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TIKTOK BAN; APP STILL IN LIMBO

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## Farmers reject Shah proposal; today's talks put off

Amit Shah promises to give in writing for amendments; farmer unions insist on repeal of laws; their leaders to hold meeting at Singhu border over Centre's proposal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As Bharat Bandh wound up to a mostly peaceful close, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met the farmer leaders ahead of the sixth round of talks between Central Ministers and farmer representatives on Wednesday but the two-and-half hours meeting remained inconclusive as the Government made it clear that amendments can be made but the farm laws won't be repealed. The farmer leaders refused to accept anything less than the repeal of the laws.

Shah invited all 13 farmer unions on Tuesday to discuss a way out by promising to give in writing that Government will bring in amendments, but the farmers refused his proposal. This was the first time that Shah met farmers' leaders to discuss their concerns and demands. The Government will send a proposal for the consideration of farmers and the unions will hold a meeting to discuss the same.

With this, the sixth round of talks between farmer leaders and the Government scheduled for Wednesday has been canceled, All India Kisan Sabha

general secretary Hannan Mollah said after meeting with Shah. "We'll decide on next round of talks after consulting others," said Hannan Mollah.

At the meeting, Shah proposed written assurances on amendments on minimum support price and APMC. The new proposals will be given to farmer unions on Wednesday.

The meeting between Shah and the leaders of the protesting farmers on Tuesday got delayed owing to confusion over the venue of the meeting. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7pm but it began after 8pm as some of the union leaders were not ready to hold the meeting at Shah's residence. Finally, the meeting was shifted to the office of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal too were present.

Farmer leader Ruldu Singh Mansa returned saying he won't be part of meeting due to confusion over venue. In a social media post, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, who was not invited to the meeting, said there was no need for the talks before official consultation. The meet-

ing appeared to have created a discord among the organisations spearheading the protests on Delhi borders for the past 12 days.

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## Bharat Bandh evokes mixed reaction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharat Bandh observed by farmer unions and supported by 22 political parties and a number of trade unions on Tuesday evoked a mixed response. The wholesale and

Normal life disrupted in several parts of country, but many parts were unaffected; transport industry incurs ₹2K cr loss

retail mandis remained closed in several States even as several shops, commercial establishments, industrial houses,

shopping malls kept their shutters open.

All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), repre-

senting about 95 lakh truckers and other entities, had announced to suspend operations in the country to support the Bharat Bandh called by agitating farmers. The AIMTC said the support to the farmers' Bharat Bandh call was successful, and the transport industry incurred a loss of ₹2,000 crore on account of halting operations.

"The transport fraternity support to farmers has been highly successful...About 90 lakh trucks, tempo, trailers stood still on the call of AIMTC and the transport industry too bore losses of about ₹2,000 crore," AIMTC president Kultarn Singh Atwal said. AIMTC in a statement said it will continue to extend support to farmers.

"The support by the transport fraternity to the Bharat Bandh call by farmers is successful, peaceful and voluntary," AIMTC secretary general Naveen Gupta said.

Normal life was disrupted in several parts of the country especially in the Opposition-ruled States. Shops and commercial establishments stayed

closed, transport service was affected and protesters squatted on key roads and rail tracks during the bandh. However, in many parts of the country, the normal life remained unaffected.

The bandh has been largely peaceful except in Jaipur where the BJP Yuva Morcha workers and the Congress workers clashed while holding a protest while in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, police used water cannons to disperse agitators who were led by a Congress leader. Incidents of arson have been reported from Rajkot and Sabarkantha and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets in parts of Gujarat.

Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav has claimed the bandh was observed at 10,000 places in 25 States across the country.

Farmers blocked national highways and other key roads at many places in Punjab and Haryana as part of their nationwide protest to press for repeal of the farm laws. Shops and commercial establishments remained closed at most places in Punjab and several places in Haryana as traders backed the agitating farmers.

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Farmers protest at Tikri border against Centre's farm reform laws in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

## Most markets remain open in Delhi, customers' footfall low

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi saw a mixed response over the Bharat Bandh call given by farmers as most of the markets remained open and transport services almost remained unaffected.

The traders, however, complained of low footfall.

Most of the markets, including Lajpat Nagar, Chandni Chowk and Sadar Bazar, in the city remained open while police teams could be seen patrolling to maintain law and order across the city. Public transport services in Delhi remained largely unaffected while some auto and taxi

unions kept their vehicles off the roads in support of the shutdown.

Shopkeepers at Delhi's Sarojini Nagar market tied black ribbons around their arms to express solidarity with the farmers' demand while Ghazipur mandi was open but many traders closed their shops to support the strike.

"No protesting farmer came here and asked us to close the shop. If they would have come and asked we would have closed," said Manish Gulati, a shopkeeper in Lajpat Nagar area.

Police said there were no major fresh protests in the city

except in some Delhi border areas, but traffic diversions were made on some routes as a precautionary measure.

Chants of "Jai Kisan", "Humara bhaichara zindabad, Kisan ekta zindabad", "Tanashahi nahi chalegi" rent the air as farmer leaders gave rousing speeches at the protest sites, including Tikri, Singhu, Chilla and Ghazipur vowing to continue their agitation.

Several more farmers reached the protest sites across the city borders on tractor-trolleys and cars amid heavy security presence to participate in the nationwide call for bandh.

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## Kejriwal under house arrest, claims AAP; Delhi Police rejects allegation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that the Delhi Police put Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal under house arrest after he met protesting farmers at the Singhu border. However, the Delhi Police denied the claim, saying the Chief Minister was free to go anywhere.

Later, Kejriwal said, "I wanted to sit with farmers today as an aam aadmi but was not allowed to go. I hope that the Centre will soon accept all the demands of the farmers so that farmers are not forced to spend nights in shivering cold."

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj claimed the Delhi Police had put barricades at all the sides of the CM residence and no one was allowed to meet him.

"Our MLAs were supposed to meet the Delhi Chief Minister but the Delhi Police did not allow them to meet. Moreover, the Delhi Police harassed and beat up party MLAs and volunteers," he said.

Bhardwaj said, "The BJP-ruled Central Government is scared because if Delhi Chief Minister comes out of his residence and stands beside the farmers today in support of the Bharat Bandh called by the

farmers then the lies of the BJP will be exposed. The BJP is scared because they have been lying continuously and want to stop the CM to stand with the farmers in their protest."

"The Delhi Police Commissioner was informed about the fact that the Delhi Police barricaded the CM residence. When we informed the Delhi Police Commissioner he expressed his helplessness on the recent situation. The Delhi Police officials have informed us that this is happening under the instruction of the BJP-ruled Central Government," he claimed.

Continued on Page 2

## It's Opp conspiracy, 90% farmers favour laws, say Ministers

'Opp parties hypocrisy exposed as APMC, MSP to continue'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Key Union Ministers on Tuesday blamed Opposition parties for "misleading" the farmers and promoting "Bharat Bandh" as they maintained that new laws were made "for the welfare of small and marginal farmers".

Union textile Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Environment Prakash Javadekar said Opposition parties stand "exposed" for their "hypocrisy". Javadekar said protests have no basis as APMC and MSP are going to continue and that "90 per cent of farmers are in favour of the new laws".

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said farmers are being misled and that "Bharat Bandh" is being executed by Opposition, not by kisan.

Tomar, who is leading the Government in the ongoing dialogue with the farmers, meanwhile, met Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar ahead of the next-round of negotiations on Wednesday.

Union Law Minister

Ravishankar Prasad again lashed out at the Congress and NCP leaders for "supporting agriculture marketing reforms" when they were in the power and "now jumping into the farmers bandwagon" to "oppose the Modi Government".

"This is deception, double-standards and hypocrisy of the worst order. Farmers interest is not in the scheme of Opposition parties," the Law Minister maintained.

Union textle Minister Smriti Irani was of view that Opposition parties did not want the country to prosper and thereby putting spoke in the wheels of its progress.

The Opposition parties want chaos and din but they would not succeed, she claimed.

RSS outfit "Bharatiya Kisan Sangh" did not participate in "Bharat Bandh" but backed farmers demand for guaranteeing the MSP for their farm produce.

The Union Government is, reportedly, ready to make certain amendments in the laws to ally the farmers fears but refusing to roll-back the laws which it says are essential for "reforms" in the farming sector which has, long, ceased to be remunerative.

## 5-member Opp team to call on Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties have announced to call on President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday to apprise him of the situation arising out of farmers' protest over the farm laws.

The joint delegation of five members will include Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and others, said CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury. The Opposition parties had last met and requested the President not to give his accent to the controversial laws which has now become an Act.

NCP president Sharad Pawar said leaders from different political parties will discuss and take a collective stand on the contentious farm laws before meeting President Ram Nath Kovind.

"Leaders from different political parties (those opposing the farm laws) will sit, discuss and take a collective stand on the contentious

farm laws before meeting President Ram Nath Kovind," said the former Agriculture Minister.

Pawar also met Defence Rajnath Singh on Tuesday though the meeting was pertaining to discussions on land acquisition for the Purandar airport in Pune district.

Earlier in the day former Congress president Rahul Gandhi urged people to support the Bharat Bandh call given by farmer leaders and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop "stealing" from farmers.

Congress and almost 15 Opposition parties are supporting the farmers' agitation and they have demanded a repeal of the three farm laws.

"Modi ji, stop stealing from farmers. All fellow citizens know that today is Bharat Bandh. Make our food growers' struggle successful by fully supporting it," Rahul said in a tweet in Hindi.

Continued on Page 2



Only a few shops remained open at Janpath market during the nationwide strike called by farmers against the Centre's farm reform laws in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## In a first, Army chief to visit UAE, Saudi Arabia as relations strengthen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signifying growing defence and strategic ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, Army Chief General MM Naravane on Tuesday commenced a week-long visit to these two nations. He will discuss the entire range of military relations with his counterparts and also explore ways to invite manufacturers from there to invest in Indian defence industry.

More than ten million Indian expatriates are residing in these two countries. Their annual remittances are pegged more than 45 billion dollars.

This will be the first visit to Saudi Arabia and UAE by an Indian army chief, underlining fast-developing relations between the two nations.

Naravane's visit comes at a time when Pakistan's relations with the Saudi Arabia and UAE are under pressure. Peeved over Islamabad's criticism of Riyadh's position on the Kashmir issue, Saudi Arabia recently sought the early repayment of a \$3-billion loan provided to the Imran Khan Government in 2018.

During the first leg of his tour, Naravane will visit the UAE from December 9 to 10.

Continued on Page 2

## Mt Everest now 8,848.86m tall

PTI ■ KATHMANDU/BEIJING

Nepal and China on Tuesday jointly announced that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest is 8,848.86 metres, about 86 centimetres more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954.

The Nepal Government decided to measure the exact height of the mountain amid debates that there might have been a change in it due to various reasons, including the devastating earthquake of 2015.

The new height of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak, is 8,848.86 metres, China and Nepal jointly announced on Tuesday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency said in a brief report. Nepal recalculates the height of Mount Everest at 8848.86 metres, the country's Foreign Minister



Pradeep Gyawali announced in Kathmandu.

According to China's past measurement, the height of Mount Everest is 8844.43 metres which were four metres less than Nepal's calculations.

In Tibetan language, Mount Everest is known as Mount Qomolangma. China

and Nepal settled their border dispute in 1961 with the boundary line passing through the summit of Mount Everest.

Mount Everest is located in the collision and compression zone between the edges of the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate, where crustal movement is very active.

## Covid-19 situation stabilises in Delhi

Present cold chain system in India can hold addl vaccines required for 3 crore key workers: Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 3,188 fresh Covid-19 cases on Tuesday with a positivity rate of 4.23 per cent, authorities said. The positivity rate on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday stood at 4.96 per cent, 4.78 per cent, 4.2 per cent, 3.68 per cent and 3.15 per cent respectively. The fresh cases reported on Tuesday came out of 75,409

tests, including 31,098 RT-PCR tests, conducted the previous day, according to the latest bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

Fifty-seven fatalities were recorded, pushing the toll in the national Capital to 9,763, the bulletin said.

Active cases on Tuesday dropped to 22,310 from 22,486 the previous day. According to the bulletin, the total number of cases has climbed to 5,97,112.

Meanwhile, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said the present cold chain system in the country is capable of storing additional quantity of Covid-19 vaccine required for first 3 crore healthcare workers and frontline warriors.

## CAPSULE

**CENTRE NEEDS NO GREEN NOD FOR NH WORKS: SC**

**New Delhi:** The Central Government is not required to obtain "prior environmental or forest clearance" under the laws before declaring a stretch as national highway (NH) and expressing its intention to acquire the land for building, maintenance or operating such roads, the Supreme Court held on Tuesday.

**90-YR-OLD MAGGIE FIRST TO GET ANTI-COVID JOB**

**London:** A 90-year-old British grandmother, Margaret "Maggie" Keenan, on Tuesday became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech jab against Covid-19 as the UK kicked off its biggest-ever vaccine campaign in history. At 6:31 am GMT early rising Margaret was given the life-saving vaccine. **P8**

# Delhi air quality poor, AQI recorded 367

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi is bracketed under 'poor category' with overall Air Quality Index (AQI) being recorded at 367 micrograms per Cubic on Tuesday.

According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the surface - level winds are calm. "Boundary layer

wind direction Northwesterly. A stubble fire count from SAFAR-multi-satellite products is around 211 and the PM2.5 per cent share is negligible."

"The dominating factors influencing Delhi Air quality are making a swift transformation from biomass to intense winter cooled stagnation conditions, lowering of BLH, fog formation, etc."

"Surface winds are likely to

be picking up slightly and AQI is forecasted to be in the Very Poor category for the next two days. AQI is likely to improve and stay in the middle-end of the Very Poor category on 11th December," it said in its short range air quality forecast. Meanwhile the values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) - Particulate Matters (10 and 2.5) recorded 343 and 207 µgm-3.



# EDMC, SDMC to appear before Assembly panel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The chairperson of the Environment Committee of the Delhi Assembly Atishi on Tuesday said the commissioners of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation and North Delhi Municipal Corporation have been asked to appear before the Environment Committee of the Delhi Assembly to discuss issues related to the frequent fire incidents at Ghazipur and Bhalswa landfill sites in the city.

Atishi said the sitting will be convened on December 9. "The meeting is called to know the reason behind the poor waste management of the MCDs, which is leading to frequent incidents of garbage burning and a considerable increase in the height of the landfill sites in Delhi," she added.

On November 27, a fire

broke out at the garbage mountain at the Ghazipur landfill site due to which the AQI and pollution levels went up, and the entire East Delhi was filled with smoke. Three days after the incident, a massive fire was reported at the Bhalswa Dairy landfill. She said that these fire incidents are making all the efforts of the Delhi Government redundant and strict action must be taken against the authorities responsible for the fires.

"There have been regular instances of fire breaking out at Ghazipur and Bhalswa Dairy landfill sites. The two landfill sites have been the major contributors of air-pollution in Delhi. The two commissioners of the MCD have been summoned to ensure that such fire incidents do not occur in the future," she added.

# Man shoots maternal uncle over domestic dispute in Gurugram

Gurugram: A 40-year-old man has allegedly shot dead his maternal uncle over a domestic dispute in Sector 39 area in Gurugram.

The deceased has been identified as Virender Singh alias Pappu of Jharsa village in Gurugram.

The victim was returning from a wedding ceremony on Monday evening when the incident took place. After shooting dead his uncle, the accused Kaushal surrendered to the police and handed over the weapon which was used to commit the crime.

According to the police, Kaushal was upset as he was not getting married. After the incident, he himself informed the family and the police control room. The family members of the victim rushed to the spot and took the injured to a private hospital in Gurugram, where the doctors declared him dead.

Singh was a driver and had seen a girl some time ago for his nephew Kaushal's wedding. But as the accused was unemployed,

his marriage could not take place. Kaushal was angry with his uncle over this.

"On Monday morning, the accused had visited his uncle's house where the duo got into an argument and Kaushal threatened his uncle with dire consequences. In the night, Singh went to Sector-39 to attend a wedding ceremony of a neighbour's daughter. On his way back, Kaushal shot him in the chest," said Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

During investigation, the police came to know that the accused is a drug addict.

"The accused is being questioned about the weapon. He disclosed before the police that the person from whom he had bought the weapon has died. The body of the deceased has been handed over to the family after an autopsy on Tuesday. Further probe is underway," Boken said. A case of murder under relevant sections of the IPC has been registered at the Sadar police station in Gurugram.

IANS

# Whole country is with farmers: Punjab CM

Chandigarh: Reiterating that the farm laws are anti-farmer which were introduced without any discussion with the stakeholders, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Tuesday that the unity showcased by the farmers through the Bharat Bandh has underscored the need for repealing the laws, followed by a detailed discussion on agricultural reforms.

The Chief Minister asked why the Centre could not heed the demands of the farmers, who are agitating across the country to scrap these laws and hold fresh talks with all the stakeholders.

"Had I been in their place, I would not have taken a minute to accept my mistake and revoke the laws," he said.

Asserting that the whole country is standing with the farmers in their pain and in their fight for survival,

Amarinder Singh said the Centre should allow the existing system to continue instead of scrapping the arhtiya and mandi system, as the farm laws are designed to do.

"Why are they doing away with it? They should let the farmers decide what they want," he said, adding that nobody is stopping private players from purchasing agri produce but it could not be allowed at the cost of the well-established system which had stood the farmers in good stead all these decades.

The Chief Minister further demanded to know why the government of India is not willing to give legitimacy to minimum support price (MSP), if its assertion of not abolishing it is sincere.

"MSP is our right," he said, adding that "if MSP is not guaranteed and another political party, apart from the

Congress and the BJP, comes to power at the Centre, who will take the responsibility of the farmers getting their minimum due?"

He pointed out that the foodgrains bought at MSP are pushed into the PDS to feed the country's poor and all that would end if MSP goes.

There is no reason why the Centre can't listen to the farmers, who are braving the cold, and send them home happily after resolving their concerns, said Amarinder Singh.

This is what he had told Union Home Minister Amit Shah too, Amarinder Singh said, adding that he urged Shah to do everything possible to resolve the concerns of the poor farmers in their interest, and also in the interest of India's security.

Categorically rejecting the BJP's allegation that the Congress manifesto had also

talked of scrapping the APMC Act, the Chief Minister said his party or the Manmohan Singh government never said the existing system should be discontinued.

The Congress manifesto spoke about modernisation and not about doing away with what we have, he said.

Making it clear that nobody is against private players, the Chief Minister pointed out that even now he is in talks with the UAE for supply of wheat and rice, and the country wants to create storage facilities in India, including Punjab.

In fact, even in his last tenure as the CM, he tried to launch the farm-to-fork programme to promote private investment in agriculture related fields like storage, cold-chain, food processing etc. within the existing system but the Akalis later shelved it. IANS

# Most markets remain open in Delhi...

From Page 1

"The farmers are standing

by their demand that they want a complete roll back of the three laws and will not accept any cosmetic changes... If demands are not met, the farmers are ready to take their agitation to the next level," said Hannan Mollah, general secretary, All India Kisan Sabha.

"Amendments are just a ploy to cut short our protest and send us back home. In these laws, the private entities might initially offer a higher price for their produce, forcing the 'arhtiyas' or local middlemen in the mandis to shut shop, following which the corporates will pay the farmers peanuts for the crops. Once the 'arhtiyas' disappear, we will have nowhere to go. We will have to sell to the corporations at negligible prices," Sikandar Khan, the farmer from Rajasthan's Hanumangarh.

Raghuvir Singh from Sirsa in Haryana said that there is nothing to amend in these laws. "The Government keeps saying that Minimum Support Price (MSP) will continue to be there, then why aren't they giving that in writing? Government doesn't care if the farmers live or die. We have anyway been selling wheat at Rs 1500/quintal instead of Rs 1925/quintal. With these laws, the farmers will be finished," he said.

Delhi Police on Tuesday also in a series of tweets stated, "Singhu, Auchandi, Piau Maniyari & Mangesh borders are closed. NH-44 is closed. Please take alternate routes via Lampur, Safiabad, Saboli & Singhu school toll tax borders."

"Traffic movement at Ghazipur border in the carriageway from Delhi to Ghaziabad is open and Ghaziabad to Delhi is closed." Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

# In a first, Army chief to visit UAE, Saudi...

From Page 1

He is scheduled to call on senior military officials where he will discuss avenues for enhancing India-UAE defence relations, officials said here on Tuesday.

The issue of the pending deal for 93,895 close quarter carbines with Caracal for the Indian Army is expected to be raised by the UAE side, an official source said. The trip has been delayed by couple of days from the original schedule. It comes close after the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to UAE.

The Army Chief will travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the second leg of his tour from December 13 to 14. "He will take forward the excellent defence cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India through multiple meetings with senior functionaries of security establishment and exchange views on various defence related issues," the Army said.

Naravane will visit the Headquarters of Royal Saudi Land Force, the Joint Force Command Headquarters and King Abdulaziz Military Academy. He is also scheduled to visit the National Defence University and address the students and faculty at the institution.

Last year, India and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on defence industries collaboration and an agreement on security cooperation.

These high-profile visits are part of India's outreach to West Asia, seen by New Delhi as part of its extended neighbourhood. This effort has bolstered defence and security cooperation, especially in counter-terrorism.

# Farmers reject Shah...

From Page 1

The head of the BKU (Ugrahan), which is one of the largest outfits in the bloc, questioned the rationale of the talks a day before the scheduled official consultations.

Hours ahead of a meeting with Shah, farmers reiterated their stance of not compromising on their demand that the three contentious farm laws be repealed. "There is no midway, we will demand just 'yes' or 'no' from Shah at today's meeting," farmer leader Rudru Singh Mansa said.

The farmer leaders included eight from Punjab and five from various nationwide organisations. The participating leaders included Hannan Mollah of the All India Kisan Sabha, Rakesh Tikait of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), Gurnam Singh, Shiv Kumar

Kejriwal under house arrest, claims AAP, Delhi Police...

From Page 1

The AAP in a statement said Kejriwal, along with the whole Cabinet of Delhi, visited the Singhu border to review the situation and informed the farmers that he has come here as a caregiver and not as a CM.

