No. 3309/LIG/GF in Housing Board Colony, Sector 1 & 4, Part II, Hissar in favour of Smt. Sushma Rani D/O Sh. Badrinath R/O H.No. 395, PLA, Hissar. If any person regarding transfer of this flat has any objection regarding transfer of this flat he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received from any person within stipulated period, the permission for transfer of flat will be granted in favour of Smt. Sushma Rani D/O Sh. Badrinath on the basis of documents submitted as per policy of the Board. No claim/objection shall be entertained after that in this regard.

LOST & FOUND I, Reena Rani W/o Amit Kumar R/o Siwan Distt. Kaitahl, my two registry, Krishna Devi w/o Balwant Rai 951 (15-1-2016) Rajbala w/o Jai Bhagwan 808 (7-1-2011) Lost somewhere at 1-30 on 14-4-21. Whoever gets this registry, please contact mobil no.- 9671412309

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK E-Auction Sale Notice to General Public Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 8(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002...

Haryana Waqf Board WALK-IN-INTERVIEW Under the Central Government Scheme named "Quami Waqf Board Taraqqati Scheme"...

LOST NOTICE I Paramjit Kaur W/O Lakhwinder Singh resident of street No-15, H.No- 213 / B-10 Mohalla Kamalpur Police Station Model Town (Hoshiarpur) I declare that I have a plot which is in Adarsh Nagar. My plot is 4 Maria 114 feet in my name. I have lost my first registry no- IN-PB01881688790270 O Vaskia No- 7786 Zild No- 4247 Dated 15-3-2016. I have filed a missing report of my registry. If anyone found, contact me at my address or phone no. 98156-41531

नगर निगम रोहतक सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर शाखा के सम्बन्धित कर के रिकार्ड में प्रोवर्टेड आई.डी. नं. 45C724U90, चार्ज नं. 43, श्री/श्रीमती सुनहरी देवी पत्नी जय सिंह के नाम से दर्ज है।

नगर निगम, रोहतक सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर शाखा के सम्बन्धित कर के रिकार्ड में प्रोवर्टेड आई.डी. नं. 45C724U90, चार्ज नं. 43, श्री/श्रीमती सुनहरी देवी पत्नी जय सिंह के नाम से दर्ज है।

PUNJAB & SIND BANK POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) Whereas, the Undersigned being the "Authorized Officer" of Punjab & Sind Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act 2002...

INDIAN BANK ZONAL OFFICE: SCO 49-50, Second Floor, Bank Square, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh-160017, Phone: 0172-2702912, 5041091, Fax: 0172-2704752, Email: zochandigarh@indianbank.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SEC. 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

punjab national bank E-AUCTION NOTICE ...the name you can BANK upon CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE: CIRCLE SASTRA, SCO-170, SECTOR 13-17, PANIPAT

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

नगर निगम, रोहतक सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर शाखा के सम्बन्धित कर के रिकार्ड में प्रोवर्टेड आई.डी. नं. 45C724U90, चार्ज नं. 43, श्री/श्रीमती सुनहरी देवी पत्नी जय सिंह के नाम से दर्ज है।

Lost & Found I, Naresh S/o Mr. Krishan Bhardwaj resident of H.No. 56 VPO Butana Kundu Teh. Gohana Distt. Sonapat HR- 131302 state that Sale deed No. 2059 Dated 19/07/1988 Vol No 532 is lost somewhere. Whosoever find this please contact on the address mentioned above.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK PUBLIC NOTICE By virtue of this notice, all customers of Branch Punjab & Sind Bank, Railway Road, Mandi Dabwali (Code D0311) are hereby informed that the branch will be relocated to its new premises at Punjab & Sind Bank, Jhalaria Warehouse, Chaulata Road, Mandi Dabwali, Haryana-125104.

PUBLIC NOTICE I Darshna Rani W/O Sh. Ram Lal resident of village Dhira Jattan PO & teh Pathankot do hereby by confirm that my Registered sale deed bearing NO.5109 Dated 14/01/2009 is not traceable. I have a valid housing loan from S.B.I Nalwa Bridge. Bank has obtained a certified copy which is to be considered final in case original sale deed not found.

PUBLIC NOTICE That Sh. Shiv Charan Singh S/O Sh. Bachan Singh (hereinafter referred to as the Mortgagor) owner of Property bearing Godown Plot no. 1-C, measuring 00 Kanal 04 Marla 8-1/2 Sarsahi (149 Sq. Yards), bearing Khewat/Khatoni no. 686/707 Khazna No. 19/9/14-2, Kitta 01, land measuring 4 Kanal 2 Marla share to the extent of 44-1/2/738 Lc. 00 Kanal 04 Marla 8-1/2 Sarsahi, Situated at Village Bhabhat, Hadbast No. 234, M.C and Sub-Tehsil Zira, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India. S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali Punjab (hereinafter referred to as the mortgagee) According to the said Mortgage, the Original Sale Deed dated 18.08.2011 bearing Vaska No. 8450 executed by Sh. Naresh Kumar S/O Sh. Jaswant Rai and Sh. Kuldip Singh S/O Sh. Leela Devi in respect of land measuring 00 Kanal 1 Marla 7 Sarsahi in favour of Smt. Amrita Garg W/O Sh. Ashok Kumar is misplaced.

Table with columns: Name of the Branch AND Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s), Description of the Secured Assets, NPA Date, Date of Demand Notice, Amount as per Demand Notice (Rs.), Nature of Facility

नगर निगम रोहतक सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम, रोहतक को कर शाखा के सम्बन्धित कर के रिकार्ड में प्रोवर्टेड आई.डी. नं. 45C724U90, चार्ज नं. 43, श्री/श्रीमती सुनहरी देवी पत्नी जय सिंह के नाम से दर्ज है।

LOST AND FOUND I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Parkash Chand R/o Vill. Garhi Gosain, Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar declares that Original Registry of my plot Reg. No. 59/18-4-2014, 4235/30.01.2012, 1525/03.01.2011 has been lost at Thana Chappar on Dt. 01.11.2021. It has not been mortgaged with any Person / Bank / Financial Institution.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) R/W Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Himachal Pradesh I.P.H. Department. "Corrigendum" The e-tender called by this office vide NIT No-EE-IQA-CA-TA-On-line-NIT/2021-16197-240 Dated: 27-11-2021. Due to clerical mistake in the BOQ (Bill of Quantity) for the following works may be read as under in the Tender ID 2021\_HIPPH\_54105\_1 (Job No.5) at Sr. 6.00,(6.01,602 & 6.03). The schedule date of opening of tender on 07-12-2021 is hereby postponed due to some technical reasons. Now the same will be issued up to 9.12.2021 till 5.00 P.M. and will be received on 10.12.2021 up to 11.00 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. The other terms and condition shall remain same.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Balancing act

