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4 weeks critical: Centre

People's participation vital to contain 2nd Covid wave, says Govt

India records all-time high 1.15L Covid cases in 24 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as India's daily tally of new cases is growing faster than most others in the list of top five countries, the Government on Tuesday painted a grim picture warning that next four weeks are very critical and people's participation is vital to control the second wave of pandemic. In the last 24 hours, the virulent pathogen has claimed 446 lives.

Meanwhile, India on Tuesday recorded a new peak of Covid daily count at nearly 1,15,239 cases, 12,000 more than that previous highest day's tally recorded on Sunday. Maharashtra leaped back in the 50,000 plus range again after a dip on Monday. The State clocked 55,469 cases, 34,256 recoveries, and 297 deaths in the last 24 hours. Chhattisgarh emerged as the second worst-affected State by clocking 9,921 new cases and 53 new deaths.

The Centre has rejected requests of two non-BJP ruled States' Chief Ministers—Delhi

and Maharashtra — seeking relaxation in age limit for the vaccine. The Centre on Tuesday ruled out Covid-19 vaccination for all, stressing the aim is not to administer the shot to "those who need it so as to prevent death and protect the healthcare system".

During a Press conference here, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said many people are asking why the Government is not opening up vaccination for those above 18 years. Bhushan said even the West has conducted the vaccination drive in phases.

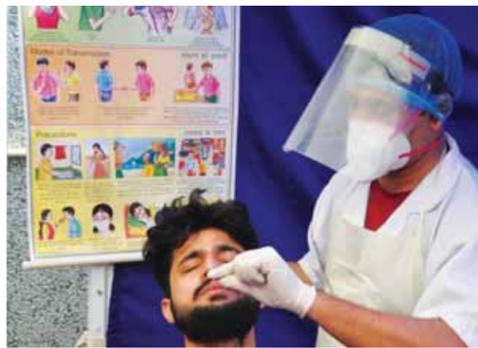
"The basic aim is to reduce death through vaccination. The other aim is to protect your healthcare system. If healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics and others fall sick, who will work in hospitals? So the aim, for any country, is to protect those who are the most vulnerable. The aim is never to administer the vaccine to those who want it but to those who need it," Bhushan said.

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At 43 lakh, highest single-day vaccination in India

New Delhi: Over 43 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered in a span of 24 hours on April 5, the highest

single-day coverage, taking the total doses given in the country so far to 8,31,10,926, said the Health Ministry.



A health worker collects samples for the Covid-19 test in New Delhi on Tuesday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES:	1,27,99,723 (+1,15,239)
DEATHS:	1,66,207 (+630)
RECOVERED:	1,17,89,752
ACTIVE:	8,38,625
MAHARASHTRA:	31,13,354
KERALA:	11,41,093
KARNATAKA:	10,26,584
ANDHRA PRADESH:	9,10,943
DELHI:	6,85,062

Night curfew in Delhi, city logs year's highest daily count at 5,100

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On a day when Delhi recorded 5,100 new Covid-19 cases, highest this year, and 17 deaths in a day, the Delhi Government on Tuesday imposed seven-hour long night curfew with immediate effect for this entire month as an emergency measure for the "wellbeing and safety" of people.

However, it exempted people of certain professions from the curfew.

The decision was taken after the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) after it reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the city. The DDMA order for curfew from 10 pm to 5 am will continue till April 30.

People travelling during curfew hours for Covid-19 vaccination will require a soft or hard copy of an e-pass which can be obtained from the website Delhi.Gov.In.

According to the order issued by the chief secretary

and chairperson of the executive body of DDMA, a sudden increase in Covid-19 cases in the recent past along with a high positivity rate has been observed in Delhi.

"It is felt that night curfew needs to be imposed in the NCT (National Capital Territory) of Delhi from 10 pm to 5 am, except for essential activities and services, as an emergency measure for the wellbeing and safety of people," the order stated.

Continued on Page 2

Bengal, Assam, Kerala, TN see huge turnout

PNS ■ CHENNAI/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ KOLKATA

The alarming situation of Covid-19 didn't deter the voters from coming out in large numbers in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to exercise their franchise in the Assembly elections on Tuesday.

Keeping with the trend of high voters turnout in earlier phase of the staggered elections, Bengal also kept its tradition of poll violence and allegations and counter allegations of rigging. Stray incidents of clashes between workers of rival parties were also reported in other States.

In Kerala, while the Left is hoping to beat anti-incumbency to retain power, the BJP is making efforts to make inroads, nearly 74 per cent polling was recorded till 7 pm. There was 63.47 per cent voting in Tamil Nadu for 234 Assembly constituencies and 77.90 per cent in Puducherry till 5 pm. Both Kerala and Tamil Nadu have seen changes of Government in successive elections in the past.

The three-phase Assembly election culminated in Assam with nearly 79 per cent polling in the final round in the State where the ruling BJP is battling the Congress-led alliance to retain power, while the trend of high turnout and violence during polling continued in West Bengal as the ruling Trinamool

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2021	ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2021
W BENGAL Phase-3	KERALA
Total Assembly seats 31/294	Total Assembly seats 140
Candidates 205	Candidates 957
Total Voters 78.5 lakh	Total Voters 2,74,46,039
Voter Turnout 77.68%	Voter Turnout 71.31%

Congress, the BJP and the Left-Congress alliance put up an intense fight in the high-stakes contest.

Five candidates, including two women, were assaulted in poll-related clashes as over 77 per cent voting was recorded in 31 seats in West Bengal till 5 pm in the third phase. Violence was reported in areas like Uluberia, Khanakul, Falta, Canning Purba, Durbrajpur and Hooghly, where a BJP supporter's family member was killed. The State is having eight-phase elections.

DMK Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi, who is being treated for Covid-19, voted at a polling station in Chennai,

wearing a Personal Protective equipment kit. In Tamil Nadu, both the Dravidian parties AIADMK and DMK went into the election without their stalwarts, J Jayalitha and M Karunanidhi.

Continued on Page 2

EVMS, VVPATS FOUND AT TMC LEADER'S HOME, POLL OFFICIAL SUSPENDED

Uluberia (WB): Four EVMs and a similar number of VVPATS were found at the house of a Trinamool Congress leader in West Bengal's Howrah district, fol-

lowing which a poll official was suspended, a senior officer said on Tuesday. The incident happened in Tulsibera village in the Uluberia Uttar Assembly segment, he said.

Maha ex-HM moves SC against HC probe order

CBI begins enquiry into graft complaint by Mumbai ex-CP against Deshmukh

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



The Maharashtra Government and former State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court's order instituting a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against Deshmukh by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

This even as a CBI team on Tuesday reached Mumbai to probe the corruption allegations against Deshmukh following the HC's directive.

During its stay in Mumbai, the team will record the statements of Singh who was a petitioner in the matter before the

Bombay High Court and collect documents as part of the PE, sources said.

They said the probe has started as a notification from the Department of Personnel and Training is not required in cases referred by the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

While officials remained tight-lipped, sources said a Superintendent of Police from the Indian Police Service has been made the Investigating Officer of the case and the team also comprises a Joint Director and a Deputy Inspector General of Police for supervision of the enquiry.

In his plea filed on March 25, Singh had sought the CBI probe against Deshmukh who, he claimed, had asked police officers, including suspended Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Waze, to extort ₹100 crore from 1,700 bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

However, Deshmukh has denied the alleged wrongdoings.

Earlier, Singh had petitioned the apex court seeking a CBI probe in the matter. But the top court directed him to approach the High Court for relief.

In a Special Leave Petition (SPL) before the Supreme Court, the Maharashtra Government urged the apex court to set aside Monday's order by the High Court directing the CBI to conduct a PE into the allegations of graft against Deshmukh, who resigned from his post as the State Home Minister shortly after a HC Bench passed an order against him.

Continued on Page 2

CRPF man is our captive, appoint interlocutors, say Maoists

Bijapur: The outlawed CPI (Maoist) has claimed that CoBRA commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, who went missing after the April 3 ambush in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, is in captivity of ultras, and asked the State Government to appoint interlocutors for his release.

The Maoists have, however, not raised any formal demands for the release of the commando.

Police are verifying the authenticity of the statement, reportedly issued by the outlaws.

The banned outfit also admitted that four of its cadres were killed in the encounter in which 22 security personnel had lost their lives.

Constable Rakeshwar Singh Manhas of the 210th CoBRA battalion, an elite unit of CRPF, had gone missing after the gunfight along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts last Saturday.

Continued on Page 2

Won't forge military ties with China, Russia assures India

Good news comes ahead of LAC talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As stand-offs continue at some friction points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Russia on Tuesday assured India it will not forge any military alliance with China. Making this assertion, visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said Moscow and New Delhi will further strengthen their defence and strategic ties.

The Russian Minister's statement after holding detailed discussions with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar came days before the likely 11th round of Corps Commander level talks between India and China at the LAC on April 9. The two commanders are likely to discuss the possible disengagement plan from face-off sites like Hot Spring and Gogra, sources said here.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar and



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar attend a joint news conference following their talks in New Delhi on Tuesday

Lavrov reviewed the entire gamut of their time-tested ties and economic co-operation besides fast-developing situation in Afghanistan. The two Ministers also discussed President Putin's likely visit to New Delhi later this year for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Lavrov is on a two-day visit.

The two leaders also issued a joint statement in which Jaishankar said they discussed

the connectivity, including the International North-South Transport Corridor and Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor. The two Ministers reviewed longstanding partnership in nuclear, space and defence sectors, Jaishankar said.

He also said the two Ministers focused on preparations for Putin's visit for the annual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

SAUDI: ONLY VACCINATED PILGRIMS TO ENTER MECCA

Riyadh: Only pilgrims and worshippers who have been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus or have recovered will be allowed into the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced. Before embarking on a trip, a visitor's vaccination status will have to be registered on Saudi Arabia's Covid-19 app, "Tawakkalna".

INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW AT HISTORIC 12.5%: IMF

United Nations: India's economy is projected to grow at the historically high level of 12.5 per cent this fiscal year, but the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Chief Economist Gita Gopinath cautioned that the current wave of the pandemic "is quite concerning."

BIRD FLU: HUNDRED BIRDS FOUND DEAD IN HIMACHAL

Shimla: Around 100 migratory birds have been found dead in Pong Dam Lake in the last two weeks after the outbreak of a second wave of bird flu in Himachal Pradesh, wildlife officials said on Tuesday.

Tarun Bajaj new Revenue Secy

Centre approves appointment of Secys, Spl Secys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre union on Tuesday approved appointment of several Secretaries and Special Secretaries, including that of Tarun Bajaj as new Revenue Secretary under the Ministry of Finance.

Bajaj was serving as secretary to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) since April 30, 2020. Tarun Bajaj took additional charge of Secretary, Department of Revenue, after the superannuation of Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

Pandey, who is a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre, retired on February 28. He was given the

charge of Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry in November 2018.

Prior to taking over as Economic Affairs Secretary, Bajaj served as Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office.

Bajaj, a 1988 batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, worked as Joint Secretary and Director in Department of Financial Services.

The appointment committee of the Cabinet has also approved the appointment of Ajay Seth, a 1987 batch Karnataka-cadre IAS officer, as new secretary for DEA. Along with this, there were also other changes in top bureaucracy notified by the Ministry of Personnel.

Gyanesh Kumar, Additional Secretary in the Department of Home, has been appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Continued on Page 2

Scotch rumours by rivals: Modi

PM says there is conspiracy to create political instability

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that rumours, lies and "false narratives" are being spread by BJP's rivals about a conspiracy to create political instability in the country and sought BJP members to be alert about those "stoking imaginary fears".

Speaking on the occasion of his party's 41st foundation day, Modi said blatant lies like farmers' land will be seized, citizenship of some people will be revoked, reservation will be scrapped, or the Constitution will be changed are spread by certain individuals and organisations.

These false narratives have been spread over his Government's measures like farm laws, Citizenship (Amendment) Act and labour



BJP national president JP Nadra with party leaders and workers listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address (speaking via video link) on the occasion of BJP's Shapana Diwas (Foundation Day), at BJP HQ, in New Delhi on Tuesday

laws, he said.

"Deliberate politics is behind it. It is a very big conspiracy and its aim is to trigger political instability in the country by creating misconceptions and stoking imaginary fears," he said, telling BJP members about this "serious challenge". He asked party members to

be alert about them and go among the masses to spread awareness.

Opposition parties have criticised the laws on citizenship, and farm and labour reforms over a number of issues, including some which the Prime Minister has often rejected as blatant lies.

Justice Nuthalapati Ramana to take over as CJI on April 24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior-most Supreme Court Judge Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana was on Tuesday appointed as the next Chief Justice of India.

According to a notification issued by the Government, Justice Ramana would take over as the 48th CJI on April 24 after incumbent CJI SA Bobde demits office a day before.

Justice Ramana would retire on August 26, 2022.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th April, 2021," the notification read.

As per convention, Principal Secretary to the



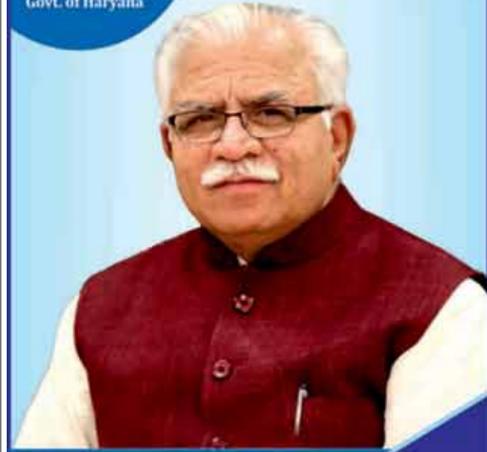
Prime Minister PK Mishra and Secretary (Justice) Barun Mitra handed over the warrant of appointment to Justice Ramana this morning. Justice Bobde had recently recommended Justice Ramana as his successor in keeping with convention and norms of seniority.

The CJI's recommendation had come on a day when the SC had made public its decision to dismiss a complaint of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister against Justice Ramana after giving the matter "due consideration".

Continued on Page 2



Govt. of Haryana



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

WATER BIENNIAL 2021-23



To construct 1000 recharge borewells under 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat'



To construct Mewat Feeder Canal of 100 cusecs to provide drinking water to Mewat area



Micro Irrigation Project In the first phase, focus on Mahendragarh, Charkhi-Dadri, Bhiwani and Fatehabad



Micro Irrigation and Command Area Development Authority (MICADA) to promote and implement micro irrigation



Target to use 25 percent treated waste water for non-drinking purposes



Mahagram Yojana 130 villages have been identified for water supply up to 135 litres per capita, Laying of sewerage system

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

HIGHEST DAILY COUNT SINCE NOV 27

Jain: City ready to deal with Covid surge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said the Government has issued orders to increase the number of beds in both private and Delhi Government hospitals to deal with the situation of increasing number of Covid-19 cases.

Delhi recorded 5,100 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Tuesday, the highest since November 27 last year when the city reported 5,482 cases in a day.

Jain said, "Delhi reported 3,548 active cases whereas the positivity rate was 5.54 per cent. Nearly 65,000 tests were done. We have directed both the Government and private hospitals to escalate the number of beds available for Covid patients. Almost 5,000 beds will be added in both private and Delhi Government hospitals."

The Health Minister said that 33 hospitals under the Delhi Government will have a 24-hour vaccine facility. Jain added that they are hopeful that the Central Government will take cognisance of the Chief Minister's proposal to roll out the vaccine to all. Delhi has sufficient doses of vaccines, said Jain.

While responding to a question about the positivity rate being above five per cent, Jain said, "So far, there is only one day where the positivity rate was more than five per cent. The trend needs to be monitored, and we are keeping a

close watch on it. Currently, the positivity rate has crossed the five per cent mark for the entire country," he said.

Responding to queries surrounding the details about the 24x7 functioning of vaccination centres in Delhi Government hospitals and the letter written by Chief Minister of Delhi to roll out the vaccine to the entire population barring the age limit, Jain said, "Vaccination sites in all 33 Delhi Government Hospitals will be functional for 24 hours. So far, only people above 45 years have been allowed to get the vaccination as per the protocol. The benefit of rolling out the vaccine to all is important as the young generation, although does not face problems, can act as carriers of the infection," he said.

Entry only for passengers exempted from night curfew, says DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the imposition of night curfew in Delhi, entry in Delhi Metro will be allowed from 10pm to 5am only to passengers who are exempted from night curfew as per Government order after verification of their valid identity cards.

DMRC also advises its users, who are not exempted to complete their journey and reach their destination by 10 pm.

The curfew will be in place between 10 pm and 5 am every day till 30 April.

Exploring options other than lockdown: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government is not considering imposing a lockdown in the national Capital and is exploring other alternatives it has, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Tuesday.

Rai also said that the Central Government should stop the export of the coronavirus vaccine and open up inoculation for everyone. "The Delhi Government is exploring all options and ideas. Night curfew has a role in

checking the spread of coronavirus... But the Government is not completely dependent on it," the Minister said during a Press conference.

"We are not considering enforcing a lockdown. I believe we can check the spread through other alternatives," he said.

Rai said the Central Government should open up vaccination for everyone to control the situation. "It is unfortunate that the Centre has set criteria to vaccinate our own people, while it is exporting vaccine to other countries," he said.

The minister also talked about how with the efforts of the government, Delhi's green cover surpassed the central government's target of 15,20,000 trees. "We have planted around 32 lakh trees and this is 210 per cent more than the designated target. The Central Government had set the target of an expanding 2338 hectares of green cover in Delhi, however, the Delhi government has increased the green cover upto 4654 hectares," he said.

Rai said, during the pandemic, the forest department identified 13 medicinal plants,

which were distributed for free in all areas of Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day. "The Central Ridge Forest had 423 acres of Videshi Kikar Plant which did not have any impact on purifying air, hence the Delhi Government aims to get rid of it and replace it with endemic plants," he added.

He said the Delhi Government has formed a committee that will work on replacing Vilayati Kikar trees with endemic plants by international standards; this work will take place under Delhi Ridge Project.

Maximise free job reach: Cong to city Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said the Delhi Government should ramp up the Covid-19 vaccination drive to give maximum job to people free of cost as this is the only solution to control surge of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Congress Delhi unit president said that imposing night curfew will not help in containing the virus but affect people economically who are already bearing the brunt



People wait for their turn to get vaccinated with vaccine at a Government healthcare centre in New Delhi on Tuesday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

"No one is in a position to face another economic meltdown as it had robbed lakhs of people of their jobs and livelihood last year," he said.

Kumar said that the marriage season will also start from 13 April, besides the Navratri festival and night curfew will create doubts and panic among the people as the Government is yet to spell out the manner in which night curfew will be enforced.

"It is the need of the hour was to focus on the vaccination drive by bringing in more people into the vaccination ambit and strictly enforce the test-tracing-treatment-sanitization route instead of wasting precious time on impractical pursuits

like night curfew," he said.

"There is also an urgent need to strengthen the infrastructure in hospitals as there is shortage of ICU beds and ventilators for Covid patients, increase in RT-PCR tests to one lakh per day to determine the exact extent of the virus spread, which has gone up from 2.71 per cent on 31 March to 5.54 per cent on 5 April, 2021.

He also expressed concern over increasing number of containment zones to 3090 by 5 April from 2009 on 31 March, 2021

Delhi civil defence volunteers clash with civilians over not wearing masks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A dramatic clash broke out in South Delhi on Monday afternoon, between Delhi Government's civil defence volunteers and passersby, as volunteers were carrying out a mask-checking exercise in the area. A cross case has been registered in the incident where three civil defence volunteers while a passerby sustained injuries.

The fine for not wearing a mask, as per Covid-19 norms, in public places and while driving is ₹ 2,000 in the national Capital, police said. These volunteers have no powers to impose fines but work in coordination with police to implement the norms.

Several videos, which surfaced online on social media, showed civil defence personnel and passersby coming to blows, with a clip showing one

of the personnel beating a man with a belt.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, a passerby, Gitesh, also got caught in the scuffle on Monday afternoon in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area and was hurt.

"Three vehicles were involved in the incident at the signal near IIT-Gate. Just when the traffic lights turned green, the Delhi Civil Defence volunteers stopped a car to penalise its driver for allegedly not wearing a mask. As a consequence, the driver suddenly applied the brakes and the next car, driven by Gitesh Dagar, also abruptly stopped. Dagar's car was hit from behind by another vehicle due to the sudden halting," said the DCP.

"Dagar came out of his car and argued with the Delhi Civil Defence employees following

which he was allegedly attacked with a belt by them. Pedestrians gathered at the spot and they along with Dagar allegedly attacked Delhi Civil Defence volunteers of whom three were injured and admitted to a hospital," said the DCP.

Police, however, said that the medico-legal reports of the injured persons are awaited. The statement of those injured is being recorded.

"Two First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered in connection with the incident. One of the FIRs was registered on the complaint of the Delhi Civil Defence volunteers and the other, on a complaint from Dagar. Action as per law is being taken in the matter and investigation in the cases is underway," said the DCP.