"As soon as he returned home the Delhi Police put him under house arrest. The AAP observed that the Delhi Police has done this so that Kejriwal cannot come out in support of the farmers and join the Bharat Bandh," it said.

Reacting to the charges, a

# Student going for exam gangraped in Jhansi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident reported from Jhansi, a Class 11 student was gang-raped in an auto while she was going to appear in the examination.

The incident was being reported from Mauranipur, a town in Jhansi.

The victim was found unconscious in an auto outside a hotel and was taken to hospital.

It is reported that the victim took an auto from Mauranipur bus stand Monday morning to reach her school but was later found unconscious in the auto in the evening.

It is believed that she was given drugs.

After the victim regained consciousness, she revealed her trauma to the police and a case was registered.

# Bharat...

From Page 1

Public and private transport services remained shut in Punjab. In neighbouring Haryana, inter-State and intra-State bus services were disrupted. Petroleum dealers in the twin States kept filling stations closed to support the Bharat Bandh called by the farmer unions.

Agitating farmers blocked several key roads, including Chandigarh-Delhi, Amritsar-Delhi, Hisar-Delhi and Bhiwani-Delhi national highways. They parked tractors, trucks and other vehicles in the middle of the carriageways.

Carrying placards, the protesters squatted on key roads and raised slogans against the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

There were sit-ins at toll plazas in several places. The road blockades led to inconvenience to commuters across both States, including Chandigarh. Over 50,000 Government employees in the State have taken mass casual leave in support of farmers, claimed Punjab Civil Secretariat Staff Association president Sukhchain Khaira.

The Shriromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, an apex gurdwara body, has also announced to keep its offices

and institutions closed.

In Haryana, police had issued a travel advisory stating that people might face traffic blockades on various roads and highways of the State.

Haryana Roadways officials said their services were hit by the blockades. In Ambala, the wholesale cloth market, Sarafa market and the grain market were closed even as some others were open. Shops at many places in Rohtak, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani and Hisar districts also remained closed.

In Uttar Pradesh, there was no impact on bandh as shops and commercial establishments were opened. Roadways buses, trucks and mini buses were seen plying on the roads as well as auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws while the Samajwadi Party (SP) held protests in a number of districts and even holding up a train in Allahabad.

SP leaders sat on a silent protest near the statue of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh at the Vidhan Bhavan in Lucknow in support of the bandh. SP MLCs Rajpal Kashyap, Sunil Singh Sajjan, Anand Bhadauria and Ashu Malik were part of it.

In Bihar, railway tracks, highways and roads across the State were teeming with supporters of the Bharat Bandh,

# 5-member Opp team to call on Prez

From Page 1

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Shiv Sena, Shiromani Akali Dal, Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) are the Opposition parties who supported the farmers' protest and the 'Bharat Bandh' called by various farmer organisations.

These parties are likely to be part of the memorandum to be submitted to President Kovind.

Congress said it was not against farm sector reforms, but the ones brought in through the three recent laws did not reflect those changes, and demanded that these legislations be scrapped by convening a special session of Parliament.

Senior Congress leader and former Haryana chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said agriculture reforms should be discussed afresh in Parliament and new laws enacted after consulting all stakeholders.

Hooda also said the Minimum Support Price mechanism needs to be incorporated in the law because it is a must to protect the interest of farmers.

He alleged the farm laws brought in by the centre were passed without any consulta-

wore a deserted look with most of the business establishments remained closed.

The Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries has decided to keep businesses and shops shut.

Supporters of the Congress and Left parties blocked railway tracks at several places, and held sit-ins on roads to enforce the nationwide shutdown, which evoked a mixed response in West Bengal.

In Kolkata, CPI(M) activists along with SFI and DYFI members blocked roads in Lake Town, College Street, Jadavpur and Shyambazar Five-Point Crossing.

In Gujarat protesters blocked three highways in rural areas by placing burning tyres on roads affecting vehicular traffic for some time.

A highway connecting Ahmedabad to Viramgam was blocked near Sanand by protesters from the Congress party who placed burning tyres on roads, causing a traffic jam. Another group of protesters blocked a national highway in Vadodara.

In another incident, a highway connecting Bharuch and Dahej in Bharuch district was similarly blocked near Nandavav by protesters. Police detained protesters in Ahmedabad and brought the situation under control.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Public at large is hereby informed the Late Pooja Ahuja D/o Sameer Ahuja R/o 10, Road No-45, West Punjab Bagh, ND-26 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with her mother Neeta Ahuja name in our project. Unit no-1406 (TF), 14th floor Admeasuring 305.70 sq.ft. Block-B Vatika Towers, Gurgaon, which her legal heirs Sameer Ahuja (Dad) and Neeta Ahuja (Mother) requested the company to be transfer to her Sameer Ahuja (Dad) and Neeta Ahuja (Mother). Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officers details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted. Vatika Limited, Vatika Triangle, 4th Floor, Sushant Lok-1, Block-A, MG Road, Gurgaon, Haryana. © 9559309390

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Md Asrarul Haque S/o Sh. Md Moududul Haque R/o 202, ground floor, Orchid Island, Sector-51, Gurugram-122018 declare that Md Asrarul Haque, Mohammad Asrarul Haque, Mohammed Asrarul Haque, M. A. Haque & मु असरारुल हक are the names of one and the same person. PD(8827)C

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
We M/s Prominent Human Resource Services holding a registration certificate number B-1299/DEL/PER/100/5/9666/2019 dated 27/02/2020 under the Emigration Act 1983 for export of manpower are intending to close our overseas man power recruitment business, with effect from 09/12/2021. In the event there is any claim against company or proprietor, Managing Partner, Managing Director, the same may be preferred within 30 days of publication of this notice. Copies of the complaint may also be sent to Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, A-2/1 Bhawan, Sainya Marg, Chanakyaपुर, New Delhi-110011. (Proprietor) M/s Prominent Human Resource Services D-240 1st Floor, Lane No. 10, CR Road, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-92

**NOTICE**  
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Ranjan Maheshwari S/o Mr. Subhash Maheshwari R/o H.No-535, First Floor, Sector-10A, Gurugram, Haryana-110001 and Mrs. Gauri Gupta D/o Mr. Vipul Gupta R/o D-104, Sector-36 Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 02-01-2021 in the office of the undersigned Marriage Officer Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Aanchal Arora who is purchasing the Third Floor portion with roof/terrace rights, Property No. 57-B and 58, land area measuring 87.12 Sq. Yds., out of Rect. No. 11 Killa No.16, situated in the layout plan of New Laxmi Pur Extn., in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Shahdara, Delhi-51 from Mrs. Poonam Hans W/o Mr. Raj Kumar Hans owner vide of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 19.11.2004 executed by Mr. Chander Pal Singh S/o Mr. Khem Singh along with ATS, Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, with his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP 269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316

# Bharat Bandh evokes mixed response in Gzb

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI /GHAZIABAD

The farmers call for Bharat Bandh saw mixed response in Ghaziabad. Most of the markets in the district remained closed while the farmers blocked highways and roads, demanding the Government to withdraw the new agricultural laws.

In view of the closure of farmers, District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey and SSP Kalanidhi Naithani themselves kept a close watch on law and order situation.

Both of the senior officials visited various places across the city and gave instructions to the officials. The police have already detained prominent leaders of political parties supporting the closure of farmers.

Inspector in-charge of Divisional Commissioner Ritu Maheshwari and IG Police Meerut Zone Praveen Kumar also reviewed the situation in Muradnagar. Following the bandh call, the farmers at Ghazipur border (UP) gate blocked all the 14 lanes at

around 11 am. The vehicles coming towards UP gate were diverted.

Farmers allowed ambulances, students and emergency services to move during the bandh. The movement at UP Gate was led by Rakesh Tikait, national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union.

Tikait said this is a symbolic protest of one day at the moment. "The Central Government should immediately withdraw all three agricultural bills," he said.

The SP City was deployed with heavy police force on the spot. The entire movement was monitored with a drone camera. After 3 o'clock, Rakesh Tikait announced the opening of the jam after which the farmers sitting on the streets got up and all the lines of Delhi-Meerut Expressway were opened by the farmers.

The impact of the Bharat Bandh was also seen in Modinagar area on Tuesday where farmers stopped the traffic movement by placing tractor trolleys on NH-58.

# Lawyers hold protest at courts in farmers' support

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To mark the support of farmers' agitation against the new farm laws and Bharat Bandh call given by farmers, the lawyers held peaceful protests at various district court complexes in Delhi.

Advocate Rajiv Khosla, Chief Coordinator of the Action Committee of the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) in a statement issued said that the government should put a condition in the farm laws that private companies pay 5 per cent above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farm produce, and in case of default they may be subjected to

criminal action ranging from 3-5 year punishment.

Khosla said the action committee of lawyers would soon give a call for all India agitation in case the demands were not met and soon fix a date for it after consulting with several state Bar councils and Bar associations.

Sanjeev Nasiar, Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, said the government was conspiring to suppress the voice of the people by alleging that every movement against the Centre was led by anti-national people and trying to project through false propaganda via social media that the farmers agitation

has been backed by 'Khalistan'. Nasiar further said in the meeting that the Bar Associations stand with the farmer community on their demands and in case the government tried to implicate the farmers in any false case, then the lawyers would provide all legal help to them at all levels.

As per the statement, Khosla said the alleged illegal step of the government for getting the disputes adjudicated from Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and Additional District Magistrate (ADM) instead of Judges was aimed only to deprive the farmers from getting any jus-

tice as these officials were always under the thumb and control of ministers and MLAs.

He said the government action in deleting the staples - potatoes, tomatoes and onions - from the Essential Commodities Act was allegedly aimed at providing heavy profits to big traders and would deprive the common citizen from purchasing these at an affordable price while there would be no penal action against the big traders for keeping them

locked in their godowns. Advocate Satya Prakash Gautam said around 100 lawyers held a protest march inside the Karkardooma courts premises showing solidarity with the farmers' agitation.



# Despite protests, Gurugram unaffected by Bharat Bandh

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram remained calm even as workers of the Congress party, AAP, CITU, all-India Kisan Sabha and Anganwari workers joined hands with 360 villages of the Jharsa Khap to stage demonstrations as part of Bharat Bandh, a countrywide protest against three farm laws enacted by the Central Government, on Tuesday.

Markets across the district, including Gurugram city, remained open and business activities remained operational as industries and market associations said they did not participate in the shutdown.

farmers and worker unions gathered at Jharsa Chowk, Rajiv Chowk and Bilsapur Chowk on the National Highway 48 staged a protest against the farm law and back.

"We have decided to support the farmers' movement in solidarity and warned the state government and said that the central government is doing injustice to the farmers. If necessary, they will march across the city and will close the markets on their own," Chaudhary Mahender Singh Thakran, president of the 360 village khap, said.

They were carrying placards and flags and shouted slogans against the BJP and accused the party of passing the agriculture laws for their own benefits.

"The farmers and workers of the country are suffering due to the dirty policies of this present government," said a party leader. "A number of people have joined hands with us to raise their protest in front of the government. We will not allow the government to destroy farmer's lives amid these newly passed farm laws. We will fully support farmers' agitation and if required we will march towards the national capital to support farmers' agitation," said a former minister.

Meanwhile, a BJP leader said that the people of Gurugram rejected the bandh call as "the people were satisfied by steps taken by state and central governments. They know the truth that this farmer's stir has been converted into politics and this movement is now politically motivated."

# Firm director held for siphoning off ₹2,397 crore public money

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a director of a private company for siphoning off public money to the tune of ₹2,397 crores. The accused has been identified as Rajender Prasad Aggarwal, a resident of Delhi's West Punjabi Bagh area, who was arrested by EOW on December 7.

According to OP Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, Manpreet Singh Suri of Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) filed complaint against Malvinder Mohan Singh, Shivinder Mohan Singh, Sunil Godhwani and others holding key managerial posts that the alleged persons having absolute control on Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) and its subsidiaries put Religare Finvest Limited (RFL) in poor financial condition by way of disbursing the loans to the companies having no financial standings.

"These companies willfully defaulted in repayments and caused wrongful loss to RFL to the tune of ₹2397 Crores. This was also pointed out and flagged during their independent audit by RBI and SEBI. Maninder Singh was the Director and CEO of Religare Group during the year 2017 and was part of larger criminal conspiracy with Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh, Promoters of Religare Group," said the Joint CP.

"The accused Rajender was the shareholder and director of the companies identified as Tara Alloys Limited, Gurudev Financial Services and shareholder of Sridham Distributors and Annies Apparel where the amount to the tune of ₹676 crores was diverted in the year 2016-17. He was part of larger criminal conspiracy with Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh, Promoters of Religare Group. He was involved with Stock Broker Narendra Kumar Ghoushal who has already been arrested," said the Joint CP.

Even, less traffic movement was witnessed on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway on Tuesday during the peak hours.

However, hundreds of workers including Rajya Sabha MP KK Ragesh, CITU, all-India Kisan Sabha and Anganwari workers staging a protest in support of farmers at Bilsapur Chowk later on Tuesday were taken into preventive custody by police.

With heavy deployment of police personnel across the district, markets including Sadar Bazar, food market, wholesale vegetable market remained open, transport services were functional and no untoward incidents were reported from anywhere in the city.

"There was no major impact of Bharat Bandh on the traffic movement in Gurugram. All our police force was deployed on the different stretches and border areas. Also, a huge deployment of the police teams was ensured at the sensitive area in Gurugram. The traffic movement was smooth on Tuesday across the day even during peak hours as well, but nothing additional because of the Bandh," said Usha Kundu, ACP (headquarters).

This bandh, they said, was observed by many political parties, farmer union, worker unions, Anganwari workers and khap panchayat of 360 villages. Around 200 different party workers, leaders, village heads,

# Efforts on to make NMC self-reliant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to make North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) a self-reliant, Additional Commissioner Swati Sharma tabled the revised Budget estimates of 2020-21 and Budget estimates for the year 2021-22.

The civic body has taken several steps to boost its revenue including putting advertisements on vehicles, cycle stands and renting out space for 20 mobile towers. It also expects to generate ₹50 lakhs per annum from advertisement on walls of 30 parks.

Sharma said that ₹22.60 Crore is expected from auctioning of 18 shops at Asaf Ali Road. "Similarly, ₹12.73 Crore from leasing out two plots at Karampura, ₹26.00 Crore from auctioning of 21 properties viz. flats/shops/offices at Nimri Colony, Kashmir Gate, Azadpur and Gaffar Market, Karol Bagh, ₹74.88 Lakhs from renting space at Polyclinic Jawalapur and Ayush Dispensary at Kirari are expected," she said.

The Additional Commissioner further said that cellular tower on wheel policy (COW Policy) will also be implemented. According to this policy, signal communication can be ensured by installing mobile towers on wheels at the required places. Online Application for seeking permission has already been launched, he said.

Under non-plan head, North DMC has received

₹212.53 Crore as Basic Tax Assignment share for this financial year so far out of the total allocation of ₹850.12 Crore in the Delhi Government budget ₹106.26 Crore have been deducted as installment to loan re-payment by Delhi Government.

Besides, due to stoppage of the grants in plan head by Delhi Government, the losses accrue to ₹4,178 Crore, she said.

"The liabilities of the corporation have increased to the tune of ₹ 7,523.97 from ₹6,176.32 Crore from last year. Due to Corona pandemic, the overall recovery in tax collection has been reduced. So, a special alternate arrangement for special grant or interest free long term loan from State or Union," she said during the speech.

The leader of the Congress party in the Corporation Mukesh Goyal said that the budget estimate of income of ₹9206 crore for the financial year 2021-22 has been presented through the Additional Commissioner but in the current financial year, the budget estimate of ₹one thousand crore has to be cut by ₹3,020 crore.

"It can be inferred from this that the figures given in the budget are for show only. They have nothing to do with reality. It will be difficult to get even half of the income claimed in next year's budget proposals as there was no discussion on ways of increasing income in the budget," he said.

# Illegal colonies: SDMC to rollout Amnesty scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) proposed to roll out an amnesty scheme for recently regularised unauthorised colonies under which property holders provided waiver of property tax since 2004-05.

"It is proposed to provide one time rebate on payment of property tax till 30th June at 10 instead of 15 per cent. It is proposed to do away with an additional rebate of 20 per cent for payment of one time property tax in respect of co-operative groups on society properties," SDMC Additional Commissioner Ramesh Verma said while presenting the Budget for 2021-22 financial years.

Project for generation of 9.3 MW solar powers over rooftop of 208 municipal buildings completed generating 1.1 Crore units annually. During the current year, 14,117 new LED lights were installed at dark spots, he said.

The per day capacity of Construction and Demolition (C & D) waste management commissioned at Bakkarwala plant is being considered to be increased from 500 ton to 1,000 tonne. It was proposed to set up another plant at Maidangarhi for management of C & D waste from Central and South Zone over a piece of land.

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- Cases where DRP issued direction on or before 31.01.2020 but no order has been passed.
- Cases where assessee filed revision (Section 264) on or before 31.01.2020.
- Search cases if the disputed tax is less than Rs. 5 Crore in a year.
- The appeals/writs filed either by taxpayers or the Department.
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- Cases in Arbitration in India or abroad.

SALIENT FEATURES... PAYMENT TERMS			
DISPUTES COVERED	Payment made on or before	Appeal relates to disputed tax	Appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All disputes, subject to some exclusion, in relation to the:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disputed tax</li> <li>Disputed penalty</li> <li>Disputed interest</li> <li>Disputed Fee</li> <li>Disputed Tax deducted at source (TDS) or Tax collection at source (TCS)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	31st March, 2021	100% of the disputed tax (125% in search cases)	25% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee
	Payment made on or after	Appeal relates to disputed tax	Appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee
	1st April, 2021 but on or before the last date to be notified	110% of the disputed tax (135% in search cases) such that it does not increase total demand	30% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee
	If an issue in taxpayer's pending appeal is already decided in taxpayer's favour by an appellate forum or if Department has filed appeal on an issue, amount payable is 50% of aforesaid amounts.		
	<p><b>VIVAD SE VISHWAS SCHEME 2020 - KEY DATES:</b></p> <p><b>FILE YOUR DECLARATION BY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2020</b></p> <p><b>MAKE PAYMENT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL AMOUNT BY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2021</b></p>		

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# Govt to rope in 1.54L auxiliary nurses for Covid vaccination



## Vaccination drive to begin soon: Health Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With three vaccine-makers having applied for emergency use authorisation in India, the vaccination drive in India is all likely to be kicked off soon though the Union Health Ministry did not specify the exact date, leaving it upon the DCGI approval for license.

Three COVID-19 vaccine candidates, developed by Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute of India and Pfizer, are under active consideration of India's drug regulator and there is hope that early licensure is possible for all or any of them, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a presser here on Tuesday.

Over the last four days, the Indian arm of US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, Pune-based Serum Institute of India and Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical firm Bharat Biotech have applied to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) seeking emergency use authorisation for their potential COVID-19 vaccines.

"Once we get a green signal from our scientists, we'll



launch massive production of the vaccine. We've made all the preparations and drawn an outline to ramp up production of the vaccine to make it available to each and every person in the shortest possible time," said the Secretary.

Asked what steps would be followed by the DCGI in the absence of a water-tight emergency use authorisation law for granting licence to vaccine makers, Bhushan said not all countries' regulatory framework or rules and acts mention emergency Use authorisation.

"So, the fact that this phrase is not used in the national regulatory framework of any country does not mean that specific country does not have an enabling provision to

accord an approval which is early and which is distinct from a regular market approval.

"India's regulatory framework has a specific provision for grant of emergency use authorisation. Although this phrase is not used," he said. The New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, clearly specifies that under specific special situations, relaxation, abbreviation, omission, or deferment of data including local clinical trial data may be considered for approval.

Presently, eight vaccines are at different stages of development in the country.

One is Covishield, which is being manufactured by Serum

Institute of India in collaboration with AstraZeneca. Phase two and three clinical trials of this vaccine is underway and the firm has applied form emergency use authorisation.

Another is Covaxin, which is being indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and is presently in phase three of clinical trials. It has also applied to the DCGI seeking emergency use authorisation.

The third one is ZyCoV-D, being developed by Cadila Healthcare Ltd in Ahmedabad in collaboration with central government's Department of Biotechnology and is in phase two of the trials.

The fourth vaccine candidate is Sputnik V which is being manufactured by Dr Reddy's Lab, Hyderabad, in collaboration with Russia's Gamaleya National Centre and according to their mutual agreement. The phase two trial in India is over and phase three will begin next week.

The fifth one is NVX-CoV2373, which is being developed by Serum Institute of India in collaboration with

Novavax and its phase three clinical trial is under consideration with the drug regulator while the sixth vaccine candidate is Recombinant Protein Antigen based vaccine, to be manufactured by Biological E Ltd, Hyderabad, in collaboration with MIT, USA. Another one is HGC019 being manufactured by Genova in Pune in collaboration with HDT, USA.

The eighth vaccine is being developed by Bharat Biotech International Ltd in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University, USA and it is at the pre-clinical stages.

However, Bhushan said, adding, "Vaccination does not mean people become care-free."

NITI Aayog member (Health) V K Paul said the COVID-19 situation in India has stabilised with active cases showing a "clear-cut declining trend" even though the pandemic situation in many other countries is becoming quite serious.

The concern and anxiety that arose following an increase in daily cases of infection in Delhi has also settled now, he said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

## Over 60 foreign mission heads to visit biotech firms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs is organising a visit of more than 60 Foreign Heads of Missions (HoMs) in India to the leading biotech companies Bharat Biotech and Biological E in Hyderabad on December 9 to showcase New Delhi's vaccine preparedness. This is the first such visit and it will be

followed by visits to facilities in other cities, sources said adding the visit is in continuation of the MEA's briefing on Covid-19 to 190 HoMs on November 6.

India has already conducted online training sessions for nearly 90 participants from 8 neighbouring countries to develop capacity in clinical trials and clinical practices.

do not want to hamper our routine immunisation programme," he said.

The existing cold chain facilities in India are capable of storing the first shipment of nearly three crore novel coronavirus vaccines that have been earmarked for frontline healthcare and medical workers, said Bhushan. Delhi and Hyderabad air-

ports have already begun prepping temperature-controlled containers and zones to store millions of doses expected to be made available over the next few weeks and months.