Putin used the Indian soil to take a snipe at the US, putting it in a spot

The summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin has tested India's ability to do a balancing act so as not to get caught between the brittle relationship between the US and Russia over Ukraine and the proposed Summit for Democracy. For the record, Modi and Putin reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing ties. Significantly, it was Putin's second visit outside Russia since the pandemic's outbreak, after he visited Geneva this June to meet US President Joe Biden. The New Delhi visit underlined Russia's importance to India as a provider of defence systems. Russia handles over half of all Indian arms imports, technology and joint production agreements. Russia has also agreed to lease a nuclear-powered submarine to India. The icing on the cake is Russia's long-range S-400 ground-to-air missile defence system which initially attracted the displeasure of the United States. It was expected at one time that despite the warm relations between the US and India, Washington might sanction India under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), which warns of sanctions for any country buying arms from Russia. That has not come to pass yet, but the fact remains that India looked to Russia, and not the US, for its defence needs. In the case of the nuclear-powered submarine, too, it looked to Russia. Interestingly, the AUKUS pact of September will allow Australia to become the first non-nuclear weapons



State to acquire a similar nuclear-powered submarine. Even as Modi and Putin vowed to cement their unique ties, New Delhi realised that Russia used Indian soil to take a snipe at the US. Its Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recalled that the US tried to undermine Russia-India cooperation on the S-400 deal and tried to make India obey American orders. "We", Lavrov said, witnessed how the US tried to make India "to follow the American vision of how this region should be developed". It appears that Russia used Putin's visit to put the US in a spot by leaning more heavily than required on its friendship with India. That line of thinking is open to interpretation because the US has not followed up on the sanctions threat. After all, it understands the challenges India faces from its neighbours in the west and east. Also, the US and India have their association in the Indo-Pacific in the form of QUAD. Lavrov's statement, however, may have more to do with two areas of current friction between Russia and the US. One is the Russian troop movement near Ukraine's borders amid speculations of a conflict. Lavrov's remarks came just a day before the Biden-Putin virtual summit on the issue. The US has said it will send reinforcements to Nato's eastern flank if Russia invades Ukraine. The second issue is Biden's invite to 100-odd countries to his Summit of Democracy on December 9 and 10. Ukraine has been invited to the summit, but Russia stands excluded.

## PICTALK



A view of the snow-covered Himalayan range, in Shimla

PTI

## Dam it!

Tamil Nadu's ban on *Dam 999* continues since 2011, and on a flimsy narrative

The DMK and its natural allies, the Communists, are always in the forefront to agitate against the violation of the right to free speech. But it is shocking that the Dravidian Government continues to ban a 2011 production, *Dam 999*. The movie, which bagged several national and international honours, was shortlisted for even the Oscars. However, the TN Government banned it citing law and order problems. Though bans were earlier imposed on certain films like *Vishwaroopam* and *Thuppakki* fearing reprisal from a minority community, the issues were resolved within days and those were released to a grand welcome. Meanwhile, the State Government's reason for banning the movie is ambiguous. "The film's story is woven around the Mullaperiyar Dam; the core issues are pending before the Supreme Court. If the ban is lifted, there may be widespread agitation and disruption of peace," states the November 22, 2021, order issued by the Additional Chief Secretary. Film's producer-director Sohan Roy says that there was nothing in *Dam 999* which could upset law and order in Tamil Nadu.



"The movie was released all over the world, except in Tamil Nadu, though we had hired many artists and technicians from that State for the project, including national award-winning designer Thotta Tharini. The film makes no reference to the Mullaperiyar Dam and the storyline was based on the bursting of the Banqiao Dam in China in 1975, which resulted in the death of 2.5 lakh people. I never had Mullaperiyar in my mind when I was shooting the movie," Roy adds. The ban is seen as the "true colours" of the Dravidians, according to noted author and film critic PK Sreenivasan. "History is repeating itself in Tamil Nadu. MG Ramachandran was thrown out of the DMK for questioning the party leadership's stance on a number of issues. We cannot expect anything different from them even now." Sreenivasan comments on the ban issue. The truth is that Tamil Nadu does not like to discuss the Mullaperiyar Dam. The term '999' evokes nervousness in the powers that be there since they know that the 999-year-long agreement is a fraud perpetrated on the people of Travancore by the then Madras Province. How an incident that reportedly happened in China could force the people of Tamil Nadu to violate law and order is anybody's guess. Dams should not be used for damning creativity!

# Propaganda around China's 'infallibility'



BHOPINDER SINGH

Under Xi Jinping's leadership, the seeds of Mao's manipulative propaganda tactics have mushroomed like never before in China

In the early days of 'helmsman' Mao Zedong's Chinese revolution, propaganda assumed a key role in shaping the Chinese optics, discourse and popular narrative. In 1958, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, *People's Daily*, wrote: "...today, in the era of Mao Zedong, heaven is here on earth..." — ironically, this was also the year of the start of the Great Chinese Famine that has been regarded as amongst the greatest manmade disasters in human history, accounting for millions (estimates ranging from 15 to 55 million) deaths. The instinctive cover-up reaction of the Chinese officialdom entailed releasing propaganda posters of Chinese children standing atop surreal green fields of wheat so dense that they could hold their weight — the reality of the 'fields', actually made of deliberately transplanted stalks with a bench to hold the children, was hidden from the masses.

Today, in Xi Jinping's China, the seeds of Mao's manipulative propaganda tactics have mushroomed like never before, and the curation of the 'Chinese Dream' is a zealously guarded effort that brooks no contrarian viewpoint. Xi's barely concealed and insidious efforts to "tell China's story well" comes packaged with the usual spirit of defensive and reactive censorship, heavily massaged headlines, deflections to even outright buying out international opinions eg, *South China Morning Post*. Awkward subjects like the ensuing dissonance in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet or the Dalai Lama remain subject to editorial manicuring with the requisite smoke-and-mirrors to ensure that the domestic audience does not get 'brainwashed' to what Xi calls "western values of journalism". An important aspect of this control phenomenon is to define the so-called redlines that necessitates the continuing maintenance of the official charade of the Communist Party's supremacy, infallibility and perfection — anyone questioning the same risks immediate threat or, in Chinese context, mysterious disappearances.