The Delhi High Court in February had reserved its decision on several pleas challenging the imposition of challan

for not wearing a mask while driving a private car alone.

Justice Prathiba M Singh had heard arguments on behalf of the Centre, Delhi government and the petitioners who were fined for not wearing a mask while driving alone in their respective vehicles.

Advocate Farman Ali Magray, appearing for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, had then submitted that the ministry has not issued any direction asking people to wear masks in a car when they are alone.

He had said health is a state subject and the Delhi government has to take a decision on it.

The Delhi government had told the court that wearing masks while driving an official or personal vehicle was made compulsory by way of an office order in April last year and it remained in force.

SDMC Commissioner convenes meeting to control vector-borne diseases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to control vector-borne diseases in the city, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti on Tuesday convened an inter-sectoral meeting and emphasised on cleaning of drains and water bodies in the city to stop mosquito breeding ahead of upcoming monsoon season.

The meeting was attended by representatives from South, South-West, South-East, West and New Delhi districts, Delhi Development Authority, Irrigation and Flood Control Departments (Delhi and UP), Delhi Jal Board, Archaeological Survey of India, Engineering and Public Health Department of SDMC.

The meeting was convened in light of very high mosquito density arising out of stagnant drains and water bodies filled with floating

material and hyacinth. All the concerned departments agreed to remove the floating material, hyacinth, de-silting in the time bound manner.

The Commissioner expressed his serious view towards irrigation departments since the problem is grave due to huge hyacinth spread over in the river Yamuna near Okhla Barrage and affecting the nearby colonies.

Meanwhile, SDMC's South Zone organised a five kilometres long Cyclothon, a cycle rally from SDMC Green Park office on the occasion of International Day of Sports for Development and Peace to make people aware about Covid-19 vaccination drive.

Bharti said that the SDMC has been running dozens of vaccination centres in all four zones. "We appeal to people above 45 years of age to get vaccinated as early as possible," he said.

Woman mows down elderly couple in Dwarka by car, identified

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An elderly couple was mowed down by a woman at Dwarka's Sector-11 area in the western part of the national Capital. Police said that the incident took place on Sunday evening.

The accused has been identified as Deepakshi Choudhary, a resident of Appu Enclave, Sector-11, Dwarka.

According to a senior police official, the woman claimed that she was thinking about something when the incident happened.

"She mowed down Anjana

Arora (62) and Shanti Swaroop Arora (79), both residents of Appu Enclave, Dwarka Sector-11," he said.

The incident was caught on CCTV camera which went viral on the social media.

In the video, one Baleno car hits the couple from backside. The car later ran over the victims. A woman, wearing a white top, comes out of the car, goes to the rear side of the vehicle and later calls somebody after taking her mobile phone from the car. Later, people gather at the spot. Nearby people come at the spot and try to rescue the victims by pushing the car. One of the victims is seen

lying at rear side of the vehicle.

A case under section 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 304A (Causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal code has been registered and the accused was arrested. The woman was later released on bail, a senior police officer said. Choudhary, who works at a multi-national company (MNC), was not under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. As per her claims, she was thinking about something during the accident, police said, adding that it is yet to be ascertained whether she was on phone at the time of the incident.

DTU's Lab on Wheels to educate students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Education Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated Delhi Technological University's new classroom complex "Pragya Bhawan". The project has been launched with an aim to educate the students of the Government school spread across the national Capital.

Launched under the "Education Reaches You" initiative of DTU, "Lab on Wheels" is a customized bus with 17 computers, two televisions, one 3D printer, cameras and one printer.

According to the proposal, the "Lab on Wheels" vehicle of Delhi Technological University (DTU) shall be visiting various Government schools of Delhi



for imparting education to the school students of various standards. "It will also be taken to educational institutes and other places which are associated with imparting education to the students," it said.

"Students of DTU will be deployed in the bus to give educational lectures, tutorials and teach the students of Delhi Government schools and under privileged children of the community.

At least 18 schools of Delhi Government have collaborated with DTU to participate in the outreach programme for guiding students in the domains of Maths and Science.

As part of this outreach programme, the "Lab on Wheels" initiative is launched on Tuesday so that students of DTU could guide and mentor Delhi Government school students and children in under-privileged communities in subjects of engineering and science and help them learn advanced technology.

Speaking on this unique initiative to educate and mentor students, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "It is our dream that our nation adopt various unique and inno-

vative approaches in the field of engineering, and the introduction of modern engineering courses at DTU will be relevant for the progress of our nation in the next 10 years."

The deputy chief minister further said that nobody would have thought that students of fine arts, humanities and languages could realise their dream of becoming engineers before the introduction of the Bachelor of Design course but DTU has made that dream possible.

"Today, students who aim to become engineers can do so without having background in science or mathematics. DTU's "Lab on Wheels" programme will also add joy in learning for our students studying in Delhi

Government Schools. It will act as an information and guidance cell for our students," he added.

Addressing mentor students of DTU, Sisodia said, "Delhi Government is planning to start an initiative to motivate students of Delhi Government schools and encourage them to stand on their feet and fulfil them. I wholeheartedly appreciate the volunteers of DTU, who under the 'Extension and Field Outreach Programme', will help 44 lakh Delhi Government School students to find their own path to explore and realise their dreams.

He also urged all the 14,000 students of DTU to become mentors for at least one student

so that students of Delhi Government schools can receive the best guidance to become future-ready and their dream of studying reputed courses like engineering can be fulfilled.

Sisodia said, "Only building school infrastructure will not be sufficient to bring a mass movement in education, we need to empower our educational institutions to set minimum benchmarks and take firm guarantees that all students who graduate from our institutions would be able to stand on their feet. Delhi Government will take stock of this and ensure that there are no barriers for institutions to encourage students to work hard with dedication."

Naravane calls for better synergy among 3 forces



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the threat of a two-front war simultaneously with China and Pakistan always looming, Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Tuesday India is "facing renewed challenges" along its borders. Keeping this in view, military officers undergoing training should keep themselves abreast of these developments, he said.

Making this observation in his lecture on "Developments along the Western and Northern Borders and their Impact on the Future Road Map of the Indian Army" at Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Tamil Nadu, he also focused on enhanced synergy and jointmanship amongst the Army, IAF and Navy.

"The (Army Chief) emphasised that the nation is facing renewed challenges along its borders and exhorted the students on the need to remain



NARAVANE WAS ON A TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE COLLEGE. THE LECTURE WAS DELIVERED TO THE FACULTY AND OFFICERS ATTENDING THE 76TH STAFF COURSE AT THE COLLEGE

abreast of all developments," said the Indian Army's statement.

Naravane was on a two-day visit to the college. The lecture was delivered to the faculty and officers attending the 76th staff course at the college.

Commandant of the College Lt General MJS Kahlon gave an update to Naravane on the ongoing training activities and incorporation of new initiatives with specific reference to professional military training on "jointmanship" among

the three services, the Army's statement said.

The Army Chief was briefed on the changes being undertaken in the training curriculum and infrastructural development as a step towards enhancing the role of DSSC as a centre of excellence for professional military education, it noted.

He complimented the college for maintaining a very high state of training in spite of COVID-19 pandemic constraints, the statement said.

Rafale kickback case

Rahul takes a dig at BJP, says karma is ledger of one's action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a swipe at the Government over the Rafale fighter jet deal, saying karma is the ledger of one's action and no one can escape from it. He said this after a French media report claimed that 1.1 million Euros was paid to a "middleman" by the aircraft manufacturer, a charge that was denied by the BJP as baseless.

While Rahul has been continuously attacking the Modi Government on the Rafale defence deal, the latest response comes a day after his party demanded a fresh investigation into the Rafale deal.

"Karma = The ledger of one's actions. Nobody escapes it," he tweeted with the hashtag #Rafale.

The French portal — Mediapart — had reported that France's anti-corruption agency, Agence Française Anticorruption (AFA), found aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation had paid one million to an Indian company in the ₹7.87 billion Rafale deal between India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

and France. Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said the entire Rafale episode now require a full and independent investigation into India's biggest defence deal to find out as to how much bribery and commission in reality.

"If any, whom was the bribe paid and to whom in the Indian Government? Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi answer to the nation now," asked Surjewala at a Press conference.

"How can middleman and payment of commission be permitted in a Government-to-Government defence contract or in any defence procurement in India in violation of the mandatory Defence Procurement Procedure," Surjewala added.

Centre rejects Delhi, Maha's 'job for all call', says shots for needy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Almost rejecting requests of two non-BJP ruled States' Chief Ministers—Delhi and Maharashtra—seeking relaxation over age limit for the vaccine, the Centre on Tuesday ruled out Covid-19 vaccination for all, stressing that the aim is not to administer the shot to "those who want it but to those who need it so as to prevent deaths and protect the healthcare system".

During a press conference here, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that many people are asking why isn't the Government opening up vaccination for all those above 18 years.

Bhushan said that even Western countries have conducted the vaccination drive in phases.

"The basic aim is to reduce death through vaccination. The other aim is to protect your healthcare system. If healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics and others fall sick, who will work in hospitals? So the aim, for any country, is to protect those who are the most vulnerable. The aim is never to administer the vaccine to those who want it but to those who need it," Bhushan said.

NITI Aayog member (Narrative) Dr V K Paul said the narrative has to be seen in a scientific way. He questioned, "When we talk about opening vaccination to all, our focus reduces on controlling the pandemic. Did you hear of any country that is vaccinating less than 45?"

So far, nobody doing vaccine research has shown that if given on this scale, it leads to herd immunity, he said, adding that it is not yet scientifically proven.

"What we know so far is that all vaccines that are being used, including the two being used in India reduce mortality, severity of the disease, protect lives and keeping that in mind priority groups have been decided," Dr Paul said.

He said that priority groups have been decided who are vulnerable to mortality.

"Because history will only remember how many deaths have taken place. Globally, the vaccine is finite," Dr Paul underlined. Talking about vaccines, the Health secretary said, "We administered 43 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine in 24 hours yesterday, which is a record. As a result of today morning, we admin-

Get vaccinated, Centre urges all eligible staffers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To prevent the spread of coronavirus, the Central Government on Tuesday urged all its eligible employees to get vaccinated.

"All Central Government employees of the age of 45 years and above are advised to get themselves vaccinated so as to effectively contain the spread of COVID-19," said the order issued to all the Central Government ministries and departments. Starting from 1 April, those who are above 45 years of age, have been allowed to take Covid-19 vaccines.

The employees have been advised to continue following Covid-appropriate behaviour even after vaccination by frequent washing of hands and sanitisation, wearing a mask or face cover and observing social distancing, etc, an order issued by the personnel ministry stated.

"The Government has

been monitoring the situation very closely, and based on the strategy adopted for prioritising the groups for vaccination to contain the spread of COVID-19, currently, all persons of the age of 45 years and above can participate in the vaccination exercise," it said.

The Central Government had earlier said that the two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be given at an interval of 28 days. The second dose of Covishield can be given up to eight weeks after the first, the Union health ministry said in a statement on Monday. However, the increased interval does not apply to Covaxin.

The Government had granted emergency use authorisation to two COVID-19 vaccines — Pune-based Serum Institute of India's Covishield and Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Ltd's Covaxin which are being used in the Government's vaccination drive.

istered 8.31 crores doses of the vaccine".

The officers also referred to guidelines in countries like America, Australia and UK for phase-wise vaccination. "The UK had 9 different groups in its phases. Switzerland is vaccinating only those above 65," Dr Paul said, adding, "When our history is written our deaths will be the most important count."

The Indian Medical Association had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting that vaccination be allowed for all people above the age of 18 years.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Maharashtra counterpart Uddhav Thackeray too on Monday requested Modi to relax the age limit for the vaccination.

Transport body fears disruption in services after Covid curbs by States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), the umbrella body of transporters, representing about 95 lakh truckers and entities on Tuesday said it fears disruptions in services due to restrictions imposed by several States, including Maharashtra and Delhi, due to surge in coronavirus cases and demanded hassle-free goods movement.

"The transporters who have already experience the hassles of the previous lockdown era are a worried lot. They fear that fresh lockdown will now lead to disarray in transportation-related activities, leading to mounting fears that it will cripple the supply chain of the states, especially in Maharashtra," AIMTC said in a statement.

The statement comes in the wake of state governments including Maharashtra, Punjab and Delhi imposing restrictions and issuing guidelines to contain the out-break amid a surge in cases in various parts of the country. The new restrictions include night curfews, weekend lockdowns and daytime prohibitions, to control the spread of the disease.

"The trucks are not allowed to step inside Mumbai before 9 pm, while offices are supposed to be shut down by 8 pm. This has led to major problems in same-day dispatches and also added to the existing grievances of the transporters. The Transportation business mainly starts after 8.00 pm, when trucks are allowed in the city for loading and unloading," AIMTC said.

The new guidelines have put a curb on traffic timings, which is leading to major delays in transportation and expiry of e-way bills in many a cases, it said adding, this is attracting huge penalties.

EC seizes ₹948 crore cash, liquor from 5 States till 3rd phase of polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has seized unaccounted cash, liquors, narcotics and freebies including precious stones worth ₹948 crore from the five States till third phase of polling on April 6, 2021. The amount is 4.198 times more than the total combined seizure of ₹226 crore in 2016 Assembly polls.

According to the EC, cash worth ₹331.56 crore, precious metals worth ₹266.82 crore, 8103.37 kg narcotics worth ₹156.81 crore, 4364510.03 litre liquor worth ₹73.81 crore and freebies of ₹119.03 crore was seized from the five states—West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Assam and Bengal are among the top states where a huge quantity of liquor was seized.



The data shows the surveillance agencies have seized Rs 82.84 crore from Kerala which include unaccounted cash worth Rs 22.64 crore; precious metals worth Rs 49.21 crore; 812.01 kg narcotics worth Rs 4 crore and 67542 litre liquor in West Bengal so far. The amount is more than the total seizure of Rs 26.13 crore in 2016.

In West Bengal, the total

seizure was calculated worth Rs 263.15 crore so far as compared to Rs Rs 44.33 crore in 2016 assembly polls.

This include Rs 40.27 crore (unaccounted cash); Rs 10.28 crore (precious metal); Rs 115.89 crore (255 kg narcotics which include ganja, heroine, charas) and 1935455 litre liquor.

The authorities have seized Rs 445.81 crore so far from

Tamil Nadu as compared to Rs 130.99 crore in 2016 Assembly polls. As per the data, the EC has seized unaccounted cash worth Rs 236.51 crore; precious metal worth Rs 176.22 crore; freebies worth Rs 25.64 crore and 289618 litre liquor.

The agencies have made total seizure of Rs 119.29 crore from Assam as compared to Rs 16.58 crore in 2016. As per data, 204249 litre liquor was seized in Assam during the third phase of polls.

The total seizure in Puducherry is Rs 36.89 crore this election as compared to Rs 7.74 crore during the previous elections.

"A total 4606 Flying Squads (FS) and 4670 Static Surveillance Teams (SST) were operationalised to check movement of cash, liquor, drugs & freebies in these states/UT closely supervised by DEOs, Expenditure observers in Districts and Special observers. A total 19 Air Intelligence Units (AIU) of IT Department are also set at different stations in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry," the EC said.

EC suspends 3 poll officials in Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the crucial third phase of elections in West Bengal, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday suspended three officers, including a sector officer and two assistant sector officers in West Bengal's Uluberia Uttar constituency, after it was found that he slept over at the home of a local Trinamool Congress leader with four Electronic Voting Machines and a similar number of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT) machines.

The EC has also suspended Sujoy Chakraborty of CID, WB, deputised to Howrah Rural for law and order duties and three home guards, for gross negligence in performing duties of sector police officer.

"Whereas Tapan Kumar Sarkar, RI, BL&LRO-Uluberia-II, who was appointed as Sector

Officer and Sanjib Majumdar, Amin, BL&LRO, Uluberia-II & Mithun Chakraborty, Tax Collector, Basudevpur GP as Assistant Sector Officers of Sector 17, 177-Uluberia Uttar AC in connection with General Elections to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, 2021, switched off their GPS tracking and exhibited gross violation of EC's instructions by taking the reserve EVMs to their relatives' house on 05.04.2021, as reported by the Returning Officer, 177-Uluberia Uttar AC, I, the District Election Officer, Howrah hereby suspend Tapan Kumar Sarkar, Sanjib Majumdar and Mithun Chakraborty with immediate effect and recom mend for immediate disciplinary proceedings against them," DM and District Election Officer Suman Saha said in its order.

In its order, the EC said,

"Tapan Sarkar, sector officer of Sector 17 in AC 177 Uluberia Uttar at Howrah District went with Reserve EVM and slept at a relative's house. This is a gross violation of EC's instructions for which the Sector Officer has been suspended and charges will be framed for major punishment." The poll body has said that one of the machines was a reserved EVM, which has been removed from the election process for the assembly elections. The said EVM and VVPAT have been taken out of the stock and shall not be used in the polls, said the poll body. General Observer Neeraj Pawan has checked the intactness of all the seals on the EVMs, which are now stored in a separate room in the observer's custody.

Reacting to the incident, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said that "yet another TMC attempt

has been exposed". He said that the issue of EVM machines being recovered from the TMC leader's residence might prove to be "bigger" than it currently seems, and demanded there

be a full inquiry of the machines that have been recovered. Uluberia Uttar is one of the 31 constituencies in the state which went to polls on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Sarkar said that he brought four EVMs to the home of TMC leader Goutam Ghosh in Uluberia's Tulsiberia area since the office of the block development officer was occupied by police personnel. The accused official said he wanted to take rest and carried the machines with him as keeping them in the car would have been riskier. BJP candidate in Uluberia Uttar, Chintan Bera, has dismissed Sarkar's version of events and claimed that the TMC intended to "loot votes". Locals gheraoed the home of the Trinamool leader and protested against the block development officer when he visited the site.

The EVM incident in Bengal comes close on the heels of an EVM being found inside the car of Assam BJP candidate Krishnendu Paul soon after the conclusion of the second phase of assembly election in the state. Four polling officers were suspended in the incident while repolling was ordered at Ratabari polling booth in Patharkandi Assembly constituency.

Multiple myeloma: Advanced treatments a good reason for optimism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Raj Kapahi (62) who had been for the past ten years living with Multiple Myeloma (MM), a type of blood cancer that adversely impacts plasma (white blood cells) production in the body, is now back to her normal routine and living a healthy life.

Senior haematologist Dr Rahul Bhargava from Institute of Blood Disorder, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram along with his team conducted the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) on the J&K resident. They used Kapahi's own cells for transplant, thereby reducing the chances of rejection and infections.

MM is a type of cancer that arises from plasma cells in case they start dividing uncontrollably and spread abnormally in the body. Myeloma can present with various symptoms with the most common being unexplained renal failure, back pain with broken bones as well as long term anaemia, fatigue and infections in the urine. Doctors say that cancerous myeloma can be destructive to the bones.

The disease has been in the news recently when actor and Lok Sabha MP, Kirron Kher, 68 has been found to be suffering from MM. She is recovering well, says her doctors.

Dr. Pravas Mishra, Director, Hemato-Oncology & BMT, Max Hospital added, currently, we are seeing nearly one to two myeloma cases for every 100,000. So, that translates to about 50,000 new cases of multiple myeloma every year and that might be just the tip of the iceberg considering that a large number of



Actress and MP Kirron Kher was recently diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Pioneer photo

live very easy for patients to live with myeloma"

Dr Mishra too talked about some of the available options for the treatment of MM. "We are using immunomodulatory drugs. So, those are not exactly chemotherapy... and then recently we have now started using monoclonal antibodies in multiple myeloma as well. The number of molecules are simply mind-boggling. So, if you start with treatment, you do a transplant and if the person still relapses, there is a possibility of giving him/her a new molecule, bring him back into remission and then again do a transplant."

Dr. Lalit Kumar, Oncologist from Department of Medical Oncology, Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, AIIMS, Delhi too in an article published last year in a journal said, "survival of patients with myeloma has improved significantly in the past two decades. This has been attributed to a better understanding of biology, the introduction of novel agents (immunomodulators, proteasome inhibitors), autologous stem cell transplantation, and maintenance therapy. Supportive care is an important component of overall care for these patients.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 09/UH/VENP-T/11/M/2020-21 DATED 09/03/2021	PART-1 DATE OF SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 15.04.2021	8053428343 cerm@uhbvsn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 2484

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR OF BOXING ARENA AND ITS PARKING AT TAU DEVILAL STADIUM SECTOR 38 GURUGRAM	05.04.2021 26.04.2021	0.177 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	xen3infr1.gmda@gov.in
2	GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY HISAR	SUPPLY OF MATERIAL FOR CIVIL STORE AT GJUS&T, HISAR.	07.04.2021 29.04.2021	40000/-	http://www.gjust.ac.in	01662-263105 uwdgjuhrs@gmail.com
3	GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY GURUGRAM	MANPOWER SERVICES ON OUTSOURCE BASIS	06.04.2021 28.04.2021		www.gurugramuniversity.ac.in	9911191350 gurugramuniversitypro@gmail.com
4	GMDA GURUGRAM	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE SCHEME "CONSTRUCTION OF PATH/ BRIDGE OVER BADSHAHPUR DRAIN TO CARRY OUT MACHINERIES FOR MAINTENANCE OF CULTVERT ON NH- 48, GURUGRAM" AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO RE-INVITED	06.04.2021 27.04.2021	2.06 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	xen2infr2.gmda@gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 2482

BENGAL PHASE-3 POLLS

2 killed, nominees beaten up

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ CANNING/RAIDIGHI/FALTA

The curse of electoral violence continued to bluish Bengal even as sporadic clashes and complaints of rigging marked the third round of the 8-phase Assembly elections. A total number of 31 seats in three districts of Howrah, Hooghly and South 24 Parganas went to polls on Tuesday.