Both airports, which already have advanced pharma and vaccine storage and processing zones, also have special "cool chambers" in which tem-

perature can be set as low as -20 degrees Celsius and "cool dollies", or special trolleys that ensure vaccines are protected (and optimum temperatures maintained) during movement of cargo between the aircraft and cargo terminal.

In addition, both airports, which operated as major hubs in the early days of the pan-

demical and transported millions of PPE kits, medical supplies and perishable goods, have also taken steps to minimise human contact with the chain of transportation and storage of the vaccine doses.

The Government has also created an application CO-WIN which can be down-

loaded by the vaccine users, so that the authorities can monitor the process from the beginning to the end.

The Health Secretary said, "Process of collecting database of health workers has started across all States and UTs and Central Ministries. This data is being uploaded on CO-WIN software. This data will

be verified."

He explained that on the basis of the "National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has recommended, around one crore health workers would be given priority in the vaccination drive.

"As per the NEGVAC rec-

ommendation, inoculation groups have been prioritised -- healthcare providers and workers in healthcare setting, personnel from state and central police, armed forces, home guards, civil defence and disaster management volunteers and municipal workers and persons above 50 years," he said.

## NIA arrests one in arms trafficking case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an accused Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Chunnun Singh of Gaya, Bihar in an arms trafficking case relating to stealing of weapon parts from Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur.

Background of the case is that three AK series weapons were recovered in District Munger, Bihar from the house of one accused Rizwana Begum.

The case was originally registered as FIR No. 323/2018 dated September 7, 2018 at Police Station Muffasil, District Munger. This case was later taken up and re-registered by NIA for investigation.

The investigation in the case has revealed that prohibited bore/ AK series weapons were stolen and smuggled from the sheds of Central Ordnance



Depot by serving and retired personnel of the depot and sold to arms traffickers based in Munger, Bihar which were eventually sold to various Naxal organisations and criminal syndicates, the NIA said.

Earlier, the NIA had arrested and chargesheeted 13 accused persons.

"Investigation has disclosed incriminating evidence of involvement of accused Rajeev Singh alias Chunnun Singh, who is a habitual arms trafficker and was one of the main conduits for supply of weapons in this case," the agency said, adding further investigation in the case continuing.

## Govt's Kisan e-Mart helps farmers connect with regional, global buyers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Improving access to formal agriculture credit, new farming techniques and agri inputs like quality seeds, and online trading marketplace for farmers, the Common Services Centers (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, have in recent times partnered with farmers and agriculture workers and stakeholders across the country.

Despite the Covid pandemic and the nation-wide lockdown by the Government, CSC, in a latest report, has said that it launched Kisan e-Mart, a unique online trading platform for farm produce. CSC Kisan e-Mart leverages technology to connect farmers with the buyers through the Village Level Entrepreneurs of CSC. With the pandemic disrupting the supply chain between the producers, sellers and buyers, Kisan e-Mart has helped farmers connect with buyers at the regional and global level, it claimed.

The platform creates a win-win situation for the farmer, buyer and VLE as there are no mediators in this platform. The farmer is directly connected to the buyer. The farmer is guaranteed a minimum price which is competitive to the market rates, officials said.

The platform came to the rescue of farmers from Solapur who were not able to sell their harvest of onion due to the markets being closed. Through Kisan e-Mart, 60 quintals of onion were sold to a buyer from Singapore, benefitting the farmers. Abhikant Kumar, a litchi farmer from Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, sold ten quintals of Shahi Litchi to a buyer in London through CSC Kisan e-Mart run by Village Level Entrepreneur Roopak Kumar.

Managing Director, CSC SPV, Dr. Dinesh Tyagi said, "Our partnership with agriculture workers is a step ahead in furthering the agenda of the Government in serving the farmers across the country. CSC has also partnered with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to provide agriculture related teleconsultations to farmers through qualified agricultural scientists at Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Till October 2020, about one lakh farmers have taken agriculture related teleconsultations with agricultural scientist at KVKS through CSC."

Officials said CSC has been registering farmers for crop loan under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the third largest crop insurance scheme in the world. The scheme aims at protecting

farmers' investment from natural adversity as well as ensures continued flow of capital within the agricultural economy.

In the Kharif season 2020, CSC registered a total of 51 lakh policies with a total premium of ₹576 crores from 13 States, namely Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Odisha, Tripura, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

CSC also executed a MoU with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare last year for carrying out enrolment of farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana, a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for small and marginal land-holding farmers to provide them social security. Under this scheme, a monthly pension of ₹3,000 is provided to all eligible farmers. Till September 2020, 20.77 lakh farmers have been enrolled under PM Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana through CSCs.

The Ministry of Agriculture partnered with CSC in February 2020 to provide institutional credit to 14.65 lakh holding farmers in the country. Through CSC, it was desired to cover all PM Kisan beneficiaries under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, said the report on the subject.

## SC agrees to hear plea of Maha Guv against HC's show cause notice for contempt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a plea of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari against issuance of a show cause notice by the Uttarakhand High Court on a petition seeking contempt proceedings against him for his alleged failure to pay rent for a Government bungalow allocated to him as ex-Chief Minister of the state.

A bench of justices R F Nariman, K M Joseph and Krishna Murari issued notice to the Uttarakhand Government and tagged the matter along with the pending petitions on the issue. The counsel appearing for the State Government accepted the notice.

On October 26, the top court had stayed contempt proceedings initiated against Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal for alleged non-compliance of the Uttarakhand High Court's last year order on payment of rent by former chief ministers of the State for occupying Government accommodation.

Koshiyari, who sought stay of the high court order, contended in his plea that he is the sitting Governor of Maharashtra and referred to Article 361 of the Constitution which provides protection to President and Governors from invoking any such proceedings.

## Social media abuzz with messages of solidarity with agitating farmers on 'Bharat Bandh' day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media was abuzz on Tuesday with messages of solidarity with the agitating farmers on 'Bharat Bandh' day as netizens made ploughs, tractors, crops and 'Kisan' trend on Twitter in support of the protesters' demands. As the agitation picked up in the morning, the hashtag #AajBharatBandhHai was trending till late afternoon.

Other hashtags widely used by the netizens were #TractorToTwitter, #StandWithFarmers, #Kisan, #FarmersProtest and #NoFarmersNoFood. Many users also shared videos of deserted markets in cities in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other states to show the impact of the stir. "I stand with Farmers and strongly support .. Kisaan hai toh Desh hai. #AajBharatBandhHai," tweeted user @gschahal, and shared a photo from the main protest site at Delhi-Haryana border.

Images of ploughs locking a door drawn in the shape of India's map and tractors triumphing over odds were widely shared to convey the idea of bandh and farmers' struggle.

Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh, who recently had an ugly spat with actress Kangana Ranaut over the farmers' protest issue, shared posters of 'Bharat Bandh' and the trending hashtag #AajBharatBandhHai. Many other Twitter users posted posters, pictures and videos to convey their solidarity with the farmers.

"Finally Thumbs upThumbs upThumbs up Worldwidetrending on number 1 #AajBharatBandhHai," wrote @jwanjotKaur while sharing an image of a Punjabi 'kisan' holding a flag atop the hood of a tractor.

Bharat Kisan Union tweeted bilingually: "Keep supporting! Strengthen Farmer's Voice! Maximum Retweet! #8December #BharatBandh #FarmersProtestDelhi2020 #FarmersDelhiProtest #FarmersDilliChalo #AajBharatBandhHai," #RepeatBlackLaws #FarmersProtest2020."

Another user @JAafia tweeted: "I stand with Our Kisan Brothers I support #bharatbandh Raised fist Farm laws need to be revoked and justice should be done to our Farmer Brothers Raised fist Agree = Retweet Down pointing backhand index #i\_stand\_with\_farmers #FarmerProtest

#NoFarmersNoFood #AajBharatBandhHai\_Rahega #AajBharatBandhHai"

The user posted an image of a lock and chain over the map of India to represent the nationwide stir. "Farmers play a vital role in the Earth's Foodsystem, without them human race's survival is difficult. #FarmBills is also a huge threat towards the global food security. Let us support #BharatBandh," wrote user @KTRTRS.

"I am a Panjabi, I am a farmer Tractor? I grew up in a village as a farmer, my whole village in Panjab is a farming community!?? I will ALWAYS stand with my people Raised fistRaised fist? #IamAFarmer #SonOfPanjab #StandWithFarmers #FarmersProtest #TractorToTwitter," tweeted @RaviSinghKA.

## BJP launches online campaign to bust 'myths' around farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

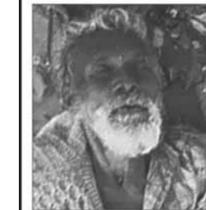
The BJP on Tuesday launched a social media campaign to back the three new farm laws introduced by the Central Government in September and to bust the "myths and rumours" being spread by political opponents of the Narendra Modi regime. It released some Hindi-language infographics on Twitter and Facebook and highlighted the positive aspects of the new farm laws.

## Support to farmers' Bharat Bandh successful, says AIMTC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), representing about 95 lakh truckers and other entities, on Tuesday said that its support to the farmers' Bharat Bandh call was successful and claimed the transport industry incurred a loss of ₹2,000 crore on account of halting its operations. The transport fraternity support to farmers has been highly successful. About 90 lakh trucks, tempo, trailers stood still on the call of AIMTC.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown **R/o** Unknown **Age :** About 60 years, **Height :** 5'5", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red colour checkdaar shirt-pant has been found dead at Road Number 64, Kodhi Colony, Tahirpur, Nand Nagri, Delhi on 04.12.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 52-A dated 04.12.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of G.T.B. Hospital, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO :**  
**P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi**  
**North-East Distt., Delhi**  
**Tel. No. 011-22583307, 22585955**

**BHARAT BANDH**

# Partial response in Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Bharat Bandh called by the 15-plus parties, including the Left and the Congress, in support of the protesting farmers in Delhi evoked partial response in Bengal which saw lesser amount of vehicular traffic to the effect that many vegetable and other markets where commodities are transported from villages either remained fully closed or thinly attended, sources said.

Supporters of the Left and the Congress on Tuesday blocked railway tracks at a number of places in north-suburban section of Sealdah and

Howrah divisions affecting the railway traffic. Rail traffic was blocked at Burdwan, Malda, Bankura, Purulia and other parts of the State.

The farmers who bring their vegetables and other items to Kolkata early morning remained mostly absent with suggestions that rural Bengal got good response of the Bharat Bandh called by the farmers and supported by opposition parties.

Roads were blocked by Left and Congress supporters at Madhyamgram Chowmaha in North 24 Parganas district, Panskura in West Midnapore, Bali in Howrah district, Baharampur in Murshidabad

and Kharagpur as police tried to persuade them to allow vehicular movement.

Sit-ins were roads were organised by Left and Congress workers to enforce the shut-down in Bengal and roads were blocked intermittently at Lake Town, College Street, Jadavpur and Shyambazar Five-Point Crossing.

With the State Government making attendance mandatory the Government offices witnessed near-normal attendance though there was less number of workers joining work at industrial belt at North 24 Parganas, West Burdwan and Hooghly districts, sources said.

# Massive rallies across K'taka amid security

**Bengaluru:** Braving inclement weather, Covid scare and tight security, thousands of farmers, workers and their supporters staged massive rallies and demonstrations in cities, towns and villages across Karnataka on Tuesday in protest against the three farm laws and demanded their repeal.

"The Bharat Bandh has got mixed response in the southern State, as thousands of farmers led peaceful protest rallies, staged sit-in demonstrations and urged the central government to withdraw the 3 anti-farmer laws immediately," a state home department official told IANS here. IANS

# Andhra bandh peaceful, BJP leaders try to explain farm laws

**Amravati:** Amid a peaceful 'Bharat Bandh' in Andhra Pradesh, state BJP President Somu Veeraj on Tuesday supported the new central farm laws, even as his party colleagues tried to explain their finer points through explanatory videos and slides.

"I am with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I will not give support to Bharat Bandh," said Veeraj.

S Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, state BJP General Secretary, claimed that the farm laws would be a game changer for farmers. "They will help them increase their incomes. It will empower them. They will also help increase India's GDP and achieve the full potential of agriculture sector," he claimed.

Reddy said people need to know about the Acts properly and asked them to read them before protesting against the government. He criticised the Congress for participating in the protests.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP GVL Narasimha Rao claimed that the new laws were aimed at giving freedom to farmers, who he claimed had suffered decades-long manipulation at the hands of some government players and middlemen.

"These are revolutionary laws. Many governments deliberated but did not dare to implement them," he asserted. IANS

# Near total closure in rural, semi-urban areas of Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents – Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress – and other friendly parties flexed their muscles on Tuesday, as they ensured a near total closure in rural and semi-urban areas of the state in response to the "Bandh Bandh" called by farmer organisations and the national opposition parties to demand scrapping three recent farm laws.

A day ahead of the meeting Sharad Pawar-led Opposition delegation's meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind over the farm bills issue, the MVA-ruled Maharashtra effectively lodged a protest against the BJP-led Union government over the controversial farm laws and extended its support to the pongoing farmers' agitation.

On a day when the bandh organisers had spared essential services from its purview, rural and semi-urban areas in coastal Konkan districts of Thane, Palghar, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sindhudurg, several parts of other regions like Marathwada, North Maharashtra, Western Maharashtra and Vidarbha joined the bandh.

While no untoward incidents were reported from any part of the state, the farmers and workers of different political parties resorted to "rasta rokos" in various parts of the state, including Thane, Palghar, Aurangabad, Solapur, Nashik, Pune, Buldhana and some other districts in the state.

All Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) in the state wore a deserted look with the agitating farmers staying away from these places. However, normal life remained in major towns and cities in the state where shops, hotels and business establishments remained open. The bandh had no impact on the life in Mumbai, where the Central and Western Railways operated the suburban train services normally.

Apart from the ruling MVA constituents like the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, the other parties like Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, the CPI, CPM, Dalit parties, political outfits linked to farmer organisations, students organisations and the Trade Unions and bank unions had supported Saturday Bandh.

While the NCP and Congress organized demonstrations in Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and other cities, a large number of Gurudwaras and Punjabi associations organised human chains between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Several parties joined together to organize a motorcycle rally at Thane, a satellite city of Mumbai.

At Ralegan-Siddhi in Ahmednagar district, the 83-year old social activist Anna Hazare joined the farmers' agitation by holding a day-long token hunger strike at the village temple.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee Chairman and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said that there was outrage across the country against these laws and the agitation of farmers has now become a mass agitation and would continue their agitation till their demands were not met.

As part of the bandh, Thorat staged a dharna near the statue of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in Mumbai. "These laws are not in the interest of the farmers but have been brought in for the benefit of a handful of moneylenders, industrialists and stockists. This will be detrimental to both the farmers and the consumers," Thorat said.

While Sena's Minister of State Abdul Sattar dubbed the three farm laws as a 'Hitler-style' assault on farmers which was never resorted to by any government or even the British rulers in the past, Congress Minister Vijay Wadetiwar asked the BJP to forsake its arrogance and repeal the bills forthwith.

# Limited effect in Aligarh

**Aligarh:** In protest against the three new agricultural laws, the Bharat Bandh of farmers, who had been protesting in Delhi for 13 days, had a partial effect on the markets of Aligarh, but the stir among Opposition parties is intensifying. The Mandi, market near highway etc remained close but the city markets were open.

The opposing political parties including Congress and SP actively participated in the protest. Many SP workers were taken into custody by the administration. The police and administration took the situation under control and not much havoc created in the city and the Bharat bandh was conducted peacefully.

An alert was issued in the district regarding the call of Bharat Bandh of Kisan United Front. The police administration made security arrangements by dividing the city into seven sectors. Force on borders was increased. Apart from the RAF, PAC, the police station was monitoring each and every area. Three magistrate and the CO managed security in their respective areas.

Farmers are agitating against Farm Bill. In this sequence, the police administration was on alert on the Bharat Bandh on December 8 of the Kisan United Front. PMS

# BJP, Cong workers clash at BJP headquarters in Jaipur

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's call to observe the Bharat Bandh in Rajasthan in a peaceful manner proved futile on Tuesday after Congress workers gheraoed and pelted stones at the state BJP headquarters here, getting embroiled in a clash with the workers of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

Terminating the Congress workers as 'goons', state BJP President Satish Poonia tweeted tagging Gehlot, "Congress goons pelted stones at BJP state headquarters in the presence of police. What kind of bandh is this? What kind of protest is this? What is the reason

for this and what is the fuss about?"

He also asked the CM where is his democracy and good governance model? "This much pride is not good," he said.

During the unrest at the state BJP headquarters, workers of NSUI and BJYM exchanged blows and the police had to be called in to control the situation.

The NSUI workers, as per the set schedule, came to ghearo the state BJP headquarters as part of the nationwide Bharat Bandh call given by the farmers protesting against the Central farm laws enacted in September. IANS

# BJP killed their own men to gain sympathy: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday came down heavily on the BJP for "manufacturing" dead bodies to win elections. Her immediate point of reference was the death of a BJP worker who on Monday died of injuries suffered during a saffron rally in Siliguri.

"The BJP is a party that spreads rumors like a storm," Banerjee said referring to the "unfortunate death" of the BJP worker. Refuting BJP's allegations that the victim Ulen Roy died in police firing Banerjee referring to the postmortem report said "the police never uses pellet guns and the victim died of pellet injuries which means that there were criminals in the BJP rally."

Banerjee alleged "it is the BJP's habit to infest its ranks with miscreants" as it happened on Monday. "The victim died when these miscreants opened fire..." Banerjee told a meeting at Raiganj adding the BJP killed its own workers to gain sympathy and "just for publicity and propaganda." Claiming that her party Trinamool Congress "never kicks up storm of rumors," Banerjee said "we kick up storms of development unlike the BJP which fans storm of riots, arson, disinformation and false propaganda."

The Chief Minister's claims were countered by a petition being filed at the court of Jalpaiguri Chief Judicial Magistrate for conducting a re-post-mortem.

"We cannot understand the urgency of the police to conduct a postmortem during the dead of night

which they did... we want a video graphed re-postmortem conducted by at least three doctors," the North Bengal BJP leadership said.

Banerjee's hard-hitting words came against the back drop of a police report which on Tuesday's morning said that the 50-year-old victim who died in the Monday's pitched battle between the BJP workers and the police was killed with a shotgun that local law enforcement agencies did not use.

Referring to the postmortem reports that Bengal Police tweeted, "as per the PM (post mortem examination) report death was due to the effects of shotgun injuries... Police do not use shotguns. It's obvious that during yesterday's protest in Siliguri, armed persons were brought and they fired from firearms."

The State police said that the victim "received pellet injuries from a shotgun fired from close range by a person standing near the deceased in the protest program. This is unprecedented. Bringing armed persons in protest programs and inciting them to fire is unheard of."

Confirming that the case had been transferred to the CID, State Police said "there was a malafide intention to create violence by the use of firearms. CID West Bengal has been asked to investigate. Truth will come out and strong action will be taken against all those who planned and executed the heinous crime."

Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh immediately hit back calling it a "foolish remark" that workers of the same party would kill their own colleagues. "Such comments can come from the

Chief Minister only," he said adding how "about 10 more people are lying in the hospital bed with similar injuries... It is a confirmed report that Ulen Roy and these other injured people were in the fore front of the rally and the local witnesses are saying that the police invited them to break the barricades after which bullets were fired at them."

Monday's rally witnessed large-scale violence in Siliguri with the police firing tear gas shells and lathi-charging the protesters even as they marched towards Uttar Kanya the second Secretariat of the State.

"It seems like the Trinamool Congress goons had infiltrated the police ranks and fired at our workers," Ghosh and other BJP workers like Samik Bhattacharya said adding how the Bengal Police was in a habit of committing the same misconduct everywhere.

"Now it is the responsibility of the police to find out the real culprits," he said even as State party vice president Jaya Prakash Majumdar demanded a CBI investigation into the matter.

Referring to the demand for a re-postmortem the North Bengal Medical College doctor PK Deb said the postmortem had indeed been video graphed and was conducted by three doctors adding "if the court orders a re-postmortem to be done then we have no problem doing it."

Meanwhile, there was backlash of Monday's skirmish with the BJP called North Bengal bandh getting a mixed response in the zone amidst clashes between saffron workers and TMC men.

# 'Underground sand won't affect Ayodhya temple construction'

IANS ■ AYODHYA

The sand layers found below the ground at the Ram Janambhoomi temple site in Ayodhya, will not affect construction of the temple.

"Experts have found sand below the ground but it has not come as a surprise. Loose sand was expected as Ayodhya is situated on the banks of river Saryu," said Anil Mishra, member of the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

He said, "Take the example of Taj Mahal. It stands on a land that has loose sand underneath but it has caused no damage to the structure." He said experts were working to finalise the laying of foundation.

The chairman of Ram Mandir construction committee, Nripendra Mishra, is in Ayodhya on a two-day visit to finalise details related to the ongoing foundation work of temple.

Mishra visited the Ram Janambhoomi premises on Monday with Mishra, treasurer Govind Dev Giri, trust secretary Champat Rai, and experts from Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and Tata Consultancy Services to take stock of the work.

Later, he held a meeting with experts and trustees at Faizabad circuit house.

Though there was no official briefing by the trust regarding the meeting, sources said the committee was pushing for speedy construction of the temple.

Mishra said: "Experts are trying to ensure that the foundation of the grand Ram temple is strong enough to last, at least, 1,000 years."

Earlier, there were reports that loose sand below the ground was delaying the foundation laying work and it was discussed how the pillars would be jammed and made sturdy to give strength to the structure.

# Number of Haj applicants declines due to Covid-19

**Lucknow:** The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has clearly affected the Haj pilgrimage, as there were only 3,200 applicants from Uttar Pradesh to travel in 2021, compared to last year's 29,000.

The window for online and offline applications opened on November 7 and the last date for depositing the form is December 10.

Officials have said that the pandemic was one of the main reasons for a lesser number of Haj applications this year.

Not even a single woman has applied under the category of 'without mehram' (only women group).

Under the category, women can apply in the groups of three.

The Haj Committee of India has reserved 500 seats for such women.

With nothing final on the number of pilgrims to be allowed by Saudi Arabia, the quota of states has not been decided as yet.