Last year, flamboyant Chinese entrepreneur Jack Ma, at



the cusp of the world's largest public offering of his company ie The Ant Group (a flourishing empire including the Alibaba, then valued at well over \$1 trillion), was subjected to a reality check of overstepping the mandated redlines (in this case, criticising Chinese regulatory policies) in Xi's hypersensitive China, and soon disappeared. Since then, Ja Ma has gone under the radar with patchy, dubiously organised and sanitised public appearances, that are typical of China's treatment of anyone blowing the lid off the official narrative. Many others like award-winning photographer Lu Guang, businesswoman Duan Weihong, actress Zhao Wei, artist and activist Ai Weiwei, real estate tycoon Ren Zhiqiang — all followed the patented route of inexplicable 'disappearances'. No criticism of the leader, party or its policies is ever tolerated.

Now, the hardly curious case of former No 1 women's tennis doubles player, Peng Shuai, follows the exact same path. Her crime: Calling out the bluff of so-called discipline, propriety and morality within the top ranks of the CCP by accusing former Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Expectedly, Chinese social media platform Weibo took down Peng Shuai's post and discussions about her

THIS IS THE THIN ICE ON WHICH THE CHINESE SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IS PREDICATED; XI JINPING KNOWS THIS, AND THEREFORE AMONG HIS PREDECESSORS, HE PREFERS MAO ZEDONG'S HARD PROPAGANDA APPROACH

sudden disappearance were heavily censored within the controlled realm of Chinese media, and her physical whereabouts remained unconvincingly scanty. Following a concerted effort by the World Tennis Association (WTA), the Chinese Tennis Association issued perfunctory assurances that Peng Shuai was safe and "not under any physical threat". In a throwback to Ja Ma's carefully calibrated 'reappearances' that raised a lot more questions than it addressed, Peng Shuai too has started making what is increasingly getting dubbed as 'hostage videos'. For an internationally active player, there has been an inexplicable curb on access and ability to reach out to her with strangely incommunicado and stage-managed 'sightings', dished out as means of meaningless reassurances of normalcy. Unfortunately, and embarrassingly so for the Chinese, the WTA Tour has suspended its tournaments in China and upped the ante, exactly what the Chinese were seeking to avoid, in their quest to suppress the truth and the accompanying outcry. Crucially, this specific disappearance (unlike countless others) could further sully the Chinese perceptions, weak as they are in the COVID era, to derail the Winter Olympics which are due in a

couple of months. It's not so much about defending Gaoli's personal reputation (who too remains away from public gaze) as much as it is about defending the linear mirage of the 'Chinese Dream' (read, Party's governing capacity and infallibility) and of, therefore, avoiding the dangerous precedent of 'questioning' any of its imperatives. The *People's Daily*, which noted the "heaven on earth" analogy in 1958, launched its English daily tabloid, *Global Times*, in 2009 with the same level of propagandistic enthusiasm — so it noted WTA's action as "pursuit of political correctness", "forcing her to comply in accordance with the imagination and expectations of Western public opinion" and as "politicisation of sports", all the while remaining deflective on the specifics of Peng Shuai's disappearance. This is the thin ice on which the Chinese society, governance and sustainability is predicated; Xi Jinping knows this, and therefore among his predecessors, he prefers Mao Zedong's hard propaganda approach to the relatively reformist approach of Deng Xiaoping. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE PANDEMIC IS PERHAPS INVINCIBLE

Sir — No country, no community, no individual is safe until everyone across the world is safe. The emergence of a new Coronavirus variant has once again brought the spotlight on how unprecedented the pandemic is and how precarious the situation we're all in. We may have come to think that the pandemic is over, but the virus is still with us. As we speak, scientists across the world are scrambling to gather more data on the Omicron variant to understand how dangerous it is in terms of transmission and severity, and whether the currently available vaccines will be effective against it. The World Health Organisation has designated Omicron — the B.1.1.529 lineage of Sars-Cov-2 — as a variant of concern, leading to fears of another global surge in cases.

Dozens of countries have imposed travel bans from South African nations, where the Omicron variant was first identified. Others have imposed stricter measures to curb the spread of the Omicron variant. As on date, at least 38 countries have confirmed Omicron cases. Meanwhile, a number of countries have started booster vaccinations as a preventive measure against the new strain. But the question is: As long as vaccine inequity is not addressed, can the world think of defeating the Coronavirus pandemic and restoring normalcy? **Gautam SR | Bhopal**

### KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE

Sir — Russian President Vladimir Putin's India visit should bolster bilateral ties between the two countries. Foreign policy is a matter of costs and benefits; no two nations are permanent foes. New Delhi, of course, is not on a slippery slope as far as its military and trade ties with Moscow are concerned. An old and traditional connection cannot go haywire just like that, and that was exemplified in no uncertain terms by Putin's India visit. The 2+2 meeting between the defence and foreign ministers of both the countries was held in a conducive atmosphere. India holds 2+2 ministerial meetings with

## Numbers make all the noise



Despite climbing to the third position in the list of most wicket-takers in Test cricket in India and leading the team to victory innumerable times, Ravichandran Ashwin continues to be criticised and compared. He has done remarkably well as an off-spinner for Indian cricket time and again. Whether it is ODI, T20 or Test cricket, Ashwin adjusts as per the format and situation on ground and plays a pivotal role.

He has won the 'Man of the Series' award nine times in his illustrious career. He stands up to the challenge when the chips are down and can perform with the bat as well.

Ashwin came, saw and conquered the cricketing field with a purpose. Ironically, the last wicket of New Zealand cricketer Henry Nicholls was taken by the ace spinner to hasten the end of Kiwi innings in the two match Test series. Ashwin has reached a historic milestone in test cricket. The off-spinner went past Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh in taking 50 wickets in a calendar year for the most number of times. Ashwin is a star spinner and instead of criticising him or comparing his bowling figures with other bowlers, we should remember the times he held the fort and saved the day for Team India.

**CK Subramaniam | Mumbai**

the United States, Japan and Australia and, thus, Russia became the fourth country to be accorded that importance. President Putin hailing India as a "great power" should do wonders for healthy bilateral relations.

Military, space, power, energy and infrastructure sectors between India and Russia are all set to be further expanded in the aftermath of President Putin's short but crucial visit. Interpersonal relations between the two have always been above board. There is nothing unusual in differences of opinion between the two friends. Putin kept away from the G20 and rescheduled his Beijing visit amid the pandemic; but kept his word on attending the summit in India. New Delhi, therefore, has to engage Russia on a personal level keeping with its dehyphenation policy on international relations. **Ganapathi Bhat | Akola**

### THE BJP SHOULD LEARN TO BE HUMBLE

Sir — There is little doubt that the repeal of the three contentious farm laws that were hastily passed in September last year is a victory for the farming community,

and the triumph justly connotes the popular saying, "Farmers are the backbone of the Indian economy." However, the about turn made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is nothing but a sheer political opportunism with an eye on the forth-coming assembly elections in the key States of UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand, and as well in the wake of the BJP's recent dismal performance in bypolls.