In what looked like anything but a good advertisement for peaceful polling two persons were murdered, many others injured --- in intermittent clashes --- and no less than seven candidates were brutally roughed up by supporters of rival parties. So much so that, Dr Nirmal Maji a sitting TMC MLA was seen approaching a polling booth with a crash helmet on.

Notwithstanding the day-long tumult the third phase of elections recorded an appreciable 80 percent of polling when reports came in at 5 pm. The poll percentage could go up by 3-4 percent considering the long queues of voters still standing outside many polling booths, Election Commission officials said.

While Hooghly recorded 79.36 percent polling, it was

77.93 for Howrah. About 76.68 percent voters voted in South 24 Parganas.

The first news of bloodshed came in from Goghat in Hooghly district where Madhavi Adak the mother of Piru Adak, a BJP worker was killed by alleged Trinamool Congress supporters when she went to save her son from his attackers. The postmortem report however showed no bodily injuries, sources said. One person was reportedly arrested in the incident, police said.

Body of another BJP supporter was recovered at Dubrajpur in Birbhum district where polling would however take place at a later date. The police had to fire tear gas shells after the BJP supporters pelted stones at them following the incident.

In an unprecedented development at least seven candidates were physically attacked and in some cases their security officers were injured while trying to save them during the election day on Tuesday.

A rare scene to be witnessed in the past 10 years of Trinamool Congress rule, a TMC candidate Sujata Mandal Khan was attacked thrice in Arambagh constituency by alleged BJP supporters even as

she went to ensure fair polling. The TMC candidate was chased away past a paddy field by charging saffron workers, she claimed, adding her PSO was given a fractured head and she was hit by a bamboo and dried muds.

Her estranged husband and BJP MP Soumitra Khan said "Sujata might have been rounded up by the local villagers who were not given to vote for the past 10 years ... they were perhaps venting their anger."

At nearby Tarakeswar Arindam Chakrabarty the polling agent of BJP candidate Swapan Dasgupta was attacked by alleged TMC goons, the saffron leadership claimed, adding Chakrabarty suffered fractured head after he was beaten with a bamboo.

In neighbouring Khanakul TMC candidate Najbul Karim was reportedly beaten up by alleged ISF supporters when he went to inquire about reported booth capturing. He had to literally flee away from the area.

At Uluberia North constituency in neighbouring Howrah district sitting TMC MLA was geroaed by the BJP supporters. Stones were pelted at his vehicle even as the ruling party politician was escort-

ed to safety with his crash helmet on. In adjacent Uluberia South seat BJP candidate and film actor Papiya Adhikary was roughed up by alleged TMC men when she went to see an injured party worker at the general hospital. "I was hit on the head and could have been murdered but for the security staff," the saffron candidate said.

A sector officer was suspended by the Election Commission after a set of electronic voting machines (EVM) were recovered from the house of a local TMC leader. The officials said that he had taken the EVM to that house as the sector office was closed and that he did not know that it was the house of a TMC leader. All the machines were sent out of operation by the EC, sources said.

On the other bank of the Hooghly River in South 24 Parganas where 16 seats are up for the grab intermittent bombings and booth-capturing were reported from various places. While at Falta BJP candidate Bidhab Parui was attacked by TMC candidates when he went to inquire about booth capturing in Sarai Lavarua, a resident of Sarai Lavarua, used to work in a textile factory in Delhi. After coming home on Diwali, he started working as a laborer in the city itself.

Didi admits loss by blaming EC, fractured Muslim voters: Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

War of words intensified between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with latter asking the "mothers and sisters of Bengal" to "unite" against a prejudiced Election Commission and Central forces which are "working in favour of the BJP".

Referring to Banerjee's repeated refrains of a bias EC and faltering Muslim votes, Modi on Tuesday said that, "it was the same Election Commission which earned praise from Mamata Didi for its role in earlier elections that brought her to power in Bengal, it was the same central forces that ensured free and fare election when she threw out the Left Front Government and it was the same electronic voting machines (EVMs) that functioned during her victory and now the same ECI, the same CPF and the same EVMs have become a villain for her... she is wasting no opportunity to attack the Commission and central forces."

The Prime Minister was addressing an election rally at Coochbehar in North Bengal.

Saying that the Chief Minister's repeated appeal to the Muslims not to let their votes divided only meant that she was expecting a defeat in the elections. He said, "Didi, recently you said all Muslims should unite so that their votes do not get divided. You are saying this because you know that even the Muslims have deserted you... they have also turned away their face from you... Didi you are losing in the elections."

By roundly accepting the elections the Chief Minister had hit a same-side goal he said. "Didi, people say you play football a lot. In football there is a same side goal... You have scored a self-goal in the field of elections. You yourself have accepted the truth... now your khela is shesh (your game is over)"

The minority population comprising about 30 percent of the total votes has been the electoral mainstay of Banerjee's Trinamool Congress ever since

she came to power dislodging the Left Front in 2011.

However, the Chief Minister this time round the Chief Minister has been receiving a tough challenge from Abbasuddin Siddique a Muslim cleric from Furfura Sharief the largest congregation of the Bengali Muslims in Bengal. Siddique's newly launched party Indian Secular Front has not only won the support of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen or AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi but also he has stitched up an alliance with the Left-Congress detente. Banerjee has been calling the Left-Congress-ISF alliance "more dangerous than a cobra," which is "funded by the BJP".

Saying that the way the Chief Minister attacked the ECI and the way she would play the minority card "... had we been in your place and had we asked the Hindus so openly to vote for us then then we would have received 10 notices from the EC."

The Chief Minister who was holding a rally at Kanchin in North Bengal said that it was at the behest of the BJP leadership and the complacency of the ECI that TMC candidates were being attacked all over Bengal.

We have already seen 7-8 murders in the State in which four of our men have been killed," she said adding "the EC is doing nothing about this."

"They have seriously injured on our Scheduled Caste candidate Sujata, while she was visiting a booth to ensure that there is no rigging by the BJP men. They also attacked our Khanakul candidate Najbul Karim.

The CPF is acting on their advice and stopping our MLA and candidate Shaukat Molla from entering a booth in Canning East constituency... We have numerous such instances to show how our candidates are being attacked and the central forces and ECI is doing nothing."

Banerjee said asking the "mothers and sisters" to "unite against the arbitrary actions of the central forces... resist them if they come to stop you from voting."

There will be zero political interference in police matters: Maha new HM



Maharashtra's new Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil with his predecessor Anil Deshmukh, talking to mediapersons at Mantralaya in south Mumbai on Tuesday, after taking charge of the office from Deshmukh

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Aware of the allegations of "excessive interference" in the functioning faced by his immediate predecessor Anil Deshmukh, Maharashtra's new Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil said here on Tuesday that there would be "zero political interference" in matters relating to the police administration in the State.

Talking to media persons here soon after assuming the charge as new State Home Minister, Walse-Patil said: "I will ensure a clean police administration and there will be no political interference from my side".

Walse-Patil said that he had taken up the responsibility as the State Home Minister "at a very difficult and challenging period" in the state with several crises confronting the MVA government

Walse-Patil, who was named late on Monday night as Deshmukh's successor, said: "It is a very important responsibility... I will try and live up to the expectations".

Deshmukh had resigned as the Maharashtra Home late on Monday afternoon, after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

"Everyone has different expectations. My focus will be the common man... the common man should trust the police force," Walse-Patil said.

A seven time MLA who had earlier headed excise and labour ministries in the Uddhav Thackeray Cabinet, Walse-Patil said: "I have just taken over... will look at each and every thing."

Sixty-four-old Walse-Patil said that the Covid-19 pandemic was a big challenge given that "the entire force is in the streets".

"The police force is working actively on the ground due to the Coronavirus pandemic. They have to maintain not only law and order but also help enforce the Covid restrictions. Besides, this month there are festivals like Gudi Padwa, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti and the start of the Ramadan month," Walse-Patil said.

Walse-Patil, who was a Speaker in the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker in the past, said that there was perfect coordination among the three ruling alliance partners - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress "Together we are running the government," he said.

Walse-Patil also said that the Maharashtra government would challenge the Bombay High Court's order instituting a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the charges of corruption made against Deshmukh by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Body of youth found hanging at house in Aligarh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

On Tuesday, a young man died under suspicious circumstances at Sarai Hakim of Bannadevi. The body of the young man was found hanging on the noose on the second floor and his hands were tied. Family has accused of murder. The police is investigating in the case.

25-year-old Rohit Kumar son of Sarai Lavarua, a resident of Sarai Lavarua, used to work in a textile factory in Delhi. After coming home on Diwali, he started working as a laborer in the city itself.

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

NIT No./e-tender No.-2021_MPHID_138687 Date : 08.04.2021

Request for Proposal for Selection of Developer for "RE-DENSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT RAJASWA COLONY UNDER RE-DENSIFICATION SCHEME OF GOMP"

Government of Madhya Pradesh through M.P. Housing & Infrastructure Development Board, (MPHIDB) intends to carry out "Re-Densification of Government Land At Rajaswa Colony, Ujjain and Construction of Government facilities" under Re-densification Scheme of GOMP. MPHIDB intends to appoint a Developer for Construction and Development of these Government Facilities.

The selected Developer will be provided "Land-Ownership Rights" on Compensatory Land Parcel (CLP) admeasuring 7257.00 Sqm situated at Rajaswa Colony, Ujjain, as per RFP Documents. The prospective bidders have to quote for the Premium for "Land-Ownership Rights" on the CLP. The Bidder quoting Highest Premium will be selected as Developer for the Project by competent authority. The selected Developer has to pay the quoted Premium partly in monetary terms and partly in kind in the form of cost of construction, development, handing over and transfer of the Government Facilities as per provisions of the RFP Document. MPHIDB, invites bids from reputed & experienced entities for Selection of a Developer for the Project, through transparent online bidding process. RFP documents can be downloaded and purchased from online e-tender portal <https://mptenders.gov.in>.

RFP Document Cost	Rs. 50,000.00 + GST
Online sale of RFP Document	15.04.2021 to 17.05.2021
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	26.04.2021
Bid Security	Rs. 34.75 Lakhs
Estimated Cost of Government Facilities	Rs. 3871.94 Lakhs + GST
Reserve Price of CLP	Rs. 6950.00 Lakhs

Complete bid can be submitted online by 17.05.2021 up to 17.30 Hrs. through the online e-tender portal <https://mptenders.gov.in>.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS ON PETITIONS FOR TRUE-UP OF EXPENSES OF FY 2019-20 AND AGGREGATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT (ARR) & TARIFF FOR FY 2021-22 FILED BY GENERATION COMPANIES, TRANSMISSION LICENSEE AND DISTRIBUTION LICENSEES

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India (GoI) vide its DO letter No.40-34/2020-DM-I(A) dated 19/03/2021 has indicated that after steady decline in COVID-19 cases for about 5 months, for the last few weeks, the number of COVID cases are increasing in several parts of the country. Further, it has been urged to Chief Secretaries of all States that keeping in view the fresh surge of cases and upcoming festivals, it will be important to ensure compliance of the Guidelines and to strictly enforce COVID appropriate behaviour, such as wearing of Face Masks, Hand Hygiene and Social Distancing among people.
- Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI have indicated on their website that COVID-19 cases are increasing on daily basis.
- In view of above, it has been decided that Public Hearing will be conducted Virtually for issuance of Tariff Orders related to True up of FY 2019-20 & ARR of FY 2021-22. The virtual Public Hearing will be held from 15/04/2021 to 20/04/2021 (except Saturday & Sunday). The registration process, schedule, time slots etc. will be uploaded on the DERC website shortly. The stakeholders are requested to visit DERC website in this regard.
- Further, considering the request from various Stakeholders, the last date of submission of comments/suggestions on the said Tariff Petitions which was earlier till 26/03/2021 has been extended till 20/04/2021. The comments may be submitted personally or by post or through e-mail to the Commission. The comments can also be e-mailed to the Secretary, DERC at the email address secy@derc.nic.in.

Sd/- Secretary
Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission
DIP/Shabdarth/0008/21-22

MoS Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria discharged after Covid treatment



New Delhi: Union Minister of State Jal Shakti, Social Justice & Empowerment, Rattan Lal Kataria has been discharged from Medanta Hospital in Gurugram (Haryana). It is noteworthy that Union Minister of State Shri Ratanlal Kataria was infected with Covid-19. He was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for treatment after infection of Covid-19. He was discharged after 10 days of treatment in Medanta Hospital. The Union Minister of state will stay for a few days at his official residence in New Delhi.

Covid strikes IIT Patna, 18 students +ve

Patna: The second wave of Covid-19 is spreading at a rapid pace in Bihar with the State reporting 935 new cases across 38 districts in the last 24 hours.

Of these, the state capital alone reported 432 cases, including 18 students testing positive at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna, located on the outskirts of the city in the Bihta sub-town.

Confirming the development, the registrar of IIT Patna said that two students returned to the campus after the Holi holidays on Sunday and tested positive for the virus.

"As per the Covid protocols, we conducted RT-PCR test on those two students and their reports returned positive. Following that, we conducted 41 more tests on students staying in the hostel where the duo stayed. Of these, 16 reports

returned positive on Tuesday," the registrar said.

"We have converted the hostel into a quarantine centre. Besides, we have also turned the academic building into a quarantine facility for the suspected students. Educational activities on the campus have been suspended for a week," he added.

Earlier, Amrit Pratay, the principal health secretary of Bihar, had said that the health department had conducted 72,418 tests till Monday evening, of which 935 were found to be positive across the state.

"The second wave of Corona is spreading at a more rapid pace as compared to last year. It is more dangerous than Phase 1. We have added 10 ICU beds in AIIMS Patna, taking the total number of ICU beds to 30. IANS

Kerala records 74 per cent polling till 7 pm

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala recorded 74 per cent polling till 7 pm in the election held to the State Legislature on Tuesday. The single phase saw isolated attacks allegedly unleashed by the CPI(M) cadre on BJP activists at many assembly constituencies in the State.

There were widespread impersonation and casting of fake votes in many constituencies according to Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of Opposition and many BJP leaders. He said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has been cursed by Lord Ayyappa for vandalizing the sanctum sanctorum of Sabarimala.

"Kerala is in for a change of government. There will be a change of government once the results are announced," said A K Antony, former Chief Minister and former defense minister. Speaking to media after casting his vote at the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram Antony said the violence resorted to by the CPI(M) was an indication of their restlessness and sense of fear arising out of an impending defeat.

Kazhakoottam, a constituency that saw high pitch campaign had to bear the brunt of violence as BJP cadre were assaulted by persons allegedly belonging to the CPI(M). Many women voters were driven away by the attackers as the police stood in mute silence.

Kadakkampalli Surenthran Kerala's minister for Temple Administration is engaged in a high pitch battle with BJP's

Shobha Surendran at Kazhakoottam. The rivalry between the two was so intense that the Congress candidate was relegated to the third place.

Hari Kartha, political commentator based in Thiruvananthapuram said there would be a change of government in the State and the Congress-led UDF had gained upper hand by the morning of Tuesday. "The CPI(M) wore a picture of helplessness by Tuesday morning. We could feel the anti-incumbency feeling from the body language of the voters as well as that of the CPI(M) leaders," said Kartha.

True to his words, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his brief interaction with the media at Kannur said that people belonging to all sectors were with the LDF. "Even Ayyappa and his disciples have joined the LDF," said Vijayan.

P Rajan, historian of Kerala's politics, too said that the LDF was on its way out. "Their arrogance cost them this election. But how much the UDF would benefit out of this is to be debated as the anti-CPI(M) votes are likely to go to the BJP this time. The Hindutwa party had established a commanding presence in the campaign and if they manage to win at least five seats, it would be at the cost of LDF and the UDF," said Rajan.

Reports from Kannur, the home district of Chief Minister Vijayan, which is a bastion of the CPI(M) gave enough indications of group fighting in the party resulting out of denial of seats to many Marxist stalwarts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

INTRODUCTION OF NEW HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN GODDA & NEW DELHI

It is notified for information of general public that new weekly 'Humsafar' Special Express train between Godda & New Delhi will be inaugurated on 08.04.2021. The Train number and Time-Table of the inaugural run is as under:-

TIMINGS OF INAUGURAL RUN OF HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN (WEEKLY)

02307 GODDA - NEW DELHI HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN (WEEKLY)

Train No.:	02307	↓	STATIONS
ARR.	DEP.		
---	15:00		GODDA
15:30	15:32		PRAYAHAT
15:57	16:27		HANSDIHA
16:52	16:54		MANDARHILL
17:16	17:18		BARAHAT
18:55	19:30		BHAGALPUR
20:00	20:01		SULTANGANJ
20:32	20:37		JAMALPUR JN
20:56	20:57		ABHAIPUR
22:10	22:15		KIUL JN
23:32	23:34		NAWADAH
01:30	01:35		GAYA JN
02:38	02:40		SASARAM
04:00	04:10		PT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN
06:10	06:20		PRAYAGRAJ JN
08:40	08:45		KANPUR CENTRAL
15:20	---		NEW DELHI

DAYS OF RUN: 02307 from Godda on 08.04.2021 (Thursday).
ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC.

Regular running of Humsafar Special Express Train will start as per the schedule given below:-

TIMINGS OF REGULAR RUN OF HUMSAFAR WEEKLY SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN

02349/02350 GODDA - NEW DELHI - GODDA HUMSAFAR SPECIAL EXPRESS (WEEKLY)

Train No.:	02349	↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No.:	02350
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	12:40		GODDA		00:45	---
13:10	13:12		PRAYAHAT		00:10	00:12
13:37	14:07		HANSDIHA		23:15	23:45
14:32	14:34		MANDARHILL		22:47	22:49
14:56	14:58		BARAHAT		21:57	21:59
16:35	17:30		BHAGALPUR		20:00	20:30
18:00	18:01		SULTANGANJ		19:14	19:15
18:32	18:37		JAMALPUR JN		18:40	18:45
18:56	18:57		ABHAIPUR		18:08	18:09
20:00	20:05		KIUL JN		17:40	17:45
21:22	21:24		NAWADAH		15:08	15:10
23:20	23:25		GAYA JN		13:25	13:30
00:28	00:30		SASARAM		11:57	11:59
01:50	02:00		PT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN		10:50	11:00
04:00	04:10		PRAYAGRAJ JN		08:10	08:20
06:30	06:35		KANPUR CENTRAL		05:35	05:45
12:35	---		NEW DELHI		---	---

DAYS OF RUN: 02349 from Godda on Monday from 19.04.21 to 28.06.21 and 02350 from New Delhi on Tuesday from 20.04.21 to 29.06.21.
ACCOMMODATION: 3 Tier AC.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Veil of morality

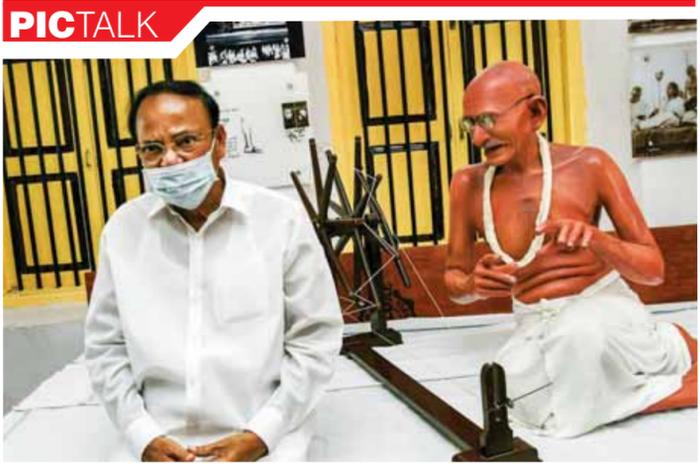
It is difficult to believe that Anil Deshmukh discovered morality only after the HC order

Anil Deshmukh, who resigned as the Maharashtra Home Minister hours after the Bombay High Court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out a preliminary inquiry into the allegations of grave corruption against him, seems to be driven by compulsion rather than "moral obligation". Had it really been on "moral grounds" as proclaimed, the resignation would have come much sooner; also, the image of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government would not have then taken such a severe beating. However, instead of reprimanding Deshmukh over the serious charges, his mentor and NCP chief Sharad Pawar tried to shield his blue-eyed boy, saying that he need not step down. Moreover, he went to the extent of shamelessly asserting that he has proof of Deshmukh's "innocence". All along, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray chose to keep mum, which only shows the clout Pawar and the NCP enjoy in the MVA Government. It also reveals the Catch-22 situation the Shiv Sena chief was caught in — he couldn't seek Deshmukh's resignation as the NCP is the dominant partner, nor could he defend his Cabinet colleague as that would have meant openly compromising with corruption. However, the CM's silence has done more damage to the image of his Government than Deshmukh has repaired with his resignation. The resignation comes too late in the day to consider it based on



"moral grounds". Even the Supreme Court, hearing former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh's plea seeking a CBI probe into the matter, termed it "quite serious" and asked Singh to approach the Bombay High Court. But Deshmukh still didn't feel any "moral obligation", the reason he now cites.