No one knows how many pilgrims would be visiting Mecca and Medina from Uttar Pradesh next year.

However, the Secretary State Haj Committee, Rahul Gupta, said: "We want to send the maximum number of pilgrims for Haj but some things are not in our hands. We cannot comment on the quota of Uttar Pradesh because we are still awaiting directives about the numbers." IANS

# Farmers' upliftment top priority of State Govt: Raj CM



**Jaipur:** Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has said that farmers and agriculture are the main axis of the country's economy and their upliftment is the top priority of the State Government. Banking sector cooperation is important in the development of this sector.

Along with NABARD and cooperative banks, the nationalized banks of the country should also extend credit facilities for agriculture and allied sectors, so that the financial needs of the farmers are met on time and their prosperity is paved.

Gehlot was addressing NABARD's State Level Debt Seminar on 2021-22 through a video conference at the Chief Minister's residence on Tuesday. On this occasion, he also released NABARD's 'State Focus Paper: Year 2021-22'. He said that the geographical conditions of Rajasthan are uneven, but there are immense possibilities of development in the agricultural sector. Keeping this in mind, for the progress of infrastructure in agriculture, NABARD, RBI and other banks should increase the ratio of long-term agricultural cred-

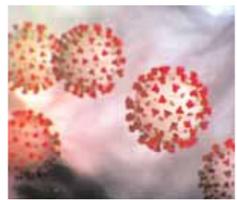
it to agriculture by 20 percent. Currently this ratio is 20 percent of the total agricultural credit. The Chief Minister said that the farmer of the country is choked with debt, to make it prosperous, along with expansion in credit facilities, bold decisions like debt waiver are needed. As soon as our government was formed in the state, we made the first decision to waive farmers' debt, benefiting about 20 lakh farmers of the state. If nationalized banks cooperate in this, then more farmers can get the benefit. In this regard, we have also written a letter to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to make a lump sum agreement plan. Shri Gehlot said that in order to provide the farmers with a reasonable price for the crop, it is necessary that the procurement at the minimum support price (MSP) be close to the farmers' fields. For this it is necessary to strengthen the Village Service Cooperative Societies (GSSS) and develop other basic facilities including storage capacity there. NABARD can play a big role in this task.

# Recoveries again outnumber new coronavirus cases in J&K

**Jammu:** Recoveries again outnumbered new Covid-19 cases in J&K on Tuesday with 524 patients recovering from the disease against 470 new cases getting reported in the last 24 hours.

So far, 1,14,038 people have been infected with coronavirus in J&K out of which 1,07,282 have recovered.

An official bulletin said



that 524 patients were discharged after recovery while

470 tested positive, including 277 in Jammu division and 193 in Kashmir division.

Six more people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, taking the Union Territory's Covid death toll to 1,761.

The UT presently has 4,995 active cases, of which 2,462 are in Jammu division and 2,533 in Kashmir division. IANS

# Eluru's mystery illness: Excess lead, heavy metals found in blood samples

**Eluru (Andhra Pradesh):** Excessive amounts of heavy metals such as lead and nickel were found in the blood samples of patients suffering from the mysterious disease in Eluru town of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh.

"We found lead and nickel in the blood samples in excess amount. This can be one of the causes. We are sending more samples to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi," Himanshu Shukla, joint collector, West Godavari district told IANS.

He said scientists were suspecting these heavy metals were causing the mysterious ailment

that has already affected hundreds. Eluru, 58 km northeast of Vijayawada, headquarters of West Godavari district, is a paddy cultivation and aquaculture heavyweight.

"We are working backwards in trying to find out the sources from which this nickel and lead would have come," he said.

Shukla said water and milk have already been tested for these metals and their absence in them has ruled them out to be a cause. "So definitely it is not water and milk. It can be other things. Already we have covered vegetables if they could be a source and there are multiple other sources like sweets," said

the Indian Administrative Service officer.

Officials and medical experts have adopted the elimination method, ruling one possibility after the other as the malady is of elusive nature and yet to be confirmed with authority.

Last night, vegetables samples were shipped to the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad for testing. Other samples have also been flown to Delhi, whose results could be expected in the next 12 hours.

Meanwhile, cases of the illness rose to 551, out of which 174 are active while 350 have been discharged. IANS

# SIMI member Abdullah Danish on 10-day police remand

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Delhi police took Abdullah Danish on 10 days remand to clear the doubts that the Delhi Police and agencies have about him. Since the establishment of SIMI, there are many questions about the connection to the Indian Mujahideen, whose answers are yet to be revealed. His family, relatives and close friends are also on the radar of agencies.

Cell Inspector Shiv Kumar and Karmaveer Singh arrested Danish from the flat number C-3 of the third floor of Dodhpur's Shami apartment. He was taken to Delhi from here and after interrogation, police came again here to leave his wife.

A ten-day custody remand has also been approved. According to Delhi Police, agencies will also interrogate him on different aspects for the next ten days.

# 5,032 new Covid cases in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala on Tuesday recorded 5,032 new coronavirus cases from 60,521 samples was tested in the past 24 hours, state Health Minister K.K. Shailaja said.

In a statement, Shailaja also said that 4,735 people tested negative, taking the total number of cured to 5,82,351, while the state presently has 59,732 active Covid cases.

Across the state, there were 3,10,345 people under observation at various places which included 14,141 people at hospitals. IANS

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE-5/2020-21/D-348 Date : 08.12.2020

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
NIB No.: EE-5/10/2020-21

Bids are invited for consultancy work as per details given :-

S.No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (in Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	JDA2021SLOB00289	490.00	152/2020-21	Consultancy Work	28.12.2020

Details are available at Procurement Portal website [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in)  
Raj. Samwad/C/2020-21/7457 Executive Engineer-5

tender against press NIT No. 09/B/EE-V/AGT/PWD(R&B)20-21  
Dated 03.12.2020.

**For** Proposed Construction for creation of barrier free environment in 14(fourteen) State Government buildings at Agartala for the benefit of persons with Disabilities under the Accessible India Campaign(AIC) during the year 2019-20./SH- Construction of Parking bay, Accessible pathway with tactile guiding, Handrails on stair, corridors, Unisex toilet for disable persons etc. for different existing buildings of Ramthakur College, Agartala and Panchayati Raj Training Institute(PRTI) adjacent to SIPARD, Arundhuti Nagar, Agartala, Tripura. (3rd Call)

DNIT No. CE(Buildings)/PWD/DNIT/ACE/Project Unit/04/2020-21

**With** Estimated cost: ₹ 3,60,86,189.00, Earnest Money : ₹ 3,60,862.00

Time of Completion - 9 (nine) months.  
Last Date of bidding for bids : 24.12.2020 upto 15.00Hrs.

**Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid/Bids: 28, Month : Dec, Year: 2020**

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/  
(Er. S.K. Nath)  
Executive Engineer  
Agartala Division No. V, PWD(R&B)  
ICA/C-2361/2020-21 Agartala, West Tripura

## Shah steps in

The self-starter farmers' protest has snowballed into a national movement, one that has made the Govt uncomfortable



If Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stepped in to solve the farmers' protest over the new laws enacted by his Government, it shows that he has sensed the runaway consequences of a localised dissent turning into a national movement. And that's because this agitation, quite unlike the demonstrations over the citizenship law or the students' protests, cannot be attributed to liberal advocacy, ideological conflict or the Opposition's conspiracy, but is coming from the sons of the soil. And they have decided to speak for themselves without taking the help of either politicians, rights activists or celebrities, drawing traction with their quiet

dignity and right to live with it. They have demanded their equity in the new order, not as a constituency or votebank, but as conscious citizens. In that sense, they embody the deeper undercurrent of a revolt against the authoritarian dispensation of the day that expects its people to yield to the weight of majoritarianism. The farmers have shown that heft isn't always about numbers. In fact, the subliminal resentment now has vented itself and become a voice that doesn't need endorsement. On the contrary, politicians, sportsmen, civil society, celebrities are latching on to them than the other way round, when the cause needs to rent them. True, the farm laws attempt structural reforms to liberalise the agriculture market but they do not factor in the farmers' well-being and comfort or hand-hold them to a new regime where they have a level-playing field. They have, therefore, become the ignored voice of the common man at the mercy of the State's imposition. That's why the farmers have resurrected Guru Gobind Singh's *Pagri Sambhal Jatta Lehar* movement. For the Sikh guru made it a symbol of honour, the right of every honest man to live a life of dignity and declassified it as a right of the elite. Peasants, who rose against the British Raj, used the *pagri* to band together dissolving their identity based on religion or caste. That's why though the Government has been trying to box the protesters in as belonging to Punjab and button-holing it as a State problem, the farmers are reminding us that this is not a problem of Sikh farmers, redefining the *pagri* as worthy of any one of them who fights for their rights. It is this universalising of agenda, with some farmers' unions now drawing attention to other causes, like the incarceration of students, activists and teachers, that has made their activism credible enough to be taken seriously by the establishment. Particularly when it is spreading in State after State and farmers' lobbies, through NRI pressure groups, have been successful in getting legislators in the US, UK and Canada involved and defend their right to protest.

Their integrity and commitment have been strong enough to draw in other trade unions, be it of transporters, traders, taxis, banks, railways, even lawyers, basically working class people who almost always turn out to vote. This coalescence is stronger than any of Shah's intention to break up the unions. This is a political capital too difficult to ignore. One that has forced all parties, particularly those in the Opposition, to ignore their hypocrisy and stand with farmers. Which is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself called Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patron Parkash Singh Badal on his birthday, more to assuage concerns, considering that the latter had returned the Padma Vibhushan, demanding rollback of the farm Acts. In fact, with Punjab Assembly elections in 2022, the SAD couldn't risk its image with farmers. So it walked out of its alliance with the BJP and withdrew its Minister for Food Processing, Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Punjab Chief Minister and Congress leader Amarinder Singh went a step further, amending the Central law and bringing in fresh Bills in the Assembly, guaranteeing existing rights of farmers. This seems odd considering the Congress, which has itself been reformist on the agriculture sector and favoured some of the measures in the farm Acts, has done a U-turn. It even advocated dismantling the State Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts in its 2019 manifesto. And despite promising loan waivers in States ruled by it, it has failed to provide even limited relief. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which initially had a hands-off attitude to the farmers' stir, is now supporting it primarily because it is still ambitious about making inroads into Punjab. Hence AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made it a point to visit agitators at the State's borders. This despite the farmers refusing AAP support for community kitchens and shelters. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose State wouldn't be much affected by the new laws, has now sided with the unions, given that Assembly elections are months away and the issue has turned out to be even bigger than those on the citizenship law or students, which were limited to their constituencies and hadn't galloped with such frenzy. Clearly, the Opposition has once again been reactive rather than being proactive. By being disunited on the farmers' issue, they failed to either block the Ordinance on farm reforms or muster enough numerical strength to shout out the ruling party in the Rajya Sabha, force a debate and discussion in the House or at least make sure that the legislation was scrutinised by parliamentary committees. And till the farmers landed in Delhi, none of them had planned a cohesive national campaign on their rights. Now that the issue has become a veritable tinderbox, they have no choice but to look concerned. That actually makes them look even more unconcerned. In the end, the Government has to give a price guarantee of sorts as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) has itself become unremunerative given rising input costs. Farmers are but naturally wary of any contracted price in the open market that could push them further down the trough they are in. They are not entirely unreasonable or against market economics. If only the Government had acted with reason than haste.

## Brown wings

Jet Airways' new owners hope that 'Jet 2.0' can take wing in summer. They are being very optimistic



Ever since the Resolution Professional (RP) appointed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) recently decided that the Murari Jalan and Kalrock consortium will take over the assets of the moribund Jet Airways, there has been intense speculation of what the airline's version 2.0 will look like and what model it will follow. In an email sent out by their public relations agency yesterday, the new owners of Jet outlined some of their ambitions for the future. But it was far from a clear plan of how the airline will acquire either the slots they need to operate, given that rival airlines have gobbled them up since these are not "owned" by any airline, or where Jet Airways will acquire new

aircraft to operate new flights. Besides, civil aviation is certainly not the most promising sector in a pandemic-hit world and a new player certainly cannot get adventurous in a slump. The statement thus reads more like a wishlist more than anything else.

Sure, Jet Airways has undeniable brand equity among flyers but in a price-sensitive market, they care more about prices and schedules. Besides, it will not be easy to replicate the old Jet Airways' standards of service given that several of Jet's older employees have found new jobs elsewhere. Also, while Jet Airways did own some aircraft, they have not been flown for over a year and the cost of bringing them up to safe flying conditions is considerable. The plans outlined by the new ownership have no details about the additional funding that the owners will bring in to not just revitalise aircraft but acquire new planes and the costs of restarting an operation. A line in a statement said that the owners looked at starting a new airline but decided against it, so they are essentially starting a new airline with an old brand. How much is that brand worth is a debatable point because when Jet Airways crashed and burned, it also lost several of its high-value customers. To assume things will be alright quickly by the summer might be expecting too much and makes one wonder if the owners really know what they are doing.



BHPINDER SINGH

Soldiering is extremely risky business, even without the escalation to a full-fledged war. The unpredictable vagaries of nature, machines, circumstances and the operating turf combine to test the warrior at each step – it is from that fount of perennial uncertainty that the military families silently invoke, "We wait. We hope. We pray. Until you're home again." The truism of the daily dangers that beset a warrior's life manifested in the tragic incident of Indian Navy's MiG-29K, which went down over the Arabian Sea. While one of the pilots was immediately rescued, the other, instructor Commander Nishant Singh, had remained untraceable. Tragically and finally, the family, squadron and the other loved ones of Commander Nishant Singh were joined in their prayers by a grateful nation, in the poignant moment of necessary "closure", as the news of a body believed to be his was recovered from high seas after 11 days of relentless search.

In an ode to the timeless spirit of "I will never leave a comrade behind," which underpins the sacred ethos of all warriors, the Indian Navy launched intensive search operations, deploying nine warships, 14 aircraft and fast interceptor craft.

Even among the comity of warriors, the naval aviators are cut from a brazenly different cloth, as they earn their swaggering-flyer mystique owing to the inherent dangers and glory that accompany their professional calling. These very few men and women manage the additional complexity of landing their machines on a moving aircraft carrier deck by snagging the "tailhook" to arresting high-tensile wires, after having approached the deck at exactly the right angle. Then the pilot counterintuitively pushes the engines to full power, in order to stop. All strategising and coordination has to happen in a matter of seconds. The complexities, the adrenaline rush and the dangers are simply unmatched.

Despite the advent of modern technology and guiding systems, naval aviation remains among the riskiest services. The soul of a true naval aviator is forged amid that trying loneliness of flying over the endless azure of daytime or the haunting darkness of the open ocean at night – either way tempering mind into steel so that when

# Missing Man, RIP!

Despite the advent of modern technology and guiding systems, naval aviation remains among the riskiest services



that split second critical decision is required, it is done to perfection. These rare warriors need to combine the multiple dimensions of sea, air and land, simultaneously.

Conversely the extreme pressures of job also lead to unique personalities that typify naval aviators. Ironically, it was Nishant who had jumped into popular imagination with a now-famous letter written to his senior, seeking permission to "bite the bullet (get married)". Nishant had asked tongue-in-cheek, "I regret to be dropping this bomb on you at such a short notice, but as you would agree, I intend to drop a nuclear one on myself and I realise that just like all the split second decisions we take up in the air in the heat of combat, I cannot afford to allow myself the luxury to re-evaluate my decision," and had serendipitously added, "I promise to never repeat such a performance in air or teach it to my trainee pilots." His Commanding Officer, another naval aviator, had matched Nishant's good-humoured (albeit, private communication) with, "But all the good things have to finally come to an end" and recorded his acquiescence with jest, "welcome to hell!" Certainly, no one had imagined or ever assumed the "end" to imply death. Beyond the obvious camaraderie and the classic flamboyance and élan of naval aviators, there is also the human side of warriors who cherish nothing more than home and family, above all. Very often, owing to ignorance or sheer lack of concern, the cit-

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izenry forgets the dangers that are inherent, routine and unimaginable on land, air and sea, in the course of maintaining the sovereignty of the nation, which could lead to the payment of the "ultimate price" in the discharge of military duties.

It was to its home base at *INS Hansa*, Goa, that the all-weather, carrier-based, multi-role fighter aircraft, i.e. MiG-29K, was flying back from the aircraft carrier, *INS Vikramaditya*. Part of the Indian Navy's famed "Black Panther" squadron, this has been the third accident involving the MiG-29K fighter in the last one year, albeit, this entailed the trainer two-seater variant. Last November, a trainer crashed in Goa after engine failure due to a bird hit. Both pilots ejected safely. In February, a MiG-29K on a routine training sortie crashed off Goa due to technical glitch. The pilot ejected safely and was recovered. Of course, the aircraft has reported glitches in the past and in other countries though the Navy has rectified the engine. Hopefully, going forward, operational deficiencies will be looked at much more keenly before acquisitions.

But while the armed forces will never forget its own in Commander Nishant Singh, it will persevere whatever the odds, as they do not know of any other way, except to fight the odds, everyday. The flyers have a unique tradition of honouring their fallen pilots with flying in a "missing man formation." Last year, the Indian Air Force Chief himself led a group of MiG-21s

to give a symbolically moving aerial salute through the "missing man formation" to honour the valour and supreme sacrifices of its pilots at Kargil.

The pain of not knowing the fate and hoping-against-hope that the family of Commander Nishant Singh had to endure for all of 11 days is of indescribable magnitude but it ends now. The author too had a family elder, Lt Bikram Singh Rathore of 6 Kumaon, who took the "last stand" in the fierce Battle of Walong in 1962. At 22, the lionheart had fought till last man, last bullet. The noble warrior had stoutly refused to surrender or retreat, and towards the same action *Time* magazine famously noted, "At Walong, Indian troops lacked everything. The only thing they did not lack was guts." Lt Bikram Singh Rathore was last seen dragged away by the Chinese, never to be afforded a "closure" for the family as the official status is "missing, believed killed." Such are the ways of the profession of arms that seldom does a warrior outlive a couple of chances, yet the soldiers will always back their instincts and take calculated chances to fight another day. "I've got your back" is a reassurance they convey each other but for now, the nation mourns its naval aviator, Commander Nishant Singh, who will remain symbolically the "missing man" for his family, squadron and the nation.

(The author is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Puducherry)

## SOUND BITE

I have been detained once again because I wanted to visit Budgam where hundreds of families were evicted from their homes.



PDP chief —Mehbooba Mufti

Believe it or not, I'm one of the fortunate, among very few, who reached the top with a single kidney, with a dead takeoff leg.



Former long jumper —Anju Bobby George

I'm a huge advocate for therapy. I think it's such a normal thing, especially nowadays.



Singer and actor —Selena Gomez

Canada could start its COVID-19 vaccine plan next week. This will move us forward on our whole timeline of vaccine rollout.



Canadian Prime Minister —Justin Trudeau

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### All religions are equal

Sir — All religions teach humanity vital lessons in tolerance. Religion is not subject to any place, time, colour, person or nation and it is the same for everyone. In a United Nations (UN) discussion on the "Culture of Peace," India criticised the World Union for being "selective" in the protection of the Abrahamic religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism and not speaking out for the remaining religions of the world. The UN should not be partisan and must condemn hatred against all religions as that represents the wicked face of civilisation. It should be discouraged and crushed wherever in the world it raises its ugly head.

Sunil Chilwal  
Haldwani

### When will this stop?

This is with reference to the article, "Girls please, not brides." It is a sad fact that the Coronavirus outbreak has pushed so many children into marriage at a time when they are not mentally, emotionally and physically ready for it. It is an evil that is hiding in plain sight. And the irony is

### Our rich should be more giving

The list of India's top philanthropists and their contributions that is released every year is not one that makes us very proud. This year, too, the list shows that the country's record of generosity is poor. Most of the names that find a place in the list are known and familiar, and even their order, in terms of the size in contributions, remains more or less unchanged.

While the difference between the top and second contributor is striking, still more striking is the general unwillingness of India's rich and privileged class to do their bit to help the poor and the needy with voluntary acts of giving. Philanthropy has grown in India over the years but has not kept pace with the growth of wealth and individual incomes in the country. The number of billionaires and millionaires has increased steadily but with that the gap between the rich and poor has grown, too.

Even during COVID times, it is not the rich but the poor who have suffered. They have not only lost their lives due to the disease, a large number of them have lost their livelihoods, too. Yet, there has not been an outpouring of help and charity from our rich and famous. They would much rather spend the money they have in buying more property, fancy cars and luxury goods for themselves than help an underprivileged family. If every rich person were



to adopt a village or orphanage or old people's home or an animal shelter, they would make a major difference to the lives of so many people. No one can change the world, but they can change a small part of it.

Though there is much more scope for philanthropy and charity in India, the country has lagged behind Western nations in this respect. We think that the Western society is individualistic, materialistic and acquisitive and that we have higher values of renunciation and compassion which place the community over the individual. But our actions belie the values we claim to have.

Shovanlal Chakraborty  
Kolkata

Abhinav Sharma  
Delhi

### Leave the IIMs alone

Sir — The Ministry of Education

is considering a proposal that will empower it to initiate an inquiry against the Board of Governors of any of the 20 IIMs if they are found to be in violation of the IIM Act. The heads of the institutes are alarmed, rightfully so, at this clear move to encroach on the autonomy guaranteed to the

IIMs almost three years ago by the very same Act. The recent stand-off between the Government and the IIMs involves its one-year programme. The IIMs call it an MBA degree, as is the global norm in many business schools. But the UGC says only two-year programmes deserve that term. This illustrates the kind of tussle over trivialities that bureaucratic systems expend energies on, almost by reflex.

This kind of a war erupted in 2016, too, but at that time the PMO interfered in the matter and it was settled amicably. The current move threatens to undo that detente and slide back into central micro-management for goals that remain extremely unclear.

The Prime Minister has championed the autonomy of the IIM, a system which has proved its mettle over and over again. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 too envisages greater freedom for institutions of higher learning. Neither of those objectives are met by this attempted change in law.