The rollback of the farm laws shows how politically difficult it will be for India to overhaul a sector that supports about 60 per cent of the country's population. The farmers' victory is a tribute to their unprecedented struggle that it not only withstood the multi-fanged State repression, but, in fact, increased its defiant resistance massively for a year. The ruling BJP must have learnt a hard-hitting lesson that a community, which is strongly united for a cause, can never be defeated.

**Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai**

## SOUNDBITE

There is no need to panic. I request you all to maintain social distancing and wear masks.



**Delhi Chief Minister** —Arvind Kejriwal

Right now, the drug companies have set the prices at whatever the market will bear.



**US President** —Joe Biden

Today I completed 25 years in our wonderful film industry. I am, and will always be, eternally grateful.



**Actor** —Arshad Warsi

As I have said earlier and saying it again, Virat Kohli is the best Test captain India has ever had.



**Former Indian cricketer** —Irfan Pathan

The BJP has made the country economically weak and has created a rift between people of different communities.



**SP chief** —Akhilesh Yadav

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

FIRST COLUMN

WTO AND COMMON IP FOR COVID VACCINES

Dissent persists on whether a waiver is answer to shortage and inequitable distribution of vaccines



PK VASUDEVA

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), scheduled to be held in Geneva, stands postponed again because of the outbreak of the Omicron Coronavirus variant. At MC12, whenever it is now held, ministers will be reviewing the functioning of the multilateral trading system, delivering prepared statements, and taking action on the WTO's future work programme. As is known, the Doha Development Round, launched in 2001, has had a very rocky journey with a low level of achievement. Its main success was the adoption of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation at MC9 in 2013. There is, therefore, considerable pressure for a successful outcome at MC12 at a formal meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on November 18. WTO members agreed to keep actively engaging up until the WTO's MC12 in order to find a common intellectual property (IP) response to Covid-19. Members adopted the oral



status report of the TRIPS council. The text provides a factual overview of discussions held at the Council since October 2020, on the proposal by India and South Africa requesting a waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 and the proposal by the European Union for a draft General Council declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in the circumstances of a pandemic. On the waiver request, the report indicates that disagreement persists on the fundamental question of whether a waiver is the appropriate and most effective way to address the shortage and inequitable distribution of, and access to, vaccines and other COVID-19-related products. The role of IP in the context of the pandemic has become the centre of attention in the run-up to MC12, and a pragmatic and tangible outcome of these discussions would be a strong and positive signal to the Ministerial Conference and the global community as a whole. The chair of the WTO's agriculture negotiations, Ambassador Gloria Abraham Peralta, told heads of delegations at a meeting on 15 November that she plans to circulate a revised draft negotiation text as soon as possible. The first draft negotiation text was introduced on July 29, with the chair proposing suggestions for a possible agriculture package at MC12. The text encompasses the seven main negotiation topics — domestic support, market access, export restrictions, export competition, cotton, public stockholding for food security purposes (PSH) and a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) as well as cross-cutting transparency issues. The chair emphasized the draft was based on members' discussions as well as her consultations in various configurations and served as a starting point for the final text-based negotiation phase before MC12. The chair also reported to WTO members on the state of play in the negotiations. She said the most recent consultations have focused on engaging members to find convergences on three primary issues: domestic support, public stockholding for food security purposes and, to a lesser extent, market access. Other members reaffirmed that a meaningful MC12 outcome on agriculture will address the compelling issue of food and livelihood security in light of the pandemic and commit members to continuing agricultural reform to make the agriculture trading system fit for purpose. Singapore presented a paper outlining its responses to the questions posed by India regarding an initiative that calls for exempting the World Food Programme's humanitarian food purchases from any export restriction. The initiative has gained wide support from most members and was described by many as a "low-hanging fruit" for MC12.

(The writer is former senior professor, international trade and member, Vivekananda International Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Colonial outlook can't fix climate issues now



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Singling out coal won't serve the purpose. India's argument that other fossil fuels used by the rich nations are equally responsible for emissions is logical

Recently the United Nations Environment Conference 'COP 26' concluded in Glasgow, UK. India was praised at this conference, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Panchamrit" commitment for safe environment. Today's environmental crisis is actually linked to the existence of humanity. The devastation caused by the changing climate is now affecting the common man all over the globe.

Cloudbursts in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, excessively low rainfall in some regions and excessive rainfall in some others, and resulting droughts and floods, and causing diseases and resulting in climate change inducing natural calamities, all are impacting lives in the country today. Globally, life on small islands is endangered due to rising sea levels. Environmental hazards are also becoming the cause of large-scale displacement. If we do not rise to the occasion, this earth will not remain a habitable place in the next few decades.

In view of this concern, environmental conferences are being organized under the auspices of the United Nations annually since 1994. These conferences are also called 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'. At the Environment Conference held in Kyoto, Japan a treaty was signed, known as the 'Kyoto Protocol', (with amendments in Doha's Environment Conference in 2012), according to which countries announced targets to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The 'Kyoto Protocol' was the last such agreement in which developed countries accepted their responsibility to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases emissions; and the less developed and developing countries were exempted from the responsibility of reducing the emission of these gases for some time.

After the 2015 Paris's Environment Conference, India, with a liberal change in its earlier stance, unilaterally pledged to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and made it clear that India would not only live up to its ambitions but also raise the same. But India had also made it clear that developed countries should desist from blaming India for environmental degradation or global warming. The reality is that if seen from the historical perspective, today the world is suffering the consequences of what happened in the last 100 years. Whereas the United States is responsible for 40 per cent of greenhouse gases emissions, Europe's and China's contribution is 10 per cent and 28 per cent respectively, India is responsible for merely three per cent for these emissions.

India had said that while the rich countries are responsible for a major part of the emissions, they had not lived up to their promise, made in Copenhagen, to provide \$100 billion to the developing and least-developed countries to deal with the



THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS THAT IF THE EARTH IS TO BE KEPT HABITABLE, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE TO MAKE AVAILABLE THEIR RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IT. THEY WILL HAVE TO COME OUT OF THEIR COLONIAL MINDSET THAT THEY ARE THE RULERS OF THE WORLD AND CAN DO ANYTHING THEY DESIRE

(The writer is a Professor in PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



environmental crisis. Moreover, given the magnitude of the problem and the efforts needed to deal with the same, even \$1 trillion may fall short of the requirement. Unfortunately, there is no reference to the commitment of \$100 billion in COP26's final document. Rather, all efforts are being made to put the blame on India for the environmental crisis due to over usage of coal. In the draft of the final document of the Environment Conference of Glasgow (UK), the rich countries included the condition to phase out of coal in the draft declaration, and when India refused to accept the same, a campaign was started in the western media to defame India that it is becoming an obstacle in the way to solution of environmental crisis.