Well, the ball is now in the CBI's court. The agency will now investigate the matter and conclude the preliminary inquiry within 15 days, after which the CBI director shall decide the course of action. With the latest development, Deshmukh now finds himself on the CBI's radar — the agency which, the Opposition alleges, follows the Centre's diktats; and an allegation that the Centre vociferously refutes. And if the agency functions independently, without any fear or favour to any interested party, it might translate into serious trouble brewing for the NCP, the MVA Government and, of course, for Deshmukh. However, it is also quite likely that for the larger cause of saving the State Government and keeping the party's interests alive while successfully saving face, the NCP itself decides to make Deshmukh the scapegoat, just the way he apparently treated Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze and the former Mumbai Police Commissioner. Whether the CBI will tighten the noose on him or Deshmukh will win a clean chit and reprieve, only time will tell. However, on a separate note, in this age when corruption is at the centre of almost all administrative and executive functioning with hardly any morality truly left in political leaders, only the courts are a source of some relief for the harried and worried citizenry.



Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu at the Saifee Villa in Dandi

PTI

Good, bad & ugly

The Delhi Govt's decisions to fight COVID-19 range from the sensible to the ludicrous

In the past few hours, the AAP-led Delhi Government has made a couple of major announcements — one quite important and people-friendly, and the other equally flip-pant and pointless. Its first decision pertains to doubling the hours for COVID-19 vaccination. This is undoubtedly a welcome step because lakhs of people in the city are forced to travel long distances on work or for other businesses, which allows them little time to get themselves inoculated even if they be otherwise eligible to receive the injection. Amid the swift increase in the number of active cases, such people would now have an opportunity to get themselves fortified against the virus while, at the same time, making even if a small dent in the numbers who would crowd a vaccination centre because the working hours were only this much. The AAP Government certainly deserves high praise for taking this initiative. But that brings us to its second decision: The curfew between 10 pm and 5 am. To begin with, who roams around the city between the said hours without genuine business; won't the police notice the suspicious ones lurking around aimlessly?



Two, if the daytime crowds keep acting as recklessly as they do, without physical distancing or wearing masks properly, how would the night curfew help? Does Corona travel only at night, or it won't catch people with an e-pass? And then so many categories have been exempted that it is unlikely that the curfew would have any impact on people's night parade; yes, the Government has not exempted only the sun to venture out at night. In its sincere attempts to "not cause any inconvenience to Delhiites" (read, not antagonising any section of society), the Government has repeatedly given back to the people whatever it ostensibly takes away in the name of disciplining them against the crisis prevailing at the time. Remember the odd-even scheme? It would have worked really well had it been just that: Odd-numbered vehicles can be out on the road only on alternate days; the other three days the even-numbered vehicles can ply; Sundays and gazetted holidays are free for all; public transport shall operate in full strength. But no, somewhere along the way, the politician stirred: Exclude two- and three-wheelers, exclude women drivers, and so on, until it was business as usual on the chock-a-block roads. This is exactly what the Government must stay away from.

Myanmar coup cauldron simmers

The nation's under-20 youth and ethnic armed organisations are solidly backing the unarmed civil disobedience movement



ASHOK K MEHTA

In his book, *Coup d'Etat*, Edward Luttwak says that the coup is a more widespread way of changing governments than elections. In Myanmar, it is the coup-maker, the military itself, which has rubbished "rigged elections" pledging to hold fresh elections in its vision of transition to a disciplined democracy — probably rule by military in civilian clothes, somewhat like the Thailand model. The coup is being contested by the youth — Generation Z — who are below 20 years and have grown up under democratic rule since 2011. They are remote-controlled by a leaderless Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), linked closely to the Committee Representing National Parliament (CRPH) — the government-in-exile of recently-elected NLD lawmakers. Joining the alliance with fire power are at least eight Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) who have broken the ceasefire. This combined resistance has forced the military to declare a unilateral month-long suspension of operations against the EAOs from April 1. Two months on, has the coup backfired?

On March 27, the Generals celebrated the Armed Forces Day when the single biggest carnage killed 114 protesters across 44 townships in Myanmar. Attending the parade was Col Ketan Mohite, the Indian Defence Attaché, among officers from Russia, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The incumbent Army chief, Gen MM Naravane, was a Defence Attaché more than a decade ago, such is the geostrategic significance of Myanmar for India. Two days later, the Defence chiefs of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, the UK and the US issued a collective statement condemning the use of lethal force against unarmed people by the Myanmar Armed Forces. It urged the MAF to cease violence and work to restore the respect and credibility it has lost through its actions.



India finds itself on the wrong side of the fence not for the first time though our diplomats are confident they can navigate the situation, thanks to the lessons learnt in the 1980s and 1990s. They are forgetting that Myanmar 2021 is very different from those days when people were poor and malnourished; today, they have a present and future from the gains of democracy between 2011-2020. The CDM believes it is succeeding in denying control of physical space and economy to the junta. In the forefront of street mobilisation are women, confronting the police every day. The CDM is pitching a non-violent campaign that is being projected as a front-runner for the Nobel Peace Prize, 2022. It has attracted \$7 mn worth of support from well-wishers.

If the fighting intensifies between the EAOs and junta, it would engage not only the military against unarmed internal resistance but also three main dissident armed groups in the border regions — Karens, Kachins and Arakanese (Brotherhood Alliance) besides possibly other EAOs. A multiple front engagement would stretch the military and lead to civil war. The UN special envoy



THE DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT BELIEVES THAT IT IS SUCCEEDING IN DENYING CONTROL OF PHYSICAL SPACE AND ECONOMY TO THE JUNTA. IN THE FOREFRONT OF STREET MOBILISATION ARE WOMEN, CONFRONTING THE POLICE EVERY DAY. THE MOVEMENT IS PITCHING A NON-VIOLENT CAMPAIGN

on Myanmar, Christine Burgene, told the 15-member UNSC on March 31 that the military was not capable of managing the country and warned that the situation could worsen into a bloodbath. China's muted criticism of the coup has led to anti-Chinese sentiment, resulting in 32 Chinese-owned factories being gutted. Beijing's main concern is the security of the 770-km-long gas and oil pipelines worth \$2.5 bn from the Yunnan province to the Rakhine State as well as 38 projects linked to the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Beijing is also the lead player in the recent diplomatic moves between the junta and Asean.

Myanmar's economy will soon be in tatters. The US sanctions have resulted in the suspension of bilateral trade and investment agreement, prevented the Generals from withdrawing \$1 bn from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and targeted Generals and police chiefs and their businesses. Next could be the Generalised System of Preferences (GSPs) under which 5,000 products carry zero tariff. Japan, which provides the biggest development assistance — \$1.8 bn in 2019 — is transferring its busi-

ness from military holdings to civilian companies. Whether combined resistance for the first time against the military results in the defeat of the junta is hard to tell. The Buddhist monks who led the saffron revolution in 2007 have not taken sides. India has taken a clear position: To not criticise the military for the coup but condemn violence against the CDM. This is not an ethical stance that India can sustain. But it has insurgency-related security interests along the border with Myanmar, strategic connectivity projects of its 'Act East' policy and Indo-Pacific strategy as well as concerns about China boosting its influence at India's cost, especially when the military looks towards India to balance China. Given these conflicting interests, New Delhi has to appear, and be even-handed, in reaching out to the CRPH and Myanmar people. The Generals require a face-saving exit, not a protracted urban conflict or civil war.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IMPLEMENT THE LOCKDOWN CAREFULLY

Sir —The Centre on Tuesday said the Coronavirus is spreading at a fast pace and stressed that the next four weeks are going to be very critical. It urged the people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour. This situation has developed because people were not following the rules of wearing masks properly or maintaining social distancing. Earlier in the day, the Delhi Government imposed a curfew from 10 pm to 5 am till April 30 in the wake of rising cases. Officials also took into account large gatherings at restaurants and clubs at night.

The lockdown would be trouble for the people as the municipal and civil volunteers deployed to keep check on violators during the curfew will likely harass innocent people in the name of following the rules and regulations. What is worrisome is that the COVID-19 situation in India has turned grim with the country's daily count crossing the 1 lakh -mark for the first time since the pandemic struck last year. Daily COVID-19 cases in India increased fivefold to over 1,00,000 from 20,000 in just two weeks. Maharashtra, the worst hit State, alone accounted for more than half of India's total cases daily. The State even imposed night curfew recently and announced weekend lockdowns to break the chain. States like Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have announced several restrictions, including night curfews and curbs on the movement of people, in order to limit the spread of the second wave of the Coronavirus infection.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

RESIGNATION WAS A GOOD MOVE

Sir — Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh has tendered his resignation and it is a good move, though late. He has cited moral grounds in his resignation letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray which shows that he is concerned with the reputation of the Government.

However, questions are being raised

Bring all culprits to book



This refers to the editorial, 'Battle ready' (April 6). An unverified intel input lured the security forces into the Maoists' lethal trap, killing 22 security persons and injuring 31 others in Chhattisgarh's South Bastar. This grave lapse needs to be probed thoroughly so that the responsibility can be fixed and more disasters avoided. The Chhattisgarh incident has elicited the usual platitudes from the State and Central Governments about giving a "befitting response" and "never forgetting the sacrifices of the martyrs". Undoubtedly, the killings have belied the tall claims that Maoist insurgency

is on its last legs. I concur with the editorial view that usually, it is the State police's duty to provide Intelligence inputs; the information is then shared with the paramilitary and subsequently an operation is planned. The lower-ranking officer or constable's input plays a vital role in designing the intricacies of the operation, only after which the party moves for combat. Ironically, there is no guarantee of such inputs being foolproof, as also that the policeman or his informers might be acting as "double agents".

There is no denying that a lot has to be done to break the back of the terrorists, right from snapping their supply of funds, arms and ammunition and ensuring development in the infested areas to giving a cutting edge to the security forces in terms of intel, training and equipment. It's also imperative to weaken local support for the insurgents by providing adequate education and job opportunities to the residents. It is important that the Government carefully embark on a multi-pronged approach.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

COMPLETE LOCKDOWN IS FOOLISH

Sir — Putting the burgeoning economy to a grinding halt all over again by foisting a complete lockdown is no way to contain the infection (even in certain dis-

tricts). The Governments—both the Centre and States — have to contemplate which restrictions can actually curtail the spread of the virus. For instance, there is no sense in shutting the industries by not letting labourers reach their workplaces. The key spreader or super spreader areas are the local markets.

We must all follow the COVID-19 rules and regulations to keep the infection at bay. It is also the only way to avoid a complete lockdown which will break the back of our economy permanently. The Government should not think of imposing a complete lockdown as any such move will bring immense hardships to the people.

Priyanshu Sharma | Ujjain

SOUNDBITE

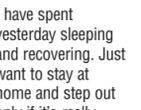
In the first two phases of polling, Didi's departure has already been confirmed. People in huge numbers have come out and voted in our favour.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



Pakistan Foreign Minister — Shah Mahmood Qureshi



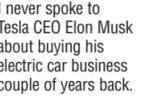
I have spent yesterday sleeping and recovering. Just want to stay at home and step out only if it's really necessary. Trust me, this is a lot harder than you can imagine

Actor — Bhumi Pednekar



I feel Indians are more tolerant. I've played with West Indians, Englishmen and Aussies. They just give up on mental health.

BCCI president — Sourav Ganguly



I never spoke to Tesla CEO Elon Musk about buying his electric car business couple of years back.

Apple CEO — Tim Cook

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FIRST COLUMN

K-SHAPED ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR INDIA

It portrays a troubling, divergent economic future where the economy rebounds unevenly



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Indian economy is growing after the lockdown that halted all economic activities was lifted but the growth story remains a mystery. The Economic Survey projected it at 11 per cent, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at 10.5 per cent, International Monetary Fund (IMF) at 11.5 per cent, World Bank in a wide range of 7.5-12.5 per cent and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) puts it at 7 per cent over a contraction of 7.7 per cent through 2020.

According to the ESCAP report 2021, India entered the pandemic-induced lockdown with subdued Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and investment. It states: The pace of recovery further moderated in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 with estimated year-on-year growth still close to zero. India's 2021 economic output is expected to remain below the 2019 level. It is almost on a par with National Statistical Office (NSO) projection at 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21, showing the lockdown impact. It estimates that the pandemic has pushed an additional 89 million people of the region into extreme poverty in 2020. The ESCAP prais-



es China for becoming the only major economy worldwide to achieve a positive annual economic growth rate in 2020. But for the rest of the region, including India, the recovery is likely to be K-shaped. The economists use U, V and W to forecast different kinds of financial future. The K-shape is a new symbol and portrays a troubling, divergent economic future, one where the economy rebounds unevenly and where the wealthy benefit while everyone else is left behind.

The repeated fear psychosis and threat of partial or complete lockdown again is likely to create more business uncertainties and delayed recovery. Coupled with high policy quandary, officially-sponsored price rises, through heavy taxes on petroleum, other fuels, increasing toll taxes on roads and consequent rise in fare, freight and rail costs, caused 5.03 per cent inflation in February, 2021, meaning despite wage contraction an individual's expenses increase by over 5 per cent. It may show a "better" GDP in monetary terms but in reality it will be a regression, where people's purchasing power reduces. The disinvestment drive has not succeeded during the past three years. Even now the policy, though being steamrolled is raking up issues of how India would manage its future through an oppressive private sector. It has also raised questions of disposing off assets worth ₹2.10 lakh crore. There are no clear answers whether such sales would help the country or pauperise it. On the other hand, the unemployment rate in the country declined to 6.52 per cent in March from 6.90 per cent in February, as per think-tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). This conceals the real numbers, of job losses during the 2020 lockdown and does not include millions of under-employed or semi-employed. The rural sector is in the twin crisis of poor cash flow and glut of agricultural produce. This is giving rise to discrimination, puts brake on industrial and manufacturing recovery and restoration of the economic health. The Oxfam reports that the top 10 per cent of the Indian population holds 77 per cent of the total national wealth, 73 per cent of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the rich one per cent while 67 million Indians, the poorest half of the population, saw only a one per cent increase in their wealth. The uncertain Indian growth story, distress of the people due to complicated tax policies or little boost to production tells of a peculiar lack of thought. The planning process needs to be recalibrated for turning the economy around on a fast track.

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

Women's role paramount to universal healthcare

The healthcare systems around the world must heed their specific needs and allow them to sit across the table as decision-makers



ARCHANA DATTA

As the World Health Day 2021 is being observed, the World Health Organisation (WHO) called for building a fairer and healthier world, as the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the stark reality that 'our world is an unequal one'. The pandemic has hit all countries hard, but its impact has been the harshest on those communities which were already vulnerable, who are more exposed to diseases, less likely to have access to quality healthcare services and more likely to experience adverse consequences as a result of measures implemented to contain the pandemic.

Now, has the "gender difference" in this "unfair world" acted as an impediment to women in enjoying the standards of health on a par with that of men? Perhaps, yes! According to the WHO, women face systemic marginalisation and are confronted with attitudinal and environmental barriers.

The gender norms determine life opportunities, health, well-being of an individual but gender parity in global health decision-making is more than a half century away, stated the *Global Health 50/50s, 2020 Report*. Women, despite shouldering the prime responsibilities as healthcare givers, found themselves at the lower rung of the leadership, being only 22 per cent on Fortune 500 healthcare executive teams and boards since 2015. In such an unequal world, the UN Women has urged for taking gender into consideration in the current health and socio-economic recovery process.

Now, with regard to the pandemic's disease burden, the early analysis of the fatality rate indicated that it was higher among men and lesser mortality among women has been attributed to biological factors. Surprisingly, India witnessed a differential trend, registering a higher fatality rate for women (3.3 per cent) as compared to men (2.9 per cent). A recent study analysed that the divergent trend could be due to the "women's lesser access to testing, health services and hospitals and over reliance on hospital-level data", since the previous India-specific studies showed "acute gender gap in availing health benefits and women having lower chances of hospital admission than men".

In the year 2020, the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, which proclaimed sexual and reproductive rights and safe motherhood as basic human rights. Nevertheless, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (1990-2015) target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) by 75 per cent remains unachieved as only a decline of 44 per cent has been registered. Now, a new goal of bringing it down to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030 has been set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sadly, worldwide 14 per cent of all maternal deaths still occur due to unsafe abortions and in 2017 about 810 women died every day of preventable pregnancy and childbirth-related causes and 20 per cent of them are in India, says the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

India, at the turn of the millennium, launched a number of targeted Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) interventions, which helped in reducing the MMR from 122 in 2015-17 to 113 in 2016-18 and raised the rate of institutional deliveries from



SAFE MOTHERHOOD STANDS AS A BIG CHALLENGE IN INDIA BECAUSE OF LARGE-SCALE PREVALENCE OF ANAEMIA AMONG WOMEN, 53.1 PER CENT FOR NON-PREGNANT AND 50.3 PER CENT IN CASE OF PREGNANT WOMEN (AS PER NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY-4). AMONG THE INDIA'S ABOUT 189.2 MILLION UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE, A MAJORITY ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE SURVIVAL OF A GIRL IS ALSO FRAUGHT WITH MANY CHALLENGES

The writer is a retired IIS officer and media educator. The views expressed are personal.



18 per cent in 2005 to 79 per cent in 2016. Nonetheless, field studies revealed that the distribution of maternal healthcare services was inequitous, benefitting 95 per cent of the economically well-off households, as against 59 per cent from the worse-off households.

Safe motherhood stands as a big challenge in India because of large-scale prevalence of anaemia among women, 53.1 per cent for non-pregnant and 50.3 per cent in case of pregnant women (as per National Family Health Survey NFHS-4). Among the India's about 189.2 million undernourished people, a majority are women and children. The survival of a girl is also fraught with many challenges and a girl child is likely to survive only in five out of 29 States (Sample Registration System (SRS), 2017). The *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (BBBP) programme, during the past six years, could make only marginal improvements, in enhancing the sex ratio at birth (SRB) from 918 in 2014-15 to 934 in 2019-20. Though women's average life expectancy at birth recorded an upward turn in 2018, a significant improvement from the past decade, yet, it grew at a much slower pace compared to men (SRS, 2019). The recently passed Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Bill, 2020, has been dubbed by many as an effort to "control women's reproductive and sexual rights" and "smacks of patriarchal biases".

In the face of a shift in epidemiological disease burden from com-

municable diseases (CDs) to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), women's mortality due to NCDs registered a significant increase from 38 per cent to 60 per cent, from 1990-2013. In India, heart attacks, stroke and respiratory diseases have become the top seven out of 10 causes of women's mortality with an overall prevalence rate of 62 per 1,000 women and 36 per 1,000 men. Though Indian women suffer from a greater disease burden, yet the common perception prevails that the NCDs are the "diseases of men". Such myths stand in the way of women receiving the appropriate drug therapy, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

The issues concerning mental illnesses among women, as one among the NCDs, received scant attention till the WHO in 2017 apprised that women had a morbidity rate of 13.3 per cent, as against 12.6 per cent in men. Indian women have been found to be two-three times at greater risk of being affected from depression, phobic anxiety disorders and obsessive compulsive disorders. The *National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) 2015-16*, found that such mental ailments are related to gender-specific risk factors like gender-based violence, socio-economic disadvantage and unremitting responsibility for the care of others. Due to the stigma attached to such illnesses, there is hardly any sex-specific data, while, housewives were found to be the largest demographic group amongst suicide deaths, consis-

tently about 20 per cent for the last 25 years as per the data by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

As is being said, crises affect women and girls disproportionately; in the COVID-19 pandemic also, they lived through harrowing experiences for a variety of reasons like increased care work, domestic violence, lack of access to health services, food insecurity, job losses et al. CARE International, in a first-of-its-kind research in nearly 40 countries, found that 27 per cent of women reported an increase in mental illnesses — compared to only 10 per cent of men. Also, 41 per cent of women and 30 per cent of men have reported not having enough food.

The World Food Programme forewarned that women are likely to bear the major burden of hunger, as 60 per cent of the hungry people in the world are women and girls, while the 2020 *Global Nutrition Report* appealed to nations in addressing the inequity in the access to food to end malnutrition.

The United Nations Population Fund's estimation of around seven million unwanted pregnancies globally, and a little over two million in India alone, is likely to create adverse repercussions on women's physical and mental wellbeing. As the health of women and girls determines the global prosperity and welfare, the healthcare systems around the world must heed their specific needs, and allow them to sit across the table as decision-makers.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I AM SITTING ON A HEALTH SATYAGRAHA FOR 24 HOURS. I WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL THE WORK, INCLUDING MONITORING THE COVID SITUATION.