Yash Pal Ralhan  
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## On the right track during a crisis

Taking advantage of the lull in operations, the East Central Railways fast-tracked projects where suspension of traffic for long periods was needed



RAM C ACHARYA

In order to carry out urgent works, repairs and modifications to the existing railway infrastructure in the country, suspension of all train movement in a given section is inescapable. This cessation of all activities is called a "traffic block" in railway parlance. Over the years it had become hard, if not impossible, to order a "traffic block" on account of the exponential growth of the Indian Railways, where over 16,000 trains originating everyday run on the vast network of 67,000 km.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely impacted the nation's economy over the last nine months, resulted in the number of trains originating daily from all over the nation, dropping to less than half. Due to this, a "traffic block" could now be ordered at the drop of a hat. Taking advantage of the lull in operations, the East Central Railways (ECR) fast-tracked nearly a dozen projects where suspension of rail traffic for long periods of time was involved. These projects had been dragging on for years as train operations were being routinely accorded top priority and stopping all train movement for them was simply out of the question, unless it was for a safety-related task.

However, due to the Coronavirus, upgrading the 390-km long Jhajha to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU), the erstwhile Mughalsarai station route, to run trains at 130 kmph instead of the earlier 110 kmph became possible since long "traffic blocks," extending up to six hours, could be ordered. This involved extensive replacing of existing rails with those of higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS). Hence, Plasser Quick Relaying System (QRS) machines that could lay down 230 m-long welded rail panels in one go were deployed for the completion of the task.

The Jhajha-DDU section, though an alternative to the Asansol-Dhanbad-Gaya-DDU route, had suffered neglect for decades. But having gained adequate traffic over the last decade or so, it was now ripe for an upgrade. No less than six stations that had the antiquated system of hand-lever cabins with semaphore signals were replaced by electronic interlocking and coloured-light signals. Similarly, electronic-interlocking was commissioned at the Kiul-Lakhisarai section and an Intermediate Block Hut (IBH) was provided at the Sachivalay Halt, Block Hut C, Hathidah, Bhalui and Chaura. This upgrade had a salutary effect on the speed of trains, and the time to cover the Jhajha-DDU stretch was now cut by almost half an hour.

Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) is the gold standard for train operations, where hundreds of train-routing points and signals in major yards can be operated from a Central Cabin. Long-pending projects for Patna (₹30 crore), Danapur (₹52 crore) and Kiul-Lakhisarai (₹21 crore) were taken up and completed. This was a very difficult, if not impossible, task to finish in the pre-Coronavirus era of busy rail traffic.

Another work from the vast basket of projects of the ECR that had been in a limbo for a number of years, too, got sped up. This was a bridge over the River Kosi, that would bring prosperity to the remote region of north Bihar. The old bridge, built in 1887, between Nirmali and Saraiagarh (district Supaul) in north Bihar (along the Nepal border) had been destroyed in an earthquake in 1934, snapping rail connectivity to this region. The foundation stone for a new bridge had been laid by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002 and the project was in the final stages of completion, waiting for rail approaches from the Nirmali and Saraiagarh ends. This project, costing ₹323 crore, picked up momentum with resources now available due to the pandemic, and the 1.9-km long railway line, along with the mega-bridge over Kosi, was completed at a final cost of ₹620 crore. It was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September.

Connectivity between south and the equally, if not more, prosperous north Bihar has always been an issue. Constructed at a cost of ₹2,800 crore four years ago, a rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga provides a vital connection between Munger and Kathar, bypassing the congested Barauni Junction route for movement from south to north Bihar and beyond, to Bengal and Assam.

It was indeed a red-letter day for the Indian Railways when the more than 3-km-long bridge over the Son River was converted from double to triple track, with advance signalling features, thanks to less than half the level of rail traffic now moving due to the pandemic. A major upgrade for the Grand Chord route (Dhanbad-DDU), it also involved RRI work at the Dheri-on-Son and Sonnagar stations of the DDU division. Expected to make a significant impact on the throughput of coal trains, it is slated to hike the potential for supplying coal to power plants by 20-25 per cent, meeting the burgeoning demand of electricity for the Indian economy.

(The writer is a former member, Railway Board)

THE AAP WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE. I HOPE THE WHOLE COUNTRY JOINS IT PEACEFULLY AND SUPPORTS THE FARMERS.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE FARMERS ARE JUST AN EXCUSE FOR THE AAP AND ARVIND KEJRIWAL TO COME TO POWER IN PUNJAB.

—BJP LEADER  
GAUTAM GAMBHIR

# Dial M for health

The ubiquity of mobile phones and internet in rural and remote areas has paved the way for increased use of phones as devices to deliver healthcare services



MEENAL SHARMA JAGTAP

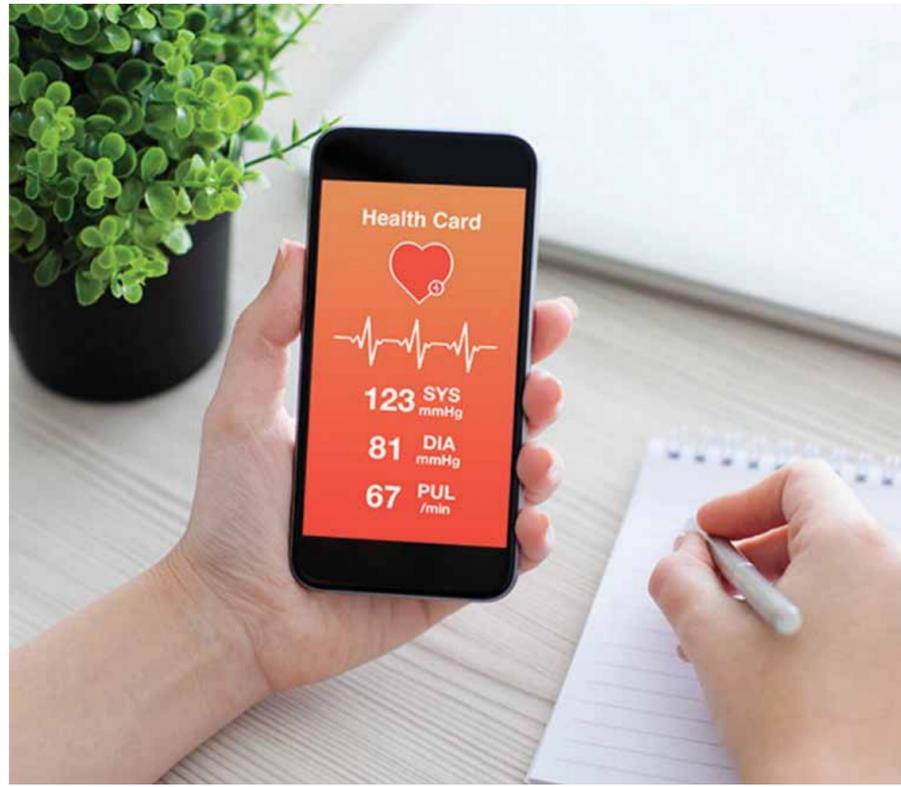
A strong Primary Health System (PHS) ensures equity, efficiency and effectiveness in extending healthcare facilities to people. The local health centre is the first point of contact between the citizens and the healthcare system. India started working on the establishment of the PHS with the implementation of its first National Health Policy (NHP) in 1983, based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) Alma Ata declaration of 1978. According to the declaration, the objective of a PHS should be to deliver "curative, preventive, promotive and rehabilitative" health services. However, even after decades, these objectives still pose a challenge to policymakers. Though consistent efforts are being made in this direction, one of the key factors that can help achieve the NHP's objectives is to ensure that care providers are able to reach out to people in the remotest parts of the country. In rural India, the first point of contact with the community is the sub-centre at the gram panchayat level, that is supposed to take care of five to six villages.

The basic healthcare facilities offered at the sub-centre are through the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). The next level is the Primary Health Centre (PHC) that takes care of the population of around 50-60 villages. The PHC is the referral unit for six sub-centres, a medical officer and around 14 paramedics. The uppermost is the Community Health Centre (CHC) for 100 villages or one lakh population. It provides the facility of a 30-bed hospital with specialised services. A CHC is termed a fully-operational first referral unit if it is equipped to provide round-the-clock emergency obstetric care and blood storage.

The Urban PHC (UPHC) is structured in a similar way. For a population of 50,000-60,000 and for every five to six UPHCs, there is an Urban Community Health Centre (UCHC), which includes empanelled secondary/tertiary private healthcare providers. Though historically, India's policy has been rural-centric, in May 2013 the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) was launched as a part of the National Health Mission (NHM). This was done to cater to the healthcare requirements of an increasing number of urban poor as a result of a mass exodus of people from rural to urban areas. A strong PHS has immense importance in a country like India, which is a vast nation of over 1.36 billion people with diversity in terms of needs, socio-cultural norms, an inequitable distribution of facilities and so on. This is because the primary healthcare system involves educating the community about the prevailing health problems and methods of preventing and controlling them.

Also, it operates using socially-acceptable methods and technology with full community participation. For example, the network of ASHA and Anganwadi workers at the PHC level played a pivotal role in helping to achieve rapid progress in reducing the Child Mortality Rate (CMR) by ensuring that Government schemes on immunisation reach the beneficiaries. Plus, the PHS does not involve huge infrastructure costs while delivering major benefits. The Health and Wellness Centres announced in 2018 under the Ayushman Bharat scheme now aim to build on health systems, thus strengthening the NRHM.

In rural India, considerable progress has been made in the number of sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs. However, there is still a huge shortfall as compared to the population. As per data available



TAKING PROACTIVE STEPS, GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST NOW STEP UP RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF MHEALTH AND INCREASINGLY LEVERAGE MHEALTH APPLICATIONS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO THEIR PEOPLE

in the *Ninth Common Review Mission Report, 2015* of the NHM, there has been a 5.2 per cent increase in the number of sub-centres, 8.9 per cent increase in PHCs and a 61.3 per cent increase in the number of CHCs since 2005 to 2015.

In India, the States are responsible for organising and delivering health services to the citizens. Vast disparities exist as far as the condition of the PHS in different States and the health outcomes are concerned. This is also true for rural and urban areas. There are some States that are leading in terms of achievement of health outcomes, whether it is maternal, child or general healthcare, whereas some are way behind. In States like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, one PHC caters to around 41,000 people whereas ideally there should be one PHC for a population of 20,000. The story is repeated in many other States around the nation, meaning that the first line of healthcare services is very weak.

One way in which this problem can be overcome is through use of technology, especially mobile technology. There is a need to step up investments in the field of mHealth, which is basically the use of mobile communication devices (such as personal digital assistants, smartphones) to enhance the delivery of healthcare services and the technology for healthcare in the developing world.

The ubiquity of mobile phones and internet penetration in rural and remote areas of India has paved the way for increased use of mobile phones as devices to deliver healthcare services in several ways. The mHealth applications on phones (smartphones or simple handsets) are being used to send SMS reminders for prenatal or postnatal check-ups in case of maternal and child healthcare. These reminders help the

ANMs track the medical records of pregnant women and infants, which ultimately helps to improve maternal and child mortality. Much research is being carried out in emerging economies and many projects have been carried out in India to prove the effectiveness of such interventions on healthcare.

Mobile phones with internet connectivity can also help in connecting patients in remote areas to obtain preliminary diagnostic services from qualified doctors sitting miles away from them. Many start-ups are developing mobile applications for this, sensing the business opportunity. For example, an app named "Aayu", available in Hindi and English, can be easily downloaded on an Android phone and is fairly simple to use. Patients just have to just press "E-Consult" after which s/he can just choose the category that best describes the ailment.

The categories range from issues like acidity, breathlessness, common cold, ear discomfort, fever, headache, insect bite, joint pain, loose motions and skin infections among others. The patient then needs to answer some questions to narrow down the problem, and finally a specialist doctor is matched, who may give diagnosis and prescribe medicines as required. Interaction with the doctors is possible through video calls. Such mobile applications would solve the problem of access to qualified doctors. It also provides digital records to patients that can be used by them in the future as well.

Not only as a tool for providing access to healthcare services in remote areas of developing countries but globally, too, the mobile healthcare market is growing exponentially due to fast internet connectivity, increasing cost and

space constraints for hospitals, less supply of qualified doctors in comparison to demand, the increasing problem of lifestyle diseases and an increasing number of consumers who demand healthcare anywhere and anytime.

The number of mHealth apps available in the market globally has increased substantially. There are now over 3,18,000 healthcare apps available on the top app stores worldwide, nearly double the number of apps available in 2015. This amounts to more than 200 apps being added each day.

According to a report titled *Mobile Health App Market: Industry, Trends, Opportunities and Forecasts to 2023* by Research and Markets, the global mHealth app market is projected to be valued at \$28.320 billion in 2018 and is expected to reach up to \$102.35 billion by 2023. With such investments expected in mHealth app market, one should hope that these serve the purpose of enabling delivery of quality healthcare, especially primary healthcare services, in developing and under developed countries. The recent COVID-19 crisis caught the world quite unprepared as far as development of the health infrastructure, required to deal with a prolonged pandemic, is concerned. Not only this, the research on microbial diseases, its impact and public awareness about such epidemics was found wanting.

Taking proactive steps, governments in developing countries must now step up research in the field of mHealth and increasingly leverage mHealth applications for solving the problem of providing quality healthcare services to their people.

(The writer is Joint Director, National Institute of Labour Economics, Research and Development, NITI Aayog)

## Investing against the tide pays off

Through a careful analysis, the right timing and expertise, a contrarian buying approach can make a fortune for investors



HIMA BINDU KOTA

in the long run but are currently undervalued due to a short-term negative sentiment. The stock market is made up of traders and investors. Traders have a short-term view and invest based upon the temporary ups and downs which are created by positive and negative news and investor sentiments. Stocks which are not fundamentally strong get overvalued in a bull phase and scrips, which are intrinsically strong, get beaten down in a bear phase. This definitely does not mean that every stock that is overvalued is strong or every scrip that is undervalued is fundamentally weak.

A long-term or fundamental investor identifies healthy companies whose share value increases proportionately as the business grows and invests in them. Many times, due to temporary economic conditions, war, or pandemics, stock markets enter an extended bear phase. During this time, all stocks, strong or weak, take a beating and their values go down. This time is marked with extreme pessimism where all investors panic, behave irrationally

and start selling their shares. The general view is that such times are unsuitable to start investing in scrip. However, this view is not shared by the contrarian investors, who look at the beaten market as an opportune time for bargain hunting and invest in stocks that have strong fundamentals.

These contrarian investors reap huge benefits when the negative sentiment settles down and the market starts its upward journey, making their investments multi-baggers.

The 2008 economic crisis is one such instance when the investors across the globe went into panic selling mode, leading to massive selling on the global bourses. Shares of fundamentally strong companies were available at huge discounts. During this time, contrarian investors avoided the herd mentality and picked up beaten but healthy companies and subsequently enjoyed significant returns during the recovery phase. The main strength of a contrarian investor is to identify scrips that are fundamentally strong but undervalued. They use financial ratios like low Price

to Earnings (PE), Price to Book Value, Price to Cash Earnings and other financial ratios to discover undervalued stocks. Over the years, contrarian investors started using several additional ratios like Earnings to Price (E/P), they use Book to Market (B/M), Cash Flow to Price (C/P) and Past Growth of Sales (GS) to ascertain the value of firms. Studies regarding contrarian investing can go back as far as 1977 when Basu analysed the performance of US stocks, based on their PE ratio, for a period of 14 years from 1957-1971, and found that lower PE stocks generate higher returns when compared to higher PE scrip. Here are some contrarian investment strategies that are followed by most successful investors.

**Swim against the tide:** As humans are social animals, almost all of them are bound by social confirmations. When a majority of people believe in something, it is thought to be true. This herd mentality is also visible in stock markets during a bear or bull phase. Investors tend to follow others either in panic selling or buying, irrespective of

the valuation of the shares. So they end up either buying overvalued or selling undervalued stock. Contrarians, on the other hand, have independent thinking and do not follow the crowd. They make investment decisions based on the fundamentals of the stocks.

**Seeing opportunity in a crisis:** For irrational investors, a market crash is a bad news as they panic and follow the herd. For contrarians, every market crash is an opportunity. They wait for the downward slide in the market to buy good stocks at a bargain.

**Be a long-term investor:** Contrarian investors believe in long-term investing. They pick up great stocks when they are undervalued and wait patiently for the prices to go up.

**Research:** Due to changing economic and business scenarios, a contrarian investor should not depend only on the past performance of the scrip. Research has to be continuous as many stocks that were considered intrinsically strong earlier are nowhere to be found now. If a company is showing continuous downfall in financial

performance, it is better to exit the stock and look for an alternative.

Any investment style is not without its pitfalls, and so is contrarian investing. It is hard to practise, as going against the general market sentiment is never easy and is often marred by self-doubt. Despite having the backing of research and careful analysis, contrarian investing does not guarantee success. Even a shrewd and experienced businessman like Buffett lost \$443 million by investing in Dexter Shoes in 1993, that was making year-on-year profit, but went out of business in 2008 as competition increased.

To conclude, contrarian investing is a technique practised by a handful of investors who have the expertise and rationality to pick intrinsically-strong bargain stocks, and extreme optimism to see hope in market downturns. Through a careful analysis, the right timing and expertise, a contrarian investing approach can make a fortune for investors.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)



FOREIGN EYE



### WILL THE UK GO BACK IN TIME?

Britain's departure from the EU under Boris Johnson with — or without — a free trade deal will dim prospects for the UK next year. At best Johnson will secure a deal at the last minute that eliminates tariffs on trade. Brexit reveals the Government's ideological commitment to take the country back to where Margaret Thatcher left it. (The Guardian editorial)

# 90-year-old Maggie world's first to get anti-Covid jab

**London:** A 90-year-old British grandmother, Margaret "Maggie" Keenan, on Tuesday became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech jab against Covid-19 as the UK kicked off its biggest-ever vaccine campaign in history.

At 6:31 am GMT early riser Margaret, known to family and friends as Maggie, was given the life-saving jab by nurse May Parsons at her local hospital in Coventry to mark what the National Health Service (NHS) has dubbed a "landmark moment" on V-Day or Vaccine Day in the fight against the deadly virus.

Maggie is among the first set of people contacted in advance by the NHS for the jab based on a predetermined health risk criteria.

The second person vaccinated was 81-year-old William Shakespeare from Warwickshire, who said he was "pleased" to be given the jab. They're joined by an 87-



Margaret Keenan, 90, is applauded by staff as she returns to her ward after becoming the first patient in the UK to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine at University Hospital, Coventry, England on Tuesday. AP

year-old British Indian grandfather of nine Dr Hari Shukla and his 83-year-old wife who

became the first Indian-origin couple in the world to get a vaccine against Covid-19.

"I feel so privileged to be the first person vaccinated against Covid-19, it's the best

early birthday present I could wish for because it means I can finally look forward to spending time with my family and friends in the New Year after being on my own for most of the year," said Maggie, who turns 91 next week.

The former jewellery shop assistant who retired four years ago has a daughter, a son and four grandchildren and is looking forward to being able to go out again once she receives the top-up booster dose 21 days later.

"I can't thank May and the NHS staff enough who have looked after me tremendously, and my advice to anyone offered the vaccine is to take it - if I can have it at 90 then you can have it too," she said.

"It's a huge honour to be the first person in the country to deliver a Covid-19 jab to a patient, I'm just glad that I'm able to play a part in this historic day," said nurse Parsons.

Dr Shukla and his wife got injected with their first of two

doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab at a hospital in Newcastle.

Shukla, a race relations campaigner based in Tyne and Wear, had been contacted by the NHS last week. His wife, Ranjan, then volunteered for the job as she also falls within the first phase of people aged 80 and over, care home workers as

well as NHS workers at high risk eligible to receive the "life-saving jab".

"I'm so pleased we are hopefully coming towards the end of this pandemic and I am delighted to be doing my bit by having the vaccine, I feel it is my duty to do so and do whatever I can to help," said Dr Shukla,

who was born in Kenya and whose father hailed from Mumbai.

They have been picked based on the criteria set by the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation phased rollout based on those at the highest risk of death from the deadly virus. **PIT**

## US regulators post positive review of Pfizer vaccine data

**Washington:** Documents released by US regulators on Tuesday confirmed that Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine was strongly protective against COVID-19 -- offering the world's first detailed look at the evidence behind the shots.

The Food and Drug Administration posted its analysis online even as across the Atlantic, Britain on Tuesday began vaccinating its oldest

citizens with the Pfizer-BioNTech shots.

But the U.S. Judges experimental vaccines in a unique way: On Thursday, the FDA will convene what's essentially a science court that will debate -- in public and live-streamed -- just how strong the data backing the shots really is.

A panel of independent scientists will pick apart the FDA's first-pass review before rec-

ommending whether the vaccine appears safe and effective enough for millions of Americans. The FDA, which typically follows the committee's advice, is expected to issue a decision in the days following the review. If given the green light, the first recipients would be health care workers and nursing home residents according to plans laid out by each state. **AP**

## Dramatic increase in Afghan Govt airstrikes: US-based group

**Kabul:** A US-based institute warned on Tuesday that there has been a dramatic increase in airstrikes conducted by Afghan government forces from July to September this year, attacks that have led to a sharp rise in civilian casualties.

The Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, a research center at Brown University, said in its report that 70 Afghan civilians have been killed in the third quarter of this year, compared to 86 killed in the first six months of 2020.

The somber statistic comes even as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban are holding negotiations about a peaceful resolution to the country's 19-year war. The

talks have been underway since September in Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office. The two sides last week finally made a step forward after a long impasse, agreeing on rules and procedures for the negotiations.

In its report, the institute also said that from 2017 through 2019, civilian deaths due to US and allied forces' airstrikes in Afghanistan dramatically increased. In 2019, airstrikes killed 700 civilians -- more civilians than in any other year since the beginning of the war in 2001 and 2002.

The civilians have borne the brunt of the fighting, despite repeated pleas from the United Nations to spare civilian lives. **AP**

## Protesters block traffic in Armenia demanding Prime Minister to resign

**Yerevan (Armenia), Dec 8 (AP)** Dozens of protesters took to the streets of the Armenian capital Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the country's prime minister over his handling of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian opposition politicians and their supporters have been calling for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to step down ever since he signed a peace deal that halted 44 days of deadly fighting over the separatist region, but called for territorial concessions to Azerbaijan.