Whereas the media in the west is trying to portray India as the villain of the environmental crisis for not accepting the condition to phase out coal usage in the final document, countries like the US, Europe and China, who are main culprits, are nowhere close to being held responsible. We need to understand that singling out coal will not serve the purpose. India's argument that other fossil fuels like petroleum and gas are equally responsible for emissions is a logical one. However, since the US and Europe have an advantage in

using them (petroleum and gas), there is no mention of reducing emissions from these fossil fuels in the final document, which is downright unfair.

Today, when the developed countries are calling India a hindrance to the environmental treaty, they have to introspect and realize that the reason for the present environmental crisis is the uncontrolled consumption by those countries, which is reflected in the fact that the US and Europe alone — where only 14 per cent of the total world's population lives — account for 50 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the last 100 years.

Not only this, even today the per capita emission of greenhouse gases in India is only 1.77 metric tons, while in America it is 14.24 metric tons and in England it is 4.85 metric tons, and in China also the per capita emission of greenhouse gases is 7.41 metric tons. The main reason for excessive greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries is wasteful and irresponsible consumption, which is due to their lifestyle. Developed countries today are not ready to concede that the present environmental crisis is due to their stubbornness to not change their lifestyle. The people of these countries and their leadership will have to realize that they have to control

their consumption to overcome the current environmental crisis. Whether it is the goal of not allowing the world's temperature to rise more than 1.5 degrees from the pre-industrial level, or the reduction in smoke, the only solution is the control of consumption, for which the developed countries have the main responsibility.

Apart from this, the efforts made by developing countries and underdeveloped countries like India to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and global warming will require the use of technology. This technology is available mainly with the developed countries, which they want to share only for a hefty price. On the other hand, developing and underdeveloped countries will have to increase the use of renewable energy such as solar energy, wind energy, etc., for which they will need more investment and technology. The need of the hour is that if the earth is to be kept habitable, the developed countries have to make available their resources and technology for it, rich countries will have to come out of their colonial mindset, that they are the rulers of the world and can do anything they desire. It should not be forgotten that heat emanating from global warming will not spare even these rich countries.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE WILL SOON WRITE TO THE CENTRE AND MEET THE UNION HOME MINISTER, URGING TO OPEN TRADE WITH NEIGHBOURING PAKISTAN.

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI



THE NEIGHBOURING NATION SHOULD FIRST STOP KILLING INDIAN SOLDIERS, THEN WE WILL TALK ABOUT TRADE.

—FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER CAPT AMARINDER SINGH

The Congress faces a host of challenges before 2024

All Opposition parties might be willing to unite under Sonia Gandhi's leadership; however, they have reservations against Rahul Gandhi

Will Congress perish as West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and others believe? Even in the past, many predicted the end of Congress, but it survived many onslaughts. The latest was in 1998 when Sonia Gandhi emerged, Sphinx-like, to revive it and rule from 2004-2014. The 2019 Lok Sabha results gave Congress 12 crore votes, though seat-wise it got only 52. Even in its second successive defeat in 2019, the party retained a solid block of 20 percent votes. The Gandhi family is complacent, believing that the voters will get disenchanted sooner than later and return to the Grand Old Party. No doubt they live in a fool's paradise as there is an urgent need to revive the



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

party. Undoubtedly, Congress faces a leadership crisis and challenges from many sides.

The first is to quell the internal indiscipline and revolt. The group of 23 led by Ghulam Nabi Azad is an example and this disenchantment is prevalent in almost all states.

The second comes from within the Opposition bloc. Of late, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's attack, backed by the wily NCP chief Sharad Pawar, has intensified. Now that Mamata has decided to bid for the Prime Minister's post in 2024, she is trying to edge out Congress from the opposition bloc. As a first step, Banerjee is preparing to broad-base her party and also gain pan-national recognition.



The third is the shrinking Congress party in many states and even regions. Congress should now aim to build upon the 12-crore voter base instead of embroiling itself in self-made controversies. Of the 186 direct fights between BJP and Congress in 2019, the former won 170 seats, amounting to a 91.4 percent strike rate. It bagged 162 of these seats in the 2014 elections. The Congress, which won 24 of these seats in 2014, has come down to 15. In Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, and West Bengal, where it ruled in the past, Congress won only 10 out of 286 seats. The party has no representation from 20 states. Further, BJP has taken over the opposition space in Odisha, Tripura, and West Bengal, where Congress was traditionally the main opposition. Also, the regional parties continue to put up a much better fight than Congress.

So, what are the options for the party now that there are cracks within the opposition?

The first is to think of a long-term strategy and start preparing for 2024. Mamata is

doing precisely that. Congress is involved in short-term quick-fix solutions, often messing up the party's chances as they did in Punjab recently. But before that, the party needs to resolve its leadership crisis, which has been going on since August 2019.

The second is that the party needs enormous resources and committed booth committees to compete with BJP. Once these two are addressed, the other things are more manageable.

The third is to find ways of uniting the opposition. Sonia Gandhi has the stature to do this as almost all opposition parties might be willing to unite under her leadership, but they have reservations against Rahul Gandhi. If necessary, the Gandhi family

should pave the way for some other leader.

The regional leaders realize that though they could contain BJP in their states, they do not have a pan-national presence. Even today, therefore, they need a party like Congress; every village has a congressman.

Last Sunday, Shiv Sena mouthpiece *Saamna*, in its editorial, said that pushing the grand old party away from national politics and creating an Opposition grouping parallel to the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) would only strengthen BJP and "fascist" forces. Though Mamata tried to woo the Sena during her recent visit, Sena does not want to lose its government because Congress is its coalition partner in Maharashtra.

Rahul Gandhi has been in politics since 2004, but he is not yet accepted as the opposition face. Rahul's efforts to befriend second-generation leaders like Akhilesh Yadav have not succeeded. He needs an image makeover.

The fourth and more complex option is to give a call to all those leaders who had left Congress to come back. This idea springs up on and off. Congress has been the parent of many ruling parties like the NCP, TMC, YSRCP. There have been suggestions that such a united party could function under a presidium and collective leadership. But the parent party is hesitant to take such a plunge. A united Congress, than a divided opposition, is a more formidable opponent to BJP.