— MADHYA PRADESH CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN



HE IS SITTING ON SATYAGRAHA TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLE. I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW CORONA WILL GO AWAY BY 24-HOUR SATYAGRAHA?

— FORMER MP CM KAMAL NATH

Delhi-Dhaka cooperation in pharma is win-win for both

India's relative strength in the Research and Development (R&D) segment can be a valuable asset to the Bangladeshi pharma sector

The emergence of Bangladesh as a sizeable pharma power in recent years has triggered an animated discussion in the Indian pharma community. A section of the Indian drug and pharma community may be of the view that the rising Bangladeshi pharmaceutical industry is an imminent challenge and threat to the prospects and growth of the Indian pharmaceutical sector, particularly in the context of its export markets. The question that arises is whether a politically-friendly neighbour that has embarked on a similar path of producing generic medicines should be treated as an ally or a competitor?

While India has a domestic pharma market size of over \$20 billion and is expected to touch \$100 billion mark by 2025, Bangladesh's current \$3.5 billion industry is likely to touch a modest \$6 billion by the



GURPREET SANDHU

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same year. India is home to more than 3,000 pharma companies and is the source of over 60,000 generic brands, while Bangladesh has 273 pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers around 450 generic drugs, accounting for 5,300 registered brands. That India hosts the largest number of US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-compliant pharma plants outside the US at more than 262 compared to Bangladesh's four plants (until 2018), illustrates the headroom available for Bangladesh to prosper and grow. The difference in size notwithstanding there are several ways in which the pharma industries of both the countries can cooperate, leading to a win-win situation for both.

Contract Research/R&D Expertise: India has a strong presence in terms of contract research with over 80 Contract Research Organisations (CROs)

in the country. Given Bangladesh's emphasis and focus on formulations, India's advanced and experienced CRO ecosystems can not only help with pre-clinical and clinical trials to test and establish the efficacy of a drug with solid data but also in terms of regulatory submissions for new product development, process development, novel dosage forms and conducting human studies along with post-marketing surveillance and quality monitoring services.

Notably, Bangladesh has about 150 companies for making formulations, with 30 of them involved in exports. India's relative strength in Research and Development (R&D) segment can be a valuable asset to the Bangladeshi pharma sector. From the standpoint of the Indian companies, they can even consider joint projects with Bangladeshi com-



panies for patented formulations fully utilising the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)-related exemption until 2033 granted to Bangladesh as a Least Developed Country (LDC).

APIs Drive Collaboration: Even as India has embarked upon a massive indigenisation programme for production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) through clustering and product-linked

incentives (PLIs), Bangladesh too in recent years has displayed a similar inclination and sought to encourage production domestically, albeit in limited terms, by way of corporate tax holidays, waivers on Value-Added Tax (VAT), cash incentive on minimum prescribed value addition and extended term loans. In addition to the fact that India already supplies 30 per cent of its APIs to Bangladesh, both the countries can explore joint ventures and technology-sharing or transfer partnerships for their respective indigenisation programs. By availing of the faster environmental clearances as well as the longer patent holiday in Bangladesh, Indian pharma companies can substantially bring down production costs.

Traditional Medicine: Significantly, traditional medicine has constituted an integral part of health policy and sys-

tems in both countries. While producing over 8,000 medicinal plants used for herbal medicines, India has institutionalised the popularity and acceptance of a range of traditional medicinal systems such as ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha, homeopathy and sowa-rigpa through the formation of a separate Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). Similarly, Bangladesh too accords a high place in its pharma programmes to the alternative unani, ayurvedic, homeopathic and Herbal systems. Notably, extensive cooperation on promoting Indian traditional medicines in Bangladesh as well as facilitating knowledge transfer has been underway since 2014 itself when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two coun-

tries. This in itself presents a huge opportunity for further collaboration.

Further, India and Bangladesh can together tackle the menace of smuggling, spurious medicines and drug abuse. Therefore, there are a whole gamut of subjects on which the two Governments as well as their pharma industries can cooperate. The recent initiatives on COVID-19 clinical trials and capacity building for vaccine development underline the enduring spirit of collaboration between the two countries. This spirit far outweighs any semblance of competition that may arise from the two simultaneously accessing regulated markets for export of generics. In fact, this healthy competition must also be welcomed as it would inevitably grow the status and importance of the region as a major pharmaceutical hub.

Myanmar forces arrest comedian

Break up doctors' protest

Yangon: Authorities in Myanmar arrested the country's best-known comedian on Tuesday as they continue to crack down on people they accuse of helping incite nationwide protests against February's military coup. The comedian Zarganar was taken from his home in Yangon by police and soldiers who arrived in two army vehicles, fellow comedian Ngeyayvaykyaw said on his own Facebook page. Zarganar, 60, is a sharp-tongued satirist who has been in and out of prison since he was active in a failed 1988 pop-

ular uprising against a previous military dictatorship. He is also well known for his social work, especially arranging assistance for victims of Cyclone Nargis in 2008. In the past week, the junta has issued arrest warrants for at least 60 people active in the fields of literature, film, theater arts, music and journalism on charges of spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law. It was not immediately clear what Zarganar, whose real name is Maung Thura, has been charged with. Many ordinary protesters and activists are also being arrested every day, according to numerous reports on social media. In Mandalay, the coun-

try's second-biggest city, security forces used stun grenades and fired guns Tuesday to break up a march by medical workers who have defiantly continued to protest almost every day against the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The army's takeover set back Myanmar's gradual return to democracy after five decades of military rule. A participant who asked to remain anonymous for his own safety told The Associated Press that doctors, nurses and medical students were attacked as they gathered at about 5 a.m. by security forces who also used cars to run into protesters on motorbikes. The online news site The Irrawaddy reported that four doctors were arrested.

At least 570 protesters and bystanders, including 47 children, have been killed in the crackdown since the takeover, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests. The group says 2,728 people, including Suu Kyi, are in detention. Activists have begun organizing a boycott of next week's official celebration of Thingyan, the country's traditional New Year, usually a time for family reunions and merry-making. In leaflets and social media posts, they are imploring people not to hold any Thingyan celebrations, saying it would be disrespectful to "fallen martyrs" to enjoy the festival. **AP**

7 shot in Chicago as gunfire erupts during sidewalk fight

CHICAGO: Seven people were shot and wounded in a Chicago neighborhood in a burst of gun violence during what's shaping up to be one of the city's most violent years in memory, police said. The seven were involved in a fight on the sidewalk when shots were fired about 11:10 p.m. Monday in the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, police said. A 39-year-old woman was hospitalized in serious condition after she was shot in the arm and abdomen, police said. Five men were hospitalized in fair condition, while another person was in good condition after walking into a hospital in the Cook County sub-

urb of Harvey with a gunshot wound to the leg, police said. No one was in custody Tuesday morning and detectives were investigating. The shooting comes amid recent violence in the city. The day before, on Easter Sunday, separate shootings across Chicago left seven people dead and at least 10 more with gunshot wounds. Last week, a 13-year-old boy, Adam Toledo, was fatally shot by a Chicago police officer after he ran from officers while carrying a handgun. He died at the scene March 29 and a gun was recovered. Mayor Lori Lightfoot said Monday that she had directed the Chicago Police Department to

capture and bring to justice whoever gave the boy the handgun. Just last week, the department reported that by the end of March there were 131 homicides compared with 98 for the same period last year. And the number of shootings had already climbed past the 700 mark — more than 200 more than had been recorded during the first three months of last year. Those totals and the week-end slayings puts the city on a pace to eclipse the 769 homicides in 2020, which was the deadliest year in all but one year in the previous two decades. **AP**

Saudi to allow only vaccinated pilgrims to enter Mecca

Riyadh: Only pilgrims and worshippers who have been vaccinated against the novel coronavirus or have recovered will be allowed into the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced. Permits for Umrah (Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca) and to visit the Grand Mosque will be granted to those who have received two Covid vaccine jabs; those who have received a first dose at least 14 days before their visit to Medina and Mecca; and those who have had the virus and recovered. Arab News quoted the Ministry as saying on Monday. Before embarking on a trip, a visitor's vaccination status will have to be registered on Saudi Arabia's Covid app, 'Tawakkalna', which was launched last year to track the Covid situation. According to the Ministry, the people who wish to visit the two mosques or perform Umrah will have to register via the Tawakkalna app and the Umrah app, 'Eatmarna'. It added that the two apps are the only platforms that issue genuine permits. Nearly 10,000 Grand Mosque workers have already been inoculated as part of the Ramadan operational plan, Arab News reported. Five areas will be available for prayers at the Grand Mosque. More than 13 million worshippers wearing masks and observing physical distancing rules have visited the mosques since the seven-month prayer and Umrah suspension was lifted last October. **IANS**

SL Prez imposes immediate ban on palm oil import

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has imposed an immediate ban on the import of palm oil and ordered the gradual removal of the crops, in a move to eliminate the environmentally harmful cultivations in the country, an official said on Tuesday. Rajapaksa on Monday ordered his officials to promulgate laws preventing fresh imports of palm oil, releasing imported stocks to the markets and gradually starting to uproot palm plantations, dpa news agency reveal. "The objective of the President is to free the country of use of palm oil and eradicate palm cultivations from the country," the spokesperson said. **IANS**

EU officials head to Turkey to reset ties

Ankara: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel are heading to Turkey on Tuesday for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in an effort to reset strained relations. In addition to meeting the Turkish President, the EU officials also have discussions scheduled with representatives of the International Organization for Migration and other UN bodies, reports dpa news agency. These meetings are likely to cover EU financial support for Syrian refugees in Turkey, as well as Ankara's recent withdrawal from the Istanbul convention on tackling violence against women. Last month, EU leaders offered to discuss updating Turkey's 25-year-old customs union with the bloc and extend their migration pact with Ankara, as long as their neighbour continues to engage "constructively". **IANS**

UK PM Boris confirms further lockdown easing

London: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has confirmed that from April 12, non-essential shops will reopen and pubs and restaurants will restart outdoor dining as the country moves to step two of the Covid-19 lockdown. Barbers as well as gyms and spas can reopen, along with zoos, theme parks, libraries and community centres, reports Xinhua news agency. "The net result of your efforts and of course the vaccine rollout is that I can today confirm that from Monday April 12, we will move to step two of our road map." The statement came as Johnson was addressing a virtual Downing Street press conference to give an update on his government's anti-covid plan. "But we can't be complacent we see the waves of sickness afflicting other countries, we've seen how this story goes we still don't know how strong the vaccine shield will be when the cases begin to rise as I'm afraid they will," he said. **IANS**

US wants to ramp up vax sharing: Blinken

IANS ■ WASHINGTON
The US is looking into how it can share more vaccine resources with other countries in future, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "We believe that we'll be in a position to do much more on this front. I know that many countries are asking for the US to do more, some with growing desperation, because of the scope and scale of their Covid emergencies," dpa news agency quoted Antony Blinken as saying on Monday. "We hear you. And I promise we're moving as fast as possible," the Secretary of State added. The US government has made it a priority to vaccinate its own population first, which has seen President Joe Biden accused of continuing the "America First" doctrine of his predecessor Donald Trump and of making it difficult for poorer countries to obtain vaccines.

Biden Admin lukewarm to Pak desire for relationship 'reset'

IANS ■ ISLAMABAD
Since the time the Biden Administration has taken over, Pakistan has been putting its efforts to reset its relations with the US through a transformational phase, but all its efforts have been met with a lukewarm response. The Imran Khan-led dispensation had hoped to opt for a transactional relationship with the new US administration, knowing that President Joe Biden knew Pakistan well as the Vice President earlier, and had a better knowledge of the country, which Islamabad felt would pave the way for a better understanding. Pakistan's efforts were focused on resetting ties with the US on the basis of security and economic cooperation. However, government officials now admit that the effort has been met with a cold shoulder so far.

Israeli Prez tasks Netanyahu with Govt formation

IANS ■ TEL AVIV
Israeli President Reuven Rivlin Tuesday asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form a Government two weeks after the country's fourth election in two years also ended in a stalemate. Rivlin entrusted the longest-serving Prime Minister with the task after Netanyahu received the most recommendations during post-election talks with party leaders, reports dpa news agency. The President emphasised that while none of the 13 groups represented in parliament currently held a majority, Netanyahu had slightly better chances of forming a coalition. However, it was not an easy decision to put Netanyahu in charge of forming the government again, given he is being tried for corruption, Rivlin said. Netanyahu, the first sitting

premier in Israel's history to stand trial, is accused of bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three separate cases. Prosecutors allege that he systematically accepted expensive gifts and tried to improve media coverage of him in return for favours. Voters were again evenly split in the last election, giving no candidate a clear path to victory. As before, the split lies between a bloc supporting Netanyahu and a group of other parties hoping to oust the long-serving leader.

PUBLIC NOTICE
For & on behalf of my client MRS. MANJU SHARMA W/O. N. K. SHARMA, R/O RZ-58, B-Block, Gali No.10, Kailashpuri, New Delhi, I serve this Public Notice that my client severs her relation from her son namey MR. VIKAS KUMAR SHARMA & his wife MRS. NIDHI SHARMA and also debars her said son and his wife from their properties both movable & immovable for all intents and purposes. Anyone deals with them shall do at his own risks.
Binod Kumar Jha (Advocate)
B-5, Suneja Tower-1, District Centre Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large, upon instruction from my clients Vishal Kumar Saxena Promoter/Director of M/s. Aerospin Logistics Pvt. Ltd. Khasra No.346, First Floor, Brijwasan, New Delhi-110061. That the employee/consultant Mr. Lalit Kumar S/o Sh. Om Pal Singh R/o: and Mr. Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Om Pal Singh R/o: Pehtadpur, Delhi-110044, are involved in the acts of cheating, forgery, Criminal conspiracy, Criminal Breach of Trust, fabrication of documents and siphoning of funds of company along with the other accused persons. Company initiated the criminal and civil action against them as per the Law. Both persons also cautioned that any illegal and defamatory actions shall be at their cost and risk only. Each and every entities be here be cautioned that not to deal in any manner for and on behalf of the company or business with both persons in any manner, dealing shall be considered as null and void and no claims shall be entertained by the clients in any manner. Sanjay Mishra Advocate, FACTUM LAWYERS & CO., Off.: 9/10, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-27 (M): 9810135522

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
This is to inform that General Public that following share certificate of Bhageria Industries Limited having its registered Office at Office No-1002, Topiwala Centre, Off S. V. Road, Mumbai-400062, Maharashtra registered in the name of the following shareholder have been lost by them.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON
General Public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo) Namely Vishal Grewal S/o Lt. Kuldeep Grewal, R/o H. No. 524, B-1, Janakpuri, New Delhi, has been reported missing since 15.02.2021, in this regard a case DD No. 24A dated 29.03.2021, has been registered at Police Station Janakpuri, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Age: 27 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'11", **Face:** Oval, **Physique/Build:** Strong, **Eye:** Brown, **Clothing:** White Kurta & Pajama.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Janakpuri, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.
SHO
P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi.
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph. 011-25553166, 25551410**
Fax: 011-24368639 **DP/389/W/2021**

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL
General public is hereby informed that one Girl **Name:** Khushboo, **D/o** Kapinder Sahni, **R/o** Khasra No. 192, Gali No. 9/6B, Mukundpur part-II, Delhi. **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Jeans and Red shirt, has been missing from her house since 26.03.2021 about 10:45 am. In this regard a FIR No. 96/2021 dated 26.03.2021, U/s 363 IPC has been lodged at P.S. Model Town, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Girl kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Model Town, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27459202, 8750870232**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/746/NW/2021**

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER CONCERNED
This is to inform to all concerned that I Phool Chand Yadav S/o Late Shri. Raja Ram Yadav Resident of III-N-51, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, U. P. 201001, like to bring into knowledge of general public at large that I nowhere in past, present and future related to M/s. Abhinav Steels and Powers Limited and its Sister concern or associate Companies (in short "Companies") or Directors or Management of these Companies. That I am neither Director of the Companies or in management of the Companies. That for any liability (ies), loan(s), outstanding, payment(s) and debt(s) of the said Companies, either Companies itself or their management is responsible as I have no relation whatsoever with the companies or their management. If any person(s) is/was transacting any business with the Companies is doing at his own risk and cost and peril, general public take notice.
Phool Chand Yadav

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HFDC HISAR	PURCHASE OF MATERIAL AND LABOUR WORKS FOR MANUFACTURING OF RCC FENCING POST (PILLAR) COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS	05.04.2021 12.04.2021	40.92 LACS	hfdc.gov.in	9416067122
2	HFDC SIRSA	FELLING AND CONVERSION OF TREES AND TRANSPORTATION STACKING IN DEPOT FATEHABAD RANGE & THREE OTHERS	05.04.2021 17.04.2021	1.50 LACS	www.hfdc.gov.in	01666243020 gm.sirsa@hfdc.gov.in
3	UHBVN	HIRING OF VEHICLE 2 NOS. MAHINDRA/TATA, FORCE/ANY OTHER JEEP OPEN FROM BACK SIDE WITH HARD TOP & WITH DRIVER SDO 'OP CITY SUB/DIVISION, KARNAL. (COMPLAIN CENTRE 24X7)	CLOSING DATE 12.04.2021	EMD 6000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in	01842265001 xenopcitykarnal@uhbvn.org.in
4	HARYANA SEEDS DEV. CORPN. LTD.	RE-E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF BT COTTON SEED ON CONSIGNMENT BASIS	06.04.2021 15.04.2021	EMD 1 LAKH	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	81686-07110 sfaahsdcl@gmail.com
5	HVPNL	ADDITIONAL 10/16 MVA 132/11 KV TRANSFORMER AT 132 KV SUB STATION POLY STEEL, HISAR (SITE SURFACING)	06.04.2021 15.04.2021	4.31 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
6	HVPNL	PROVIDING SANITATION SERVICES, ARBORICULTURE SERVICES, OFFICE ASSISTANCE & SECURITY SERVICES AT 220 KV S/STN. BAKANA. (FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.2021 TO 31.03.2022).	05.04.2021 13.04.2021	56200/- per month	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
7	HVPNL	AAUGMENTATION OF 220KV SUB-STATION IA HISAR FROM (1X100MVA) + (1X50MVA) 220/132 KV + (1X10/16MVA) 132/11 KV TRANSFORMER TO (2X100MVA) 220/132 + (1X10/16MVA) 132/11 KV + (1X20/25 MVA) 132/33 KV TRANSFORMER AT 220 KV SUB-STATION IA HISAR (SITE SURFACING).	06.04.2021 15.04.2021	6.17 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
8	KARNAL SMART CITY	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR TOILETS WITH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS CALL 2	05.04.2021 12.04.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	smartcitykarnal@gmail.com
9	HVPNL	SUPPLY OF 01 NO. BOLERO VEHICLE OR EQUIVALENT LIKE MAHINDRA /TATA/ FORD/TOYOTA/HONDA/MARUTI ETC ON CONTRACT BASE UNDER XEN TS DIVN. HVPNL PANCHKULA	02.04.2021 12.04.2021	5 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
10	HFDC YAMUNANAGAR	LABOUR WORK IN HOUSE MANUFACTURING OF MILD STEEL ITEMS + 2 OTHER WORK	03.04.2021 15.04.2021	1.64 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-2564463 gm.panchkula@hfdc.gov.in
11	MC BERI	BIO-REMEDIATION OF THE LEGACY WASTE OF THE DUMP SITES AT MC BERI.	CLOSING DATE 15.04.2021	EMD 83900/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	secy.mc.beri@gmail.com
12	HSAMB ROHTAK	ANNUAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS PROPERTIES OF MARKET COMMITTEE, ROHTAK, SAMPLA, MEHAM, KALANAJUR & AGRO SHOPPING MALL, ROHTAK AND OTHER 2 NO. ANNUAL REPAIR OF MANDI WORKS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22	CLOSING DATE 20.04.2021	AS PER APPROVED DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262270274 xenroh.hsamb@gmail.com
13	HSRDC SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF 2-LANE ROB IN LIEU OF LC NO. 20-C AT RAILWAY K.M. 32/12-14 ON DLI-UMB SECTION NEAR NARELA RAILWAY STATION	06.04.2021 26.04.2021	15.04 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9871942155 dgmsrhc@gmail.com
14	DHBVN	EMPANELMENT OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 33KV LINES, 33/11 KV POWER TRANSFORMERS & ALL OTHER ALLIED MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR AUGMENTATION/ERECTION OF 33 KV LINE, AUGMENTATION/ERECTION OF 33 KV SUB STATIONS ON TURNKEY BASIS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DHBVN	07.04.2021 28.04.2021		www.dhbvn.org.in	01662223216 cepdc@dhbvn.org.in
15	HFDC HISAR	MAKING OF BARBED WIRE FROM G.I. WIRE	06.04.2021 13.04.2021	8 LACS	hfdc.gov.in	9416067122 gm.hisar@hfdc.gov.in
16	HFDC HISAR	MAKING OF FOLDING TUBE FROM GRANULES, SEWING, CUTTING AND PUNCHING ETC. OF FOLDING TUBE	06.04.2021 13.04.2021	19 LACS	hfdc.gov.in	9416067122 gm.hisar@hfdc.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 2480

MORE SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers Northern Railway will be introducing 04 Shatabadi Specials and One Duranto Special train from the dates indicated as under:-

02013/02014 New Delhi - Amritsar - New Delhi Shatabadi Special Express (Daily)					
Train No.:	02013	STATIONS		02014	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	16:30	NEW DELHI		11:02	----
22:30	----	AMRITSAR		----	04:55

DAYS OF RUN: 02013 from New Delhi Daily from 10.04.2021 till further advice & 02014 from Amritsar Daily from 11.04.2021 till further advice.
STOPPAGE: Ambala Cant Jn, Sirhind Jn, Ludhiana Jn, Phagwara Jn, Jalandhar City & Beas Station.
ACCOMMODATION: Executive AC Chair Car & AC Chair Car.