On Saturday, opposition parties warned Pashinyan there would be civil disobedience across the country if he does not resign by noon on Tuesday.

The prime minister has refused to step down, defending the peace agreement as a painful but necessary move that prevented Azerbaijan from overrunning the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Protesters on Tuesday temporarily blocked traffic on dif-



A police officer tries to detain demonstrators during a rally demanding the resignation of the country's Prime Minister over his handling of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh in Yerevan, Armenia on Tuesday. AP

ferent streets of Yerevan, Armenia's capital, and at one point blocked trains at one of the city's subway stations.

The subway had to shut down as the result until further notice, spokeswoman of the Yerevan subway Tatevi Khachatryan told The Associated Press.

Demonstrators chanted "Armenia without Nikol," "Nikol, go away!". Police detained several dozen protesters. Similar

## China condemns new US HK sanctions, Taiwan arms sale

**Beijing:** China on Tuesday lashed out at the US over new sanctions against Chinese officials and the sale of more military equipment to Taiwan.

The US actions are part of what critics see as an effort by the Trump administration to put in place high-pressure tactics toward Beijing that could make it more difficult for President-elect Joe Biden to steady relations.

The Cabinet's office for Hong Kong affairs expressed "strong outrage and condemnation" over the sanctions levied against 14 members of the standing committee of China's legislature, which passed a sweeping Hong Kong National Security Law earlier this year.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying, meanwhile, demanded the US cancel its latest arms sale to Taiwan and said China would make a "proper and necessary

response."

The State Department on Monday said it added 14 members of the Chinese legislature's standing committee to the list of officials banned from traveling to the US or having access to the US financial system over the crackdown on civil rights in Hong Kong.

It also announced the approval of a \$280 million sale of advanced military communications equipment to Taiwan. President Donald Trump's administration has incensed Beijing with 11 separate arms sales and closer military and political ties with the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

China has stepped up military flights near the island and pledged to punish US companies involved in the arms deals in response. **AP**

The Trump administration had tried to ban the short-form video app from smartphone app stores in the US and cut it off from vital technical services. TikTok sued, arguing such actions would violate free speech and due process rights.

Judge Carl Nichols of the US District Court in Washington, DC, said in a ruling Monday that the Commerce Department "likely overstepped" its use of presidential emergency powers "and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by failing to consider obvious alternatives."

## Another judge blocks Trump's TikTok ban; app still in limbo

**AP ■ WASHINGTON** A federal judge has blocked President Donald Trump's attempts to ban TikTok, the latest legal defeat for the administration as it tries to wrest the popular app from its Chinese owners.

The Trump administration had tried to ban the short-form video app from smartphone app stores in the US and cut it off from vital technical services. TikTok sued, arguing such actions would violate free speech and due process rights.

Judge Carl Nichols of the US District Court in Washington, DC, said in a ruling Monday that the Commerce Department "likely overstepped" its use of presidential emergency powers "and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by failing to consider obvious alternatives."

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**e-Tender Notice** Dated 08.12.2020  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Vidut Bhawan, Dakpathar invites sealed tenders for following work  
Tender No: (1) 10-EE-Test-Dkp-2020-21; Internet lease line (1:1) for Chibro PH, Khodri PH, Ichari Dam, Dakpathar Barrage and Vidut Bhawan offices  
Estimated cost (In Lakh) : (1) ₹ 24.02 + GST extra  
Date of Availability of bid on website : 09-12-2020 from 11:00  
Last date for submission of tender : 30-12-2020 up to 13:00 hrs  
For further details, kindly visit website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the nigm's website "http://ujvnl.com".  
**EE(Test), Dakpathar**  
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED**  
CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC030347  
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana - 122103  
Website: www.okplay.in Email: info@okplay.in  
Tel: +91 124 2362335-36 Fax: +91 124 2362326

**Notice of 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and Remote E-Voting Information**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of OK Play India Limited will be held through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual means (OAVM) on Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2020 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository. The date of completion of email of the notices to the shareholders is December 07, 2020.

**Appeal for Identification**  
General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 60 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Long, **Beard & Mustache Wearing:** Grey colour **Jacket & Red Colour T-Shirt** was found on footpath lying down in unconscious condition near gate no.4 LHMC Hospital Bangla Sahib Road New Delhi He was admitted Vide MLC No. 3639/20 in LHMC Hospital on 04.12.2020 Since 8:22 PM who was declared brought dead by doctor. The Dead Body of MALE Person preserved for identification in LHMC Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hours. In this regard, **DD No. 55A Dated 04.12.2020** has been lodged at PS Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.  
**SHO P.S., Mandir Marg, New Delhi DP/174/NDD/2020 Ph.: 011-23364100,23366730**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons (1) **Sourabh Porwal S/o Sh Arvind Porwal R/O C-436-437, JJ Colony, Khyala, Delhi** (2) **Jaskaran Singh @ Little S/o Jarnail Singh R/O C-259, JJ Colony, Khyala, Delhi** (3) **Jai Karki S/o Sh. Kushal Singh R/O E-561, Khyala, Delhi** and (4) **Rohit S/o Kaveri R/O E-497, Khyala, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **F.I.R. No. 858/20 u/s 307/506/34 IPC** dated 06.10.2020 registered at P.S. Khyala, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) **Sourabh Porwal** (2) **Jaskaran Singh @ Little** (3) **Jai Karki** and (4) **Rohit** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused (1) **Sourabh Porwal** (2) **Jaskaran Singh @ Little** (3) **Jai Karki** and (4) **Rohit** has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant), Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Sourabh Porwal** (2) **Jaskaran Singh @ Little** (3) **Jai Karki** and (4) **Rohit** are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.01.2021**.  
**By Order Shri Abhinav Pandey, Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West), Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi.**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)**  
Name of work with its location: Provision of telecom facility in new constructed office of Engg Department DRM/Office New Delhi.  
App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 22,86,495.57/- only  
Tender Document Fee (₹): ₹ 3,540/- only  
Earnest Money Deposit (₹): ₹ 45,700/- only  
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.  
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender: Tender uploading / closing date & time - 30.12.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc: See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.  
No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-925 Dated: 08.12.2020 2744/20  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## UK: Lords vote to bar trade deals with genocidal countries

**London:** Britain's House of Lords has voted to back proposals aimed at preventing the UK from making trade deals with any country deemed by the British High Court to be committing genocide.

Members voted late Monday for two proposals to amend the Government's post-Brexit trade bill to bar trade deals with countries that commit serious human rights abuses.

Under one of the plans, minorities alleging they have been the subject of genocide can for the first time apply to the High Court of England and ask for judges to determine if a country trading with the UK has perpetrated genocide.

Bilateral trade agreements can then be revoked if the court makes a preliminary ruling against that country.

The proposals were intended as a way around the lack of international action in addressing human rights abuses in

countries such as China.

Proponents argue that despite mounting evidence of atrocities targeting Uighurs in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, the United Nations is highly unlikely to refer Beijing to the International Criminal Court because China, a permanent member of the Security Council, will veto the move.

"Parliament has had enough of this unconscionable inertia. We owe it to Uighurs to find another way, and now we have," said Conservative lawmaker Anthony Mangnall.

Britain's Conservative government opposes the measures, which will go to the lower house of Parliament next for debate.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has said he is considering further action to address the Chinese government's alleged rights abuses against Uighur Muslims, including mass detentions and forced birth control. **AP**

## Severe H5N8 bird flu outbreak on duck farm, says French Minister

**Paris:** The French Farm Ministry said on Tuesday that highly pathogenic H5N8 bird flu had been found on a duck farm in the southwest of the country, confirming France's first farm outbreak of the virus this year.

The outbreak was first reported on Monday but at the time it was unclear what strain of the virus it was. Bird flu has been spreading rapidly in Europe, putting the poultry industry on alert after previous outbreaks led to the culling of tens of millions of birds.

"The ANSES national reference laboratory confirmed today the infection of a farm of 6,000 ducks by the H5N8 virus

in the municipality of Benesse-Maremne (Landes region), in which high mortality was observed on Dec 5," the ministry said in a statement.

A security zone was set up around the farm on Dec 7, implying extra monitoring, a ban on the move of poultry and additional sanitary measures, the ministry said, adding that all the ducks on the farm were cullled.

France has already detected the H5N8 virus on birds sold in three pet stores. Investigations found that the wild birds had been sold by the same person in northern France, the agriculture ministry said last week. **AGENCY**

## Nepal's Oli calls all-party meeting to discuss current political issues

**Kathmandu:** Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, squeezed by the feud within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and challenge from pro-monarchists from outside, on Tuesday convened an all-party meeting to discuss the current political issues, calling for unity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-constitutional activities in the country.

The meeting began at 11 am at Baluwatar, the official residence of the prime minister, said Surya Thapa, Oli's press adviser. Addressing the meeting, Oli called for unity among all the political forces at a time when the country is facing Covid-19 and anti-constitutional and violent activities.

"The Prime Minister stressed on the need for controlling Covid, protecting democratic achievements, and forging unity among all against anti-constitutional and violent activities," Thapa said on social media. Senior leaders of the



NCP, main Opposition Nepali Congress, Janata Samajwadi Party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party, Rastriya Jana Morcha and Nepal Workers and Peasants Party are taking part in the meeting.

The meeting comes at a time when pro-monarchist forces are organising protest rallies in different parts of the country, including national capital, Kathmandu demanding reinstatement of constitutional monarchy and re-establishing Nepal as the Hindu state.

Demonstrations in support of former king Gyanendra have been initiated in different parts of the country with protesters raising slogans in favour of the monarchy and the Hindu nation. **PIT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it Known to all that my Client Mr. Shubh Karan Bari S/o Sh. Govind Ram Bari R/O L-2/6A, Shastri Nagar, Delhi has disowned and severed his all relations with his Son Mr. Deepak Kumar and his family. My client has also debarred them from his all moveable and immovable properties and hereafter shall not be responsible for his acts, deeds and things whatsoever.  
**Sanjay Aggarwal (Advocate)**  
Ch. No. 25, Old Court, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-6

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Arvind Kumar Choudhary S/o Mr. Ram Pravech Choudhary who is purchasing the Property Bearing Plot No.25, land area measuring 30 Sq. Yds., out of total area measuring 88 Sq. Yds., out of Khassa No.2211, situated at Village Razapur Khurd, Delhi abadi known as Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi from Mr. Suresh Kadian S/o Mr. Umesh Singh owner vide of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 04.01.1998 executed by Mr. Ram Chander S/o Mr. Singh Ram along with ATS, Villu and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which I shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.  
**269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ex-II, New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316**

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 32,99,655/- (Rs Thirty Two Lacs Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **09-02-2021 at 10.30 A.M.** Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.  
**By order of the Tribunal For Registrar DRT-II, Delhi**

# MODI TO INDUSTRY Need to work together to ensure timely rollout of 5G

PII ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that all stakeholders in the telecom sector along with the government will have to work together to ensure a timely roll-out of the fifth generation technology.

Addressing the India Mobile Congress (IMC), Modi urged the industry for working together to make India a global hub for telecom equipment, design development and manufacturing.

"Let us work together to make India a global hub for telecom equipment, design, development and manufactur-



ing," he said.

PM Modi said that it is because of mobile technology that benefits worth billions of dollars were available to millions of Indians. He added that it is because of mobile technology that the government was able to help the poor

and vulnerable "quickly" during the pandemic.

"It is because of mobile technology that we are seeing billions of cashless transactions which boost formalisation and transparency. It is because of mobile technology that we will enable smooth contactless interface on toll booths," the Prime Minister told the industry participants.

Commending the telecom and technology players amid the pandemic and the lockdown, Modi said that it was because of the efforts of the industry and its innovations that the world was functional even during the pandemic, including connectivity, education and business and other operations.

# Huge opportunity for India in 5G adoption: Facebook official

PII ■ NEW DELHI

India has a huge opportunity to work on aspects like transforming total costs of running a network and demonstrating leadership as 5G adoption gains traction across the globe, a top Facebook executive said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the India Mobile Congress 2020, Facebook Vice President Dan Rabinovits said the group's focus is on getting more people online to a faster internet, and collaborating with partners in the ecosystem to help transform the underlying eco-

nomics of developing and operating telecom networks. "...One of the biggest opportunities is how do I transform the total costs of running and owning a network, which I think is one of the great opportunities for India to leapfrog the rest of the world," he said.

Rabinovits further stated that India has talent density in this domain, and it is an opportunity to "demonstrate leadership here in a way that you know we haven't seen in the past".

He noted that deployment of 5G has a number of use cases for enterprises.

# Sebi introduces additional payment modes for call money for partly paid securities

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday introduced additional payment mechanism, including ASBA, for making subscription and payment of balance money for calls in respect of partly paid securities issued by listed entities. The decision has been taken as payment through Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) mechanism is investor friendly and enables faster completion of the process, Sebi said in a circular. A call, in market parlance, is a demand made by the company on its shareholders to pay whole or part of the balance remaining unpaid on each share at any time dur-

ing the life time of a company. "It has been decided to introduce additional payment mechanism (i.e. ASBA, etc) for making subscription and/or payment of calls in respect of partly paid specified securities through SCSBs and intermediaries such as trading members/ brokers - having three in one type account and Registrar and Transfer agents (RTA)," Sebi said. The additional payment methods provided by Sebi are online as well as physical ASBA and the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account (three-in-one type) account offered by some brokers.

PTI

# Fitch raises India's FY21 GDP forecast to (-) 9.4 per cent

PII ■ NEW DELHI

Global credit rating agency Fitch on Tuesday raised its FY21 GDP growth forecast for India by predicting a narrower economic contraction of (-) 9.4 per cent from an earlier predicted fall of (-) 10.5 per cent. "We now expect GDP to contract 9.4 per cent in fiscal year to end March 2021, followed by (+) 11 per cent and (+) 6.3 per cent in the following years," Fitch Ratings said in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO) for December. "The coronavirus recession has nevertheless inflicted severe economic scarring.

The need to repair balance sheets, increased caution about long-term planning, and firm

closures will limit investment demand."

Furthermore, it pointed out that increased financial-sector weakness - amid deteriorating asset quality - will hold back credit provision.

"The failure of another bank in recent weeks - the third failure in the past 16 months - underlines the challenges in the financial sector," the December GEO said.

Recently, India recorded a faster than anticipated economic recovery. The country's GDP contracted 7.5 per cent in the July-September period, as the economy rebounded from a record slump of 23.9 per cent in the previous quarter due to slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.



# WhatsApp adds 'carts' feature to make shopping easier

PII ■ NEW DELHI

WhatsApp on Tuesday said it is adding 'carts' feature to make it easier for businesses to conduct transactions through the platform.

Last month, the Facebook-owned company had started rolling out a shopping button on its app to make it easier for people to discover a business' catalog to get information about the goods and services offered by the firm.

"WhatsApp is fast becoming a store counter to discuss products and coordinate sales. Catalogs have allowed people to quickly see what's available

and helped businesses organise their chats around particular items. With more and more shopping happening through chats, we want to make buying and selling even easier," WhatsApp said in a blog post on Tuesday.

WhatsApp said the 'Catalogs' feature has allowed buyers to quickly see what's available while helping businesses organise their chats around particular items. "Starting today, we're excited to bring carts to WhatsApp. Carts are great when messaging businesses that typically sell multiple items at once, like a local restaurant or clothing store...This will make it simpler

for businesses to keep track of order inquiries, manage requests from customers and close sales," the blog said.

It added that 'carts' feature is going live around the world on Tuesday, just in time for the holiday season. With carts, people can browse a catalog, select multiple products and send the order as one message to the business. Previously, WhatsApp has stated that more than 175 million people message a WhatsApp Business account every day and more than 40 million people view a business' catalog each month - including more than 3 million in India.

# RBI cancels licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday said it has cancelled the licence of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, Karad, Maharashtra, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. More than 99 per cent of the depositors of the bank will get full payment of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Reserve Bank said in a statement. With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank will be set in motion.

On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) as per usual terms and conditions. Consequent to the cancellation of its licence from close of business on December 7, the bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of

RBI cancelled the licence of the bank as it "does not have adequate capital and earning prospects". As such, it does not comply with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

deposits with immediate effect.

Giving details, the RBI said the bank was under "all inclusive directions" since November 07, 2017. The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maha has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. The RBI said it cancelled the licence of the bank as it "does not have adequate capital and earning prospects". As such, it does not comply with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 "The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors," it said, and added the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full. Also, public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.

# India needs more reforms, States must take lead: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said it is difficult to carry out tough reforms in India as there is 'too much of democracy', and emphasised that more reforms are needed make the country competitive. Addressing a virtual event organised by Swarajya magazine, Kant said for the first time, the Centre has carried out hard reforms across sectors, including mining, coal, labour, agriculture, and the next wave of reforms must be pushed by the states.

"Tough reforms are very difficult in the Indian context, we have too much of democracy...You needed political will to carry out these reforms (mining, coal, labour, agriculture) and many more reforms still need to be done," he said.

It is not easy to compete against China without hard reforms, Kant said.

"This government has demonstrated political will to carry out hard reforms," he added.

The Niti Aayog CEO stressed that the next wave of reforms must come from states.

# Festive season sequentially lifts Nov auto retail sales

PII ■ NEW DELHI

The festive season boosted India's automobile retail sales by 29.32 per cent in November on a sequential basis, industry data showed on Tuesday. However, sales remained in the red on a year-on-year basis.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations data showed that vehicle registration in November rose to 18,27,990 units from 14,13,549 units sold in October.

# Equity mutual funds see ₹12,917 cr outflow in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity-oriented mutual funds witnessed a massive outflow of ₹12,917 crore in November, making it the fifth straight month of withdrawal as investors booked profit amid higher market valuations.

"We still believe that there is significant amount of money that can come back to the market in the event of any cor-

rection. The medium to long term potential of the equity markets remain strong," G Pradeepkumar, CEO of Union AMC, said.

Despite the outflow, the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the industry reached a record ₹30 lakh crore at the end of November from ₹28.23 lakh crore in October, data from the Association of

Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Tuesday.

"Accommodative credit policy stance, continuous global liquidity flows, coupled with improved economic sentiment driven by healthier corporate earnings and positive GDP growth forecast has led to Indian mutual fund industry AUMs crossing historic highs and touching highest ever ₹30 lakh crore landmark," N S

Venkatesh, Chief Executive of Amfi, said.

On the other hand, investors put in ₹44,984 crore in debt Mutual Funds (MFs) last month as compared to Rs 1.1 lakh crore in October.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed a net inflow of ₹27,914 crore across all segments during the period under review as against an inflow of ₹98,576 crore in October.

# Gulf Oil International to acquire lubricant blending plant in Singapore

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Hinduja Group-owned Gulf Oil International on Tuesday said it has reached an agreement to acquire a lubricant blending plant from Ocean Tankers (PTE) Ltd, Singapore, which will help it expand market share in marine lubes. The plant, which is in the Tuas region of the Island city-nation will be acquired with wharf access, storage tank farm and terminal facility as per the agreement, Gulf Oil Lubricants India Ltd said in a release. The facility will be acquired and continue to operate as a going concern, it said, adding the agreement is subject

to closing conditions. The company, however, did not share specific details such as investment in the release. Gulf Oil International is the majority shareholder in Gulf Oil Lubricants India Ltd. "This facility provides a strategic opportunity for Gulf to invest further in the marine segment and grow its market share in marine lubricants and other services. It will also provide a regional hub to accelerate our business development plans in South East Asia within the automotive sector, with a focus on Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as Oceania," said Sanjay Hinduja, Chairman of Gulf Oil Lubricants India Ltd.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Muskan D/o Sanjeet Chaudhary R/o B-1/227, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Delhi. Age: 16 yrs, Height: 4'2", complexion wheatish. Wearing blue colour suit and orange colour salwar is missing since 25.11.2020 from her house.

In this regard a case FIR No. 598/20 dated: 28.11.2020 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Aman Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in  
S.H.O.,  
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23014046  
011-23015218  
Ph.: 011-27581812, 27581223  
DP/553/RD/20

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found in unconscious condition at Sec-17, Krishna Garden, Near Delhi Jal Board, Rohini, Delhi dated 04.12.2020 at 12:17 hrs. He was admitted in Hospital MLC No. 9023/20 after treatment he has been declared dead by doctor. The dead body has been preserved for identification at BSA Hospital, Rohini Delhi for 72 hrs. In this regard a DD No. 35A, dated 04.12.2020, has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 25 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Light brown lower, red color check shirt, grey color jacket and barefoot. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
DP/559/RD/2020  
Ph.: 011-27571162, 8750870327

## Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride  
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.:11/20-21 Date: 08.12.2020  
Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for following items already uploaded in website www.reps.gov.in Tenderers may visit website www.reps.gov.in for full details/description/drawing/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Closing date & time
01205016A	Central Processing Unit of TCCU of AC rakes.	2 Nos.	15.12.2020 14.00 Hrs.
	Digital Input Module of TCCU	3 Nos.	
	Digital Input-Output Module of TCCU	3 Nos.	
	Analogue Input-Output Module of TCCU	2 Nos.	
	BHEL make DC-DC Converter of TCCU	2 Nos.	
	BHEL make Current to Voltage Converter of TCCU	4 Nos.	

Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata  
FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a man namely Mahender Pal, S/o Ram Dayal, R/o A-274, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi, Age: 34 years, Built: Normal Height: 5'4", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Round, Wearing: White T-Shirt and Brown colour Pant and Chappal in his feet has been missing from his home since 21.11.2020. In this regard a DD No. 71A, dated 25.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Khayala, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this man please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in  
S.H.O.  
P.S. Khayala, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/280/RD/2020  
Ph.: 011-28335686, 8750871132

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 | www.ujvn.com

चक्र: 809 Tender Notice R/o 07.12.2020

Office of the (Executive Engineer, Generation, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Tender No.25/EE (GEN)/MB-II/2020-21**  
Name of work/ Supply/ Services : Repair and Rebarbitting of UGB/ LGB Pads (3 Sets) & Thrust Pad (1 no) of 76 MW Hydro Generator at Dharasu Power House.