TRAI TO TELCOS
Allow port out SMS facility irrespective of tariff offer

New Delhi: Sector regulator TRAI on Tuesday directed telecom operators to "immediately" enable port out SMS facility for all mobile users requiring it, irrespective of value of their tariff offer, vouchers, or plans.

PLI scheme in food processing to go a long way in creating large scale capacity: FMCG cos

New Delhi: FMCG majors Nestle India, Parle, Dabur and Britannia on Tuesday said the PLI scheme in food processing will go a long way in creating large scale capacity, creating great Indian brands in international markets besides helping farmers here in the country.

Various measures taken to protect bona fide commercial decision of banks: FM

New Delhi: The Government has taken various measures to protect bona fide commercial decisions of banks to alleviate the fear of any unwarranted hardships to officials or senior executives taking key decisions.



The Government, in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission, has recently finalised a consolidated Staff Accountability Framework for non-performing assets (NPAs) accounts up to ₹50 crore, other than fraud cases, she said.

Sensex surges 887 pts amid global rebound as Omicron fears wane

Mumbai: Market benchmarks made an emphatic comeback on Tuesday after a two-session selloff, in tandem with a recovery in global equities as worries over the Omicron variant receded.

According to experts, world markets heaved a sigh of relief after initial studies showed that even though the Omicron strain of COVID-19 is fast spreading, it is largely milder than the Delta variant.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, advancing 3.63 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, SBI, Titan and Bajaj Finance.

Asian Paints was the sole laggard, dipping 0.22 per cent.

Global markets traded with optimism on reports that the Omicron strain may not be as severe as expected.

Rupee surrenders gains to end flat as rising crude prices weigh

Mumbai: The rupee erased all its intra-session gains to end on a flat note at 75.44 against the US dollar on Tuesday as investors took note of rising crude oil prices and sustained foreign capital outflows.

However, a sharp rebound in domestic equities improved investor sentiment, helping in restricting rupee slide.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 75.31 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 75.26 and a low of 75.49 during the day's trade.

Instagram launches tool urging teens to take a break

London: Instagram on Tuesday launched a feature that urges teenagers to take breaks from the photo-sharing platform and announced other tools aimed at protecting young users from harmful content on the Facebook-owned service.

The previously announced "Take A Break" feature encourages teens to stop scrolling if they have been on the social media platform for a while.

Microsoft on Tuesday launched a cybersecurity skilling programme in India aimed to address the skills gap and empower India's workforce for a career in digital security.

International Fire & Security Expo from Thurs

New Delhi: The 14th edition of the International Fire & Security Exhibition and Conference (IFSEC) India Expo, South Asia's largest security, civil protection and fire safety show by Informa Markets in India, is being organised at Pragati Maidan Hall number 5, New Delhi, from December 9 to December 11.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

No.SSA/MDM/NABL-Testing/332/2021/7726 Date : 03.12.2021 Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for testing of dry and cooked MDM Food.

To participate in this EOI through e-procurement, applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DHOLPUR
Notice Inviting Tender E-59 To 67
N.I.T. is invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Municipal Council Dholpur for Various work from Registered Contractor the amount of work is between 50 lacs to 149.90 lacs and UBN No. are has under.

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS/PROPOSALS
Shriprasthi Apartment Owners Association, 15, Ahinsa Khond 1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014 invites quotations from companies/vendors engaged in following services:

₹2,000 notes now 1.75% of total banknotes in circulation; down from 3.27% in March 2018

New Delhi: The number of ₹2,000 currency notes in circulation has decreased to 223.3 crore pieces or 1.75 per cent of total notes in circulation (NIC) in November this year, compared to 336.3 crore pieces in March 2018.

Printing of banknotes of particular denomination is decided by the Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public, said Prakash Chaudhary, Minister of State in Finance Ministry, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work :

IN THE COURT OF MS. SHEETAL CHAUDHARY PRADHAN
ACJ/JCC/JARC-(South-East)
Room No.203, Second Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi.
Anil Khurana S/o Late S. P. Khurana R/o N-49, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi-110048 .....Petitioner VS. .... Respondent

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DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Despite the strong growth and immense opportunities for future in the country's pharmaceutical industry, gender diversity has always been a big concern. ANJULA MASURKAR shares how women workforce is revamping it



# BREAKING HEALTHCARE BARRIERS

The Indian pharmaceutical industry enjoys a prominent position in the global pharmaceutical market with the industry being the largest provider of generic drugs globally. However, the sad part of the story is that despite the strong growth and immense opportunities for the future, gender diversity has always been a big concern for the industry.

The percentage of women executive directors in the pharmaceutical industry is only 7.69 per cent. However, with studies pointing to the benefits of women in leadership roles and a greater push towards gender equality, things are taking a turn with a new crop of women business leaders emerging at the top.

Such initiatives act as a strong communication point in encouraging future generations.

**Women who have broken the barriers and redefined the pharmaceutical sector with their contributions:**

**Zahabiya Khorakiwala** — Managing Director, Wockhardt Hospitals  
Zahabiya Khorakiwala has played a major role in making Wockhardt Hospitals a 250 crore business. She entered the business in 2010 as a director, soon after she completed her post graduation. Like most mothers, she also had to deal with the challenges of balancing work and personal life but that didn't stop her from learning the nitty-gritty of running the business and remoulding it from providing tertiary healthcare to giving quaternary healthcare.



Anjula Masurkar  
Clinical Director of  
ENTOD Pharmaceuticals

**ORGANISATIONS NOWADAYS ARE MAKING CONSCIOUS EFFORTS TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR WOMEN LEADERS ON PLATFORMS LIKE MEDIA, CONFERENCES, BUSINESS MEETINGS, PROVIDING ROOM FOR THEIR GROWTH**

Regarded as one of the most influential and top women entrepreneurs in India, she is the founder of India's largest pharmaceutical firm — Biocon. Established in 1978, the company has today emerged as India's largest biotech giant and Asia's biggest producer of insulin.

**Samina Vaziralli** — Executive Director, Cipla

Samina Vaziralli is the granddaughter of founder Dr K A Hamied and she is credited with growing the consumers business of the 75-year-old pharmaceutical company. As the mother of 2 children, she needs no telling of the struggles women have to face to maintain a work-life balance. In the quest to help women manage both their personal and professional demands, she brought vast changes in the way women are taken care of in her organisation. Up to fifty per cent of the Management Council in Cipla is constituted by women. There is no reason to believe that the pharmaceutical industry is not suitable for women. Today, there is an increasing number of women making their mark in the industry and breaking the stereotypes. In order to bridge the gender gap in the pharmaceutical industry, organisations need to actively create a culture that actively advocates diversity and inclusion.