04051/04052 New Delhi - Daurai - New Delhi Shatabadi Special Express (Daily)					
Train No.:	04051	STATIONS		04052	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	06:10	NEW DELHI		22:40	----
13:15	----	DAURAI		----	15:15

DAYS OF RUN: 04051 from New Delhi & 04052 from Daurai Daily from 10.04.2021 till further advice.
STOPPAGE: Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Rewari, Alwar Jn, Bandikui Jn, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur, Kishangarh & Ajmer Station.
ACCOMMODATION: Executive AC Chair Car & AC Chair Car.

04053/04054 New Delhi - Amritsar - New Delhi Shatabadi Special Express (Weekly)					
Train No.:	04053	STATIONS		04054	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	07:20	NEW DELHI		22:50	----
13:30	----	AMRITSAR		----	16:50

DAYS OF RUN: 04053 from New Delhi & 04054 from Amritsar on every Thursday from 15.04.2021 till further advice.
STOPPAGE: Ambala Cant Jn, Rajpura Jn, Ludhiana Jn, Phagwara Jn, Jalandhar City & Beas Station.
ACCOMMODATION: Executive AC Chair Car & AC Chair Car.

02046/02045 Chandigarh - New Delhi - Chandigarh Shatabadi Special Express (6 Days in a Week)					
Train No.:	02046	STATIONS		02045	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	12:15	CHANDIGARH		22:35	----
15:30	----	NEW DELHI		----	19:15

DAYS OF RUN: 02046 from Chandigarh & 02045 from New Delhi except Wednesday from 10.04.2021 till further advice.
STOPPAGE: Ambala Cant Jn & Karnal Station.
ACCOMMODATION: Executive AC Chair Car & AC Chair Car.

02265/02266 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jammu Tawi - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Duronto Special Express (Tri-Weekly)					
Train No.:	02265	STATIONS		02266	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	22:20	DELHI SARAI ROHILLA		03:55	----
07:15	----	JAMMU TAWI		----	19:15

DAYS OF RUN: 02265 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla on every Tuesday, Friday & Sunday from 11.04.2021 till further advice & 02266 from Jammu Tawi on every Wednesday, Saturday & Monday from 12.04.2021 till further advice.
STOPPAGE: Ludhiana Station.
ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.
Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., must be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Indian economy to grow at historic 12.5%: IMF

IAANS ■ UNITED NATIONS

India's economy is projected to grow at the historically high level of 12.5 per cent this fiscal year, but the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Chief Economist Gita Gopinath cautioned that the current wave of the pandemic "is quite concerning."

The growth projection was raised on the basis of "evidence we were getting in the last couple of months in terms of the normalisation of economic activity," she said at the release of the World Economic Outlook (WEO) report on Tuesday in Washington.

"These numbers precede the current wave of the virus, which is quite concerning," she added.

With the unprecedented growth rate projection of 12.5 per cent not seen in modern times, India also regains its status as the world's fastest growing economy, according to the WEO.

Malhar Nabar, the Division Chief in IMF's Research

Department, said, "The current forecast that we have already taken a fairly conservative view on the sequential growth for the Indian economy for this year."

"But it's true that with this very worrying uptick in (COVID-19) cases that poses very severe downside risks to the growth outlook for the economy," he added.

The WEO projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to moderate to 6.9 per cent in next fiscal year, while still retaining the top growth rate spot.

Any elation over the historically high rate is, however, moderated by the fact of India's negative growth rate of 8 per cent during 2020-21.

The growth rate projection for 2021-22 is 1 per cent higher than the 11.5 per cent projection made by the IMF in January and 5.1 per cent more than the 7.4 per cent in April last year. The previous highest GDP growth rate in modern times for India was recorded in 2010 at 10.3 per cent, and the

records before that were 9.8 per cent set in 2007 and 9.6 in 1988, according to IMF data.

The IMF growth rate projection for India is nearly in line with the 12.6 per cent from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) last month.

Gopinath struck a note of optimism for the world economy, which was projected by the IMF to grow by 6 per cent this year, an increase of 0.5 per cent from the January figure.

She wrote in a foreword to the WEO, "Even with high uncertainty about the path of the pandemic, a way out of this health and economic crisis is increasingly visible."

"Adaptation to pandemic life has enabled the global economy to do well despite subdued overall mobility, leading to a stronger-than-anticipated rebound, on average, across regions," she added.

However, she also warned, "A high degree of uncertainty surrounds these projections, with many possible downside and upside risks.

Sensex jumps over 300 points in early trade; Nifty reclaims 14,700 level

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After starting on a weak note, equity benchmark Sensex rebounded over 300 points in early trade on Tuesday, tracking gains in index heavyweights HDFC twins, Infosys and ICICI Bank.

The 30-share BSE index pared its initial losses and rebounded 313.14 points or 0.64 per cent to 49,472.46, and the broader NSE Nifty advanced 99.80 points or 0.68 per cent to 14,737.60.

PowerGrid was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 2 per cent, followed by M&M, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, ICICI Bank, HDFC duo and Infosys.

On the other hand, Titan was the sole laggard. In the previous session, Sensex finished at 49,159.32, down 870.51 points or 1.74 per cent, and Nifty sank 229.55 points or 1.54 per cent to 14,637.80.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded shares worth Rs 931.66 crore on Monday, as per

exchange data. According to V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, a significant fundamental factor from the market perspective is that the US and China are leading the global economic recovery.

This is likely to translate into earnings growth particularly in emerging markets like India.

"An important market trend in India is the outperformance of small-mid cap indices.

While Nifty is up 4.7 per cent YTD the small and mid-cap indices are up by 14 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

This outperformance is likely to continue since there is more value in this segment," he said. Further, he noted that while rising COVID-19 cases is a matter of concern, it is unlikely to have a major economic impact. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo were trading on a negative note in mid-session deals.

Covid returns: Airlines clamour to reduce operational capacity

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

Resurgence of Covid infections along with re-imposition of partial travel restrictions in some major states has triggered a clamour among a section of airlines for reduction of flight capacity.

Accordingly, industry insiders contend that rising cases have severely impacted demand leading to cancellations.

Notably, the Centre till now has allowed airlines to deploy 80 per cent capacity. The domestic sector was reopened on May 25, 2020 with a limited capacity of only 33 per cent.

Since then the operational capacity has only been increased in-consonance with rising passenger traffic.

"Covid cases have risen dramatically and loads have crashed drastically, thereby, leading to cancellations. Demand has been badly hit in multiple states especially Maharashtra," a senior executive with a leading private air-

line told IANS.

"As more and more states impose Covid based entry restrictions, the situation will only worsen. It's time that capacity is reduced. It's impossible to fly at 80 per cent right now."

According to a Mumbai based industry insider: "All airlines are bleeding heavily and sustaining at these levels is not viable. Many airlines are mulling pay cuts."

"Centre might have to intervene again to impose calibrated capacity deployment to save the industry."

In the past week from March 29 to April 4, a Crisil note cited that daily cases shot-up from 68,000 to over 1 lakh - a whopping 52 per cent increase. Besides, cases continue to be concentrated in Maharashtra, which accounted for 55 per cent of the new cases in March 29 to April 4 week.

Consequently, the rising cases, re-imposition of travel restrictions is expected to have a major negative impact on the industry.

Ordnance Factory Board has achieved target for 2020-21

Significant achievements during the year have been the establishment of the regular supply of the "Sharang" upgunned 155mm x 45 calibre artillery gun, the handing over of the first T-72 tank after the second overhaul (25-30 years' service) and the handing over of the first T-90 tank after the first overhaul. Ordnance Factory Board has achieved allotted target for FY 2020-21.

The successful clearance of the user trials by the Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC), the grant of the bulk production clearance for the heavy drop P-7 parachute, and the clearance for trials of the brake parachute for the AJT Hawk trainer constitute significant milestones.

The handing over of the first lot of the bullet resistant jackets to the Tamil Nadu police and 40 mm ammunition for the Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) to the BSF during the Atmanirbhar Bharat week during August 2020 were highly appreciated. On the export front, apart from exports to Bangladesh and Myanmar.

'Make in India' epitomises challenges to trade relationship: US

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

The United States has said that the recent Indian emphasis on import substitution through a "Make in India" campaign has epitomised the challenges facing the bilateral trade relationship. These comments are part of the "2021 Trade Policy Agenda and 2020 Annual Report" released by the US Trade Representative.

As per the document, during 2020, the United States continued its engagement with India to try to resolve long-standing market access impediments affecting U.S. exporters.

"While India's large market, economic growth, and progress towards development make it an essential market for many U.S. exporters, a general and consistent trend of trade-restrictive policies have inhibited the potential of the bilateral trade relationship," the document said.

It said the recent Indian emphasis on import substitution through a "Make in India" campaign has epitomised the challenges facing the bilateral trade relationship.

Effective June 5, 2019, the United States terminated India's eligibility under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme, following a review of concerns related to India's compliance with the GSP market access criterion. Subsequent to the suspension of India's GSP benefits, the United States and India resumed intensive work in the fall of 2019 aimed at producing a package of meaningful market access outcomes, and this engagement continued throughout 2020. U.S. objectives in this negotiation included resolution of various non-tariff barriers, targeted reduction of certain Indian tariffs, and other market access improvements.

Inflationary inflection: MPC to hold rates, accommodative stance

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank is expected to retain key lending rates on the back of inflationary pressure along with high bond yields during the first monetary policy review of FY22, experts contended.

Similarly, RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) is likely to maintain the current accommodative stance due to growth concerns amidst resurgence of Covid-19. In a poll conducted by IANS, economists and industry experts cited rising inflation as a key factor halting any further monetary policy easing. "No change is expected in policy rate. Status quo is expected for the next 6-9 months," Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, India Ratings & Research, told IANS. "OMOs will also continue to stabilise the yields which

have gone up after the government announced additional borrowing of Rs 800 in FY21."

Notably, the country's CPI based inflation rose to 5 per cent YoY in February from 4.1 per cent in January.

Likewise, food and beverage price growth gained 4.3 per cent from 2.7 per cent in January. The core CPI excluding food, fuel and light was up 5.6 per cent in February, from 5.3 per cent in January. "MPC in its upcoming meeting will continue to reaffirm the accommodative monetary policy despite the global increase in bond yields amidst concerns of a quicker than expected normalisation in the markets of developed economies," said Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer at Acuite Ratings and Research.

PE funding dips 7.7% to \$3.44 bn across 260 deals in Q1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fund infusion by private equity funds declined almost 8 per cent in the March quarter this year to USD 3.44 billion across 260 deals, according to industry data.

Though the value of private equity investments declined 7.7 per cent in Q1, the number of deals soared by 44 per cent to 260 from 180 in Q1 of 2020, show the data collated by the London Stock Exchange Group-owned Refinitiv that tracks global financial transactions and market action.

Overall, 2020 saw the highest number of deals since 2010 with 810 private equity deals worth USD 34.44 billion. Software companies attracted the maximum PE interest in

Q1 this year with USD 1,348 million equity invested compared to internet-specific companies in Q1 of 2020 with USD 2,053 million equity investment.

Fundraising in Q1 stood at USD 1,605 million compared to USD 670 million (USD) in Q1 2020, an increase of 139 per cent year-on-year.

The top deals are the USD 460 million raised by Think & Learn from five funds, followed by Dream11 Fantasy - USD 266.67 million from two funds, Zomato - USD 230 million from four PEs, Finnovation Tech USD 145 million from 6 funds, Stelis Biopharma - USD 125 million from 5 funds, and Zetwerk - USD 120 million from five funds, according to Refinitiv data.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Name: Rohan S/o Virender Kumar R/o 5/2A, P&T Qtr. Kalibari Marg, New Delhi** has been missing since 15.03.2021 from Gole Market, Cyber Café, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 75A dated 17.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Mandir Marg, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 22 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Hair: Black, Wearing: Purple colour sweatshirt and blue colour jeans and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. At E-mail cid@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Distt., Delhi
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/251/NDD/2021 Ph. No. 011-23364100, 23366730, 5050870522

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Laxmi@Kammo, D/o: Jitender, R/o: H.No. B-276-77 Jahangir Puri, Delhi** has been missing since 24.03.2021 from the area of PS Jahangir Puri Delhi. In this regard DD No. 123 A dated 24.03.2021 u/s 363 IPC has been lodged at Police Station Jahangir Puri, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Laxmi@kammo, Age: 19 Years, Height: 4'8" Feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Sphere, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black and white suit and chapel in feet.

If anyone has any information about this Missing female please inform P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Jahangir Puri, Delhi
DP/734/NW/2021 Ph: 011-27631600, 8750870225

WESTERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE

Please refer to this office
Tender notice no: BCT/20-21/380 date : 17/03/2021
DOP : 09.04.2021, may be treated as cancelled. 0002

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Kewal Krishan Babbar is owner/ attorney holder and in possession of Property bearing No. S-50, area measuring 100 sq. Yds., Khara No. 136 to 140, Situated in the area of Village Vihar Colony known as Ullam Nagar, Block S, New Delhi. Said Property by virtue of GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will all dated 24.07.1996. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned attorney holder want sell the said property to Mr. Dhiraj Prasad who is taking home loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for purchase of the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon said property (its ownership & Title) its Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
203, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Meti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 011-4112227-28, kumar@advocatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Suman Chaturvedi W/o Sh. Subhash Chaturvedi, an owner of property bearing No. WZ-340D, Village Palam, Delhi through Gift Deed 01.01.2021 which is registered as registration no. 83 with SR-IX, Delhi. That I have lost my last chain document Registered WILL dated 31.10.2011 document No. 2391 with SR-IX, Delhi. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

Vishal Mehan (Advocate), E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 Mobile No. 9811215181

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VII NSTP CORONATION PILLAR DELHI -110009
E-mail ID: nstp.djb@gmail.com, Phone No 011-27602302

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO: 22 (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of work (In Rs.)	Dated of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	SITC of Automated PAC Dosing System with complete automation at Narela STP.	Item Rate	Rs. 3997952/- Or Undertaking as per office memorandum No. F-9/14/2020-PPD	31.03.2021 Tender ID No. is 2021_DJB_202535_1	16.04.2021 at 1.30 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advdt. No. J.S.V. 23 (2020-21)

Sd/-
(Er. O.P. Yadav)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VII

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1. Name of Work with its locations	PART-A: Provision of SCADA and integration with RCC in connection with Electrification of proposed Greenfield CONCOR PFT siding at Rajlugarhi on DUK section. PART-B: Provision of SCADA and integration with RCC in connection with Electrification of Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding taking off from Patli station on DEE-RE section.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 42,64,041/-
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 0/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	15.04.2021 (00.00 Hrs.) to 29.04.2021 (15.00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	29.04.2021 (15.00 hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	00844521
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 01-TRD-NDLS-2021-22 Dated 05.04.2021 776/2021

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mandeep @ Manny, S/o Surjit Singh, R/o E-243, Mangolpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 20/2019 U/S 379/356/34 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mandeep @ Manny** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mandeep @ Manny** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Mandeep @ Manny** of **FIR No. 20/2019 U/S 379/356/34 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.04.2021**.

By Order
Sh. Vivek Beniwal, Metropolitan Magistrate-07 (NW), Room No. 208, 2nd Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi
DP/761/RD/2021 (Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Nisha** with her daughter namely **Khushi (Age: 1.5 Years) W/o Arvind R/o J-1959/60, Jahangir Puri, Delhi** aged about 27 Years has been reported missing since 24.03.2021 at 12 PM vide **DD No.1A Dated 25.03.2021** registered at Police Station Mahendra Park, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'1", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Green coloured Suit, salwar and Slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female & her daughter, may inform SHO, Mahendra Park, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Mahendra Park, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27632501, 27362502
DP/739/NW/2021 Mob.: 8750870228

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found dead under flyover near Hanuman Mandir dated 27.03.2021. In this regard a vide DD No. 70A, dated 27.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the person is given as under **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 60 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: White Shirt and Badami Lower.**

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. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/1077/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
This is to inform that General Public that following share certificate of Bhageria Industries Limited having its registered Office at Office No-1002, Topiwala Centre, Off S. V. Road, Mumbai-400062, Maharashtra registered in the name of the following shareholder have been lost by them.

Name Of Share Holders	Rajinder Singh Sawhney Harbans Kaur Sawhney
Folio No.	016435
Certificate No/s.	2101
Distinctive Number/s	21982031-21982230
No. of shares	200 (FACE VALUE RS.5/-)

The public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate should lodge such claim with the company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L.B.S. Marg Vikhroli (W) Mumbai-400083 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue duplicate share certificate.

HARBANS KAUR SAWHNEY
Place:-Delhi
Date:-07-04-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Deepak Kumar Bose S/o. Sh. T.N. Bose is the Owner & Title Holder in continuous and unindivided possession of 'ODA Built Up' Freehold Property Bearing Fiat No. 55C, First & Second Floor (Duplex), Block H, Category-III, Saket, New Delhi, hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" vide Conveyance Deed dated 10.11.2003, registered as Regn. No. 7850, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1042, page 140 to 141 on 22.12.2003 in the office of the Sub Registrar-VI, New Delhi. That the Originals of (i) Allotment Cum Demand Letter, (ii) Offer to Possession Letter, (iii) NDC for Water & Electricity and (iv) Possession Slip all issued by Delhi Development Authority in favour of Sh. Deepak Kumar Bose w.r.t. the Schedule Property, have been lost/misplaced in lieu of which Information Report dated 22nd March, 2021 has been filed with Delhi Police bearing LR No. 25608/1/2021. Therefore, any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s) etc., having any knowledge of the above mentioned lost documents or having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null and void and shall be treated as waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to complete the transaction of Sale of the Schedule Property in favour of Sh. Rajesh Kumar Puri, Smt. Surekha Puri and Sh. Sahil Puri.

Pankaj Kumar Singh (Advocate)
Date: -07.04.2021 Chamber no. 642, Lawyer Blocks, Saket Court, Delhi-110017

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: About 20-25 years, Height : 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Hair: black, Wearing: Jeans pant light green & black colour shirt and red colour belt** has been found dead at Haiderpur Jal Board Plant Naharke and, Delhi on 23.03.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 24A dated 23.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi.

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

SHO :
P.S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi Rohini Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27571162, 27571171
DP/760/RD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 35-40 years of age was found dead at K.M. Pole No. 5/11G to 5/13G in track GZB to NDLS near Preet Vihar, Delhi due to train accident on 01.04.2021. In this regard a DD No. 1A, dated 01.04.2021 has been registered at **Police Station Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi**. Dead body has been preserved at Mortuary of GTB Hospital for identification.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 35-40 years, Height: 5'2" ft., Face: Crushed, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour Jacket & Matmela Baniyan and Black Pant.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Anand Vihar Rly. Stn., Delhi
Ph.: 011-22145601, 22145602
Mob.: 8750871314
DP/99/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55-60 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5' 7", Wearing: White & blue colour shirt and black colour lower and white colour sleepers in feet (clothes were kept nearby body), who was found at P/F No. 4 Near Pani Ki Tanki, Delhi End, Shahdara Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 10A dated 02.04.2021 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S: Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/101/RLY/2021 Tel.: 011-23961522

The acquisition of AESL by Byju's will be a game changer. PIONEER AVENUES tells you what the merger is about, costs involved and how it will affect the two



Giants meet. Pen \$1 billion deal

Mergers of two giants is not new news. In the past, there have been some very big mergers — the biggest has been the Vodafone and Mannesmann. It took place in 2000 and was worth over \$180 billion. India, too, has seen its share of giants joining hands. A case in point is the acquisition between Flipkart Group and Walmart India Pvt Limited.

In yet another merger, BYJU'S, the ed-tech giant on Monday announced its strategic partnership with Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a leader in test prep services.

This partnership brings together two of the largest education brands in India. It combines Aakash's pedagogy expertise in the test-prep segment with BYJU'S content and tech capabilities. This is not all, BYJU'S will make further investments to accelerate Aakash's growth.

This is not the first time that AESL has gone into a partnership, in 2019, it partnered with Blackstone to create India's largest digitally enabled,

omni-channel test preparation company.