Estimated cost: Rs. 1160867/- +GST Extra  
Date of availability of bid document on website : 08.12.2020  
Last date for submission of tender : 30.12.2020 upto 15:30 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (Generation)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**ANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
Regd. Off.: 136 KM, GT Road, Vill & P.O Shamgarh, Karnal (Haryana)  
Head Off.: 144/2, Achram, Mathura Road, New Delhi - 110014, CIN: L15130HR1984PLC032362  
E-mail : ansagro.limited@gmail.com, Website : www.ansfoods.com,

## NOTICE OF 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE & REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2020 at 12.30 P.M at the registered office of the Company at 136 KM, PO-Shamgarh, District-Karnal, Haryana- 132116 to transact the business set out in the notice of AGM.

Due to Pandemic COVID-19 SEBI and MCA have issued circular granting exemption from dispatching of physical copies notice of AGM & Annual Report for the year 2019-20 and same will be sent through electronic mode to those shareholders whose email IDs are registered with RTA/ Depository Participants and further Notice of AGM along with Annual Report will also be available on the website of the company www.ansfoods.com and website of BSE. www.bseindia.com

Shareholders holding shares in physical mode and who have not registered/update their e-mail ID's are kindly requested to please update the same with Company/ Depository Participant/Registrar and Share transfer agent of the Company.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirement) Regulations, 2015, Notice is also hereby given that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Further pursuant to provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2015 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (listing obligations and Disclosures requirement) Regulations, 2015 Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to shareholders through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), to cast their right to vote from a place other than venue of AGM in respect of business set out in the notice of AGM. The details are given herein below:

The e-voting period commences on Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020 at 9.00 A.M. and end on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020 at 5.00 P.M. during this period shareholder holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form may cast their vote electronically, the remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time.

The Cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by remote e-voting or at the venue of AGM is 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020.

Any person, who has acquired shares and becomes member of the Company after sending of the AGM notice and holding shares as on cut-off date, may also obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at e-mail-Id:evoting@nsdl.co.in or sm@masserv.com/ info@masserv.com. If already registered with NSDL then Shareholders should use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote.

In case if they have any grievances, queries or issue regarding e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evoting.nsdl.com under help section or write an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or make call at following toll free No. 1800-222-990 or contact Mr. Sharwan Mangla (General Manager) of MAS Services Ltd (RTA) Limited at T-34, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020, Contact No.011-26387811/82/83, mail id- info@masserv.com/sm@masserv.com.

A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM. The Company shall also provide voting through Ballot Paper for the members present at the meeting and not cast their vote by availing the remote e-voting facility.

Date : 07/12/2020  
Place : New Delhi  
For ANS Industries Limited  
(Manoj Mishra)  
Company Secretary  
ACS-18801



# SKILLS TO SUCCEED

Infrastructure development is the backbone of global economy; naturally, project managers in this sector need to be competent and well-versed with the processes. DR PRATIMA SHEOREY shares must have qualities

Whether we talk about the development of private residential structures, business structures, or building bridges, infrastructure managers need to possess knowledge and skills related to the development and management of the built infrastructure.

It is up to the infrastructure development manager to oversee every activity in compliance with the project requirements, while additionally keeping up a safe and effective workplace environment. They likewise need to deal with the financial plans, create and manage deadlines, strategise and coordinate for feedback and updates with all the involved stakeholders.

Aspirants desirous of developing a career in infrastructure development and related industries must remain focused on the following seven skills, along with possessing experience and the technical know-how:

**Basic technical skills:** Technical skills in the areas of engineering (civil,

mechanical and electrical) will help students understand the ground details of projects and create innovative solutions, aligned with industry expectations and recent developments in the sector.

**Contract management:** Given the multi-stakeholder nature of infrastructure projects, a single infrastructure project can have multiple contracts in force. A skilled infrastructure professional must possess the acumen to identify potential contractual defaults ahead of time, and recommend/prepare the most cost effective mitigation strategy. Thus creating water tight contracts and subsequently managing the contracts must come naturally to contract professionals.

**Project management:** Infrastructure projects span across several years and are usually multi-stakeholder projects, including government, private investors and impact local citizenry. Thus effective project management skills are essential, such that time delays, resulting cost overruns

and resulting risks can be managed, to minimise social and economic costs.

**Financial structuring:** Due to the large scale of investments coupled with paucity of funds with the government, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) based projects are likely to continue to be at the front and centre of Infra projects. Within PPP projects, new and innovative financing modules are emerging such as the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in road projects, amongst others. Thus students need to stay abreast of financial innovations in the sector.

**Risk Management:** With large infrastructure projects, come higher risks. Risks such as construction risks, operational risks, change in force majeure, change in law, and other environmental risks need effective planning, mitigation and monitoring.

**Communication skills:** The ability to concisely yet transparently communicate their requirements and ideas is another most significant skill that stu-

dents must learn. Good communication skills ensure that no detail is lost in comprehension. However, when we talk about communication, it not only includes prowess in expressing oneself but also the patience to listen to what the client or other members of the team have to say.

**Entrepreneurial and leadership mindset:** Managing any project is like running a business. Each project that you manage will have its own set of challenges. So, having an entrepreneurial and leadership mindset is a huge advantage. Expansions in small and entrepreneurial businesses in infrastructure projects holds promise in the coming future, owing to increase government focus on the sector. Thus possessing risk taking abilities and leading small businesses will become an essential skill in the sector.

The writer is Director — Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development

## VIPS organises Spandan 2020 virtually



Withstanding the onslaught of global pandemic, the media students of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS), New Delhi accomplished a historical feat by organising their annual media festival online with over thousand participants across the globe. Themed at digital literacy, media and pandemic, the three-day event with a total of 22 Competitive and Non Competitive Events was organised by over 300 media students of Vivekananda School of Journalism and Mass Communication (VSJMC) from December 3 to December 5.

Industry veterans across the globe participated in various events. Amongst the various sessions, a 'Ad Man's Webinar' was organised to picture the current status of the advertising industry during the pandemic.

Industry veteran Suraja Kishore, who is currently CEO — BBDO India, addressed participants and discussed the ground realities of the advertising industry and human's counterbalance to it.

Exemplifying the festival, Prof Sidharth Mishra, chairperson VSJMC, says: "When everything stopped and the world was introduced to a new normal, digital platforms became the only resort for education and showcasing talents, and bringing normalcy in our lives."

The media students of VIPS have demonstrated a high level of commitment and sincerity by organising Spandan 2020 on the virtual mode."

The organising team of students was mentored by Dr Charulata Singh, Dr Praveen K Singh, Dr Ramesh K Sharma, Dr Sunil Mishra and Anurag Gupta under the leadership of Prof Mishra.

Spandan 2020 allowed experiencing nor-



Suraja Kishore, CEO, BBDO India

malcy, instilling creativity, competitive high, excitement, and happiness to every participant even in such unpredictable times.

Spandan 2020 concluded with a musical extravaganza, where over 100 students participated in a lineup for the musical performances in the form of Grand Musical Finale including dance, music, *jugalbandi* and theatrical acts.

Exemplifying the festival, Prof Sidharth Mishra, chairperson VSJMC, says: "When everything stopped and the world was introduced to a new normal, digital platforms became the only resort for education and showcasing talents, and bringing normalcy in our lives. The media students of VIPS have demonstrated a high level of commitment and sincerity by organising Spandan 2020 on the virtual mode."

We have witnessed some interesting trends coming out in the last couple of quarters, where businesses took years' worth of decisions in a matter of weeks to sail through these challenging times. The behaviour, needs, as well as wants of consumers shifted rapidly.

To meet consumers where they are, businesses had to reconstruct their business models. Innovations that would normally take years to happen, in some industry verticals, took place in a matter of months. Organisations that looked at things differently and innovated at a rapid pace while adapting to the situation outperformed their peers who failed to adapt.

Few of the questions that come in mind are how can your organisation turn all the great ideas your teams are coming up with into reality as quickly as possible? How can you fast-track innovation? The answer not only lies in sound leadership, cross-functional team collaborations, and communication with these six approaches:

**Make innovation imperative:** Will it be enough for business leaders to just support and provide a platform for innovation? What if only a handful of them step forward and take the initiative? That's not going to be enough. Innovation should be embedded into the mission; the way workforce thinks and the way it works daily. Only then can you expect to drive breakthroughs. It's like the age-old saying: can you walk the talk? Organisations need to be serious about being innovative. While the workforce keeps churning out ideas

## Follow the 3 Os

It's time for organisations to outthink, outwork and outsmart in this post-pandemic world or risk becoming obsolete, says KAMAL DUTTA



and transforms them into concepts, leadership should help refine it.

**Value creativity at all times:** Creativity lies at the heart of innovation. With ever-evolving consumer trends and demand cycles, companies need to consistently innovate their products or services to stay ahead of the curve. Albert Einstein famously said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we

created them." Therefore, it is absolutely essential to provide employees with the space to exercise their imaginative thinking. The freedom to express ideas and thoughts is crucial because its absence can obstruct the free-flow of creativity and, in the long run, hurt business interests.

**Focus more on your employees:** An organisation's growth is directly dependent on its employees and therefore it is crucial to keep

them satisfied and motivated. Empower them to think about difficult problems and give them space to exert their individual agency and values to arrive at solutions. To get the best out of people, recognition and rewards also go a long way. Rewarding successful new ideas serves to motivate others to think out of the box.

**Try a non-hierarchical management:** If your goal is to encourage innovation, depending on a well-defined hierarchy might do worse than good. Allowing employees to break down workplace barriers enables greater interaction across all levels which results in better cooperation and idea generation. Easy sharing of ideas and problems supports critical thinking, which is essential for innovation and effective decision-making.

**Try again. Fail again. Fail better:** The path to innovation is paved with failures. Therefore, it is better to make peace with the possibility of failure and keep moving forwards regardless than not trying at all.

The writer is Managing Director of SkillsSoft & SumTotal India

## Need to power up

With digitalisation driving across the value chain, skill development becomes imperative for the entire power sector, says RAVI P SINGH

Electricity is a source of energy, which has the capacity to change the world. Power is and will be a part of our lives for as long as the mind can imagine. A city dweller will have to take extreme efforts to disconnect with power, even momentarily. Even a villager cannot think of surviving without Power, such intimate is our present relationship with Power.

It is a fact that India is one of the biggest economies in the world. The Government's "Make in India" initiative, will lead to a huge spurt in industrialisation, as a consequence of which, demand for power will increase. The rural electrification projects under the Government's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY) and PM's Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya Scheme) to electrify over 3.89 crore households, and increasing per capita energy consumption will further add to the demand for Power. According to the National Electricity Plan, by the year 2026-2027, there will be the demand for 2047 billion units of electricity in the country.

**Skill gap in the sector**  
Due to the high demand for electric energy, the demand of skilled and trained people in this area will increase. It is estimated that



the Power Sector will need an additional 16.6 lakh skilled manpower by 2025. Meeting this demand for additional skilled manpower in the entire chain of the power sector and downstream value-added services will be a challenge for the sector. This situation is unfolding right now as we discuss, not in some distant future.

The irony is that despite demographic dividend in our favor, the sector is not able to take advantage. The Demographic Dividend occurs

when the proportion of working people in the total population is high, which indicates that people have more potential to be productive and contribute to the growth of the economy. This is happening because the power sector faces an enormous shortage of workers with requisite competencies. With digitalisation driving across the value chain, skill development becomes imperative for the entire sector and all the more so in the distribution segment.

Distribution companies need to undertake measures like smart metering, smart grid technology, switching to renewable sources of energy, adoption of Blockchain in managing distributed energy resources and Artificial Intelligence. All of this calls for upscaling of existing workforce and preparing future power sector professionals to make strong impacts.

The need of the hour is to have well-established training institutions to train and fill the scarcity of astute power sector professionals. Considering this, Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) has engaged capable training partners who are providing meaningful training to the workforce.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Power Sector Skill Council

## For a sustainable environment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stubble burning is one of the major sources of pollution in the country, especially in the northern region. Year on year the intensifying pollution is becoming a serious health threat to humans along with flora and fauna. While the Government is aggressively looking for solutions to curb the pollution caused by the burning of stubble, KJ Somaiya College of Engineering and Godavari Biorefineries Ltd have come together with a solution to help abate the harmful effects of burning paddy straw.

Prof Shivangi Viral Thakker, Faculty Mechanical Department from the insti-

tute has proposed to use paddy straw for making useful products like pulp and tableware. The three-year-long project has been approved and funded by the Department of Science and Technology.

With the primary objective of managing the stubble waste, the project also aims to replace plastic with agricultural products to address another national issue of Plastic Ban.

The project focuses on process optimisation for pulping the paddy straw to produce eco-friendly tableware. The process includes the segregation of silica and pulp by pulping the rice straw. The pulp developed will then be used for making 100% biodegradable tableware.

## New high for SRM MCHRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC), Kattankulathur has successfully completed two phases of human testing of the COVAXIN trial and the third phase for the same will start today (7th December 2020), says SRM MCHRC's Pro Chancellor (Academics) Dr P Sathyannarayanan.

Speaking at a press meet held at the launch of the third phase of the COVAXIN trial in the hospital, he said that the number of



patients who will be tested in this final phase will be over 1000.

"Until now we have received 500 volunteers for the test. We will be taking in more volunteers till the end of December 2020. We are trying our best to make this

work, as it will be India's first indigenous vaccine," he added.

"Any person above 18 years of age and had not suffered COVID19 illness in the past can participate as a volunteer in this trial. Pregnant women are excluded. The vaccine shot will be administered twice — 28 days apart," said Principal Investigator for COVAXIN, Dr Satyajit Mahapatra.

The hospital will be able to conduct the trial for 50 people a day. Once the process is successful, the vaccine will be approved on a fast track basis.

## Helping MBBS aspirants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jagvimal Consultants, one of the spearheading undergraduates migration advisors in the nation zeroing in on confirmations in MBBS courses abroad has come up as a beam of hope for some undergraduates who need to take affirmations in unfamiliar colleges for MBBS. In the previous few months, Jagvimal Consultants has effectively done 60+ confirmations in nations like China, Kazakhstan, Russia and Georgia. Likewise, during the ongo-

ing pandemic crisis, Jagvimal Consultants has applied RTI for realising online classes are accessible for MBBS or not particularly for the undergraduates who needed to seek after MBBS from outside countries.

Not only this, during coronavirus, Jagvimal Consultants has made various letters to the human Government help office to recognise candidates as full time masters in crown disaster to complete the openness of authorities who complete their MBBS from abroad without FMGE test.

Due to COVID-19, the edtech platform has grown tremendously as have the Internet users. This has given space to key emerging education trends, says AKHAND SWAROOP PANDIT

# CHANGING LANDSCAPE



This COVID-19 pandemic impacted education of 1.26 billion children worldwide as estimated by the UNESCO, with over 300 million children just from India. As a response, the online and edtech industry has grown tremendously. Also, educational institutions have rapidly adopted digital technologies and increased the use of the Internet to impart learning digitally.

The change in digital learning landscape was already happening. As per Statista, today India has around 700 million Internet users. This is expected to grow immensely in the next decade. Given the context, the online learning space is witnessing the following emerging trends.

**Transitioning to online learning:** Digital transformation, whether in part or in whole, is going to be vital for traditional education businesses. This essentially means that educational institutions will implement hybrid models which will have students in classrooms as well as those connected virtually. The way one teaches will also transform significantly, making classrooms equally suited for

the digitally connected students. Those businesses who don't turn digital will lose market advantage.

**Rapid growth in K12-edtech sector:** As per a 2019 industry report, the K12 education sector is expected to show a six times growth to reach \$1.7 Bn by 2022. More schools and institutions will now have hybrid formats, leveraging technologies to promote digital learning amongst students across families. This is going to be a marked shift from traditional medium.

**Strengthening role online learning in post-K12 sector:** The post-K12 sector includes higher education, technical skilling, test preparation for Government and other professions. The importance of higher education degrees for better job roles has grown in the past decade. There is a lot of focus on both technical and non-technical skilling and upskilling. Also, traditionally, high volume of aspirants prepare for government exams. Collectively, the entire post-K12 online learning space is expected to grow by three times to touch \$1.8 Bn by 2022.

**Video-based content will**

**One of the major benefits of offline classes is that they appear more interactive, personal, and focused yet exciting. However, for an educator or a student, the virtual class today may appear less personal and interactive**

**grow.** Online learning is going to be one of the biggest space for producing and consuming video content. The content will range from streaming and recording of live classrooms to production of dedicated videos on educational concepts.

**Focus on interactive content:** One of the major benefits of offline classes is that they appear more interactive, personal, and focused yet exciting. However, for an educator or a student, the virtual class today may appear less personal and interactive. Online learning space is grappling with the challenge at present and its finding ways and means, such as digital boards, real-time quizzes, polls, etc., to make virtual classrooms more interactive and participatory through either content or technology.

**Rise of advance digital technologies:** Evolving technologies like artificial intelligence, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) will completely reinvent the online learning experience.

AI has the potential to understand and assess the learning abil-

ities of students and help us build with stronger educational programmes. AR/VR has the potential to transport a student to a dedicated, programmed educational environment and experience learning like never before.

**Supporting operations:** Admissions, customer service and marketing. Online learning is changing the complete experience of enrolling in a course to completing it. Therefore, there are chat bots and AI tools to guide a candidate through the complete process of filling forms. These tools are also being leveraged to respond to program specific or content specific queries.

The customer and educational services including content, technology, and programmes, except those being conducted live, will be available 24x7 for the benefit of students. Also, with more people available on the Internet, digital marketing will take central stage for offline or online institutions.

The 5G Internet connectivity can be a game changer in the field of online learning, making various possibilities a reality.

The writer is founder, Catalyst Group

## 'Overhaul in education needed'

The National Education Policy is bold and the shift it sees in the system needs change in role of teachers at the base, says SARASWATHY RAMAMOORTHY

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is bold and audacious, no doubt. Its success will determine the path education takes in India. The paradigm shift in education envisioned by the NEP requires large-scale overhaul of our educational system. But any overhaul must begin at the base and in education, that is the teacher. The role of the teacher is instrumental, to say the least, not just at the primary level but at all levels.

India is already facing a dismal dearth of well-trained teachers. While the NEP aims to take a holistic approach to address poor teaching quality with a slew of changes in pedagogy and recruitment, there are certain elements in teacher training that must be addressed to guarantee success.

**Teaching teachers how to teach:** According to IndiaSpend 2019 reports, after five years of schooling, just over half (51%) of students aged 10-11 years in India can read a grade II-level text (appropriate for 7-8 year olds). This throws light on the poor teaching skills. The NEP emphasizes a holistic approach that will focus on students' understanding of the practical implementation of a subject using critical and innovative thinking.

In order to impart such skills, teachers first need to be trained on teaching pedagogy itself. From stepping away from chalk-and-talk to adopting activity-based teaching, teachers need to be trained on multiple, diverse strategies to engage students, teach effectively, and assess holistically. This is the crux of success.

**Incorporating teacher feedback into training programmes:** According to NEP 2020, a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education will be drafted to guide all teacher education, pre-service and in-service, in academic, vocational and special education streams. While this is good, it is important for NEP to collect and inculcate feedback from teachers to develop a training pedagogy that is relevant and meaningful to them. Teachers in different parts of India face a varied set of problems.

Thus, the training should be devised to address the cultural, geo-



Saraswathy Ramamoorthy  
Co-founder, Learning Matters

graphical and economic diversity of our country. What works for one teacher will not necessarily work for another. A one-size-fits-all, integrated B.Ed program cannot be the answer.

**Ongoing professional development through a blended model:** There has been a seismic shift in the education industry this year as it leaped into the digital arena. Classrooms will never be the same after the coronavirus crisis. As online learning and teaching continue to evolve, changes will be constant in the education space, too.

Thus, the training given to teachers needs to be an ongoing one that reacts to and complements the situation on the ground. How are teachers handling online teaching? How are students reacting? What needs to change? A technology-enabled platform that allows training to become continuous and measurable and also makes real-time metrics on student engagement available is essential.

The NEP is a visionary policy aiming to bring much-awaited, holistic changes in the teaching industry. Emphasis on teacher training will guarantee its success. How this will be achieved will be the litmus test.

The boom of edtech platforms have empowered students, professionals and kids across regions — whether be in regards to continuation of school curriculum, introducing a new concept/study material, upgrading your skills or just clearing a doubt. Now when the schools are opening, a new integration is about to inset in education.

"In every field, be it finance, medicine, engineering, or business, we had innovations periodically with the entire equipment, protocol and procedures undergoing changes in as less as 3 to 5 years. The advanced diagnostic tools, mathematical modelling tools and fintech have empowered them to an extent that the best services can be made

available even in a village. We are in an age where a wrist watch is being used as a medical diagnostic tool effectively. However the regular school education — which is to prepare the generation to undertake these jobs — saw very little or no change in a decade. EdTech players were forced to sell B2C providing software tools for augmented learning." Saiju Aravind, Founder of EduBrisk Knowledge Solutions, says.

However, the COVID lockdown has changed the scenario, empowering all stakeholders in education in an unprecedented manner. "We belong to that category of edTech companies who strongly believe that every school can deliver extraordinary teaching with the help of these state-of-art tools and we are happy to see

## MINDIT

that hundreds of schools are embracing it with confidence and certitude that it will serve as the finest scalpels in the hands of an expert surgeon. And for those who are not experts, the tool is serving as an upskilling element." Aravind says.

The integration of e-learning in the education system has enabled study on the go for students and has taken the connectivity and exchange of resources to the next level. Students can now access quality education from the remotest corner of the country and they also have accessibility to x-factor courses that can

level up their existing skill set. "Lately, the role of online education has grown tremendously among the Indian education fraternity. Students and people from all age groups are now willingly participating in online study regimes; it not only saves them both time and money but also allows them the option to choose the appropriate platform based on their requirement. This online boost has also helped in increasing the popularity and awareness about skill-building courses among students and professionals. People are now opting for study regimes like

Entrepreneurial training, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from a very nascent stage in their life." Pavan Allena, founder-CEO of MetamorphosisEdu tells you.

The future beholds a merry fusion between the traditional and online educational platforms and it's hard to say that one can dominate the other. Co-existence of the two streams will help in bringing a welcome change in the Indian educational regimes and the biggest beneficiaries will be the students as they can now have a 360 degree approach to their study module.