Overall the exam was doable, not very tough but lengthy when compared to the previous years. LR was a little time consuming and lengthy. DI was easy and not too calculation intensive. It was noticed that a data interpretation set was similar to a DI set of CAT 2019. VARC was more fact based which was easy to solve. However, the length of the passages was a challenge. Overall it had 35 questions with 16 questions from RC and 19 questions from verbal ability. Arithmetic rules the roost in the quantitative ability section as expected. The questions were lengthy and time consuming but not difficult. The first few sentences of the questions were just meant to eat up the student's time, hence one had to scout out the right amount of information from the question and solve it as quickly as possible. The GK section was more on the current affairs side including questions related to sports personalities and their professions.

Exam tested students on speed, logic and analytical skills, a sincere student with well-rounded preparation of concepts and a good practice of books would make their way to the IIFT.

It was an exam with no twist. Well prepared students should be able to outperform. Logical reasoning section was a little difficult and time consuming, we saw the changes in reading comprehension passages with dominance of fact-based questions. However, ones with the habit of reading a lot of books and essays have nailed it.

Negative marking existed for the multiple-choice questions. In VARC, DILR, and QA sections, for each correct response, +3 is rewarded and for each incorrect, -1 is deducted. In the GA section for every cor-



# IIFT analysis 2021

While paper was quite lengthy, students found it to be moderately difficult to tackle. Given the time crunch, one had to select right set of questions to ace, says SUMIT SINGH GANDHI

rect response, +1.5 is awarded and for every incorrect, -0.5 is deducted. The exam was not very difficult, it was manageable provided your concepts were clear.

**Feedback from some of the students**

“The paper was overall moderate to difficult. The verbal section was lengthy but comparatively easier than last year. What was surprising was to see no data interpretation questions to be calculation intensive like the previous years, however, logical reasoning took up a lot more time than I had initially planned.” - Jayant

“The paper was very structured but lengthy and time crunching. VARC was time consuming with concerns with the fact-based questions in all Reading comprehensions not many inference questions. DI was pretty easy and had glimpses of old cat papers. Overall in the paper, selection was the key so now let's hope for the best.” - Aakrosh

**Sectional Analysis**  
**Overall Difficulty:** Moderate to Difficult  
**VARC 35 Questions:** Reading comprehension was dominated in the verbal section. There were 2 passages with 5 questions each and 2

passages with 3 questions each. Verbal ability was overall easy.  
**Summary of Questions**  
**Reading Comprehension** 16 questions  
**Verbal Ability** 19 questions  
**Ideal attempts in VARC Section:** 11-13 questions  
**DILR:** 30 questions  
LR/DI was easy to moderate, lengthy and time consuming. Here the success mantra was the set selection as a few sets were the toughest and time consuming, so the students should first wrap up the easy ones and grab a good base and then move to the trickier ones. Also, as men-

tioned by one of our students, practicing for CAT gave him a little extra boost for IIFT.

**Summary of Questions**  
**Ideal attempts in DILR Section:** 16-19 questions  
**Quants 25 Questions:**  
Quants were the easiest out of the three sections with direct formula application and concept based questions dominated by arithmetic and little geometry and algebra. There was no need for having a lot of shortcuts and tricks, your solving speed and your temperament to understand what the question is asking was the main focus. Arithmetic dominated the paper then algebra and numbers, geometry saw a lesser.

**General awareness 20 Questions:**  
General awareness was fairly easy with more current affairs questions than static GK questions. The section was well structured and diverse to cover a wide variety.

**Summary of Questions**  
Ideal attempts 45+ with 90 per cent accuracy can be expected to get a call for IIFT.

Overall a happy day for students who know their basics and have preached their books with building conceptual clarity and like Rahul Sir always says “Success comes to those who work for it. Keep working hard and you will see the results!”

For an in-depth analysis on each section, overall cut-off, which colleges to apply and how to gear up ahead stay tuned to the CATKing Youtube Channel.

Now let the karma play its role, party tonight and come back with a bang for the series of exams lined up ahead, one day one exam can never give an idea about one's aptitude nor decide your career path.

The writer is CEO, Director, CATKing

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

## MSC ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for its MSc Advanced Pharmacology course starting in September 2022.

The Masters in Advanced Pharmacology will provide you with a comprehensive three-part postgraduate life sciences training.

The programme has a special focus on how drugs and other chemicals affect the body in health and disease. You'll explore the development of new and improved medicines and the treatment of disease.

**Duration-** 1 year  
**Eligibility-** Minimum second-class Honours degree, or overseas equivalent, in a biological or chemical discipline. English language minimum score of IELTS 6.0 (with no component below 5.5)

**Fee-** £22,400 for international students for 2022/23

## UG/PG AT WUD

World University of Design invites online applica-



tions from candidates for admission to its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across all disciplines being offered at the university for the year 2022. WUD DAT 2022, the design aptitude based entrance exam is scheduled on Saturday, February 5th, 2022.

Admissions are open for nearly 30 programmes offered across Fashion, Product, Interior, Transportation, Graphic Communication, Animation, Film & Video, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Architecture and Management.

**Apply:** [www.wud.ac.in](http://www.wud.ac.in)  
Candidates would be required to register, verify their email IDs and fill the form. They can use the unique WUD Query Management System (WUD-QMS) for getting their queries promptly and efficiently responded.

## Sommet Education kick-off development plans for India

### PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Sommet Education, world leaders in hospitality and culinary education, which owns globally renowned institutes including Les Roches, École Ducasse and Glion Institute of Higher Education, recently entered into a strategic partnership with Indian School of Hospitality (ISH), founded by hospitality veteran Dilip Puri.

The partners aim at offering a global standard of education to a larger number of hospitality and culinary arts aspirants in the years to come, in India and the neighbouring countries. Through this partnership, worldwide education reference in culinary and pastry arts

École Ducasse has now its first campus in India at ISH, and Les Roches, one of the world's leading hospitality business schools, enters in an academic alliance with ISH for its undergraduate and postgraduate hospitality management programmes.

At an event in Delhi NCR to celebrate the partnership, Benoît-Etienne Domengot, CEO, Sommet Education and Dilip Puri, Founder & CEO, Indian School of Hospitality announced their future development plans for India.

The first step of this plan is to expand the current ISH Gurugram campus, which will feature an additional 25,000 sq. ft of classrooms, training kitchens, and student experience areas.