Byju Raveendran, founder-CEO, BYJU'S said: "I am happy to have AESL, a market leader and the most trusted name in the test prep services, on board with us. Our complementary strengths will enable us to build capabilities, create engaging and personalised learning programmes. The future of learning is hybrid and this union will bring together the best of offline and online learning, as we combine our expertise to create impactful experiences for students."

The pandemic has brought the importance of the blended format of learning to the forefront. "As we unite our forces to bring together decades of expertise and experience, this partnership will further accelerate Aakash's growth and success," Raveendran said.

The addition of Aakash is a significant step towards strengthening BYJU'S product offering. It reiterates the company's focus on creating impactful learning products for students by adding more verticals, sub-

HIGH POINTS

- Byju's pays about \$1 billion.
- The Chaudhry family will be running the business independently.
- The name of the merger hasn't been decided yet.
- Cash and stock transactions are around 60% cash and 40% equity.
- Blackstone and Aakash founders will get stake in Byju's parent firm.
- The deal will help Aakash in bringing together its content and test-prep expertise with Byju's top notch tech capabilities.
- With the future being hybrid, it'll be highly beneficial for the students as this would provide the best of online and offline education.
- With Byju's expansion plan, Aakash will increase its national footprint further in Tier III and IV cities which will further provide ease of access to thousands of students.

jects, and languages to the same platform. "At Aakash, we are looking to transform student experiences by steering innovative and digitally-enabled learning solutions. Together, we will work towards building an omni-channel learning offering that will accelerate test-prep experience to the next level. While this partnership will enhance our operational verticals,

Aakash will continue to operate as a separate entity with the same passion and commitment with which its founder-chairman JC Chaudhry inceptioned it. We are excited to partner with them and will strive to deliver long-term value to our students, employees, investors, and other stakeholders," Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, AESL, said.

Amit Dixit, Co-Head of Asia Acquisitions and Head of India Private Equity at Blackstone, said that they invested in AESL because it is one of the leading education brands in India with a professional management team, best-in-class corporate governance and a 33-year track-record of exceptional results.

"We have always believed omni-channel will be the winning model in test prep and tutoring and we look forward to being a part of the partnership between the two foremost companies in Indian supplementary education. The combination is highly synergistic and we are excited to help build India's largest education company," Dixit said.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.
— Anthony J D'Angelo

DIPLOMA COURSE

The Institute of Nutrition and Fitness Sciences (INFS), the largest online fitness institute, invites applications for Diploma in Nutrition and Fitness (DNF), with pre-bookings started for the first batch from March 24, 2021. The diploma covers the twin discipline of Nutrition and Fitness which will enable the students to be successful fitness coaches/nutritionists.

To successfully complete the diploma course, a student must complete 40 credits from subjects that have been carefully chosen to make them a successful coach. Besides the Nutrition and Fitness content, modules on diet psychology, setting up a successful career, and others are also included in the course. Six credits are assigned to an internship programme where the students guide real-life clients over a period of four weeks.

How to apply: Log on to <https://infs.co.in/>.

Admissions OPEN

MSC PROGRAMME

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for MSc Biological and Bioprocess Engineering course starting in September 2021.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Holders of a three-year bachelor degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class in science, technology and engineering from a reputable university in science, technology or engineering. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2021/biological-and-bioprocess-engineering-msc>.

Soft skills course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ed-tech start-up Board Infinity has launched English Communication and soft skills programme under its live 1-on-1 sessions module. The students can opt for different learning sessions which include 30, 60 and 100 Live 1-on-1 sessions packages. The aim is to provide every learner a personalised learning, leading to higher concentration levels and better learning results. The courses are extremely flexible with the number of sessions ranging from 30 to 100 depending on the course the student chooses.

Abhay Gupta, Co-Founder, Board infinity says: "The corporates appreciate and are eager to employ job seekers who possess not only knowledge but also skills, comprising communication, critical thinking and problem-solving. Our platform helps strengthen skills in and build confidence among them."

The students will be taught by the industry experts who will learn about grammar, reading and listening comprehension, interpersonal and formal communication, public speaking, vocabulary, group interaction activities, presentation skills, accent modulation, resume building, LinkedIn & social media profile building. The highlight of the programme is soft skills such as positive body language, professional etiquette, telephonic etiquette, negotiation skills, persuasion, and conflict management. These soft skills are essential to improve lives and enrich relationships.

The coaches for this programme are industry expert trainers, teachers, soft skills trainers, content writers who have had a strong career journey working in educational institutions and the corporate world.

On Sunday morning, many people woke up to the news of personal data of over 500 million Facebook users leaked over the Internet. The news created a storm among the Facebookholics and hence, raised several security concerns. Many decided to take help from several websites to check whether they are in the list of the leaked user data.

"The case with Facebook happened because of a security flaw. Usually, the data breaches that we see in India, are because of some vulnerabilities in the app. Take for example, if the developer of an app or a website has not been able to completely secure it and has left loopholes, the hacker can easily fetch information and hack the data. In my experience, it is mostly the Application Programming Interface which are left vulnerable by the developers and companies don't spend enough on security," Ehrasz Ahmed, an ethical hacker, entrepreneur and a Fintech professional, tells you.

Now this, of course, gives us a reality check of how strong a cybersecurity network we have and where we stand in the field.

From IT to finance and marketing, no field has been spared by the wrath of cyberattacks. Going ahead, it has become critical for all IT professionals, specially, to know security in and out. Every IT and technology professional needs to be involved in the process of safeguarding data and equipped with devices and infrastructure to counter these attacks.

"Unfortunately, we are lacking in talent. This is going to continue to be a problem in the coming years if we don't rectify the quality of education and training that our new cyber experts receive," Nikhil S Mahadeshwar, Co-founder & CTO, SkyNet Softtech Pvt Ltd, points out.

Ahmed too agrees with Mahadeshwar and says that the advancements in technology will drive the cybersecurity market. All our personal data would be stored in the cloud and cybersecurity would be more important than ever.

"The rising security threats are a clear reflection of the lack of talent in the cybersecurity field. It has become imperative that we start focusing on training people on maintaining the basic security policies. It will help fill the skills gap," Ahmed asserts.

But, one and may be the only positive of all these security breaches can be that it gives cybersecurity greater scope as a career option.

While, choosing a field is not much of a task, the real labour starts when one thinks of which course to opt for. With cybersecurity being a vast field, it goes without saying it has several courses on

No hacking this

It's time we understood the importance of having a vigorous cyber security infrastructure. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with EHRAZ AHMED and NIKHIL S MAHADESHWAR about how important it is to train people and the courses available



offer. To make things less complicated, students can begin with a certificate in ethical hacking.

"The first step should be to learn programming, without this one can't aspire to enter the field. The aspirants should have a strong hold on, at least, the basics of programming and then they can opt for certificate courses," Ahmed says.

Some of the courses students can explore is certified ethical hacker (CEH) which will give a students a broader perspective of the cybersecurity industry. "After completion of this certification course students can further select a specialisation from a variety of courses. Security analysis, digital forensic investigator, threat analysis, malware analysis, mobile forensic investigator and stoke analysis are there to name a few. But having said that, it is always recommended to have a strong base and then opt for other certifications," Mahadeshwar tells you.

The popular belief that cyberattacks are often considered a risk, mainly, to large corporations and conglomerates is



The first step is to learn programming, without this, one can't aspire to enter the field. The aspirants should have a strong hold on, at least, the basics and then they can opt for certificate courses
— Ehrasz Ahmed
Ethical hacker, entrepreneur and Fintech professional

now changing as smaller businesses have begun to report data breach cases and system compromises.

"Smaller businesses are always an easy target for the hackers because they tend to not focus particularly on security. This gives room to hackers to leak and modify information. It proves that cybersecurity can't be compromised at any cost and all the firms — no matter large or small — should invest in training their workforce in cybersecurity," Ahmed explains.

In order to counter the increasing cyberattacks, there is a need to introduce cybersecurity as a subject in the school's curriculum. "Students should be taught cybersecurity just like any other subjects. There should be a dedicated chapter that introduces them to the basics of the field," Ahmed says.

This will not only help in strengthening the professionals expertise, but will also allow students to stay abreast with the latest happenings in the field. Hence, resulting in more students taking up the course.

Top courses on GST

GST is historical indirect tax Grefrom in India. There has been a paradigm shift in the Indirect Tax structure with the GST rollout on July 1, 2017. It is important to understand and assimilate the new GST in India, new compliances and the changes in processes in operating business. To help professionals and aspirants with the ongoing changes and to make them GST experts many institutes have introduced the Certification Course on GST. The objective of this course is to provide knowledge of practical aspects of GST to all.

Here is the list of few online certification courses for GST in India.

Henry Harvin: Henry Harvin Education is India's leading Edtech company. The GST Certification Course gives a 360-degree insight on GST regulations, delivered by experts. The course helps students to understand practical issues faced with GST with the focused FAQ session, gain experience of computer-based practical training on GST, get knowledge on recent amendments & their challenges and resolve doubts on GST during and after training. The students get real-life cases and experiences shared by GST experts

Tax GuruEdu: TaxGuru Edu, an educational wing of TaxGuru offers Online Certification Course on Goods and Service Tax. Batch covers detailed analysis of entire GST law with special focus on Effective GST Audits & Reconciliation Statements, Filing of Annual Returns, Handling Assessments and Comprehensive Analysis of GST Amendment Acts with Case Studies. Certificate from TaxGuruEdu shall also be given after the successful clearance of the exam.

Online Course involves two classes a week of 3.5 hrs for one month (30 hrs detailed course). **Fees:** ₹10,000 plus GST@18%. The online GST Certification Course is conducted in English as well as Hindi because the users are from across India.

CA Club India: CA Club India offers online GST Certification Course which focus on practical aspects of GST with the support of the theoretical knowledge of the law and participants will be able to learn all the basic to advance concepts and prepare themselves for the latest GST updates with this GST online course. The objective of

this Course is to provide knowledge of practical aspects of GST, develop detailed understanding of GST provisions with practical case studies, help students with analysis of open and burning issues in GST, teach them how to Prepare and file GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C amongst others. The Online Course duration offers 61 hours of video classes, E-Book on GST in English Language at ₹6,599. On successful completion of the course students are awarded e-Certificate issued by CAclubindia.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI): The ICSI, a statutory body under the Act of Parliament offers certificate course in GST. The certificate course in GST is an advanced level course and shall test a candidate's knowledge of various concepts of GST along with the transitional issues. In order to give sufficient practical knowledge of GST, the course has been modeled with a combination of web based study & self study followed by an online examination. The duration is 25 hours conducted over four Sundays followed by the online examination. The fee is ₹12,500 plus taxes.

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha varsity signs MoUs

The Centre for Disaster Management Studies (CDMS), Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has signed MoUs for academic collaborations with three reputed national and international organisations — National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), MHA, Government of India; Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India, Dehradun; and India Japan Laboratories (IJL), Kio University, Japan.

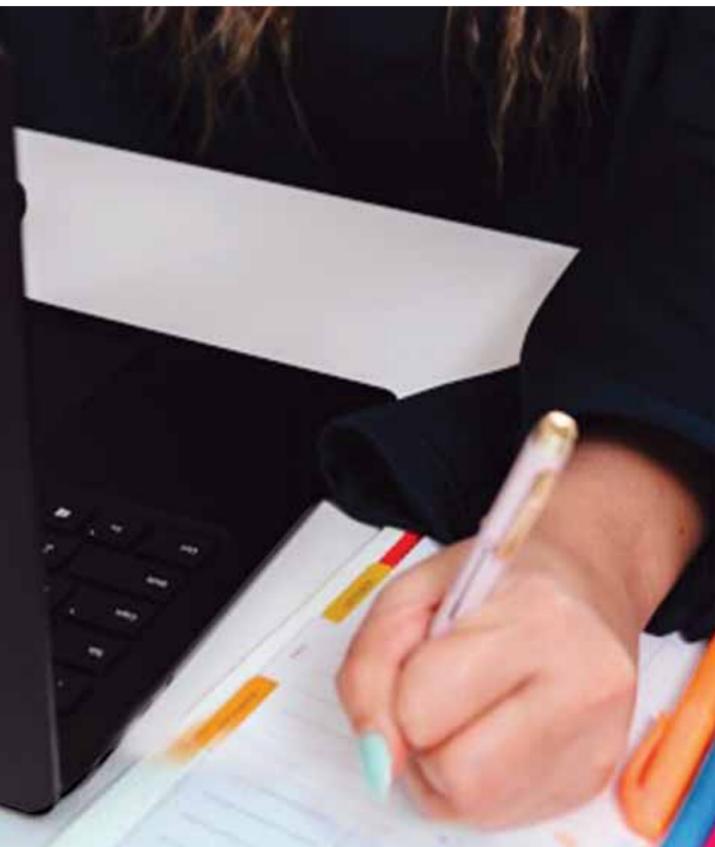
During the MoU signing ceremony, SN Pradhan, IPS, Director General, NDRF; Dr Prakash Chauhan, Director, IIRS, ISRO; Prof Rajib Shaw, Director, IJL, Keio University; Atul Garg, Director, Delhi Fire Services; AK Sengar, IPS, IG, NDRF; BC Nayak, Retd IPS, Former Special Director Intelligence, MHA; Anil Sinha, IAS ret'd Founder Vice Chairman, Bihar Disaster Management Authority were present in the online/offline mode along with officers from Delhi Fire Services, NDMA, Indian Army and Deans/Directors of the University.

The MoU with IIRS will help in the training & education and high quality research in Remote Sensing and GIS applications for the students.

While the MoU with IJL, Keio University Japan, will help in climate change & disaster risk reduction by use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, geospatial technologies with scope of further joint research in the field of Disaster Management. And the MoU with NDRF will help in exchange of resource persons, training and joint case studies for the students of CDMS, GGSIU on various aspects of Disaster Management.

LEARNING IN HYBRID WORLD

To make virtual education more meaningful, a close partnership of teachers, students and staff is crucial, says ADITYA BERLIA



Virtual learning has the incredible opportunity to expand beyond recreating the in-classroom experience to leverage online teaching aids such as simulations, games, quizzes, polls and graphics seamlessly. These tools amplify learning and engagement levels.

Break out rooms are faster and easier to do once students are comfortable and engaged, increasing the amount of in-class teams and project work. By getting collaborative spaces connected to virtual breakout rooms, scholars can go the extra mile in productivity while being properly supervised.

To go totally online, it requires an extremely close partnership among teachers, students and staff that can overcome challenges and work through mistakes.

Mental and physical health is important: It is essential to intersperse online learning with frequent mental health breaks filling time with physical experiences like dancing, theatre, yoga and medi-

tation. This also keeps the sports aspect going and is a great way to disperse excess energy.

Security is everyone's responsibility: Security and maintaining the classroom's sanctity takes all stakeholders' collaboration, including teachers, IT admins, parents and students. Improving the reaction time through training teachers is extremely important.

Parents, particularly of primary classes, may need to adjust to inconveniences like changing passwords to ensure a safe learning environment.

Classroom management: By creating small custom tools and scripts, we could vastly improve classroom engagement. We were able to tie in attendance, feedback, and engagement tracking tools, which gave a fantastic boost to traditional classroom management techniques. Different grade levels of students respond in different ways online rather than offline, which needs to be understood by the teacher.

Open evaluation boosts

SECURITY AND MAINTAINING THE CLASSROOM'S SANCTITY TAKES ALL STAKEHOLDERS' COLLABORATION. PARENTS, PARTICULARLY OF PRIMARY CLASSES, MAY NEED TO ADJUST TO INCONVENIENCES LIKE CHANGING PASSWORDS TO ENSURE A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

learning: Pushing evaluation to open book standards brings down rote learning. While it requires a colossal effort on the part of teachers, it makes a significant difference in in-depth assessment and measurement of learning for students. COVID-19 was a great way to experiment with innovative evaluation methods that made testing more of an introspective rather than a stressful event.

Mobile is key: Despite our buying and dispatching laptops to teachers and students as the pandemic severity became clear — a significant number still used a mobile device as their primary way of accessing the classroom.

By being very conscious of students' technology form factors, teachers can deliver a more uniform learning experience. For example, those with mobile phones could handwrite assignments and submit them by clicking photos rather than using a word processor or scanner.

Space matters: The greatest challenge is ensuring that each stu-

dent has a quiet and dedicated space to learn.

During the lockdown for most families, this was a severe issue with multiple household members needing privacy. Access to a safe and quiet space at home for intensive learning with the use of technology will continue to be a challenge as we try to move towards a more blended classroom model.

While classrooms are moving back to the physical and semi-physical form, we are excited to see how we can bring many of these elements into the physical and hybrid world. The significant difference now is the confidence that teachers have to embrace every level of technology and the understanding that parents have to allow new forms of teaching and evaluation.

Students are always the core and we are continuously amazed at how well they are able to adapt, it's the rest of us who have to catch up.

The writer is Co-promoter, Apeejay Education

'FMCG offers exciting work experience'

In this industry, there is constant need for fresh and exciting ideas for those seeking rewards & opportunities, says AMRINDER SINGH

If you're looking for exciting and dynamic work experience, then a career in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector is just apt for you. Most FMCG giants come up with fresher programmes for graduates and MBA recruits.

Through these programmes, candidates get trained right from leadership to managerial roles. They are exposed to all kind of responsibilities including marketing and sales, supply chain management and finance and accounting that give them an overview of the fast growing industry.

Due to the intense competition along with incessant growth in the sector, it requires good human resource year on year. The products in this industry are highly perishable goods, smaller household and fashion items and personal hygiene products.

An MBA degree is the minimum qualification needed to be a part of this industry for leading the roles in junior management, brand marketing or finance parts. The sector offers plentiful opportunities to those seeking rewarding and growing job opportunities. In this industry, there is a constant need for fresh and exciting ideas relating to product packaging, advertising, marketing and communications.

The various opportunities in this field are:

Retail buyers: They are mostly involved in stock selection. For this role, it's imperative to know your store's customer, their tastes and the most sold product in the store. Knowledge of trends and fashion are needed to stay ahead.

Marketing managers: Their responsibility is to research, plan and implement all aspects of marketing goals so that their company can stay relevant and improve with the changing times. Another most important goal is increasing the sales and market share. They are also required to be abreast with consumer trends and demographics besides thinking out-of-the-box campaigns and marketing strategies.

Supply and distribution chain managers: They are behind planning and organising all aspects of supplying the right products to the right



Amrinder Singh
Director, Bonn Group of Industries

store at the right time. They also manage the orders and receipt of products from the supplier, the storage of goods and the delivery of goods to the retail outlet.

Finance managers: They need to have a cost accounting qualification alongside their work. Many graduates in this function take an MBA to accelerate their career progression and differentiate themselves (or to move into a different function). In early days, work involves producing management accounts in time for reporting cycles. With seniority the role transitions in to cost saving and change management projects to improve overall profitability of the organisation.

Retail managers: Their duty is to plan and coordinate the retail outlets. They overlook the overall responsibility for ensuring the quality of customer service, the appropriateness of choices of inventory and managing the finances. Their duty changes according to the size of the retail store. Sometimes, they take direct control of all aspects of supply chain management, retail supply management and stock selection.

Data science has emerged as an attractive career option for freshers as well as professionals. Almost every industry, whether it is retail, healthcare, IT, telecommunication or finances and insurance, all have opened their doors to the role of data analysts.

Data has become an essential part of our life even the Google map is wholly dependent on data to guide you to your destination. Data is one of the fastest growing and valuable commodities. It is the future oil. Most of the jobs today are focused on data science and that includes social media which we use on a daily basis. All over the world, organisations are focusing on methods to organise and

harness data to meet their strategic goals. Advertising, product designing and implementing strategy are powered by data. The jobs related to data are growing across the globe.

Scope A career in data science is promising as it is one of the fastest growing industries. Data scientists have become the hottest property of the century. Scope of data science is wide and alluring. Being a data scientist covers a range of professions which include engineers, computer scientists, statisticians, physicists, operations researchers, actuaries and machine learners.

MINDIT

Skills

To take data science as a career option, students need to get a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Statistics, Computer Science, Physics, Applied Mathematics, Social Science and Engineering. A degree in any of these courses will help students. After getting the degree, students need to enrol in a master's programme related to data science.

In addition, one can bring:

- Knowledge of good statistical and data mining techniques.
 - Command over programming languages, and good knowledge in machine learning and advanced analytics.
 - Ability to analyse issues, identify causes, and recommend solutions quickly.
 - Creativity to invent new techniques.
- In the current scenario, companies across the world are offering a handsome package to hire skilled data science professionals. Almost all industrialised countries are utilising data science in some

way, shape or form and data scientists are in demand in most countries.

According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics the job outlook for computer and information research scientists, data scientists is projected to grow by at least 19 per cent by 2026. Following is the list of top data science companies across the globe in which every aspiring learner should apply: Microsoft, Facebook, IBM, Amazon, Google, Apple, Oracle, JP Morgan, Fractal Analytics, and Crayon Data.

Not that India lags in the demand for data scientists. The five biggest companies in India in need of data scientists are: Fractal Analytics, Accenture, IBM, Absolute

Data, and Genpact.