"There comes a point in every field that the entire system gets pushed into a new reality because there is no other way left.

Education saw that point when COVID 19 hit the world. The acceptance and usage of Edtech today is, as if we never knew any other way at all. Today everyone, in whatever capacity one can, is giving their best in combining education and technology. Both learners and teachers are learning new ways of education. However, the real challenge would be to marry the old methodologies and the new reality when we go back to a normal world. Teachers would be expected to learn new skills and implement them in the blended classrooms. We believe that teachers, not robots, will lead the future of education and we are ready to empower them to lead the change," Rishabh Khanna, Cognitive Scientist and founder of Surasasa says.

**Scholarship**

withus/scholarships/sciencescholarships/facultyof-science/scholarships-forinternationalstudents202122/ or contact: science-scholarships@strath.ac.uk

**The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow invites applications for Faculty of Science Masters Scholarship.** It is open to international students. The scholarships between £3,000-£5,000 are available to new international students joining a post-graduate taught masters degree in the Faculty of Science in the 2021-2022 academic year at the university.

**Help with tuition fees:** One year.

**Subject:** Chemistry, Computer and information sciences, Mathematics and statistics, Pharmacy and biomedical sciences, Physics, Forensic science, Biochemistry, Biology and biological sciences, Biomedical science, Immunology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Pharmacy

**Eligibility:** Candidates must: Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission for a full-time, taught masters degree in the Faculty of Science for the 2021/2022 academic year.

**Be self-funded.** Students who receive full scholarships, for example from a government office or embassy, will not be eligible.

**Application deadline:** It is July 31, 2021

For further information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study->

**COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AT UNACADEMY**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹30,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354113](http://internshala.com/i/6354113)  
Deadline: December 17, 2020

**DATA ANALYTICS AT SPARK CAPITAL ADVISORS**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354112](http://internshala.com/i/6354112)  
Deadline: December 17, 2020

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT FLYVHEEL**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354114](http://internshala.com/i/6354114)  
Deadline: December 17, 2020

**LINUX ADMIN AT ATL FOUNDATION**  
Location: Delhi, Noida  
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354118](http://internshala.com/i/6354118)  
Application deadline: December 17, 2020

**CONTENT WRITING AT MERAKI ADS**  
Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354120](http://internshala.com/i/6354120)  
Application deadline: December 17, 2020

**GRAPHIC DESIGN AT TAPGENICS**  
Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354122](http://internshala.com/i/6354122)  
Application deadline: December 15, 2020

**CENTER MANAGEMENT AT TESTBOOK ONLINE LEARNING CENTRE**  
Location: Ranchi, Patna  
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6354121](http://internshala.com/i/6354121)  
Application deadline: December 14, 2020

**STUDY ABROAD**

### Exciting prospects for students studying abroad

Mobility of students, joint research with supervision, collaborative masters and doctoral programmes open new doors

The Auckland University of Technology (AUT) has strengthened bilateral ties with India through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian

This was endorsed by Professor Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean Global Engagement at IIT Madras who said the agreement will allow "mobility of students, joint research and joint supervision of students and collaborative masters and doctoral programmes."

The MoU means AUT students will get the opportunity to complete their final year project or internship at the prestigious IIT Madras which is an exciting prospect for students and especially for those of Indian origin. The COVID-19 has meant some planned student exchange initiatives will be delayed; but work is underway with academics and potential online student internships.

Recently, the AUT supported IIT Madras as foreign collaborator for joint research funding with their Department of Science and Technology and Indian Government.

New Zealand students will get a chance to do their internships/final year project at IIT Madras considering the feel and excitement associated with studying at IIT especially for Indian origin students.



## IN BRIEF

### FREE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Global Classroom Private Limited (GCP) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) is launching the first Global Dream Shaala, an initiative for providing free education to out of school children starting with Uttar Pradesh on the December 10, 2020.

The literacy programme is the first-of-its-kind exponentially scalable model that aims at making people literate using the Global Dream Toolkit which is a vastly alternative way of teaching that accelerates learning.

It has two-fold objective of firstly providing an education to the children who are out of school and secondly to make adults literate. As education has

become inaccessible during the Pandemic, Dr Sunita Gandhi has approached this with a unique strategy to provide functional literacy to the masses.

The lessons have in-built tests developed to assess whether the student is learning and progressing before they moving further. Each new step is a natural progression of the previous lesson. This allows learning to be personalised.

A learner knows exactly where they are in the learning journey, and they can always go back and review a previous lesson. The programme also includes the teaching of English and it is available in 13 Indian languages including Urdu.

### SCHOLARSHIP FOR CLASS XII STUDENTS

The Indian School of Business and Finance (ISBF) announced the opening of registrations for the 2020-2021 edition of The Power of Why Challenge (POWC), a unique scholarship programme for Class XII students. The challenge will be held in two rounds

over a month, following which two winners will be awarded with a 50% waiver on ISBF's tuition fees for the LSE undergraduate programmes.

Dr Jitin Chadha, founder-director of ISBF, said: "The POWC is a unique challenge with the

purpose of ensuring that merit gets the encouragement and financial support. I urge Class XII students to participate."

Registration Link: <https://www.isbf.edu.in/b-sc-undergraduate-courses/the-power-of-why-challenge/>.

### ALL INDIA KOREAN LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

The Korean Cultural Centre India organised 13th All India Korean Language Speech Contest online in which 32 shortlisted candidates participated amongst 128 participants from 11 Korean language institute.

The participants in each level, beginner (9), intermediate (15), advanced (8) performed their speeches with each given titles — Korean culture which I love, My second mother tongue, Korean, and Korea and I meeting in Corona age. This year, for the first time, Q&A session

was introduced for advanced level.

Shin Bong-kil, the ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea said "I am glad that even in the difficult situation caused by Corona the event happened online. Thanks to the Indian people's special love for Korean language. President Moon Jae-in had earlier mentioned his gratitude on the adaptation of Korean Language as the new second language in National Education Policy. I expect all participants to perform as the bridge between Korean and India in future.

# WINNING STREAK COMES TO END

## Aus stop Kohli, prevent clean sweep by India with 12-run win in final T20I

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian bowlers held their nerves to come up trumps against the genius of Virat Kohli, stalling an Indian clean-sweep with a 12-run victory in the third and final T20I at Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

While India won the shortest format 2-1, it was overall an even result for the two teams which won three white-ball games each. Tuesday's loss ended the visitors' 10-match winning streak in the format.

Kohli got as many as four reprieves and cashed in well enough to smash his way to 85 off 61 balls but India could only reach as far as 174/7 in their pursuit of 187 in 20 overs.

It was a slash drive off Andrew Tye in the penultimate over which was plucked inches off the ground by Daniel Sams, who compensated for a forgettable day with the ball.

An over before that Hardik Pandya's swagger was checked by Adam Zampa (1/21 in 3 overs). Zampa's leg-break turned enough to force the 'Baroda Bomber' to hit one against the turn and be caught at short third-man.

Once Pandya was gone, there was too much pressure on Kohli and this was one rare occasion when he failed to take the team home.

While he hit four fours and three sixes, Kohli did lead a charmed life as Steve Smith missed a dolly at deep mid-wicket fence when he gave Maxwell the charge.

Then Sean Abbott failed to get his hands on a tough return catch while another slipped through Tye's palms. During the fog end, Matthew Wade missed an easy stumping.

The Indian captain scored his third fifty of the tour and an effortless six off Abbott after the completion of the milestone gave much-needed relief to the Indian dug-out. This was after man of the match Swepson's (3/23) innocuous leg-breaks reduced them to 100 for 4.

Swepson would be the first to admit that he was lucky to dismiss Shikhar Dhawan (28 off 21 balls) with a half-tracker and ever-unreliable Sanju Samson (10) with a low full-toss.

The only wicket-taking delivery he bowled was the one that got Shreyas Iyer out for a first-ball duck.



India players and support staff pose with T20 series trophy after the end of third and final T20 at Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday

Earlier, Wade's second consecutive half-century was well-complemented by Maxwell's blazing strokeplay as Australia posted a competitive 186 for 5 after being put into bat.

Wade, who has played all his big T20 knocks against India, smashed his way to 80 off 53 balls with the help seven fours and two sixes.

Maxwell, who struggled with his timing initially, also got into the act during the last six overs with a 35-ball-54 and a third-wicket stand of 90 runs in 8.4 overs with Wade.

## India's poor day with the DRS

PTI ■ SYDNEY: The 30 extra runs that Australian keeper-batsman Matthew Wade scored after a lucky reprieve due to a delayed DRS call by the Indian team turned out to be decisive and skipper Virat Kohli termed the late reaction as "unacceptable".

It was in the 11th over that Wade was rapped on the pads by a Natarajan delivery that straightened after pitching. While the umpire ruled it not out, the Indian team, after some

deliberations, decided to appeal and the umpire signalled for DRS.

However, Wade promptly objected stating that the stipulated 15 seconds for taking a review were over for the Indian team and the decision of allowing the DRS was overturned.

"That LBW was a strange one, we were still discussing that if ball was going down leg side and decided to go for the review but umpire said nothing can be

done," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

"We felt as management, such mistakes (being late) cannot be done at the highest level. In an important game it can prove really costly."

The TV replays showed that it would have been LBW in India's favour and what would pinch them is the victory margin of 12 runs as Wade added 30 more to his score of 50 at the time of the incident. PTI

## Kohli earmarks Natarajan for T20 WC

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Impressed by newcomer T Natarajan's ability to deliver under pressure, India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday said the seamer could be a great asset for the team heading into next year's T20 World Cup.

The 29-year-old from Tamil Nadu has been sensational since making his international debut in the third ODI at Canberra, snapping eight wickets in four matches.

"Special mention for Natarajan, in the absence of (Mohammed) Shami and Jasprit (Bumrah), he stood out and really delivered under pressure," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

"It is outstanding because he is playing his first few games at the international level. He looks very composed, he is a humble and hard working guy, he is sure of what he is doing."

India is scheduled to host the T20 World Cup in October and November next year.

"I hope he continues to keep working hard on his game and gets better because a left-arm bowler is an asset for any team and if he can keep bowling in this way consistently, it will be a great thing for us heading into the World Cup next year," Kohli said.

India lost the third T20I but claimed the series 2-1, and Kohli said he was impressed with the way the team never gave up despite missing experienced players such as Rohit



Sharma, Bumrah and Shami.

"We played good cricket over the last 11-12 T20s, the fact that this squad had players that don't have much exposure in international cricket, from that point of view it was a nice performance especially after losing the first two ODIs. We came back nicely and showed belief."

"We carried the momentum, fighting back again in the first T20s and even tonight, the game was close, so the standout is that guys are not giving up."

# Hardik can only play as all-rounder in Tests: Virat Pandya 'heading back home'

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Hardik Pandya's stupendous batting in the white ball series has given him an extra option of a designated "finisher" but India skipper Virat Kohli is clear that the all-rounder needs to start bowling regularly in order to be considered for Test cricket.

Pandya has had scored of 90 and 92 in the first and third ODIs respectively and a match-winning knock of 42 not out in 22 balls in the second T20I, which helped India to seal the T20 series, got him the Man of the series award.

Asked if he would be tempted to keep Pandya back as a pure batting option for the upcoming four-Test series, Kohli answered in the negative.

"Hardik couldn't bowl and we knew he will not be able to bowl but we saw in the IPL the headspace that he has been. But Test cricket is a different challenge and we need him to bowl," Kohli was clear about



priorities.

"We have spoken about it. He is one guy who brings in a lot of balance for us in overseas conditions like South Africa, England. We were able to compete for longer periods of time and he adds a lot of balance in terms of his bowling."

Kohli believes Pandya is getting into the zone where he

## Kohli might skip pink-ball warm up game

PTI ■ SYDNEY: India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday hinted that he might skip the three-day pink-ball warm-up game ahead of the eagerly-awaited Test series against Australia after an intense limited-overs leg of the tour which ended on Tuesday.

The tour game against Australia A is due to begin in three days time and will be India's final tune-up before the opening day-night Test in Adelaide from December 17.

Kohli will lead the team in the opener of the four-match series, after which he will go back to India for the birth of his first child.

"I will wake up tomorrow and see if I can play the tour match. Playing it on and off is

not my thing and I like to play the full game. I will talk to our physio and then decide on my participation," Kohli said after the third T20I.

Having won the series, Kohli was looking forward to the Tests and said the current team is stronger than the one that made history by winning its first Test series Down Under two years ago.

"We need to take the same competitive attitude into the Tests, and having played here a few times, we can score runs as well."

"Once it's time to capitalise and score, we need to do that session by session. I'm sure the current side is stronger than last time," Kohli said. PTI

Pandya realises that he needs to get back to peak bowling form.

"He himself wants to get back into the bowling space and make sure he is available

## You deserve man of the series: Pandya to Natarajan

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Swashbuckling India all-rounder Hardik Pandya on Tuesday said he is "heading back home," two days after raising hopes of extending his stay in Australia for the upcoming Test series following his incredible outing in the limited-overs leg.

Coming off a back surgery and yet to start bowling on a regular basis, Pandya's showing in the just-concluded limited overs leg of the tour gave rise to hopes that he might be considered for Test selection.

And those beliefs were strengthened when the all-rounder, after his match-winning effort on Sunday, said he wouldn't mind staying back if the team management wants.

However, two days later, he confirmed that he is going back to India.

"I think I should head back home and spend some quality time with my family. I haven't seen my child for four

months, so I'd like to spend some time with family right now," Pandya said after the third T20I.

"Natarajan, you were outstanding this series. To perform brilliantly in difficult conditions on your India



debut speaks volumes of your talent and hardwork. You deserve Man of the Series from my side *bhai!* Congratulations to #TeamIndia on the win," Pandya tweeted.

"Maybe in the future. I don't know, maybe," he added when asked about his Test comeback.



## Saha strikes fifty before Test opener

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In the form of a sedate half-century, Wriddhiman Saha got himself some invaluable batting practice ahead of the first Test against Australia, but his other famed Indian colleagues failed to bat long as their warm-up game against Australia A concluded in a draw here on Tuesday.

Medium pacer Mark Steketee, who returned impressive figures of 5/37, came in the way of what could have been a few sessions of good batting practice on the third and final day for the touring Indians.

Making up for his first-innings nought, Saha top-scored for the visitors with 54 after facing 100 deliveries at the Drummoyne Oval on the final day of tune-up.

Bracing for the first Test, the seasoned Saha found the fence seven times during his stay in the middle.

Beginning with a deficit of 59 runs, the Indians declared their second innings at 189 for nine and in reply, the Australians, needing 130 in 15 overs to register an outright victory, reached 52 for one when the stumps were drawn for one last time in the game.

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, who is going to lead the team in the absence of Virat Kohli after the first Test, followed up his near first-innings century with a knock of 28. Cheteshwar Pujara, who made a solid half-century in preparation for the marquee series opener, however, failed to open his account in the second essay.

The young opening duo of Prithvi Shah (19) and Shubman Gill (29) added 37 runs for the first wicket before Cameron Green sent the former back.

Pujara did not last long and was bowled by Michael Nesher, who brought to crease Hanuma Vihari. Vihari made 28 before Nesher had him caught by Burns.

For the home team, Green enjoyed a fine all-round outing having scored a hundred in the first innings which ended at 306 for nine declared.

After his impressive performance in the first innings, during which he picked up three wickets, pacer Umesh Yadav added another scalp to his name when the Australians went out to bat again.

## Watling fit for NZ return

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's No 1 wicketkeeper BJ Watling is set to return from injury for the second Test against the West Indies, while the tourists suffered a double blow on Tuesday with Kumar Roach and Shane Dowrich out.

Pace bowler Roach is returning home following the death of his father last week while wicketkeeper Dowrich continues to be troubled by the hand injury that sidelined him after day one of the first Test.

Watling, who had been suffering a hamstring strain, was confident he would be able to take his place in the Black Caps line up when the second Test starts on Friday in Wellington.

"It seems to be progressing pretty well," he said. "I've been through a few fitness tests and did a bit of training last week during the Test match and it seems to have pulled up pretty good." AFP

## Eng camp cleared of virus, free to leave South Africa

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

Two people in the England cricket tour party who gave unconfirmed positive coronavirus tests in South Africa were cleared on Tuesday and freed from self-isolating.

The two positive tests, along with an outbreak in the South Africa camp and among workers at their shared bio-secure hotel in Cape Town prompted the rest of the tour to be abandoned on Monday.

England officials still wanted independent ratification of the positive results in its camp.

"Following further testing and analysis, in the opinion of the independent virologists based in Cape Town and London, the two individuals are not infected, and do not pose any risk of passing on the

infection to the rest of the party," the England and Wales Cricket Board said in a statement.

"The advice is they are now free to join the rest of the group and are no longer self-isolating"

The England party will head home on Thursday.

The teams played out a three-match Twenty20 series but the first one-day international scheduled for last Friday was postponed to Sunday because of another infection in the South Africa team, then canceled when two hotel workers caught the virus. That made England undergo a round of tests, producing two unconfirmed positives. With outbreaks apparently in both camps, officials canceled the other scheduled ODIs on Monday and Wednesday, too.

## Pucovski concussed by bouncer

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Potentially in line for a Test debut against India, Australian batsman Will Pucovski suffered a concussion after being struck on the helmet by pacer Kartik Tyagi during the warm-up game against India A on Tuesday and was ruled out of the second day game starting December 11.

Considered a sure-shot selection for the series-opener, beginning December 17 in Adelaide, with David Warner ruled out owing to an injury, Pucovski was batting on 23 when he was hit on the helmet by a delivery from Tyagi in the 13th over of Australia A's second innings.

"Will experienced mild concussion symptoms but was able to leave the field unassisted," team doctor John Orchard said in a statement posted by cricket.Com.Au.

"He was monitored in our medical room and was communi-

cating freely with staff and teammates as well as family over the phone.

"Will will remain with the Australia A squad but will not play in the three-day tour match against India at the SCG," he added.

Pucovski was hit on the front of his protective equipment and he fell to his knees, staying there for a few minutes before managing to walk off the field.

The 22-year-old opener was immediately attended to by the medical team even as he dropped the bat and remained on his hands and knees for a few minutes on the pitch.

The impact had put a question mark on his availability for the first Test but Cricket Australia confirmed that he was able to walk after being attended by team doctor John Orchard.

# Pak team head to Queenstown for training

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Pakistan's cricketers left quarantine in Christchurch on Tuesday after testing negative for Covid-19, New Zealand health authorities said.

The touring party of more than 50 players and officials had been holed up in their hotel for two weeks as they underwent mandatory isolation under New Zealand's strict coronavirus protocols.

They had been confined to their rooms unable to train for most of that time after 10 virus cases were detected among the group, with coach Misbah-ul-Haq complaining this week about the impact on his players.

But New Zealand's health ministry confirmed on Tuesday



that the latest swabs had all come back negative and the bulk of the group had been cleared to leave quarantine.

"After extensive testing and completion of their time in managed isolation in Christchurch, the Canterbury (district) medical officer of health is satisfied these people pose a very low risk to the community," it said.

The department said one person was being kept in isolation at the Christchurch quarantine hotel to ensure he was fully recovered from the virus.

The tourists will travel to Queenstown for training ahead of their first Twenty20 match against the Black Caps in Auckland on December 18.

Pakistan will play three T20s and two Tests in New Zealand.

संचालनालय, आयुर्वेद योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़ डी.के.एस. परिसर, रायपुर 492001, फोन नं. (0771) 2221640, फैक्स-2221641, ईमेल - cgayush@gmail.com

क्रमांक / 1 / स्था. / राज. / महा. / प्रवेश / 2020 / 4180 रायपुर, दिनांक 07 / DEC / 2020

बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.एच.एम.एस./बी.यू.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रम सत्र 2020-21 में राज्य के निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों की अखिल भारतीय कोटा (All India Quota) की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाईन रजिस्ट्रेशन सूचना-

शैक्षणिक सत्र 2020-21 के लिए निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों की अखिल भारतीय कोटा (All India Quota) की सीटों पर आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश के इच्छुक, राष्ट्रीय पात्रता सह प्रवेश परीक्षा NEET (UG) 2020 की प्रावीण्यता सूची के पात्र एवं भारतीय चिकित्सा केन्द्रीय परिषद (भारतीय चिकित्सा में शिक्षा के न्यूनतम मानक) संशोधन विनियम 2018 की कड़िका 2 एवं होम्योपैथी (डिग्री पाठ्यक्रम) संशोधन विनियम, 2018 की कड़िका 2 में निर्दिष्ट प्रवेश हेतु योग्यता रखने वाले भारत के निवासी अभ्यर्थी दिनांक 08.12.2020 से 17.12.2020 तक निम्नानुसार cghealth portal में आयुष के वेबसाइट एवं आयुर्वेदिक कॉलेज के वेबसाइट पर आनलाईन रजिस्ट्रेशन कर सकते हैं :-

1. www.cghealth.nic.in/ehealth/dishm/counsellinginfo.html  
2. www.gacraipurcg.in  
3. www.gac.bilaspur.gov.in

रजिस्ट्रेशन फॉर्म में त्रुटि सुधार दिनांक 17.12.2020 को मध्य रात्रि 11:59 बजे तक किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है उक्त पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश हेतु प्रथम चरण का सीट आवंटन दिनांक 21.12.2020 एवं द्वितीय चरण का सीट आवंटन दिनांक 07.01.2021 को किया जाना है।

पंजीयन/सीट आवंटन एवं प्रवेश से संबंधित अन्य निर्देश/सूचना की अद्यतन जानकारी हेतु नियमित रूप से उक्त वेबसाइट का अवलोकन करते रहें।

नोट:- सभी निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों के आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों की सभी सीटों का आवंटन संचालनालय आयुष, रायपुर द्वारा गठित समिति द्वारा किया जाएगा। अतः किसी व्यक्ति/संस्था/एजेंसी के प्रलोभन में न फसें।

हस्ता/-  
संचालक  
R.O. No :- 85470/3 आयुर्वेद, योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी  
R.O. Date :- 07/12/2020 सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छत्तीसगढ़