## Social media and growth of cybercrimes

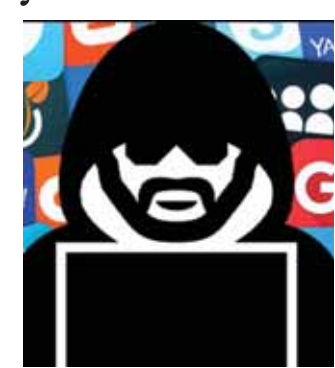
Social media is the fifth pillar of democracy and shouldn't be taken lightly in any means. Many people in past have ignored the power of social media and the heinous crimes that are on a constant upward slope, and have faced repercussions for the same.

Terms like hacking and cyber fraud were relatively new to our dictionary, but their growth is phenomenal. Earlier most of the breaches would happen over the telephone but now the intensity of the crimes have been taken to the next level.

Cyber frauds have found new and convenient ways of getting into your private system, and the internet of things is only making it easier at every stage, any electronic device connected to the internet can be easily tapped and hacked.

In recent years, hackers easily breach into your mobile phones and turn on your camera without your knowledge, it can happen because of a lack of strong passwords and security settings. The hackers can further breach your personal information on the web or use it as a means to blackmail and fetch money from you. Such incidents have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the financial crunch in the overall economies.

Hackers have easily found their way into people's private conversations, and have been able to use it against them. But,



that's only because we as users aren't aware enough. The best way to stay protected is to change your passwords after a designated interval and always use a lengthy combination of upper and lower case characters, numbers and special characters. We should also equip ourselves with protection such as web camera covers, and privacy settings that bring into our knowledge if some unusual activities are occurring in our systems. To be safe on social media should be everyone's topmost priority, especially now when everything starting from our addresses to our phone numbers are readily available, and can put our and our loved ones life in danger. Never give into the blackmailing but fight back with the right attitude, that's what will put the cybercriminals in the right place

The writer is Ajeet Gunwant Parse, Social Media Expert

## SRM NCC Naval Troop inaugurated on Navy Day

### PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

The SRM NCC Naval Troop was inaugurated at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava observed nationwide to commemorate the 75th Year of Independence and Navy Day.

Organised by NCC Dte (TN P & AN) in association with SRMIST. The inaugura-



tion was done by Group Commander Gp Capt T Arunachalam in the presence of Officer Commanding Lt Cdr Lalith Kumar CR, SRMIST's Vice Chancellor Dr

C Muthamizhchelvan, and Registrar Dr S Ponnusamy. As part of the National Navy Day celebration a Boat Pulling Regatta for the 4 (TN) Naval Tech Unit NCC was held. About seven teams took part in this contest which was flagged off by Gp Capt T Arunachalam.

This was part of the nationwide event that is being held in 75 locations in the country.

## PG Programme in Software Development by Great learning

### PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Learning, a part of BYJU's group and one of the Edtech companies for higher and professional education, has flagged off a Post Graduate Programme in Software Development and Engineering. This 6-month programme designed by industry experts and Great Learning mentors will enable freshers, graduates and early career professionals to obtain in-demand software development skills. Dedicated placement assistance will be provided to help them get placed in top IT companies.

According to a recent NASSCOM report,

3,40,000 is the present demand-supply gap for tech talent in India. This programme aims to bridge the gap and enable freshers and early career professionals with knowledge and skills to become ready for roles like JavaScript Developer, Back-end Developer, Full Stack Engineer, Python Developer, Front-end Engineer, which are amongst the top 15 emerging jobs in India based on a recent study by LinkedIn. The programme will provide dedicated placement assistance with recruitment processes from leading technology companies and also career support in the form of mock interviews with industry experts, resume guid-

ance and dedicated placement drives. Great Learning works with 1200+ leading companies, and conduct over 20,000+ interviews per month among its learner base. Some of the marquee companies that hire for technology talent from Great Learning include Capgemini, Dell, Amazon, Flipkart, Nvidia, HCL, Uber, Intel, KPMG, Cognizant, Deloitte and more.

Hari Krishnan Nair, Co-founder, Great Learning says, “Companies today are investing heavily to create products and services that provide value in the digital economy. The demand for qualified professionals with expertise is on the surge.



Ashes could revolve around contest between Cummins, Root



AP ■ BRISBANE Butler said the senior players in the team were ready to step up to support Root, and the return of inspirational all-rounder Ben Stokes would also help.

"A bowling captain for Australia and a batting captain for England — two captains going toe to toe will be great," England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler said on the eve of the first test.

Hardik undergoing rehab in Mumbai, decides to skip Hazare Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI revealed. The official informed that Hardik's elder brother Krunal had joined Baroda's pre-Hazare camp for a week after he was instructed by the state board that attending the camp is mandatory for being part of the final squad.

"BCA told Krunal that he can't just land up during tournaments and he has to be a part of the camp. Then he came and trained with the team for a week," the source said.

If Hardik doesn't play the domestic tournaments, he will not be considered for a comeback in the Indian side for the white ball tournaments. "The current national selection committee has told all the players that all those who are not in the India squad should go back and play domestic cricket — Hazare and Ranji Trophy," the source added.

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI E-Advertised Tender Notice No. 50/ET/2021-22 Dated: 03.12.2021

KARNAL DEGREE COLLEGE Kunjpora (Karnal) Approved by DHE, Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

has recorded only two wins since 1946. Butler said England was only looking back as far as January, when an injury-depleted India squad clinched a series win by ending Australia's unbeaten record at the Gabba that dated to 1988.

"I don't think we have anything to lose... (rather) everything to gain," he said. "You know to do that against Australia here, you have to be at your best."

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Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tenders on PWD form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Theog Division, H.P.P.W.D., Theog on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the eligible contractors enlisted in H.P.P.W.D. (B&R) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules and also registered under the H.P. General Sales Tax Act, 1968 so as to reach in this office on or before 31/12/2021 up to 11.00 A.M. and the same shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of interested contractors or their authorized representative who may like to be present.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Name of work, Name of Divn., Estimated cost (Rs.), Earnest money (Rs.), Cost of form (Rs.), Time allowed for completion

- (1) The contractors are required to be produce a copy of their PAN and GSTIN No. and should produce a copy of enlistment/renewal letter.

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

ਦੀ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੰਡ ਮਿੱਲਜ਼ ਲਿਮਿਟਿਡ (ਜੋਇਆ ਚੋਟ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ) ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਖੰਡ ਮਿੱਲਜ਼ ਲਿਮਿਟਿਡ ਦੇ ਬੋਰਡ ਆਫ਼ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰਜ਼ ਦੀਆਂ ਦੱਸ ਸੀਟਾਂ ਦੀ ਚੋਣ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।