Data is a reliable tool for various sectors. Almost all companies are using data analysing tools to draw meaningful insights for their future growth. If a company uses their data well then data science definitely can add value to their business. As the demand for data science professional grows, both new and old companies are starting to invest in this field without limits on the right professional.

Here is an opportunity to begin your career today and be a part of a highly sought after talent pool.

The writer is Dr Sanjeev Sharma, Dean Academics, Sanskriti University



The Commonwealth Shared Scholarships are offered by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) in partnership with UK universities. The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is offering six scholarships under this scheme.

Eligibility: Be a citizen of or have been granted refugee status by an eligible Commonwealth country, or be a British Protected Person; Be permanently resident in an eligible Commonwealth country; Be available to start your academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in Sep/Oct 2021; Hold a first degree of "at least upper second class (2:1) standard, or a second class degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (usually a Masters degree). The CSC would not normally fund a second UK master's degree. Not have studied or worked for one (academic) year or more in a high income country (as classified by the World Bank); Be unable to afford to study in the UK without this scholarship.

For further information - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-with-us/scholarships/commonwealthsharedscholarship/> or contact : commonwealthshared@strath.ac.uk.

Application deadline: It is April 9, 2021.

The Triumphant Institute of Management Education (T.I.M.E.) will conduct Talent Search Examination (TTSE) for CAT 21-22 aspirants on April 11, 2021, (Sunday). The institute is a multi-location, multi-programme training specialist offering a wide range of programmes not only for national and State-level entrance exams like CAT, MAT, JEE-Main, and JEE-Advanced but also for international exams like GMAT, GRE, IELTS and TOEFL.

The scholarship test will be conducted in two slots — 10 am and 6 pm. Students can choose to write the test in any slot. Attractive performance-based fee waivers will be available for the students. A minimum assured discount of 10% of the total course fee will be given to those who write the Free Mock and enroll in the mentioned courses before 11th April, 2021

The TTSE is open to students who wish to prepare for CAT 2021-22. Based on performance, students writing this examination will become eligible for a certain amount of scholarship on CAT 2021-22 full-course fee.

To register log on to: <https://www.time4education.com/local/articlecms/page.php?id=4430>.

BUSINESS DEV (SALES) AT ATMAS SOFTWARES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8038295
Deadline: April 14, 2021

DIGITAL MARKETING AT BLUE CAFFEINE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8038296
Deadline: April 14, 2021

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT SMARTWAYS

Location: Delhi, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida, Noida
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8038297
Deadline: April 14, 2021

CLOUD COMPUTING AT CYBEROISYSTEMS

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8038300
Deadline: April 14, 2021

BUSINESS STRATEGY AT EMBEBO

Location: Ranchi, Dehradun, Kolkata, Lucknow, Patna, Hyderabad, Bhopal
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8038301
Deadline: April 12, 2021

FRESHER JOBS

WEB DEVELOPER AT WONO INC

Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹5.5-₹6.5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/8038303
Deadline: April 29, 2021
Skill(s): Java, HTML, JavaScript

EDU VIDEO CREATOR

Location: Kolkata, Noida
Stipend: ₹3-₹4 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/8038305
Deadline: April 14, 2021
Skill(s): Physics, Chem, Math, Bio, Video Editing & making, Audio Editing and making

IN BRIEF

AMP UP LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Making online classes easier, and fulfilling and also creating a rich learning environment, the simplest of innovations are creating a world of difference in the study desk. Here's a list of gadgets that can help you amp up your game to set up your study desk.

Keeping laptop cool: While attending classes from 9 am, it's normal for the laptop to get heated. We have got you covered by Zinq Cool Slate. It has five fans, the four outer large fans and then the center wind fan. It can also be used as a laptop stand providing you with the most relaxing incline angle for all-day viewing and typing. This is a perfect companion for long classes on laptop to keep it cool.

See through Clearly: Logitech Webcam makes video calling seamless, compatible with PC, Mac and ChromeOS

ALGORITHMS FOR IC ENGINES

The Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, researchers, along with Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Private Limited, Bangalore, have developed algorithms to predict the functioning of vehicular Internal Combustion (IC) engines so that their operation can be

optimised and fuel efficiency maximised with minimum emission.

The IC engine fuelled by petrol and diesel, powers 99.8 per cent of global transport and, in doing so, generates about 10 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternatives including battery

platforms.

Uninterrupted Internet: For online classes we all need high speed and uninterrupted Internet. But the light can go off anytime so Zinq UPS ensures to keep all your activities un-interrupted and gives you absolute freedom from power cuts.

Extending connections with computer or laptop: With so many devices we might need something that helps to extend your USB connection to your computer. It is a must have for high performance.

For convenience: Convenience is the first thing when it comes to buying any gadget. Zinq has a durable body with each key having at least 10 million clicks of lifespan. You can use a mouse for gaming as well as enhancing your productivity. A convenient scroller has been provided to help you scroll with absolute smoothness and less difficulty.

NATIONAL CODING CHALLENGE

Scaler has announced the launch of the first edition of CodeX, a national-level coding challenge for technology professionals and aspirants.

The challenge aims to provide a platform for participants to learn and improve their coding skills and getting a chance to win cash prizes, scholarships and counselling from top industry mentors.

Additionally, top performers' profiles shall be shared with Scaler's industry partners for recruitment.

It is a two-and-a-half-hour long challenge scheduled to start from April 9, 2021. It is open to all coding enthusiasts and has two modes — CodeX Competitive Mode and CodeX Learning Mode. All participants will be provided with personalised performance reports and can avail counselling sessions to help think through accelerating their careers. Additionally, top performers also stand a chance to win cash rewards and scholarships worth over 70 lakh, along with direct access to the Scaler Academy programme.

To enhance woman participation there is an exclusive opportunity, to participate in fireside chats with inspiring women technocrats and interact with them on managing expectations, breaking the glass ceiling and building a career in tech. Top performers will get the opportunity to be mentored by women leaders.

More information and registration details can be accessed through the following URL: <https://www.scaler.com/vent/codex>.

PREPARATION COURSES FOR CFA, CA

EduLyle has introduced online coaching for both CA and CFA. Classes are online so participants will save time and money. According to the founder, EduLyle, Gajendra Jaiswal: "In the post-pandemic era, with new initiatives like new regulations, bank recapitalisation and 49 per cent FDI through automatic routes apart from innovation and growing penetration, there would be higher demand for finance

professionals. Many new-age and traditional companies would require expert financial services to guide them through market demands."

Candidates will learn about the concepts, their uses, benefits and applications in the real world. Learn from the official study materials, review materials and mock exams. Each candidate gets one-on-one attention and personalised instructions.

LAPTOP INITIATIVE FOR THE GIRL CHILD

In the wake of promoting the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* campaign and building a Digital India, HKBK College of Engineering, in association with Round Table India, has taken an initiative to empower the girls studying at various Government

schools in the Bengaluru and distribute 500 laptops, with 10 laptops as a pilot project. The aim is to fill the digital gap. They'll educate the students and will give them access to professional training over the time as part of the

programme to empower them to find their path by educating themselves in every way possible. Digital India is stepping towards building a self-sufficient country, and laptop distribution and professional training will help make a difference.

Pant excited for DC captaincy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals new skipper Rishabh Pant cannot wait to start his captaincy stint with Delhi against mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings, hoping to use "learnings" from the iconic former skipper to upstage him in the Indian Premier League clash on Saturday.

Delhi will take on Dhoni's CSK at Wankhede stadium on Saturday. The 23-year-old highly rated wicketkeeper-batsman cannot wait to start his stint as a leader in that match.

"My first match as captain will be against Mahi (MS Dhoni) bhai. It will be a good experience for me as I have learned a lot from him. I have my own experience as a player as well."

"I'll apply my own experience and the learnings from MS Dhoni, and try to do something different against CSK," Pant was quoted as saying in a release.

The effervescent youngster has endured a roller-coaster ride in International cricket, gaining in prominence and respect in the past few months with his gutsy batting and drastically improved keeping.

He often draws comparisons with Dhoni but has maintained that he is aiming for a space of his own



even though he does turn to the senior player for advice and mentorship.

Pant, who has scored 2,079 runs in 68 IPL matches, said he would be working hard to give DC its maiden IPL title.

"...I am looking forward to making most of this opportunity. We haven't won a title yet and I will try my level best to get a title this year. We've been playing nicely as a team from last two-three years and our preparations are going on well," he said.

"Everyone looks in great frame of mind. Everyone is giving their 100 percent and is happy in the team environment, and that's what you want as a Captain," he added.

When asked about the influence of head coach Ricky Ponting on the team, Pant said, "He (Ricky) has been so amazing for us in the last two-three years."

"He brings energy to the team and as a player when you see your coach and you're thinking this is the man from whom you can learn a lot, then nothing is better than that."

"Hopefully, we will cross the line this year, with the help of Ricky and the whole team."



Rabada, Nortje reach Mumbai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje arrived in Mumbai on Tuesday but will miss the team's opening fixture against the Chennai Super Kings on Saturday due to the mandatory seven-day quarantine period.

Delhi Capitals retained Rabada, who won Purple cap in 2020 season and Nortje, who came as a replacement for English pacer Chris Woakes, after

their sensational bowling performances that helped the Capitals reach their maiden final last year.

"Delhi Capitals' fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje arrived at the team hotel in Mumbai on Tuesday," the franchise said in a statement.

"Rabada and Nortje will be in quarantine for one week," it added.

The duo will undergo a week of quarantine and will thus miss DC's opening game which is on Saturday.

Vihari to play for Warwickshire

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League franchises turned him down but Team India's Test specialist Hanuma Vihari is all set to prepare for the upcoming six-Test season in the United Kingdom by competing for English county side Warwickshire.

The right-handed middle-order batsman has left for UK and will be a part of the Birmingham based county side for at least three games this season.

"Yes, Vihari will be playing in the English county side for Warwickshire this season. He would play a few games. He is already in England now," a senior BCCI official confirmed the development on Tuesday.

The Warwickshire county's official page hasn't made the announcement yet but as per BCCI officials, the modalities are being worked out.

"The contract is being chalked out. He will play a minimum of three games. We are trying to figure out if there is a chance to play a few more," an official said.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, Vihari is coming in place of South African batsman Pieter Malan, who is currently facing visa related problems as South Africa has been marked in 'red zone' by the UK authorities with respect to global Covid-19 situation.

Vihari last played in the IPL back in 2019 for Delhi Capitals and since then has gone unsold at the successive auctions after being billed as a Test specialist.

The 27-year-old has scored 624 runs in 12 Tests for India at an average of 32 plus. He has hit a hundred and four half centuries.

Vihari's last India outing was in the Sydney Test against Australia, where his epic four-hour vigil (23 not out), with a torn hamstring alongside Ravichandran Ashwin, saved the game for the visiting team.

He came back after an intense rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru but had an indifferent Vijay Hazare Trophy for Andhra, scoring only a single half-century and failing to reach double digits in the next five games.

"With a curtailed domestic season this time and Vihari being a part of the Test side, he needs match practice."

"All his other Test colleagues are part of the IPL teams including Cheteshwar Pujara. Even if it's white ball games, they will be fit and match-ready," the source said.

"However, we need to ensure that Vihari also gets game time before the England tour. It's not just one World Test Championship final but it's followed by a full-fledged five-Test series. We need him ready," he added.



Bio-bubble is tough but Indians more tolerant: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday said Indian cricketers are "more tolerant" when it comes to dealing with mental health issues compared to those from England and Australia but acknowledged that being confined to bio-bubbles amid a raging pandemic is not easy for anyone.

International cricket in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic has forced players to stay in bio-bubbles, where their life is restricted to hotels and stadiums.

They do not have access to people outside the bubble

during series and India skipper Virat Kohli is among those who have voiced their concerns about the mental toll that the current situation is taking.

"I feel we Indians are a bit more tolerant than overseas (cricketers). I have played with a lot of Englishmen, Australians, and the West Indians, they just give up on mental health," the former India captain said at a virtual promotional event.

"In the last six-seven months, with so much cricket being going on in the bio-bubble, it's so tough. Just going from the hotel room to the ground, handle the pressure

and come back to the room and then get back to the ground again, it's an absolutely different life."

Ganguly cited the example of the Australian cricket team which pulled out of a tour to South Africa following a defeat to India at home.

Australia were slated for a three-Test tour in March-April but they pulled out citing an "unacceptable level of health and safety risk to players, support staff and the community".

"Look at the Australian team, they were supposed to go to South Africa for a Test series after India played there. They refused to go there..." he said.

N Korea drops out of Tokyo Olympics

AFP ■ SEOUL

North Korea will not join the Tokyo Olympics this year due to coronavirus concerns, the country's sports ministry said on Tuesday, dashing South Korean hopes the Games could be a catalyst to revive stalled peace talks.

It will be the first time North Korea has missed a Summer Olympics since it boycotted Seoul in 1988 amid the Cold War.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in had hoped the two countries, still technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, could field a

combined team in Tokyo and rebuild momentum for improved relations.

The North's withdrawal from Tokyo is also a setback for plans, agreed at a 2018 summit between Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, to pursue a joint Korean bid to host the 2032 Games.

When South Korea hosted the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in 2018, Kim sent his sister to head the country's delegation, athletes from both sides marched under a unified flag at the opening ceremony, and fielded a combined women's ice hockey team.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula rose last month

when the North resumed missile tests, although both sides said after the launches that they wanted to continue dialogue.

South Korea's Unification Ministry in charge of inter-Korean affairs said Seoul had hoped the Tokyo Olympics would be a chance to "foster peace and reconciliation between the two Koreas".

"We regret it could not happen," it added in a statement.

Tokyo Olympic organisers said they were aware of news reports on North Korea's move and would work with other countries for the success of the Games.

"We will continue to prepare the best possible stage to welcome athletes from all countries and regions," the organising committee said in a statement.

The North made its decision to pull out of Tokyo at a meeting of its Olympic committee and Sports Minister Kim Il Guk on March 25, the ministry said on its website.

"The committee decided not to join the 32nd Olympics Games to protect athletes from the global health crisis caused by the coronavirus," it said.

North Korea says it has not had any coronavirus cases.

SINGLES

INDIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE POSTPONED
NEW DELHI: The Indian Women's League, scheduled to be held in Odisha later this month, was on Tuesday, postponed indefinitely in view of the rising Covid-19 cases in the state, the All India Football Federation said. The AIFF said it will take a decision on the fate of the tournament at a later date.

M1 TALENT SCOUT KIRAN MORE TESTS +VE
MUMBAI: Former India wicketkeeper and Mumbai Indians' talent scout Kiran More has tested positive for Covid-19, the IPL franchise said on Tuesday. The 58-year-old More is also the wicket-keeping consultant of the five-time IPL champions.

2 GROUND-STAFF MEMBERS AMONG 3 +VE
MUMBAI: Two more members of the ground-staff and a plumber at the Wankhede Stadium have tested positive for Covid-19, a day after the facility was cleared to host its share of 10 IPL matches. The stadium is due to host its first IPL game of the season on April 10.

ROLAND GARROS FACES 'FEW DAYS' DELAY
PARIS: The French Government has discussed a possible "delay of a few days" of this year's French Open with the event organisers, the sports ministry said on Tuesday. Discussions between the ministry and Roland Garros officials also included how the tournament might be able to accommodate fans who were largely locked out of the delayed 2020 edition.

LOEW TO REMAIN GERMANY BOSS AT EURO
BERLIN: Joachim Loew will remain Germany coach at Euro 2020 despite last week's latest humiliating defeat, the president of the German FA (DFB) said in an interview on Tuesday. "The disappointing game (against North Macedonia) has not changed anything with regards to our plans," DFB president Fritz Keller told daily Bild. "Jogi" Loew and his team will analyse everything and draw the right conclusions to be successful at the European championships."

TAYLOR RETURNS TO JOIN HUNDRED
LONDON: Former England wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor is to return to professional cricket in the Hundred after putting her career on hold due to anxiety issues. Taylor, who will play for the Welsh Fire, took up coaching positions after announcing her international retirement in September 2019.

SUMITI NAGAL LOSES IN 1ST ROUND
CAGLIARI: India's Sumiti Nagal bowed out in the opening round of the ATP 250 Sardegna Open, losing a hard-fought three-set match to Slovakia's Jozef Kovalik here on Tuesday. Both world No 136 Nagal and world No 124 Kovalik came into main draw through qualifying rounds and the Slovak prevailed 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 in a contest that lasted for two hours and 13 minutes. Nagal had earlier won both his qualifying round games in straight sets.

SHIKHA RETURNS TO TOP 10
DUBAI: India opener Smriti Mandhana, fast bowler Jhulan Goswami and all-rounder Deepti Sharma remained static but pacer Shikha Pandey regained her place in the top 10 in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings issued on Tuesday. Mandhana occupies the seventh spot with 710 points, followed by skipper Mithali Raj (709) at eighth in the batting rankings, which is headed by England's Tammy Beaumont (765). In bowling, veteran pacer Goswami was steady at fifth place with 681 points, while Poonam Yadav (641) occupied the eighth place but Shikha (610), who last played an ODI in November 2019, grabbed the 10th spot.

Gnabry will miss PSG clash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champions Bayern Munich will be without the services of winger Serge Gnabry for high-voltage Champions League quarter-final first leg clash against Paris Saint-Germain in Munich on Wednesday.

"Serge has a sore throat and will probably be out as well," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said on Tuesday ahead of the first leg at Allianz Arena.

And in the evening the club confirmed that Serge Gnabry has tested positive for coronavirus.

Gnabry's positive result leaves Bayern without two key forwards in rematch of the last year's final.

The 2020 winners are already without striker Robert Lewandowski, who is out with a



knee injury and will miss both legs.

Marc Roca is also out of Wednesday's match after picking up an injury on Sunday in training.

"Marc (Roja) got

Varane tests Covid +ve

New Delhi: Real Madrid central defender Raphael Varane will miss Tuesday's Champions League clash against Liverpool in Madrid after he tested positive for Covid-19.

The Madrid club is already without injured Sergio Ramos and now with Varane also sidelined, Nacho Fernández and Éder Militão will partner at the back.

"Real Madrid CF informs that our player Raphael Varane

tested positive in the Covid-19 test he underwent this morning," a club statement read.

The French World Cup winner's absence comes at the worst possible time for Zidane's side, as he is also expected to miss Saturday's Clasico against Barcelona and the return leg against Liverpool at Anfield next week. Varane has been a key part of Real Madrid's upturn in form in recent weeks, which has seen the team go 11 games unbeaten.

PNs

injured on Sunday and will not be involved." On the other hand PSG are missing defender Alessandro Florenzi and midfielder Marco Verratti, who are in quarantine after testing positive for Covid-19.



To mark Lionel Messi breaking Xavi Hernandez's appearance record for Barcelona, he was presented with a framed shirt before kick-off on Monday, which he accepted with his family on the pitch.

©FCBarcelona

Neeraj, Hima set for training-cum-competition stint in Turkey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top track and field athletes, including javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and sprinter Hima Das will embark on a training-cum-competition tour of Turkey later this month, the national federation said on Tuesday.

Apart from Chopra and fellow Olympic bound javelin thrower Shivpal Singh, country's relay racers (both 4x100m and 4x400m men and women) will be part of the 40-odd contingent that also includes coaches.

They will be based at the Turkish city of Antalya and take part in some competitions, where some athletes can try and qualify for the Olympics.

Hima, who won a Silver in individual 400m and a Gold each in women's 4x400m and mixed 4x400m relays in the 2018 Asian Games, is set to train for the 4x100m relay.

The Indian relay teams are set to take part in the World Athletics Relays at Silesia in Poland on May 1 and 2.

"We have got clearance from the SAI for this training-cum-competition tour of Turkey. It is a 40-odd contingent including the coaches. We are not getting a training base in Europe because of various reasons, so we have decided on Turkey," Athletics Federation of India President Adil Sumariwalla said.

"The athletes will also take part in some competitions in Turkey and those who have not yet qualified for Olympics can



qualify. The facilities are top class and weather is good there," he added. Indian track and field athletes have earlier trained at Antalya, before the 2016 Rio Olympics and again in 2019.

Sumariwalla said the AFI is working on arranging visas for the athletes.

"The athletes should leave (for Turkey) this month. We have to get the visa first and then book the tickets and the accommodation facilities there in Turkey."

The country's 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams will directly go from Turkey to Silesia in Poland where the World Athletics Relays will be held on May 1 and 2.

The top eight teams from the World Athletics Relays will automatically qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

The Indian mixed 4x400m

relay team has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics after reaching the final in the 2019 World Championships in Doha.

Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh are also expected to take part in Diamond League Meetings beginning with the first leg on May 23 in Moroccan capital of Rabat.

Chopra has been in top form though it's early days in the season. He bettered his own national record during the third Indian Grand Prix meet last month with an effort of 88.07m.

Sumariwalla said all the athletes training abroad will return to India for the National Inter-State Championships, an Olympic qualifying event, set to be held in June in Bengaluru.

"They can go back abroad after taking part in the National Inter-State to further prepare for the Olympics," he said.